

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 | | X | ✓ | f _x | =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 | | X | ✓ | f _x | =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 | X | ✓ | fx | =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 | X | ✓ | fx | =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 | X | ✓ | fx | =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 | X | ✓ | fx | =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 | X | ✓ | fx | =DATEDIF(A1,A2,"y") | |
|-------------|---|---|----|---------------------|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | F |
| 1 4/18/2020 | | | | | |
| 2 6/24/2030 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |

| | 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.

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

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