

How can I use the TAKE function in Excel to extract a specified number of characters from a given text string?

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The TAKE function in Excel is a useful tool that allows users to extract a specified number of characters from a given text string. This function can be particularly helpful when working with large amounts of data and needing to extract only a certain portion of a string. By providing the starting position and the number of characters to be extracted, the TAKE function will return the desired substring. This can save time and effort compared to manually editing the data. The TAKE function can be easily accessed and utilized within Excel, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and manipulation.

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Returns a specified number of contiguous rows or columns from the start or end of an array.

Syntax

=TAKE(array, rows,)

The TAKE function syntax has the following arguments:

array The array from which to take rows or columns.

rows The number of rows to take. A negative value takes from the end of the array.

columns The number of columns to take. A negative value takes from the end of the array.

Errors

Excel returns a #CALC! error to indicate an empty array when either rows or columns is 0.

Excel returns a #NUM when array is too large.

Examples

Copy the example data in the following table, and paste it in cell A1 of a new Excel worksheet. If you need to, you can adjust the column widths to see all the data.

Returns the first two columns from the array in range A2:C4.

Data		
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
Formulas		
=TAKE(A2:C4,,2)		

Returns the last two rows from the array in range A2:C4.

Data		
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
Formulas		
=TAKE(A2:C4,-2)		

Returns the first two rows and columns from the array in range A2:C4.

Data		
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
Formulas		
=TAKE(A2:C4,2,2)		

See Also

[TOCOL function](#)

[TOROW function](#)

[DROP function](#)

[EXPAND Function](#)