

How to Combine Date and Time in Google Sheets Easily

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In the versatile environment of **Google Sheets**, managing temporal data efficiently often requires the integration of disparate information into a unified format. The **DATE** and **TIME** functions serve as the foundational tools for this process, allowing users to consolidate year, month, day, and clock-based data into a singular, comprehensive cell. This capability is particularly vital for professionals engaged in **data analysis**, where the precision of a timestamp can significantly impact the accuracy of chronological tracking or **project management** schedules. By understanding the underlying mechanics of how these functions interact, users can transform raw inputs into meaningful, actionable insights within their **spreadsheet** workflows.

The **DATE function** is designed to accept three distinct numerical arguments: the year, the month, and the day. When these parameters are provided, the function processes the input and returns a specific date value that **Google Sheets** recognizes as a serial number. Similarly, the **TIME function** requires three arguments--hour, minute, and second--to return a decimal fraction representing a specific point within a 24-hour cycle. When combined using basic arithmetic or advanced string manipulation, these functions allow for the creation of a cell that reflects both the calendar day and the exact time of day. For instance, applying the formula **=DATE(2021, 5, 12)+TIME(9, 30, 00)** results in the output 5/12/2021 9:30:00. This level of detail is indispensable for maintaining rigorous logs or coordinating time-sensitive **business processes**.

Combine Date & Time in Google Sheets

Understanding the Fundamentals of Temporal Consolidation

When working within a professional **spreadsheet** environment, it is common to encounter scenarios where date information and time information are stored in separate columns. This separation, while sometimes useful for initial data entry, often complicates the process of sorting, filtering, or performing complex **data processing**. To streamline your operations, you can utilize specific formulas to merge these values into a single cell. This transition ensures that your data adheres to a more standardized **ISO 8601**-like structure, which is the gold standard for global data exchange and temporal consistency.

The primary methodologies for achieving this consolidation involve either direct mathematical addition or the application of specialized formatting functions. Direct addition is highly efficient because **Google Sheets** stores dates as integers and times as fractions of a day; thus, adding them together naturally creates a complete timestamp. Conversely, using formatting functions provides the user with greater aesthetic control, allowing for the customization of how the data is visually presented to stakeholders. Both methods are factually aligned with the core logic of **data types** in modern spreadsheet software.

By mastering these techniques, you enhance the clarity of your documentation and ensure that all

team members are viewing the same chronological context. Whether you are tracking **financial transactions** or monitoring scientific experiments, the ability to synthesize date and time into a cohesive unit is a critical skill for any proficient **information management** specialist. The following sections detail the exact formulas required to implement these methods effectively.

Method 1: Use Addition

=A2+B2

Method 2: Use CONCATENATE and TEXT

=CONCATENATE(TEXT(A2,"m/d/yyyy")," ",TEXT(B2,"h:mm AM/PM"))

The strategic advantage of employing the **TEXT function** lies in its unparalleled flexibility regarding output specification. While simple addition relies on the default **Google Sheets** formatting rules, the **TEXT** utility empowers the user to define the exact appearance of the resulting string. This is particularly useful when preparing reports for audiences who may require specific **regional date formats** or custom 12-hour/24-hour clock displays.

It is important to note that both of these demonstrated formulas operate under the structural assumption that the primary date value is located in cell **A2**, while the corresponding time value is situated in cell **B2**. Should your data be located in different coordinates, you must adjust the cell references accordingly to maintain the integrity of the **algorithm**. Proper reference management is a hallmark of high-quality **information architecture**.

The following practical demonstrations illustrate the real-world application of these methods using a sample dataset. These examples highlight the visual differences between the two approaches, allowing you to choose the one that best fits your specific **user experience** requirements and analytical goals.

	A	B	C	
1	Date	Time		
2	1/3/2023	6:17 AM		
3	1/15/2023	3:23 PM		
4	2/23/2023	9:15 PM		
5	3/14/2023	11:59 AM		
6	3/25/2023	4:15 AM		
7	4/1/2023	10:45 PM		
8	5/16/2023	4:37 AM		
9	5/17/2023	5:18 AM		
10				
11				
12				
13				

Method 1: Implementation via Mathematical Addition

The most straightforward approach to merging temporal data in **Google Sheets** is through simple arithmetic addition. Because the software internally represents dates as the number of days since a fixed point in history and times as the percentage of a 24-hour period, adding these two values results in a single **floating-point number**. This number contains all the necessary information to display both the date and the time simultaneously, making it an elegant solution for rapid **data integration**.

To implement this, you should navigate to cell **C2** and input the addition formula as shown in the example below. This action prompts the spreadsheet engine to calculate the sum of the date in **A2** and the time in **B2**. Once the initial calculation is successful, you can leverage the "fill handle" feature--clicking and dragging the bottom-right corner of the cell--to propagate the formula down the entire column. This ensures consistency across your entire dataset, which is a vital practice in **quality control**.

Upon completing this process, column C will display a comprehensive timestamp for every row. However, users should be aware that the default display settings in **Google Sheets** may vary. Often, the software defaults to a 24-hour clock format and may omit the AM or PM indicators unless specific cell formatting is applied via the "Format" menu. Understanding these default behaviors is essential for accurate **data visualization** and interpretation.

=A2+B2

C2 ▾ | fx =A2+B2

	A	B	C	D
1	Date	Time	Date & Time	
2	1/3/2023	6:17 AM	1/3/2023 6:17:00	
3	1/15/2023	3:23 PM	1/15/2023 15:23:00	
4	2/23/2023	9:15 PM	2/23/2023 21:15:00	
5	3/14/2023	11:59 AM	3/14/2023 11:59:00	
6	3/25/2023	4:15 AM	3/25/2023 4:15:00	
7	4/1/2023	10:45 PM	4/1/2023 22:45:00	
8	5/16/2023	4:37 AM	5/16/2023 4:37:00	
9	5/17/2023	5:18 AM	5/17/2023 5:18:00	
10				
11				
12				
13				

Method 2: Formatting Control with CONCATENATE and TEXT

For scenarios where visual precision and specific formatting are paramount, the combination of the **CONCATENATE** and **TEXT functions** offers a robust alternative. This method treats the date and time as string components, allowing you to wrap them in specific formatting masks before joining them together with a space or other delimiters. This approach is highly favored in **technical communication**, where the clarity of the timestamp can prevent errors in global operations.

The **TEXT function** acts as a translator, converting the underlying numerical value of a date or time into a readable string based on the format code you provide. In the formula provided, "m/d/yyyy" defines the date structure, while "h:mm AM/PM" defines the time structure. By nesting these within a **CONCATENATE** function--or using the ampersand symbol--you create a single, formatted string that is easy for humans to read and for automated systems to parse as **metadata**.

After applying this formula to cell **C2** and dragging it down the column, you will observe that the resulting values are perfectly aligned with your specified format. This method effectively bypasses the default regional settings of the **spreadsheet**, ensuring that your data looks exactly how you intended, regardless of the viewer's personal settings. This consistency is a cornerstone of professional **data governance**.

=CONCATENATE(TEXT(A2,"m/d/yyyy")," ",TEXT(B2,"h:mm AM/PM"))

C2 `=CONCATENATE(TEXT(A2,"m/d/yyyy")," ",TEXT(B2,"h:mm AM/PM"))`

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	Time	Date & Time		
2	1/3/2023	6:17 AM	1/3/2023 6:17 AM		
3	1/15/2023	3:23 PM	1/15/2023 3:23 PM		
4	2/23/2023	9:15 PM	2/23/2023 9:15 PM		
5	3/14/2023	11:59 AM	3/14/2023 11:59 AM		
6	3/25/2023	4:15 AM	3/25/2023 4:15 AM		
7	4/1/2023	10:45 PM	4/1/2023 10:45 PM		
8	5/16/2023	4:37 AM	5/16/2023 4:37 AM		
9	5/17/2023	5:18 AM	5/17/2023 5:18 AM		
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					

Optimizing Workflow with Advanced Functionality

When you utilize the **TEXT** function, you are essentially creating a customized view of your **database** records. It is noteworthy that the specific format "mm/dd/yyyy" and "h:mm AM/PM" used in the example can be adjusted to meet any **localized standard**. For instance, European users might prefer "dd/mm/yyyy", while military or scientific logs might utilize a 24-hour format without the AM/PM designation. This adaptability makes **Google Sheets** a powerful tool for international collaboration.

For those seeking to delve deeper into the capabilities of these tools, the official documentation provides an exhaustive list of format codes and syntax rules. Accessing the full documentation for the **TEXT function** in **Google Sheets** is highly recommended for users who wish to implement complex logic, such as conditional formatting or dynamic string generation based on variable inputs. Such advanced knowledge facilitates more sophisticated **business intelligence** reporting.

Ultimately, choosing between addition and concatenation depends on your end goal. If you need to perform further calculations with the combined timestamp--such as finding the difference between two points in time--the addition method is superior because it maintains the data as a **numerical value**. If the primary goal is presentation and human readability, the concatenation method is the most effective choice for your **spreadsheet** design.

Broadening Your Spreadsheet Proficiency

Mastering the consolidation of dates and times is just one aspect of becoming an expert in **spreadsheet** management. As you continue to refine your skills, you will find that these fundamental concepts apply to a wide range of tasks, from **automated scheduling** to historical data archiving. Developing a deep understanding of these functions allows you to build more resilient and scalable data models that can withstand the rigors of professional **data management**.

In addition to temporal functions, exploring other areas of **Google Sheets** functionality--such as array formulas, pivot tables, and script-based automation--can further enhance your productivity. Each new technique you acquire builds upon the last, creating a comprehensive toolkit for solving complex analytical challenges. Continuous learning is essential in the rapidly evolving field of **information technology** and digital data handling.

The following tutorials are curated to help you expand your expertise and perform other common, yet vital, tasks within **Google Sheets**. By integrating these lessons into your daily workflow, you will improve both the speed and the accuracy of your **data entry** and analysis projects, ensuring high-quality results for your organization or personal endeavors.