

# How to Easily Convert Strings to Lowercase in R

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2025). *How to Easily Convert Strings to Lowercase in R*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=104973>

To convert strings to lowercase in R, you can use the `tolower()` function. This function takes a character vector as an argument and returns a vector with all characters converted to lowercase. You can also use the `chartr()` function to replace characters with other characters, including converting all characters to lowercase. Examples of these functions and their outputs are provided.

You can use the built-in **`tolower()`** function in R to convert strings to lowercase.

**#convert string to lowercase**

**`tolower(string_name)`**

The following examples show how to use this function in practice.

### Example 1: Convert a Single String to Lowercase

The following code shows how to convert a single string to lowercase in R:

**#create string**

**`my_string <- 'THIS IS A SENTENCE WITH WORDS.'`**

**#convert string to all lowercase**

**`tolower(my_string)`**

**"this is a sentence with words."**

Note that the **`tolower()`** function converts *all* characters in a string to lowercase

### Example 2: Convert Each String in Column to Lowercase

The following code shows how to convert every string in a column of a data frame to lowercase:

**#create data frame**

**`df <- data.frame(team=c('Mavs', 'Nets', 'Spurs'),`**

**`points=c(99, 94, 85),`**

**`rebounds=c(31, 22, 29))`**

**#view data frame**

**`df`**

**team points rebounds**

**1 Mavs 99 31**

**2 Nets 94 22**

```
3 Spurs 85 29
```

```
#convert team names to lowercase
```

```
df$team <- tolower(df$team)
```

```
#view updated data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team points rebounds
```

```
1 mavs 99 31
```

```
2 nets 94 22
```

```
3 spurs 85 29
```

### Example 3: Convert Strings in Multiple Columns to Lowercase

The following code shows how to convert strings in multiple columns of a data frame to lowercase:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team=c('Mavs', 'Nets', 'Spurs'),
```

```
conf=c('WEST', 'EAST', 'WEST'),
```

```
points=c(99, 94, 85))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team conf points
```

```
1 Mavs WEST 99
```

```
2 Nets EAST 94
```

```
3 Spurs WEST 85
```

```
#convert team and conference to lowercase
```

```
df <- sapply(df, function(x) tolower(x))
```

```
#view updated data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team conf points
```

```
1 mavs west 99
```

```
2 nets east 94
```

```
3 spurs west 85
```

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks related to strings in R:

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