

# “How can we use the `pivot_wider()` function in R to reshape our data and make it wider?”

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The `pivot_wider()` function in R allows us to reshape our data and make it wider by pivoting the data from a longer format to a wider format. This function helps to rearrange data by converting rows into columns, making it easier to analyze and visualize data in a more organized manner. By specifying the appropriate columns and values, the `pivot_wider()` function can efficiently create a new data frame with wider dimensions, allowing for easier comparison and manipulation of data. This function is a useful tool in data analysis and can greatly improve the efficiency of data management and presentation.

## Use `pivot_wider()` in R

The `pivot_wider()` function from the package in R can be used to pivot a data frame from a long format to a wide format.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
library(tidyr)
```

```
df %>% pivot_wider(names_from = var1, values_from = var2)
```

where:

**names\_from:** The column whose values will be used as column names  
**values\_from:** The column whose values will be used as cell values

The following example shows how to use this function

**in practice.**

**Related:**

**Example: Use pivot\_wider() in R**

**Suppose we have the following data frame in R that contains information about various basketball players:**

**#create data frame**

```
df <- data.frame(player=rep(c('A', 'B'), each=4),  
year=rep(c(1, 1, 2, 2), times=2),  
stat=rep(c('points', 'assists'), times=4),  
amount=c(14, 6, 18, 7, 22, 9, 38, 4))
```

**#view data frame**

**df**

**player year stat amount**

**1 A 1 points 14**

**2 A 1 assists 6**

**3 A 2 points 18**

**4 A 2 assists 7**

**5 B 1 points 22**

**6 B 1 assists 9**

**7 B 2 points 38**

## 8 B 2 assists 4

We can use the pivot\_wider() function to pivot this data frame into a wide format:

```
library(tidyr)
```

```
#pivot the data frame into a wide format
```

```
df %>% pivot_wider(names_from = stat, values_from = amount)
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 4
```

```
player year points assists
```

```
1 A 1 14 6
```

```
2 A 2 18 7
```

```
3 B 1 22 9
```

```
4 B 2 38 4
```

Notice that the values from the stat column are now used as column names and the values from the amount column are used as cell values in these new columns.

The final result is a wide data frame.

**Note: You can find the complete documentation for the pivot\_wider() function .**

### **Additional Resources**

**The following tutorials explain how to use other common functions in the tidyr package in R:**

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