

# How do I add error bars to charts in Google Sheets?

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May 5, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I add error bars to charts in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=143168>

To add error bars to charts in Google Sheets, follow these steps:

1. Select the data in your spreadsheet that you want to include in your chart.
2. Click on the "Insert" tab at the top of the page and select "Chart" from the drop-down menu.
3. In the chart editor, select the chart type you want to use (bar, line, pie, etc.) and customize the appearance of your chart as desired.
4. Once your chart is created, click on the chart to select it. Then, click on the "Customize" tab in the chart editor.
5. In the "Customize" tab, click on the "Series" option on the left sidebar.
6. Under "Series," click on the drop-down menu next to "Error bars" and select the type of error bars you want to add (standard deviation, standard error, percentage, etc.).
7. Adjust the error bar settings, such as the value, direction, and cap style, to your preference.
8. Click "Apply" to add the error bars to your chart.
9. You can further customize the error bars by clicking on them and using the handles to adjust their length and position on the chart.
10. Once you are satisfied with your chart, click on the "Update" button in the top right corner of the chart editor to save your changes.

In summary, adding error bars to charts in Google Sheets is a simple process that can help you display the variability or uncertainty of your data. By following these steps, you can easily create a more informative and visually appealing chart in your spreadsheet.

## Add Error Bars to Charts in Google Sheets

**Often you may be interested in adding error bars to charts in Google Sheets to capture uncertainty around measurements or calculated values.**

**Fortunately this is easy to do using built-in Google**

## Sheets graphing functions.

The following step-by-step example shows how to add error bars to a column chart in Google Sheets.

### Step 1: Enter the Data

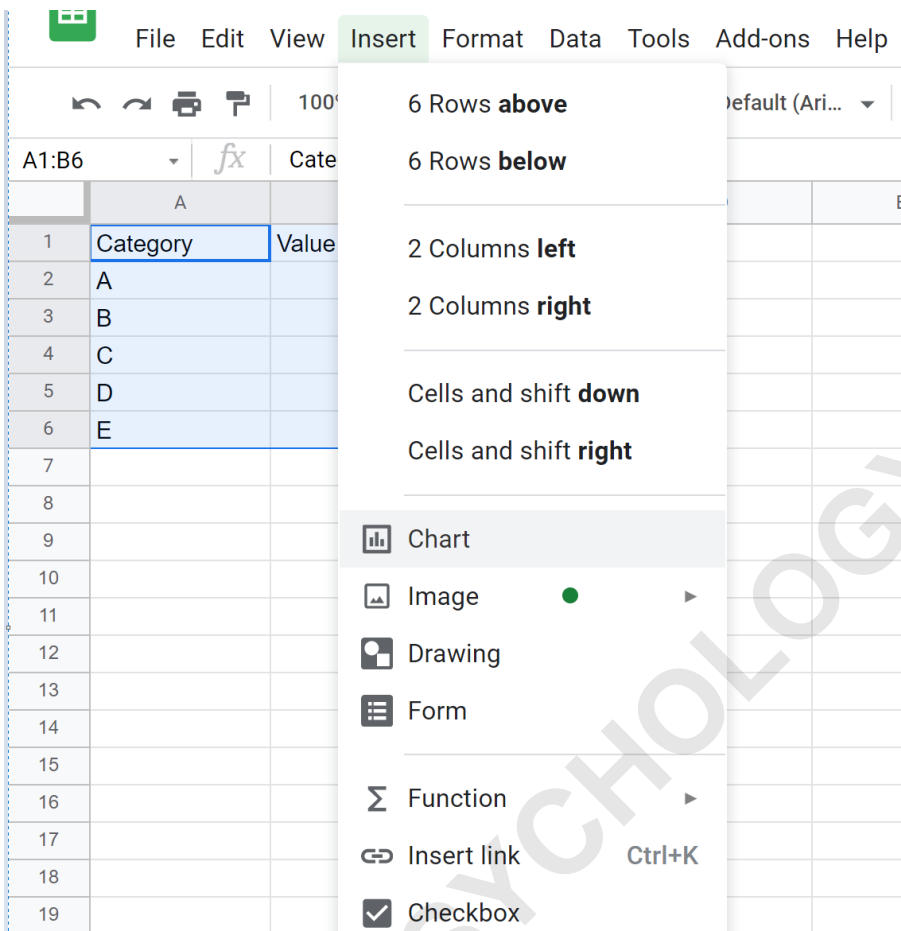
First, let's enter the values for some data in Google Sheets:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Category	Value			
2	A	9			
3	B	18			
4	C	30			
5	D	19			
6	E	14			
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
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16					
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18					
19					
20					
21					
22					

