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# Practical Skills for Working with Linguistic Data

Short name: Practical Linguistic Skills (PLS)

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WiSe23/24

**Session 4: 08.11.2023**  
**R markdown & Tidyverse**

# Introduction to R Markdown

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# What is Markdown?

## Markdown

- ① **lightweight** markup language
- ② for creating **formatted** text
- ③ using a **plain-text** editor.
- ④ can be converted to HTML and many other formats
- ⑤ file extension: **.md**

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**Using plain text**

**Using  
Markdown  
for formatting**

Slides: Ilias/Slides/2023\_11\_08\_Session4

Script from the last session: Ilias/Scripts/2023-10-25\_Tidyverse

# Markdown Example

MARKDOWN	OUTPUT						
<pre># Header 1  ## Header 2  - Bullet list - Item 2  **Bold Text**  *Italic Text*    Syntax        Description     -----   -----     Header       Title          Paragraph    Text        </pre>	<p><b>Header 1</b></p> <p><b>Header 2</b></p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bullet list</li><li>• Item 2</li></ul> <p><b>Bold Text</b></p> <p><i>Italic Text</i></p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Syntax</th><th>Description</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Header</td><td>Title</td></tr><tr><td>Paragraph</td><td>Text</td></tr></tbody></table>	Syntax	Description	Header	Title	Paragraph	Text
Syntax	Description						
Header	Title						
Paragraph	Text						

Markdown cheatsheet: <https://www.markdownguide.org/cheat-sheet/>

Try out this online markdown editor: <https://stackedit.io/app#>

# What is R Markdown?

From now on, we will write our code in R Markdown (.rmd) instead of R scripts (.r).

- A markdown file in RStudio
- You can use a single R Markdown file to both
  - ① save and execute code
  - ② generate high quality reports that can be shared with an audience

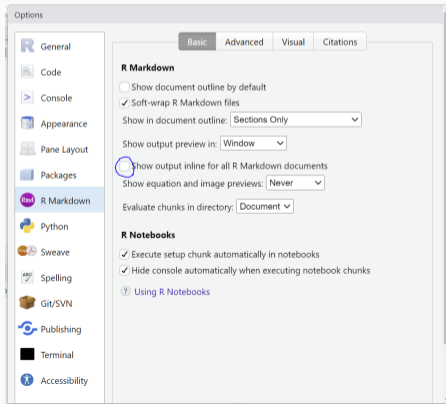
## First step:

```
install.packages("rmarkdown")
```

```
install.packages("knitr")
```

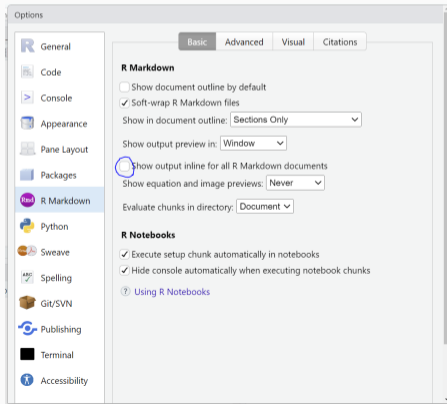
# Preparatory Steps

1. In your RStudio, go to  
Tools → Global Options → (left panel) R  
Markdown → **uncheck** “Show output inline for all  
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1. In your RStudio, go to Tools → Global Options → (left panel) R Markdown → **uncheck** “Show output inline for all R Markdown document”



2. File → New File → R Markdown

- ① A YAML header surrounded by `--- HEADER ---`
- ② R code chunks surrounded by ```` CODE ````
- ③ text mixed with markdown

3. You can use the “Knit” button to render the file and preview the output with a single click or keyboard shortcut: Windows (ctrl + shift + K), Mac (Command + Shift + K ).

## How to Type Code Chunks

- ① **EASIEST:** Keyboard shortcut **Ctrl + Alt + I** on Windows or **Cmd + Option + I** on Mac.
- ② The green “Add Chunk” command  in the editor toolbar → select R.
- ③ Typing the chunk delimiters ````{r}` and `````.

## Code Chunk Options

You can give different customizations to your chunks, e.g., whether or not to print the code in the output.

