

“How can I use the CELL function in excel?”

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The CELL function in Excel is a useful tool that allows users to retrieve information about a specific cell in a worksheet. This function can be used to extract data such as the cell's location, formatting, or contents. By using the appropriate arguments, the CELL function can provide valuable information for data analysis and organization. This function can be accessed through the formula bar in Excel and can be applied to a range of cells or a single cell. By understanding how to use the CELL function, users can efficiently manage and manipulate data in their Excel worksheets.

The CELL function returns information about the formatting, location, or contents of a cell. For example, if you want to verify that a cell contains a numeric value instead of text before you perform a calculation on it, you can use the following formula:

=IF(CELL("type",A1)="v",A1*2,0)

This formula calculates A1*2 only if cell A1 contains a numeric value, and returns 0 if A1 contains text or is blank.

Note: Formulas that use CELL have language-specific argument values and will return errors if calculated using a different language version of Excel. For example, if you create a formula containing CELL while using the Czech version of Excel, that formula will return an error if the workbook is opened using the French version. If it is important for others to open your workbook using different language versions of Excel, consider either using alternative functions or allowing others to save local copies in which they revise the CELL arguments to match their language.

Syntax

CELL(info_type,)

The CELL function syntax has the following arguments:

Argument	Description
info_type Required	A text value that specifies what type of cell information you want to return. The following list shows the possible values of the Info_type argument and the corresponding results.

Argument	Description
<p>reference Optional</p>	<p>The cell that you want information about. If omitted, the information specified in the info_type argument is returned for cell selected at the time of calculation. If the reference argument is a range of cells, the CELL function returns the information for active cell in the selected range. Important: Although technically reference is optional, including it in your formula is encouraged, unless you understand the effect its absence has on your formula result and want that effect in place. Omitting the reference argument does not reliably produce information about a specific cell, for the following reasons: In automatic calculation mode, when a cell is modified by a user the calculation may be triggered before or after the selection has progressed, depending on the platform you're using for Excel. For example, Excel for Windows currently triggers calculation before selection changes, but Excel for the web triggers it afterward. When Co-Authoring with another user who makes an edit, this function will report your active cell rather than the editor's. Any recalculation, for instance pressing F9, will cause the function to return a new result even though no cell edit has occurred.</p>

info_type values

The following list describes the text values that can be used for the info_type argument. These values must be entered in the CELL function with quotes (" ").

info_type	Returns
"address"	Reference of the first cell in reference, as text.
"col"	Column number of the cell in reference.
"color"	<p>The value 1 if the cell is formatted in color for negative values; otherwise returns 0 (zero). Note: This value is not supported in Excel for the web, Excel Mobile, and Excel Starter.</p>
"contents"	Value of the upper-left cell in reference; not a formula.
"filename"	<p>Filename (including full path) of the file that contains reference, as text. Returns empty text ("") if the worksheet that contains reference has not yet been saved. Note: This value is not supported in Excel for the web, Excel Mobile, and Excel Starter.</p>
"format"	<p>Text value corresponding to the number format of the cell. The text values for the various formats are shown in the following table. Returns "-" at the end of the text value if the cell is formatted in color for negative values. Returns "()" at the end of the text value if the cell is formatted with parentheses for positive or all values. Note: This value is not supported in Excel for the web, Excel Mobile, and Excel Starter.</p>
"parentheses"	<p>The value 1 if the cell is formatted with parentheses for positive or all values; otherwise returns 0. Note: This value is not supported in Excel for the web, Excel Mobile, and Excel Starter.</p>

info_type	Returns
"prefix"	Text value corresponding to the "label prefix" of the cell. Returns single quotation mark (') if the cell contains left-aligned text, double quotation mark (") if the cell contains right-aligned text, caret (^) if the cell contains centered text, backslash (\) if the cell contains fill-aligned text, and empty text ("") if the cell contains anything else. Note: This value is not supported in Excel for the web, Excel Mobile, and Excel Starter.
"protect"	The value 0 if the cell is not locked; otherwise returns 1 if the cell is locked. Note: This value is not supported in Excel for the web, Excel Mobile, and Excel Starter.
"row"	Row number of the cell in reference.
"type"	Text value corresponding to the type of data in the cell. Returns "b" for blank if the cell is empty, "l" for label if the cell contains a text constant, and "v" for value if the cell contains anything else.
"width"	Returns an array with 2 items. The 1st item in the array is the column width of the cell, rounded off to an integer. Each unit of column width is equal to the width of one character in the default font size. The 2nd item in the array is a Boolean value, the value is TRUE if the column width is the default or FALSE if the width has been explicitly set by the user. Note: This value is not supported in Excel for the web, Excel Mobile, and Excel Starter.

CELL format codes

The following list describes the text values that the CELL function returns when the Info_type argument is "format" and the reference argument is a cell that is formatted with a built-in number format.

If the Excel format is	The CELL function returns
General	"G"
0	"F0"
#,##0	",0"
0.00	"F2"
#,##0.00	",2"
\$\$,##0_);(\$,##0)	"C0"
\$\$,##0_);(\$,##0)	"C0-"
\$\$,##0.00_);(\$,##0.00)	"C2"
\$\$,##0.00_);(\$,##0.00)	"C2-"
0%	"P0"
0.00%	"P2"

If the Excel format is	The CELL function returns
0.00E+00	"S2"
# ?/? or # ??/??	"G"
m/d/yy or m/d/yy h:mm or mm/dd/yy	"D4"
d-mmm-yy or dd-mmm-yy	"D1"
d-mmm or dd-mmm	"D2"
mmm-yy	"D3"
mm/dd	"D5"
h:mm AM/PM	"D7"
h:mm:ss AM/PM	"D6"
h:mm	"D9"
h:mm:ss	"D8"

Note: If the info_type argument in the CELL function is "format" and you later apply a different format to the referenced cell, you must recalculate the worksheet (press **F9**) to update the results of the CELL function.

Examples

	A	B	C	D	E
1		Data	Formula	Description	Result
2		75	=CELL("row",B2)	The row number of cell B2.	2
3		Hello world!	=CELL("contents",B3)	The contents of cell B3.	Hello world!
4		2	=CELL("type",B4)	The data type of cell B4. "v" indicates value.	v
5					

See Also

[Change the format of a cell](#)

[Create or change a cell reference](#)

[ADDRESS function](#)

[Add, change, find or clear conditional formatting in a cell](#)