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From Chapter 11 http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-intro.pdf	
Suppose y , x , x_0 , x_1 , x_2 , ... are numeric variables, x is a matrix and A , B , C , ... are factors.	
$y \sim x$	Both imply the same simple linear regression model of y on x . The first has an implicit intercept term, and the second an explicit one.
$y \sim 1 + x$	
$y \sim 0 + x$	Simple linear regression of y on x through the origin (that is, without an intercept term).
$y \sim -1 + x$	
$y \sim x - 1$	
$\log(y) \sim x_1 + x_2$	Multiple regression of the transformed variable, $\log(y)$, on x_1 and x_2 (with an implicit intercept term).
$y \sim \text{poly}(x, 2)$	Polynomial regression of y on x of degree 2. The first form uses orthogonal polynomials, and the second uses explicit powers, as basis.
$y \sim 1 + x + I(x^2)$	
$y \sim X + \text{poly}(x, 2)$	Multiple regression y with model matrix consisting of the matrix X as well as polynomial terms in x to degree 2.
$y \sim A$	Single classification analysis of variance model of y , with classes determined by A .
$y \sim A + x$	Single classification analysis of covariance model of y , with classes determined by A , and with covariate x .
$y \sim A*B$	Two factor non-additive model of y on A and B . The first two specify the same crossed classification and the second two specify the same nested classification. In abstract terms all four specify the same model subspace.
$y \sim A + B + A:B$	
$y \sim B \%in\% A$	
$y \sim A/B$	
$y \sim (A + B + C)^2$	Three factor experiment but with a model containing main effects and two factor interactions only. Both formulae specify the same model.
$y \sim A*B*C - A:B:C$	
$y \sim A * x$	Separate simple linear regression models of y on x within the levels of A , with different codings. The last form produces explicit estimates of as many different intercepts and slopes as there are levels in A .
$y \sim A/x$	
$y \sim A/(1 + x) - 1$	
$y \sim A*B + \text{Error}(C)$	An experiment with two treatment factors, A and B , and error strata determined by factor C . For example a split plot experiment, with whole plots (and hence also subplots), determined by factor C .
M^n	All terms in M together with “interactions” up to order n
$I(M)$	Insulate M . Inside M all operators have their normal arithmetic meaning, and that term appears in the model matrix.

From http://glmm.wikidot.com/faq	
lmer or glmer functions in lme4 package	
(1 group)	Random group intercept
(x group)	Random slope of x within group with correlated intercept
(1+x group)	
(0+x group)	
(-1+x group)	Random slope of x within group: no variation in intercept
(1 group)+(0+x group)	Uncorrelated random intercept and random slope within group
(1 site/block)	Intercept varying among sites and among blocks within sites (nested random effects)
(1 site)+(1 site:block)	
(x site/block)	Slope and intercept varying among sites and among blocks within sites
(x site)+(x site:block)	
(1+x site)+(1+x site:block)	
(x1 site)+(x2 block)	Two different effects, varying at different levels
(1 group1)+(1 group2)	Intercept varying among crossed random effects

<http://lme4.r-forge.r-project.org/book/Ch2.pdf> (also a good resource)

glmmPQL in MASS package (can use any exponential family probability distribution)	
lme in nlme package (can only use normal distribution)	
random=~1 group	Random group intercept
random=~x group	Random slope of x within group with correlated intercept
random=~1 site/block	Intercept varying among sites and among blocks within sites (nested random effects)
random=~x site/block	Slope and intercept varying among sites and among blocks within sites

In glm and glmer	
offset()	Incorporates an offset in a GLM model.