

Package ‘glue’

April 17, 2026

Title Interpreted String Literals

Version 1.8.1

Description An implementation of interpreted string literals, inspired by Python's Literal String Interpolation <<https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0498/>> and Docstrings <<https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0257/>> and Julia's Triple-Quoted String Literals <<https://docs.julialang.org/en/v1.3/manual/strings/#Triple-Quoted-String-Literals-1>>.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL <https://glue.tidyverse.org/>, <https://github.com/tidyverse/glue>

BugReports <https://github.com/tidyverse/glue/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.1)

Imports methods

Suggests crayon, DBI (>= 1.2.0), dplyr, knitr, rlang, rmarkdown, RSQLite, testthat (>= 3.2.0), vctrs (>= 0.3.0), waldo (>= 0.5.3), withr

VignetteBuilder knitr

ByteCompile true

Config/Needs/website bench, forcats, ggbeeswarm, ggplot2, R.utils, rprintf, tidyr, tidyverse/tidytemplate

Config/testthat/edition 3

Config/usethis/last-upkeep 2026-04-16

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Jim Hester [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2739-7082>>), Jennifer Bryan [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6983-2759>>), Posit Software, PBC [cph, fnd] (ROR: <<https://ror.org/03wc8by49>>)

Maintainer Jennifer Bryan <jenny@posit.co>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-04-17 05:11:01 UTC

Contents

as_glue	2
glue	3
glue_col	5
glue_collapse	7
glue_safe	8
glue_sql	9
identity_transformer	13
quoting	14
trim	14

Index **16**

as_glue	<i>Coerce object to glue</i>
---------	------------------------------

Description

A glue object is a character vector with S3 class "glue". The "glue" class implements a print method that shows the literal contents (rather than the string implementation) and a + method, so that you can concatenate with the addition operator.

Usage

```
as_glue(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	object to be coerced.
...	further arguments passed to methods.

Value

A character vector with S3 class "glue".

Examples

```
x <- as_glue(c("abc", "\\\"\\\\\\", "\\n"))
x

x <- 1
y <- 3
glue("x + y") + " = {x + y}"
```

`glue`*Format and interpolate a string*

Description

Expressions enclosed by braces will be evaluated as R code. Long strings are broken by line and concatenated together. Leading whitespace and blank lines from the first and last lines are automatically trimmed.

Usage

```
glue_data(  
  .x,  
  ...,  
  .sep = "",  
  .envir = parent.frame(),  
  .open = "{",  
  .close = "}",  
  .na = "NA",  
  .null = character(),  
  .comment = "#",  
  .literal = FALSE,  
  .transformer = identity_transformer,  
  .trim = TRUE  
)
```

```
glue(  
  ...,  
  .sep = "",  
  .envir = parent.frame(),  
  .open = "{",  
  .close = "}",  
  .na = "NA",  
  .null = character(),  
  .comment = "#",  
  .literal = FALSE,  
  .transformer = identity_transformer,  
  .trim = TRUE  
)
```

Arguments

<code>.x</code>	[listish] An environment, list, or data frame used to lookup values.
<code>...</code>	[expressions] Unnamed arguments are taken to be expression string(s) to format. Multiple

inputs are concatenated together before formatting. Named arguments are taken to be temporary variables available for substitution.

For `glue_data()`, elements in `...` override the values in `.x`.

<code>.sep</code>	[character(1): ''] Separator used to separate elements.
<code>.envir</code>	[environment: parent.frame()] Environment to evaluate each expression in. Expressions are evaluated from left to right. If <code>.x</code> is an environment, the expressions are evaluated in that environment and <code>.envir</code> is ignored. If NULL is passed, it is equivalent to <code>emptyenv()</code> .
<code>.open</code>	[character(1): '{'] The opening delimiter. Doubling the full delimiter escapes it.
<code>.close</code>	[character(1): '}'] The closing delimiter. Doubling the full delimiter escapes it.
<code>.na</code>	[character(1): 'NA'] Value to replace NA values with. If NULL missing values are propagated, that is an NA result will cause NA output. Otherwise the value is replaced by the value of <code>.na</code> .
<code>.null</code>	[character(1): 'character()'] Value to replace NULL values with. If <code>character()</code> whole output is <code>character()</code> . If NULL all NULL values are dropped (as in <code>paste0()</code>). Otherwise the value is replaced by the value of <code>.null</code> .
<code>.comment</code>	[character(1): '#'] Value to use as the comment character.
<code>.literal</code>	[boolean(1): 'FALSE'] Whether to treat single or double quotes, backticks, and comments as regular characters (vs. as syntactic elements), when parsing the expression string. Setting <code>.literal = TRUE</code> probably only makes sense in combination with a custom <code>.transformer</code> , as is the case with <code>glue_col()</code> . Regard this argument (especially, its name) as experimental.
<code>.transformer</code>	[function] A function taking two arguments, <code>text</code> and <code>envir</code> , where <code>text</code> is the unparsed string inside the glue block and <code>envir</code> is the execution environment. A <code>.transformer</code> lets you modify a glue block before, during, or after evaluation, allowing you to create your own custom <code>glue()</code> -like functions. See <code>vignette("transformers")</code> for examples.
<code>.trim</code>	[logical(1): 'TRUE'] Whether to trim the input template with <code>trim()</code> or not.

Value

A glue object, as created by `as_glue()`.

See Also

<https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0498/> and <https://www.python.org/dev/peps/pep-0257/> upon which this is based.

Examples

```

name <- "Fred"
age <- 50
anniversary <- as.Date("1991-10-12")
glue('My name is {name}, ',
      'my age next year is {age + 1}, ',
      'my anniversary is {format(anniversary, "%A, %B %d, %Y")}.')

# single braces can be inserted by doubling them
glue("My name is {name}, not {{name}}.")

# Named arguments can be used to assign temporary variables.
glue('My name is {name}, ',
      ' my age next year is {age + 1}, ',
      ' my anniversary is {format(anniversary, "%A, %B %d, %Y")}.',
      name = "Joe",
      age = 40,
      anniversary = as.Date("2001-10-12"))

# `glue()` can also be used in user defined functions
intro <- function(name, profession, country){
  glue("My name is {name}, a {profession}, from {country}")
}
intro("Shelmith", "Senior Data Analyst", "Kenya")
intro("Cate", "Data Scientist", "Kenya")

# `glue_data()` is useful with the pipe
head(iris, 3) |>
  glue_data("This {Species} has a petal length of {Petal.Length}")

# Or within dplyr pipelines
if (require(dplyr)) {
  head(iris) |>
    mutate(description = glue("This {Species} has a petal length of {Petal.Length}")
  )
}

# Alternative delimiters can also be used if needed
one <- "1"
glue("The value of  $e^{2\pi i}$  is  $\llcorner$ <one>>$.", .open = "<<", .close = ">>")

```

glue_col

Construct strings with color

Description

The [crayon](#) package defines a number of functions used to color terminal output. `glue_col()` and `glue_data_col()` functions provide additional syntax to make using these functions in glue strings easier.

Using the following syntax will apply the function `crayon::blue()` to the text 'foo bar'.

```
{blue foo bar}
```

If you want an expression to be evaluated, simply place that in a normal brace expression (these can be nested).

```
{blue 1 + 1 = {1 + 1}}
```

If the text you want to color contains, e.g., an unpaired quote or a comment character, specify `.literal = TRUE`.

Usage

```
glue_col(..., .envir = parent.frame(), .na = "NA", .literal = FALSE)
```

```
glue_data_col(.x, ..., .envir = parent.frame(), .na = "NA", .literal = FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>...</code>	[expressions] Unnamed arguments are taken to be expression string(s) to format. Multiple inputs are concatenated together before formatting. Named arguments are taken to be temporary variables available for substitution. For <code>glue_data()</code> , elements in <code>...</code> override the values in <code>.x</code> .
<code>.envir</code>	[environment: <code>parent.frame()</code>] Environment to evaluate each expression in. Expressions are evaluated from left to right. If <code>.x</code> is an environment, the expressions are evaluated in that environment and <code>.envir</code> is ignored. If <code>NULL</code> is passed, it is equivalent to <code>emptyenv()</code> .
<code>.na</code>	[character(1): 'NA'] Value to replace NA values with. If <code>NULL</code> missing values are propagated, that is an NA result will cause NA output. Otherwise the value is replaced by the value of <code>.na</code> .
<code>.literal</code>	[boolean(1): 'FALSE'] Whether to treat single or double quotes, backticks, and comments as regular characters (vs. as syntactic elements), when parsing the expression string. Setting <code>.literal = TRUE</code> probably only makes sense in combination with a custom <code>.transformer</code> , as is the case with <code>glue_col()</code> . Regard this argument (especially, its name) as experimental.
<code>.x</code>	[listish] An environment, list, or data frame used to lookup values.

Value

A glue object, as created by `as_glue()`.

