

How can I use the DATEDIF function in Google Sheets?

Authored by
stats writer

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The DATEDIF function in Google Sheets is a useful tool for calculating the difference between two dates in a variety of units, such as days, months, or years. To use this function, simply input the start date, end date, and desired unit into the function syntax. The result will be displayed in the selected unit, providing a quick and efficient way to track time intervals in a spreadsheet. This function can be particularly helpful for budgeting, project management, and other time-sensitive tasks.

DATEDIF

Calculates the number of days, months, or years between two dates.

Sample Usage

```
DATEDIF( DATE(1969, 7, 16), DATE(1969, 7, 24), "D" )
```

```
DATEDIF( A1, A2, "YM" )
```

```
DATEDIF( "7/16/1969", "7/24/1969", "Y" )
```

Syntax

```
DATEDIF( start_date, end_date, unit )
```

start_date - The start date to consider in the calculation. Must be a reference to a cell containing a `DATE`, a function returning a `DATE` type, or a number.

end_date - The end date to consider in the calculation. Must be a reference to a cell containing a `DATE`, a function returning a `DATE` type, or a number.

unit - A text abbreviation for unit of time. For example, "M" for month. Accepted values are "Y", "M", "D", "MD", "YM", "YD".

"Y": the number of whole years between **start_date** and **end_date**.

"M": the number of whole months between **start_date** and **end_date**.

"D": the number of days between **start_date** and **end_date**.

"MD": the number of days between **start_date** and **end_date** after subtracting whole months.

"YM": the number of whole months between **start_date** and **end_date** after subtracting whole years.

"YD": the number of days between `start_date` and `end_date`, assuming `start_date` and `end_date` were no more than one year apart.

Notes

Months and years are only counted if they are equal to or go past the "day." For example, the function returns "4 months" between the dates 9/30/15 and 2/28/16 (even though the 28th is the last day of the month).

If `DATEDIF` produces a result in an unexpected format, ensure that no pre-existing format has been applied to the cell. For example, if `DATEDIF(DATE(1969,7,16),DATE(1969,7,24),"D")` returns `1/4/1900`, the `Date` format has been applied to the cell. Change the format of the cell to `Number` in order to view the expected result of `8`.

Use `unit "MD"` to answer questions such as, "After subtracting whole years and whole months from my age, how many days old am I?"

Use `unit "YM"` to answer questions such as, "After subtracting whole years from my age, how many whole months old am I?"

Use `unit "YD"` to answer questions such as, "How many days has it been since my last birthday, given my birthdate and today's date?"

See Also

`DATE`: Converts a year, month, and day into a date.

`DATEVALUE`: Converts a provided date string in a known format to a date value.

Examples

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Note: Each example is in its own tab.

Number of days

In this example, `DATEDIF` returns the number of days in the Apollo 11 mission.

Months

In this example, `DATEDIF` returns the number of months in one year.

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