

# How can I add a prefix to column names in Pandas?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Adding a prefix to column names in Pandas is a simple process that can be done using the "add\_prefix" function. This function allows the user to specify a prefix to be added to all column names in a Pandas dataframe. By using this function, the user can easily rename their columns and make them more organized and easily identifiable. This process is especially useful when working with large datasets and multiple columns, as it helps to avoid confusion and improve the overall structure of the data.

## Pandas: Add Prefix to Column Names

You can use the following methods to add a prefix to column names in a pandas DataFrame:

### Method 1: Add Prefix to All Column Names

```
df = df.add_prefix('my_prefix_')
```

### Method 2: Add Prefix to Specific Column Names

```
#specify columns to add prefix to
```

```
cols =
```

```
#add prefix to specific columns
```

```
df = df.rename(columns={c: 'my_prefix_'+c for c in df.columns if c in cols})
```

The following examples show how to use each of these methods with the following pandas DataFrame:

```
import pandas as pd
#create DataFrame
df = pd.DataFrame({'points': ,
'assists': ,
'rebounds': ,
'blocks': })
```

```
#view DataFrame
print(df)
```

```
points assists rebounds blocks
0 25 5 11 6
1 12 7 8 6
2 15 7 10 3
3 14 9 6 2
4 19 12 6 7
5 23 9 5 9
```

Method 1: Add Prefix to All Column Names

The following code shows how to add the prefix '\_total' to all column names:

```
#add 'total_' as prefix to each column name
df = df.add_prefix('total_')
```

```
#view updated DataFrame
```

```
print(df)
```

```
total_points total_assists total_rebounds total_blocks  
0 25 5 11 6  
1 12 7 8 6  
2 15 7 10 3  
3 14 9 6 2  
4 19 12 6 7  
5 23 9 5 9
```

Notice that the prefix `'_total'` has been added to all column names.

**Method 2: Add Prefix to Specific Column Names**

The following code shows how to add the prefix `'total_'` to only the points and assists columns:

```
#specify columns to add prefix to
```

```
cols =
```

```
#add '_total' as prefix to specific columns
```

```
df = df.rename(columns={c: 'total_'+c for c in  
df.columns if c in cols})
```

```
#view updated DataFrame
```

```
print(df)
```

```
total_points total_assists rebounds blocks
```

```
0 25 5 11 6
```

```
1 12 7 8 6
```

```
2 15 7 10 3
```

```
3 14 9 6 2
```

```
4 19 12 6 7
```

```
5 23 9 5 9
```

**Notice that the prefix 'total\_' has only been added to the points and assists columns.**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in pandas:**