

Package ‘goodpractice’

August 31, 2026

Title Advice on R Package Building

Version 1.2.0

Description Give advice about good practices when building R packages.
Advice includes functions and syntax to avoid, package structure, code complexity, code formatting, etc.

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URL <https://docs.ropensci.org/goodpractice/>,
<https://github.com/ropensci-review-tools/goodpractice>

BugReports <https://github.com/ropensci-review-tools/goodpractice/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.3.0)

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'chk_lintr.R' 'chk_namespace.R' 'chk_rcmdcheck.R' 'chk_rd.R'
'chk_revdep.R' 'chk_roxygen2.R' 'chk_spelling.R'
'chk_tidyverse.R' 'chk_urlchecker.R' 'chk_vignette.R' 'gp.R'
'package.R' 'prep_utils.R' 'prep_covr.R' 'prep_cyclocomp.R'
'prep_description.R' 'prep_lintr.R' 'prep_namespace.R'
'prep_rcmdcheck.R' 'prep_rd.R' 'prep_revdep.R'
'prep_roxygen2.R' 'prep_source.R' 'prep_spelling.R'
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goodpractice-package *goodpractice: Advice on R Package Building*

Description

Give advice about good practices when building R packages. Advice includes functions and syntax to avoid, package structure, code complexity, code formatting, etc.

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See Also

Useful links:

- <https://docs.ropensci.org/goodpractice/>
- <https://github.com/ropensci-review-tools/goodpractice>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/ropensci-review-tools/goodpractice/issues>

Other main: [gp\(\)](#)

all_checks	<i>List the names of all checks</i>
------------	-------------------------------------

Description

List the names of all checks

Usage

```
all_checks()
```

Value

Character vector of checks

See Also

Other check_groups: [all_check_groups\(\)](#), [checks_by_group\(\)](#), [default_checks\(\)](#), [describe_check\(\)](#), [describe_check_groups\(\)](#), [tidyverse_checks\(\)](#)

Examples

```
all_checks()
```

all_check_groups	<i>List available check group names</i>
------------------	---

Description

Returns the names of all registered check groups. Use these names with [checks_by_group\(\)](#) to select checks by group, or with `options(goodpractice.exclude_check_groups = ...)` to skip groups. Full descriptions of each check group are return by [describe_check_groups\(\)](#).

Usage

```
all_check_groups()
```

Value

A character vector of check group names.

See Also

Other check_groups: [all_checks\(\)](#), [checks_by_group\(\)](#), [default_checks\(\)](#), [describe_check\(\)](#), [describe_check_groups\(\)](#), [tidyverse_checks\(\)](#)

Examples

```
# Names of all check groups:
all_check_groups()

# List individual checks by group:
chks <- lapply(all_check_groups(), checks_by_group)
names(chks) <- all_check_groups()
chks
```

checks	<i>List all checks performed</i>
--------	----------------------------------

Description

List all checks performed

Usage

```
checks(gp)
```

Arguments

gp [gp](#) output.

Value

Character vector of check names.

See Also

Other API: [customization](#), [failed_checks\(\)](#), [failed_positions\(\)](#)

Examples

```
path <- system.file("bad1", package = "goodpractice")
# Run a subset of all checks available
g <- gp(path, checks = all_checks()[9:16])
checks(g)
# Or run with named check groups
g <- gp(path, checks = checks_by_group("description", "namespace"))
checks(g)
```

checks_by_group	<i>Select checks by check group</i>
-----------------	-------------------------------------

Description

Returns the names of all checks that belong to the given group(s). This makes it easy to run or inspect a specific category of checks without knowing individual check names.

Usage

```
checks_by_group(...)
```

Arguments

... Group names as character strings. Use [all_check_groups\(\)](#) to see available names.

