

# How can I set column names while importing a CSV file in Pandas?”

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The process of setting column names while importing a CSV file in Pandas involves using the "names" parameter within the `read_csv()` function. This allows the user to specify the desired column names for the imported data. By providing a list of names, the columns in the CSV file will be labeled accordingly, making it easier to access and manipulate the data. This feature is useful for organizing and analyzing large datasets in a structured manner.

## **Pandas: Set Column Names when Importing CSV File**

**You can use the following basic syntax to set the column names of a DataFrame when importing a CSV file into pandas:**

**colnames =**

```
df = pd.read_csv('my_data.csv', names=colnames)
```

**The names argument takes a list of names that you'd like to use for the columns in the DataFrame.**

**By using this argument, you also tell pandas to use the first row in the CSV file as the first row in the DataFrame instead of using it as the header row.**

**The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.**

**Example: Set Column Names when Importing CSV File into Pandas**

**Suppose we have the following CSV file called `players_data.csv`:**

```
A,22,10  
B,14,9  
C,29,6  
D,30,2  
E,22,9  
F,31,10
```

**From the file we can see that the first row does not contain any column names.**

**If we import the CSV file using the `read_csv()` function, pandas will attempt to use the values in the first row as the column names for the DataFrame:**

```
import pandas as pd
```

```
#import CSV file
```

```
df = pd.read_csv('players_data.csv')
```

```
#view resulting DataFrame
```

```
print(df)
```

```
A 22 10
```

```
0 B 14 9
```

```
1 C 29 6
```

```
2 D 30 2
```

```
3 E 22 9
```

```
4 F 31 10
```

However, we can use the `names` argument to specify our own column names when importing the CSV file:

```
import pandas as pd
```

```
#specify column names
```

```
colnames =
```

```
#import CSV file and use specified column names
```

```
df = pd.read_csv('players_data.csv', names=colnames)
```

```
#view resulting DataFrame
```

```
print(df)
```

## team points rebounds

0 A 22 10

1 B 14 9

2 C 29 6

3 D 30 2

4 E 22 9

5 F 31 10

Notice that the first row in the CSV file is no longer used as the header row.

Instead, the column names that we specified using the names argument are now used as the column names.

**Note:** You can find the complete documentation for the pandas read\_csv() function .