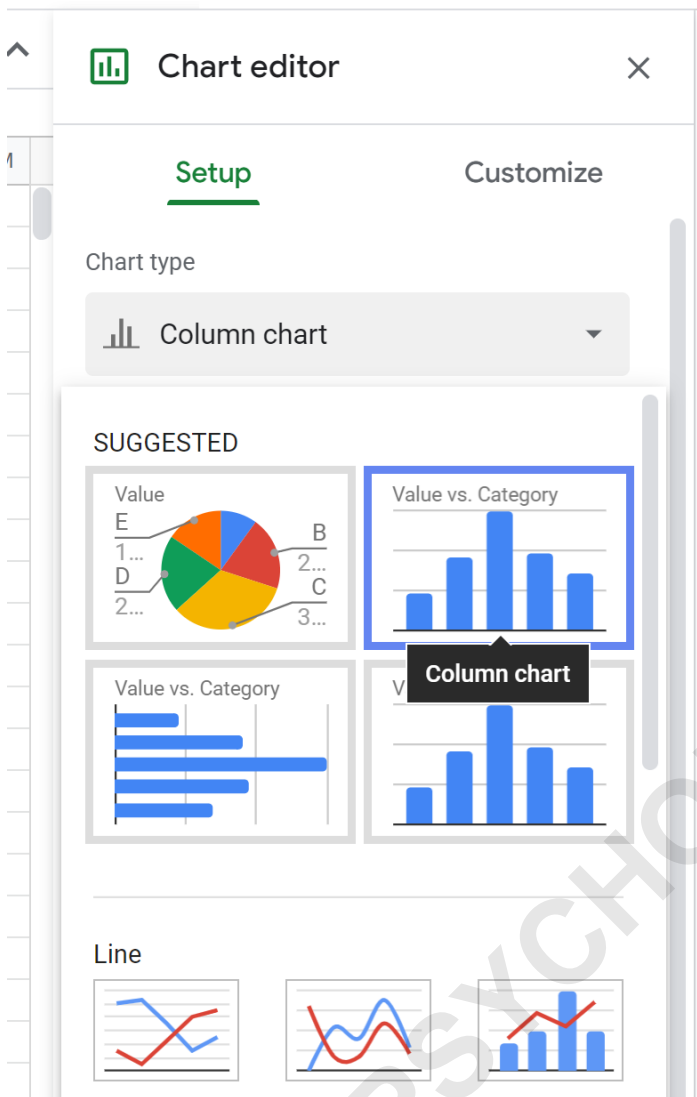
### Step 2: Create a Column Chart

Next, let's insert a column chart. Highlight cells A1:B6,

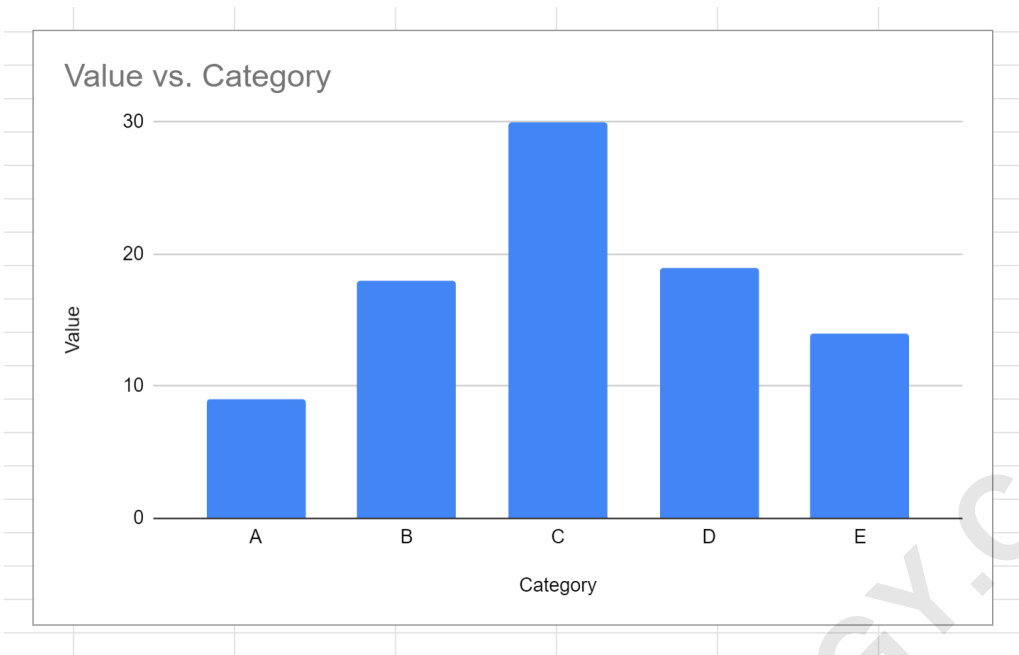
then click the **Insert** tab and click **Chart**:



In the **Chart** editor window on the right side of the screen, click **Chart type** and then click **Column chart**:

