

How can I convert dates to strings in Google Sheets?

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=163391>

To convert dates to strings in Google Sheets, you can use the TEXT function. This function allows you to format a date in a specific way and convert it to a string. You can specify the date format, such as "mm/dd/yyyy" or "dd/mm/yyyy", and the result will be a string representation of the date. This is useful when you want to display dates in a specific format or when you need to use the date as a string for other calculations. By using the TEXT function, you can easily convert dates to strings in Google Sheets without altering the original data.

Google Sheets: Convert Dates to Strings

You can use the following formulas to convert a date to a string in Google Sheets:

Method 1: Convert Date to String

=TEXT(A1, "mm-dd-yyyy")

Method 2: Convert Datetime to String

=TEXT(A1,"yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss")

The following examples show how to use these formulas in practice.

Example 1: Convert Date to String in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following list of dates in Google Sheets:

	A	B	C	D	
1	Date				
2	01-01-2022				
3	01-15-2022				
4	01-17-2022				
5	02-01-2022				
6	02-04-2022				
7	02-09-2022				
8	02-13-2022				
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

We can use the following formula to convert the date in cell A1 to a string:

=TEXT(A1, "mm-dd-yyyy")

We can then copy and paste this formula down to the remaining cells in column B:

B2		<i>fx</i>	<code>=TEXT(A2, "mm-dd-yyyy")</code>	
	A	B	C	D
1	Date	String		
2	01-01-2022	01-01-2022		
3	01-15-2022	01-15-2022		
4	01-17-2022	01-17-2022		
5	02-01-2022	02-01-2022		
6	02-04-2022	02-04-2022		
7	02-09-2022	02-09-2022		
8	02-13-2022	02-13-2022		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				

All of the cells in column B are now a string.

To verify this, we can type `=ISTEXT(A2)` and `=ISTEXT(B2)` to check if the values in cells A2 and B2 are strings, respectively:

	A	B	C	D
1	Date	String	=ISTEXT(A2)	=ISTEXT(B2)
2	01-01-2022	01-01-2022	FALSE	TRUE
3	01-15-2022	01-15-2022		
4	01-17-2022	01-17-2022		
5	02-01-2022	02-01-2022		
6	02-04-2022	02-04-2022		
7	02-09-2022	02-09-2022		
8	02-13-2022	02-13-2022		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

We can see that the value in cell A2 is not a string since the ISTEXT() function returned FALSE.

Example 2: Convert Datetime to String in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following list of datetimes in Google Sheets:

	A	B	C	D
1	Datetime			
2	2022-01-01 8:30:15			
3	2022-01-15 3:30:00			
4	2022-01-17 10:40:10			
5	2022-02-01 12:15:00			
6	2022-02-04 1:10:12			
7	2022-02-09 4:15:25			
8	2022-02-13 7:45:50			
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

We can use the following formula to convert the datetime in cell A1 to a string:

=TEXT(A1,"yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss")

We can then copy and paste this formula down to the remaining cells in column B:

B2		=TEXT(A2,"yyyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss")			
	A	B	C	D	
1	Datetime	String			
2	2022-01-01 8:30:15	2022-01-01 08:30:15			
3	2022-01-15 3:30:00	2022-01-15 03:30:00			
4	2022-01-17 10:40:10	2022-01-17 10:40:10			
5	2022-02-01 12:15:00	2022-02-01 12:15:00			
6	2022-02-04 1:10:12	2022-02-04 01:10:12			
7	2022-02-09 4:15:25	2022-02-09 04:15:25			
8	2022-02-13 7:45:50	2022-02-13 07:45:50			
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

All of the cells in column B are now a string.

To verify this, we can type =ISTEXT(A2) and =ISTEXT(B2) to check if the values in cells A2 and B2 are strings, respectively:

	A	B	C	D
1	Datetime	String	=ISTEXT(A2)	=ISTEXT(B2)
2	2022-01-01 8:30:15	2022-01-01 08:30:15	FALSE	TRUE
3	2022-01-15 3:30:00	2022-01-15 03:30:00		
4	2022-01-17 10:40:10	2022-01-17 10:40:10		
5	2022-02-01 12:15:00	2022-02-01 12:15:00		
6	2022-02-04 1:10:12	2022-02-04 01:10:12		
7	2022-02-09 4:15:25	2022-02-09 04:15:25		
8	2022-02-13 7:45:50	2022-02-13 07:45:50		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

We can see that the value in cell A2 is not a string since the ISTEXT() function returned FALSE.

Conversely, we can see that the value in cell B2 is a string since the ISTEXT() function returned TRUE.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Google Sheets: