

How can I extract the first 2 words from a cell in Excel?

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June 22, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I extract the first 2 words from a cell in Excel?*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147296>

To extract the first 2 words from a cell in Excel, you can use the LEFT function. This function allows you to specify the number of characters you want to extract from the left side of a string. By setting the number of characters to 2, you can extract the first 2 words from the cell. Additionally, you can use the TRIM function to remove any extra spaces before or after the words. This method is useful when dealing with large amounts of data in Excel and allows for efficient extraction of specific information from cells.

Extract First 2 Words from Cell in Excel

You can use the following formula in Excel to extract the first 2 words from a cell:

```
=TEXTBEFORE(A2, " ", 2)
```

This particular formula extracts the first 2 words from cell A2.

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

Example: Extract First 2 Words from Cell in Excel

Suppose we have the following column of phrases in Excel:

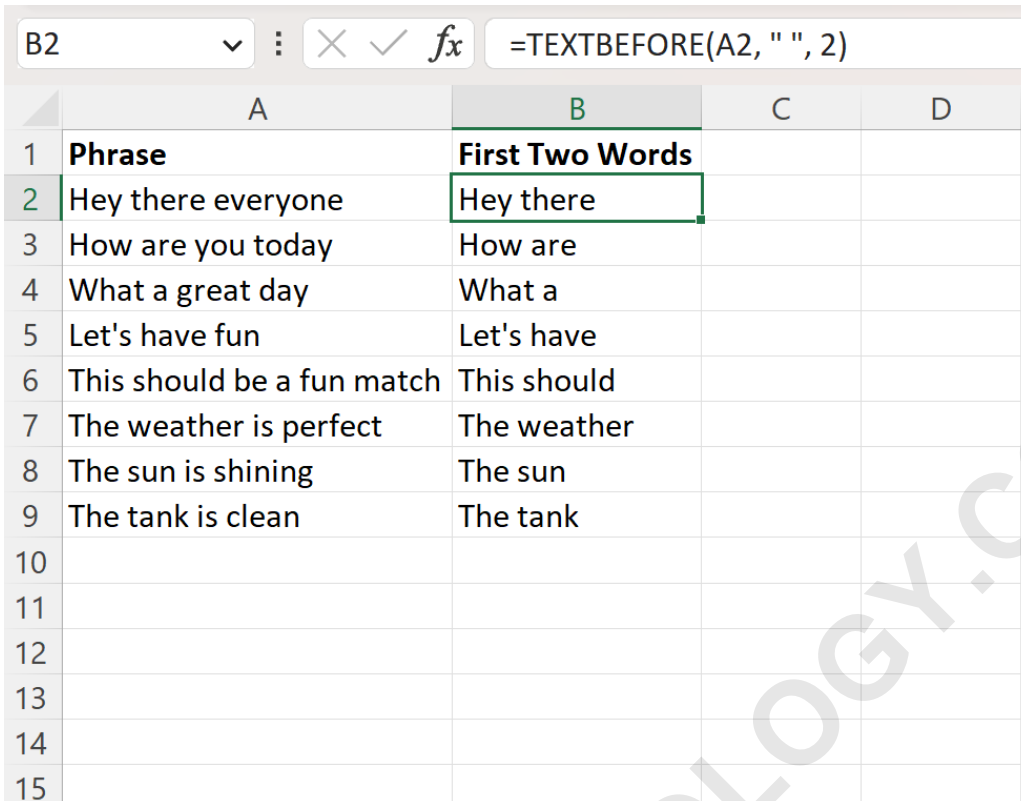
	A	B	C	D
1	Phrase			
2	Hey there everyone			
3	How are you today			
4	What a great day			
5	Let's have fun			
6	This should be a fun match			
7	The weather is perfect			
8	The sun is shining			
9	The tank is clean			
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

Suppose we would like to extract the first 2 words from each cell in column A.

We can type the following formula into cell B2 to do so:

=TEXTBEFORE(A2, " ", 2)

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



	A	B	C	D
1	Phrase	First Two Words		
2	Hey there everyone	Hey there		
3	How are you today	How are		
4	What a great day	What a		
5	Let's have fun	Let's have		
6	This should be a fun match	This should		
7	The weather is perfect	The weather		
8	The sun is shining	The sun		
9	The tank is clean	The tank		
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				

Column B now contains the first 2 words from each cell in column A.

Note: You can replace the value 2 in the formula with any value you'd like to instead extract the first *n* words.

How This Formula Works

Recall the formula that we used to extract the first 2 words from each cell:

=TEXTBEFORE(A2, " ", 2)

TEXTBEFORE(text, delimiter, , ...)

where:

text: Text to search
delimiter: Character or substring to extract text before
instance_num (optional): Instance of delimiter before which to extract text (default is 1)

The first argument specifies that we want to search cell A2.

The second argument specifies that we want to extract text before a space.

The third argument specifies that we would like to extract the text before the second space.

By using this formula, we are able to extract the first 2 words, since exactly 2 words can occur before the second space is encountered.

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

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