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).

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

= $100
Balance assertion after a posting

QUERIES

acct:*<regex>*
Match account names

desc:*<regex>*
Match description

amt:'>100'
Match amount

BALANCE REPORTS

hledger bal
Account balances

hledger bal *<query>*
Balances for matching accounts

hledger bal --depth 2
Roll up to depth 2

hledger bal -M
One column per month

hledger bs
Balance sheet

hledger is
Income statement

REGISTER AND PRINT

hledger reg *<acct>*
Postings with running total

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

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