Value

Character vector of check names

See Also

Other check_groups: [all_check_groups\(\)](#), [all_checks\(\)](#), [default_checks\(\)](#), [describe_check\(\)](#), [describe_check_groups\(\)](#), [tidyverse_checks\(\)](#)

Examples

```
# run only DESCRIPTION and namespace checks
checks_by_group("description", "namespace")

# see what the lintr group covers
checks_by_group("lintr")
# See all checks by group:
lapply(all_check_groups(), checks_by_group)
# use directly in gp()
## Not run:
  gp(".", checks = checks_by_group("description", "lintr"))

## End(Not run)
```

Description

Defining custom preparations and checks

Usage

```
make_prep(name, func)
```

```
make_check(description, check, gp, ...)
```

Arguments

name	Name of the preparation function.
func	A function that takes two arguments: The path to the root directory of the package, and a logical argument: quiet. If quiet is true, the preparation function may print out diagnostic messages. The output of this function will be saved as the "name" entry of state, i.e. of the input for the check-functions (see example).
description	A description of the check.
check	A function that takes the state as an argument.
gp	A short description of what is good practice.
...	Further arguments. Most important: A preps argument that contains the names of all the preparation functions required for the check.

Value

For make_prep: a preparation function. For make_check: a check object of class "check".

Functions

- `make_prep()`: Create a preparation function
- `make_check()`: Create a check function

See Also

Other API: [checks\(\)](#), [failed_checks\(\)](#), [failed_positions\(\)](#)

Examples

```
# make a preparation function
url_prep <- make_prep(
  name = "desc",
  func = function(path, quiet) desc::description$new(path)
)
# and the corresponding check function
url_chk <- make_check(
  description = "URL field in DESCRIPTION",
  tags = character(),
  preps = "desc",
  gp = "have a URL field in DESCRIPTION",
  check = function(state) state$desc$has_fields("URL")
)
# use together in gp():
# (note that you have to list the name of your custom check in
# the checks-argument as well....)
bad1 <- system.file("bad1", package = "goodpractice")
res <- gp(bad1, checks = c("url", "no_description_depends"),
  extra_preps = list("desc" = url_prep),
  extra_checks = list("url" = url_chk))
```

default_checks

List the names of default checks (excludes optional check sets)

Description

List the names of default checks (excludes optional check sets)

Usage

```
default_checks()
```

Value

Character vector of default check names

See Also

Other check_groups: [all_check_groups\(\)](#), [all_checks\(\)](#), [checks_by_group\(\)](#), [describe_check\(\)](#), [describe_check_groups\(\)](#), [tidyverse_checks\(\)](#)

Examples

```
default_checks()
```

describe_check	<i>Describe one or more checks</i>
----------------	------------------------------------

Description

Describe one or more checks

Usage

```
describe_check(check_name = NULL)
```

Arguments

check_name Names of checks to be described.

Value

List of character descriptions for each check_name

See Also

Other check_groups: [all_check_groups\(\)](#), [all_checks\(\)](#), [checks_by_group\(\)](#), [default_checks\(\)](#), [describe_check_groups\(\)](#), [tidyverse_checks\(\)](#)

Examples

```
describe_check("rcmdcheck_non_portable_makevars")
check_name <- c("no_description_depends",
               "lintr_assignment_linter",
               "no_import_package_as_a_whole",
               "rcmdcheck_missing_docs")
describe_check(check_name)
# Or to see all checks:
## Not run:
  describe_check(all_checks())

## End(Not run)
```

describe_check_groups	<i>Describe available check groups</i>
-----------------------	--

Description

Returns full descriptions of all registered check groups.

Usage

```
describe_check_groups()
```

Value

A named list of each check group defined in `all_check_groups()`, with text descriptions of each group.

See Also

Other check_groups: `all_check_groups()`, `all_checks()`, `checks_by_group()`, `default_checks()`, `describe_check()`, `tidyverse_checks()`

Examples

```
# Names of all check groups:
all_check_groups()

# And corresponding descriptions:
describe_check_groups()
```

export_json	<i>Export failed checks to JSON</i>
-------------	-------------------------------------

Description

Export failed checks to JSON

Usage

```
export_json(gp, file, pretty = FALSE)
```

Arguments

gp	gp output.
file	Output connection or file.
pretty	Whether to pretty-print the JSON.

Value

Invisibly returns the path to the output file.

See Also

Other output: `print.goodPractice()`, `results()`

Examples

```
path <- system.file("bad1", package = "goodpractice")
g <- gp(path, checks = "description_url")
tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".json")
export_json(g, tmp)
unlink(tmp)
```

failed_checks	<i>Names of the failed checks</i>
---------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Names of the failed checks

Usage

```
failed_checks(gp)
```

Arguments

gp [gp](#) output.

Value

Names of the failed checks.

See Also

Other API: [checks\(\)](#), [customization](#), [failed_positions\(\)](#)

Examples

```
path <- system.file("bad1", package = "goodpractice")
# run a subset of all checks available
g <- gp(path, checks = all_checks()[9:16])
failed_checks(g)
# Or run with named check groups
g <- gp(path, checks = checks_by_group("description", "namespace"))
failed_checks(g)
```

failed_positions	<i>Positions of check failures in the source code</i>
------------------	---

Description

Note that not all checks refer to the source code. For these the result will be NULL.

Usage

```
failed_positions(gp)
```

Arguments

gp [gp](#) output.

Details

For the ones that do, the results is a list, one for each failure. Since the same check can fail multiple times. A single failure is a list with entries: `filename`, `line_number`, `column_number`, `ranges`. `ranges` is a list of pairs of start and end positions for each line involved in the check.

Value

A list of lists of positions. See details below.

See Also

Other API: [checks\(\)](#), [customization](#), [failed_checks\(\)](#)

Examples

```
path <- system.file("bad1", package = "goodpractice")
g <- gp(path, checks = "description_url")
failed_positions(g)
```

gp	<i>Run good practice checks</i>
----	---------------------------------

Description

To see the results, just print it to the screen.

Usage

```
gp(
  path = ".",
  checks = default_checks(),
  extra_preps = NULL,
  extra_checks = NULL,
  quiet = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

path	Path to a package root.
checks	Character vector, the checks to run. Defaults to default_checks . Use all_checks to list all checks, or add optional sets like tidyverse_checks . When NULL, all registered checks are run, subject to any exclusions from <code>goodpractice.exclude_check_groups</code> or <code>GP_EXCLUDE_CHECK_GROUPS</code> .
extra_preps	Custom preparation functions. See make_prep on creating preparation functions.
extra_checks	Custom checks. See make_check on creating checks.
quiet	Whether to suppress output from the preparation functions. Note that not all preparation functions produce output, even if this option is set to FALSE.

Value

A goodpractice object that you can query with a simple API. See [results](#) to start.

Excluding check groups

When using the default `checks = all_checks()`, entire groups of checks can be excluded by group name via the `goodpractice.exclude_check_groups` option or the `GP_EXCLUDE_CHECK_GROUPS` environment variable (comma-separated). The option takes precedence.

```
# Skip URL and coverage checks:
options(goodpractice.exclude_check_groups = c("urlchecker", "covr"))
```

```
# Or via environment variable:
Sys.setenv(GP_EXCLUDE_CHECK_GROUPS = "urlchecker,covr")
```

Exclusion only applies when `checks = NULL` (the default). Explicit checks arguments are never filtered.

Excluding files

Specific files can be excluded from checks via the `goodpractice.exclude_path` option or the `GP_EXCLUDE_PATH` environment variable (comma-separated). Paths are relative to the package root.

```
options(goodpractice.exclude_path = c("R/RcppExports.R", "R/generated.R"))
```

```
# Or via environment variable:
Sys.setenv(GP_EXCLUDE_PATH = "R/RcppExports.R,R/generated.R")
```

Excluded files are skipped by `lintr`, `treesitter`, `expression`, and `roxygen2` checks.

Parallel preparation

Preparation steps run sequentially by default. To run them in parallel, install **future.apply** and set a [plan](#):

```
future::plan("multisession")
gp(".")
```

Preps run in parallel only when a non-sequential plan is active. Prep functions must be independent: in parallel mode each prep receives the initial state snapshot, so a prep cannot read another prep's output. Only new state fields are merged back; if two preps write the same field, the second is dropped with a warning.

See Also

Other main: [goodpractice-package](#)

Examples

