How can I check if a cell contains a date in Excel?

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To check if a cell contains a date in Excel, you can use the DATEVALUE function. This function converts a date in text format to a numerical value, which Excel recognizes as a date. Simply enter the cell reference or date in quotation marks as the argument for the function. If the cell contains a valid date, the function will return a numerical value. If it is not a date, it will return an error. This allows you to easily identify and verify if a cell contains a date in Excel.

Excel: Check if Cell Contains Date

You can use the following formula to check if a specific cell in Excel contains a valid date:

=ISNUMBER(DATEVALUE(A2))

This particular example checks if cell A2 contains a valid date.

If it does, then the formula returns TRUE.

Otherwise, the formula returns FALSE.

Note that the function DATEVALUE converts a text date into a serial number.

If this function is unable to convert a text date into a serial number, then #VALUE! is returned.

We then wrap this function with the ISNUMBER() function to determine if the cell contains a number or

not and return TRUE or FALSE as a result.

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

Example: Check if Cell Contains Date in Excel

Suppose we have the following list of text values in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Values**					
2	Hey					
3	10/14/2023					
4	10/32/2023					
5	12/25/2023					
6	14/10/2023					
7	1/12/2023					
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

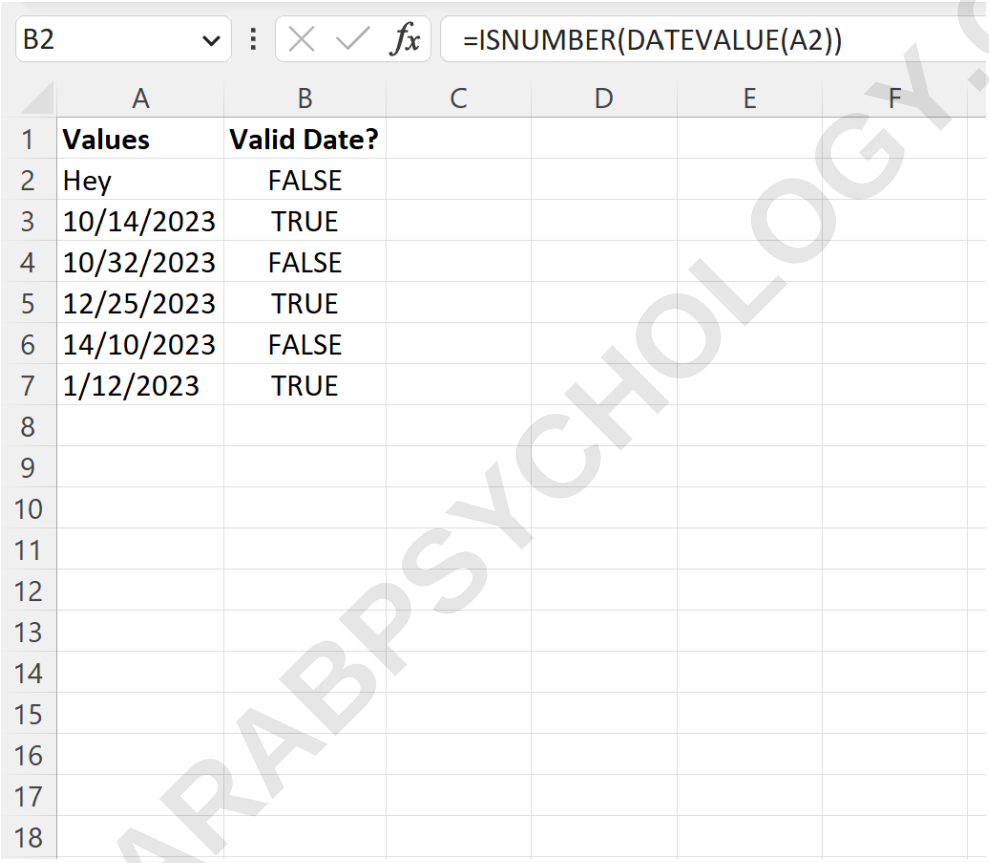
Note: It's important that the values in column A are formatted as text before using the formula.

