

# How can I use the FORMULATEXT function in Google Sheets to display the formula of a cell as a text string?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 29, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the FORMULATEXT function in Google Sheets to display the formula of a cell as a text string?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=160009>

The FORMULATEXT function in Google Sheets allows users to retrieve the formula of a specific cell and display it as a text string. This function is useful for documenting and sharing complex formulas with others, as well as for troubleshooting errors in formulas. By simply inputting the cell reference of the desired formula, the FORMULATEXT function will return the formula as a text string, making it easily readable and understandable. This feature enhances the functionality and versatility of Google Sheets, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and collaboration.

## FORMULATEXT function

The FORMULATEXT function returns a formula as a string.

### Parts of a FORMULATEXT function

FORMULATEXT(*cell*)

Part	Description
cell	The cell to be verified as containing a formula.

### Notes

FORMULATEXT returns what is displayed in the formula bar when selecting a cell. If the cell passed into FORMULATEXT references the cell that contains the FORMULATEXT formula, then FORMULATEXT will properly handle this and avoid a circular reference. If a range is passed into FORMULATEXT, only the top left most cell is evaluated.

### Examples

	A	B	C
1	<b>Value</b>	<b>Formula</b>	<b>Result</b>
2	20	=FORMULATEXT(\$A2)	=10+10
3	18	=FORMULATEXT(\$A3)	=MAX(10,12,18)
4	10	=FORMULATEXT(\$A4:\$A5)	=MODE.MULT(10,15,10,15)
5	15	=FORMULATEXT(\$A4:\$A5)	=MODE.MULT(10,15,10,15)
6	=FORMULATEXT(\$A6)	=FORMULATEXT(\$A6)	=B6