

# How can I use the EXPAND function in Excel to expand a cell's contents into multiple columns or rows?

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June 29, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the EXPAND function in Excel to expand a cell's contents into multiple columns or rows?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=159491>

The EXPAND function in Excel allows users to quickly and efficiently expand the contents of a cell into multiple columns or rows. This can be particularly useful when working with large amounts of data or when trying to present data in a visually appealing manner. By simply selecting the desired cell and using the EXPAND function, users can easily create multiple columns or rows with the cell's contents, saving time and effort. This function is an effective tool for organizing and manipulating data in Excel.

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Expands or pads an array to specified row and column dimensions.

## Syntax

=Expand(array, rows, , )

The EXPAND function syntax has the following arguments:

**array** The array to expand.

**rows** The number of rows in the expanded array. If missing, rows will not be expanded.

**columns** The number of columns in the expanded array. If missing, columns will not be expanded.

**pad\_with** The value with which to pad. The default is #N/A.

## Remarks

If rows isn't provided or is empty, the default value is the number of rows in the array argument.

If columns isn't provided or is empty, the default value is the number of columns in the array argument.

## Errors

Excel returns a #VALUE error when the rows or columns argument is less than the rows or columns in the array argument.

Excel returns a #N/A error in padded cells if pad\_with is not provided.

Excel returns a #NUM when array is too large.

Resize a 2X2 array to a 3X3 array and pad empty elements with #N/A.

Data	
1	2
3	4
Formulas	
=EXPAND(A2:B3,3,3)	

Resize a 1X1 array to a 3X3 array and pad empty elements with "-".

Data	
1	2
3	4
Formulas	
=EXPAND(A2,3,3, "-")	

## See Also

[TOCOL function](#)

[TOROW function](#)

[TAKE function](#)

[DROP function](#)