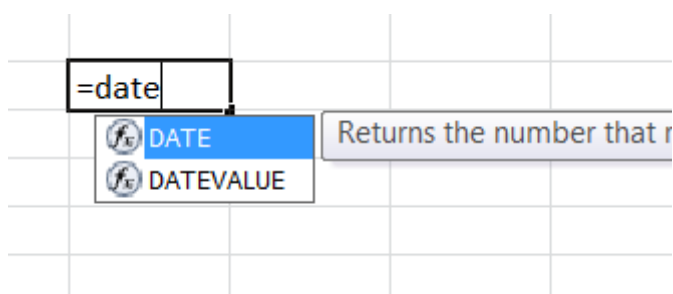


# Calculate the difference between two dates using DATEDIF Function

**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**"

**Download file and Try it yourself!!-**

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