

# How can I remove the last character from a string in R? Can you provide two examples?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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To remove the last character from a string in R, the function "substr" can be used. This function takes three arguments - the string, the starting position, and the number of characters to be removed. For example, if we have a string "Hello", using "substr("Hello", 1, 4)" will return "Hell", as it starts at the first character and removes 4 characters. Similarly, "substr("Hello", 1, nchar("Hello")-1)" will also remove the last character, regardless of the length of the string. Overall, the substr function is an efficient and versatile way to remove the last character from a string in R.

## Remove Last Character from String in R (2 Examples)

You can use the following methods to remove the last character from each string in a vector in R:

### Method 1: Remove Last Character Using Base R

```
substr(df$some_column, 1, nchar(df$some_column)-1)
```

### Method 2: Remove Last Character Using stringr Package

```
library(stringr)
```

```
str_sub(df$some_column, end = -2)
```

The following examples show how to use each method with the following data frame in R:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(name=c('Andy', 'Bert', 'Chad', 'Derrick'),
```

```
'Eric', 'Fred'),  
sales=c(18, 22, 19, 14, 14, 11))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
name sales
```

```
1 Andy 18
```

```
2 Bert 22
```

```
3 Chad 19
```

```
4 Derrick 14
```

```
5 Eric 14
```

```
6 Fred 11
```

**Example 1: Remove Last Character Using Base R**

The following code shows how to remove the last character from each string in the name column of the data frame:

```
#remove last character from each string in 'name'  
column
```

```
df$name = substr(df$name, 1, nchar(df$name)-1)
```

```
#view updated data frame
```

**df**

**name sales**

**1 And 18**

**2 Ber 22**

**3 Cha 19**

**4 Derric 14**

**5 Eri 14**

**6 Fre 11**

**Notice that the last character from each string in the name column has been removed.**

**Example 2: Remove Last Character Using stringr Package**

**The following code shows how to remove the last character from each string in the name column of the data frame by using the function from the stringr package:**

```
library(stringr)
```

```
#remove last character from each string in 'name' column
```

```
df$name <- str_sub(df$name, end = -2)
```

```
#view updated data frame  
df
```

```
name sales
```

```
1 And 18
```

```
2 Ber 22
```

```
3 Cha 19
```

```
4 Derric 14
```

```
5 Eri 14
```

```
6 Fre 11
```

Notice that the last character from each string in the name column has been removed.

Note that this method produces identical results to the previous method.

However, if you're working with an extremely large data frame then `str_sub()` is likely to be faster than the `substr()` function from base R.