

## The Importance of Defining Data Types



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### Available data types

All listed  
“any”

### Power Query observes strict data types

Much less lenient than Excel  
Each type on the list at right is distinct  
You cannot combine unlike types without a function

### Just because it looks right...

Could be defined as “any”

Decimal Number
Currency
Whole Number
Date/Time
Date
Time
Date/Time/Timezone
Duration
Text
True/False
Binary

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## The Effects of the Any Data Type

### During query construction

Undeclared data types can prevent transformation operations

### Upon loading

When loading to Excel tables, dates will load as values

When loading to the Data Model, dates will load as text



It's a best practice to define your data types as the last step of any query that is loaded to an Excel or Data Model table!