What is the syntax used in Google Sheets?

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Google Sheets is a web-based spreadsheet program developed by Google that allows users to create, edit, and collaborate on spreadsheets online. The syntax used in Google Sheets refers to the specific set of rules and structures that determine how data and formulas are entered and displayed in a spreadsheet. This includes the use of mathematical operators, functions, and cell references to perform calculations and manipulate data. The syntax in Google Sheets is similar to other spreadsheet programs, making it easy for users to transition and work efficiently within the platform.

Google Sheets Syntax

Syntax

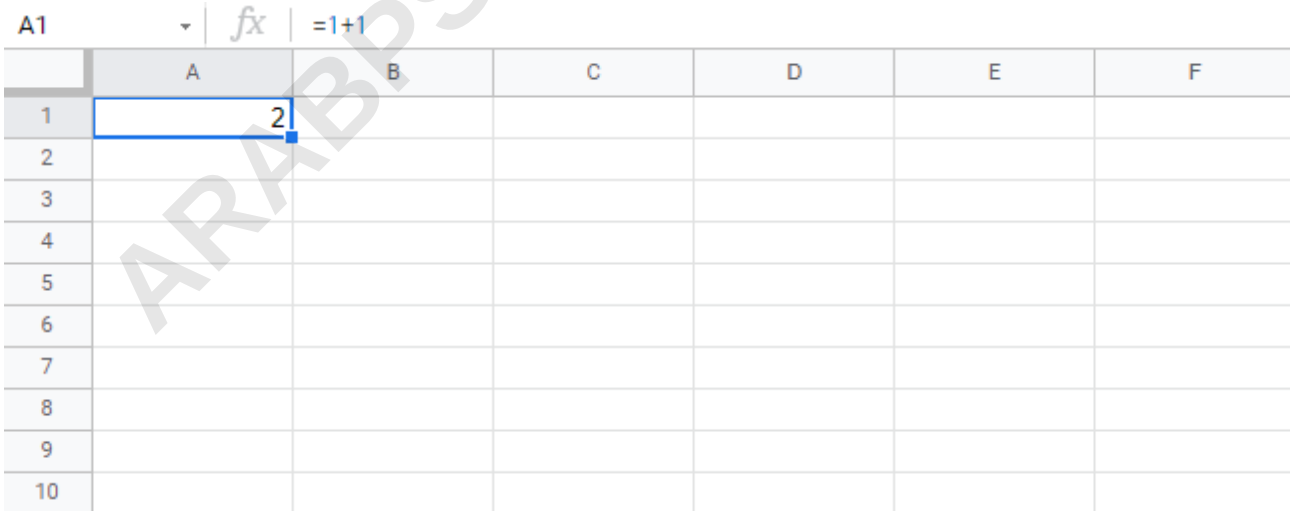
A formula in Google Sheets is used to do mathematical calculations. Formulas always start with the equal sign `=` typed in the cell, followed by your calculation.

Note: You claim the cell by selecting it and typing the equal sign (=)

Creating formulas, step by step

Select a cellType the equal sign (=)Select a cell or type a valueEnter an arithmetic operatorSelect another cell or a type valuePress Enter

For example `=1+1` is the formula to calculate **1+1=2**



Note: The value of a cell is communicated by **reference(value)** for example `A1(2)` means the cell `A1` has value `2`.

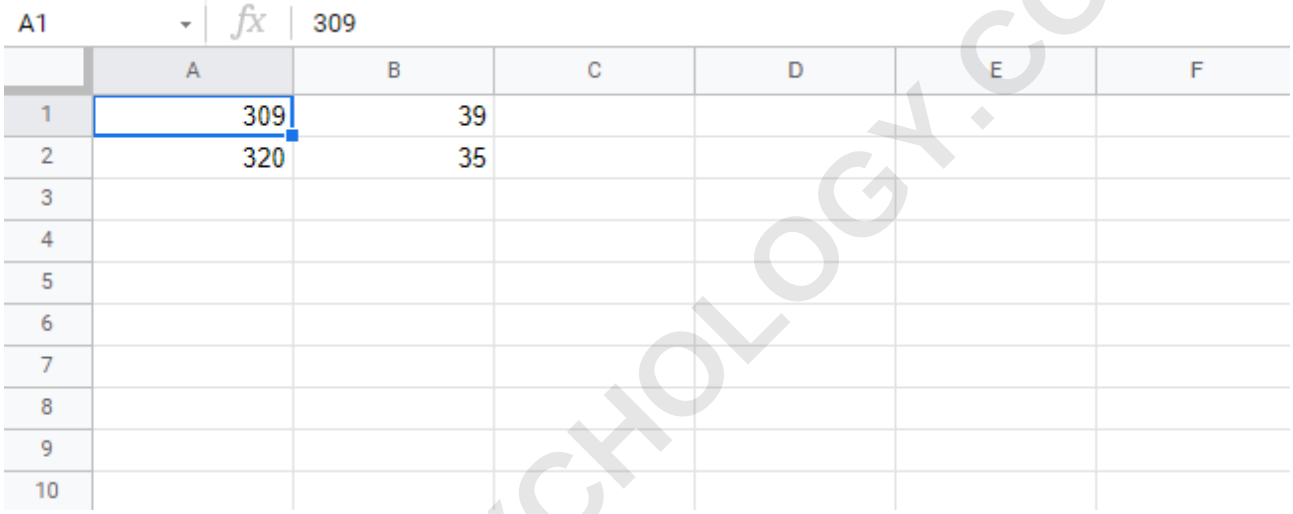
Using Formulas with Cells

You can type values to cells and use them in your formulas.

