

# How can I use the VARA function in Google Sheets?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The VARA function in Google Sheets is a statistical tool that calculates the variance of a given set of numerical data. This function can be used to measure the spread or variability of data points around the mean. To use the VARA function, simply enter the data range or cell references as the argument and the function will return the variance value. It is a useful tool for analyzing and interpreting data in various fields such as finance, economics, and science. By utilizing the VARA function, users can gain valuable insights and make informed decisions based on the variability of their data.

## VARA

Calculates the variance based on a sample, setting text to the value `0`.

### Sample Usage

```
VARA(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10)
```

```
VARA(A2:A100)
```

### Syntax

```
VARA(value1, )
```

`value1` - The first value or range of the sample.

`value2, ...` - Additional values or ranges to include in the sample.

### Notes

Although VARA is specified as taking a maximum of 30 arguments, Google Sheets supports an arbitrary number of arguments for this function.

If the total number of values supplied as `value` arguments is not at least two, VARA will return the #DIV/0! error.

VARA sets each text value encountered to 0 for the purpose of calculation. To return an error upon encountering text, use VAR.

VARA calculates variance for a sample. To calculate variance across an entire population, use VARPA.

VARA takes the sum of the squares of each value's deviation from the mean and divides by the number of such values minus one. This differs from the calculation of variance across an entire

population in that the latter divides by the size of the dataset without subtracting one.

## See Also

**VARPA**: Calculates the variance based on an entire population, setting text to the value `0`.

**VARP**: Calculates the variance based on an entire population.

**VAR**: Calculates the variance based on a sample.

**STDEVPA**: Calculates the standard deviation based on an entire population, setting text to the value `0`.

**STDEVP**: Calculates the standard deviation based on an entire population.

**STDEVA**: Calculates the standard deviation based on a sample, setting text to the value `0`.

**STDEV**: The STDEV function calculates the standard deviation based on a sample.

**SKEW**: Calculates the skewness of a dataset, which describes the symmetry of that dataset about the mean.

**KURT**: Calculates the kurtosis of a dataset, which describes the shape, and in particular the "peakedness" of that dataset.

**DVARP**: Returns the variance of an entire population selected from a database table-like array or range using a SQL-like query.

**DVAR**: Returns the variance of a population sample selected from a database table-like array or range using a SQL-like query.

**DSTDEVP**: Returns the standard deviation of an entire population selected from a database table-like array or range using a SQL-like query.

**DSTDEV**: Returns the standard deviation of a population sample selected from a database table-like array or range using a SQL-like query.

**DEVSQ**: Calculates the sum of squares of deviations based on a sample.

**AVEDEV**: Calculates the average of the magnitudes of deviations of data from a dataset's mean.

## Examples