

# How can I use INDEX MATCH in Excel if a cell contains specific text?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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INDEX MATCH is a powerful function in Excel that allows for data to be retrieved from a specific cell based on the matching of criteria. This function can be particularly useful if you are trying to find a specific value in a large dataset. In order to use INDEX MATCH when a cell contains specific text, you can first use the MATCH function to locate the position of the text within the dataset. Then, the INDEX function can be used to retrieve the value from the corresponding cell. This method allows for flexibility and accuracy when searching for data in Excel.

## Excel: Use INDEX MATCH if Cell Contains Text

You can use the INDEX and MATCH functions in Excel to look up a specific value in one column and return a corresponding value in another column.

You can use the following syntax with INDEX and MATCH to look up a cell that contains specific text:

```
=INDEX(A2:B11,MATCH("*Warr*",A2:A11,0),2)
```

This particular formula looks up the value in the range A2:A11 that contains the substring "Warr" and returns the corresponding value in column 2 of the range A2:B11.

**Note:** The asterisks ( \* ) are used as wildcard characters. This means any character can come before or after "Warr" in the cell.

The following example shows how to use this syntax in

## practice.

### Example: How to Use INDEX MATCH if Cell Contains Text in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that contains information about points scored by basketball players on various teams:

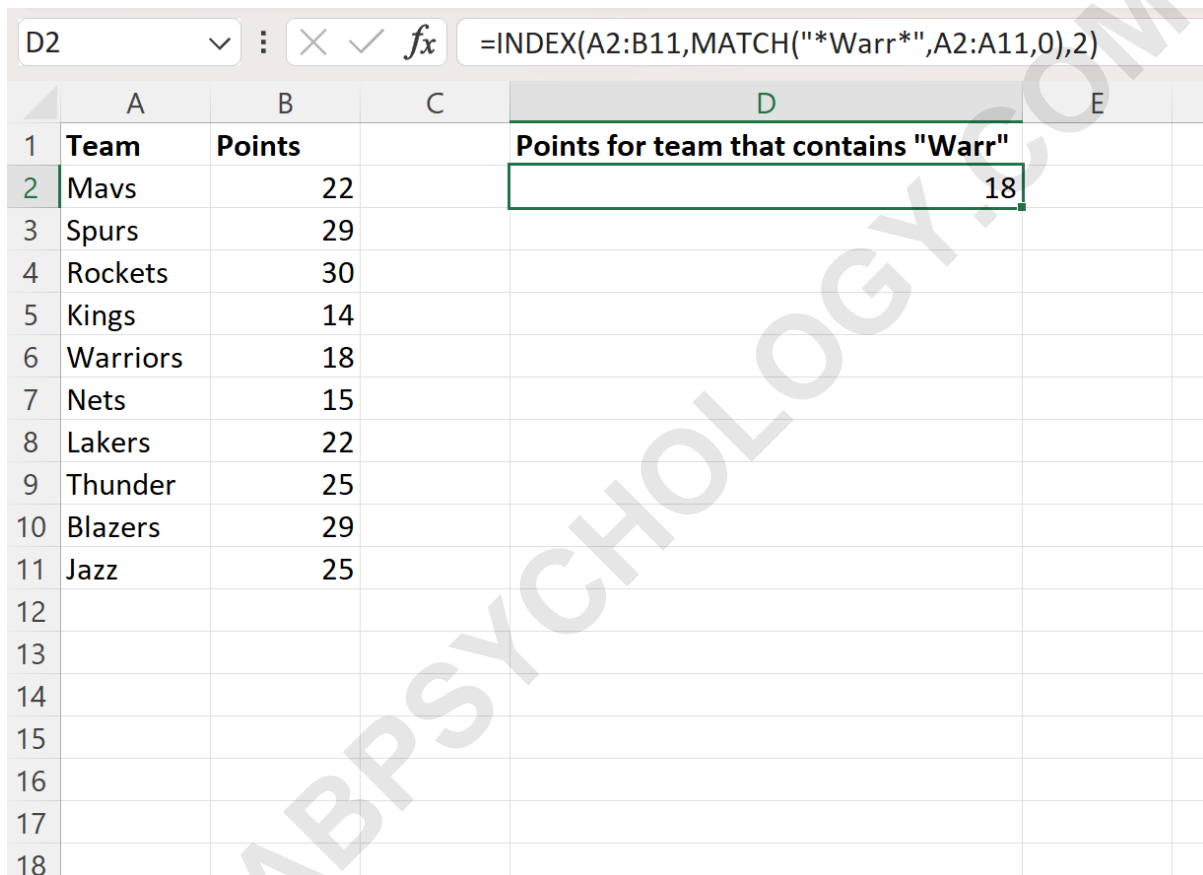
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>				
2	Mavs	22				
3	Spurs	29				
4	Rockets	30				
5	Kings	14				
6	Warriors	18				
7	Nets	15				
8	Lakers	22				
9	Thunder	25				
10	Blazers	29				
11	Jazz	25				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						

Suppose we would like to look up the substring "Warr" in the Team column and return the corresponding value in the Points column.

We can type the following formula into cell G4 to do so:

**=INDEX(A2:B11,MATCH("\*Warr\*",A2:A11,0),2)**

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



	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Points for team that contains "Warr"</b>	
2	Mavs	22		18	
3	Spurs	29			
4	Rockets	30			
5	Kings	14			
6	Warriors	18			
7	Nets	15			
8	Lakers	22			
9	Thunder	25			
10	Blazers	29			
11	Jazz	25			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

The formula returns 18, which is the value in the Points column that corresponds to the team with "Warr" in their name:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Points for team that contains "Warr"</b>	
2	Mavs	22		18	
3	Spurs	29			
4	Rockets	30			
5	Kings	14			
6	Warriors	18			
7	Nets	15			
8	Lakers	22			
9	Thunder	25			
10	Blazers	29			
11	Jazz	25			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

**Note that you could also use the following formula to search for the entire team name instead of just a substring:**

**=INDEX(A2:B11,MATCH("Warriors",A2:A11,0),2)**

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

D2     $\times$   $\checkmark$   $f_x$     =INDEX(A2:B11,MATCH("Warriors",A2:A11,0),2)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Points for Warriors</b>			
2	Mavs	22		18			
3	Spurs	29					
4	Rockets	30					
5	Kings	14					
6	Warriors	18					
7	Nets	15					
8	Lakers	22					
9	Thunder	25					
10	Blazers	29					
11	Jazz	25					
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

**This formula also returns 18, which is the points value that corresponds to the Warriors.**

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