

How can I use the `cat()` function in R to concatenate objects?

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June 29, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the `cat()` function in R to concatenate objects?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=157672>

The `cat()` function in R is a useful tool for concatenating objects, or combining them into a single string. This function takes multiple arguments and prints them together without any separation or formatting. By using the `cat()` function, users can easily combine different types of data, such as numbers, characters, and even other R objects, into a single string. This can be helpful in creating more concise and organized code, as well as for displaying data in a specific format. Overall, the `cat()` function is a valuable tool for manipulating and displaying data in R.

Use the cat() Function in R to Concatenate Objects

The `cat()` function in R can be used to concatenate together several objects in R.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
cat(..., file = "", sep = " ", append = FALSE)
```

where:

...: Objects to concatenate
file: File name to send output to
sep: Separator to use between objects
append: Whether to append output to existing file or create new file

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

Example 1: Use `cat()` to Concatenate Objects

We can use the `cat()` function to concatenate three

strings in R:

```
#concatenate three strings  
cat("hey", "there", "everyone")
```

hey there everyone

The three strings are concatenated together, with each string separated by a space.

Example 2: Use cat() to Concatenate Objects with Custom Separator

We can use the cat() function to concatenate three strings in R, using a dash as the separator:

```
#concatenate three strings, using dash as separator  
cat("hey", "there", "everyone", sep="-")
```

hey-there-everyone

Or we could use "n" as the separator, which species that each string should be separated by a new line:

```
#concatenate three strings, using new line as separator  
cat("hey", "there", "everyone", sep="n")
```

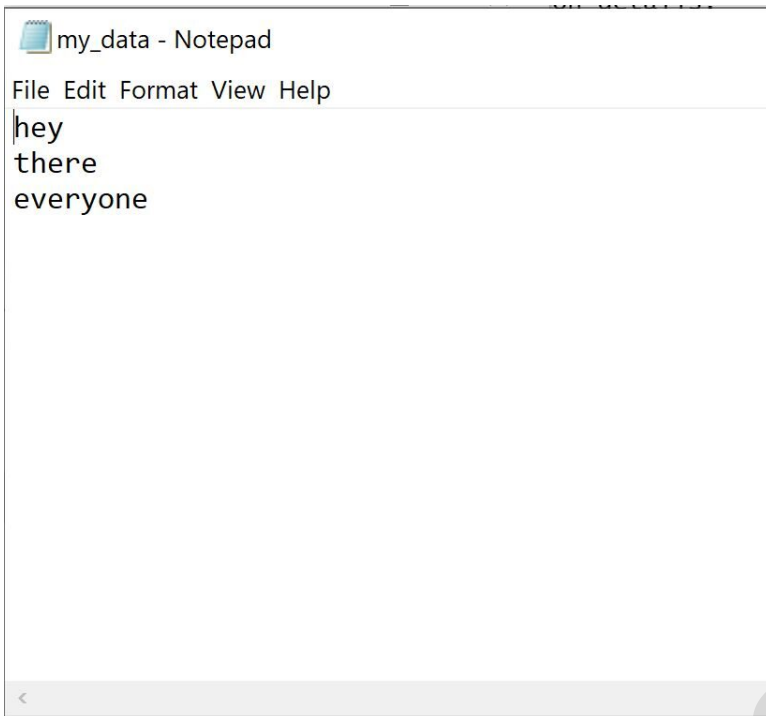
hey
there
everyone

Example 3: Use cat() to Concatenate Objects and Output Results to File

We can use the cat() function to concatenate three strings in R and output the results to a text file:

```
#concatenate three strings and output results to txt file  
cat("hey", "there", "everyone", sep="n",  
file="my_data.txt")
```

I can then navigate to my and view the contents of this text file:



```
my_data - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
hey
there
everyone
```

We could also output the results to a CSV file:

#concatenate three strings and output results to CSV file

```
cat("hey", "there", "everyone", sep="n",  
file="my_data.csv")
```

I can then navigate to my and view the contents of this text file:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	hey					
2	there					
3	everyone					
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

Example 4: Use cat() to Concatenate Objects and Append Results to File

We can use the `cat()` function to concatenate three strings in R and append the results to an existing CSV file:

#concatenate three strings and output results to CSV file

```
cat("hey", "there", "everyone", sep="\n",  
file="my_data.csv")
```

#append results of this concatenation to first file

```
cat("how", "are", "you", sep="\n", file="my_data.csv",  
append=TRUE)
```

I can then navigate to my and view the contents of this CSV file:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	hey					
2	there					
3	everyone					
4	how					
5	are					
6	you					
7						
8						
9						
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19						

Notice that the results of the second cat() function have been appended to the file created by the first cat() function.

Additional Resources