

# What is the cause of the “invalid ‘times’ argument” error in the “Fix in R” command when using the rep(1, n) function?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *What is the cause of the “invalid ‘times’ argument” error in the “Fix in R” command when using the rep(1, n) function?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=153059>

The "invalid 'times' argument" error in the "Fix in R" command occurs when using the rep(1, n) function in R. This error is caused by providing an incorrect or unsupported value for the "times" argument, which specifies the number of times the element should be repeated in the output. This error can be resolved by ensuring that the "times" argument is a positive integer or a vector of positive integers, as required by the rep() function.

## **Fix in R: error in rep(1, n) : invalid 'times' argument**

**One error you may encounter in R is:**

**Error in rep(1, times = -4) : invalid 'times' argument**

**This error occurs when you provide one of the following values to the times argument within the rep() function:**

**A negative value  
NA value  
A vector of values**

**Since the function replicates elements a certain number of times, only a non-negative value in the times argument is valid to use.**

**This tutorial shares exactly how to fix this error.**

**How to Reproduce the Error**

**Suppose we attempt to replicate the value "1" -4 times:**

**#attempt to replicate "1" -4 times**

**rep(1, times = -4)**

**Error in rep(1, times = -4) : invalid 'times' argument**

**Or suppose we attempt to replicate the value "1" NA times:**

**#attempt to replicate "1" NA times**

**rep(1, times = NA)**

**Error in rep(1, times = NA) : invalid 'times' argument**

**Or suppose we attempt to replicate the value "1" both 2 times and 3 times:**

**#attempt to replicate "1" 2 times and 3 times**

**rep(1, times = c(2, 3))**

**Error in rep(1, times = c(2, 3)) : invalid 'times' argument**

**We receive an error in each scenario because we failed to provide a non-negative value to the times argument in each scenario.**

**How to Fix the Error**

The way to fix this error is to simply provide a non-negative value to the times argument in the rep() function.

For example, the following code shows how to replicate the value "1" 7 times:

```
#replicate 1 7 times  
rep(1, times = 7)
```

```
1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

The value "1" is replicated 7 times and we don't receive any error because we provided a valid value to the times argument.

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