Examples

```

library(crayon)

glue_col("{blue foo bar}")

glue_col("{blue 1 + 1 = {1 + 1}}")

glue_col("{blue 2 + 2 = {green {2 + 2}}}")

white_on_black <- bgBlack $ white
glue_col("{white_on_black
  Roses are {red {colors()[[552]]}},
  Violets are {blue {colors()[[26]]}},
  `glue_col()` can show \\
  {red c}{yellow o}{green l}{cyan o}{blue r}{magenta s}
  and {bold bold} and {underline underline} too!
}")

# this would error due to an unterminated quote, if we did not specify
# `.literal = TRUE`
glue_col("{yellow It's} happening!", .literal = TRUE)

# `.literal = TRUE` also prevents an error here due to the `#` comment
glue_col(
  "A URL: {magenta https://github.com/tidyverse/glue#readme}",
  .literal = TRUE
)

# `.literal = TRUE` does NOT prevent evaluation
x <- "world"
y <- "day"
glue_col("hello {x}! {green it's a new {y}!}", .literal = TRUE)

```

glue_collapse

Collapse a character vector

Description

glue_collapse() collapses a character vector of any length into a length 1 vector. glue_sql_collapse() does the same but returns a [DBI::SQL()] object rather than a glue object.

Usage

```
glue_collapse(x, sep = "", width = Inf, last = "")
```

```
glue_sql_collapse(x, sep = "", width = Inf, last = "")
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	The character vector to collapse.
<code>sep</code>	a character string to separate the terms. Not <code>NA_character_</code> .
<code>width</code>	The maximum string width before truncating with <code>...</code>
<code>last</code>	String used to separate the last two items if <code>x</code> has at least 2 items.

Value

Always returns a length-1 glue object, as created by `as_glue()`.

Examples

```
glue_collapse(glue("{1:10}"))

# Wide values can be truncated
glue_collapse(glue("{1:10}"), width = 5)

glue_collapse(1:4, ", ", last = " and ")
```

<code>glue_safe</code>	<i>Safely interpolate strings</i>
------------------------	-----------------------------------

Description

`glue_safe()` and `glue_data_safe()` differ from `glue()` and `glue_data()` in that the safe versions only look up symbols from an environment using `get()`. They do not execute any R code. This makes them suitable for use with untrusted input, such as inputs in a Shiny application, where using the normal functions would allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code.

Usage

```
glue_safe(..., .envir = parent.frame())

glue_data_safe(.x, ..., .envir = parent.frame())
```

Arguments

<code>...</code>	[expressions] Unnamed arguments are taken to be expression string(s) to format. Multiple inputs are concatenated together before formatting. Named arguments are taken to be temporary variables available for substitution. For <code>glue_data()</code> , elements in <code>...</code> override the values in <code>.x</code> .
<code>.envir</code>	[environment: <code>parent.frame()</code>] Environment to evaluate each expression in. Expressions are evaluated from left to right. If <code>.x</code> is an environment, the expressions are evaluated in that environment and <code>.envir</code> is ignored. If <code>NULL</code> is passed, it is equivalent to <code>emptyenv()</code> .
<code>.x</code>	[listish] An environment, list, or data frame used to lookup values.

Value

A glue object, as created by `as_glue()`.

Examples

```
"1 + 1" <- 5
# glue actually executes the code
glue("{1 + 1}")

# glue_safe just looks up the value
glue_safe("{1 + 1}")

rm("1 + 1")
```

glue_sql

*Interpolate strings with SQL escaping***Description**

SQL databases often have custom quotation syntax for identifiers and strings which make writing SQL queries error prone and cumbersome to do. `glue_sql()` and `glue_data_sql()` are analogs to `glue()` and `glue_data()` which handle the SQL quoting. `glue_sql_collapse()` can be used to collapse `DBI::SQL()` objects.

They automatically quote character results, quote identifiers if the glue expression is surrounded by backticks `` ` `` and do not quote non-characters such as numbers. If numeric data is stored in a character column (which should be quoted) pass the data to `glue_sql()` as a character.

Returning the result with `DBI::SQL()` will suppress quoting if desired for a given value.

Note **parameterized queries** are generally the safest and most efficient way to pass user defined values in a query, however not every database driver supports them.

If you place a `*` at the end of a glue expression the values will be collapsed with commas, or if there are no values, produce NULL. This is useful for (e.g.) the **SQL IN Operator**.

Usage

```
glue_sql(
  ...,
  .con,
  .sep = "",
  .envir = parent.frame(),
  .open = "{",
  .close = "}",
  .na = DBI::SQL("NULL"),
  .null = character(),
  .comment = "#",
  .literal = FALSE,
  .trim = TRUE
```

