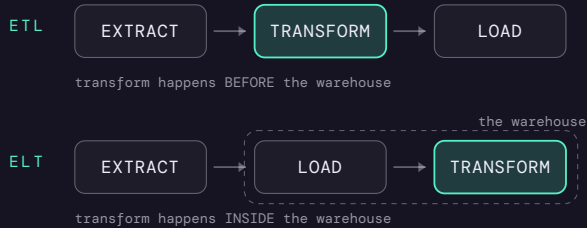


ETL or ELT? Here is how to choose. D8A.ACADEMY/RESOURCES/ETL-VS-ELT

01 Two orders of operations

Same three steps. The order decides where the work happens.



→ In ETL, data is cleaned before it lands. In ELT, the warehouse IS the transform engine.

02 When each one wins

Not modern vs legacy. Two answers to different constraints.

ETL WINS WHEN

- Compliance says clean before landing
- Warehouse compute is scarce or pricey
- Targets are legacy or on-prem
- Schemas are stable and well known

ELT WINS WHEN

- Cloud warehouse, compute is cheap
- Schemas evolve, reprocess anytime
- Analysts own transforms in SQL/dbt
- Raw history has audit value

03 Side by side

	ETL	ELT
transform runs	before load	in the warehouse
typical tools	Spark, Informatica	dbt + warehouse SQL
raw data kept	no	yes
who transforms	data engineers	engineers + analysts
flexibility	lower	higher

→ Most modern cloud stacks land on ELT, with dbt as the T.

▲ COMMON TRAPS

04 Trap: ELT is not "no modeling"

Loading raw data with no modeling layer builds a swamp, not a platform.

raw layer	land data as-is, immutable, boring on purpose
staging	rename, cast, clean. One model per source table.
marts	business logic, joined and ready for BI

→ This is exactly the dbt layer convention. ELT moves the T later, it does not delete it.