

How can I convert negative numbers to zero in Google Sheets?"

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June 26, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I convert negative numbers to zero in Google Sheets?"*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=154075>

The process of converting negative numbers to zero in Google Sheets involves using a simple formula or function to replace any negative values with a zero. This can be done by selecting the cells containing negative numbers, entering the formula or function, and pressing enter. This will automatically replace the negative numbers with zeros, making it easier to work with the data in the spreadsheet. This feature can be useful for data analysis and presentation purposes, as well as for ensuring accuracy in calculations.

Google Sheets: Convert Negative Numbers to Zero

You can use the following formulas to convert negative numbers to zero in Google Sheets:

Formula 1: Convert Existing Negative Numbers to Zero

=IF(A2<0, 0, A2)

For this particular formula, if the value in cell A2 is negative then it is converted to a zero. Otherwise, it is left alone.

Formula 2: Convert Negative Numbers to Zero in Formula

=MAX(0,B2-C2)

For this particular formula, if the result of the formula B2 - C2 is negative then the formula simply returns a zero. Otherwise, the formula returns the result of the

subtraction.

The following examples shows how to use each formula in practice.

Example 1: Convert Existing Negative Numbers to Zero

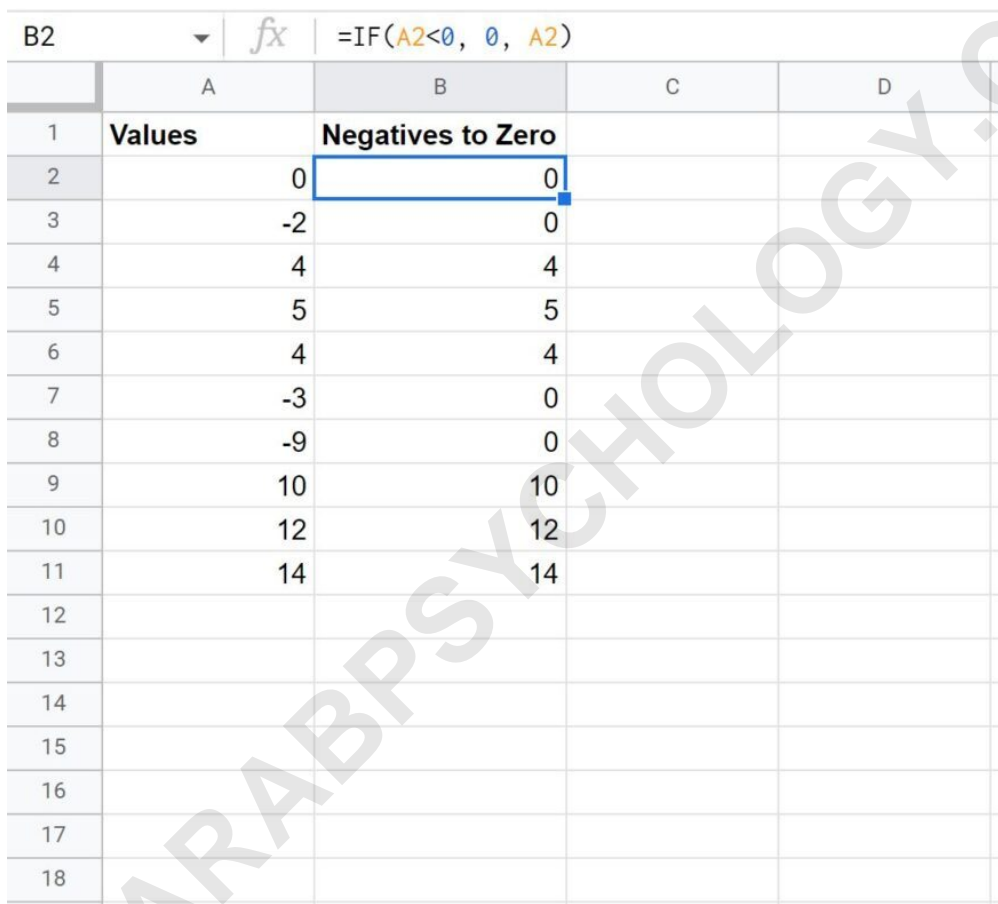
Suppose we have the following dataset in Google Sheets:

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|---------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Values | | | |
| 2 | 0 | | | |
| 3 | -2 | | | |
| 4 | 4 | | | |
| 5 | 5 | | | |
| 6 | 4 | | | |
| 7 | -3 | | | |
| 8 | -9 | | | |
| 9 | 10 | | | |
| 10 | 12 | | | |
| 11 | 14 | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |

We can use the following formula to convert each negative number in column A to a zero:

=IF(A2<0, 0, A2)

We can type this formula into cell B2 and simply click and drag the formula down to each remaining cell in column B:



The screenshot shows a Google Sheet with the following data:

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Values | Negatives to Zero | | |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 3 | -2 | 0 | | |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | | |
| 5 | 5 | 5 | | |
| 6 | 4 | 4 | | |
| 7 | -3 | 0 | | |
| 8 | -9 | 0 | | |
| 9 | 10 | 10 | | |
| 10 | 12 | 12 | | |
| 11 | 14 | 14 | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |

Notice that all negative numbers have been converted to zero.

Example 2: Convert Negative Numbers to Zero in Formula

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|------------|-------|---------|---|
| 1 | Date | Sales | Returns | |
| 2 | January 1 | 14 | 4 | |
| 3 | January 2 | 10 | 8 | |
| 4 | January 3 | 7 | 8 | |
| 5 | January 4 | 6 | 6 | |
| 6 | January 5 | 5 | 2 | |
| 7 | January 6 | 8 | 10 | |
| 8 | January 7 | 7 | 9 | |
| 9 | January 8 | 9 | 4 | |
| 10 | January 9 | 10 | 3 | |
| 11 | January 10 | 15 | 6 | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | |

We can use the following formula to subtract the values in column C from the values in column B and return a zero if the result of the subtraction is negative:

=MAX(0,B2-C2)

We can type this formula into cell D2 and simply click and drag the formula down to each remaining cell in column D:

D2 fx =MAX(0, B2-C2)

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|------------|-------|---------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Date | Sales | Returns | Sales - Returns | |
| 2 | January 1 | 14 | 4 | 10 | |
| 3 | January 2 | 10 | 8 | 2 | |
| 4 | January 3 | 7 | 8 | 0 | |
| 5 | January 4 | 6 | 6 | 0 | |
| 6 | January 5 | 5 | 2 | 3 | |
| 7 | January 6 | 8 | 10 | 0 | |
| 8 | January 7 | 7 | 9 | 0 | |
| 9 | January 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | |
| 10 | January 9 | 10 | 3 | 7 | |
| 11 | January 10 | 15 | 6 | 9 | |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | |

Notice that in each case where the formula would have produced a negative number, a zero is returned instead.