

How can I remove special characters in Google Sheets?

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I remove special characters in Google Sheets?*.
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=162955>

To remove special characters in Google Sheets, you can use the "Find and Replace" function. First, select the cells or range of cells that you want to remove the special characters from. Then, go to the "Edit" menu and select "Find and Replace." In the "Find" field, type in the special character you want to remove, and leave the "Replace with" field blank. Click "Replace all" and the special character will be removed from the selected cells. You can repeat this process for any other special characters you want to remove.

Remove Special Characters in Google Sheets

You can use the following formulas to remove special characters in Google Sheets:

Method 1: Remove Everything Except Letters

=REGEXREPLACE(A1,"+","")

Method 2: Remove Everything Except Letters & Numbers

=REGEXREPLACE(A1, "[^a-zA-Z0-9]", "")

Method 3: Remove Specific Special Characters

=REGEXREPLACE(A1, "[^a-zA-Z0-9_]", "")

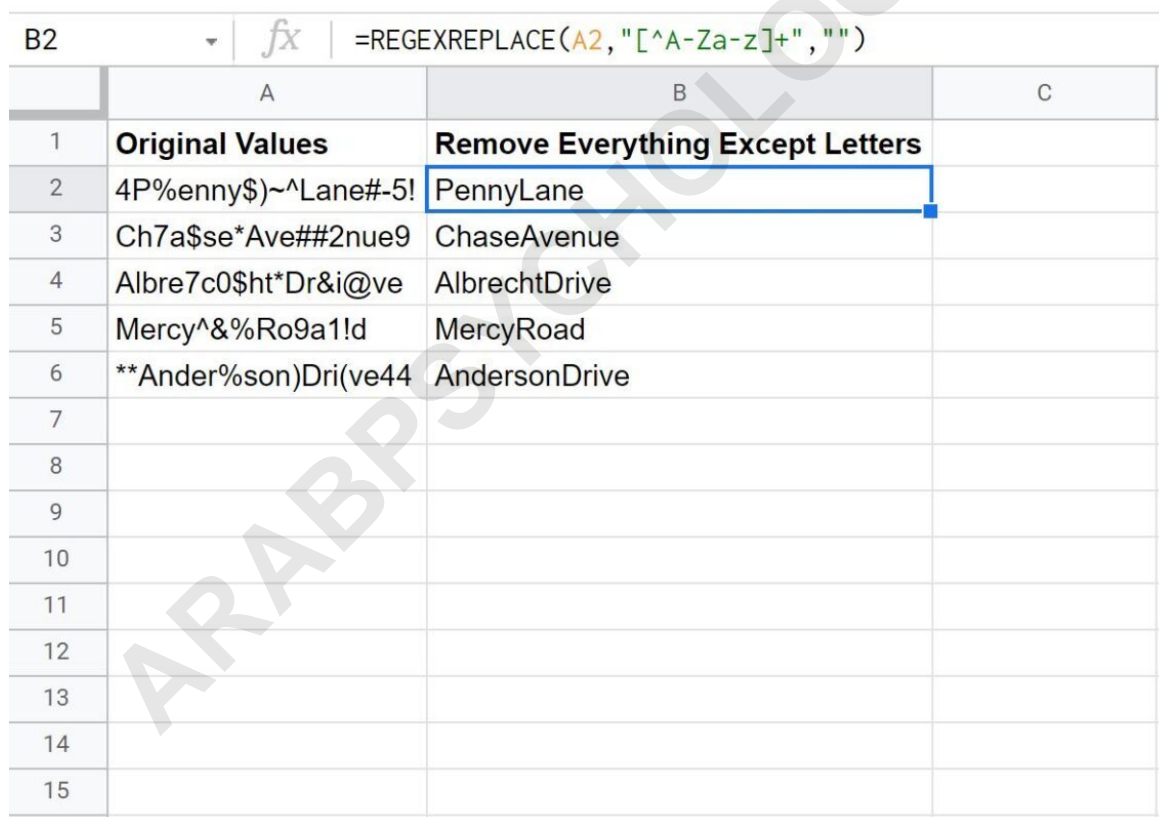
The following examples show how to use each formula in practice.

Example 1: Remove Everything Except Letters

We can use the following formula to remove everything except letters from a cell:

=REGEXREPLACE(A2,"+","")

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:



The screenshot shows a Google Sheet with the following data:

| | A | B | C |
|----|------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Original Values | Remove Everything Except Letters | |
| 2 | 4P%enny\$)~^Lane#-5! | PennyLane | |
| 3 | Ch7a\$se*Ave##2nue9 | ChaseAvenue | |
| 4 | Albre7c0\$ht*Dr&i@ve | AlbrechtDrive | |
| 5 | Mercy^&%Ro9a1!d | MercyRoad | |
| 6 | **Ander%son)Dri(ve44 | AndersonDrive | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | | | |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | |

Notice that every special character and number has been removed from the original values.

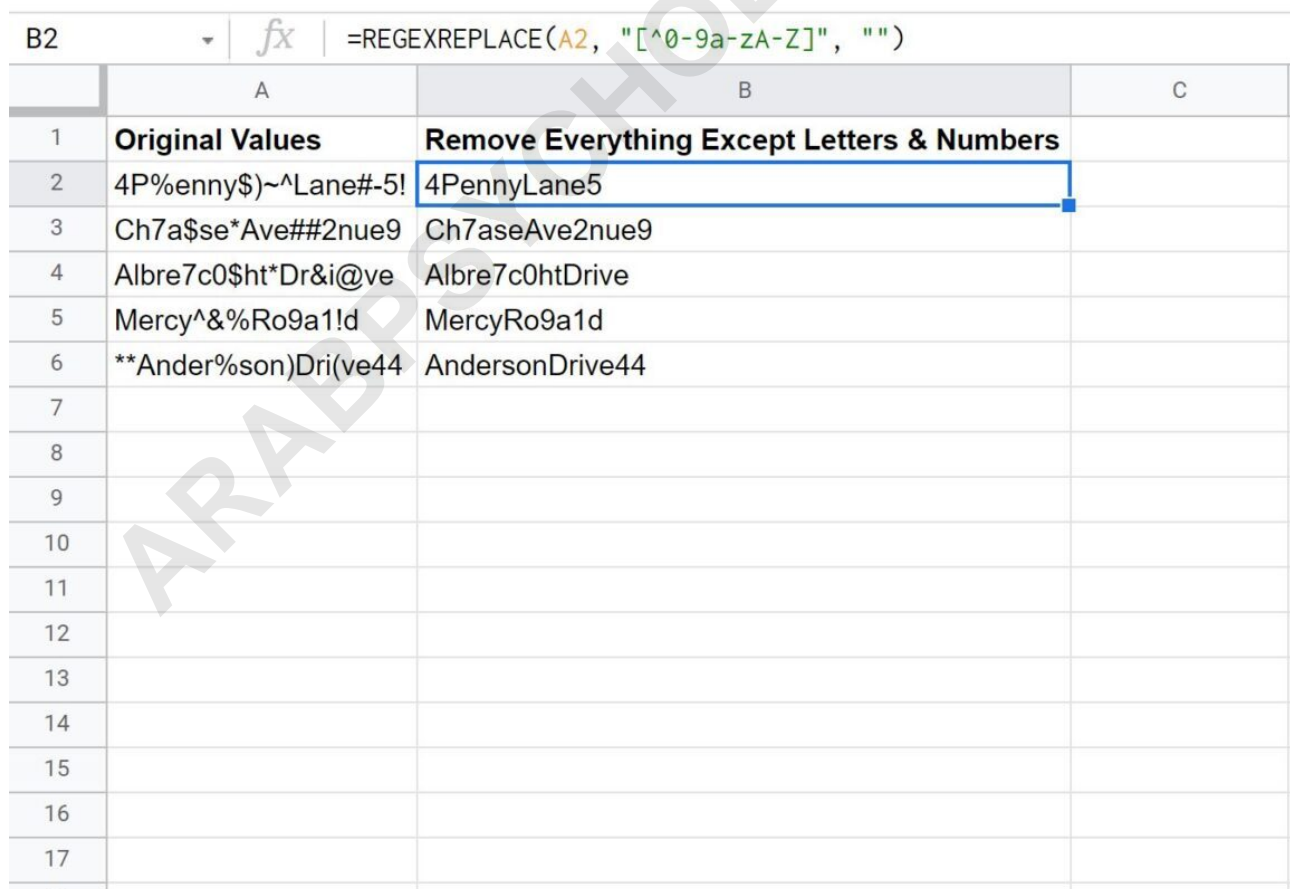
All that we're left with are the letters from each cell.

Example 2: Remove Everything Except Letters & Numbers

We can use the following formula to remove everything except letters and numbers from a cell:

=REGEXREPLACE(A2, "", "")

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:



The screenshot shows a Google Sheet with the following data:

| | A | B | C |
|----|------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Original Values | Remove Everything Except Letters & Numbers | |
| 2 | 4P%enny\$)~^Lane#-5! | 4PennyLane5 | |
| 3 | Ch7a\$se*Ave##2nue9 | Ch7aseAve2nue9 | |
| 4 | Albre7c0\$ht*Dr&i@ve | Albre7c0htDrive | |
| 5 | Mercy^&%Ro9a1!d | MercyRo9a1d | |
| 6 | **Ander%son)Dri(ve44 | AndersonDrive44 | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | | | |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | |

Notice that every special character has been removed from the original values.

All that we're left with are the letters and numbers from each cell.

Example 3: Remove Specific Special Characters

We can use the following formula to remove specific special characters from a cell:

```
=REGEXREPLACE(A2, "", "")
```

This particular formula removes the following special characters from a cell:

!\$%

Note that you can add as many specific special characters as you'd like between the brackets in the REGEXREPLACE() formula.

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

B2 *fx* =REGEXREPLACE(A2, "[!\$%]", "")

| | A | B | C |
|----|------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Original Values | Remove Everything Except Letters & Numbers | |
| 2 | 4P%enny\$)~^Lane#-5! | 4Penny)~^Lane#-5 | |
| 3 | Ch7a\$se*Ave##2nue9 | Ch7ase*Ave##2nue9 | |
| 4 | Albre7c0\$ht*Dr&i@ve | Albre7c0ht*Dr&i@ve | |
| 5 | Mercy^&%Ro9a1!d | Mercy^&Ro9a1d | |
| 6 | **Ander%son)Dri(ve44 | **Anderson)Dri(ve44 | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | | | |
| 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | |
| 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | |

Notice that every exclamation point (!), dollar sign (\$), and percentage sign (%) has been removed from the original cell.

All other values from the original cell are kept.

Additional Resources

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