hledger Plain-text accounting

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

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).

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)

JOURNAL FORMAT (cont.)

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

`account assets:bank`
Declare an account

`commodity $1,000.00`
Declare commodity format

`include <file>`
Include another journal

`# comment`
Comment line

QUERIES

`acct:<regex>`
Match account names

`desc:<regex>`
Match description

`amt:'>100'`
Match amount

`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

REGISTER AND PRINT (cont.)

`hledger print`
Show transactions in journal format

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

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

INPUT AND ENTRY (cont.)

`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
```