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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()**

- a. What is the difference between TODAY() and NOW() in Excel?  
Provide an example of when you would use each function.
- b. If cell A1 contains the date 2025-06-10, write a formula using TODAY() to determine how many days are left until that date
- c. Write an Excel formula using NOW() to display the current date and time in the format MM/DD/YYYY HH:MM AM/PM.'
- d. If a cell contains =TODAY(), what will happen when the worksheet is reopened the next day? Explain
- e. 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.