

How can I concatenate a vector of strings in R, and can you provide some examples?

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Concatenation is the process of combining two or more separate strings into one single string. In R, this can be done using the "paste" function, which takes in a vector of strings as input and returns a single concatenated string. For example, if we have a vector of strings "hello" and "world", the resulting concatenated string would be "helloworld". Another example could be if we have a vector of strings "I", "love", and "R", the resulting concatenated string would be "IloveR". This function is useful for joining strings in various data manipulation tasks in R.

Concatenate Vector of Strings in R (With Examples)

You can use one of the following methods in R to concatenate a vector of strings together:

Method 1: Use paste() in Base R

```
paste(vector_of_strings, collapse=' ')
```

Method 2: Use stri_paste() from stringi Package

```
library(stringi)
```

```
stri_paste(vector_of_strings, collapse=' ')
```

Both methods will produce the same result but the `stri_paste()` method will be faster, especially if you're working with extremely large vectors.

The following examples show how to use each method in practice.

Example 1: Concatenate Vector of Strings Using paste() in Base R

The following code shows how to concatenate together a vector of strings using the paste() function from base R:

```
#create vector of strings  
vector_of_strings <- c('This', 'is', 'a', 'vector', 'of',  
'strings')  
  
#concatenate strings  
paste(vector_of_strings, collapse='')  
  
"This is a vector of strings"
```

Note that the collapse argument specifies the delimiter to place in between each string.

In the example above, we used a space. However, we could use any delimiter we'd like such as a dash:

```
#create vector of strings  
vector_of_strings <- c('This', 'is', 'a', 'vector', 'of',  
'strings')  
  
#concatenate strings using dash as delimiter
```

```
paste(vector_of_strings, collapse='-')
```

```
"This-is-a-vector-of-strings"
```

We can even use no delimiter if we'd like each of the strings to be concatenated with no spaces in between:

```
#create vector of strings
```

```
vector_of_strings <- c('This', 'is', 'a', 'vector', 'of',  
'strings')
```

```
#concatenate strings using no delimiter
```

```
paste(vector_of_strings, collapse="")
```

```
"Thisisavectorofstrings"
```

Example 2: Concatenate Vector of Strings Using str_paste() from stringi Package

The following code shows how to concatenate together a vector of strings using the stri_paste() function from the stringi package in R:

```
library(stringi)
```

```
#create vector of strings
```

```
vector_of_strings <- c('This', 'is', 'a', 'vector', 'of',  
'strings')
```

```
#concatenate strings
```

```
stri_paste(vector_of_strings, collapse=' ')
```

```
"This is a vector of strings"
```

Notice that this produces the same result as the paste() function from base R.

The only difference is that this method will be faster.

Depending on the size of the string vectors you're working with, the difference in speed may or may not matter to you.