```

)

glue_data_sql(
  .x,
  ...,
  .con,
  .sep = "",
  .envir = parent.frame(),
  .open = "{",
  .close = "}",
  .na = DBI::SQL("NULL"),
  .null = character(),
  .comment = "#",
  .literal = FALSE,
  .trim = TRUE
)

```

Arguments

...	[expressions] Unnamed arguments are taken to be expression string(s) to format. Multiple inputs are concatenated together before formatting. Named arguments are taken to be temporary variables available for substitution. For <code>glue_data()</code> , elements in ... override the values in <code>.x</code> .
<code>.con</code>	[DBIConnection]: A DBI connection object obtained from <code>DBI::dbConnect()</code> .
<code>.sep</code>	[character(1): ""] Separator used to separate elements.
<code>.envir</code>	[environment: parent.frame()] Environment to evaluate each expression in. Expressions are evaluated from left to right. If <code>.x</code> is an environment, the expressions are evaluated in that environment and <code>.envir</code> is ignored. If NULL is passed, it is equivalent to <code>emptyenv()</code> .
<code>.open</code>	[character(1): '{'] The opening delimiter. Doubling the full delimiter escapes it.
<code>.close</code>	[character(1): '}'] The closing delimiter. Doubling the full delimiter escapes it.
<code>.na</code>	[character(1): DBI::SQL("NULL")] Value to replace NA values with. If NULL missing values are propagated, that is an NA result will cause NA output. Otherwise the value is replaced by the value of <code>.na</code> .
<code>.null</code>	[character(1): 'character'] Value to replace NULL values with. If <code>character()</code> whole output is <code>character()</code> . If NULL all NULL values are dropped (as in <code>paste0()</code>). Otherwise the value is replaced by the value of <code>.null</code> .
<code>.comment</code>	[character(1): '#'] Value to use as the comment character.

<code>.literal</code>	[boolean(1): 'FALSE'] Whether to treat single or double quotes, backticks, and comments as regular characters (vs. as syntactic elements), when parsing the expression string. Setting <code>.literal = TRUE</code> probably only makes sense in combination with a custom <code>.transformer</code> , as is the case with <code>glue_col()</code> . Regard this argument (especially, its name) as experimental.
<code>.trim</code>	[logical(1): 'TRUE'] Whether to trim the input template with <code>trim()</code> or not.
<code>.x</code>	[listish] An environment, list, or data frame used to lookup values.

Value

A `DBI::SQL()` object with the given query.

See Also

[glue_sql_collapse\(\)](#) to collapse `DBI::SQL()` objects.

Examples

```
con <- DBI::dbConnect(RSQLite::SQLite(), ":memory:")
iris2 <- iris
colnames(iris2) <- gsub("[.]", "_", tolower(colnames(iris)))
DBI::dbWriteTable(con, "iris", iris2)
var <- "sepal_width"
tbl <- "iris"
num <- 2
val <- "setosa"
glue_sql("
  SELECT {`var`}
  FROM {`tbl`}
  WHERE {`tbl`}.sepal_length > {num}
    AND {`tbl`}.species = {val}
", .con = con)

# If sepal_length is store on the database as a character explicitly convert
# the data to character to quote appropriately.
glue_sql("
  SELECT {`var`}
  FROM {`tbl`}
  WHERE {`tbl`}.sepal_length > {as.character(num)}
    AND {`tbl`}.species = {val}
", .con = con)

# `glue_sql()` can be used in conjunction with parameterized queries using
# `DBI::dbBind()` to provide protection for SQL Injection attacks
sql <- glue_sql("
  SELECT {`var`}
  FROM {`tbl`}
```

```

    WHERE {`tbl`}.sepal_length > ?
  ", .con = con)
query <- DBI::dbSendQuery(con, sql)
DBI::dbBind(query, list(num))
DBI::dbFetch(query, n = 4)
DBI::dbClearResult(query)

# `glue_sql()` can be used to build up more complex queries with
# interchangeable sub queries. It returns `DBI::SQL()` objects which are
# properly protected from quoting.
sub_query <- glue_sql("
  SELECT *
  FROM {`tbl`}
  ", .con = con)

glue_sql("
  SELECT s.{`var`}
  FROM ({sub_query}) AS s
  ", .con = con)

# If you want to input multiple values for use in SQL IN statements put `*`
# at the end of the value and the values will be collapsed and quoted appropriately.
glue_sql("SELECT * FROM {`tbl`} WHERE sepal_length IN ({vals*})",
  vals = 1, .con = con)

glue_sql("SELECT * FROM {`tbl`} WHERE sepal_length IN ({vals*})",
  vals = 1:5, .con = con)

glue_sql("SELECT * FROM {`tbl`} WHERE species IN ({vals*})",
  vals = "setosa", .con = con)

glue_sql("SELECT * FROM {`tbl`} WHERE species IN ({vals*})",
  vals = c("setosa", "versicolor"), .con = con)

# If you need to reference variables from multiple tables use `DBI::Id()`.
# Here we create a new table of nicknames, join the two tables together and
# select columns from both tables. Using `DBI::Id()` and the special
# `glue_sql()` syntax ensures all the table and column identifiers are quoted
# appropriately.

iris_db <- "iris"
nicknames_db <- "nicknames"

nicknames <- data.frame(
  species = c("setosa", "versicolor", "virginica"),
  nickname = c("Beachhead Iris", "Harlequin Blueflag", "Virginia Iris"),
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE
)

DBI::dbWriteTable(con, nicknames_db, nicknames)

cols <- list(
  DBI::Id(iris_db, "sepal_length"),

```

```
  DBI::Id(iris_db, "sepal_width"),
  DBI::Id(nicknames_db, "nickname")
)

iris_species <- DBI::Id(iris_db, "species")
nicknames_species <- DBI::Id(nicknames_db, "species")

query <- glue_sql("
  SELECT {`cols`}
  FROM {`iris_db`}
  JOIN {`nicknames_db`}
  ON {`iris_species`}={`nicknames_species`}",
  .con = con
)
query

DBI::dbGetQuery(con, query, n = 5)

DBI::dbDisconnect(con)
```

identity_transformer *Parse and Evaluate R code*

Description

This is a simple wrapper around `eval(parse())`, used as the default transformer.

Usage

```
identity_transformer(text, envir = parent.frame())
```

Arguments

text	Text (typically) R code to parse and evaluate.
envir	environment to evaluate the code in

See Also

`vignette("transformers", "glue")` for documentation on creating custom glue transformers and some common use cases.

quoting

Quoting operators

Description

These functions make it easy to quote each individual element and are useful in conjunction with `glue_collapse()`. These are thin wrappers around `base::encodeString()`.

Usage

```
single_quote(x)
```

```
double_quote(x)
```

```
backtick(x)
```

Arguments

x A character to quote.

Value

A character vector of the same length as x, with the same attributes (including names and dimensions) but with no class set.

Marked UTF-8 encodings are preserved.

Examples

```
x <- 1:5
glue('Values of x: {glue_collapse(backtick(x), sep = ", ", last = " and ")}')'
```

trim

Trim a character vector

Description

This trims a character vector according to the trimming rules used by glue. These follow similar rules to [Python Docstrings](#), with the following features.

- Leading and trailing whitespace from the first and last lines is removed.
- A uniform amount of indentation is stripped from the second line on, equal to the minimum indentation of all non-blank lines after the first.
- Lines can be continued across newlines by using `\\`.

Usage

```
trim(x)
```

Arguments

x A character vector to trim.

Value

A character vector.

Examples

```
glue("
  A formatted string
  Can have multiple lines
  with additional indentation preserved
")
```

```
glue("
  \ntrailing or leading newlines can be added explicitly\n
")
```

```
glue("
  A formatted string \\
  can also be on a \\
  single line
")
```

Index

`as_glue`, [2](#)
`as_glue()`, [4](#), [6](#), [8](#), [9](#)

`backtick` (quoting), [14](#)
`base::encodeString()`, [14](#)

`crayon`, [5](#)
`crayon::blue()`, [5](#)

`DBI::dbConnect()`, [10](#)
`DBI::SQL()`, [9](#), [11](#)
`double_quote` (quoting), [14](#)

`emptyenv()`, [4](#), [6](#), [8](#), [10](#)

`get()`, [8](#)
`glue`, [3](#)
`glue()`, [8](#), [9](#)
`glue_col`, [5](#)
`glue_collapse`, [7](#)
`glue_collapse()`, [14](#)
`glue_data` (`glue`), [3](#)
`glue_data()`, [8](#), [9](#)
`glue_data_col` (`glue_col`), [5](#)
`glue_data_safe` (`glue_safe`), [8](#)
`glue_data_sql` (`glue_sql`), [9](#)
`glue_safe`, [8](#)
`glue_sql`, [9](#)
`glue_sql_collapse` (`glue_collapse`), [7](#)
`glue_sql_collapse()`, [11](#)

`identity_transformer`, [13](#)

`NA_character_`, [8](#)

`quoting`, [14](#)

`single_quote` (quoting), [14](#)

`trim`, [14](#)
`trim()`, [4](#), [11](#)