```

path <- system.file("bad1", package = "goodpractice")
# Run a subset of all checks available
g <- gp(path, checks = all_checks()[9:16])
g
# Or run with named check groups
g <- gp(path, checks = checks_by_group("description", "namespace"))

```

learn_skill_gp	<i>Function for AI agents to run and learn how to use the 'goodpractice' package.</i>
----------------	---

Description

You tell agents to directly use this function in order for them to learn the skill. If you want to use the skill yourself to guide an agent, then use the [use_skill_gp](#) function.

Usage

```
learn_skill_gp()
```

Value

The content of the file `system.file("skills", "goodpractice4agents.md", package = "goodpractice")`

See Also

Other skills: [use_skill_gp\(\)](#)

Examples

```

## Not run:
learn_gp_skill()

## End(Not run)

```

print.goodPractice	<i>Print goodpractice results</i>
--------------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Print goodpractice results

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'goodPractice'
print(x, groups = NULL, positions_limit = 5, ...)

```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	Object of class <code>goodPractice</code> , as returned by <code>gp()</code> .
<code>groups</code>	Name of check groups for which to print results, as vector of one or more of <code>all_check_groups()</code> .
<code>positions_limit</code>	How many positions to print at most.
<code>...</code>	Unused, for compatibility with <code>base::print()</code> generic method.

See Also

Other output: `export_json()`, `results()`

<code>results</code>	<i>Return all check results in a data frame</i>
----------------------	---

Description

Return all check results in a data frame

Usage

```
results(gp)
```

Arguments

`gp` `gp` output.

Value

Data frame, with columns:

<code>check</code>	The name of the check.
<code>passed</code>	Logical, whether the check passed.

See Also

Other output: `export_json()`, `print.goodPractice()`

Examples

```
path <- system.file("bad1", package = "goodpractice")
# Run a subset of all checks available
g <- gp(path, checks = all_checks()[9:16])
results(g)
# Or run with named check groups
g <- gp(path, checks = checks_by_group("description", "namespace"))
results(g)
```

tidyverse_checks	<i>List the names of tidyverse style checks</i>
------------------	---

Description

These checks are optional and not included in the default set. They are powered by [lint_package](#) using lintr's default linter set and respect any `.lintr` configuration file in the package root (e.g. to disable specific linters or add exclusions). Add them via `checks = c(default_checks(), tidyverse_checks())`.

Usage

```
tidyverse_checks()
```

Value

Character vector of tidyverse check names

See Also

Other check_groups: [all_check_groups\(\)](#), [all_checks\(\)](#), [checks_by_group\(\)](#), [default_checks\(\)](#), [describe_check\(\)](#), [describe_check_groups\(\)](#)

Examples

```
tidyverse_checks()
```

use_skill_gp	<i>Download a local copy of 'goodpractice4agents.md' to tell AI agents how to use this package.</i>
--------------	---

Description

The 'goodpractice4agents.md' file contains sufficient instructions for most AI agents to edit package code so that it passes most 'goodpractice' checks. The file can be directly edited and tweaked for personal use cases. An agent can be instructed to simply "run the file goodpractice4agents.md". Alternatively, the file can be directly downloaded from GitHub at <https://github.com/ropensci-review-tools/goodpractice/blob/main/inst/skills/goodpractice4agents.md>.

Usage

```
use_skill_gp(
  path = "goodpractice4agents.md",
  use_skills_subdir = FALSE,
  overwrite = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

path	Local path where the file should be written. If path is an existing directory, the file is written as goodpractice4agents.md within it; otherwise path is treated as the full target file name.
use_skills_subdir	If TRUE, the path will be edited to write the file in to a skills/ sub-directory.
overwrite	If FALSE (default) and file specified by path already exists, function will error and not overwrite the existing file.

Details

You can also instruct agents to call the companion function, [learn_skill_gp](#), directly in order to learn and use the skill itself.

Value

(Invisibly) the full path to the written file.

See Also

Other skills: [learn_skill_gp\(\)](#)

Examples

```
path <- file.path(tempdir(), "skill.md")
f <- use_skill_gp(path)
file.exists(f)
unlink(f)
```

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