

# How do I format a date in Google Sheets?

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Formatting a date in Google Sheets refers to the process of customizing the appearance and structure of a date within a cell. This can include changing the date format, adding time details, or converting the date to a specific time zone. To format a date in Google Sheets, one must use the built-in formatting options or create a custom format using the "Format" menu. This allows for a more organized and visually appealing representation of dates in a spreadsheet, making it easier to track and analyze data over time.

## DATE

Converts a year, month, and day into a date.

### Sample Usage

```
DATE(1969,7,20)
```

```
DATE(A2,B2,C2)
```

### Syntax

```
DATE(year, month, day)
```

`year` - The year component of the date.

`month` - The month component of the date.

`day` - The day component of the date.

### Notes

Inputs to `DATE` must be numbers - if a string or a reference to a cell containing a string is provided, the `#VALUE!` error will be returned.

`DATE` will silently recalculate numeric dates which fall outside of valid month or day ranges. For example, `DATE(1969,13,1)`, which specifies the illegal month 13, will create a date of 1/1/1970. Similarly, `DATE(1969,1,32)`, which specifies the non-existent 32nd day of January, will create a date of 2/1/1969.

`DATE` will silently truncate decimal values input into the function, e.g. a month of 12.75 will be interpreted as 12.

Google Sheets uses the 1900 date system. It counts the days since December 30, 1899 (not including December 30, 1899).

Between 0 and 1899, Google Sheets adds that value to 1900 to calculate the year. For example, `DATE(119,2,1)` will create a date of 2/1/2019.

For years 1900 to 9999, Google Sheets will use that value as the year. For example, `DATE(2019,1,2)` will create a date of 1/2/2019.

For years less than 0 or greater than 10,000, Google Sheets will return the `#NUM!` error value.

## See Also

[TO\\_DATE](#): Converts a provided number to a date.

[TIME](#): Converts an hour, minute, and second into a time.

[N](#): Returns the argument provided as a number.

[DATEVALUE](#): Converts a provided date string in a known format to a date value.

## Examples

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