How to use `here()`

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Overview

- How to use the `here()` function

The problem `here()` solves

Your code runs on *your* computer, but file paths are specific to *your* folders

```
1 data_mw <- read_csv("groen/stats/2627_year1/PSYC4141/files/week3", "
```

What `here()` does

- `here()` finds the **root folder of your project** automatically
- It then builds file paths **relative to that root**
- Same code works across computers

Step 1: Work in a project

- Create a project
- Your project folder now has a `.Rproj` file
- This file marks the project root

Step 2: Load the package

```
1  library(here)
```

1. The `here` package helps with finding your files.

Step 3: Check where 'home' is

```
1 here()
```

1. Returns the full path to your project root

   If it is the wrong folder, you're probably not working inside your project.

Step 4: Build a file path

```
1 here("folder", "file.csv")
```

1. Use the `here()` function and give it the path to the *folder*, followed by a comma and then the *file name* including the file extension.

   Each folder or file name is a separate part and needs to be in double quotation marks (`""`). This is called a 'quoted argument'.

Step 5: Use it to read a file

```
data_mw <- read_csv(here("PSYC4141/files/week2", "data_bmw3.csv"))
```

Common mistakes

- ✘ Use `here("folder/filename.csv")` works on some systems, but separate arguments separated by a comma are safer.
- ✘ Open a script on its own. Instead open the project.
- ✘ Typos in folder or file names (check capitalisation and extensions)
- ✔ Run `here()` to check your root

Summary

1. Work inside a project (`.Rproj`)
2. `library(here)`
3. Use `here("folder", "file.csv")` to point to files
4. Share your project, and the code works