

How can I use a case sensitive VLOOKUP in Google Sheets?

Authored by
stats writer

June 30, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use a case sensitive VLOOKUP in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=162840>

A case sensitive VLOOKUP in Google Sheets refers to the usage of the VLOOKUP function in a spreadsheet while considering the sensitivity of uppercase and lowercase letters. This means that when searching for a value in a specific column, the function will only return a match if the case of the letters in the search criteria and the data in the column are exactly the same. To use a case sensitive VLOOKUP in Google Sheets, the lookup range and search criteria must be set to exact match mode by using the EXACT function. This can be helpful in situations where data may contain variations in capitalization and the accuracy of the search results is critical.

Use a Case Sensitive VLOOKUP in Google Sheets

You can use the following basic formula to perform a case sensitive VLOOKUP in Google Sheets:

```
=INDEX(B2:B10,MATCH(TRUE,EXACT(G2,A2:A10),0))
```

This particular formula finds the exact value in cell G2 in the range A2:A10 and returns the corresponding value in the range B2:B10.

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

Example: Case Sensitive VLOOKUP in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the number of sales made by various salesmen at a company:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Sales		
2	Andy	29		
3	ANDY	20		
4	Brad	13		
5	Chad	14		
6	Derrick	17		
7	Eric	29		
8	Frank	34		
9	George	48		
10	Hank	15		
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

Now suppose we attempt to use the following VLOOKUP formula to look up "Andy" and return his number of sales:

=VLOOKUP(D2,A2:B10,2)

This formula incorrectly returns the number of sales for **ANDY** instead of Andy:

E2 *fx* =VLOOKUP(D2, A2:B10, 2)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Name	Sales		Name	Sales
2	Andy	29		Andy	20
3	ANDY	20			
4	Brad	13			
5	Chad	14			
6	Derrick	17			
7	Eric	29			
8	Frank	34			
9	George	48			
10	Hank	15			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

Instead, we need to use the following formula that can perform a case-sensitive VLOOKUP:

=INDEX(B2:B10,MATCH(TRUE,EXACT(G2,A2:A10),0))

This formula correctly returns the number of sales for Andy, which turns out to be 29:

E2 *fx* =INDEX(B2:B10, MATCH(TRUE, EXACT(D2, A2:A10), 0))

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Name	Sales		Name	Sales
2	Andy	29		Andy	29
3	ANDY	20			
4	Brad	13			
5	Chad	14			
6	Derrick	17			
7	Eric	29			
8	Frank	34			
9	George	48			
10	Hank	15			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

The formula correctly returns the number of sales for Andy instead of ANDY.

Additional Resources