

# Package: lang (via r-universe)

June 2, 2026

**Title** Translates R Help Documentation using Large Language Models

**Version** 0.1.0.9000

**Description** Translates R help documentation on the fly by using a Large Language model of your choice. If you are using 'RStudio' or 'Positron' the translated help will appear in the help pane.

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**URL** <https://mlverse.github.io/lang/>, <https://github.com/mlverse/lang>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/mlverse/lang/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 4.1)

**Imports** callr, cli, fs, glue, lifecycle, mall, rlang (>= 1.1.0), rstudioapi, tools, withr

**Suggests** ellmer, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**Config/usethis/last-upkeep** 2025-11-10

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**Config/roxygen2/version** 8.0.0

**Config/pak/sysreqs** cmake make libuv1-dev libssl-dev

**Repository** <https://mlverse.r-universe.dev>

**Date/Publication** 2026-06-02 14:38:05 UTC

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/mlverse/lang>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

**RemoteSha** 06249fdec53cd65e382816b96cd96572541f03e0

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help *Drop-in replacements for help and ? functions*

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### Description

The ? and help functions are drop-in replacements for those in the utils package. They automatically translate help to the language specified by the LANG or LANGUAGE environment variables, or by lang\_use().

### Usage

```
# help(topic, package = NULL, ...)

# ?e2
# e1?e2
```

### Arguments

topic	A name or character string specifying the help topic.
package	A name or character string specifying the package in which to search for the help topic. If NULL, search all packages.
...	Additional arguments to pass to <code>utils::help()</code> .
e1	First argument to pass along to <code>utils:::i'</code> .
e2	Second argument to pass along to <code>utils:::i'</code> .

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lang\_help *Translates help documentation to another language*

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### Description

Translates a given topic into a target language. It uses the lang argument to determine which language to translate to. If not passed, this function will look for a target language in the LANG and LANGUAGE environment variables, or if something has been passed to the .lang argument in lang\_use(), to determine the target language. If the target language is English, no translation will be processed, so the help returned will be the original package's documentation.

### Usage

```
lang_help(
  topic,
  package = NULL,
  lang = NULL,
  context_size = NULL,
  type = getOption("help_type")
)
```

**Arguments**

topic	A character string specifying the help topic to translate.
package	The R package to look for the topic, if not provided the function will attempt to find the topic based on the loaded packages.
lang	A character vector language to translate the topic to
context_size	Maximum number of words for the context summary included with each translation request. Set to 0 to disable context-aware translation. When NULL, the value set via lang_use() is used (default 100).
type	Produce "html" or "text" output for the help. It defaults to getOption("help_type")

**Value**

Original or translated version of the help documentation in the output type specified

**Examples**

```
library(lang)

lang_use("ollama", "llama3.2", seed = 100)

lang_help("lang_help", lang = "spanish", type = "text")
```

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lang\_use

*Specifies the LLM provider and model to use during the R session*

---

**Description**

Allows us to specify the back-end provider, model to use during the current R session. The target language is not processed by the function, as in converting "english" to "en" for example. The value is passed directly to the LLM, and it lets the LLM interpret the target language.

**Usage**

```
lang_use(
  backend = NULL,
  model = NULL,
  .cache = NULL,
  .lang = NULL,
  .context_size = NULL,
  .silent = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

backend	"ollama" or an ellmer Chat object. If using "ollama", lang provides built-in support via the ollamar package. Defaults to "ollama".
model	The name of model supported by the back-end provider
.cache	Character path where translations are cached. Set to "" to disable caching. When NULL, the current session value is kept unchanged. Defaults to a temporary folder.
.lang	Target language to translate to. This will override values found in the LANG and LANGUAGE environment variables.
.context_size	Maximum number of words for the context summary included with each translation request. Set to 0 to disable context-aware translation. Defaults to 100.
.silent	Boolean flag that controls whether there is output to the console. Defaults to FALSE.
...	Additional arguments that this function will pass down to the integrating function. In the case of Ollama, it will pass those arguments to ollamar::chat().

**Value**

Invisibly returns NULL. Prints the current configuration to the console.

**Examples**

```
library(lang)

# Using an `ellmer` chat object
lang_use(ellmer::chat_openai(model = "gpt-4o"))

# Using Ollama directly
lang_use("ollama", "llama3.2", seed = 100)

# Turn off cache by setting `.cache` to ""
lang_use("ollama", "llama3.2", seed = 100, .cache = "")

# Use `.lang` to set the target language to translate to,
# it will be set for the current R session
lang_use("ollama", "llama3.2", .lang = "spanish")

# Use `.silent` to avoid console output
lang_use("ollama", "llama3.2", .lang = "spanish", .silent = TRUE)

# To see current settings, simply call the function
lang_use()
```

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