- ① `include = FALSE` prevents code and results from appearing in the finished file.
- ② `echo = FALSE` prevents code, but not the results from appearing in the finished file.
- ③ `message = FALSE` prevents messages that are generated by code from appearing in the finished file.
- ④ `warning = FALSE` prevents warnings that are generated by code from appearing in the finished.
- ⑤ `fig.cap = "..."` adds a caption to graphical results.

```
{r setup, include=FALSE}
```

- ① Cheatsheet: <https://www.rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/rmarkdown-cheatsheet.pdf>
- ② Markdown basics: <https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/lesson-1.html>

# Tidyverse

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## Important Functions for Now

- **select()** Choose specific columns.
- **filter()** Subset rows based on conditions.
- **rename()** Renaming columns.
- **mutate()** Create new variables/columns.
- **arrange()** Sort the data based on one or more variables.

General syntax of a tidyverse command:

**function\_name(dataframe, arguments)**

Arguments are the specific parameters or conditions that guide the function. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Script from the last session can be found at [Ilias/Scripts/2023-10-25\\_Tidyverse](#)

## Our Student Dataframe

```
# Create the data frame
student_data <- data.frame(
  ID = c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8),
  Name = c("Alice", "Bob", "Carol", "Dave", "Rachel", "Richard",
           "John", "Monica"),
  Score = c(90, 85, 92, 88, 95, 80, 83, 86)
)
```

## Function: `select()`

This function is used for subsetting columns and removing unwanted columns.

### Components

- **Function Name:** `select`
- **Data:** The data frame you are manipulating.
- **Arguments:** The columns you want to **keep or remove**.

```
select(data, column_names)
onlyNames <- select(student_data, Name) # Keeping only the Name
      column
```

## Function: `filter()`

This function **filters** rows based on specified conditions.

```
filter(student_data, Score > 90) # filter rows where scores is  
    great than 90  
below90 <- filter(student_data, Score <= 90) # Filter rows  
    where scores are less or equal to 90. Assign the new  
    filtered dataframe to the variable below90  
filter(student_data, Name == "Alice") # filter rows that the  
    name of the student is Alice
```

**NOTE** And (&) and or (|) operators allow you to combine two multiple conditions:

- mother tongue = German & gender = female (both conditions should met)
- mother tongue = German | age > 30 (one condition suffices)

## Function: `rename()`

As the name suggests, this function is used for renaming columns.

```
rename(data, new_name = old_name)
```

```
rename(student_data, "Number" = "ID")
```

## Function: `mutate()`

This function is used to create new columns or modifying the existing columns.

```
mutate(data, new_column = something)
mutate(student_data, occupation = "student") # Adding an
  occupation column with the value "student"
mutate(student_data, Score = Score +1) # Increasing the scores
  by 1
mutate(student_data, NameScore = str_c(Name, "-", Score)) #
  Concatenating Name and Score columns
mutate(student_data, Uppercase = str_to_upper(Name)) # Turn
  names into uppercase
```

## Pipe Operator (%>%)

- Shortcut: shift+ctrl+M (Windows) , command+shit+M (Mac)
- The “pipe” operator (%>%), allows you to chain together multiple operations so that the output of one operation becomes the input for the next.

https:

[//info5940.infosci.cornell.edu/slides/pipes-and-functions-in-r/#9](https://info5940.infosci.cornell.edu/slides/pipes-and-functions-in-r/#9)

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```
student_data_pipe <- student_data %>% #start a pipeline
  select(Name, Score) %>% #select only Name and Score columns
  rename(StudName = Name) %>% #rename Name column to StudName
  mutate(ScoreCorrected = Score + 1) #Increase the score by 1
```

# Best Practices for Coding in R

## ① Punctuation

- Assignment Operator (`<-`): Use for variable assignment; avoid `=`.
- Quotes (`" "` or `' '`): Both work, but be consistent.
- Commas: Separate function arguments and vector/matrix elements.
- Parentheses: Necessary for functions (`func()`) and control structures (`if()`). No space between the function name and parentheses.

② **Indentation** Use indentation to make your code more readable.

③ **Naming Conventions** Stick to lowercase, camelCase, or separate words with underscores whenever possible (`my_dataframe`). Give short but meaningful names.

## ④ Code Structure

- Comments: Use liberally to comment on your code.
- Whitespace: Use blank lines to separate logical blocks of code.

⑤ **Error Messages** Pay close attention; they usually point to the issue.

# QUESTIONS?

