

# How can I extract text between two characters in Excel?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 22, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I extract text between two characters in Excel?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147285>

Extracting text between two characters in Excel can be achieved using the "MID" function. This function allows you to specify the starting position and the number of characters to extract from a given cell. By using this function along with the "FIND" function to locate the desired characters, you can easily extract the text between them. This can be useful for separating strings of data or extracting specific information from a cell. By following these steps, you can efficiently extract text between two characters in Excel.

## Excel: Extract Text Between Two Characters

**You can use the TEXTBEFORE and TEXTAFTER functions in Excel to extract all text in a cell between two specific characters or strings.**

**You can use the following syntax to do so:**

**=TEXTBEFORE(TEXTAFTER(A2, "this"), "that")**

**This particular example extracts all of the text between the characters "this" and "that" in cell A2.**

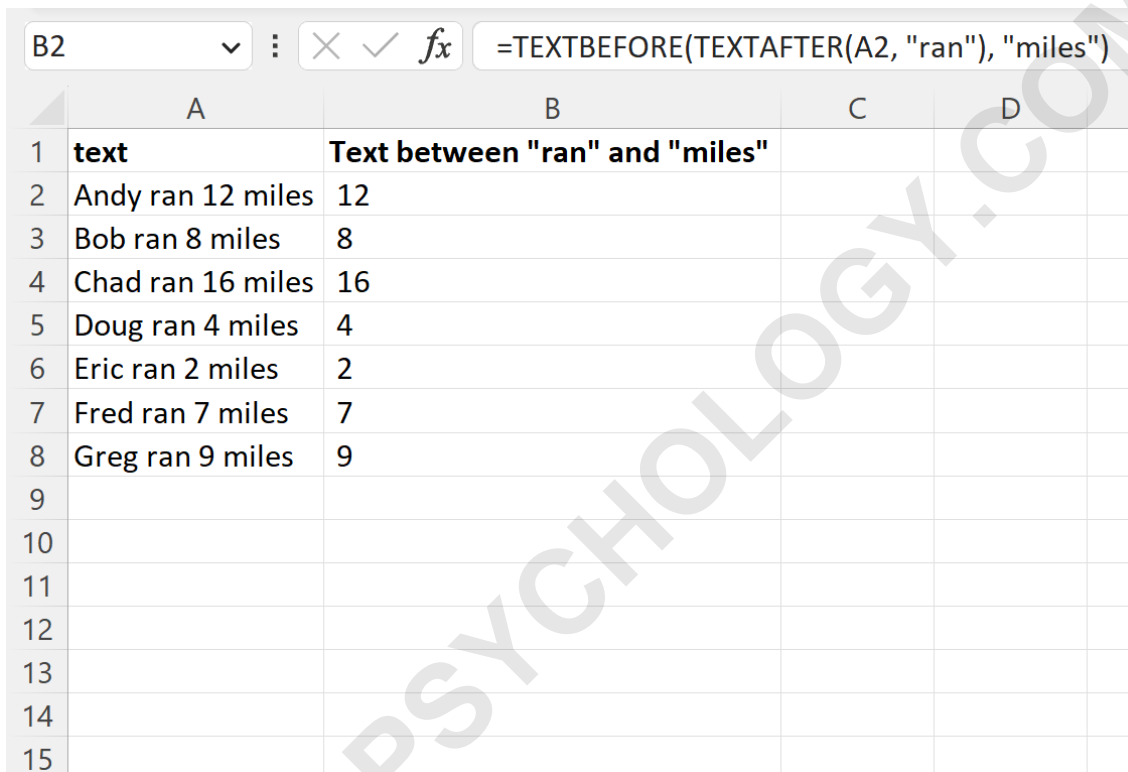
**The following examples show some common ways to extract text between two characters in practice.**

### Example 1: Extract Text Between Strings

**We can type the following formula into cell B2 to extract the text in cell A2 between the strings "ran" and "miles":**

**=TEXTBEFORE(TEXTAFTER(A2, "ran"), "miles")**

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



	A	B	C	D
1	<b>text</b>	<b>Text between "ran" and "miles"</b>		
2	Andy ran 12 miles	12		
3	Bob ran 8 miles	8		
4	Chad ran 16 miles	16		
5	Doug ran 4 miles	4		
6	Eric ran 2 miles	2		
7	Fred ran 7 miles	7		
8	Greg ran 9 miles	9		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

