

# MERGE Function

## Contents:

- *Basic Usage*
- *Syntax and Arguments*
  - *string\_ref1, string\_ref2*
  - *string\_delim*
- *Examples*
  - *Example - Simple merge example*
  - *Other Examples*

Merges two or more columns of String type to generate output of String type. Optionally, you can insert a delimiter between the merged values.

**NOTE:** This function behaves exactly like the `merge` transform, although the syntax is different. See *Merge Transform*.

## Basic Usage

### String literal reference example:

```
derive type:single value:MERGE(['Hello','World'],' ') as:'Hi'
```

**Output:** Generates a new column called `Hi` with the value `Hello, World`.

### Column reference example:

```
derive type:single value:MERGE([string1,string2]) as:'merged_strings'
```

**Output:** Generates a new `merged_strings` column containing a single String value that is the merge of `string1` and `string2` values.

## Syntax and Arguments

```
derive type:single value:MERGE([string_ref1,string_ref2],'string_delim')
```

Argument	Required?	Data Type	Description
<code>string_ref1</code>	Y	string	Name of first column or first string literal to apply to the function
<code>string_ref2</code>	Y	string	Name of second column or second string literal to apply to the function
<code>string_delim</code>	N	string	Optional delimiter string to insert between column or literal values

For more information on syntax standards, see *Language Documentation Syntax Notes*.

## string\_ref1, string\_ref2

String literal or name of the string column whose elements you want to merge together. You can merge together two or more strings.

### Usage Notes:

Required?	Data Type	Example Value
Yes	String literal or column reference	myString1, myString2

## string\_delim

Optional string literal to insert between each string that is being merged.

### Usage Notes:

Required?	Data Type	Example Value
No	String literal	' - '

## Examples

**Tip:** For additional examples, see *Common Tasks*.

### Example - Simple merge example

The following example contains the names of a set of American authors. You need to bring together these column values into a new column, called `FullName`.

#### Source:

FirstName	LastName	MiddleInitial
Jack	Kerouac	L
Paul	Theroux	E
J.D.	Salinger	
Philip	Dick	K

#### Transform:

```
derive type:single value:MERGE([FirstName,MiddleInitial,LastName], ' ') as:'FullName'
```

Since the entry for J.D. Salinger has no middle name, you might want to add the following transform:

```
replace col:FullName with:' ' on:' '
```

#### Results:

FirstName	LastName	MiddleInitial	FullName
Jack	Kerouac	L	Jack L Kerouac

Paul	Theroux	E	Paul E Theroux
J.D.	Salinger		J.D. Salinger
Philip	Dick	K	Philip K Dick

### Other Examples

While the syntax may be different, the `MERGE` function behaves exactly like the `merge` transform. For more examples, see *Merge Transform*.