

# How can I find and sort the unique values in a dataset using the R programming language?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 24, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I find and sort the unique values in a dataset using the R programming language?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=151230>

In the R programming language, there are various methods to find and sort the unique values in a dataset. One approach is to use the "unique()" function, which returns a vector containing all the distinct values in a dataset. Another method is to utilize the "duplicated()" function, which checks for duplicate values and allows for sorting them in ascending or descending order. Additionally, the "sort()" function can be used to arrange the unique values in a desired order. These functions provide efficient ways to identify and organize the unique values in a dataset using the R programming language.

## **R: Find Unique Values and Sort Them**

**You can use the following methods to find unique values and then sort them in R:**

### **Method 1: Find Unique Values in Vector & Sort Them**

```
#get unique values sorted in ascending order  
sort(unique(data))
```

### **Method 2: Find Unique Rows in Data Frame & Sort Them**

```
#remove duplicate rows in data frame  
df_new = df
```

```
#display unique rows sorted by values in specific  
column  
df_new = df_new
```

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

### Example 1: Find Unique Values in Vector & Sort Them

Suppose we have the following vector in R:

```
#create vector of values  
data <- c(2, 2, 4, 7, 2, 4, 14, 7, 10, 7)
```

We can use the following syntax to find the unique values in the vector and sort them:

```
#get unique values sorted in ascending order  
sort(unique(data))
```

```
2 4 7 10 14
```

Notice that the unique values from the vector are returned in ascending order.

We can also use the argument `decreasing=TRUE` to sort the unique values in descending order:

```
#get unique values sorted in descending order  
sort(unique(data), decreasing=TRUE)
```

**14 10 7 4 2**

**Notice that the unique values from the vector are returned in descending order.**

**Example 2: Find Unique Values in Data Frame & Sort Them**

**Suppose we have the following data frame in R:**

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team=c('A', 'B', 'A', 'A', 'A', 'B', 'B', 'B',  
'A', 'B'),  
points=c(2, 10, 7, 7, 2, 4, 14, 7, 2, 7))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team points
```

```
1 A 2
```

```
2 B 10
```

```
3 A 7
```

```
4 A 7
```

```
5 A 2
```

```
6 B 4
```

```
7 B 14
```

```
8 B 7
```

**9 A 2**

**10 B 7**

**We can use the following syntax to find the unique rows in the data frame and sort them based on the values in the team column:**

```
#remove duplicate rows in data frame
```

```
df_new = df
```

```
#sort unique rows based on values in team column
```

```
df_new = df_new
```

```
#view new data frame
```

```
df_new
```

```
team points
```

```
1 A 2
```

```
3 A 7
```

```
2 B 4
```

```
6 B 7
```

```
7 B 10
```

```
8 B 14
```

**Notice that the unique rows are returned and sorted**

**based on the values in the team column, then by the values in the points column.**

## **Related**

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM