


DATEDIF function in Excel

The DATEDIF function in Excel calculates the number of days, months or years between two dates. The DATEDIF function has 3 arguments.


1. Fill in "d" for the third argument to get the number of days between two dates.

A4		✕	✓	<i>fx</i>	=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"d")	
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	6/24/2030					
3						
4	3719					
5						




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Note: =A2-A1 produces the exact same result!

2. Fill in "m" for the third argument to get the number of months between two dates.

A4		✕	✓	<i>fx</i>	=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"m")	
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	6/24/2030					
3						
4	122					
5						

3. Fill in "y" for the third argument to get the number of years between two dates.

A4		✕ ✓ <i>f_x</i>		=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"y")		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	6/24/2030					
3						
4	10					
5						

4. Fill in "yd" for the third argument to ignore years and get the number of days between two dates.

A4		✕ ✓ <i>f_x</i>		=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"yd")		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	6/24/2030					
3						
4	67					
5						

5. Fill in "md" for the third argument to ignore months and get the number of days between two dates.

A4		✕ ✓ <i>f_x</i>		=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"md")		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	6/24/2030					
3						
4	6					
5						

6. Fill in "ym" for the third argument to ignore years and get the number of months between two dates.

A4		✕ ✓ <i>f_x</i>		=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"ym")		
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	6/24/2030					
3						
4	2					
5						

Important note: the DATEDIF function returns the number of complete days, months or years. This may give unexpected results when the day/month number of the second date is lower than the day/month number of the first date. See the example below.

A4		✕ ✓ <i>f_x</i>		=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"y")		
----	--	--------------------------	--	---------------------	--	--

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	4/17/2030					
3						
4	9					
5						

The difference is 9 years. Almost 10 years! Use the following formula to return 10 years.

A4	=YEAR(A2)-YEAR(A1)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	4/18/2020					
2	4/17/2030					
3						
4	10					
5						

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