

How can Excel's VLOOKUP function be used if a cell contains a specific word within a larger text?

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The VLOOKUP function in Excel can be used to search for a specific word within a larger text in a cell. This function allows users to easily locate and retrieve data from a table by specifying the search criteria. By using the VLOOKUP function, users can quickly find and extract the desired information from a cell containing a larger text, saving time and effort. This feature is particularly useful for organizing and analyzing large datasets, as it allows for efficient data retrieval based on specific keywords within a cell.

Excel: VLOOKUP if Cell Contains Word within Text

You can use the following VLOOKUP formula to look up cells that contain a specific word within a text string:

=VLOOKUP("*"&A11&"*",A2:B8,2,FALSE)

This particular formula will look for the cell in the range A2:B8 that contains the word in cell A11 and return the corresponding value in the second column.

The following example shows how to use this formula in practice.

Example: VLOOKUP if Cell Contains Word within Text

Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the total sales made at various stores:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Store	Sales			
2	Eastern Row	22			
3	North Highlands	25			
4	North Axel Road	30			
5	Western Hills	40			
6	Mount Bishop	59			
7	Mount Lookout	34			
8	Citadel	16			
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

Now suppose we would like to look up the store that contains the word "Axel" and return the corresponding sales value.

We can use the following formula to do so:

```
=VLOOKUP("*"&A11&"*",A2:B8,2,FALSE)
```

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Store	Sales					
2	Eastern Row	22					
3	North Highlands	25					
4	North Axel Road	30					
5	Western Hills	40					
6	Mount Bishop	59					
7	Mount Lookout	34					
8	Citadel	16					
9							
10	Store Contains	Sales					
11	Axel	30					
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							

This VLOOKUP formula is able to look up "Axel" in the list of store names and return the correct sales value of 30.

Note that this formula is also case-insensitive.

This means that if we use "axel" then the formula will still be able to find this text in the list of store names:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Store	Sales					
2	Eastern Row	22					
3	North Highlands	25					
4	North Axel Road	30					
5	Western Hills	40					
6	Mount Bishop	59					
7	Mount Lookout	34					
8	Citadel	16					
9							
10	Store Contains	Sales					
11	axel	30					
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

The formula still returns the correct sales value of 30.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common operations in Excel: