

# How can I compare dates in Google Sheets and what are some examples of how it can be done?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Google Sheets is a powerful tool that allows users to organize and analyze data. One useful feature is the ability to compare dates. This can be done by using the built-in functions and formulas available in Google Sheets. For example, the "DATEDIF" function can be used to calculate the difference between two dates in various units, such as days, months, or years. The "IF" function can also be utilized to compare two dates and return a specific result based on the comparison. Additionally, the "COUNTIFS" function can be used to count the number of dates that fall within a certain range. These are just a few examples of how dates can be compared in Google Sheets. By utilizing these tools, users can easily track and analyze changes in dates, such as deadlines or project timelines, in their spreadsheets.

## Compare Dates in Google Sheets (With Examples)

You can use the following methods to compare date values in cells A1 and B1 in Google Sheets:

### Method 1: Check if Dates are Equal

**=A1=B1**

### Method 2: Check if Dates are Not Equal

**=A1<>B1**

### Method 3: Check if First Date is Greater than Second Date

**=A1>B1**

### Method 4: Check if First Date is Less than Second Date

**=A1<B1**

## **Method 5: Find Which Date is Latest**

**=IFS(A1>B1, "First Date", A1<B1, "Second Date", A1=B1, "Equal")**

**The following example shows how to use each method in practice.**

**Example: Compare Dates in Google Sheets**

**Suppose we have two columns in Google Sheets that each contain date values:**

	A	B	C	
1	<b>First Date</b>	<b>Second Date</b>		
2	1/1/2022	1/4/2022		
3	1/9/2022	1/5/2022		
4	1/10/2022	1/10/2022		
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

The following screenshot shows how to use the formulas defined earlier to compare the values in the date columns:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>First Date</b>	<b>Second Date</b>	<b>Dates Equal?</b>	<b>Dates Not Equal?</b>	<b>First &gt; Second?</b>	<b>First &lt; Second?</b>
2	1/1/2022	1/4/2022	FALSE	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE
3	1/9/2022	1/5/2022	FALSE	TRUE	TRUE	FALSE
4	1/10/2022	1/10/2022	TRUE	FALSE	FALSE	FALSE
5						
6			=A2=B2	=A2<>B2	=A2>B2	=A2<B2
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

**Column C:** If the dates are equal, a value of TRUE is returned. Otherwise, FALSE is returned.

**Column D:** If the dates are not equal, a value of TRUE is returned. Otherwise, FALSE is returned.

**Column E:** If the first date is greater (i.e. later), a value of TRUE is returned. Otherwise, FALSE is returned.

**Column F:** If the first date is less (i.e. earlier), a value of TRUE is returned. Otherwise, FALSE is returned.

The following screenshot also shows how to use an IFS() function to determine which date is latest:

C2	<i>fx</i>	=IFS(A2>B2, "First Date", A2<B2, "Second Date", A2=B2, "Equal")				
	A	B	C	D	E	
1	<b>First Date</b>	<b>Second Date</b>	<b>Latest Date</b>			
2	1/1/2022	1/4/2022	Second Date			
3	1/9/2022	1/5/2022	First Date			
4	1/10/2022	1/10/2022	Equal			
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						

**Note that these formulas will only work if the values in the first two columns are both formatted as dates.**

**To convert the values in each column to date, simply highlight all of the date values, then click the Format tab along the top ribbon, then click Number, then click Date.**

#### **Additional Resources**

**The following tutorials provide additional information on how to work with dates in Google Sheets:**