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

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

not:<*query*>
Negate a query

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

BALANCE REPORTS (cont.)

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