

# How can I use the PHONETIC function in Excel to convert text to its phonetic equivalent?

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June 30, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the PHONETIC function in Excel to convert text to its phonetic equivalent?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=162667>

The PHONETIC function in Excel is a useful tool that allows users to convert text into its corresponding phonetic representation. This function can be accessed by typing "=PHONETIC" in a cell and providing the desired text as the input. Once executed, the function will generate the phonetic equivalent of the text, which can be used for various purposes such as language translation, pronunciation assistance, and speech recognition. This feature is particularly helpful for individuals who struggle with pronouncing unfamiliar words or for language learners looking to improve their pronunciation skills. Overall, the PHONETIC function in Excel offers a convenient and efficient way to convert text into its phonetic form.

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

**Note:** To use the PHONETIC function, your region setting must be one of the Far East languages (Japanese, Chinese, and Korean). For more information, see [Change regional format settings in Excel for the web](#).

## Description

Extracts the phonetic (furigana) characters from a text string.

## Syntax

PHONETIC(reference)

The PHONETIC function syntax has the following arguments:

**Reference** Required. Text string or a reference to a single cell or a range of cells that contain a furigana text string.

## Remarks

If reference is a range of cells, the furigana text string in the upper-left corner cell of the range is returned.

If the reference is a range of nonadjacent cells, the #N/A error value is returned.