

How can I remove the first three characters from a string in Excel?

Authored by
stats writer

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To remove the first three characters from a string in Excel, you can use the LEFT function. This function allows you to specify the number of characters to extract from the beginning of the string. By using the LEFT function with a specified number of characters of 3, you can easily remove the first three characters from the string. This can be useful for cleaning up data or extracting specific information from a larger string.

Excel: Remove First 3 Characters from String

Often you may want to remove the first 3 characters from a string in Excel.

You can use the RIGHT function combined with the LEN function to do so:

=RIGHT(A2,LEN(A2)-3)

This particular formula removes the first 3 characters from the string in cell A2.

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

Example: Remove First 3 Characters from String in Excel

Suppose we have the following list of basketball team names:

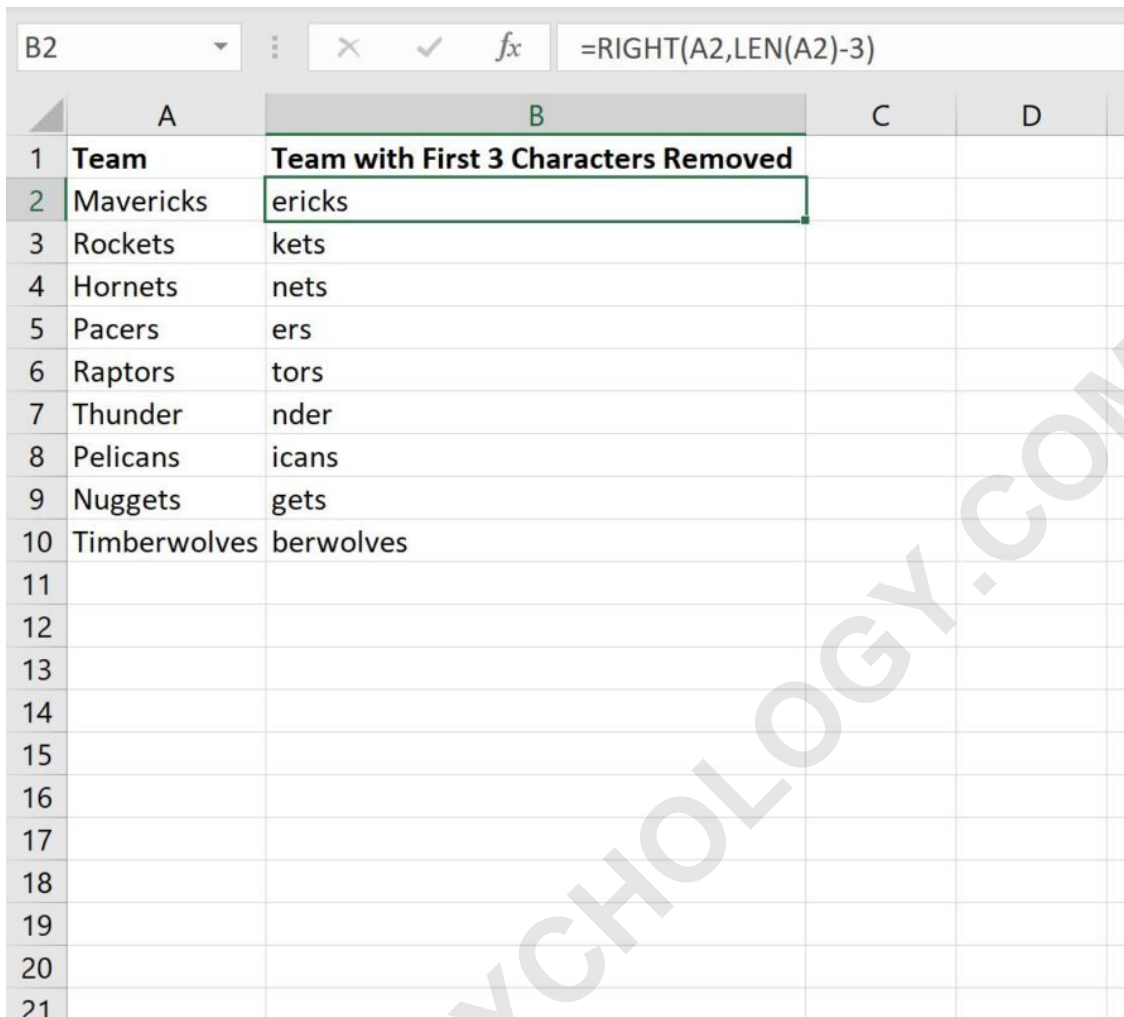
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team					
2	Mavericks					
3	Rockets					
4	Hornets					
5	Pacers					
6	Raptors					
7	Thunder					
8	Pelicans					
9	Nuggets					
10	Timberwolves					
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

Suppose we would like to remove the first three characters from each team name.

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

=RIGHT(A2,LEN(A2)-3)

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



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D
1	Team	Team with First 3 Characters Removed		
2	Mavericks	ericks		
3	Rockets	kets		
4	Hornets	nets		
5	Pacers	ers		
6	Raptors	tors		
7	Thunder	nder		
8	Pelicans	icans		
9	Nuggets	gets		
10	Timberwolves	berwolves		
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				

The formula bar at the top shows the formula: `=RIGHT(A2,LEN(A2)-3)`

Column B now displays the team names in column A with the first three characters removed from each team name.

How This Formula Works

The RIGHT() function in Excel extracts a specific number of characters from the right side of a string.

The LEN() function in Excel is used to find the length of

a string.

Thus, our formula displays the entire string with the first three characters removed.

Note: Blank spaces at the start of a string count as characters. You may need to first remove blank spaces to get your desired result.

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

[Excel: A Formula for MID From Right](#)

[Excel: How to Use MID Function for Variable Length Strings](#)