# hledger Plain-text accounting

## CONCEPTS

Everything is read from a plain text journal; hledger never edits it except add and import. Set LEDGER_FILE to point at yours (default ~/.hledger.journal).

**Bank CSV** downloaded
↓ import
**Journal** plain text
↓ query + report
**Reports** bal, reg, is, bs
↓ -O csv/json
**Other tools** spreadsheet, scripts

Account types come from top-level names (assets, liabilities, equity, revenues, expenses) or from account directives; bs and is rely on them.

## JOURNAL FORMAT

**A transaction**

```
2026-10-22 * Grocer | weekly
shop  ; food:
    expenses:food        $45.20
    assets:bank:checking
# amount inferred
```

**2026-10-22 * desc**
Date, optional status (* cleared, ! pending), description

**; note  tag:value**
Comment with a tag

**= $100**
Balance assertion after a posting

**10 AAPL @ $150**
Unit price (cost)

**10 AAPL @@ $1500**
Total price (cost)

**account assets:bank**
Declare an account

**commodity $1,000.00**
Declare commodity format

**include** *<file>*
Include another journal

## QUERIES

**acct:***<regex>*
Match account names

**desc:***<regex>*
Match description

**amt:'>100'**
Match amount

## QUERIES (cont.)

**date:2026-10**
Match a date range

**tag:***<name>*=*<value>*
Match a tag

**status:***
Cleared only (also -C, -P, -U)

**not:***<query>*
Negate a query

**depth:2**
Limit account depth

## BALANCE REPORTS

**hledger bal**
Account balances

**hledger bal** *<query>*
Balances for matching accounts

**hledger bal -t**
Show as indented tree

**hledger bal --depth 2**
Roll up to depth 2

**hledger bal -M**
One column per month

**hledger bal -H**
Historical balances, include earlier postings

**hledger bal -T**
Add a row total column

**hledger bal -S**
Sort by amount

**hledger bs**
Balance sheet

**hledger is**
Income statement

**hledger cf**
Cash flow

## REGISTER AND PRINT

**hledger reg** *<acct>*
Postings with running total

**hledger reg -M** *<acct>*
Monthly totals for an account

**hledger areg** *<acct>*
One line per transaction in an account

**hledger print**
Show transactions in journal format

**hledger print -x**
Show inferred amounts explicitly

## TIME AND VALUATION

**-p 'last month'**
Report period

**-b 2026-01-01 -e 2026-04-01**
Start (inclusive) and end (exclusive)

**-D / -W / -M / -Q / -Y**
Daily to yearly interval

**-B**
Convert to cost

## INPUT AND ENTRY

**hledger -f** *<file>* *<cmd>*
Read a specific file (repeatable)

**hledger add**
Enter transactions interactively

**hledger import** *<file.csv>*
Add new CSV records to the journal

**hledger import --dry-run** *<file.csv>*
Preview what would be imported

**hledger -f** *<file.csv>* **--rules** *<rules>* **print**
Convert CSV with a rules file

## CSV RULES

**bank.csv.rules**

```
skip 1
fields date, description, amount
date-format %d/%m/%Y
currency $
account1 assets:bank:checking
if grocer
  account2 expenses:food
```

**fields** *<a>*, *<b>*, ...
Name CSV columns

## CHECKS AND INFO

**hledger check**
Run basic checks

**hledger accounts**
List accounts

**hledger** *<cmd>* **-h**
Options of a command

## RECIPES

**Import a bank export**

```
hledger import --dry-run bank.csv
hledger import bank.csv
hledger check -s
```