

How can I replace characters in a string using VBA?

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Replacing characters in a string using VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) is a process of modifying a specific character or set of characters within a given string. This can be achieved by using the built-in VBA function "Replace". The "Replace" function takes in three arguments - the original string, the characters to be replaced, and the replacement characters. By specifying the correct arguments, the function will search for the specified characters in the string and replace them with the provided replacement characters. This method is useful for data manipulation and formatting tasks in VBA programming.

VBA: Replace Characters in String

You can use the Replace() method in VBA to replace characters in a string.

This method uses the following basic syntax:

Replace(expression, find, replace, start, count)

where:

expression: The string you want to replace characters in
find: The string to find
replace: The string to use as replacement
start (optional): The starting position in the string to be searched
count (optional): The number of replacements to make

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

	A	B	C	D
1	String			
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 Replace All Occurrences of Character in String (Case-Sensitive)

Suppose that we would like to replace "this" with "THAT" in each string.

We can create the following macro to do so:

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

End Sub

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

	A	B	C	D	E
1	String				
2	This is this sentence	This is THAT 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 THAT one thing and THAT 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 THAT			
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

Column B displays each of the strings in column A with each occurrence of "this" replaced by "THAT".

Notice that this replacement is case-sensitive.

That is, each occurrence of "this" is replaced but each

occurrence of "This" is left alone.

Example 2: Use VBA to Replace All Occurrences of Character in String (Case-Insensitive)

We can create the following macro to do so:

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

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

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

Column B displays each of the strings in column A with each occurrence of "this" replaced by "THAT".

Notice that this replacement is case-insensitive.

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

We were able to perform this case-insensitive replacement 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 Replace First N Occurrences of Character in String

Suppose that we would like to replace only the first occurrence of "this" (regardless of case) with "THAT" in each string.

We can create the following macro to do so:

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

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

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

Column B displays each of the strings in column A with only the first occurrence of "this" replaced by "THAT".

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