

# Commands overview

Commands in DataPrime are top-level expressions that operate on entire datasets. They define transformations, selections, aggregations, and structural modifications in a query.

Each command has its own syntax and evaluation rules, and most can be composed together to form query pipelines. Unlike functions, which follow a consistent call pattern, commands vary significantly in structure and behavior.

## Key Characteristics:

- Standalone statements that initiate or transform the flow of data.
- Composable syntax allowing chained operations (e.g., `source logs | filter ... | groupby ...`).
- Non-uniform syntax, requiring users to refer to each command's specific documentation.
- Context-sensitive behavior, especially in commands like `explode`, `groupby`, or `join`.

Because commands can differ widely in form and function, it's essential to consult each command's reference page for precise usage details, including supported arguments and examples.

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