

# How to Easily Calculate Date Differences in Google Sheets

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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To calculate the difference between two dates in Google Sheets, use the '=DATEDIF' function. This function takes three parameters: start date, end date, and unit type (days, months, or years). The DATEDIF function will return the difference between the two dates in the specified unit type. To calculate the difference between two dates in another unit type, divide the result by the appropriate number of days, months, or years.

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

This function uses the following syntax:

**=DATEDIF(start\_date, end\_date, unit)**

where:

**start\_date:** The start date

**end\_date:** The end date

**unit:** Unit of time to use ("Y", "M", "D" for years, months, dates)

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

### Example 1: Difference in Days

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

C2	<i>fx</i>	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "d")			
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Start Date	End Date	Difference		
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	1127		
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

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:

C2 *fx* =DATEDIF(A2, B2, "m")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Difference</b>		
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	37		
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

### Example 3: Difference in Years

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

C2    fx    =DATEDIF(A2, B2, "y")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Difference</b>		
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021	3		
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

### Example 4: Difference in Years & Months

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>		<b>years</b>	3	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "y")	
2	1/1/2018	2/1/2021		<b>months</b>	1	=DATEDIF(A2, B2, "ym")	
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

The difference between the start and end dates is 3 years and 1 month.