

# Package ‘readr’

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**Title** Read Rectangular Text Data

**Version** 2.1.3

**Description** The goal of 'readr' is to provide a fast and friendly way to read rectangular data (like 'csv', 'tsv', and 'fwf'). It is designed to flexibly parse many types of data found in the wild, while still cleanly failing when data unexpectedly changes.

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**URL** <https://readr.tidyverse.org>, <https://github.com/tidyverse/readr>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/tidyverse/readr/issues>

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clipboard	<i>Returns values from the clipboard</i>
-----------	--

---

### Description

This is useful in the `read_delim()` functions to read from the clipboard.

### Usage

```
clipboard()
```

### See Also

`read_delim`

---

cols	<i>Create column specification</i>
------	------------------------------------

---

### Description

`cols()` includes all columns in the input data, guessing the column types as the default. `cols_only()` includes only the columns you explicitly specify, skipping the rest. In general you can substitute `list()` for `cols()` without changing the behavior.

### Usage

```
cols(..., .default = col_guess())
```

```
cols_only(...)
```

### Arguments

<code>...</code>	Either column objects created by <code>col_*()</code> , or their abbreviated character names (as described in the <code>col_types</code> argument of <code>read_delim()</code> ). If you're only overriding a few columns, it's best to refer to columns by name. If not named, the column types must match the column names exactly.
<code>.default</code>	Any named columns not explicitly overridden in <code>...</code> will be read with this column type.

## Details

The available specifications are: (with string abbreviations in brackets)

- `col_logical()` [l], containing only T, F, TRUE or FALSE.
- `col_integer()` [i], integers.
- `col_double()` [d], doubles.
- `col_character()` [c], everything else.
- `col_factor(levels, ordered)` [f], a fixed set of values.
- `col_date(format = "")` [D]: with the locale's `date_format`.
- `col_time(format = "")` [t]: with the locale's `time_format`.
- `col_datetime(format = "")` [T]: ISO8601 date times
- `col_number()` [n], numbers containing the `grouping_mark`
- `col_skip()` [\_, -], don't import this column.
- `col_guess()` [?], parse using the "best" type based on the input.

## See Also

Other parsers: [col\\_skip\(\)](#), [cols\\_condense\(\)](#), [parse\\_datetime\(\)](#), [parse\\_factor\(\)](#), [parse\\_guess\(\)](#), [parse\\_logical\(\)](#), [parse\\_number\(\)](#), [parse\\_vector\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
cols(a = col_integer())
cols_only(a = col_integer())

# You can also use the standard abbreviations
cols(a = "i")
cols(a = "i", b = "d", c = "_")

# You can also use multiple sets of column definitions by combining
# them like so:

t1 <- cols(
  column_one = col_integer(),
  column_two = col_number()
)

t2 <- cols(
  column_three = col_character()
)

t3 <- t1
t3$cols <- c(t1$cols, t2$cols)
t3
```

---

cols_condense	<i>Examine the column specifications for a data frame</i>
---------------	---

---

**Description**

cols\_condense() takes a spec object and condenses its definition by setting the default column type to the most frequent type and only listing columns with a different type.

spec() extracts the full column specification from a tibble created by readr.

**Usage**

```
cols_condense(x)
```

```
spec(x)
```

**Arguments**

x                    The data frame object to extract from

**Value**

A col\_spec object.

**See Also**

Other parsers: [col\\_skip\(\)](#), [cols\(\)](#), [parse\\_datetime\(\)](#), [parse\\_factor\(\)](#), [parse\\_guess\(\)](#), [parse\\_logical\(\)](#), [parse\\_number\(\)](#), [parse\\_vector\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
df <- read_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv"))
s <- spec(df)
s

cols_condense(s)
```

---

col_skip	<i>Skip a column</i>
----------	----------------------

---

**Description**

Use this function to ignore a column when reading in a file. To skip all columns not otherwise specified, use [cols\\_only\(\)](#).

**Usage**

```
col_skip()
```

**See Also**

Other parsers: [cols\\_condense\(\)](#), [cols\(\)](#), [parse\\_datetime\(\)](#), [parse\\_factor\(\)](#), [parse\\_guess\(\)](#), [parse\\_logical\(\)](#), [parse\\_number\(\)](#), [parse\\_vector\(\)](#)

---

count_fields	<i>Count the number of fields in each line of a file</i>
--------------	--

---

**Description**

This is useful for diagnosing problems with functions that fail to parse correctly.

**Usage**

```
count_fields(file, tokenizer, skip = 0, n_max = -1L)
```

**Arguments**

file	Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).  Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.  Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with <code>I()</code> , be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.  Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.
tokenizer	A tokenizer that specifies how to break the file up into fields, e.g., <a href="#">tokenizer_csv()</a> , <a href="#">tokenizer_fwf()</a>
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data.
n_max	Optionally, maximum number of rows to count fields for.

**Examples**

```
count_fields(readr_example("mtcars.csv"), tokenizer_csv())
```

---

date_names	<i>Create or retrieve date names</i>
------------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

When parsing dates, you often need to know how weekdays of the week and months are represented as text. This pair of functions allows you to either create your own, or retrieve from a standard list. The standard list is derived from ICU (<http://site.icu-project.org>) via the `stringi` package.

**Usage**

```
date_names(mon, mon_ab = mon, day, day_ab = day, am_pm = c("AM", "PM"))  
  
date_names_lang(language)  
  
date_names_langs()
```

**Arguments**

<code>mon, mon_ab</code>	Full and abbreviated month names.
<code>day, day_ab</code>	Full and abbreviated week day names. Starts with Sunday.
<code>am_pm</code>	Names used for AM and PM.
<code>language</code>	A BCP 47 locale, made up of a language and a region, e.g. "en" for American English. See <code>date_names_langs()</code> for a complete list of available locales.

**Examples**

```
date_names_lang("en")  
date_names_lang("ko")  
date_names_lang("fr")
```

---

edition_get	<i>Retrieve the currently active edition</i>
-------------	--

---

**Description**

Retrieve the currently active edition

**Usage**

```
edition_get()
```

**Value**

An integer corresponding to the currently active edition.

**Examples**

```
edition_get()
```

---

format_delim	<i>Convert a data frame to a delimited string</i>
--------------	---

---

**Description**

These functions are equivalent to `write_csv()` etc., but instead of writing to disk, they return a string.

**Usage**

```
format_delim(  
  x,  
  delim,  
  na = "NA",  
  append = FALSE,  
  col_names = !append,  
  quote = c("needed", "all", "none"),  
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),  
  eol = "\n",  
  quote_escape = deprecated()  
)
```

```
format_csv(  
  x,  
  na = "NA",  
  append = FALSE,  
  col_names = !append,  
  quote = c("needed", "all", "none"),  
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),  
  eol = "\n",  
  quote_escape = deprecated()  
)
```

```
format_csv2(  
  x,  
  na = "NA",  
  append = FALSE,  
  col_names = !append,  
  quote = c("needed", "all", "none"),  
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),  
  eol = "\n",  
  quote_escape = deprecated()  
)
```



```

format_tsv(
  x,
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  col_names = !append,
  quote = c("needed", "all", "none"),
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),
  eol = "\n",
  quote_escape = deprecated()
)

```

### Arguments

x	A data frame.
delim	Delimiter used to separate values. Defaults to " " for write_delim(), "," for write_excel_csv() and ";" for write_excel_csv2(). Must be a single character.
na	String used for missing values. Defaults to NA. Missing values will never be quoted; strings with the same value as na will always be quoted.
append	If FALSE, will overwrite existing file. If TRUE, will append to existing file. In both cases, if the file does not exist a new file is created.
col_names	If FALSE, column names will not be included at the top of the file. If TRUE, column names will be included. If not specified, col_names will take the opposite value given to append.
quote	How to handle fields which contain characters that need to be quoted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• needed - Values are only quoted if needed: if they contain a delimiter, quote, or newline.</li> <li>• all - Quote all fields.</li> <li>• none - Never quote fields.</li> </ul>
escape	The type of escape to use when quotes are in the data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• double - quotes are escaped by doubling them.</li> <li>• backslash - quotes are escaped by a preceding backslash.</li> <li>• none - quotes are not escaped.</li> </ul>
eol	The end of line character to use. Most commonly either "\n" for Unix style newlines, or "\r\n" for Windows style newlines.
quote_escape	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Use the escape argument instead.

### Value

A string.

## Output

Factors are coerced to character. Doubles are formatted to a decimal string using the `grisu3` algorithm. POSIXct values are formatted as ISO8601 with a UTC timezone *Note: POSIXct objects in local or non-UTC timezones will be converted to UTC time before writing.*

All columns are encoded as UTF-8. `write_excel_csv()` and `write_excel_csv2()` also include a **UTF-8 Byte order mark** which indicates to Excel the csv is UTF-8 encoded.

`write_excel_csv2()` and `write_csv2` were created to allow users with different locale settings to save .csv files using their default settings (e.g. `;` as the column separator and `,` as the decimal separator). This is common in some European countries.

Values are only quoted if they contain a comma, quote or newline.

The `write_*`() functions will automatically compress outputs if an appropriate extension is given. Three extensions are currently supported: `.gz` for gzip compression, `.bz2` for bzip2 compression and `.xz` for lzma compression. See the examples for more information.

## References

Florian Loitsch, Printing Floating-Point Numbers Quickly and Accurately with Integers, PLDI '10, <http://www.cs.tufts.edu/~nr/cs257/archive/florian-loitsch/printf.pdf>

## Examples

```
# format_* functions are useful for testing and represses
cat(format_csv(mtcars))
cat(format_tsv(mtcars))
cat(format_delim(mtcars, ";"))

# Specifying missing values
df <- data.frame(x = c(1, NA, 3))
format_csv(df, na = "missing")

# Quotes are automatically added as needed
df <- data.frame(x = c("a ", "'", ", ", "\n"))
cat(format_csv(df))
```

---

guess\_encoding

*Guess encoding of file*

---

## Description

Uses `stringi::stri_enc_detect()`: see the documentation there for caveats.

## Usage

```
guess_encoding(file, n_max = 10000, threshold = 0.2)
```

**Arguments**

file	A character string specifying an input as specified in <code>datasource()</code> , a raw vector, or a list of raw vectors.
n_max	Number of lines to read. If n_max is -1, all lines in file will be read.
threshold	Only report guesses above this threshold of certainty.

**Value**

A tibble

**Examples**

```
guess_encoding(readr_example("mtcars.csv"))
guess_encoding(read_lines_raw(readr_example("mtcars.csv")))
guess_encoding(read_file_raw(readr_example("mtcars.csv")))

guess_encoding("a\n\u00b5\u00b5")
```

---

locale

*Create locales*

---

**Description**

A locale object tries to capture all the defaults that can vary between countries. You set the locale in once, and the details are automatically passed on down to the columns parsers. The defaults have been chosen to match R (i.e. US English) as closely as possible. See `vignette("locales")` for more details.

**Usage**

```
locale(
  date_names = "en",
  date_format = "%AD",
  time_format = "%AT",
  decimal_mark = ".",
  grouping_mark = ",",
  tz = "UTC",
  encoding = "UTF-8",
  asciify = FALSE
)

default_locale()
```

**Arguments**

date_names	Character representations of day and month names. Either the language code as string (passed on to <code>date_names_lang()</code> ) or an object created by <code>date_names()</code> .
date_format, time_format	Default date and time formats.
decimal_mark, grouping_mark	Symbols used to indicate the decimal place, and to chunk larger numbers. Decimal mark can only be <code>,</code> or <code>.</code>
tz	Default tz. This is used both for input (if the time zone isn't present in individual strings), and for output (to control the default display). The default is to use "UTC", a time zone that does not use daylight savings time (DST) and hence is typically most useful for data. The absence of time zones makes it approximately 50x faster to generate UTC times than any other time zone. Use "" to use the system default time zone, but beware that this will not be reproducible across systems. For a complete list of possible time zones, see <code>OlsonNames()</code> . Americans, note that "EST" is a Canadian time zone that does not have DST. It is <i>not</i> Eastern Standard Time. It's better to use "US/Eastern", "US/Central" etc.
encoding	Default encoding. This only affects how the file is read - readr always converts the output to UTF-8.
asciify	Should diacritics be stripped from date names and converted to ASCII? This is useful if you're dealing with ASCII data where the correct spellings have been lost. Requires the <b>stringi</b> package.

**Examples**

```
locale()
locale("fr")

# South American locale
locale("es", decimal_mark = ",")
```

---

melt_delim	<i>Return melted data for each token in a delimited file (including csv &amp; tsv)</i>
------------	--

---

**Description**

**[Superseded]** This function has been superseded in readr and moved to [the meltr package](#).

**Usage**

```
melt_delim(
  file,
  delim,
```

```
    quote = "\"",
    escape_backslash = FALSE,
    escape_double = TRUE,
    locale = default_locale(),
    na = c("", "NA"),
    quoted_na = TRUE,
    comment = "",
    trim_ws = FALSE,
    skip = 0,
    n_max = Inf,
    progress = show_progress(),
    skip_empty_rows = FALSE
  )
```

```
melt_csv(
  file,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = c("", "NA"),
  quoted_na = TRUE,
  quote = "\"",
  comment = "",
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  progress = show_progress(),
  skip_empty_rows = FALSE
)
```

```
melt_csv2(
  file,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = c("", "NA"),
  quoted_na = TRUE,
  quote = "\"",
  comment = "",
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  progress = show_progress(),
  skip_empty_rows = FALSE
)
```

```
melt_tsv(
  file,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = c("", "NA"),
  quoted_na = TRUE,
  quote = "\"",
```

```

comment = "",
trim_ws = TRUE,
skip = 0,
n_max = Inf,
progress = show_progress(),
skip_empty_rows = FALSE
)

```

## Arguments

file	<p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with I(), be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p>
delim	Single character used to separate fields within a record.
quote	Single character used to quote strings.
escape_backslash	Does the file use backslashes to escape special characters? This is more general than <code>escape_double</code> as backslashes can be used to escape the delimiter character, the quote character, or to add special characters like <code>\\n</code> .
escape_double	Does the file escape quotes by doubling them? i.e. If this option is TRUE, the value <code>""""</code> represents a single quote, <code>\</code> .
locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
quoted_na	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Should missing values inside quotes be treated as missing values (the default) or strings. This parameter is soft deprecated as of readr 2.0.0.
comment	A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.
trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data. If <code>comment</code> is supplied any commented lines are ignored <i>after</i> skipping.
n_max	Maximum number of lines to read.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to FALSE.

skip\_empty\_rows

Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is TRUE then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is FALSE then they will be represented by NA values in all the columns.

## Details

For certain non-rectangular data formats, it can be useful to parse the data into a melted format where each row represents a single token.

melt\_csv() and melt\_tsv() are special cases of the general melt\_delim(). They're useful for reading the most common types of flat file data, comma separated values and tab separated values, respectively. melt\_csv2() uses ; for the field separator and , for the decimal point. This is common in some European countries.

## Value

A `tibble()` of four columns:

- row, the row that the token comes from in the original file
- col, the column that the token comes from in the original file
- data\_type, the data type of the token, e.g. "integer", "character", "date", guessed in a similar way to the guess\_parser() function.
- value, the token itself as a character string, unchanged from its representation in the original file.

If there are parsing problems, a warning tells you how many, and you can retrieve the details with `problems()`.

## See Also

`read_delim()` for the conventional way to read rectangular data from delimited files.

## Examples

```
# Input sources -----
# Read from a path
melt_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv"))
melt_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv.zip"))
melt_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv.bz2"))
## Not run:
melt_csv("https://github.com/tidyverse/readr/raw/main/inst/extdata/mtcars.csv")

## End(Not run)

# Or directly from a string (must contain a newline)
melt_csv("x,y\n1,2\n3,4")

# To import empty cells as 'empty' rather than `NA`
melt_csv("x,y\n,NA,\"\",'', na = \"NA\"")
```

```
# File types -----
melt_csv("a,b\n1.0,2.0")
melt_csv2("a;b\n1,0;2,0")
melt_tsv("a\tb\n1.0\t2.0")
melt_delim("a|b\n1.0|2.0", delim = "|")
```

---

melt\_fwf

*Return melted data for each token in a fixed width file*


---

## Description

**[Superseded]** This function has been superseded in readr and moved to [the meltr package](#).

## Usage

```
melt_fwf(
  file,
  col_positions,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = c("", "NA"),
  comment = "",
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  progress = show_progress(),
  skip_empty_rows = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| file          | <p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with I(), be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p> |
| col_positions | <p>Column positions, as created by <code>fwf_empty()</code>, <code>fwf_widths()</code> or <code>fwf_positions()</code>. To read in only selected fields, use <code>fwf_positions()</code>. If the width of the last column is variable (a ragged fwf file), supply the last end position as NA.</p>  |
| locale        | <p>The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.</p>  |



na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
comment	A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.
trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data.
n_max	Maximum number of lines to read.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to <code>FALSE</code> .
skip_empty_rows	Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is <code>TRUE</code> then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is <code>FALSE</code> then they will be represented by <code>NA</code> values in all the columns.

## Details

For certain non-rectangular data formats, it can be useful to parse the data into a melted format where each row represents a single token.

`melt_fwf()` parses each token of a fixed width file into a single row, but it still requires that each field is in the same in every row of the source file.

## See Also

[melt\\_table\(\)](#) to melt fixed width files where each column is separated by whitespace, and [read\\_fwf\(\)](#) for the conventional way to read rectangular data from fixed width files.

## Examples

```
fwf_sample <- readr_example("fwf-sample.txt")
cat(read_lines(fwf_sample))

# You can specify column positions in several ways:
# 1. Guess based on position of empty columns
melt_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_empty(fwf_sample, col_names = c("first", "last", "state", "ssn")))
# 2. A vector of field widths
melt_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_widths(c(20, 10, 12), c("name", "state", "ssn")))
# 3. Paired vectors of start and end positions
melt_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_positions(c(1, 30), c(10, 42), c("name", "ssn")))
# 4. Named arguments with start and end positions
melt_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_cols(name = c(1, 10), ssn = c(30, 42)))
# 5. Named arguments with column widths
melt_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_cols(name = 20, state = 10, ssn = 12))
```

---

`melt_table`*Return melted data for each token in a whitespace-separated file*

---

### Description

**[Superseded]** This function has been superseded in readr and moved to [the meltr package](#).

For certain non-rectangular data formats, it can be useful to parse the data into a melted format where each row represents a single token.

`melt_table()` and `melt_table2()` are designed to read the type of textual data where each column is separated by one (or more) columns of space.

`melt_table2()` allows any number of whitespace characters between columns, and the lines can be of different lengths.

`melt_table()` is more strict, each line must be the same length, and each field is in the same position in every line. It first finds empty columns and then parses like a fixed width file.

### Usage

```
melt_table(  
  file,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = "NA",  
  skip = 0,  
  n_max = Inf,  
  guess_max = min(n_max, 1000),  
  progress = show_progress(),  
  comment = "",  
  skip_empty_rows = FALSE  
)
```

```
melt_table2(  
  file,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = "NA",  
  skip = 0,  
  n_max = Inf,  
  progress = show_progress(),  
  comment = "",  
  skip_empty_rows = FALSE  
)
```

### Arguments

`file` Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).

Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.

Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with `I()`, be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.

Using a value of `clipboard()` will read from the system clipboard.

locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data.
n_max	Maximum number of lines to read.
guess_max	Maximum number of lines to use for guessing column types. See <code>vignette("column-types", package = "readr")</code> for more details.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to <code>FALSE</code> .
comment	A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.
skip_empty_rows	Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is <code>TRUE</code> then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is <code>FALSE</code> then they will be represented by NA values in all the columns.

### See Also

`melt_fwf()` to melt fixed width files where each column is not separated by whitespace. `melt_fwf()` is also useful for reading tabular data with non-standard formatting. `read_table()` is the conventional way to read tabular data from whitespace-separated files.

### Examples

