

# Google Sheets Scripting Guide

COMMUNITY PLACE

Automate your spreadsheets without being a developer | [communityplace-info.com](https://communityplace-info.com) | 2026

---

## What is Google Apps Script?

Google Apps Script is a **free, built-in scripting language** (based on JavaScript) that lets you automate tasks in Google Sheets, Docs, Gmail, and more. No installation needed — it runs entirely in the cloud and connects to all your Google tools automatically.

## Getting Started (2 Minutes)

1. Open any Google Sheet
  2. Click **Extensions** in the top menu
  3. Select **Apps Script**
  4. A code editor opens — this is where you write your scripts
  5. Click the **Save** icon, then the **Run** button to test
- 

## Script 1: Auto-Timestamp When a Row is Edited

Records the date and time in column A whenever someone edits a row — perfect for tracking when data was last updated.

```
function onEdit(e) {
  var sheet = e.source.getActiveSheet();
  var row = e.range.getRow();
  if (e.range.getColumn() !== 1) {
    sheet.getRange(row, 1).setValue(new Date());
  }
}
```

---

## Script 2: Email Alert When a Key Cell Changes

Sends you an email whenever a specific cell updates — great for monitoring lead counts, budget totals, or status fields.

```
function onEdit(e) {
  if (e.range.getA1Notation() === "B2") {
    GmailApp.sendEmail(
      "you@email.com",
      "Sheet Alert: B2 Changed",
      "New value: " + e.value
    );
  }
}
```

---

### Script 3: Auto-Sort Your Sheet on Open

Keeps your data sorted by a chosen column whenever the sheet is opened — great for leaderboards, lead lists, or expense trackers.

```
function onOpen() {  
  var sheet = SpreadsheetApp.getActiveSheet();  
  var range = sheet.getDataRange();  
  range.sort({ column: 2, ascending: false });  
}
```

---

### Next Level: Connect Google Sheets to N8N

Once you're comfortable with scripts, the real power comes from connecting Google Sheets to N8N workflows:

- **Trigger N8N workflows** when a new row is added to a sheet
- **Write workflow results** directly back into a spreadsheet
- **Build expense trackers** that auto-categorize and send you notifications
- **Sync sheet data** to email, Slack, or a CRM automatically

Community Place members get pre-built N8N templates for Google Sheets integration — no scripting required.

---

*Community Place | Greg Harrison | [communityplace-info.com](http://communityplace-info.com) | Richardson, Texas | Powered by N8N + Vapi + Claude*

