

# How can I use the `get()` function in R to retrieve named objects?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the `get()` function in R to retrieve named objects?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=158853>

The "get()" function in R is used to retrieve named objects from the workspace or a specific environment. It allows for easy access to objects that have been assigned a specific name, without having to type out the entire object name. This function is useful for quickly retrieving and manipulating data or variables within a larger R project. By specifying the name of the desired object within the parentheses of the "get()" function, the object will be returned and can be used for further analysis or manipulation. This simplifies the process of accessing and working with specific objects, making it a valuable tool for efficient data management in R.

## Use the get() Function in R to Retrieve Named Objects

You can use the get() function in R to retrieve named objects.

Here are the three most common get() functions in R:

### 1. get() - Retrieve one object

```
get("my_object")
```

### 2. get0() - Retrieve one object, using custom error message if not found

```
get0("my_object", ifnotfound="does not exist")
```

### 3. mget() - Retrieve multiple objects

```
mget(c("my_object1", "my_object2", "my_object3"))
```

**The following examples show how to use each function in practice.**

#### **Example 1: Use get() to Retrieve One Object**

**The following code shows how to use the get() function to retrieve one name object:**

```
#define vector of values  
data1 <- c(4, 5, 5, 6, 13, 18, 19, 15, 12)  
  
#get vector of values  
get("data1")  
  
4 5 5 6 13 18 19 15 12
```

**If the named object does not exist, this function returns an error:**

```
#define vector of values  
data1 <- c(4, 5, 5, 6, 13, 18, 19, 15, 12)  
  
#attempt to get vector of values  
get("data0")
```

**Error in get("data0") : object 'data0' not found**

### Example 2: Use get0() to Retrieve Object, Using Custom Error Message

We can also use the get0() function to retrieve a named object in R and use a custom error message if the object is not found:

```
#define vector of values
```

```
data1 <- c(4, 5, 5, 6, 13, 18, 19, 15, 12)
```

```
#attempt to get vector of values
```

```
get0("data0", ifnotfound="does not exist")
```

```
"does not exist"
```

### Example 3: Use mget() to Retrieve Multiple Objects

We can use the mget() function to retrieve multiple named objects in R:

```
#define three vectors
```

```
data1 <- c(4, 5, 5, 6, 13, 18, 19, 15, 12)
```

```
data2 <- c("A", "B", "C", "D")
```

```
data3 <- c(10, 20, 25, 30, 35)
```

```
#get all three vectors
```

```
mget(c("data1", "data2", "data3"))
```

```
$data1
```

```
4 5 5 6 13 18 19 15 12
```

```
$data2
```

```
"A" "B" "C" "D"
```

```
$data3
```

```
10 20 25 30 35
```

Note that if we just tried to use the get() function, only the first named object would be returned:

```
#define three vectors
```

```
data1 <- c(4, 5, 5, 6, 13, 18, 19, 15, 12)
```

```
data2 <- c("A", "B", "C", "D")
```

```
data3 <- c(10, 20, 25, 30, 35)
```

```
#attempt to get all three vectors
```

```
mget(c("data1", "data2", "data3"))
```

```
4 5 5 6 13 18 19 15 12
```

**Additional Resources**