

How do I calculate the difference between two dates in Excel?

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Calculating the difference between two dates in Excel can be done using the DATEDIF function. This function takes in three arguments: the start date, the end date, and the unit of measurement for the difference (such as days, months, or years). The result will be the number of units between the two dates. It is important to note that the DATEDIF function may not work properly if the start date is after the end date. Additionally, the result may not be accurate if the two dates are in different years. To ensure accuracy, it is recommended to use the YEAR, MONTH, and DAY functions to extract the individual components of the dates and then perform the calculation. This process can be helpful for various tasks, such as tracking project timelines or calculating employee tenure.

Calculate the Difference Between Two Dates in Excel

We can use the DATEDIF() function to calculate the difference between two dates in Excel.

This function uses the following syntax:

=DATEDIF(Start_Date, End_Date, Metric)

where:

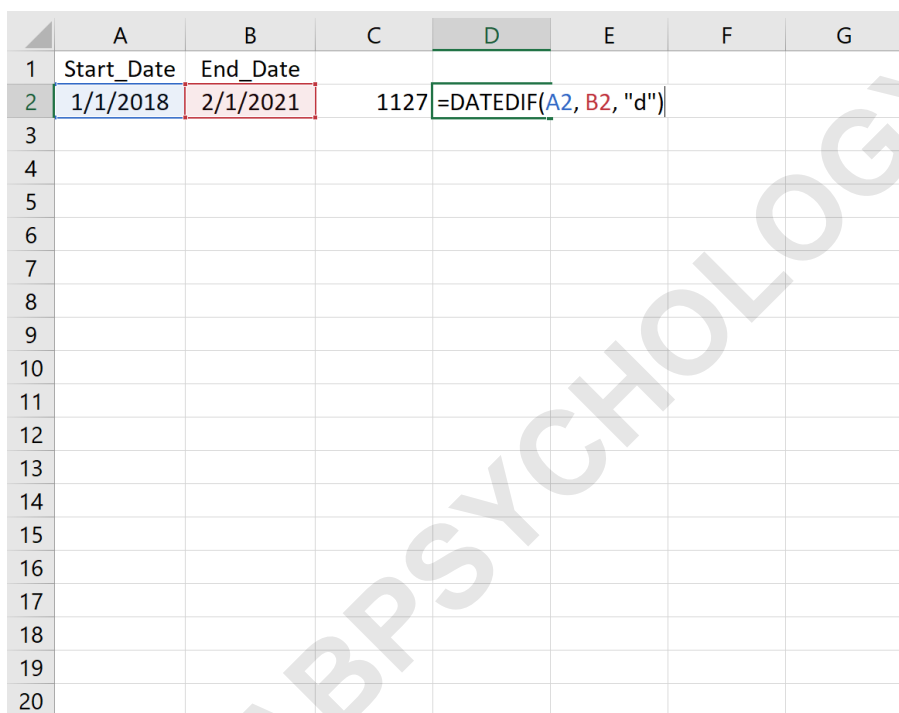
Start_Date: The start date
End_Date: The end date
Metric: The metric to calculate. Options include: "d": Days "m": Months "y": Years

It's important to note that this function won't automatically appear in Excel until you completely type =DATEDIF(into one of the cells.

The following examples show how to use this function to calculate the difference between two dates in Excel.

Example 1: Difference in Days

The following image shows how to calculate the difference (in days) between two dates:



The image shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Start_Date	End_Date					
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	1127	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "d")			
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
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14							
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16							
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18							
19							
20							

This tells us that there are 1,127 full days between 1/1/2018 and 2/1/2021.

Example 2: Difference in Months

The following image shows how to calculate the difference (in months) between two dates:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Start_Date	End_Date					
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	37	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "m")			
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
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14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							

Example 3: Difference in Years

The following image shows how to calculate the difference (in years) between two dates:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Start_Date	End_Date					
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	3	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "y")			
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
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19							
20							

Example 4: Difference in Years & Months

The following image shows how to calculate the difference (in years and months) between two dates:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Start_Date	End_Date						
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021		years	3	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "y")		
3				months	1	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "ym")		
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