

# How can I use the HLOOKUP function in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The HLOOKUP function in Microsoft Excel is a useful tool for finding and retrieving specific data within a large table or database. This function allows users to search for a specific value in the first row of a table and return the corresponding value from a specified row. It is commonly used in situations where there is a need to quickly locate and extract data from a large dataset. By providing the function with the lookup value, table range, and the row number to retrieve the data from, users can efficiently retrieve the desired information. This function can save time and effort when working with large amounts of data and is a valuable tool for data analysis and management.

**Tip:** Try using the new XLOOKUP function, an improved version of HLOOKUP that works in any direction and returns exact matches by default, making it easier and more convenient to use than its predecessor.

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

## Description

Searches for a value in the top row of a table or an array of values, and then returns a value in the same column from a row you specify in the table or array. Use HLOOKUP when your comparison values are located in a row across the top of a table of data, and you want to look down a specified number of rows. Use VLOOKUP when your comparison values are located in a column to the left of the data you want to find.

The H in HLOOKUP stands for "Horizontal."

## Syntax

HLOOKUP(lookup\_value, table\_array, row\_index\_num, )

The HLOOKUP function syntax has the following arguments:

**Lookup\_value** Required. The value to be found in the first row of the table. Lookup\_value can be a value, a reference, or a text string.

**Table\_array** Required. A table of information in which data is looked up. Use a reference to a range or a range name.

The values in the first row of table\_array can be text, numbers, or logical values.

If range\_lookup is TRUE, the values in the first row of table\_array must be placed in ascending order: ...-2, -1, 0, 1, 2,... , A-Z, FALSE, TRUE; otherwise, HLOOKUP may not give the correct value. If range\_lookup is FALSE, table\_array does not need to be sorted.

Uppercase and lowercase text are equivalent.

Sort the values in ascending order, left to right. For more information, see [Sort data in a range or table](#).

**Row\_index\_num** Required. The row number in table\_array from which the matching value will be returned. A row\_index\_num of 1 returns the first row value in table\_array, a row\_index\_num of 2 returns the second row value in table\_array, and so on. If row\_index\_num is less than 1, HLOOKUP returns the #VALUE! error value; if row\_index\_num is greater than the number of rows on table\_array, HLOOKUP returns the #REF! error value.

**Range\_lookup** Optional. A logical value that specifies whether you want HLOOKUP to find an exact match or an approximate match. If TRUE or omitted, an approximate match is returned. In other words, if an exact match is not found, the next largest value that is less than lookup\_value is returned. If FALSE, HLOOKUP will find an exact match. If one is not found, the error value #N/A is returned.

## Remark

If HLOOKUP can't find lookup\_value, and range\_lookup is TRUE, it uses the largest value that is less than lookup\_value.

If lookup\_value is smaller than the smallest value in the first row of table\_array, HLOOKUP returns the #N/A error value.

If range\_lookup is FALSE and lookup\_value is text, you can use the wildcard characters, question mark (?) and asterisk (\*), in lookup\_value. A question mark matches any single character; an asterisk matches any sequence of characters. If you want to find an actual question mark or asterisk, type a tilde (~) before the character.