

How can I use VLOOKUP to find data by date in Excel?

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VLOOKUP is a powerful function in Microsoft Excel that allows users to quickly search and retrieve data from a specific column or range of cells. One common use of VLOOKUP is to find data by a specific date. This can be achieved by organizing the data in a table with the dates in one column and the corresponding data in another column. The VLOOKUP function can then be used to search for the desired date and return the associated data from the corresponding column. By using VLOOKUP, users can efficiently find and analyze data based on specific dates, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and management in Excel.

Excel: Use VLOOKUP by Date

There are two valid ways to use a VLOOKUP by date in Excel:

Method 1: Use VLOOKUP with Cell Reference

=VLOOKUP(D2,A2:B9,2,FALSE)

This formula looks up the date in cell D2 in the range A2:B9 and returns the corresponding value in column 2 of the range.

Method 2: Use VLOOKUP with DATEVALUE

=VLOOKUP(DATEVALUE("1/14/2023"),A2:B9,2,FALSE)

This formula looks up the date 1/14/2023 in the range A2:B9 and returns the corresponding value in column 2 of the range.

Note: The FALSE argument tells Excel to look for exact matches instead of approximate matches.

The following examples show how to use each method in practice with the following dataset in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	Sales			
2	1/2/2023	34			
3	1/14/2023	15			
4	2/1/2023	22			
5	2/3/2023	20			
6	2/5/2023	29			
7	2/20/2023	40			
8	3/2/2023	14			
9	3/27/2023	19			
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					

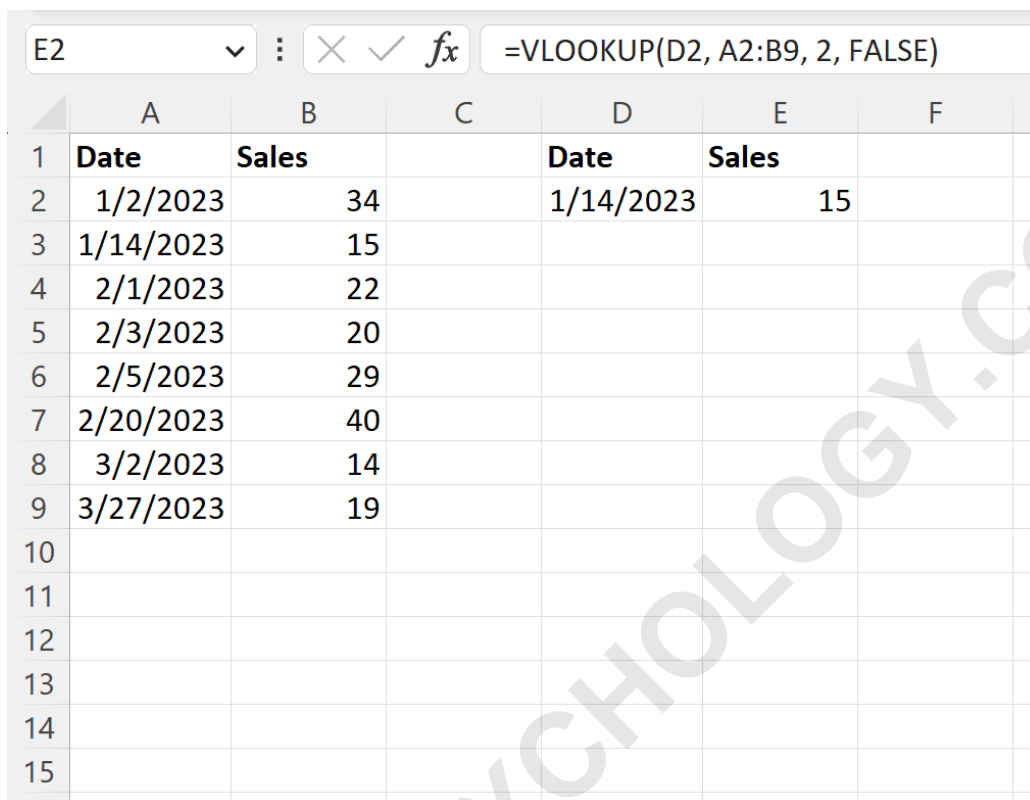
Example 1: Use VLOOKUP by Date with Cell Reference

Suppose we would like to look up the date 1/14/2023 and return the corresponding value in the sales column.

We can type the following formula into cell E2 to do so:

=VLOOKUP(D2,A2:B9,2,FALSE)

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Sales		Date	Sales	
2	1/2/2023	34		1/14/2023	15	
3	1/14/2023	15				
4	2/1/2023	22				
5	2/3/2023	20				
6	2/5/2023	29				
7	2/20/2023	40				
8	3/2/2023	14				
9	3/27/2023	19				
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

The VLOOKUP formula correctly returns a sales value of 15.

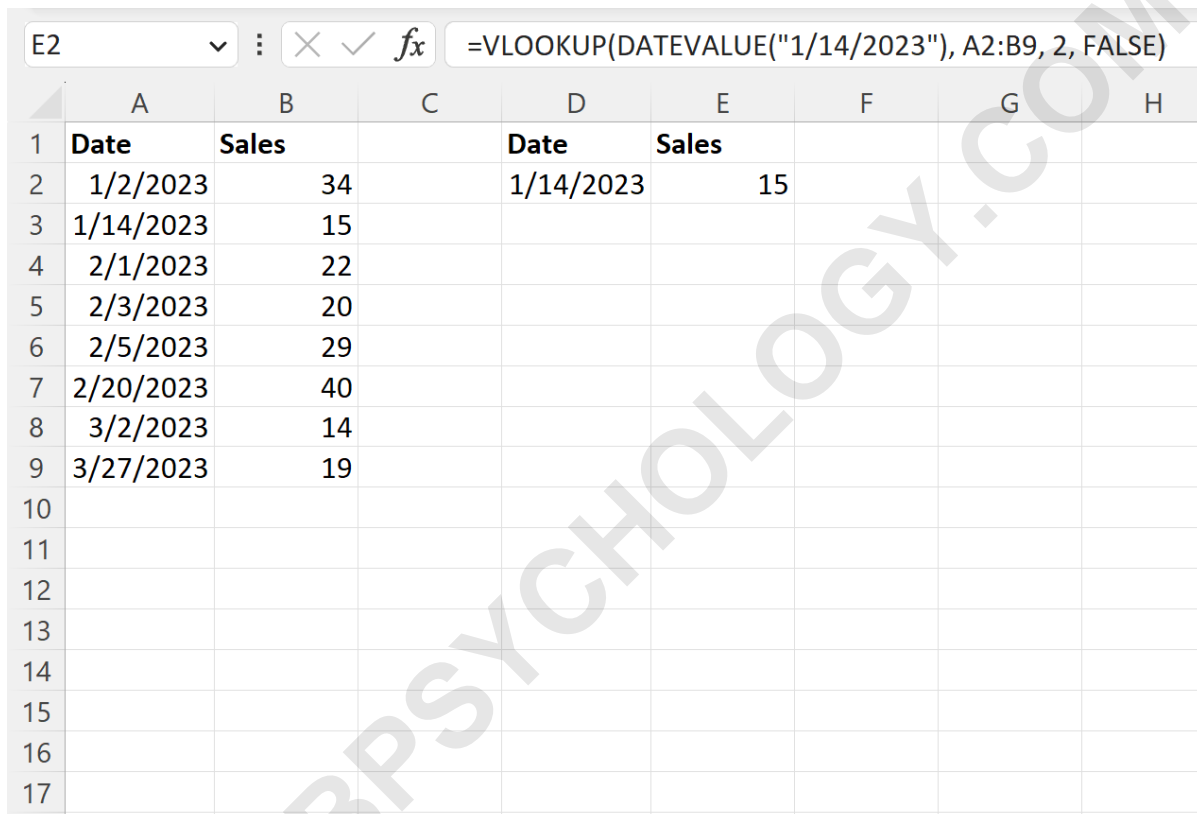
Example 2: Use VLOOKUP by Date with DATEVALUE

Once again suppose we would like to look up the date 1/14/2023 and return the corresponding value in the sales column.

We can type the following formula into cell E2 to do so:

=VLOOKUP(DATEVALUE("1/14/2023"),A2:B9,2,FALSE)

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Sales		Date	Sales			
2	1/2/2023	34		1/14/2023	15			
3	1/14/2023	15						
4	2/1/2023	22						
5	2/3/2023	20						
6	2/5/2023	29						
7	2/20/2023	40						
8	3/2/2023	14						
9	3/27/2023	19						
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								

The VLOOKUP formula correctly returns a sales value of 15.

Note that if we attempted to use the quoted date without the DATEVALUE function, we would receive #N/A as a result instead:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Sales		Date	Sales		
2	1/2/2023	34		1/14/2023	#N/A		
3	1/14/2023	15					
4	2/1/2023	22					
5	2/3/2023	20					
6	2/5/2023	29					
7	2/20/2023	40					
8	3/2/2023	14					
9	3/27/2023	19					
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

The DATEVALUE function is needed to convert a text date into a serial date number that is recognizable by Excel.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel: