Drop Transform

> **NOTE:** Transforms are a part of the underlying language, which is not directly accessible to users. This content is maintained for reference purposes only. For more information on the user-accessible equivalent to transforms, see *Transformation Reference*.

Removes the specified column or columns permanently from your dataset.

Tips:

- This transform might be automatically applied as one of the first steps of your recipe. See *Initial Parsing Steps*.
- If you want to hide a column from view, select **Hide** from the column drop-down. Note that the data can still be referenced in your transforms and appears in any generated output. See *Transformer Page*.
- If you are working with large datasets, you might want to delete columns at the beginning of your recipe, which can assist application and job execution performance. Use the tilde operator to specify ranges of columns.
- You can also specify the columns that you wish to retain and then add the `Keep` action to delete all other columns in the dataset.

Basic Usage

Single-column example:

```
drop col:ThisOldColumn action: Drop
```

Output: Deletes the column named `ThisOldColumn`.

Multi-column example:

You can specify comma-separated sets of columns.

```
drop col: FirstName, MiddleInitial action: Drop
```

Output: Deletes the columns `FirstName` and `MiddleInitial` from your dataset.

Keep example:

The following transform keeps the listed columns and deletes all others in the dataset:

```
drop col: FirstName, MiddleInitial action: Keep
```

Output: Dataset only contains `FirstName` and `MiddleInitial` columns.

Column range example:

You can also specify ranges of columns using the tilde (~) operator:

```
drop col:Column1~Column20 action: Drop
```

Output: Deletes the columns `Column1` and `Column20` and all columns displayed in between them in the data grid.

Syntax and Parameters

```
drop col:column_ref action: [Drop|Keep]
```

Token	Required?	Data Type	Description
drop	Y	transform	Name of the transform
col	Y	string	Name of the column or expression for columns to delete
action	Y	string	`Drop` or `Keep` the listed columns

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

col

Identifies the column or columns to which to apply the transform. You can specify one column or more columns.

To specify multiple columns:

- Discrete column names are comma-separated.
- Values for column names are case-sensitive.

Usage Notes:

Required?	Data Type
Yes	String (column name)

action

Identifies whether the action performed by the transform:

- `Drop` - Listed columns are deleted from the dataset.
- `Keep` - Listed columns are retained in the dataset, and all other columns are deleted.

Usage Notes:

Required?	Data Type
Yes	String (`Drop` or `Keep`)

Examples

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

See above.