

How to fix the “duplicate ‘row.names’ are not allowed” error in R?

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The "duplicate 'row.names' are not allowed" error in R can be fixed by setting the `row.names` argument in the data frame as `FALSE`. This will remove the row names and the error should no longer appear.

One error you may encounter in R is:

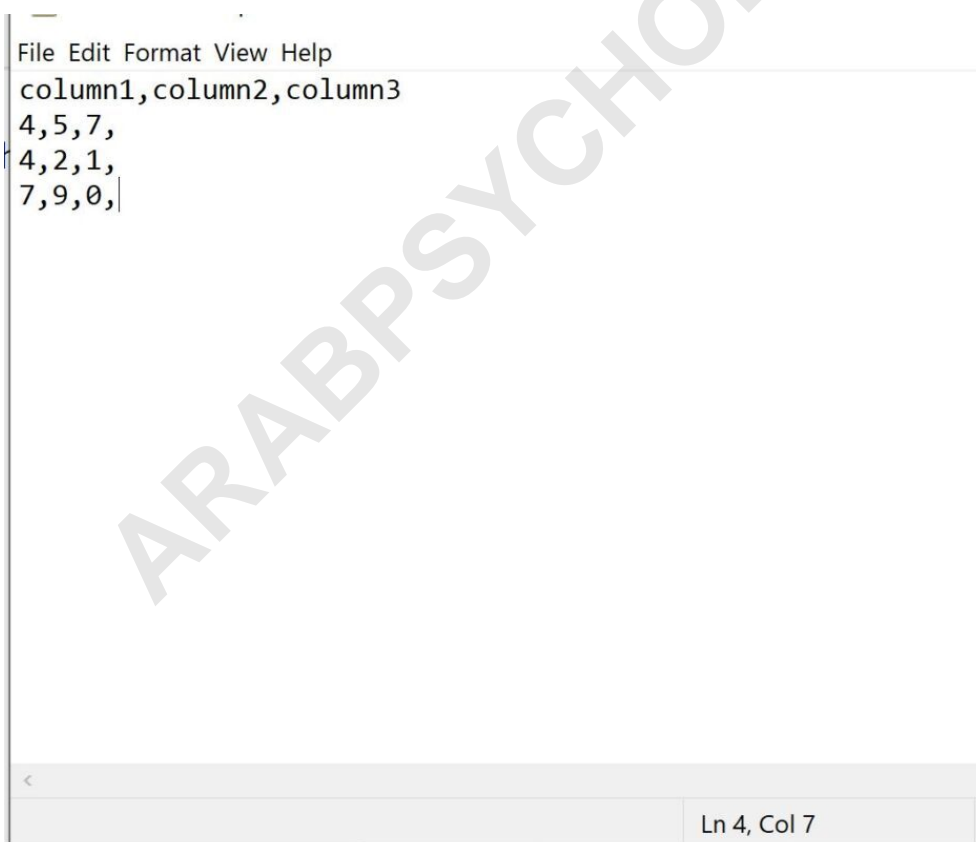
**Error in read.table(file = file, header = header, sep = sep, quote = quote, :
duplicate 'row.names' are not allowed**

This error usually occurs when you attempt to read a CSV file into R that contains commas at the end of every row in the file *except* the header row.

This tutorial shares exactly how to fix this error.

How to Reproduce the Error

Suppose we have the following CSV file called `my_data.csv`:



```
File Edit Format View Help
column1,column2,column3
4,5,7,
4,2,1,
7,9,0,
```

Ln 4, Col 7

Notice that there are commas at the end of every row in the file *except* the header row.

Now suppose we attempt to import this file into R:

```
#attempt to import CSV into data frame
```

```
df <- read.csv('my_data.csv')
```

```
Error in read.table(file = file, header = header, sep = sep, quote = quote, :  
duplicate 'row.names' are not allowed
```

We receive an error because there are commas at the end of every row in the file *except* the header row, which causes R to think that the first column of values are the row names.

Since two of the rows have the same starting value (4), R thinks that there are duplicate row names.

How to Fix the Error

The way to fix this error is to simply use **row.names=NULL** when importing the file:

```
#import CSV file into data frame
```

```
df <- read.csv('my_data.csv', row.names=NULL)
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
row.names column1 column2 column3
```

```
1 4 5 7 NA
```

```
2 4 2 1 NA
```

```
3 7 9 0 NA
```

We are able to successfully import the CSV file, but the column names are off.

To fix this, we can modify the column names and then drop the last column:

```
#modify column names
```

```
colnames(df) <- colnames(df)
```

```
#drop last column
```

```
df <- df
```

```
#view updated data frame
```

```
df
```

```
column1 column2 column3
```

```
1 4 5 7
```

```
2 4 2 1
```

```
3 7 9 0
```

The data frame is now in the correct format.

The following tutorials explain how to troubleshoot other common errors in R:

[How to Fix in R: longer object length is not a multiple of shorter object length](#)

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