

# Basic Concepts

Structure plugin lets you organize issues into multiple hierarchical lists. To get started, you need to get acquainted with a few basic notions we're using throughout this manual and in the Structure plugin itself.

<b>Structure Plugin</b>	A really cool JIRA plugin that you are reading about.
<b>a structure</b>	A single hierarchical list of issues. By default, there's only one structure called "Global Structure", but you can create as many structures as needed.
<b>a structure contains an issue</b>	A structure is initially empty - it does not contain any issues. Issues can be added to a structure <a href="#">manually</a> , or they can be <a href="#">imported</a> or added automatically by a <a href="#">synchronizer</a> . A single issue may be present in many structures at the same time, or not be present in any.
<b>structure widget</b>	The main tool for working with the structure - a grid with columns that shows the hierarchy and allows to work with it. That's what you saw on our <a href="#">live demo server</a> . Structure widget is present at <a href="#">several places in JIRA</a> .
<b>a sub-issue is under a parent issue</b>	When you place an issue under another issue in the hierarchy, you can say that it's a sub-issue and the other one is the parent issue. A sub-issue may contain sub-issues on its own (and so it's a sub-issue and parent issue at the same time). To make matters worse, an issue that's a sub-issue in one structure may not be a sub-issue in another structure.
<b>children issues</b>	Sometimes we call sub-issues "children issues", but "sub-issues" is the preferred term.
<b>JIRA has sub-tasks</b>	JIRA has a very limited hierarchy based on sub-tasks, and since Structure integrates nicely with the sub-tasks we need to refer to them as, well, "sub-tasks". So "sub-tasks" are JIRA issues of the specific issue types ("sub-task types"), while sub-issues are just any issues that happen to be placed under a parent issue in a structure.