Common Errors in R

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| **Error message** | **Problem & Solution** |
| Error: **could not find function** “data” | You are using () on something that’s not an available function. Check: (a) that if you’re trying to subset a dataset, you’re using [], or (b) if you’re trying to use a function, that the right library is loaded (see next table) |
| Error in f[] : **object of type 'closure' is not subsettable** | You are using [] on something (i.e. trying to subset something) that’s not a dataset. If you are trying to use a function, use () |
| Error in `[.data.frame`, data , i) : **undefined columns selected** | You are selecting a column that doesn’t exist in the dataset. Check: (a) the spelling and capitalization if you are naming a variable, (b) that the index/column number is within the dimensions of the dataset, or (c) that you didn’t confuse rows with columns, or (d) that you’re giving it information for 2 dimensions, i.e. [,] |
| Error in var[, 2] : **incorrect number of dimensions** | You are giving information for 2 dimensions but the object is 1 dimensional. Remove the comma. |
| Error in if (data[i, "Var1"] == 1):  **missing value where TRUE/FALSE needed** | There are NA’s in the data, and R can’t evaluate the logical statement for NA’s. You need to include another logical statement first, using is.na() |
| Error: **unexpected ')’** (or similar) | Check that all (), [], {}, ‘’ and “” are closed (i.e. in pairs); or press Esc to start over so that R is not waiting for the rest of the command |
| + instead of > in the new line in R console window | R is waiting for you to close something. Check that all (), [], {}, ‘’, and “” are closed; or press Esc to start over |

Functions that require loading a separate package in R

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| **Function name** | **How to load the required library** |
| freq() # frequency tables and plot | library(descr) |
| CrossTable() # SAS-style cross tables | library(descr) |
| read.dta() # read in Stata dataset | library(foreign) |

If you’re working on your own computer, you must install the package first before you can load it. This only needs to be done once with

* install.packages(“descr”)