

# How can I switch two columns in R, and what are some examples of doing so?

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April 20, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I switch two columns in R, and what are some examples of doing so?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=137403>

Switching two columns in R refers to the process of interchanging the positions of two columns within a data frame. This can be done using either the base R functions or specialized packages such as dplyr or tidyverse.

To switch two columns in R using the base functions, the "subset" function can be used. For example, if we have a data frame with columns A, B, and C, and we want to switch the positions of columns A and B, we can use the following code:

```
subset(df, select = c(B, A, C))
```

This will create a new data frame with the columns in the desired order.

Another way to switch columns in R is by using the "select" function from the dplyr package. For example, if we have the same data frame as before, we can use the following code to switch columns A and B:

```
select(df, B, A, C)
```

This will also create a new data frame with the desired column order.

Overall, switching two columns in R can be useful for organizing and manipulating data in a desired format. It can also be used for tasks such as reordering factors or rearranging data for visualization purposes.

## Switch Two Columns in R (With Examples)

**Occasionally you may want to switch the position of two columns in an R data frame. Fortunately this is easy to do using one of the two following bits of code:**

### Option 1: Use column syntax.

```
#define order of data frame columns
```

```
df <- df
```

## Option 2: Use row and column syntax.

**#define order of data frame columns**

**df <- df**

The following examples illustrate how to use these two bits of code in practice.

### Example 1: Switch Two Columns Using Column Syntax

The following code shows how to create a data frame with four columns and then switch the position of the first and third column:

**#create data frame**

**df <- data.frame(col1=c(1, 2, 6, 3, 6, 6),**

**col2=c(4, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2),**

**col3=c(7, 7, 8, 7, 3, 3),**

**col4=c(9, 9, 9, 5, 5, 3))**

**#view data frame**

**df**

**col1 col2 col3 col4**

**1 1 4 7 9**

**2 2 4 7 9**

```
3 6 5 8 9
```

```
4 3 4 7 5
```

```
5 6 3 3 5
```

```
6 6 2 3 3
```

```
#switch positions of first and third column
```

```
df <- df
```

```
#view new data frame
```

```
df
```

```
col3 col2 col1 col4
```

```
1 7 4 1 9
```

```
2 7 4 2 9
```

```
3 8 5 6 9
```

```
4 7 4 3 5
```

```
5 3 3 6 5
```

```
6 3 2 6 3
```

**Example 2: Switch Two Columns Using Row & Column Syntax**

**The following code shows how to create a data frame with four columns and then switch the position of the first and third column:**

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(col1=c(1, 2, 6, 3, 6, 6),  
col2=c(4, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2),  
col3=c(7, 7, 8, 7, 3, 3),  
col4=c(9, 9, 9, 5, 5, 3))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
col1 col2 col3 col4
```

```
1 1 4 7 9
```

```
2 2 4 7 9
```

```
3 6 5 8 9
```

```
4 3 4 7 5
```

```
5 6 3 3 5
```

```
6 6 2 3 3
```

```
#switch positions of first and third column
```

```
df <- df
```

```
#view new data frame
```

```
df
```

```
col3 col2 col1 col4
```

```
1 7 4 1 9
```

```
2 7 4 2 9
```

3 8 5 6 9

4 7 4 3 5

5 3 3 6 5

6 3 2 6 3

**Notice that both methods lead to the same results.**

**How to Sum Specific Columns in R**

**How to Average Across Columns in R**

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