

# How can I search for special characters in a cell in Excel?

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To search for special characters in a cell in Excel, first select the cell or range of cells you want to search. Then, click on the "Find and Replace" option under the Home tab. In the "Find and Replace" window, click on the "Options" button and check the box next to "Match entire cell contents." Next, enter the special character(s) you want to search for in the "Find what" field. Finally, click "Find Next" to locate the first instance of the special character(s) in the selected cell(s).

## Search for Special Characters in a Cell in Excel

You can use the following formula to check if a given cell in Excel contains any special characters anywhere in the cell:

```
=SUMPRODUCT(--  
ISNUMBER(SEARCH({"!","#","$","%","(",")","^","@","",",",  
{"","}"},A2)))>0
```

This particular formula checks if cell A2 contains any special characters and returns TRUE if it does.

Otherwise, it returns FALSE.

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

**Example: Search for Special Characters in Cell in Excel**

**Suppose we have the following list of phrases in Excel:**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Phrase</b>				
2	Today is# a great day				
3	How are you today				
4	How is it going\$				
5	What an amazing^ year				
6	Here*( ) we go everyone				
7	Let's have fun				
8	This is great weather				
9	Have fun]& on vacation				
10	Let us eat together				
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

Suppose we would like to search each phrase in column A to determine if it contains a special character or not.

To do so, we can type the following formula into cell B2:

```
=SUMPRODUCT(--ISNUMBER(SEARCH({"!", "#", "$", "%", "(", ")", "^", "@", " ", " {", "}"},A2)))>0
```

We can then click and drag this formula down to each

## remaining cell in column B:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Phrase</b>	<b>Special Character in Phrase?</b>			
2	Today is# a great day	TRUE			
3	How are you today	FALSE			
4	How is it going\$	TRUE			
5	What an amazing^ year	TRUE			
6	Here*() we go everyone	TRUE			
7	Let's have fun	FALSE			
8	This is great weather	FALSE			
9	Have fun]& on vacation	TRUE			
10	Let us eat together	FALSE			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

**The formula returns TRUE if the phrase contains a special character.**

**Otherwise, it returns FALSE if no special characters are found.**

**For example, we can see:**

The first phrase contains at least one special character. The second phrase does not contain any special characters. The third phrase contains at least one special character.

Note that the formula we used contains the most common special characters but if there are other special characters you'd like to search for, simply include those within the SEARCH() function in the formula.

Also note that you can choose to only search for specific special characters if you'd like.

For example, you could use the following formula to only search for a dollar sign or percent sign in cells:

```
=SUMPRODUCT(--  
ISNUMBER(SEARCH({"$","%"},A2)))>0
```

This formula would return TRUE if a dollar sign (\$) or percent sign (%) were detected in a given cell or FALSE if neither character was detected.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other

## **common tasks in Excel:**

**How to Search for an Asterisk in a Cell in Excel**

**How to Search for a Question Mark in Excel**

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