

How can I convert a 3 letter month abbreviation into its corresponding number in Excel?

Authored by
stats writer

June 23, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I convert a 3 letter month abbreviation into its corresponding number in Excel?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147698>

To convert a 3 letter month abbreviation into its corresponding number in Excel, follow these steps:

1. In a cell, enter the 3 letter month abbreviation (e.g. "Jan" for January) that you want to convert.
2. In the adjacent cell, use the formula "`=MONTH(cell reference)`" where "cell reference" is the cell where you entered the month abbreviation.
3. The resulting number will correspond to the month's position in the year (e.g. 1 for January, 2 for February, etc.).

This method allows for a quick and efficient way to convert month abbreviations into numbers in Excel, which can be useful for data analysis and organization purposes.

Excel: Convert 3 Letter Month Abbreviation to Number

You can use the following formula in Excel to convert a 3-letter month abbreviation to a month number in Excel:

`=MONTH(DATEVALUE(A2&1))`

This particular formula converts the 3-letter month abbreviation in cell A2 to a month number.

For example, if cell A2 contains Oct then this formula will produce a value of 10, since October is the 10th month.

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

Example: Convert 3 Letter Month Abbreviation to Number in Excel

Suppose we have the following column of 3-letter month abbreviations in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Month				
2	Jan				
3	Feb				
4	Mar				
5	Apr				
6	May				
7	Jun				
8	Jul				
9	Aug				
10	Sep				
11	Oct				
12	Nov				
13	Dec				
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

We can type the following formula into cell B2 to convert the 3-letter month abbreviation in cell A2 to a month number:

=MONTH(DATEVALUE(A2&1))

We can then drag and fill this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:

	B2 ✕ ✓ fx =MONTH(DATEVALUE(A2&1))					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Month	Number				
2	Jan	1				
3	Feb	2				
4	Mar	3				
5	Apr	4				
6	May	5				
7	Jun	6				
8	Jul	7				
9	Aug	8				
10	Sep	9				
11	Oct	10				
12	Nov	11				
13	Dec	12				
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

Column B now displays the month number for each 3-letter month abbreviation in column A.

How This Formula Works

Consider the formula that we used:

=MONTH(DATEVALUE(A2&1))

First, this formula uses A2&1 to add a 1 to the end of the three-letter abbreviation.

Next, the DATEVALUE function converts a text date to a serial number representing the number of days since Jan 1, 1900.

For example, JAN1 becomes 44927 (the formula assumes the year being used is the current year) since Jan 1, 2023 is 44,927 days after Jan 1, 1900.

Lastly, the MONTH function extracts the month number from the serial number.

For example, the month number associated with the serial number 44927 is 1.

Note: You can find the complete documentation for the DATEVALUE function in Excel .

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