

# How can I add a prefix to column names in R? Can you provide some examples?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Adding a prefix to column names in R refers to the process of adding a specific text or character before the existing column names in a data frame. This can be achieved using the "paste" function in R, where the new prefix is combined with the existing column names to create new column names. For example, if we have a data frame with column names "Age" and "Gender", adding a prefix "New\_" would result in new column names "New\_Age" and "New\_Gender". This can be useful when organizing and manipulating large datasets with similar column names. Some examples of adding a prefix to column names in R are shown below:

1. Adding a prefix "Avg\_" to a dataframe with columns "Math" and "Science":  
new\_df

## Add Prefix to Column Names in R (With Examples)

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

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

```
colnames(df) <- paste('my_prefix', colnames(df), sep = '_')
```

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

```
colnames(df) <- paste('my_prefix', colnames(df), sep = '_')
```

The following examples show how to use each method with the following data frame:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(points=c(99, 90, 86, 88, 95),  
assists=c(33, 28, 31, 39, 34),  
rebounds=c(30, 28, 24, 24, 28))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
points assists rebounds
```

```
1 99 33 30
```

```
2 90 28 28
```

```
3 86 31 24
```

```
4 88 39 24
```

```
5 95 34 28
```

**Related:**

**Example 1: Add Prefix to All Column Names**

**The following code shows how to add the prefix 'total\_' to all column names:**

```
#add prefix 'total_' to all column names
```

```
colnames(df) <- paste('total', colnames(df), sep = '_')
```

```
#view updated data frame
```

**df**

**total\_points total\_assists total\_rebounds**

**1 99 33 30**

**2 90 28 28**

**3 86 31 24**

**4 88 39 24**

**5 95 34 28**

**Notice that the prefix 'total\_' has been added to each column name.**

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

**The following code shows how to add the prefix 'total\_' to specific column names:**

```
#add prefix 'total_' to column names in index positions
```

```
1 and 3
```

```
colnames(df) <- paste('total', colnames(df), sep = '_')
```

```
#view updated data frame
```

**df**

**total\_points assists total\_rebounds**

**1 99 33 30**

**2 90 28 28**

**3 86 31 24**

**4 88 39 24**

**5 95 34 28**

**Notice that the prefix 'total\_' has only been added to the columns in index positions 1 and 3.**

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