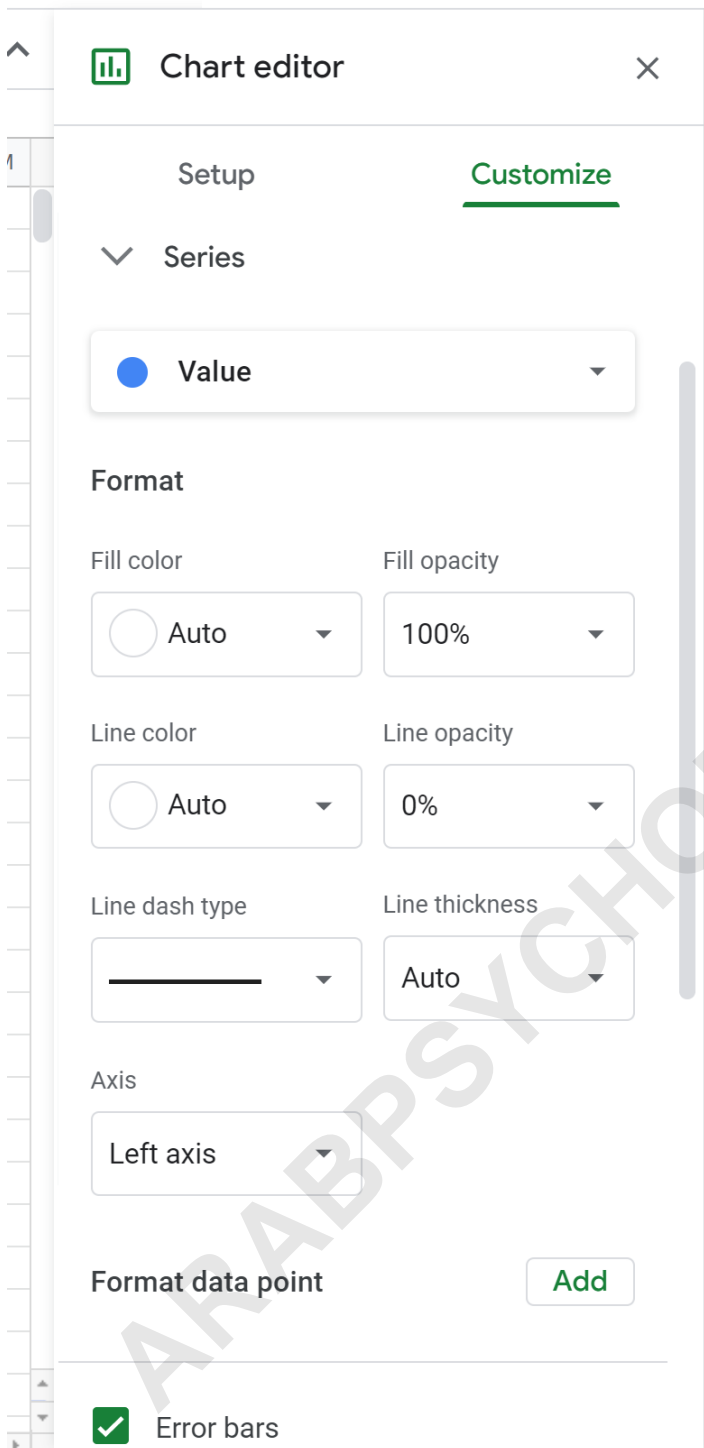


**The following column chart will appear:**

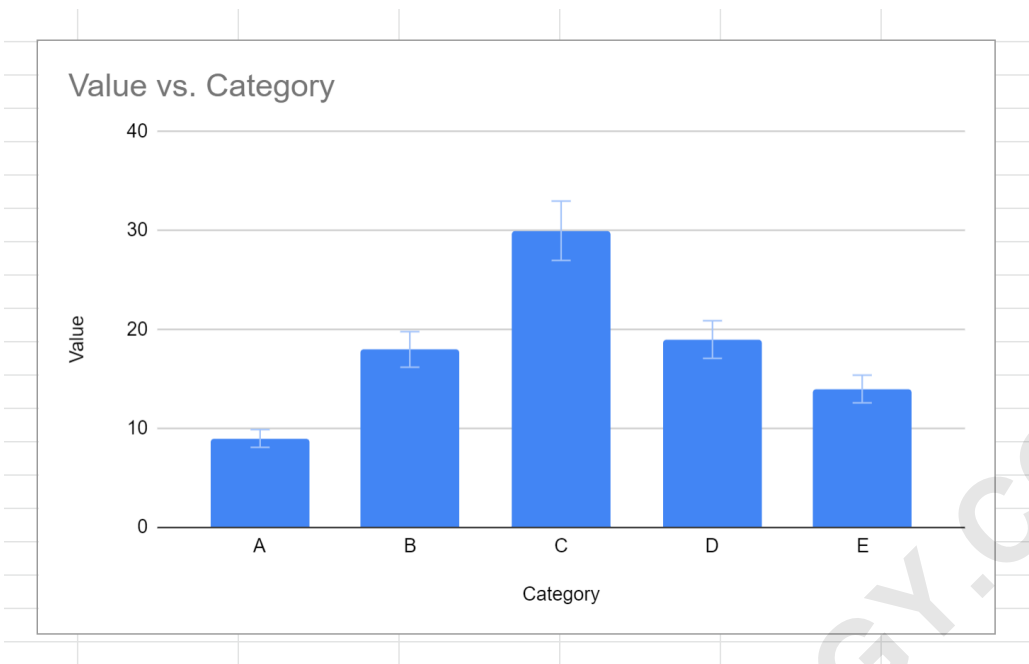


### Step 3: Insert Error Bars

To insert error bars, click the **Customize** tab on the **Chart editor** window. Scroll down and click **Series**, then check the box next to **Error bars**:



