

How to Calculate Percent Error in Google Sheets: A Step-by-Step Guide

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Calculating percent error in Google Sheets is a simple process that can be done using the formula $=ABS((\text{actual value} - \text{expected value})/\text{expected value}) * 100$. This formula calculates the percentage difference between the actual and expected values. To use this formula, simply enter the actual and expected values in their respective cells and then input the formula in a separate cell. For example, if the expected value is 100 and the actual value is 85, the formula would be $=ABS((85-100)/100)*100$, resulting in a percent error of 15%. This allows for easy and accurate measurement of the difference between expected and actual values in Google Sheets.

Calculate Percent Error in Google Sheets (With Example)

Percent error is the difference between a measured value and a known or accepted value.

You can use the following formula to calculate percent error:

Percent error = $|(\text{known value} - \text{measured value}) / \text{known value}| * 100$

The larger the percent error, the greater the difference between a measured value and a known value.

For example, suppose the height of some building is known to be exactly 30 feet but you measure it yourself and declare it to have a height of 29.4 feet.

The percent error of your measurement would be

calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Percent error} &= |(\text{known value} - \text{measured value}) / \text{known value}| * 100 \\ \text{Percent error} &= |(30 - 29.4) / 30| * 100 \\ \text{Percent error} &= .02 * 100 \\ \text{Percent error} &= 2\%\end{aligned}$$

The percent error between the known height of the building and your measured height of the building is 2%.

The following example shows how to calculate percent error in Google Sheets.

Example: How to Calculate Percent Error in Google Sheets

To calculate percent error in Google Sheets, you must type the known value in one cell and your measured value in another cell.

For example, we will type our known height of 30 in cell A2 and our measured height of 29.4 in cell B2:

	A	B	C	D
1	Known Value	Measured Value		
2	30	29.4		
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

We can then type the following formula into cell C2 to calculate the percent error of our measurement:

`=ABS((A2-B2)/A2)*100`

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

C2 fx =ABS((A2-B2)/A2)*100

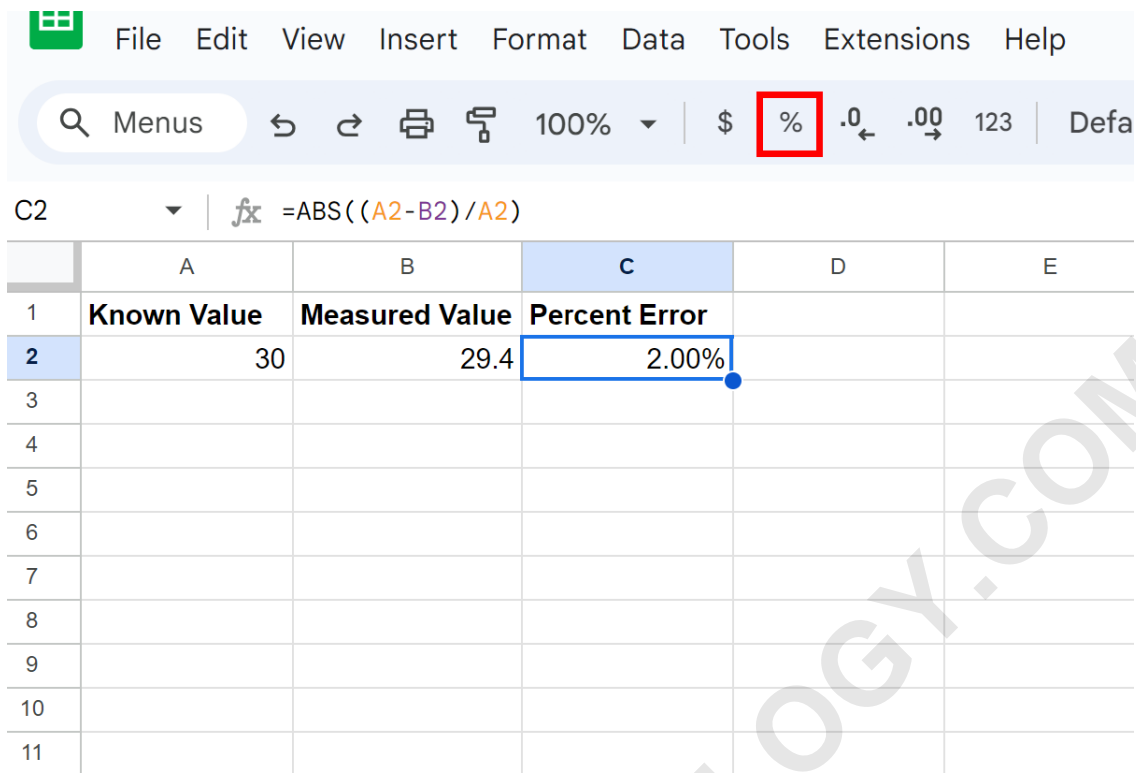
	A	B	C	D
1	Known Value	Measured Value	Percent Error	
2	30	29.4	2	
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				

If you would like to display the percentage symbol in the result, you can type the following formula into cell C2 instead:

=ABS((A2-B2)/A2)*100

This will return .02 as a result.

You can then select cell C2 and then click the % icon along the top menu to display the result of the formula in a percentage format:



The screenshot shows the Google Sheets interface. The formula bar at the top displays the formula $=ABS((A2-B2)/A2)$. The spreadsheet grid below has columns labeled A, B, and C. Row 1 contains the headers: "Known Value", "Measured Value", and "Percent Error". Row 2 contains the values: 30, 29.4, and 2.00%. The cell containing 2.00% is highlighted with a blue border. A watermark "ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM" is visible diagonally across the spreadsheet.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Known Value	Measured Value	Percent Error		
2	30	29.4	2.00%		
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Google Sheets: