

“How can I fix the #NAME error in Excel? (3 examples)”

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=158734>

The #NAME error in Excel occurs when a formula or function refers to a name that cannot be recognized. This can be easily fixed by correcting the name reference in the formula. Here are three examples of how the #NAME error can be resolved:

1. Check for typos: Often, the #NAME error is caused by a simple typo in the formula. Double check all the names used in the formula and make sure they are spelled correctly.
2. Use the correct cell references: If a formula refers to a cell that has been renamed or deleted, the #NAME error will appear. Make sure all the cell references in the formula are correct.
3. Use the correct function name: Excel has a specific syntax for each function, and using the wrong function name can result in the #NAME error. Refer to the Excel help or documentation to ensure that the correct function name is used in the formula.

Fix the #NAME Error in Excel (3 Examples)

There are three common reasons why you may encounter the #NAME? error in Excel:

- 1. You mistyped a formula.**
- 2. You left out a colon in a range reference.**
- 3. You left out quotation marks for text values.**

The following examples show how to fix each error in practice.

Example 1: You Mistyped a Formula

Suppose we attempt to calculate the average value in column B using the following formula:

=AVERAG(B2:B15)

We will receive a #NAME? error since we mistyped AVERAGE in the formula:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|-------------|---------------|---|--------|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Points | | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | 4 | ⚠ | #NAME? | | |
| 3 | Mavs | 6 | | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | 7 | | | | |
| 5 | Rockets | 13 | | | | |
| 6 | Rockets | 17 | | | | |
| 7 | Heat | 9 | | | | |
| 8 | Heat | 8 | | | | |
| 9 | Heat | 12 | | | | |
| 10 | Thunder | 10 | | | | |
| 11 | Thunder | 13 | | | | |
| 12 | Thunder | 11 | | | | |
| 13 | Thunder | 7 | | | | |
| 14 | Lakers | 7 | | | | |
| 15 | Lakers | 8 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | |

To correct this error, we simply need to make sure we spell the formula correctly:

=AVERAGE(B2:B15)

This time we're able to successfully calculate the


average value in column B without an error:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|-------------|---------------|---|----------|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Points | | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | 4 | | 9.428571 | | |
| 3 | Mavs | 6 | | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | 7 | | | | |
| 5 | Rockets | 13 | | | | |
| 6 | Rockets | 17 | | | | |
| 7 | Heat | 9 | | | | |
| 8 | Heat | 8 | | | | |
| 9 | Heat | 12 | | | | |
| 10 | Thunder | 10 | | | | |
| 11 | Thunder | 13 | | | | |
| 12 | Thunder | 11 | | | | |
| 13 | Thunder | 7 | | | | |
| 14 | Lakers | 7 | | | | |
| 15 | Lakers | 8 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | |

Example 2: You Left Out a Colon in a Range Reference

Suppose we attempt to count the number of teams with a value of "Thunder" in column A using the following formula:

=COUNTIF(A2A15, "Thunder")

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|----|-------------|---------------|---|--------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Points | | | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | 4 |  | #NAME? | | | |
| 3 | Mavs | 6 | | | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | 7 | | | | | |
| 5 | Rockets | 13 | | | | | |
| 6 | Rockets | 17 | | | | | |
| 7 | Heat | 9 | | | | | |
| 8 | Heat | 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | Heat | 12 | | | | | |
| 10 | Thunder | 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | Thunder | 13 | | | | | |
| 12 | Thunder | 11 | | | | | |
| 13 | Thunder | 7 | | | | | |
| 14 | Lakers | 7 | | | | | |
| 15 | Lakers | 8 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | |

To correct this error, we simply need to make sure we include a colon in the range reference:

=COUNTIF(A2:A15, "Thunder")

This time we're able to successfully count the number of teams with a value of "Thunder" in column A without an error:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|----|-------------|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Points | | | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | 4 | | 4 | | | |
| 3 | Mavs | 6 | | | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | 7 | | | | | |
| 5 | Rockets | 13 | | | | | |
| 6 | Rockets | 17 | | | | | |
| 7 | Heat | 9 | | | | | |
| 8 | Heat | 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | Heat | 12 | | | | | |
| 10 | Thunder | 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | Thunder | 13 | | | | | |
| 12 | Thunder | 11 | | | | | |
| 13 | Thunder | 7 | | | | | |
| 14 | Lakers | 7 | | | | | |
| 15 | Lakers | 8 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | |

Example 3: You Left Out Quotation Marks for Text Values

Suppose we attempt to concatenate the values in column A and column B using the following formula:

=CONCAT(A2, scored, B2)

We will receive a #NAME? error since we left out quotation marks around "scored" in the formula:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|----|-------------|---------------|---|--------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Points | | | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | 4 | | #NAME? | | | |
| 3 | Mavs | 6 | | | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | 7 | | | | | |
| 5 | Rockets | 13 | | | | | |
| 6 | Rockets | 17 | | | | | |
| 7 | Heat | 9 | | | | | |
| 8 | Heat | 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | Heat | 12 | | | | | |
| 10 | Thunder | 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | Thunder | 13 | | | | | |
| 12 | Thunder | 11 | | | | | |
| 13 | Thunder | 7 | | | | | |
| 14 | Lakers | 7 | | | | | |
| 15 | Lakers | 8 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | |

To correct this error, we simply need to make sure we include quotation marks around "scored" in the formula:

=CONCAT(A2, " scored ", B2)

This time we're able to successfully concatenate the values in column A and column B without an error:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|----|-------------|---------------|---|---------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Points | | | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | 4 | | Mavs scored 4 | | | |
| 3 | Mavs | 6 | | | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | 7 | | | | | |
| 5 | Rockets | 13 | | | | | |
| 6 | Rockets | 17 | | | | | |
| 7 | Heat | 9 | | | | | |
| 8 | Heat | 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | Heat | 12 | | | | | |
| 10 | Thunder | 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | Thunder | 13 | | | | | |
| 12 | Thunder | 11 | | | | | |
| 13 | Thunder | 7 | | | | | |
| 14 | Lakers | 7 | | | | | |
| 15 | Lakers | 8 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | |

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to resolve other common errors in Excel: