

How can I compare two columns in Excel to identify missing values?

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In Excel, comparing two columns is a useful tool to identify any missing values between them. To do so, you can use the "IF" function along with the "COUNTIF" function to check if the values in one column are present in the other column. This will generate a result of "TRUE" or "FALSE" for each row, indicating if there is a match or not. Any rows with a result of "FALSE" can be considered as missing values. This simple comparison process can help in efficiently identifying and managing missing data in Excel.

Excel: Compare Two Columns for Missing Values

You can use the following formula in Excel to compare two columns and find missing values:

```
=FILTER(A2:A13, ISNA(VLOOKUP(A2:A13, B2:B7, 1, FALSE))))
```

This particular formula finds all of the values in A2:A13 that are missing from the range B2:B13.

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

Example: Compare Two Columns for Missing Values in Excel

Suppose we have the following two lists of names in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	List A	List B				
2	Andy	Andy				
3	Bob	Kendall				
4	Chad	Luke				
5	Doug	Greg				
6	Eric	Frank				
7	Frank	John				
8	Greg					
9	Henry					
10	Isaac					
11	John					
12	Kendall					
13	Luke					
14						
15						
16						
17						

Suppose we would like to find all of the names from List A that are missing in List B.

We can type the following formula into cell D2 to do so:

=FILTER(A2:A13, ISNA(VLOOKUP(A2:A13, B2:B7, 1, FALSE))))

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

D2		=FILTER(A2:A13, ISNA(VLOOKUP(A2:A13, B2:B7, 1, FALSE)))			
	A	B	C	D	E
1	List A	List B		Names from List A that are Missing in List B	
2	Andy	Andy		Bob	
3	Bob	Kendall		Chad	
4	Chad	Luke		Doug	
5	Doug	Greg		Eric	
6	Eric	Frank		Henry	
7	Frank	John		Isaac	
8	Greg				
9	Henry				
10	Isaac				
11	John				
12	Kendall				
13	Luke				
14					
15					
16					
17					

The formula returns every name from List A that is missing from List B.

For example:

The name "Bob" appears in List A but it does not appear in List B. The name "Chad" appears in List A but it does not appear in List B. The name "Doug" appears in List A but it does not appear in List B.

And so on.

How This Formula Works

```
=FILTER(A2:A13, ISNA(VLOOKUP(A2:A13, B2:B7, 1, FALSE)))
```

Here is how this formula works:

First, we use **VLOOKUP** to attempt to look up each value from **A2:A13** in **B2:B7**.

If the name is found, then the name is returned. Otherwise, **#N/A** is returned.

Then, we use **FILTER** along with the **ISNA** function to filter the names from **A2:A13** that had a result of **#N/A** when we used the **VLOOKUP** function.

The end result is that we're able to only see the names from **A2:A13** that are missing from **B2:B7**.

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