

Name: Prarabdh Srivastava

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Assignment Name: Data Cleaning & Essential Functions

Assignment 2

Question 1) What is data cleaning, and why is it important in data analysis?

- What are the potential consequences of analyzing unclean or messy data?
- Explain the common steps involved in cleaning and organizing data.

Answer)

Data cleaning means removing wrong, missing, or duplicate data.

Example: Removing duplicate customer names

Correcting spelling mistakes (e.g., “Notebok” → “Notebook”)

Importance:

Data cleaning is important because clean data gives correct results.

- Helps in accurate analysis
- Improves data quality
- Avoids wrong conclusions

Consequences of Using Unclean or Messy Data:

If data is not cleaned, it can cause:

- Wrong analysis results
- Incorrect business decisions
- Misleading charts and reports

Common Steps in Data Cleaning and Organizing Data

1. **Remove duplicate data**
(Same record appearing multiple times)
2. **Handle missing values**
(Fill, delete, or replace missing data)
3. **Correct errors**
(Spelling mistakes, wrong formats)
4. **Standardize data**
(Same date format, same units)
5. **Remove irrelevant data**
(Unnecessary columns or rows)
6. **Check data consistency**
(Same values should mean the same thing)

Question 2) How would you sort the following dataset first by "Department" (A-Z) and then by "Salary" (Largest to Smallest)? Write a step-by-step approach.

Answer)

Step-by-Step Approach

1. Select the entire dataset
(Include all rows and columns so data does not mismatch)
2. Go to the **Data tab** in Excel / Google Sheets
3. Click on **Sort**
4. In the Sort dialog box:
 - Sort by: Department
 - Order: **A to Z**
5. Click on Add Level
6. For the second level:
 - Then by: Salary

- Order: ***Largest to Smallest***

7. Click OK

Question 3) Explain the use of text functions such as TRIM , LEFT, RIGHT, MID, and CONCAT in data cleaning.

Answer)

TRIM

Removes unwanted spaces before, after, and between words

Example:

" John " → "John"

LEFT

Extracts characters from the left side of text.

Example:

=LEFT("AKTU2024",4) → AKTU

RIGHT

Extracts characters from the right side of text.

Example:

=RIGHT("Roll123",3) → 123

MID

Extracts text from the middle of a string.

Example:

=MID("CS-AIML",4,4) → AIML

CONCAT

Joins multiple text values into one.

Example:

First Name + Last Name → Full Name

=CONCAT("Amit"," Kumar") → Amit Kumar

Question 4) What is the role of date functions like TODAY in managing datasets?

Answer)

- Helps track daily reports
- Useful for age calculation
- Used in deadline monitoring
- Updates automatically every day

Question 5) Apply Data Validation to restrict Quantity values to only whole numbers between 1 and 10.

Configure an input message that appears when a user selects a cell in the "Quantity" column explaining: "Please enter a whole number between 1 and 10."

Set up an error alert message that triggers if the user enters a number less than 1 or greater than 10, showing: "Invalid input! The quantity must be a whole number between 1 and 10."

Write a step-by-step approach for this question

Answer) **STEP 1: Select the Quantity Column**

1. Click on the Quantity column cells
(for example: E2:E50)

STEP 2: Open Data Validation

2. Go to the Data tab
3. Click on Data Validation

STEP 3: Set Validation Rules

4. In the Settings tab:
 - Allow: Whole number
 - Data: Between
 - Minimum: 1
 - Maximum: 10

This restricts quantity values to whole numbers between 1 and 10.

STEP 4: Configure Input Message

5. Click on the Input Message tab
6. Check Show input message when cell is selected
7. Enter:
 - Title: Quantity Instruction
 - Input Message:
 - Please enter a whole number between 1 and 10.

This message appears when the user selects the Quantity cell.

STEP 5: Configure Error Alert

8. Click on the Error Alert tab
9. Set:
 - Style: Stop

- Title: Invalid Input
- Error Message:
- Invalid input! The quantity must be a whole number between 1 and 10.

This message appears when the user enters an invalid value.

STEP 6: Apply

10. Click OK

Question 8) Understanding TODAY() and NOW()

- What is the difference between TODAY() and NOW() in Excel? Provide an example of when you would use each function.
- If cell A1 contains the date 2025-06-10, write a formula using TODAY() to determine how many days are left until that date
- Write an Excel formula using NOW() to display the current date and time in the format MM/DD/YYYY HH:MM AM/PM.
- If a cell contains =TODAY(), what will happen when the worksheet is reopened the next day? Explain
- You want to store a static date (today's date) in a cell without it changing every day. What keyboard shortcut should you use

Answer)

A) TODAY() → Used to calculate age, deadlines, or days remaining

Example:

=TODAY()

NOW() → Used to record login time, report generation time

Example:

=NOW()

B)

Formula:

`=A1 - TODAY()`

This gives the number of days remaining from today until that date.

C) Formula:

`=TEXT(NOW(),"MM/DD/YYYY HH:MM AM/PM")`

This formats date and time properly.

D) If a cell contains:

`=TODAY()`

- The date will automatically update to the new current date
- TODAY() is a dynamic (volatile) function

So the date changes every day.

E) Keyboard Shortcut:

Ctrl + ;

This inserts today's date as a fixed value, not a formula.