

# How can I change the legend font size in Matplotlib?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

April 22, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I change the legend font size in Matplotlib?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=137974>

Matplotlib is a popular Python library used for creating high-quality visualizations and plots. One common question that arises while using Matplotlib is how to change the legend font size. The legend is a key element in a plot that explains the different elements present in the plot. By default, the legend font size in Matplotlib is set to a standard size. However, users may want to customize the font size according to their preference or for better visualization. To change the legend font size in Matplotlib, one can use the "fontsize" parameter while creating the legend. This parameter allows the user to specify the font size in points. Alternatively, one can also use the "prop" parameter and pass a dictionary with the desired font properties, such as font size, to change the legend font size. This simple adjustment can greatly improve the overall appearance of a plot and make it more visually appealing.

## Change Legend Font Size in Matplotlib

You can easily add a plot to a Matplotlib plot by using the following code:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
#add legend to plot
```

```
plt.legend()
```

And you can easily change the font size of the text in the legend by using one of the following methods:

### Method 1: Specify a Size in Numbers

You can specify font size by using a number:

```
plt.legend(fontsize=18)
```

## Method 2: Specify a Size in Strings

You can also specify font size by using strings:

```
plt.legend(fontsize="small")
```

Options include:

**xx-small x-small small medium large x-large xx-large**

The following examples show how to use each of these methods in practice:

Example 1: Specify Font Size Using a Number

The following example shows how to specify a legend font size using a number:

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
#create data
```

```
plt.plot(, label="First Line")
```

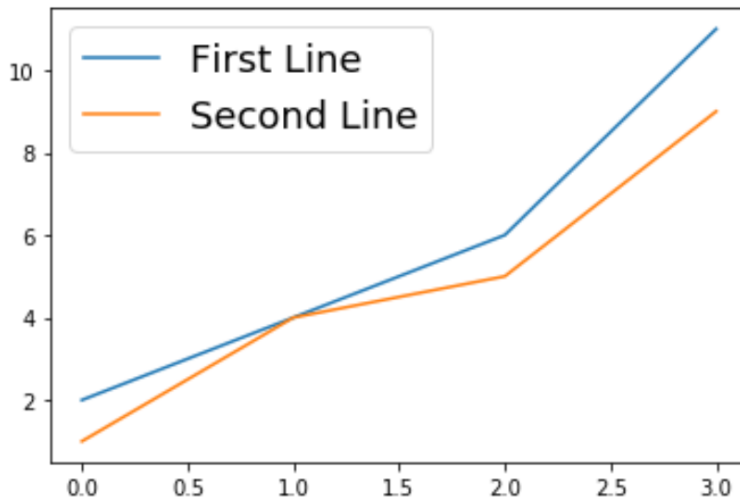
```
plt.plot(, label="Second Line")
```

```
#add legend
```

```
plt.legend(fontsize=18)
```

```
#show plot
```

```
plt.show()
```



```
Example 2: Specify Font Size Using a String
```

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```
#create data
```

```
plt.plot(, label="First Line")
```

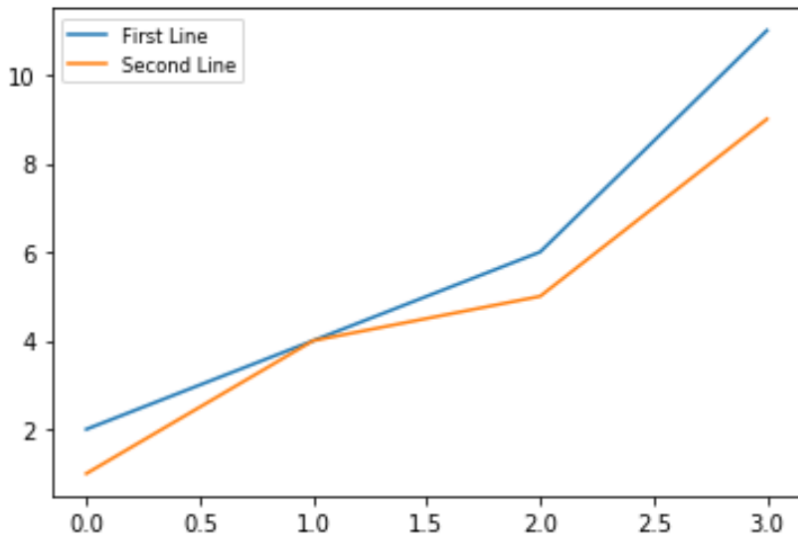
```
plt.plot(, label="Second Line")
```

```
#add legend
```

```
plt.legend(fontsize="small")
```

```
#show plot
```

```
plt.show()
```



## How to Change Font Sizes on a Matplotlib Plot

## How to Add Text to Matplotlib Plots

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM