

How can we concatenate strings in R, and what are some examples of doing so?

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Concatenating strings in R refers to the process of combining multiple strings into one single string. This can be achieved using the "paste" function in R, which takes in multiple string arguments and returns a single string with the given strings concatenated together. For example, if we have the strings "Hello" and "World", using the "paste" function as `paste("Hello", "World")` would return the string "HelloWorld". Another way to concatenate strings in R is by using the "c" function, which combines strings into a character vector. For instance, `c("Hello", "World")` would return the character vector "Hello" "World". Concatenating strings is useful when working with text data and allows for creating longer, more meaningful strings for analysis or output purposes.

Concatenate Strings in R (With Examples)

You can use the `paste()` function in R to quickly concatenate multiple strings together:

```
paste(string1, string2, string3 , sep = " ")
```

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

Example 1: Concatenate String Vectors

Suppose we have the following strings in R:

```
#create three string variables
```

```
a <- "hey"
```

```
b <- "there"
```

```
c <- "friend"
```

We can use the `paste()` function to quickly concatenate

these three strings into one string:

```
#concatenate the three strings into one string
```

```
d <- paste(a, b, c)
```

```
#view result
```

```
d
```

```
"hey there friend"
```

The three strings have been concatenated into one string, separated by spaces.

We can also use a different value for the separator by supplying a different value to the sep argument:

```
#concatenate the three strings into one string,  
separated by dashes
```

```
d <- paste(a, b, c, sep = "-")
```

```
"hey-there-friend"
```

Example 2: Concatenate String Columns in Data Frame

Suppose we have the following data frame in R:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(first=c('Andy', 'Bob', 'Carl', 'Doug'),  
last=c('Smith', 'Miller', 'Johnson', 'Rogers'),  
points=c(99, 90, 86, 88))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
first last points
```

```
1 Andy Smith 99
```

```
2 Bob Miller 90
```

```
3 Carl Johnson 86
```

```
4 Doug Rogers 88
```

We can use the `paste()` function to concatenate the "first" and "last" columns into a new column called "name":

```
#concatenate 'first' and 'last' name columns into one  
column
```

```
df$name = paste(df$first, df$last)
```

```
#view updated data frame
```

```
df
```

first last points name

1 Andy Smith 99 Andy Smith

2 Bob Miller 90 Bob Miller

3 Carl Johnson 86 Carl Johnson

4 Doug Rogers 88 Doug Rogers

Notice that the strings in the "first" and "last" columns have been concatenated in the "name" column.

Additional Resources

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