Lets type some dummy values to get started. Double click the cells to type values into them. Go ahead and type:

`A1(309)A2(320)B1(39)B2(35)`

Compare with the picture shown below:



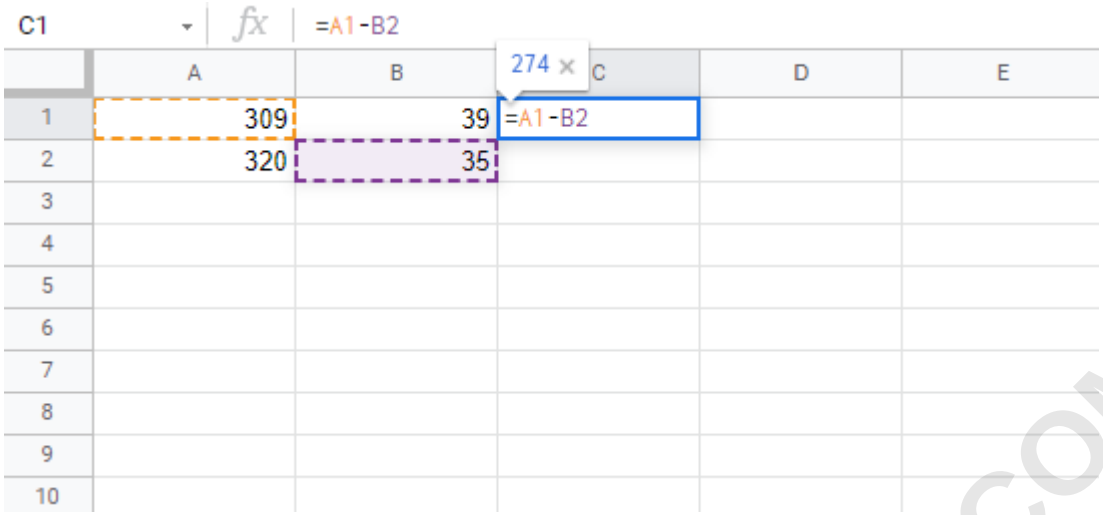
Note: Type values by selecting a cell, claim it by entering the equal sign (=) and then type your value. For example `=309`.

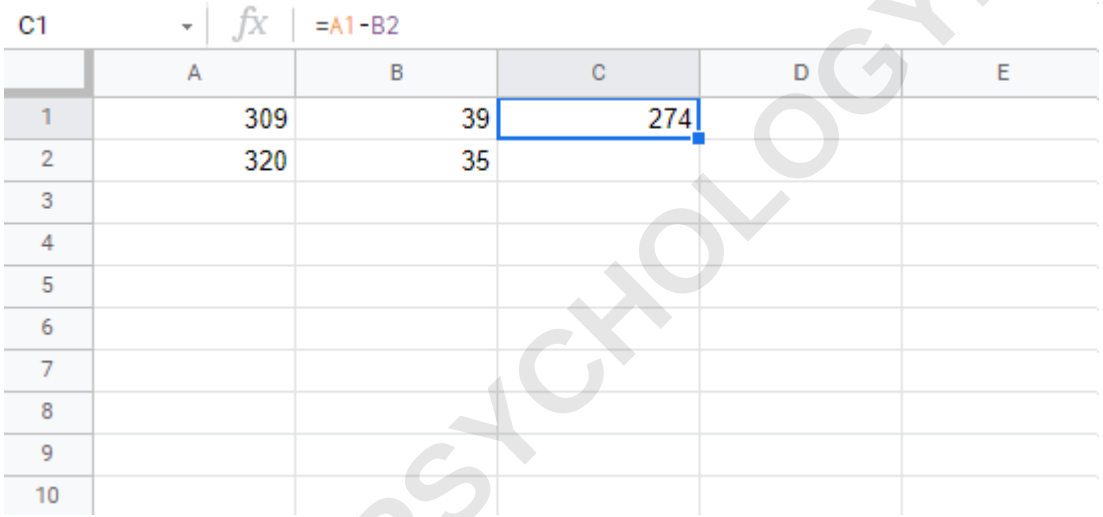
Well done! You have successfully typed values to cells and now we can use them to create formulas.

Here is how to do it, step by step.

