# How can I use the as.Date() function in R?

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The as.Date() function in R is a powerful tool that allows users to convert character strings or other data types into date objects. This function takes in a variety of input formats, such as numeric values, character strings, or factors, and converts them into a standard date format. This can be useful for organizing and manipulating data based on dates. By specifying the desired date format, users can easily extract information such as day, month, and year from their data. Overall, the as.Date() function provides a convenient and efficient way to work with dates in R, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and management.

## Use as.Date() Function in R (With Examples)

## You can use the as.Date() function in R to quickly convert character objects to date objects.

## This function uses the following basic syntax:

## as.Date(x, format, tryFormats = c("%Y-%m-%d", "%Y/%m/%d")

## where:

## x: The name of the object to be converted to date.format: The format of the date string. If not specified, it will try one of the tryFormats.tryFormats: Formats to try.

## The following examples show how to use this function in different scenarios.

### Example 1: Use as.Date() with Recognizable Date Formats

**By default, the as.Date() function can easily convert character objects to date objects if the character objects are formatted in one of the following ways:**

**%Y-%m-%d%Y/%m/%d**

**The following code shows how to use the as.Date() function to convert a character object with a %Y-%m-%d format to a date object:**

```
#define character object in %Y-%m-%d format
x <- "2022-10-15"

#view class of x
class(x)

"character"

#convert character object to date object
my_date <- as.Date(x)

#view new date object
my_date

"2022-10-15"
```

```
#view class of my_date
class(my_date)

"Date"
```

We can see that the character object has been converted to a date object.

The following code shows how to use the as.Date() function to convert a character object with a %Y/%m/%d format to a date object:

```
#define character object in %Y/%m/%d format
x <- "2022/10/15"

#convert character object to date object
my_date <- as.Date(x)

#view class of my_date
class(my_date)

"Date"
```

We can see that the character object has been converted to a date object.

**For both of these examples, we didn't need to use the format argument in the as.Date() function because both date formats were recognized by R.**

### Example 2: Use as.Date() with Unrecognizable Date Formats

**For example, the following code shows how to use the as.Date() function to convert a character object with a %m/%d/%Y format to a date object:**

```
#define character object in %m/%d/%Y format
x <- "10/15/2022"

#convert character object to date object
my_date <- as.Date(x, format="%m/%d/%Y")

#view new date object
my_date

"2022-10-15"

#view class of my_date
class(my_date)

"Date"
```

**We can see that the character object has been**

**converted to a date object.**

**And the following code shows how to use the as.Date() function to convert a character object with a %m%d%Y format to a date object:**

```
#define character object in %m%d%Y format
x <- "10152022"

#convert character object to date object
my_date <- as.Date(x, format="%m%d%Y")

#view new date object
my_date

"2022-10-15"

#view class of my_date
class(my_date)

"Date"
```

**The character object has successfully been converted to a date object.**

### Additional Resources