```
fwf <- readr_example("fwf-sample.txt")
writeLines(read_lines(fwf))
melt_table(fwf)

ws <- readr_example("whitespace-sample.txt")
writeLines(read_lines(ws))
melt_table2(ws)
```

---

`parse_atomic`*Parse logicals, integers, and reals*

---

## Description

Use `parse_*`() if you have a character vector you want to parse. Use `col_*`() in conjunction with a `read_*`() function to parse the values as they're read in.

## Usage

```
parse_logical(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale(), trim_ws = TRUE)
parse_integer(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale(), trim_ws = TRUE)
parse_double(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale(), trim_ws = TRUE)
parse_character(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale(), trim_ws = TRUE)
col_logical()
col_integer()
col_double()
col_character()
```

## Arguments

<code>x</code>	Character vector of values to parse.
<code>na</code>	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
<code>locale</code>	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <a href="#">locale()</a> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
<code>trim_ws</code>	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?

## See Also

Other parsers: [col\\_skip\(\)](#), [cols\\_condense\(\)](#), [cols\(\)](#), [parse\\_datetime\(\)](#), [parse\\_factor\(\)](#), [parse\\_guess\(\)](#), [parse\\_number\(\)](#), [parse\\_vector\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
parse_integer(c("1", "2", "3"))
parse_double(c("1", "2", "3.123"))
parse_number("$1,123,456.00")

# Use locale to override default decimal and grouping marks
es_MX <- locale("es", decimal_mark = ",")
parse_number("$1.123.456,00", locale = es_MX)

# Invalid values are replaced with missing values with a warning.
x <- c("1", "2", "3", "-")
parse_double(x)
# Or flag values as missing
parse_double(x, na = "-")
```

---

parse_datetime	<i>Parse date/times</i>
----------------	-------------------------

---

**Description**

Parse date/times

**Usage**

```
parse_datetime(
  x,
  format = "",
  na = c("", "NA"),
  locale = default_locale(),
  trim_ws = TRUE
)

parse_date(
  x,
  format = "",
  na = c("", "NA"),
  locale = default_locale(),
  trim_ws = TRUE
)

parse_time(
  x,
  format = "",
  na = c("", "NA"),
  locale = default_locale(),
  trim_ws = TRUE
)
```

```
col_datetime(format = "")
```

```
col_date(format = "")
```

```
col_time(format = "")
```

### Arguments

x	A character vector of dates to parse.
format	A format specification, as described below. If set to "", date times are parsed as ISO8601, dates and times used the date and time formats specified in the <a href="#">locale()</a> . Unlike <a href="#">strptime()</a> , the format specification must match the complete string.
na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <a href="#">locale()</a> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?

### Value

A [POSIXct\(\)](#) vector with `tz` attribute set to `tz`. Elements that could not be parsed (or did not generate valid dates) will be set to NA, and a warning message will inform you of the total number of failures.

### Format specification

`readr` uses a format specification similar to [strptime\(\)](#). There are three types of element:

1. Date components are specified with "%" followed by a letter. For example "%Y" matches a 4 digit year, "%m", matches a 2 digit month and "%d" matches a 2 digit day. Month and day default to 1, (i.e. Jan 1st) if not present, for example if only a year is given.
2. Whitespace is any sequence of zero or more whitespace characters.
3. Any other character is matched exactly.

`parse_datetime()` recognises the following format specifications:

- Year: "%Y" (4 digits), "%y" (2 digits); 00-69 -> 2000-2069, 70-99 -> 1970-1999.
- Month: "%m" (2 digits), "%b" (abbreviated name in current locale), "%B" (full name in current locale).
- Day: "%d" (2 digits), "%e" (optional leading space), "%a" (abbreviated name in current locale).
- Hour: "%H" or "%I" or "%h", use I (and not H) with AM/PM, use h (and not H) if your times represent durations longer than one day.

- Minutes: "%M"
- Seconds: "%S" (integer seconds), "%OS" (partial seconds)
- Time zone: "%Z" (as name, e.g. "America/Chicago"), "%z" (as offset from UTC, e.g. "+0800")
- AM/PM indicator: "%p".
- Non-digits: "%." skips one non-digit character, "%+" skips one or more non-digit characters, "%\*" skips any number of non-digits characters.
- Automatic parsers: "%AD" parses with a flexible YMD parser, "%AT" parses with a flexible HMS parser.
- Time since the Unix epoch: "%s" decimal seconds since the Unix epoch.
- Shortcuts: "%D" = "%m/%d/%y", "%F" = "%Y-%m-%d", "%R" = "%H:%M", "%T" = "%H:%M:%S", "%x" = "%y/%m/%d".

### ISO8601 support

Currently, readr does not support all of ISO8601. Missing features:

- Week & weekday specifications, e.g. "2013-W05", "2013-W05-10".
- Ordinal dates, e.g. "2013-095".
- Using commas instead of a period for decimal separator.

The parser is also a little laxer than ISO8601:

- Dates and times can be separated with a space, not just T.
- Mostly correct specifications like "2009-05-19 14:" and "200912-01" work.

### See Also

Other parsers: [col\\_skip\(\)](#), [cols\\_condense\(\)](#), [cols\(\)](#), [parse\\_factor\(\)](#), [parse\\_guess\(\)](#), [parse\\_logical\(\)](#), [parse\\_number\(\)](#), [parse\\_vector\(\)](#)

### Examples

```
# Format strings -----
parse_datetime("01/02/2010", "%d/%m/%Y")
parse_datetime("01/02/2010", "%m/%d/%Y")
# Handle any separator
parse_datetime("01/02/2010", "%m%.%d%.%Y")

# Dates look the same, but internally they use the number of days since
# 1970-01-01 instead of the number of seconds. This avoids a whole lot
# of troubles related to time zones, so use if you can.
parse_date("01/02/2010", "%d/%m/%Y")
parse_date("01/02/2010", "%m/%d/%Y")

# You can parse timezones from strings (as listed in OlsonNames())
parse_datetime("2010/01/01 12:00 US/Central", "%Y/%m/%d %H:%M %Z")
# Or from offsets
parse_datetime("2010/01/01 12:00 -0600", "%Y/%m/%d %H:%M %z")
```

```

# Use the locale parameter to control the default time zone
# (but note UTC is considerably faster than other options)
parse_datetime("2010/01/01 12:00", "%Y/%m/%d %H:%M",
  locale = locale(tz = "US/Central")
)
parse_datetime("2010/01/01 12:00", "%Y/%m/%d %H:%M",
  locale = locale(tz = "US/Eastern")
)

# Unlike strptime, the format specification must match the complete
# string (ignoring leading and trailing whitespace). This avoids common
# errors:
strptime("01/02/2010", "%d/%m/%y")
parse_datetime("01/02/2010", "%d/%m/%y")

# Failures -----
parse_datetime("01/01/2010", "%d/%m/%Y")
parse_datetime(c("01/ab/2010", "32/01/2010"), "%d/%m/%Y")

# Locales -----
# By default, readr expects English date/times, but that's easy to change'
parse_datetime("1 janvier 2015", "%d %B %Y", locale = locale("fr"))
parse_datetime("1 enero 2015", "%d %B %Y", locale = locale("es"))

# ISO8601 -----
# With separators
parse_datetime("1979-10-14")
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T10")
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T10:11")
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T10:11:12")
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T10:11:12.12345")

# Without separators
parse_datetime("19791014")
parse_datetime("19791014T101112")

# Time zones
us_central <- locale(tz = "US/Central")
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T1010", locale = us_central)
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T1010-0500", locale = us_central)
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T1010Z", locale = us_central)
# Your current time zone
parse_datetime("1979-10-14T1010", locale = locale(tz = ""))

```



## Description

`parse_factor()` is similar to `factor()`, but generates a warning if levels have been specified and some elements of `x` are not found in those levels.

## Usage

```
parse_factor(  
  x,  
  levels = NULL,  
  ordered = FALSE,  
  na = c("", "NA"),  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  include_na = TRUE,  
  trim_ws = TRUE  
)
```

```
col_factor(levels = NULL, ordered = FALSE, include_na = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

<code>x</code>	Character vector of values to parse.
<code>levels</code>	Character vector of the allowed levels. When <code>levels = NULL</code> (the default), levels are discovered from the unique values of <code>x</code> , in the order in which they appear in <code>x</code> .
<code>ordered</code>	Is it an ordered factor?
<code>na</code>	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
<code>locale</code>	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
<code>include_na</code>	If TRUE and <code>x</code> contains at least one NA, then NA is included in the levels of the constructed factor.
<code>trim_ws</code>	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?

## See Also

Other parsers: `col_skip()`, `cols_condense()`, `cols()`, `parse_datetime()`, `parse_guess()`, `parse_logical()`, `parse_number()`, `parse_vector()`

## Examples

```
# discover the levels from the data  
parse_factor(c("a", "b"))  
parse_factor(c("a", "b", "-99"))  
parse_factor(c("a", "b", "-99"), na = c("", "NA", "-99"))
```



na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
guess_integer	If TRUE, guess integer types for whole numbers, if FALSE guess numeric type for all numbers.

**See Also**

Other parsers: `col_skip()`, `cols_condense()`, `cols()`, `parse_datetime()`, `parse_factor()`, `parse_logical()`, `parse_number()`, `parse_vector()`

**Examples**

```
# Logical vectors
parse_guess(c("FALSE", "TRUE", "F", "T"))

# Integers and doubles
parse_guess(c("1", "2", "3"))
parse_guess(c("1.6", "2.6", "3.4"))

# Numbers containing grouping mark
guess_parser("1,234,566")
parse_guess("1,234,566")

# ISO 8601 date times
guess_parser(c("2010-10-10"))
parse_guess(c("2010-10-10"))
```

---

parse\_number                      *Parse numbers, flexibly*

---

**Description**

This parses the first number it finds, dropping any non-numeric characters before the first number and all characters after the first number. The grouping mark specified by the locale is ignored inside the number.

**Usage**

```
parse_number(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale(), trim_ws = TRUE)

col_number()
```

**Arguments**

x	Character vector of values to parse.
na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?

**Value**

A numeric vector (double) of parsed numbers.

**See Also**

Other parsers: `col_skip()`, `cols_condense()`, `cols()`, `parse_datetime()`, `parse_factor()`, `parse_guess()`, `parse_logical()`, `parse_vector()`

**Examples**

```
## These all return 1000
parse_number("$1,000") ## leading `$` and grouping character ``,` ignored
parse_number("euro1,000") ## leading non-numeric euro ignored
parse_number("t1000t1000") ## only parses first number found

parse_number("1,234.56")
## explicit locale specifying European grouping and decimal marks
parse_number("1.234,56", locale = locale(decimal_mark = ",", grouping_mark = "."))
## SI/ISO 31-0 standard spaces for number grouping
parse_number("1 234.56", locale = locale(decimal_mark = ".", grouping_mark = " "))

## Specifying strings for NAs
parse_number(c("1", "2", "3", "NA"))
parse_number(c("1", "2", "3", "NA", "Nothing"), na = c("NA", "Nothing"))
```

---

problems

*Retrieve parsing problems*

---

**Description**

Readr functions will only throw an error if parsing fails in an unrecoverable way. However, there are lots of potential problems that you might want to know about - these are stored in the `problems` attribute of the output, which you can easily access with this function. `stop_for_problems()` will throw an error if there are any parsing problems: this is useful for automated scripts where you want to throw an error as soon as you encounter a problem.

**Usage**

```
problems(x = .Last.value)

stop_for_problems(x)
```

**Arguments**

`x` An data frame (from `read_*()`) or a vector (from `parse_*()`).

**Value**

A data frame with one row for each problem and four columns:

<code>row, col</code>	Row and column of problem
<code>expected</code>	What readr expected to find
<code>actual</code>	What it actually got

**Examples**

```
x <- parse_integer(c("1X", "blah", "3"))
problems(x)

y <- parse_integer(c("1", "2", "3"))
problems(y)
```

---

<code>readr_example</code>	<i>Get path to readr example</i>
----------------------------	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

readr comes bundled with a number of sample files in its `inst/extdata` directory. This function make them easy to access

**Usage**

```
readr_example(file = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

`file` Name of file. If `NULL`, the example files will be listed.

**Examples**

```
readr_example()
readr_example("challenge.csv")
```

---

readr_threads	<i>Determine how many threads readr should use when processing</i>
---------------	--

---

### Description

The number of threads returned can be set by

- The global option `readr.num_threads`
- The environment variable `VROOM_THREADS`
- The value of `parallel::detectCores()`

### Usage

```
readr_threads()
```

---

read_builtin	<i>Read built-in object from package</i>
--------------	--

---

### Description

Consistent wrapper around `data()` that forces the promise. This is also a stronger parallel to loading data from a file.

### Usage

```
read_builtin(x, package = NULL)
```

### Arguments

x	Name (character string) of data set to read.
package	Name of package from which to find data set. By default, all attached packages are searched and then the 'data' subdirectory (if present) of the current working directory.

### Value

An object of the built-in class of x.

### Examples

```
read_builtin("mtcars", "datasets")
```

---

read_delim	<i>Read a delimited file (including CSV and TSV) into a tibble</i>
------------	--

---

### Description

`read_csv()` and `read_tsv()` are special cases of the more general `read_delim()`. They're useful for reading the most common types of flat file data, comma separated values and tab separated values, respectively. `read_csv2()` uses ; for the field separator and , for the decimal point. This format is common in some European countries.

### Usage

```
read_delim(  
  file,  
  delim = NULL,  
  quote = "\"",  
  escape_backslash = FALSE,  
  escape_double = TRUE,  
  col_names = TRUE,  
  col_types = NULL,  
  col_select = NULL,  
  id = NULL,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = c("", "NA"),  
  quoted_na = TRUE,  
  comment = "",  
  trim_ws = FALSE,  
  skip = 0,  
  n_max = Inf,  
  guess_max = min(1000, n_max),  
  name_repair = "unique",  
  num_threads = readr_threads(),  
  progress = show_progress(),  
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),  
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE,  
  lazy = should_read_lazy()  
)  
  
read_csv(  
  file,  
  col_names = TRUE,  
  col_types = NULL,  
  col_select = NULL,  
  id = NULL,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = c("", "NA"),  
  quoted_na = TRUE,
```

```
quote = "\"",
comment = "",
trim_ws = TRUE,
skip = 0,
n_max = Inf,
guess_max = min(1000, n_max),
name_repair = "unique",
num_threads = readr_threads(),
progress = show_progress(),
show_col_types = should_show_types(),
skip_empty_rows = TRUE,
lazy = should_read_lazy()
)

read_csv2(
  file,
  col_names = TRUE,
  col_types = NULL,
  col_select = NULL,
  id = NULL,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = c("", "NA"),
  quoted_na = TRUE,
  quote = "\"",
  comment = "",
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  guess_max = min(1000, n_max),
  progress = show_progress(),
  name_repair = "unique",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE,
  lazy = should_read_lazy()
)

read_tsv(
  file,
  col_names = TRUE,
  col_types = NULL,
  col_select = NULL,
  id = NULL,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = c("", "NA"),
  quoted_na = TRUE,
  quote = "\"",
  comment = "",
```



```

  trim_ws = TRUE,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  guess_max = min(1000, n_max),
  progress = show_progress(),
  name_repair = "unique",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE,
  lazy = should_read_lazy()
)

```

### Arguments

file	<p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with I(), be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p>
delim	Single character used to separate fields within a record.
quote	Single character used to quote strings.
escape_backslash	Does the file use backslashes to escape special characters? This is more general than <code>escape_double</code> as backslashes can be used to escape the delimiter character, the quote character, or to add special characters like <code>\\n</code> .
escape_double	Does the file escape quotes by doubling them? i.e. If this option is TRUE, the value <code>""</code> represents a single quote, <code>\</code> .
col_names	<p>Either TRUE, FALSE or a character vector of column names.</p> <p>If TRUE, the first row of the input will be used as the column names, and will not be included in the data frame. If FALSE, column names will be generated automatically: X1, X2, X3 etc.</p> <p>If <code>col_names</code> is a character vector, the values will be used as the names of the columns, and the first row of the input will be read into the first row of the output data frame.</p> <p>Missing (NA) column names will generate a warning, and be filled in with dummy names <code>...1</code>, <code>...2</code> etc. Duplicate column names will generate a warning and be made unique, see <code>name_repair</code> to control how this is done.</p>
col_types	<p>One of NULL, a <code>cols()</code> specification, or a string. See <code>vignette("readr")</code> for more details.</p> <p>If NULL, all column types will be imputed from <code>guess_max</code> rows on the input interspersed throughout the file. This is convenient (and fast), but not robust. If</p>

the imputation fails, you'll need to increase the `guess_max` or supply the correct types yourself.

Column specifications created by `list()` or `cols()` must contain one column specification for each column. If you only want to read a subset of the columns, use `cols_only()`.

Alternatively, you can use a compact string representation where each character represents one column:

- c = character
- i = integer
- n = number
- d = double
- l = logical
- f = factor
- D = date
- T = date time
- t = time
- ? = guess
- \_ or - = skip

By default, reading a file without a column specification will print a message showing what `readr` guessed they were. To remove this message, set `show_col_types = FALSE` or set `options(readr.show_col_types = FALSE)`.

<code>col_select</code>	Columns to include in the results. You can use the same mini-language as <code>dplyr::select()</code> to refer to the columns by name. Use <code>c()</code> to use more than one selection expression. Although this usage is less common, <code>col_select</code> also accepts a numeric column index. See <code>?tidyselect::language</code> for full details on the selection language.
<code>id</code>	The name of a column in which to store the file path. This is useful when reading multiple input files and there is data in the file paths, such as the data collection date. If <code>NULL</code> (the default) no extra column is created.
<code>locale</code>	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
<code>na</code>	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
<code>quoted_na</code>	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Should missing values inside quotes be treated as missing values (the default) or strings. This parameter is soft deprecated as of <code>readr 2.0.0</code> .
<code>comment</code>	A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.
<code>trim_ws</code>	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
<code>skip</code>	Number of lines to skip before reading data. If <code>comment</code> is supplied any commented lines are ignored <i>after</i> skipping.
<code>n_max</code>	Maximum number of lines to read.

guess_max	Maximum number of lines to use for guessing column types. See vignette("column-types", package = "readr") for more details.
name_repair	<p>Handling of column names. The default behaviour is to ensure column names are "unique". Various repair strategies are supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "minimal": No name repair or checks, beyond basic existence of names.</li> <li>• "unique" (default value): Make sure names are unique and not empty.</li> <li>• "check_unique": no name repair, but check they are unique.</li> <li>• "universal": Make the names unique and syntactic.</li> <li>• A function: apply custom name repair (e.g., name_repair = make.names for names in the style of base R).</li> <li>• A purrr-style anonymous function, see <code>rlang::as_function()</code>.</li> </ul> <p>This argument is passed on as repair to <code>vctrs::vec_as_names()</code>. See there for more details on these terms and the strategies used to enforce them.</p>
num_threads	The number of processing threads to use for initial parsing and lazy reading of data. If your data contains newlines within fields the parser should automatically detect this and fall back to using one thread only. However if you know your file has newlines within quoted fields it is safest to set <code>num_threads = 1</code> explicitly.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to FALSE.
show_col_types	If FALSE, do not show the guessed column types. If TRUE always show the column types, even if they are supplied. If NULL (the default) only show the column types if they are not explicitly supplied by the <code>col_types</code> argument.
skip_empty_rows	Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is TRUE then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is FALSE then they will be represented by NA values in all the columns.
lazy	<p>Read values lazily? By default, this is FALSE, because there are special considerations when reading a file lazily that have tripped up some users. Specifically, things get tricky when reading and then writing back into the same file. But, in general, lazy reading (<code>lazy = TRUE</code>) has many benefits, especially for interactive use and when your downstream work only involves a subset of the rows or columns.</p> <p>Learn more in <code>should_read_lazy()</code> and in the documentation for the <code>altrep</code> argument of <code>vroom::vroom()</code>.</p>

## Value

A `tibble()`. If there are parsing problems, a warning will alert you. You can retrieve the full details by calling `problems()` on your dataset.

## Examples

```
# Input sources -----
# Read from a path
read_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv"))
```

```

read_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv.zip"))
read_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv.bz2"))
## Not run:
# Including remote paths
read_csv("https://github.com/tidyverse/readr/raw/main/inst/extdata/mtcars.csv")

## End(Not run)

# Read from multiple file paths at once
continents <- c("africa", "americas", "asia", "europe", "oceania")
filepaths <- vapply(
  paste0("mini-gapminder-", continents, ".csv"),
  FUN = readr_example,
  FUN.VALUE = character(1)
)
read_csv(filepaths, id = "file")

# Or directly from a string with `I()`
read_csv(I("x,y\n1,2\n3,4"))

# Column selection-----
# Pass column names or indexes directly to select them
read_csv(readr_example("chickens.csv"), col_select = c(chicken, eggs_laid))
read_csv(readr_example("chickens.csv"), col_select = c(1, 3:4))

# Or use the selection helpers
read_csv(
  readr_example("chickens.csv"),
  col_select = c(starts_with("c"), last_col())
)

# You can also rename specific columns
read_csv(
  readr_example("chickens.csv"),
  col_select = c(egg_yield = eggs_laid, everything())
)

# Column types -----
# By default, readr guesses the columns types, looking at `guess_max` rows.
# You can override with a compact specification:
read_csv(I("x,y\n1,2\n3,4"), col_types = "dc")

# Or with a list of column types:
read_csv(I("x,y\n1,2\n3,4"), col_types = list(col_double(), col_character()))

# If there are parsing problems, you get a warning, and can extract
# more details with problems()
y <- read_csv(I("x\n1\n2\nb"), col_types = list(col_double()))
y
problems(y)

# Column names -----
# By default, readr duplicate name repair is noisy

```

```

read_csv(I("x,x\n1,2\n3,4"))

# To quiet, set the option that controls verbosity of name repair
withr::with_options(
  list(rlib_name_repair_verbosity = "quiet"),
  read_csv(I("x,x\n1,2\n3,4"))
)

# Or use "minimal" to turn off name repair
read_csv(I("x,x\n1,2\n3,4"), name_repair = "minimal")

# File types -----
read_csv(I("a,b\n1.0,2.0"))
read_csv2(I("a;b\n1,0;2,0"))
read_tsv(I("a\tb\n1.0\t2.0"))
read_delim(I("a|b\n1.0|2.0"), delim = "|")

```

---

read_file	<i>Read/write a complete file</i>
-----------	-----------------------------------

---

## Description

`read_file()` reads a complete file into a single object: either a character vector of length one, or a raw vector. `write_file()` takes a single string, or a raw vector, and writes it exactly as is. Raw vectors are useful when dealing with binary data, or if you have text data with unknown encoding.

## Usage

```

read_file(file, locale = default_locale())

read_file_raw(file)

write_file(x, file, append = FALSE, path = deprecated())

```

## Arguments

file	<p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in <code>.gz</code>, <code>.bz2</code>, <code>.xz</code>, or <code>.zip</code> will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with <code>http://</code>, <code>https://</code>, <code>ftp://</code>, or <code>ftps://</code> will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with <code>I()</code>, be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p>
------	---

locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
x	A single string, or a raw vector to write to disk.
append	If FALSE, will overwrite existing file. If TRUE, will append to existing file. In both cases, if the file does not exist a new file is created.
path	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Use the file argument instead.

### Value

read\_file: A length 1 character vector. read\_lines\_raw: A raw vector.

### Examples

```
read_file(file.path(R.home("doc"), "AUTHORS"))
read_file_raw(file.path(R.home("doc"), "AUTHORS"))

tmp <- tempfile()

x <- format_csv(mtcars[1:6, ])
write_file(x, tmp)
identical(x, read_file(tmp))

read_lines(I(x))
```

---

read\_fwf

*Read a fixed width file into a tibble*

---

### Description

A fixed width file can be a very compact representation of numeric data. It's also very fast to parse, because every field is in the same place in every line. Unfortunately, it's painful to parse because you need to describe the length of every field. Readr aims to make it as easy as possible by providing a number of different ways to describe the field structure.

- `fwf_empty()` - Guesses based on the positions of empty columns.
- `fwf_widths()` - Supply the widths of the columns.
- `fwf_positions()` - Supply paired vectors of start and end positions.
- `fwf_cols()` - Supply named arguments of paired start and end positions or column widths.

**Usage**

```

read_fwf(
  file,
  col_positions = fwf_empty(file, skip, n = guess_max),
  col_types = NULL,
  col_select = NULL,
  id = NULL,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = c("", "NA"),
  comment = "",
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  guess_max = min(n_max, 1000),
  progress = show_progress(),
  name_repair = "unique",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),
  lazy = should_read_lazy(),
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE
)

fwf_empty(
  file,
  skip = 0,
  skip_empty_rows = FALSE,
  col_names = NULL,
  comment = "",
  n = 100L
)

fwf_widths(widths, col_names = NULL)

fwf_positions(start, end = NULL, col_names = NULL)

fwf_cols(...)

```

**Arguments**

file	<p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in <code>.gz</code>, <code>.bz2</code>, <code>.xz</code>, or <code>.zip</code> will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with <code>http://</code>, <code>https://</code>, <code>ftp://</code>, or <code>ftps://</code> will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with <code>I()</code>, be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p>
------	---

	Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.
<code>col_positions</code>	Column positions, as created by <code>fwf_empty()</code> , <code>fwf_widths()</code> or <code>fwf_positions()</code> . To read in only selected fields, use <code>fwf_positions()</code> . If the width of the last column is variable (a ragged fwf file), supply the last end position as NA.
<code>col_types</code>	<p>One of NULL, a <code>cols()</code> specification, or a string. See <code>vignette("readr")</code> for more details.</p> <p>If NULL, all column types will be imputed from <code>guess_max</code> rows on the input interspersed throughout the file. This is convenient (and fast), but not robust. If the imputation fails, you'll need to increase the <code>guess_max</code> or supply the correct types yourself.</p> <p>Column specifications created by <code>list()</code> or <code>cols()</code> must contain one column specification for each column. If you only want to read a subset of the columns, use <code>cols_only()</code>.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can use a compact string representation where each character represents one column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c = character</li> <li>• i = integer</li> <li>• n = number</li> <li>• d = double</li> <li>• l = logical</li> <li>• f = factor</li> <li>• D = date</li> <li>• T = date time</li> <li>• t = time</li> <li>• ? = guess</li> <li>• _ or - = skip</li> </ul> <p>By default, reading a file without a column specification will print a message showing what <code>readr</code> guessed they were. To remove this message, set <code>show_col_types = FALSE</code> or set <code>options(readr.show_col_types = FALSE)</code>.</p>
<code>col_select</code>	Columns to include in the results. You can use the same mini-language as <code>dplyr::select()</code> to refer to the columns by name. Use <code>c()</code> to use more than one selection expression. Although this usage is less common, <code>col_select</code> also accepts a numeric column index. See <code>?tidyselect::language</code> for full details on the selection language.
<code>id</code>	The name of a column in which to store the file path. This is useful when reading multiple input files and there is data in the file paths, such as the data collection date. If NULL (the default) no extra column is created.
<code>locale</code>	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
<code>na</code>	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
<code>comment</code>	A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.



trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data.
n_max	Maximum number of lines to read.
guess_max	Maximum number of lines to use for guessing column types. See <code>vignette("column-types", package = "readr")</code> for more details.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to <code>FALSE</code> .
name_repair	<p>Handling of column names. The default behaviour is to ensure column names are "unique". Various repair strategies are supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "minimal": No name repair or checks, beyond basic existence of names.</li> <li>• "unique" (default value): Make sure names are unique and not empty.</li> <li>• "check_unique": no name repair, but check they are unique.</li> <li>• "universal": Make the names unique and syntactic.</li> <li>• A function: apply custom name repair (e.g., <code>name_repair = make.names</code> for names in the style of base R).</li> <li>• A purrr-style anonymous function, see <code>rlang::as_function()</code>.</li> </ul> <p>This argument is passed on as <code>repair</code> to <code>vctrs::vec_as_names()</code>. See there for more details on these terms and the strategies used to enforce them.</p>
num_threads	The number of processing threads to use for initial parsing and lazy reading of data. If your data contains newlines within fields the parser should automatically detect this and fall back to using one thread only. However if you know your file has newlines within quoted fields it is safest to set <code>num_threads = 1</code> explicitly.
show_col_types	If <code>FALSE</code> , do not show the guessed column types. If <code>TRUE</code> always show the column types, even if they are supplied. If <code>NULL</code> (the default) only show the column types if they are not explicitly supplied by the <code>col_types</code> argument.
lazy	<p>Read values lazily? By default, this is <code>FALSE</code>, because there are special considerations when reading a file lazily that have tripped up some users. Specifically, things get tricky when reading and then writing back into the same file. But, in general, lazy reading (<code>lazy = TRUE</code>) has many benefits, especially for interactive use and when your downstream work only involves a subset of the rows or columns.</p> <p>Learn more in <code>should_read_lazy()</code> and in the documentation for the <code>altrep</code> argument of <code>vroom::vroom()</code>.</p>
skip_empty_rows	Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is <code>TRUE</code> then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is <code>FALSE</code> then they will be represented by NA values in all the columns.
col_names	Either <code>NULL</code> , or a character vector column names.
n	Number of lines the tokenizer will read to determine file structure. By default it is set to 100.
widths	Width of each field. Use NA as width of last field when reading a ragged fwf file.

start, end	Starting and ending (inclusive) positions of each field. Use NA as last end field when reading a ragged fwf file.
...	If the first element is a data frame, then it must have all numeric columns and either one or two rows. The column names are the variable names. The column values are the variable widths if a length one vector, and if length two, variable start and end positions. The elements of ... are used to construct a data frame with or or two rows as above.

