

# How can I select columns by index using dplyr?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Dplyr is a popular R package used for data manipulation and analysis. One of its functions is to select columns from a data frame based on their index. This can be done by using the "select" function and specifying the column index numbers within the parentheses. This allows for efficient and precise column selection, making it a useful tool for data analysis and manipulation tasks.

## Select Columns by Index Using dplyr

You can use the following basic syntax in dplyr to select data frame columns by index position:

**#select columns in specific index positions**

```
df %>%
```

```
select(1, 4, 5)
```

**#exclude columns in specific index positions**

```
df %>%
```

```
select(-c(1,2))
```

The following examples show how to use this syntax in practice with the following data frame:

**#create data frame**

```
df <- data.frame(team=c('A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E'),
```

```
points=c(99, 90, 86, 88, 95),
```

```
assists=c(33, 28, 31, 39, 34),
```

```
rebounds=c(30, 28, 24, 24, 28),
```

```
blocks=c(14, 19, 22, 18, 15))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team points assists rebounds blocks
```

```
1 A 99 33 30 14
```

```
2 B 90 28 28 19
```

```
3 C 86 31 24 22
```

```
4 D 88 39 24 18
```

```
5 E 95 34 28 15
```

Example 1: Select Columns in Specific Index Positions

The following code shows how to select columns in specific index positions:

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#select columns in position 1, 4, and 5
```

```
df %>%
```

```
select(1, 4, 5)
```

```
team rebounds blocks
```

```
1 A 30 14
```

```
2 B 28 19
```

```
3 C 24 22
```

**4 D 24 18**

**5 E 28 15**

### Example 2: Select Columns in Range

The following code shows how to select columns in a range:

```
library(dplyr)
#select columns in position 2 through 4
df %>%
select(2:4)
```

**points assists rebounds**

**1 99 33 30**

**2 90 28 28**

**3 86 31 24**

**4 88 39 24**

**5 95 34 28**

### Example 3: Exclude Specific Columns

The following code shows how to exclude specific columns based on index position:

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#select all columns except those in position 1 and 2  
df %>%  
select(-c(1, 2))
```

assists rebounds blocks

1 33 30 14

2 28 28 19

3 31 24 22

4 39 24 18

5 34 28 15

Notice that the first and second column are excluded.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common functions in dplyr:

**[How to Select Columns by Name Using dplyr](#)**