We'll use the following formula to check if each cell in

column A contains a valid date:

=ISNUMBER(DATEVALUE(A2))

We'll type this formula into cell B2 and then copy and paste it down to every remaining cell in column B:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Values**	**Valid Date?**				
2	Hey	FALSE				
3	10/14/2023	TRUE				
4	10/32/2023	FALSE				
5	12/25/2023	TRUE				
6	14/10/2023	FALSE				
7	1/12/2023	TRUE				
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

For example, we can see:

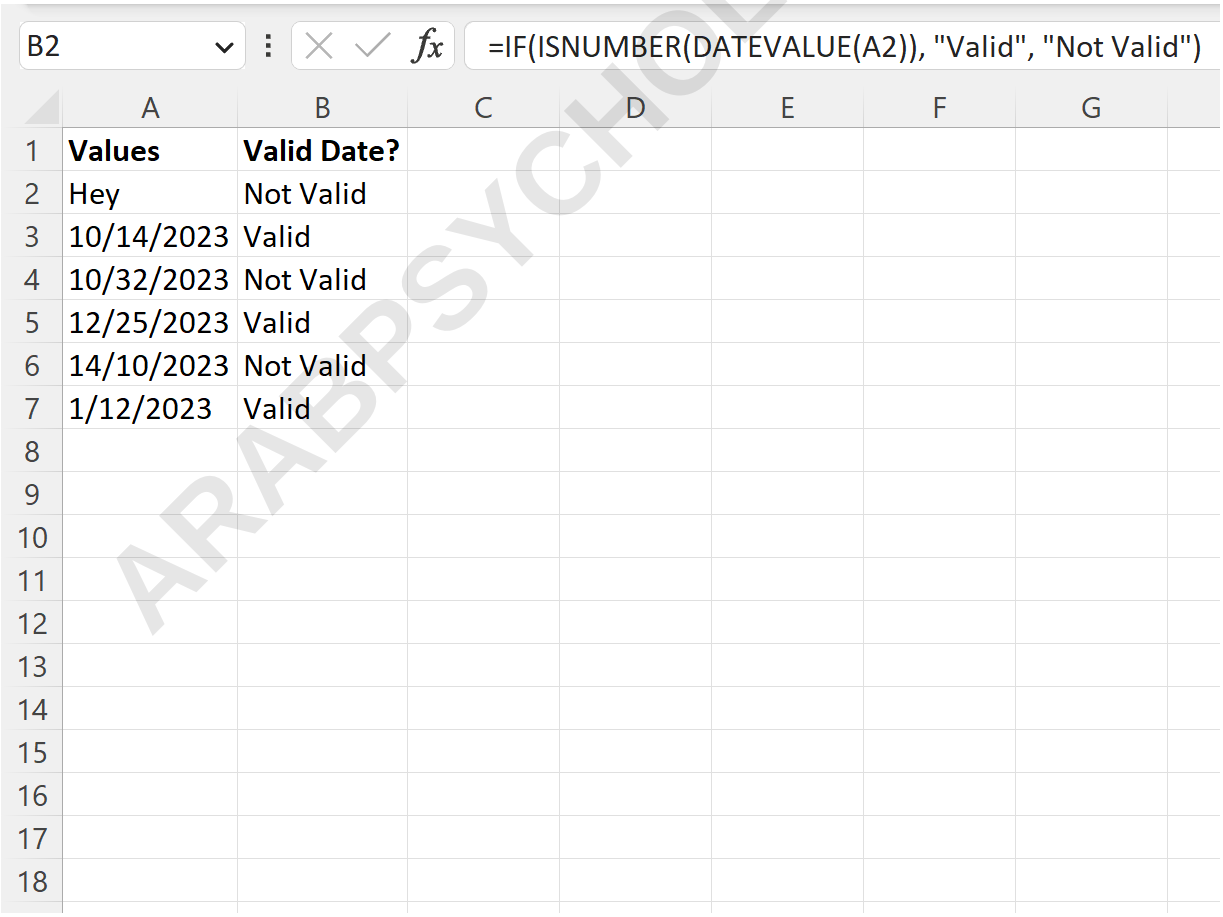
"Hey" is not a valid date."10/14/2023" is a valid date."10/32/2023" is not a valid date since October 32nd doesn't exist."12/25/2023" is a valid date."14/10/2023" is

not a valid date since there are not 14 months in a year."1/12/2023" is not a valid date.

If you would like to return values other than TRUE or FALSE, you can wrap the formula in an IF function:

=IF(ISNUMBER(DATEVALUE(A2)), "Valid", "Not Valid")

We'll type this formula into cell B2 and then copy and paste it down to every remaining cell in column B:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	**Values**	**Valid Date?**					
2	Hey	Not Valid					
3	10/14/2023	Valid					
4	10/32/2023	Not Valid					
5	12/25/2023	Valid					
6	14/10/2023	Not Valid					
7	1/12/2023	Valid					
8							
9							
10							
11							
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17							
18							

Each value in column B now returns "Valid" or "Not Valid" to indicate if the value in the corresponding cell in column A is a valid date.

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