

# How can I use the IMAGE function in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The IMAGE function in Excel is a useful tool that allows users to insert images directly into their spreadsheets. This function can be used by typing "=IMAGE(url)" into a cell, where "url" is the web address or file path of the desired image. This function is particularly useful for creating visually appealing and professional-looking spreadsheets, as it eliminates the need for external image editing software. Additionally, the IMAGE function can be combined with other Excel functions, such as conditional formatting, to create dynamic and interactive images within a spreadsheet. Overall, using the IMAGE function in Excel can enhance the visual presentation of data and make spreadsheets more engaging and informative.

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The IMAGE function inserts images into cells from a source location along with alternative text. You can then move and resize cells, sort and filter, and work with images within an Excel table. Use this function to visually enhance lists of data such as inventories, games, employees, and mathematical concepts.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Name</b>	<b>3D Shape</b>		<b>Name</b>	<b>3D Shape</b>
2	Sphere			Cuboid	
3	Pyramid			Cube	
4	Cylinder			Cone	

## Syntax

=IMAGE(source, , , , )

The IMAGE function takes the following arguments:

**source** The URL path, using an "https" protocol, of the image file. Required. Supported file formats include BMP, JPG/JPEG, GIF, TIFF, PNG, ICO, and also WEBP (WEBP is unsupported on Web and Android).

**alt\_text** Alternative text that describes the image for accessibility. Optional.

**sizing** Specifies the image dimensions. Optional. There are several possible values:

**0** Fit the image in the cell and maintain its aspect ratio.

**1** Fill the cell with the image and ignore its aspect ratio.

**2** Maintain the original image size, which may exceed the cell boundary.

**3** Customize the image size by using the height and width arguments.

**height** The custom height of the image in pixels. Optional.

**width** The custom width of the image in pixels. Optional.

(if only one of the arguments of height/width is specified, the aspect ratio of the image will be kept according to the provided argument)

## Remarks

**Warning:** You may receive a message that access to some linked data type images is turned off because they require a connection to an external source. If you trust the connection, you can turn on access to the images. For more information, see [Block or unblock external content in Office documents](#).

Be careful customizing the **height** and **width** as it may skew the aspect ratio, or the proportional relationship between the original image height and width.

If source is a URL that requires authentication, the image doesn't render.

If source is a URL that's redirected, it's blocked because of security concerns.

To work around the URL limit of 255 characters, avoid copying a long URL from the browser

address bar. Instead, right click the image in the browser, select **Copy image link**, paste the value into a cell in Excel, and then reference that cell as source. For example, if the long URL is copied to F10, create the following function call: =IMAGE(F10).

## Accessibility

We recommend using effective alternate text to promote accessibility:

Select the cell that contains the IMAGE formula, and then in the formula bar, add the alternative text as the second argument of the formula (alt\_text).

If the image source is a linked data type or record, add alternative text to the original data source or ask your administrator to add it.

If the image is derived from a more complex formula, add alt text to that formula or the source where the image is coming from.

For more information, see [Everything you need to know to write effective alt text](#).


## Examples

Copy the example data in the following table, and paste it in cell A1 of a new Excel worksheet.

After you paste this example, keep it selected. Set the cell style to **Normal (Home > Cell Styles)**, the row height to 30 (**Home > Format > Row Height**), and the column width to 16 (**Home > Format > Column Width**).

Data	
https://support.content.office.net/en-us/media/35aecc53-b3c1-4895-8a7d-554716941806.jpg	Cylinder
https://support.content.office.net/en-us/media/926439a2-bc79-4b8b-9205-60892650e5d3.jpg	Pyramid
Formula	Results
=IMAGE("https://support.content.office.net/en-us/media/2d9e717a-0077-438f-8e5e-f85a1305d4ad.jpg", "Sphere")	
=IMAGE(A2, B2, 0)	
=IMAGE(A3, B3, 1)	

After you paste this example, keep it selected. Set the cell style to **Normal** (**Home** > **Cell Styles**), the row height to 57 (**Home** > **Format** > **Row Height**), and the column width to 21 (**Home** > **Format** > **Column Width**).

Data	
<a href="https://support.content.office.net/en-us/media/926439a2-bc79-4b8b-9205-60892650e5d3.jpg">https://support.content.office.net/en-us/media/926439a2-bc79-4b8b-9205-60892650e5d3.jpg</a>	Pyramid
Formula	Results
<code>=IMAGE(A2, B2, 3, 100, 200)</code>	

## See Also

[Change the size of a picture, shape, text box, or WordArt](#)

[What are linked data types in Excel?](#)

[Add alternative text to a shape, picture, chart, SmartArt graphic, or other object](#)