

Brief request syntax

- Introduction
- Syntax
- Keyword

Introduction

This is a brief introduction of the main request parameter syntax.

We recommend that you get familiar with datasets and their availability using <http://apps.ecmwf.int/datasets/>

You can also get the request syntax using "[View MARS request](#)" feature.

Syntax

```
verb,  
keyword1 = value1,  
    ... = value2,  
keywordN = valueN
```

- verb: action to be taken (e.g. retrieve, list, read)
- keyword: a known MARS variable, e.g. type or date
- value: value assigned to the keyword, e.g. Analysis or temperature

Retrieve example from "View MARS request":

MARS request

```
retrieve,  
stream=oper,  
levtype=sfc,  
param=165.128/41.128,  
dataset=interim,  
step=0,  
grid=0.75/0.75,  
time=00,  
date=2013-09-01/to/2013-09-  
30,  
type=an,  
class=ei
```

Python equivalence

```
#!/usr/bin/env python  
from ecmwfapi import  
ECMWFDataServer  
  
server = ECMWFDataServer()  
  
server.retrieve({  
    'dataset' : "interim",  
    'time'    : "00",  
    'date'    : "2013-  
09-01/to/2013-09-30",  
    'step'    : "0",  
    'type'    : "an",  
    'levtype' : "sfc",  
    'param'   : "165.128/41.  
128",  
    'grid'    : "0.75/0.75",  
    'target'  :  
    "interim201309.grib"  
})
```

Keyword

In the Dataset service there is an extra mandatory keyword called **dataset** which does not appear in normal MARS requests.

Keyword	definition
dataset	See Available Datasets
format	You can add 'format' : "netcdf" to retrieve the data in NetCDF format.

the other possible MARS keywords are explained in the [MARS keywords](#) documentation.