

# How can I calculate the difference between two dates in Google Sheets?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The process of calculating the difference between two dates in Google Sheets involves using the built-in function "DATEDIF" which stands for "Date Difference". This function takes in the two dates as arguments and returns the difference in the specified time unit, such as days, months, or years. This allows users to easily track the duration between two dates and perform various calculations based on the result. The DATEDIF function also accounts for leap years and can handle negative time differences. By following the correct syntax and using the appropriate time unit, users can accurately calculate the difference between two dates in Google Sheets.

## Calculating the Difference Between Two Dates in Google Sheets

We can use the DATEDIF() function to calculate the difference between two dates in Google Sheets.

This function uses the following syntax:

**=DATEDIF(start\_date, end\_date, unit)**

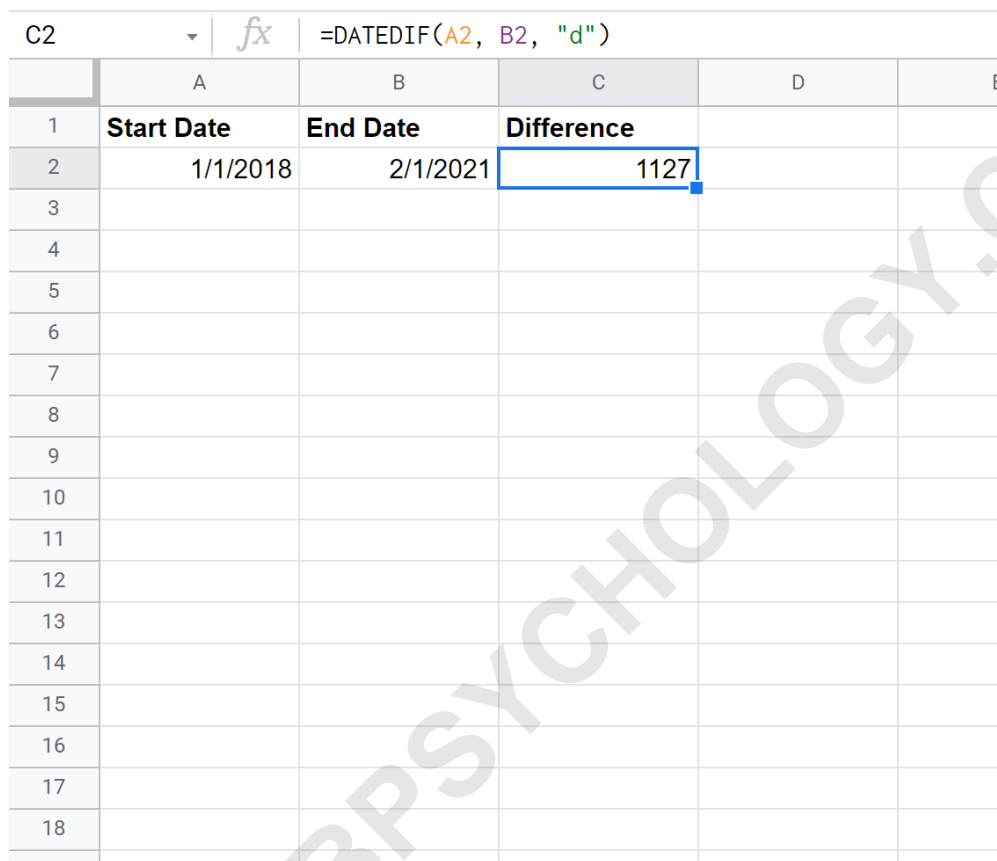
where:

**start\_date:** The start date  
**end\_date:** The end date  
**unit:** Unit of time to use ("Y", "M", "D" for years, months, dates)

The following examples show how to use this function to calculate the difference between two dates in Google Sheets.

### Example 1: Difference in Days

The following image shows how to calculate the difference (in days) between two dates:



The image shows a Google Sheet interface. At the top, the formula bar displays the formula `=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "d")`. Below the formula bar is a table with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Difference</b>		
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	1127		
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

This tells us that there are 1,127 full days between 1/1/2018 and 2/1/2021.

### Example 2: Difference in Months

The following image shows how to calculate the difference (in months) between two dates:

C2 *fx* =DATEDIF(A2, B2, "m")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Difference</b>		
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	37		
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

### Example 3: Difference in Years

The following image shows how to calculate the difference (in years) between two dates:

C2    fx    =DATEDIF(A2, B2, "y")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Difference</b>		
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	3		
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

### Example 4: Difference in Years & Months

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>		<b>years</b>	3	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "y")	
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021		<b>months</b>	1	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "ym")	
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

**The difference between the start and end dates is 3**

**years and 1 month.**

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