

How can I use the `str_replace` function in R? Can you provide some examples?

Authored by
stats writer

April 25, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the `str_replace` function in R? Can you provide some examples?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=139117>

Use str_replace in R (With Examples)

The `str_replace()` function from the package in R can be used to replace matched patterns in a string. This function uses the following syntax:

```
str_replace(string, pattern, replacement)
```

where:

string: Character vector
pattern: Pattern to look for
replacement: A character vector of replacements

This tutorial provides several examples of how to use this function in practice on the following data frame:

```
#create data frame  
df <- data.frame(team=c('team_A', 'team_B', 'team_C',  
'team_D'),  
conference=c('West', 'West', 'East', 'East'),  
points=c(88, 97, 94, 104))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team conference points
```

```
1 team_A West 88
2 team_B West 97
3 team_C East 94
4 team_D East 104
```

Example 1: Replace String with Pattern

The following code shows how to replace the string "West" with "Western" in the conference column:

```
library(stringr)

#replace "West" with "Western" in the conference
column
df$conference <- str_replace(df$conference, "West",
"Western")

#view data frame
df
  team conference points
1 team_A Western 88
2 team_B Western 97
3 team_C East 94
4 team_D East 104
```

Example 2: Replace String with Nothing

The following code shows how to replace the string "team_" with nothing in the team column:

```
#replace "team_" with nothing in the team column  
df$team<- str_replace(df$team, "team_", "")
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team conference points
```

```
1 A West 88
```

```
2 B West 97
```

```
3 C East 94
```

```
4 D East 104
```

Example 3: Replace Multiple Strings

The following code shows how to replace multiple strings in a single column. Specifically:

Replace "West" with "W" Replace "East" with "E"

Since we're replacing multiple strings, we use the `str_replace_all()` function:

```
#replace multiple words in the conference column
```

```
df$conference <- str_replace_all(df$conference,  
c("West" = "W", "East" = "E"))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team conference points
```

```
1 team_A W 88
```

```
2 team_B W 97
```

```
3 team_C E 94
```

```
4 team_D E 104
```

How to Perform Partial String Matching in R