Mathematica Dos and Don'ts:
Packages

Version 2.2: February 2, 2000

DON'T use `Get` (`<<`) to load packages; use `Needs` instead.

DON'T forget the back quote (`'`) in a package name (a *Mathematica* string) in the argument to `Needs`. [The back quote lives on the same key as the tilde (`~`) in the upper left hand corner of most keyboards.]

DON'T forget to enclose *the entire package name* (including the back quote) in double quotes (`"`) in the argument to `Needs`.

DO load the package that contains a command *before* you use the command. If you forget to load the package, you'll get a pretty incomprehensible "shadowing" error.

DON'T use `Clear` to eliminate the command that gave you the shadowing error if you get one.

DO use `Remove` to eliminate from *Mathematica*'s memory a command you entered that gave you a shadowing error. Do this in a separate cell immediately before the one containing the `Needs` statement for the package. Once you've executed `Remove` and have successfully loaded the package using `Needs`, *delete the cell containing `Remove` and save your notebook*.

DO check out the Help Browser under Add-ons:Standard Packages to see what packages come with *Mathematica*. To seek commands that may be in packages but that aren't built in, use the Browser under Master Index.