

How can I use the TOCOL function in Google Sheets?

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The TOCOL function is a useful tool in Google Sheets that allows users to convert a reference to a specific column into its corresponding column number. This function can be used to simplify data manipulation and analysis, as it eliminates the need for manually counting and inputting column numbers. To use the TOCOL function, simply enter the reference of the desired column as the input and the function will return the corresponding column number. This can greatly enhance the efficiency and accuracy of data management in Google Sheets.

TOCOL function

This function transforms an array or range of cells into a single column. TOCOL can scan values:

By column, top to bottom
By row, left to right

The `scan_by_column` argument is a boolean value that controls how TOCOL reads values from the source array.

Sample Usage

`TOCOL(A1:C3)`: A TOCOL function that keeps all values and scans by row.

`TOCOL(A1:C3, 1, TRUE)`: A TOCOL function that ignores blanks and scans by column.

Syntax

`TOCOL(array_or_range, ,)`

`array_or_range`: The array or range of cells to return as a column.: By default, no values are ignored. Specify one of these values:

0: Keep all values
1: Ignore blanks
2: Ignore errors
3: Ignore blanks and errors: The boolean value of `scan_by_column` determines how the array is scanned. By default, the TOCOL function scans the array by row.

True: Scans the array by column
False: Scans the array by row

Examples

Use simple data transformation operation with TOCOL

Example data:

	A	B	C
1	Ben	Peter	Mary
2	John	Hillary	Jenny
3	Agnes	Harry	Felicity

Example: Input this formula in E1: `=TOCOL(A1:C3)`

Result:

	E
1	Ben
2	Peter
3	Mary
4	John
5	Hillary
6	Jenny
7	Agnes
8	Harry
9	Felicity

Make a Copy

Ignore blanks with TOCOL

Example data:

	A	B	C
1	Ben	Peter	Mary
2	John		Jenny
3	Agnes	Harry	Felicity

Example: Input this formula in E1: `=TOCOL(A1:C3, 1)`

Result:

	E
1	Ben
2	Peter
3	Mary
4	John
5	Jenny
6	Agnes
7	Harry
8	Felicity

Make a Copy

Scan by column with TOCOL

Example data:

	A	B	C
1	Ben	Peter	Mary
2	John	Hillary	Jenny
3	Agnes	Harry	Felicity

Example: Input this formula in E1: `=TOCOL(A1:C3, 0, TRUE)`

Result:

	E
1	Ben
2	John
3	Agnes
4	Peter
5	Hillary
6	Harry
7	Mary

	E
8	Jenny
9	Felicity

Make a Copy

Related functions

TOROW function: This function transforms an array or range of cells into a single row.

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