

String Manipulation in R: Fundamentals: Takeaways



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Syntax

- `str_sub()`

enables us to index strings:

```
words <- "Dataquest is awesome"
> str_sub(words, 1, 9)
[1] "Dataquest"
```

- `str_to_lower()`

enables us to change all of the letters to lowercase in a given string: ``

```
str_to_lower(colnames(recent_grads))
```

```
[1] "rank" "major_code" "major" "total" "men"
```

```
[6] "women" "major_category" "sample_size" "employed" "full_time"
```

```
[11] "part_time" "full_time_year_round" "unemployed" "unemployment_rate" "median"
```

```
[16] "college_jobs" "non_college_jobs" "low_wage_jobs" ``
```

- `str_to_upper()`

enables us to change all of the letters to uppercase in a given string: `` exclamation <- "hello"

```
str_to_upper(exclamation) [1] "HELLO" ``
```

- `str_pad()`

helps with padding strings, while

```
str_trim()
```

lets us trim whitespace or other designated characters from strings: `` padded_string <- "

```
Dataquest " str_trim(padded_string, side = "both") [1] "Dataquest"
```

```
str_pad("Dataquest", width = 20, side = "both", pad = " ") [1] " Dataquest " ``
```

- `str_split()`

allows us to split a character vector into smaller substrings by splitting on a given character such as a single whitespace: `` sentence <- "The stringr library is essential to string manipulation."

```
str_split(sentence, " ") [[1]] [1] "The" "stringr" "library" "is" "essential" "to" "string"
```

```
[8] "manipulation." ``
```

- `str_c()`

allows us to concatenate, or combine, strings together:

```
words <- c("String", "concatentation", "via", "function")
str_c(words, collapse = " ")
[1] "String concatentation via function"
```

- `str_detect()`

allows us to check if a particular substring is contained within a greater string: `` review <- "I really enjoyed this product, and I thought it was great for the price."

```
str_detect(review, "great") [1] TRUE ``
```

- `str_replace()`

lets us exchange the first instance of a given substring with another: `` review2 <- "I really enjoy codnig in R and wnt to lrn more."

```
str_replace(review2, pattern = "enjoy", replacement = "enjoy") [1] "I really enjoy codnig in R and wnt to lrn more." ``
```

- `str_replace_all()`

lets us exchange all instances of a substring with another: `` review3 <- "I want to lrn R, and I definitely wnt to lrn more."

```
str_replace_all(review3, pattern = "lrn", replacement = "learn") [1] "I want to learn R, and I definitely wnt to learn more." ``
```

Concepts

- Character vectors are also indexed by number, but us must use the `str_sub()` function to index directly on the string. Trying to index the word using square brackets alone will return some unintended results.
- Using regular expression is the act of searching for a particular search pattern within a greater body of text. Regular expression has uses in finding words, string replacement and string removal.

Further Reading

- [stringr Documentation](#)
- [stringr 's vignette on regular expression](#)
- [More Documentation on regular expression](#)



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