Select the cell `C1`Type the equal sign (=)Select `A1`, the cell that has the `(309)` valueType the minus sign (`-`)Select `B2`, the cell that has the `(35)` valueHit enter

Tip: The formula can be typed directly without clicking the cells. The typed formula would be the same as the value in `C1(=A1-B2)`.





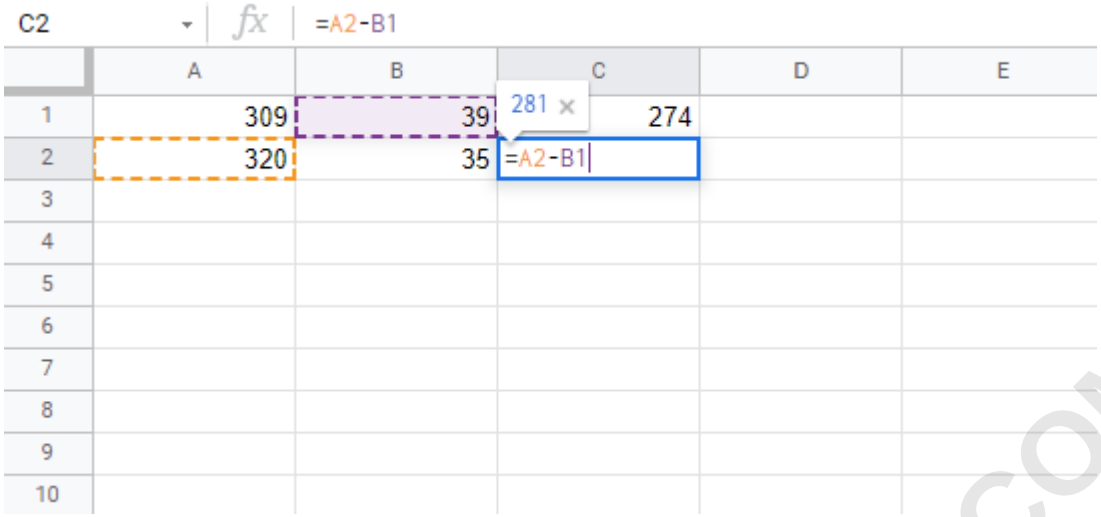
The result after hitting the Enter button is `C1(274)`. Did you make it?

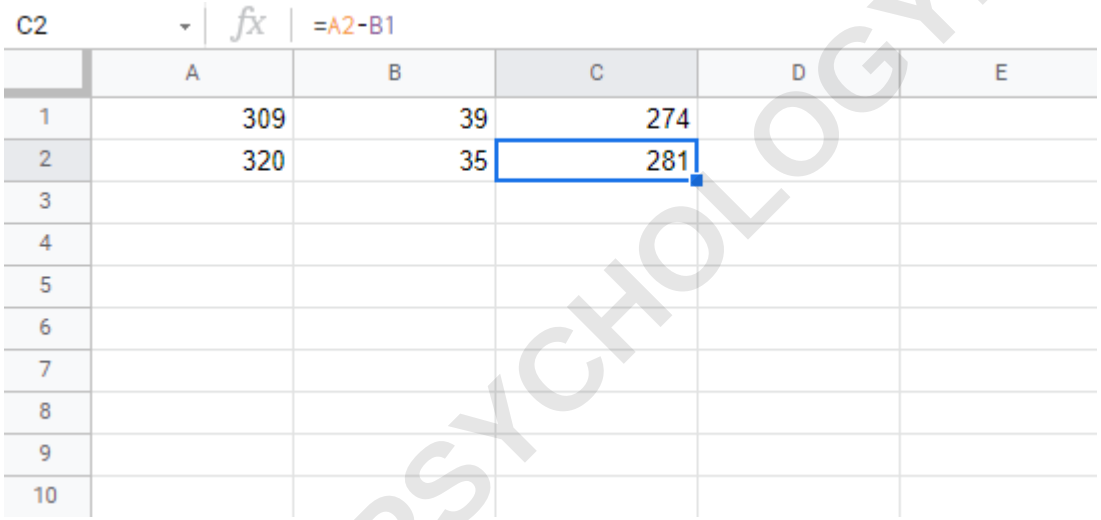
Another Example

Let's try one more example, this time let's make the formula `=A2-B1`.

Here is how to do it, step by step.

Select the cell `C2`Type the equal sign (=)Select `A2`, the cell that has the `(320)` valueType the minus sign (`-`)Select `B1`, the cell that has the `(39)` valueHit the Enter button





You got the result `C2(281)`, right? **Way to go!**

Note: You can make formulas with all four arithmetic operations, such as addition (`+`), subtraction (`-`), multiplication (`*`) and division (`/`).

Here are some examples:

```
=2+4 gives you 6=4-2 gives you 2=2*4 gives you 8=2/4 gives you 0.5
```

In the next chapter you will learn about **Ranges** and how data can be moved in the **Sheet**.

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