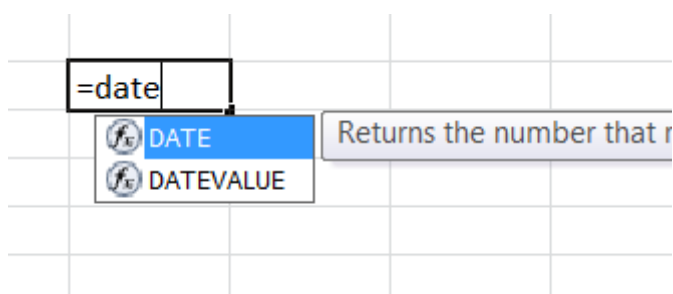


# Calculate the difference between two dates using DATEDIF Function

**DATEDIF** function is hidden function in Excel. The reason why I called it a hidden function because excel does not show it in its function list.

For example, just type **=date** in Excel. Microsoft excel will start suggesting functions related to Date. But it will not show DATEDIF function.



Note that it is "**DATEDIF**" function and not "**DATEDIFF**"

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## **DATEDIF Function**

The DATEDIF function is used when we want to get the number of days or years or months between two given dates.

Syntax:

=DATEDIF(Start\_Date,End\_Date,Unit)

where,

Start\_Date-Starting date of the period you want to calculate.

End\_Date-Last date of the period you want to calculate.

Unit-specifies the interval by which you want the difference to be returned. There are 6 Units, which are described as under:

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>RETURNS</b>
"Y"	Returns the period difference as complete years.
"M"	Returns the period difference as complete months.
"D"	Returns the number of days in the period.
"MD"	Returns the difference between the days in 'Start_Date' and 'End_Date'. Here the months and years of the dates are ignored.

## UNIT

## RETURNS

"YM" Returns the difference between the months in 'Start\_Date' and 'End\_Date'. Here the days and years of the dates are ignored

"YD" Returns the difference between the days of 'Start\_Date' and 'End\_Date'. Here the years of the dates are ignored.

### [Want to customize Date and Time Format?](#)

**Example 1:** Let's find difference of days between two dates-"04-03-2014" and "02-04-2017". Unit "d" returns the difference between two dates.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	04-03-2014	1125			
2	02-04-2017				
3					
4					
5					
6					

The formula bar shows: `=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"d")`. A red box labeled "DATEDIF formula" points to the formula bar. A red box labeled "Total number of days between two given dates." points to the value 1125 in cell B1.

**Example 2:** Let's find difference of months between two dates-"04-05-2014" and "02-0-2017". Unit "m" returns the difference of month between two dates.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	04-05-2014	35			
2	02-05-2017				
3					
4					
5					
6					

The formula bar shows: `=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"m")`. A red box labeled "DATEDIF formula" points to the formula bar. A red box labeled "Total number of months between the two dates." points to the value 35 in cell B1.

### [Do you know how we can add two dates?](#)

**Example 3:** Let's find difference of years between two dates-"03-02-2013" and "14-04-2015". Unit "y" returns the difference of years between two dates.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	03-02-2013	2				
2	14-04-2015					
3						
4						
5						
6						

The formula bar shows: `=DATEDIF(A1,A2,"y")`. A red box labeled "DATEDIF formula" points to the formula bar. A red box labeled "Total number of years between two dates." points to the value 2 in cell B1.

**Example 4:** Let's find difference of days between two dates ignoring years and months-"01-02-2014" and "04-04-2016". Here it returns only 3 value because unit "md" does not consider change in month and years.

	A	B	C
1	01-02-2014	3	
2	04-04-2016		
3			
4			
5			

No of Days between two dates ignoring months and years

**Example 5:** Let's find difference of months between two dates ignoring years and days-"01-02-2014" and "04-04-2016". Here it returns only 2 value because unit "ym" does not consider change in days and years.

	A	B	C
1	01-02-2014	2	
2	04-04-2016		
3			
4			
5			

Provide No of months between two dates ignoring days and years

**Example 6:** Let's find difference of days between two dates ignoring **ONLY** years.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	23-04-2013	29			
2	22-05-2015				
3					
4					
5					

Total number of days between two dates ignoring the years.

DATEDIF formula

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[Want to know how many days you have to work in this month??](#)

## [How to use Time functions in excel?](#)