### Second edition changes

Comments are no longer looked for anywhere in the file. They are now only ignored at the start of a line.

### See Also

[read\\_table\(\)](#) to read fixed width files where each column is separated by whitespace.

### Examples

```
fwf_sample <- readr_example("fwf-sample.txt")
writeLines(read_lines(fwf_sample))

# You can specify column positions in several ways:
# 1. Guess based on position of empty columns
read_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_empty(fwf_sample, col_names = c("first", "last", "state", "ssn")))
# 2. A vector of field widths
read_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_widths(c(20, 10, 12), c("name", "state", "ssn")))
# 3. Paired vectors of start and end positions
read_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_positions(c(1, 30), c(20, 42), c("name", "ssn")))
# 4. Named arguments with start and end positions
read_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_cols(name = c(1, 20), ssn = c(30, 42)))
# 5. Named arguments with column widths
read_fwf(fwf_sample, fwf_cols(name = 20, state = 10, ssn = 12))
```

---

read\_lines

*Read/write lines to/from a file*

---

### Description

`read_lines()` reads up to `n_max` lines from a file. New lines are not included in the output. `read_lines_raw()` produces a list of raw vectors, and is useful for handling data with unknown encoding. `write_lines()` takes a character vector or list of raw vectors, appending a new line after each entry.

**Usage**

```

read_lines(
  file,
  skip = 0,
  skip_empty_rows = FALSE,
  n_max = Inf,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = character(),
  lazy = should_read_lazy(),
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  progress = show_progress()
)

read_lines_raw(
  file,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = -1L,
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  progress = show_progress()
)

write_lines(
  x,
  file,
  sep = "\n",
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  path = deprecated()
)

```

**Arguments**

file	<p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with I(), be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p>
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data.
skip_empty_rows	Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is TRUE then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is FALSE then they will be represented by NA values in all the columns.

n_max	Number of lines to read. If n_max is -1, all lines in file will be read.
locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
lazy	Read values lazily? By default, this is FALSE, because there are special considerations when reading a file lazily that have tripped up some users. Specifically, things get tricky when reading and then writing back into the same file. But, in general, lazy reading ( <code>lazy = TRUE</code> ) has many benefits, especially for interactive use and when your downstream work only involves a subset of the rows or columns. Learn more in <code>should_read_lazy()</code> and in the documentation for the <code>altrep</code> argument of <code>vroom::vroom()</code> .
num_threads	The number of processing threads to use for initial parsing and lazy reading of data. If your data contains newlines within fields the parser should automatically detect this and fall back to using one thread only. However if you know your file has newlines within quoted fields it is safest to set <code>num_threads = 1</code> explicitly.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to FALSE.
x	A character vector or list of raw vectors to write to disk.
sep	The line separator. Defaults to <code>\\n</code> , commonly used on POSIX systems like macOS and linux. For native windows (CRLF) separators use <code>\\r\\n</code> .
append	If FALSE, will overwrite existing file. If TRUE, will append to existing file. In both cases, if the file does not exist a new file is created.
path	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Use the <code>file</code> argument instead.

### Value

`read_lines()`: A character vector with one element for each line. `read_lines_raw()`: A list containing a raw vector for each line.

`write_lines()` returns `x`, invisibly.

### Examples

```
read_lines(file.path(R.home("doc"), "AUTHORS"), n_max = 10)
read_lines_raw(file.path(R.home("doc"), "AUTHORS"), n_max = 10)

tmp <- tempfile()

write_lines(rownames(mtcars), tmp)
read_lines(tmp, lazy = FALSE)
read_file(tmp) # note trailing \n

write_lines(airquality$Ozone, tmp, na = "-1")
read_lines(tmp)
```

read\_log

*Read common/combined log file into a tibble***Description**

This is a fairly standard format for log files - it uses both quotes and square brackets for quoting, and there may be literal quotes embedded in a quoted string. The dash, "-", is used for missing values.

**Usage**

```
read_log(
  file,
  col_names = FALSE,
  col_types = NULL,
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),
  progress = show_progress()
)
```

**Arguments**

file	<p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with I(), be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p>
col_names	<p>Either TRUE, FALSE or a character vector of column names.</p> <p>If TRUE, the first row of the input will be used as the column names, and will not be included in the data frame. If FALSE, column names will be generated automatically: X1, X2, X3 etc.</p> <p>If col_names is a character vector, the values will be used as the names of the columns, and the first row of the input will be read into the first row of the output data frame.</p> <p>Missing (NA) column names will generate a warning, and be filled in with dummy names ...1, ...2 etc. Duplicate column names will generate a warning and be made unique, see <code>name_repair</code> to control how this is done.</p>

col_types	<p>One of NULL, a <code>cols()</code> specification, or a string. See <code>vignette("readr")</code> for more details.</p> <p>If NULL, all column types will be imputed from <code>guess_max</code> rows on the input interspersed throughout the file. This is convenient (and fast), but not robust. If the imputation fails, you'll need to increase the <code>guess_max</code> or supply the correct types yourself.</p> <p>Column specifications created by <code>list()</code> or <code>cols()</code> must contain one column specification for each column. If you only want to read a subset of the columns, use <code>cols_only()</code>.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can use a compact string representation where each character represents one column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c = character</li> <li>• i = integer</li> <li>• n = number</li> <li>• d = double</li> <li>• l = logical</li> <li>• f = factor</li> <li>• D = date</li> <li>• T = date time</li> <li>• t = time</li> <li>• ? = guess</li> <li>• _ or - = skip</li> </ul> <p>By default, reading a file without a column specification will print a message showing what <code>readr</code> guessed they were. To remove this message, set <code>show_col_types = FALSE</code> or set <code>'options(readr.show_col_types = FALSE)</code>.</p>
trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data. If <code>comment</code> is supplied any commented lines are ignored <i>after</i> skipping.
n_max	Maximum number of lines to read.
show_col_types	If FALSE, do not show the guessed column types. If TRUE always show the column types, even if they are supplied. If NULL (the default) only show the column types if they are not explicitly supplied by the <code>col_types</code> argument.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to FALSE.

### Examples

```
read_log(readr_example("example.log"))
```

---

read_rds	<i>Read/write RDS files.</i>
----------	------------------------------

---

## Description

Consistent wrapper around [saveRDS\(\)](#) and [readRDS\(\)](#). `write_rds()` does not compress by default as space is generally cheaper than time.

## Usage

```
read_rds(file, refhook = NULL)

write_rds(
  x,
  file,
  compress = c("none", "gz", "bz2", "xz"),
  version = 2,
  refhook = NULL,
  text = FALSE,
  path = deprecated(),
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

<code>file</code>	The file path to read from/write to.
<code>refhook</code>	A function to handle reference objects.
<code>x</code>	R object to write to serialise.
<code>compress</code>	Compression method to use: "none", "gz", "bz", or "xz".
<code>version</code>	Serialization format version to be used. The default value is 2 as it's compatible for R versions prior to 3.5.0. See <a href="#">base::saveRDS()</a> for more details.
<code>text</code>	If TRUE a text representation is used, otherwise a binary representation is used.
<code>path</code>	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Use the <code>file</code> argument instead.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments to connection function. For example, control the space-time trade-off of different compression methods with compression. See <a href="#">connections()</a> for more details.

## Value

`write_rds()` returns `x`, invisibly.

## Examples

```
temp <- tempfile()
write_rds(mtcars, temp)
read_rds(temp)
## Not run:
write_rds(mtcars, "compressed_mtc.rds", "xz", compression = 9L)

## End(Not run)
```

---

read_table	<i>Read whitespace-separated columns into a tibble</i>
------------	--

---

## Description

`read_table()` is designed to read the type of textual data where each column is separated by one (or more) columns of space.

`read_table()` is like `read.table()`, it allows any number of whitespace characters between columns, and the lines can be of different lengths.

`spec_table()` returns the column specifications rather than a data frame.

## Usage

```
read_table(
  file,
  col_names = TRUE,
  col_types = NULL,
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = "NA",
  skip = 0,
  n_max = Inf,
  guess_max = min(n_max, 1000),
  progress = show_progress(),
  comment = "",
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

file	Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).  Files ending in <code>.gz</code> , <code>.bz2</code> , <code>.xz</code> , or <code>.zip</code> will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with <code>http://</code> , <code>https://</code> , <code>ftp://</code> , or <code>ftps://</code> will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.
------	--



	<p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with <code>I()</code>, be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p>
col_names	<p>Either TRUE, FALSE or a character vector of column names.</p> <p>If TRUE, the first row of the input will be used as the column names, and will not be included in the data frame. If FALSE, column names will be generated automatically: X1, X2, X3 etc.</p> <p>If col_names is a character vector, the values will be used as the names of the columns, and the first row of the input will be read into the first row of the output data frame.</p> <p>Missing (NA) column names will generate a warning, and be filled in with dummy names ...1, ...2 etc. Duplicate column names will generate a warning and be made unique, see <code>name_repair</code> to control how this is done.</p>
col_types	<p>One of NULL, a <code>cols()</code> specification, or a string. See <code>vignette("readr")</code> for more details.</p> <p>If NULL, all column types will be imputed from <code>guess_max</code> rows on the input interspersed throughout the file. This is convenient (and fast), but not robust. If the imputation fails, you'll need to increase the <code>guess_max</code> or supply the correct types yourself.</p> <p>Column specifications created by <code>list()</code> or <code>cols()</code> must contain one column specification for each column. If you only want to read a subset of the columns, use <code>cols_only()</code>.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can use a compact string representation where each character represents one column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c = character</li> <li>• i = integer</li> <li>• n = number</li> <li>• d = double</li> <li>• l = logical</li> <li>• f = factor</li> <li>• D = date</li> <li>• T = date time</li> <li>• t = time</li> <li>• ? = guess</li> <li>• _ or - = skip</li> </ul> <p>By default, reading a file without a column specification will print a message showing what <code>readr</code> guessed they were. To remove this message, set <code>show_col_types = FALSE</code> or set <code>'options(readr.show_col_types = FALSE)</code>.</p>
locale	<p>The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.</p>
na	<p>Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.</p>

skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data.
n_max	Maximum number of lines to read.
guess_max	Maximum number of lines to use for guessing column types. See <code>vignette("column-types", package = "readr")</code> for more details.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to <code>FALSE</code> .
comment	A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.
show_col_types	If <code>FALSE</code> , do not show the guessed column types. If <code>TRUE</code> always show the column types, even if they are supplied. If <code>NULL</code> (the default) only show the column types if they are not explicitly supplied by the <code>col_types</code> argument.
skip_empty_rows	Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is <code>TRUE</code> then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is <code>FALSE</code> then they will be represented by <code>NA</code> values in all the columns.

