

How can I search for an asterisk in a cell in Excel?

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To search for an asterisk (*) in a cell in Excel, use the "Find and Replace" function. This can be accessed by pressing "Ctrl + F" or by going to the Home tab and clicking on "Find & Select" in the "Editing" section. In the "Find and Replace" window, type an asterisk (*) in the "Find what" field and leave the "Replace with" field blank. Click on "Find Next" to locate the first instance of an asterisk in the cell. To find and replace all asterisks in the cell, click on "Replace All". This function can also be used to search for and replace other characters or words in a cell.

Search for an Asterisk in a Cell in Excel

You can use the following formula to check if a given cell in Excel contains an asterisk anywhere in the cell:

=IF(ISNUMBER(SEARCH("~*", A2)), "Yes", "No")

This particular formula checks if cell A2 contains an asterisk and returns "Yes" if it does.

Otherwise, it returns "No."

Note: The tilde symbol (~) in Excel indicates that the next character is a literal.

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

Example: Search for Asterisk in Cell in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains information about various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Points				
2	Mavs*	34				
3	Nets	15				
4	Warriors	9				
5	Hawks*	29				
6	Celtics*	20				
7	Lakers	12				
8	Cavs	14				
9	Spurs	7				
10	Rockets*	41				
11	Hornets	13				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

An asterisk at the end of the team name indicates that the player is an All-Star.

Suppose we would like to search each team name in column A to determine if each player is an All-Star or not.

To do so, we can type the following formula into cell C2:

=IF(ISNUMBER(SEARCH("~*", A2)), "Yes", "No")

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Team	Points	All-Star?				
2	Mavs*	34	Yes				
3	Nets	15	No				
4	Warriors	9	No				
5	Hawks*	29	Yes				
6	Celtics*	20	Yes				
7	Lakers	12	No				
8	Cavs	14	No				
9	Spurs	7	No				
10	Rockets*	41	Yes				
11	Hornets	13	No				
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

The formula returns "Yes" if the team name contains an asterisk.

Otherwise, it returns "No" if no asterisk is found.

Mavs* does contain an asterisk. Nets does not contain an asterisk. Warriors does not contain an asterisk.

And so on.

Note that if you'd like to return values other than "Yes" and "No", simply replace these values in the formula with whatever values you'd like.

Also note that you can use the following formula to return TRUE or FALSE to indicate whether a cell contains an asterisk or not:

=ISNUMBER(SEARCH("~*", A2))

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

Astros*	20	TRUE
Brewers	12	FALSE
Cubs	14	FALSE
Falcons	7	FALSE
Packers*	41	TRUE
Rangers	13	FALSE
Redskins		
Seahawks		
Saints		
Texans		
Vikings		
Wolves		
Yankees		
Zephyrs		

The formula returns TRUE or FALSE to indicate whether the team name contains an asterisk or not.

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

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