

# How can I remove characters in a string using VBA?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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VBA, or Visual Basic for Applications, is a programming language used to create and automate tasks in Microsoft Office applications. One common task in VBA is manipulating strings, or a sequence of characters, to extract or remove specific parts of the text. In order to remove characters in a string using VBA, the programmer can use the built-in function "Replace" or "Mid" to replace or delete characters at a specific position in the string. This can be useful when working with large amounts of data or when trying to format text in a specific way. By utilizing these functions, VBA provides a simple and efficient way to remove characters in a string, allowing for greater flexibility and control in data analysis and manipulation.

## **VBA: Remove Characters in String**

**You can use the Replace() method in VBA to remove characters from a string.**

**The following examples show how to use this method in practice with the following list of strings in Excel:**

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>String</b>			
2	This is this sentence			
3	This is great			
4	This can be a good team			
5	This is this one thing and this thing			
6	This is cool			
7	Oh how fun			
8	This is just awesome isn't this			
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

### Example 1: Use VBA to Remove All Occurrences of Character in String (Case-Sensitive)

Suppose that we would like to remove "this" from each string.

We can create the following macro to do so:

```
Sub RemoveChar() Dim i As Integer For i = 2 To 8
Range("B" & i) = Replace(Range("A" & i), "this", "")
Next i
End Sub
```

**When we run this macro, we receive the following output:**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>String</b>				
2	This is this sentence	This is sentence			
3	This is great	This is great			
4	This can be a good team	This can be a good team			
5	This is this one thing and this thing	This is one thing and thing			
6	This is cool	This is cool			
7	Oh how fun	Oh how fun			
8	This is just awesome isn't this	This is just awesome isn't			
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

**Column B displays each of the strings in column A with each occurrence of "this" removed.**

**Notice that this macro is case-sensitive.**

**That is, each occurrence of "this" is removed but each occurrence of "This" is left alone.**

**Example 2: Use VBA to Remove All Occurrences of Character in**

## String (Case-Insensitive)

Suppose that we would like to remove "this" (regardless of case) from each string.

We can create the following macro to do so:

```
Sub RemoveChar() Dim i As Integer For i = 2 To 8  
Range("B" & i) = Replace(LCase(Range("A" & i)), "this",  
"")  
Next i  
End Sub
```

When we run this macro, we receive the following output:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>String</b>				
2	This is this sentence	is sentence			
3	This is great	is great			
4	This can be a good team	can be a good team			
5	This is this one thing and this thing	is one thing and thing			
6	This is cool	is cool			
7	Oh how fun	oh how fun			
8	This is just awesome isn't this	is just awesome isn't			
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

**Column B displays each of the strings in column A with each occurrence of "this" removed.**

**Notice that this replacement is case-insensitive.**

**That is, each occurrence of "this" (whether it's capitalized or not) is removed.**

**We were able to achieved this by using the LCase method to first convert each string in column A to lowercase before searching for "this" in each string.**

### Example 3: Use VBA to Remove First N Occurrences of Character in String

Suppose that we would like to remove only the first occurrence of "this" (regardless of case) from each string.

We can create the following macro to do so:

```
Sub RemoveChar() Dim i As Integer For i = 2 To 8
Range("B" & i) = Replace(LCase(Range("A" & i)), "this",
"", Count:=1)
Next i
End Sub
```

When we run this macro, we receive the following output:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>String</b>				
2	This is this sentence	is this sentence			
3	This is great	is great			
4	This can be a good team	can be a good team			
5	This is this one thing and this thing	is this one thing and this thing			
6	This is cool	is cool			
7	Oh how fun	oh how fun			
8	This is just awesome isn't this	is just awesome isn't this			
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

**Column B displays each of the strings in column A with only the first occurrence of "this" removed.**

**Note that we used `Count:=1` to remove only the first occurrence of a specific string, but you can replace 1 with any value you'd like to instead remove the first  $n$  occurrences of a specific string.**

**Note: You can find the complete documentation for the [VBA Replace method](#) .**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks using VBA:**

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