

# Does this column contain the specified string?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 27, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *Does this column contain the specified string?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=154862>

This statement refers to a specific column in a dataset and questions whether or not it includes a particular string of characters. It is a formal inquiry aimed at determining the presence of a specific data point within a designated column.

## R: Check if Column Contains String

You can use the following methods to check if a column of a data frame in R contains a string:

### Method 1: Check if Exact String Exists in Column

```
sum(str_detect(df$column_name, '^exact_string$')) > 0
```

### Method 2: Check if Partial String Exists in Column

```
sum(str_detect(df$column_name, 'partial_string')) > 0
```

### Method 3: Count Occurrences of Partial String in Column

```
sum(str_detect(df$column_name, 'partial_string'))
```

This tutorial explains how to use each method in practice with the following data frame:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team=c('A', 'A', 'A', 'B', 'B', 'C'),
```

```
conf=c('East', 'East', 'South', 'West', 'West', 'East'),  
points=c(11, 14, 15, 15, 14, 19))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team conf points
```

```
1 A East 11
```

```
2 A East 14
```

```
3 A South 15
```

```
4 B West 15
```

```
5 B West 14
```

```
6 C East 19
```

**Example 1: Check if Exact String Exists in Column**

The following code shows how to check if the exact string 'Eas' exists in the conf column of the data frame:

```
#check if exact string 'Eas' exists in conf column  
sum(str_detect(df$conf, '^Eas$')) > 0
```

```
FALSE
```

The output returns FALSE.

**This tells us that the exact string 'Eas' does not exist in the conf column.**

**Note: We used regex symbols to indicate the start ( ^ ) and end ( \$ ) characters of the string we were looking for.**

**Example 2: Check if Partial String Exists in Column**

**The following code shows how to check if the partial string 'Eas' exists in the conf column of the data frame:**

```
#check if partial string 'Eas' exists in conf column  
sum(str_detect(df$conf, 'Eas')) > 0
```

**TRUE**

**The output returns TRUE.**

**This tells us that the partial string 'Eas' does exist in the conf column of the data frame.**

**Example 3: Count Occurrences of Partial String in Column**

**The following code shows how to count the number of times the partial string 'Eas' occurs in the conf column of the data frame:**

**#count occurrences of partial string 'Eas' in conf column**

```
sum(str_detect(df$conf, 'Eas'))
```

**3**

**The output returns 3.**

**This tells us that the partial string 'Eas' occurs 3 times in the conf column of the data frame.**

**Related:**