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# How to escape braces (curly brackets) in a format string in .NET

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**914**

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How can brackets be escaped in using `string.Format` . For example:

```
String val = "1,2,3"
String.Format(" foo {{0}}", val);
```

⭐

76

This example doesn't throw an exception, but outputs the string `foo` `{0}`

Is there a way to escape the brackets?

c#    .net    string    parsing    formatting

edited Jun 17 '14 at 21:18

Marc Stober
**7,514**    2    21    31

asked Sep 18 '08 at 10:04

Pop Catalin
**42.6k**    20    79    107

1    MSDN String Formatting FAQ msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/netframework/aa569608: How do I write out a curly bracket in string formats? Do escaped curly brackets have any odd behaviors I need to be aware of? How can I use string formatting to write out something like " {42.00}"? – gerryLowry Nov 5 '11 at 9:30

Unfortunately, the above MSDN link is broken. Currently, the correct link seems to be [msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/...](#) (seet the QA section at the bottom, or search for "escape" on the page). – Palo Mraz Apr 14 '17 at 5:21

## 9 Answers

For you to output `foo {1, 2, 3}` you have to do something like:

**1204**

```
string t = "1, 2, 3";
string v = String.Format(" foo {{{0}}}", t);
```

To output a `{` you use `{{` and to output a `}` you use `}}` .

edited Sep 4 '13 at 13:43

Josh DeLong
**356**   2   21

answered Sep 18 '08 at 10:07

Jorge Ferreira
**76k**   22   104   128

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95    "{{" is treated as the escaped bracket character in a format string. – icelava Sep 18 '08 at 10:18

5     But if you want to add value formatting to your string specifier you need also to read the answer from Guru Kara below. – Nick Mar 1 '13 at 17:24

      Read the section *Escaping Braces* in the official documentation *Composite Formatting*. – Jeppe Stig Nielsen Apr 7 '13 at 9:32

8     It's also working in new C# 6 string interpolation ( $"a = {{ {a} }}" ) – Mahmoodvcs Apr 3 '16 at 5:55 ✎

      More specific on the C# 6 string interpolation way, doubling up on the curly works like so  `string v = $" foo {{{t}}}";` . If you has other

characters to escape that's not a curly you can use the $@ combo

```
string v2 = $@"\foo {{{t}}}\";
```
— Nhan Apr 14 '16 at 22:04 ✏️

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**My objective:**

I needed to assign the value `"{CR}{LF}"` to a `string` variable `delimiter`.

**0**

**Code c#:**

```
string delimiter= "{{CR}}{{LF}}";
```

Note: To escape special characters normally you have to use . For opening curly bracket {, use one extra like {{. For closing curly bracket }, use one extra }}.

answered 49 mins ago

Goldfish
**141**   1   11

---

or you can use c# string interpolation like this (feature available in C# 6.0)

**2**

```
var value = "1, 2, 3";
var output = $" foo {{{value}}}";
```

edited Jan 3 '18 at 16:54

answered Jan 3 '18 at 16:49

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**505**   5    16

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Escaping **curly brackets** AND using **string interpolation** makes for an interesting challenge. You need to use *quadruple brackets* to escape the **string interpolation** parsing and `string.format` parsing.

11

### Escaping Brackets: String Interpolation $("") and String.Format

```
string localVar = "dynamic";
string templateString = $@"<h2>{0}</h2><div>this is my {localVar} te
{{{{custom tag}}}}</div>";
string result = string.Format(templateString, "String Interpolation"

// OUTPUT: <h2>String Interpolation</h2><div>this is my dynamic temp
tag}</div>
```

answered Jun 20 '17 at 19:30

SliverNinja - MSFT
**24.2k**   9    78    133

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Came here in search of how to build json strings ad-hoc (without serializing a class/object) in C#. In other words, how to escape braces and quotes while using Interpolated Strings in C# and "verbatim string literals" (double quoted strings with '@' prefix), like...

4

```
var json = $@"{{""name"":""{name}""}}";
```

edited Jun 6 '17 at 20:01

4

```
[TestMethod]
public void BraceEscapingTest()
{
    var result = String.Format("Foo {{0}}", "1,2,3");  //"1,2,3" is
    Assert.AreEqual("Foo {0}", result);

    result = String.Format("Foo {{{0}}}", "1,2,3");
    Assert.AreEqual("Foo {1,2,3}", result);

    result = String.Format("Foo {0} {{bar}}", "1,2,3");
    Assert.AreEqual("Foo 1,2,3 {bar}", result);

    result = String.Format("{{{0:N}}}", 24); //24 is not parsed, see
    Assert.AreEqual("{N}", result);

    result = String.Format("{0}{1:N}{2}", "{", 24, "}");
    Assert.AreEqual("{24.00}", result);

    result = String.Format("{{{0}}}", 24.ToString("N"));
    Assert.AreEqual("{24.00}", result);
}
```

Yes to output `{` in `string.Format` you have to escape it like this `{{`

**198** So this

```
String val = "1,2,3";
String.Format(" foo {{{0}}}", val);
```

will output `"foo {1,2,3}"` .

BUT you have to know about a design bug in C# which is that by going on the above logic you would assume this below code will print {24.00}

```
int i = 24;
string str = String.Format("{{{0:N}}}", i); //gives '{N}' instead of
```

But this prints {N}. This is because the way C# parses escape sequences and format characters. To get the desired value in the above case you have to use this instead.

```
String.Format("{0}{1:N}{2}", "{", i, "}") //evaluates to {24.00}
```

Reference Articles String.Format gottach and String Formatting FAQ

answered Feb 26 '13 at 9:12

Guru Kara
**4,972**   2   28   41

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12  If I ran into that bug, I'd write `string.Format( "{{{0}}}", i.ToString("N") );` which may be more readable to some. –
    HappyNomad May 8 '14 at 3:25

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1   @Happy It might, but you'd then find yourself specifying the
    FormatProvider twice, with the risk that you'd specify different ones, or
    miss one. – ClickRick Apr 20 '15 at 9:02

Almost there! The escape sequence for a brace is `{{` or `}}` so for your example you would use:

**72**

```csharp
string t = "1, 2, 3";
string v = String.Format(" foo {{{0}}}", t);
```

edited Feb 13 '13 at 15:16

Michael Irigoyen
**17.4k**   15   76   115

answered Sep 18 '08 at 10:08

Wolfwyrd
**13.3k**   5   38   66

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You can use double open brackets and double closing brackets which will only show one bracket on your page.

**22**

edited Aug 26 '11 at 20:44

Ryan Berger
**7,858**   6   38   54

answered Mar 22 '10 at 10:09

elec
**221**   2   2

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**protected** by Pop Catalin Jan 17 '14 at 12:51

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