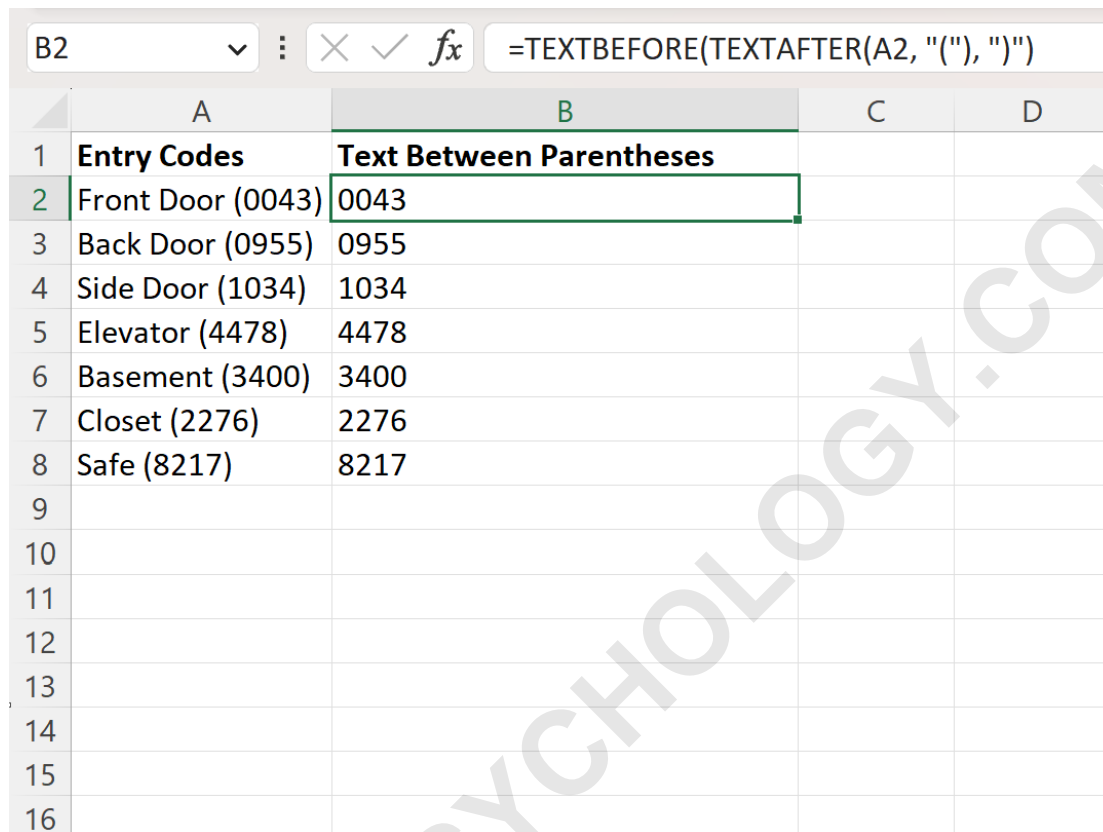
**Column B contains the text between the strings "ran" and "miles" for each corresponding cell in column A.**

### **Example 2: Extract Text Between Parentheses**

**We can type the following formula into cell B2 to extract the text in cell A2 between the parentheses:**

**=TEXTBEFORE(TEXTAFTER(A2, "("), ")")**

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



	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Entry Codes</b>	<b>Text Between Parentheses</b>		
2	Front Door (0043)	0043		
3	Back Door (0955)	0955		
4	Side Door (1034)	1034		
5	Elevator (4478)	4478		
6	Basement (3400)	3400		
7	Closet (2276)	2276		
8	Safe (8217)	8217		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				

**Column B contains the text between the parentheses for each corresponding cell in column A.**

### **Example 3: Extract Text Between Asterisks**

**We can type the following formula into cell B2 to extract the text in cell A2 between the asterisks :**

**=TEXTBEFORE(TEXTAFTER(A2, "\*"), "\*")**

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

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Entry Codes</b>	<b>Text Between Asterisks</b>		
2	Front Door *0043*	0043		
3	Back Door*0955*	0955		
4	Side Door *1034*	1034		
5	Elevator *4478*	4478		
6	Basement *3400*	3400		
7	Closet *2276*	2276		
8	Safe *8217*	8217		
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

**Column B contains the text between the asterisks for each corresponding cell in column A.**

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