**By default, error bars that are 10% of the size of each column will be shown in the chart:**

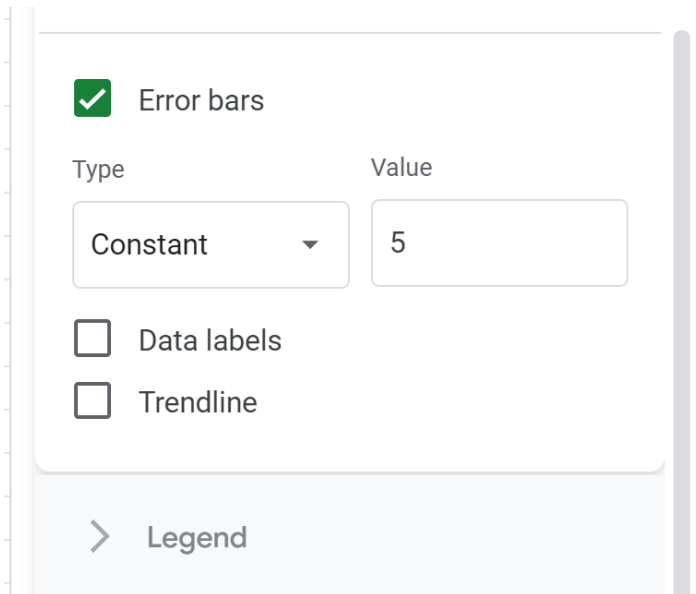


#### Step 4: Customize Error Bars

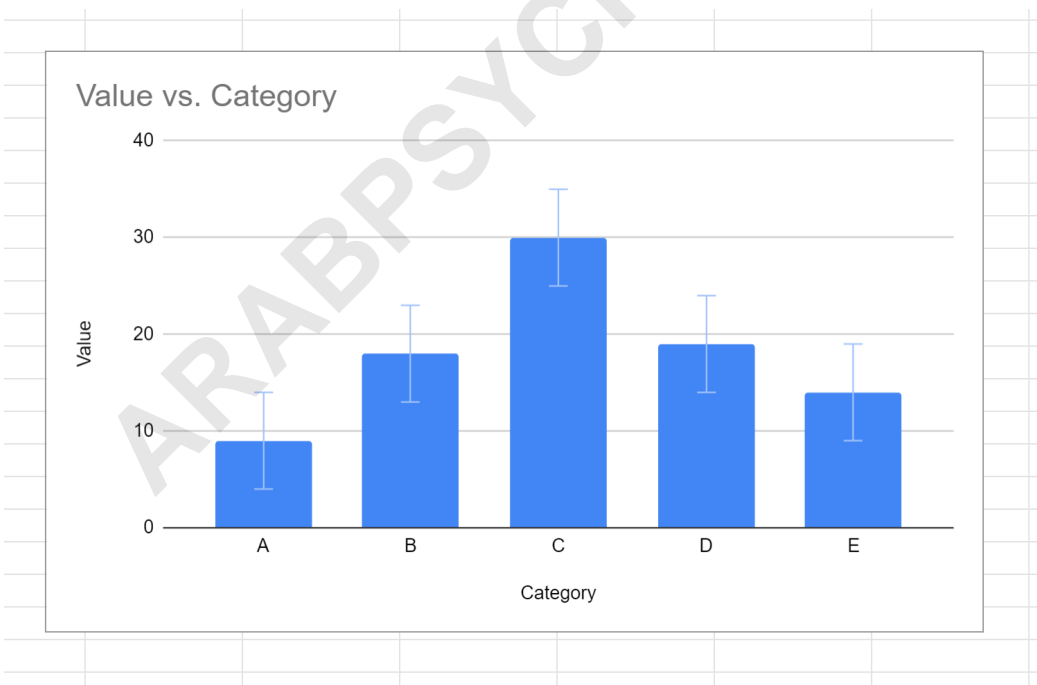
There are three types of error bars you can use in column charts in Google Sheets:

Percent (default) Constant Standard Deviation

For example, we may choose to display a constant error bar with a length of 5 for each column:



**An error bar with a length of 5 would be added to each column in the chart:**



**Feel free to choose one of the three types of error bars**

**to display, depending on how you would like the chart to appear.**

**The following tutorials explain how to create other common visualizations in Google Sheets:**

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