

How can I use the TIME function in Excel to accurately calculate time?

Authored by
stats writer

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The TIME function in Excel is a useful tool that allows users to accurately calculate time in a variety of formats. By inputting specific values for hours, minutes, and seconds, the function can determine the exact time in a 24-hour format. This function is particularly helpful for businesses and individuals who need to track time accurately, such as in project management or payroll calculations. It can also be used to calculate time differences between two specific times. By using the TIME function in Excel, users can ensure precise and efficient time calculations for various purposes.

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

Description

Returns the decimal number for a particular time. If the cell format was **General** before the function was entered, the result is formatted as a date.

The decimal number returned by TIME is a value ranging from 0 (zero) to 0.99988426, representing the times from 0:00:00 (12:00:00 AM) to 23:59:59 (11:59:59 P.M.).

Syntax

TIME(hour, minute, second)

The TIME function syntax has the following arguments:

Hour Required. A number from 0 (zero) to 32767 representing the hour. Any value greater than 23 will be divided by 24 and the remainder will be treated as the hour value. For example, TIME(27,0,0) = TIME(3,0,0) = .125 or 3:00 AM.

Minute Required. A number from 0 to 32767 representing the minute. Any value greater than 59 will be converted to hours and minutes. For example, TIME(0,750,0) = TIME(12,30,0) = .520833 or 12:30 PM.

Second Required. A number from 0 to 32767 representing the second. Any value greater than 59 will be converted to hours, minutes, and seconds. For example, TIME(0,0,2000) = TIME(0,33,22) = .023148 or 12:33:20 AM

Remark

Time values are a portion of a date value and represented by a decimal number (for example, 12:00 PM is represented as 0.5 because it is half of a day).

See Also

[Add or subtract time](#)

[Insert the current date and time in a cell](#)

[Date and time functions reference](#)

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