**See Also**

[read\\_fwf\(\)](#) to read fixed width files where each column is not separated by whitespace. `read_fwf()` is also useful for reading tabular data with non-standard formatting.

**Examples**

```
ws <- readr_example("whitespace-sample.txt")
writeLines(read_lines(ws))
read_table(ws)
```

---

should\_read\_lazy

*Determine whether to read a file lazily*

---

**Description**

This function consults the option `readr.read_lazy` to figure out whether to do lazy reading or not. If the option is unset, the default is `FALSE`, meaning `readr` will read files eagerly, not lazily. If you want to use this option to express a preference for lazy reading, do this:

```
options(readr.read_lazy = TRUE)
```

Typically, one would use the option to control lazy reading at the session, file, or user level. The `lazy` argument of functions like `read_csv()` can be used to control laziness in an individual call.

**Usage**

```
should_read_lazy()
```

**See Also**

The blog post "[Eager vs lazy reading in readr 2.1.0](#)" explains the benefits (and downsides) of lazy reading.

---

should_show_types	<i>Determine whether column types should be shown</i>
-------------------	---

---

**Description**

Wrapper around `getOption("readr.show_col_types")` that implements some fall back logic if the option is unset. This returns:

- TRUE if the option is set to TRUE
- FALSE if the option is set to FALSE
- FALSE if the option is unset and we appear to be running tests
- NULL otherwise, in which case the caller determines whether to show column types based on context, e.g. whether `show_col_types` or `actual_col_types` were explicitly specified

**Usage**

```
should_show_types()
```

---

show_progress	<i>Determine whether progress bars should be shown</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

By default, readr shows progress bars. However, progress reporting is suppressed if any of the following conditions hold:

- The bar is explicitly disabled by setting `options(readr.show_progress = FALSE)`.
- The code is run in a non-interactive session, as determined by `rlang::is_interactive()`.
- The code is run in an RStudio notebook chunk, as determined by `getOption("rstudio.notebook.executing")`.

**Usage**

```
show_progress()
```

---

spec_delim	<i>Generate a column specification</i>
------------	--

---

### Description

When printed, only the first 20 columns are printed by default. To override, set `options(readr.num_columns)` can be used to modify this (a value of 0 turns off printing).

### Usage

```
spec_delim(  
  file,  
  delim = NULL,  
  quote = "\"",  
  escape_backslash = FALSE,  
  escape_double = TRUE,  
  col_names = TRUE,  
  col_types = list(),  
  col_select = NULL,  
  id = NULL,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = c("", "NA"),  
  quoted_na = TRUE,  
  comment = "",  
  trim_ws = FALSE,  
  skip = 0,  
  n_max = 0,  
  guess_max = 1000,  
  name_repair = "unique",  
  num_threads = readr_threads(),  
  progress = show_progress(),  
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),  
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE,  
  lazy = should_read_lazy()  
)
```

```
spec_csv(  
  file,  
  col_names = TRUE,  
  col_types = list(),  
  col_select = NULL,  
  id = NULL,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = c("", "NA"),  
  quoted_na = TRUE,  
  quote = "\"",  
  comment = "",
```

```
    trim_ws = TRUE,  
    skip = 0,  
    n_max = 0,  
    guess_max = 1000,  
    name_repair = "unique",  
    num_threads = readr_threads(),  
    progress = show_progress(),  
    show_col_types = should_show_types(),  
    skip_empty_rows = TRUE,  
    lazy = should_read_lazy()  
  )
```

```
spec_csv2(  
  file,  
  col_names = TRUE,  
  col_types = list(),  
  col_select = NULL,  
  id = NULL,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = c("", "NA"),  
  quoted_na = TRUE,  
  quote = "\"",  
  comment = "",  
  trim_ws = TRUE,  
  skip = 0,  
  n_max = 0,  
  guess_max = 1000,  
  progress = show_progress(),  
  name_repair = "unique",  
  num_threads = readr_threads(),  
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),  
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE,  
  lazy = should_read_lazy()  
)
```

```
spec_tsv(  
  file,  
  col_names = TRUE,  
  col_types = list(),  
  col_select = NULL,  
  id = NULL,  
  locale = default_locale(),  
  na = c("", "NA"),  
  quoted_na = TRUE,  
  quote = "\"",  
  comment = "",  
  trim_ws = TRUE,  
  skip = 0,
```

```

n_max = 0,
guess_max = 1000,
progress = show_progress(),
name_repair = "unique",
num_threads = readr_threads(),
show_col_types = should_show_types(),
skip_empty_rows = TRUE,
lazy = should_read_lazy()
)

spec_table(
  file,
  col_names = TRUE,
  col_types = list(),
  locale = default_locale(),
  na = "NA",
  skip = 0,
  n_max = 0,
  guess_max = 1000,
  progress = show_progress(),
  comment = "",
  show_col_types = should_show_types(),
  skip_empty_rows = TRUE
)

```

### Arguments

file	<p>Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector).</p> <p>Files ending in <code>.gz</code>, <code>.bz2</code>, <code>.xz</code>, or <code>.zip</code> will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with <code>http://</code>, <code>https://</code>, <code>ftp://</code>, or <code>ftps://</code> will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be automatically downloaded and decompressed.</p> <p>Literal data is most useful for examples and tests. To be recognised as literal data, the input must be either wrapped with <code>I()</code>, be a string containing at least one new line, or be a vector containing at least one string with a new line.</p> <p>Using a value of <code>clipboard()</code> will read from the system clipboard.</p>
delim	Single character used to separate fields within a record.
quote	Single character used to quote strings.
escape_backslash	Does the file use backslashes to escape special characters? This is more general than <code>escape_double</code> as backslashes can be used to escape the delimiter character, the quote character, or to add special characters like <code>\\n</code> .
escape_double	Does the file escape quotes by doubling them? i.e. If this option is <code>TRUE</code> , the value <code>""""</code> represents a single quote, <code>\</code> .
col_names	Either <code>TRUE</code> , <code>FALSE</code> or a character vector of column names.

	<p>If TRUE, the first row of the input will be used as the column names, and will not be included in the data frame. If FALSE, column names will be generated automatically: X1, X2, X3 etc.</p> <p>If col_names is a character vector, the values will be used as the names of the columns, and the first row of the input will be read into the first row of the output data frame.</p> <p>Missing (NA) column names will generate a warning, and be filled in with dummy names ...1, ...2 etc. Duplicate column names will generate a warning and be made unique, see name_repair to control how this is done.</p>
col_types	<p>One of NULL, a cols() specification, or a string. See vignette("readr") for more details.</p> <p>If NULL, all column types will be imputed from guess_max rows on the input interspersed throughout the file. This is convenient (and fast), but not robust. If the imputation fails, you'll need to increase the guess_max or supply the correct types yourself.</p> <p>Column specifications created by list() or cols() must contain one column specification for each column. If you only want to read a subset of the columns, use cols_only().</p> <p>Alternatively, you can use a compact string representation where each character represents one column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c = character</li> <li>• i = integer</li> <li>• n = number</li> <li>• d = double</li> <li>• l = logical</li> <li>• f = factor</li> <li>• D = date</li> <li>• T = date time</li> <li>• t = time</li> <li>• ? = guess</li> <li>• _ or - = skip</li> </ul> <p>By default, reading a file without a column specification will print a message showing what readr guessed they were. To remove this message, set show_col_types = FALSE or set 'options(readr.show_col_types = FALSE).</p>
col_select	<p>Columns to include in the results. You can use the same mini-language as dplyr::select() to refer to the columns by name. Use c() to use more than one selection expression. Although this usage is less common, col_select also accepts a numeric column index. See ?tidyselect::language for full details on the selection language.</p>
id	<p>The name of a column in which to store the file path. This is useful when reading multiple input files and there is data in the file paths, such as the data collection date. If NULL (the default) no extra column is created.</p>
locale	<p>The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use locale() to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.</p>

na	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.
quoted_na	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Should missing values inside quotes be treated as missing values (the default) or strings. This parameter is soft deprecated as of <code>readr</code> 2.0.0.
comment	A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.
trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
skip	Number of lines to skip before reading data. If <code>comment</code> is supplied any commented lines are ignored <i>after</i> skipping.
n_max	Maximum number of lines to read.
guess_max	Maximum number of lines to use for guessing column types. See <code>vignette("column-types", package = "readr")</code> for more details.
name_repair	<p>Handling of column names. The default behaviour is to ensure column names are "unique". Various repair strategies are supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "minimal": No name repair or checks, beyond basic existence of names.</li> <li>• "unique" (default value): Make sure names are unique and not empty.</li> <li>• "check_unique": no name repair, but check they are unique.</li> <li>• "universal": Make the names unique and syntactic.</li> <li>• A function: apply custom name repair (e.g., <code>name_repair = make.names</code> for names in the style of base R).</li> <li>• A purrr-style anonymous function, see <code>rlang::as_function()</code>.</li> </ul> <p>This argument is passed on as <code>repair</code> to <code>vctrs::vec_as_names()</code>. See there for more details on these terms and the strategies used to enforce them.</p>
num_threads	The number of processing threads to use for initial parsing and lazy reading of data. If your data contains newlines within fields the parser should automatically detect this and fall back to using one thread only. However if you know your file has newlines within quoted fields it is safest to set <code>num_threads = 1</code> explicitly.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option <code>readr.show_progress</code> to <code>FALSE</code> .
show_col_types	If <code>FALSE</code> , do not show the guessed column types. If <code>TRUE</code> always show the column types, even if they are supplied. If <code>NULL</code> (the default) only show the column types if they are not explicitly supplied by the <code>col_types</code> argument.
skip_empty_rows	Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is <code>TRUE</code> then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is <code>FALSE</code> then they will be represented by NA values in all the columns.
lazy	<p>Read values lazily? By default, this is <code>FALSE</code>, because there are special considerations when reading a file lazily that have tripped up some users. Specifically, things get tricky when reading and then writing back into the same file. But, in general, lazy reading (<code>lazy = TRUE</code>) has many benefits, especially for interactive use and when your downstream work only involves a subset of the rows or columns.</p> <p>Learn more in <code>should_read_lazy()</code> and in the documentation for the <code>altrep</code> argument of <code>vroom::vroom()</code>.</p>



**Value**

The `col_spec` generated for the file.

**Examples**

```
# Input sources -----
# Retrieve specs from a path
spec_csv(system.file("extdata/mtcars.csv", package = "readr"))
spec_csv(system.file("extdata/mtcars.csv.zip", package = "readr"))

# Or directly from a string (must contain a newline)
spec_csv(I("x,y\n1,2\n3,4"))

# Column types -----
# By default, readr guesses the columns types, looking at 1000 rows
# throughout the file.
# You can specify the number of rows used with guess_max.
spec_csv(system.file("extdata/mtcars.csv", package = "readr"), guess_max = 20)
```

---

type\_convert

*Re-convert character columns in existing data frame*

---

**Description**

This is useful if you need to do some manual munging - you can read the columns in as character, clean it up with (e.g.) regular expressions and then let readr take another stab at parsing it. The name is a homage to the base `utils::type.convert()`.

**Usage**

```
type_convert(
  df,
  col_types = NULL,
  na = c("", "NA"),
  trim_ws = TRUE,
  locale = default_locale(),
  guess_integer = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>df</code>	A data frame.
<code>col_types</code>	One of <code>NULL</code> , a <code>cols()</code> specification, or a string. See <code>vignette("readr")</code> for more details. If <code>NULL</code> , column types will be imputed using all rows.
<code>na</code>	Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to <code>character()</code> to indicate no missing values.

trim_ws	Should leading and trailing whitespace (ASCII spaces and tabs) be trimmed from each field before parsing it?
locale	The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use <code>locale()</code> to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.
guess_integer	If TRUE, guess integer types for whole numbers, if FALSE guess numeric for all numbers.

**Note**

`type_convert()` removes a 'spec' attribute, because it likely modifies the column data types. (see `spec()` for more information about column specifications).

**Examples**

```
df <- data.frame(
  x = as.character(runif(10)),
  y = as.character(sample(10)),
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE
)
str(df)
str(type_convert(df))

df <- data.frame(x = c("NA", "10"), stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
str(type_convert(df))

# Type convert can be used to infer types from an entire dataset

# first read the data as character
data <- read_csv(readr_example("mtcars.csv"),
  col_types = list(.default = col_character())
)
str(data)
# Then convert it with type_convert
type_convert(data)
```

---

with\_edition

*Temporarily change the active readr edition*


---

**Description**

`with_edition()` allows you to change the active edition of readr for a given block of code. `local_edition()` allows you to change the active edition of readr until the end of the current function or file.

**Usage**

```
with_edition(edition, code)
```

```
local_edition(edition, env = parent.frame())
```

**Arguments**

edition	Should be a single integer, such as 1 or 2.
code	Code to run with the changed edition.
env	Environment that controls scope of changes. For expert use only.

**Examples**

```
with_edition(1, edition_get())
with_edition(2, edition_get())

# readr 1e and 2e behave differently when input rows have different number
# number of fields
with_edition(1, read_csv("1,2\n3,4,5", col_names = c("X", "Y", "Z")))
with_edition(2, read_csv("1,2\n3,4,5", col_names = c("X", "Y", "Z")))

# local_edition() applies in a specific scope, for example, inside a function
read_csv_1e <- function(...) {
  local_edition(1)
  read_csv(...)
}
read_csv("1,2\n3,4,5", col_names = c("X", "Y", "Z"))      # 2e behaviour
read_csv_1e("1,2\n3,4,5", col_names = c("X", "Y", "Z")) # 1e behaviour
read_csv("1,2\n3,4,5", col_names = c("X", "Y", "Z"))      # 2e behaviour
```

---

write_delim	<i>Write a data frame to a delimited file</i>
-------------	---

---

**Description**

The `write_*()` family of functions are an improvement to analogous function such as `write.csv()` because they are approximately twice as fast. Unlike `write.csv()`, these functions do not include row names as a column in the written file. A generic function, `output_column()`, is applied to each variable to coerce columns to suitable output.

**Usage**

```
write_delim(
  x,
  file,
  delim = " ",
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  col_names = !append,
  quote = c("needed", "all", "none"),
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),
  eol = "\n",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
```

```
    progress = show_progress(),
    path = deprecated(),
    quote_escape = deprecated()
)

write_csv(
  x,
  file,
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  col_names = !append,
  quote = c("needed", "all", "none"),
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),
  eol = "\n",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  progress = show_progress(),
  path = deprecated(),
  quote_escape = deprecated()
)

write_csv2(
  x,
  file,
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  col_names = !append,
  quote = c("needed", "all", "none"),
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),
  eol = "\n",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  progress = show_progress(),
  path = deprecated(),
  quote_escape = deprecated()
)

write_excel_csv(
  x,
  file,
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  col_names = !append,
  delim = ",",
  quote = "all",
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),
  eol = "\n",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  progress = show_progress(),
  path = deprecated(),
```

```

    quote_escape = deprecated()
  )

write_excel_csv2(
  x,
  file,
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  col_names = !append,
  delim = ";",
  quote = "all",
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),
  eol = "\n",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  progress = show_progress(),
  path = deprecated(),
  quote_escape = deprecated()
)

write_tsv(
  x,
  file,
  na = "NA",
  append = FALSE,
  col_names = !append,
  quote = "none",
  escape = c("double", "backslash", "none"),
  eol = "\n",
  num_threads = readr_threads(),
  progress = show_progress(),
  path = deprecated(),
  quote_escape = deprecated()
)

```

### Arguments

x	A data frame or tibble to write to disk.
file	File or connection to write to.
delim	Delimiter used to separate values. Defaults to " " for write_delim(), "," for write_excel_csv() and ";" for write_excel_csv2(). Must be a single character.
na	String used for missing values. Defaults to NA. Missing values will never be quoted; strings with the same value as na will always be quoted.
append	If FALSE, will overwrite existing file. If TRUE, will append to existing file. In both cases, if the file does not exist a new file is created.
col_names	If FALSE, column names will not be included at the top of the file. If TRUE, column names will be included. If not specified, col_names will take the opposite value given to append.

quote	How to handle fields which contain characters that need to be quoted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>needed - Values are only quoted if needed: if they contain a delimiter, quote, or newline.</li> <li>all - Quote all fields.</li> <li>none - Never quote fields.</li> </ul>
escape	The type of escape to use when quotes are in the data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>double - quotes are escaped by doubling them.</li> <li>backslash - quotes are escaped by a preceding backslash.</li> <li>none - quotes are not escaped.</li> </ul>
eol	The end of line character to use. Most commonly either "\n" for Unix style newlines, or "\r\n" for Windows style newlines.
num_threads	Number of threads to use when reading and materializing vectors. If your data contains newlines within fields the parser will automatically be forced to use a single thread only.
progress	Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The display is updated every 50,000 values and will only display if estimated reading time is 5 seconds or more. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option readr.show_progress to FALSE.
path	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Use the file argument instead.
quote_escape	<b>[Deprecated]</b> Use the escape argument instead.

### Value

write\_\*() returns the input x invisibly.

### Output

Factors are coerced to character. Doubles are formatted to a decimal string using the `grisu3` algorithm. POSIXct values are formatted as ISO8601 with a UTC timezone *Note: POSIXct objects in local or non-UTC timezones will be converted to UTC time before writing.*

All columns are encoded as UTF-8. `write_excel_csv()` and `write_excel_csv2()` also include a **UTF-8 Byte order mark** which indicates to Excel the csv is UTF-8 encoded.

`write_excel_csv2()` and `write_csv2` were created to allow users with different locale settings to save .csv files using their default settings (e.g. ; as the column separator and , as the decimal separator). This is common in some European countries.

Values are only quoted if they contain a comma, quote or newline.

The `write_*()` functions will automatically compress outputs if an appropriate extension is given. Three extensions are currently supported: .gz for gzip compression, .bz2 for bzip2 compression and .xz for lzma compression. See the examples for more information.

### References

Florian Loitsch, Printing Floating-Point Numbers Quickly and Accurately with Integers, PLDI '10, <http://www.cs.tufts.edu/~nr/cs257/archive/florian-loitsch/printf.pdf>

**Examples**

```
# If only a file name is specified, write_()* will write
# the file to the current working directory.
write_csv(mtcars, "mtcars.csv")
write_tsv(mtcars, "mtcars.tsv")

# If you add an extension to the file name, write_()* will
# automatically compress the output.
write_tsv(mtcars, "mtcars.tsv.gz")
write_tsv(mtcars, "mtcars.tsv.bz2")
write_tsv(mtcars, "mtcars.tsv.xz")
```

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