

How can I automatically increment values in Google Sheets?

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The automatic increment feature in Google Sheets allows users to easily and efficiently increase numerical values in a spreadsheet. This feature can be accessed by using the fill handle or by using the "Auto Fill" option in the right-click menu. By dragging the fill handle or selecting the appropriate cells and using the "Auto Fill" option, the values in the cells will automatically increment based on the pattern or sequence chosen. For example, if the first cell contains the value "1" and the second cell contains the value "2", using the automatic increment feature will fill the selected cells with the values "3", "4", "5", and so on in a sequential manner. This feature is particularly useful for tasks such as creating numbered lists, generating dates or times, and organizing data in a logical sequence. It saves time and effort by eliminating the need for manual input or copying and pasting of values.

Auto Increment Values in Google Sheets (With Examples)

Often you may want to automatically increment values in Google Sheets.

Fortunately this is easy to do using the drag-and-fill feature built into Google Sheets and the following examples show how to do so in different scenarios.

Example 1: Auto Increment Values by One

Suppose we'd like to create a list of values from 0 to 20.

First, type the values 0 and 1 into consecutive cells:

	A	B	C	D
1	Values			
2	0			
3	1			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

Next, highlight both cells. Then hover over the bottom right corner of the cell containing the value 1:

	A	B	C	D
1	Values			
2	0			
3	1			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

When you see a tiny "+" symbol appear, simply click and drag down to copy the pattern into the remaining cells in the column:

	A	B	C	D
1	Values			
2	0			
3	1			
4	2			
5	3			
6	4			
7	5			
8	6			
9	7			
10	8			
11	9			
12	10			
13	11			
14	12			
15	13			
16	14			
17	15			
18	16			
19	17			
20	18			
21	19			
22	20			
23				
24				

The result is a list of values that range from 0 to 20, automatically incremented by one.

Example 2: Auto Increment Values by a Multiple

Suppose we'd like to create a list of values ranging from 0 to 20, auto incremented by four.

First, type the values 0 and 4 into consecutive cells:

	A	B	C	D
1	Values			
2	0			
3	4			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

Next, highlight both cells. Then hover over the bottom right corner of the cell containing the value 4:

	A	B	C	D
1	Values			
2	0			
3	4			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

	A	B	C	D
1	Values			
2	0			
3	4			
4	8			
5	12			
6	16			
7	20			
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				

The result is a list of values that range from 0 to 20, automatically incremented by four.

Example 3: Auto Increment a Pattern

Suppose we'd like to create a list of weeks called "Week 1, Week 2, Week 3," and so on.

First, type "Week 1" into a cell:

	A	B	C	D
1	Weeks			
2	Week 1			
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

Next, select the cell then hover over the bottom right corner of it. When you see a tiny "+" symbol appear, simply click and drag down to copy the pattern into the remaining cells in the column:

	A	B	C	D
1	Weeks			
2	Week 1			
3	Week 2			
4	Week 3			
5	Week 4			
6	Week 5			
7	Week 6			
8	Week 7			
9	Week 8			
10	Week 9			
11	Week 10			
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

The result is a list of week names ranging from Week 1 to Week 10.

Additional Resources