

How can the Unite function be used in R with examples?

Authored by
stats writer

May 1, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can the Unite function be used in R with examples?*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=141655>

The Unite function in R is a powerful tool that allows users to combine multiple columns of data into a single column. This function is particularly useful when working with large datasets or when merging data from different sources. To use the Unite function, simply specify the columns to be united, the separator to be used, and the name of the new column. For example, if we have two columns "First Name" and "Last Name" in a dataset, we can use the Unite function to create a new column "Full Name" by combining the two columns with a space as the separator. This function can also be used to merge columns with different data types, such as combining a text column with a numerical column. Additionally, the Unite function can be used to create a new identifier column by combining multiple columns that uniquely identify each observation. Overall, the Unite function provides a versatile and efficient way to manipulate data in R.

Use the Unite Function in R (With Examples)

The `unite()` function from the package can be used to unite multiple data frame columns into a single column.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
unite(data, col, into, sep)
```

where:

data: Name of the data frame
col: Name of the new united column...
: Vector of names for the columns to unite
sep: How to join the data in the new united column

The following examples show how to use this function in practice.

Example 1: Unite Two Columns into One Column

Suppose we have the following data frame in R:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(player=c('A', 'A', 'B', 'B', 'C', 'C'),  
year=c(1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2),  
points=c(22, 29, 18, 11, 12, 19),  
assists=c(2, 3, 6, 8, 5, 2))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
player year points assists
```

```
1 A 1 22 2
```

```
2 A 2 29 3
```

```
3 B 1 18 6
```

```
4 B 2 11 8
```

```
5 C 1 12 5
```

```
6 C 2 19 2
```

We can use the `unite()` function to unite the "points" and "assists" columns into a single column:

```
library(tidyr)
```

```
#unite points and assists columns into single column  
unite(df, col='points-assists', c('points', 'assists'), sep='-'  
)
```

```
player year points-assists
```

```
1 A 1 22-2
```

```
2 A 2 29-3
```

```
3 B 1 18-6
```

```
4 B 2 11-8
```

```
5 C 1 12-5
```

```
6 C 2 19-2
```

Example 2: Unite More Than Two Columns

Suppose we have the following data frame in R:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df2 <- data.frame(player=c('A', 'A', 'B', 'B', 'C', 'C'),
```

```
year=c(1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2),
```

```
points=c(22, 29, 18, 11, 12, 19),
```

```
assists=c(2, 3, 6, 8, 5, 2),
```

```
blocks=c(2, 3, 3, 2, 1, 0))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df2
```

player year points assists blocks

```
1 A 1 22 2 2
2 A 2 29 3 3
3 B 1 18 6 3
4 B 2 11 8 2
5 C 1 12 5 1
6 C 2 19 2 0
```

We can use the `unite()` function to unite the points, assists, and blocks column into a single column:

```
library(tidyr)
```

```
#unite points, assists, and blocks column into single column
```

```
unite(df2, col='stats', c('points', 'assists', 'blocks'), sep='/')
```

player year stats

```
1 A 1 22/2/2
2 A 2 29/3/3
3 B 1 18/6/3
4 B 2 11/8/2
5 C 1 12/5/1
6 C 2 19/2/0
```

Every column is a variable. Every row is an observation. Every cell is a single value.

The tidyr package uses four core functions to create tidy data:

- 1. The function.**
- 2. The function.**
- 3. The function.**
- 4. The unite() function.**

If you can master these four functions, you will be able to create "tidy" data from any data frame.