

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	Python equivalence
<pre>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</pre>	<pre>#!/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" })</pre>

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.