

# What does the error message “Can only compare identically-labeled series objects” mean when using the Fix function?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The error message "Can only compare identically-labeled series objects" occurs when attempting to use the Fix function on two or more series objects with different labels. This means that the Fix function is unable to perform a comparison between the series objects because they do not have the same labels, which are used to identify and organize the data within the objects. To resolve this error, the series objects must have identical labels in order to be compared by the Fix function.

## **Fix: Can only compare identically-labeled series objects**

**One error you may encounter when using pandas is:**

**ValueError: Can only compare identically-labeled DataFrame objects**

**This error occurs when you attempt to compare two pandas DataFrames and either the index labels or the column labels do not perfectly match.**

**The following example shows how to fix this error in practice.**

**How to Reproduce the Error**

**Suppose we have the following two pandas DataFrames:**

```
import pandas as pd
```

```
#define DataFrames
```

```
df1 = pd.DataFrame({'points': ,  
'assists': })
```

```
df2 = pd.DataFrame({'points': ,  
'assists': },  
index=)
```

```
#view DataFrames
```

```
print(df1)
```

```
points assists
```

```
0 25 5
```

```
1 12 7
```

```
2 15 13
```

```
3 14 12
```

```
print(df2)
```

```
points assists
```

```
3 25 5
```

```
2 12 7
```

```
1 15 13
```

```
0 14 12
```

Notice that the column labels match, but the index

labels do not.

If we attempt to compare the two DataFrames, we'll receive an error:

```
#attempt to compare the DataFrames
```

```
df1 = df2
```

**ValueError: Can only compare identically-labeled DataFrame objects**

How to Fix the Error

There are a few methods we can use to address this error.

**Method 1: Compare DataFrames (including index labels)**

We can use the following syntax to compare the two DataFrames to see if they perfectly match (including the index labels):

```
df1.equals(df2)
```

**False**

This tells us that the two DataFrames do not perfectly match (including the index labels).

### Method 2: Compare DataFrames (ignore index labels)

```
df1.reset_index(drop=True).equals(df2.reset_index(drop=True))
```

True

This tells us that the two DataFrames perfectly match (not accounting for the index labels).

### Method 3: Compare DataFrames Row by Row

We can use the following syntax to compare the two DataFrames row by row to see which row values match:

```
df1.reset_index(drop=True) == df2.reset_index(drop=True)
```

0 True True  
1 True True  
2 True True  
3 True True

This allows us to see which values match in each row.

**The following tutorials explain how to fix other common errors in Python:**

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