

# Chapter 15: The character class

Characters are what other languages call 'string vectors.'

## Section 15.1: Coercion

To check whether a value is a character use the `is.character()` function. To coerce a variable to a character use the `as.character()` function.

```
x <- "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog"
class(x)
[1] "character"
is.character(x)
[1] TRUE
```

Note that numerics can be coerced to characters, but attempting to coerce a character to numeric may result in NA.

```
as.numeric("2")
[1] 2
as.numeric("fox")
[1] NA
Warning message:
NAs introduced by coercion
```