

# REPEAT Function

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Repeats a string a specified number of times. The string can be specified as a String literal, a function returning a String, or a column reference.

- Since the REPEAT function matches based on fixed numeric values, changes to the length or structure of a data field can cause your recipe to fail to properly execute.
- The REPEAT function requires an integer value for the number of characters to match.

## Basic Usage

### String literal example:

```
derive type:single value:REPEAT('ha',3)
```

**Output:** The string hahaha is written to the new column.

### Column reference example:

```
derive type:single value:REPEAT(MyString,4)
```

**Output:** The values of the MyString column value are written four times in a row to the new column.

## Syntax and Arguments

```
derive type:single value:REPEAT(column_string,rpt_count)
```

Argument	Required?	Data Type	Description
column_string	Y	string	Name of the column or string literal to be applied to the function
rpt_count	N	integer (positive)	Count of times to repeat the string

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

### column\_string

Name of the column or String literal to be repeated.

- Missing string or column values generate missing string results.
- String constants must be quoted ('Hello, World').
- Multiple columns and wildcards are not supported.

**Usage Notes:**

Required?	Data Type	Example Value
Yes	String literal, function, or column reference	myColumn

**rpt\_count**

Count of times to repeat the string.

- If the value is not specified, the default is 1.
- Value must be a non-negative integer.
- References to columns of integer data type are not supported.

**Usage Notes:**

Required?	Data Type	Example Value
No	Integer (non-negative)	5

**Examples**

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

**Example - REPEAT string function**

**Source:**

myStr	repeat_count
ha	0
ha	1
ha	1.5
ha	2
ha	-2

**Transform:**

```
derive type:single value:REPEAT(myStr,repeat_count) as:'repeat_string'
```

**Results:**

myStr	repeat_count	repeat_string
ha	0	
ha	1	ha
ha	1.5	
ha	2	haha

ha	-2	
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### Example - padding a string

In this example, the prodId values are supposed to be 8 characters in length. Somewhere in the analytics pipeline, the leading 0's were stripped. The following steps add them back.

#### Source:

prodName	prodId
w01	1
w02	10000001
w03	345
w04	10402

#### Transform:

First, you must calculate how many leading 0's need to be added back for each line:

```
derive type:single value: 8 - LEN(prodId) as: 'lenPad'
```

Build the pad string based on the above value:

```
derive type:single value: REPEAT('0', lenPad) as: 'padString'
```

Combine the above string with the prodId value:

```
merge col: string, repeat_count as: 'column1'
```

#### Results:

After you remove the intermediate columns and rename `column1` to `prodId`, you should have the following:

prodName	prodId
w01	00000001
w02	10000001
w03	00000345
w04	00010402