

How to Select Columns by Name Using dplyr

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The dplyr package in R makes selecting columns by name easy. Using the `select()` function, you can specify the exact name of the column or columns you want to select. You can also use the `select()` function to reorder the columns of a data frame, or to drop columns from the data frame. The `select()` function can help you quickly and efficiently manipulate the data in your data frames.

You can use the following methods to select columns of a data frame by name in R using the package:

Method 1: Select Specific Columns by Name

```
df %>% select(var1, var3)
```

Method 2: Select a Range of Columns by Name

```
df %>% select(var1:var3)
```

Method 3: Select All Columns Except Certain Columns

```
df %>% select(-c(var1, var3))
```

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

```
#create data frame
df <- data.frame(points=c(1, 5, 4, 5, 5, 7, 8),
rebounds=c(10, 3, 3, 2, 6, 7, 12),
assists=c(5, 5, 7, 6, 7, 9, 15),
blocks=c(1, 1, 0, 4, 3, 2, 10))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
points rebounds assists blocks
```

```
1 1 10 5 1
```

```
2 5 3 5 1
```

```
3 4 3 7 0
```

```
4 5 2 6 4
```

```
5 5 6 7 3
```

```
6 7 7 9 2
```

```
7 8 12 15 10
```

Example 1: Select Specific Columns by Name

We can use the following code to select only the **points** and **assists** columns:

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#select only points and assists columns  
df %>% select(points, assists)
```

```
points assists  
1 1 5  
2 5 5  
3 4 7  
4 5 6  
5 5 7  
6 7 9  
7 8 15
```

Notice that only the **points** and **assists** columns are returned.

Example 2: Select a Range of Columns by Name

We can use the following code to select all columns between the names **points** and **assists**.

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#select all columns between points and assists  
df %>% select(points:assists)
```

```
points rebounds assists  
1 1 10 5  
2 5 3 5  
3 4 3 7  
4 5 2 6  
5 5 6 7  
6 7 7 9  
7 8 12 15
```

A range of columns is returned, starting with the **points** column and ending with the **assists** column.

Example 3: Select All Columns Except Certain Columns

We can use the following code to select all columns except the **points** and **assists** columns.

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#select all columns except points and assists columns  
df %>% select(-c(points, assists))
```

```
rebounds blocks
```

```
1 10 1
```

```
2 3 1
```

```
3 3 0
```

```
4 2 4
```

```
5 6 3
```

```
6 7 2
```

```
7 12 10
```

All of the columns are returned except the **points** and **assists** columns.

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

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common operations in dplyr: