

# How can I use the EXACT function in Excel to compare two cells and determine if they are exactly the same?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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The EXACT function in Excel is a useful tool that allows users to compare two cells and determine if they contain exactly the same data. This function evaluates the content of the cells, including spaces and character capitalization, to determine an exact match. By using the EXACT function, users can easily identify any discrepancies or differences between two cells, helping them to ensure accuracy and consistency in their data. This function is helpful in various scenarios, such as data entry, data validation, and error detection. Overall, the EXACT function in Excel provides a reliable and efficient way to compare cells and determine if they are exactly the same.

This article describes the formula syntax and usage of the **EXACT** function in Microsoft Excel.

## Description

Compares two text strings and returns TRUE if they are exactly the same, FALSE otherwise. EXACT is case-sensitive but ignores formatting differences. Use EXACT to test text being entered into a document.

## Syntax

EXACT(text1, text2)

The EXACT function syntax has the following arguments:

**Text1** Required. The first text string.

**Text2** Required. The second text string.

## Example

Copy the example data in the following table, and paste it in cell A1 of a new Excel worksheet. For formulas to show results, select them, press F2, and then press Enter. If you need to, you can adjust the column widths to see all the data.

First string	Second string	
word	word	
Word	word	
w ord	word	
Formula	Description	Result
=EXACT(A2,B2)	Checks whether the strings in the first row match	TRUE

First string	Second string	
=EXACT(A3,B3)	Checks whether the strings in the second row match ("W" is uppercase in A3)	FALSE
=EXACT(A4,B4)	Checks whether the strings in the third row match (A4 contains a space between "w" and "ord)	FALSE

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