

How to Easily Remove Columns Containing Specific Text in R

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In R, you can use the `select()` function from the `dplyr` package to drop columns if their name contains a specific string. This can be done by creating a vector of column names to keep, and specifying the `"-contains"` argument in the `select()` function. The `select()` function will then take the vector of column names and only keep those, dropping the rest.

You can use the following methods to drop columns from a data frame in R whose name contains specific strings:

Method 1: Drop Columns if Name Contains Specific String

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
df_new <- df %>% select(-contains('this_string'))
```

Method 2: Drop Columns if Name Contains One of Several Specific Strings

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
df_new <- df %>% select(-contains(c('string1', 'string2', 'string3')))
```

The following examples show how to use each method in practice with the following data frame in R:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team_name=c('A', 'B', 'C', 'D', 'E', 'F'),  
team_location=c('AU', 'AU', 'EU', 'EU', 'AU', 'EU'),  
player_name=c('Andy', 'Bob', 'Chad', 'Dan', 'Ed', 'Fran'),  
points=c(22, 29, 35, 30, 18, 12))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team_name team_location player_name points
```

```
1 A AU Andy 22
```

```
2 B AU Bob 29
```

```
3 C EU Chad 35
```

```
4 D EU Dan 30
```

```
5 E AU Ed 18
```

```
6 F EU Fran 12
```

Example 1: Drop Columns if Name Contains Specific String

We can use the following syntax to drop all columns in the data frame that contain 'team' anywhere in the column name:

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#drop columns that contain 'team'  
df_new <- df %>% select(-contains('team'))
```

```
#view new data frame
```

```
df_new
```

```
player_name points
```

```
1 Andy 22
```

```
2 Bob 29
```

```
3 Chad 35
```

```
4 Dan 30
```

```
5 Ed 18
```

```
6 Fran 12
```

Notice that both columns that contained 'team' in the name have been dropped from the data frame.

Example 2: Drop Columns if Name Contains One of Several Specific Strings

We can use the following syntax to drop all columns in the data frame that contain 'player' or 'points' anywhere in the column name:

```
#drop columns whose name contains 'player' or 'points'  
df_new <- df %>% select(-contains(c('player', 'points')))
```

```
#view new data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team_name team_location
```

```
1 A AU
```

```
2 B AU
```

```
3 C EU
```

4 D EU

5 E AU

6 F EU

Notice that both columns that contained either 'player' or 'points' in the name have been dropped from the data frame.

Note: You can find the complete documentation for the dplyr **select()** function .

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