

# pandas.get\_dummies

`pandas.get_dummies(data, prefix=None, prefix_sep='_', dummy_na=False, columns=None, sparse=False, drop_first=False, dtype=None)` [\[source\]](#)

Convert categorical variable into dummy/indicator variables.

**data** : array-like, Series, or DataFrame

Data of which to get dummy indicators.

**prefix** : str, list of str, or dict of str, default None

String to append DataFrame column names. Pass a list with length equal to the number of columns when calling `get_dummies` on a DataFrame. Alternatively, *prefix* can be a dictionary mapping column names to prefixes.

**prefix\_sep** : str, default '\_'

If appending prefix, separator/delimiter to use. Or pass a list or dictionary as with *prefix*.

**dummy\_na** : bool, default False

Add a column to indicate NaNs, if False NaNs are ignored.

**columns** : list-like, default None

**Parameters:** Column names in the DataFrame to be encoded. If *columns* is None then all the columns with *object* or *category* dtype will be converted.

**sparse** : bool, default False

Whether the dummy-encoded columns should be backed by a [SparseArray](#) (True) or a regular NumPy array (False).

**drop\_first** : bool, default False

Whether to get k-1 dummies out of k categorical levels by removing the first level.  
*New in version 0.18.0.*

**dtype** : dtype, default np.uint8

Data type for new columns. Only a single dtype is allowed.  
*New in version 0.23.0.*

DataFrame

**Returns:** Dummy-coded data.

## See also:

[Series.str.get\\_dummies](#)

Convert Series to dummy codes.

## Examples

```
>>> s = pd.Series(list('abca'))
```

```
>>> pd.get_dummies(s)
   a  b  c
0  1  0  0
1  0  1  0
2  0  0  1
3  1  0  0
```

```
>>> s1 = ['a', 'b', np.nan]
```

```
>>> pd.get_dummies(s1)
   a  b
0  1  0
1  0  1
2  0  0
```

```
>>> pd.get_dummies(s1, dummy_na=True)
   a  b  NaN
0  1  0    0
1  0  1    0
2  0  0    1
```

```
>>> df = pd.DataFrame({'A': ['a', 'b', 'a'], 'B': ['b', 'a', 'c'],
...                    'C': [1, 2, 3]})
```

```
>>> pd.get_dummies(df, prefix=['col1', 'col2'])
   C  col1_a  col1_b  col2_a  col2_b  col2_c
0  1         1         0         0         1         0
1  2         0         1         1         0         0
2  3         1         0         0         0         1
```

```
>>> pd.get_dummies(pd.Series(list('abcaa')))
   a  b  c
0  1  0  0
1  0  1  0
2  0  0  1
3  1  0  0
4  1  0  0
```

```
>>> pd.get_dummies(pd.Series(list('abcaa')), drop_first=True)
   b  c
0  0  0
1  1  0
2  0  1
3  0  0
4  0  0
```

```
>>> pd.get_dummies(pd.Series(list('abc')), dtype=float)
   a    b    c
0  1.0  0.0  0.0
1  0.0  1.0  0.0
2  0.0  0.0  1.0
```