

# How can we use Excel to create a formula for extracting characters from the right side of a string using the MID function?

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Excel's MID function allows users to extract a specific number of characters from a given string, starting from any position. By using this function, we can easily create a formula to extract characters from the right side of a string. The formula will require the input of the string, the starting position of the extraction, and the number of characters to be extracted. This process can be helpful in various data analysis tasks, such as separating last names from full names or extracting specific characters from a longer string. By using the MID function, Excel provides a simple and efficient way to manipulate and extract data from strings.

## Excel: A Formula for MID From Right

The MID function in Excel allows you to extract a specific number of characters from a string based on a starting position on the left side of the string.

However, you can use the following formula to replicate the MID function and extract a specific number of characters using a starting position on the right side of the string:

```
=RIGHT(REPLACE(A1, LEN(A1)-start_from_right+2, LEN(A1),""), num_characters)
```

For example, you can use the following formula to extract the 4 middle characters in cell A1 starting 3 positions from the right:

```
=RIGHT(REPLACE(A1,LEN(A1)-3+2,LEN(A1),""), 4)
```

The following example shows how to use this formula in practice.

### Example: Using MID From Right in Excel

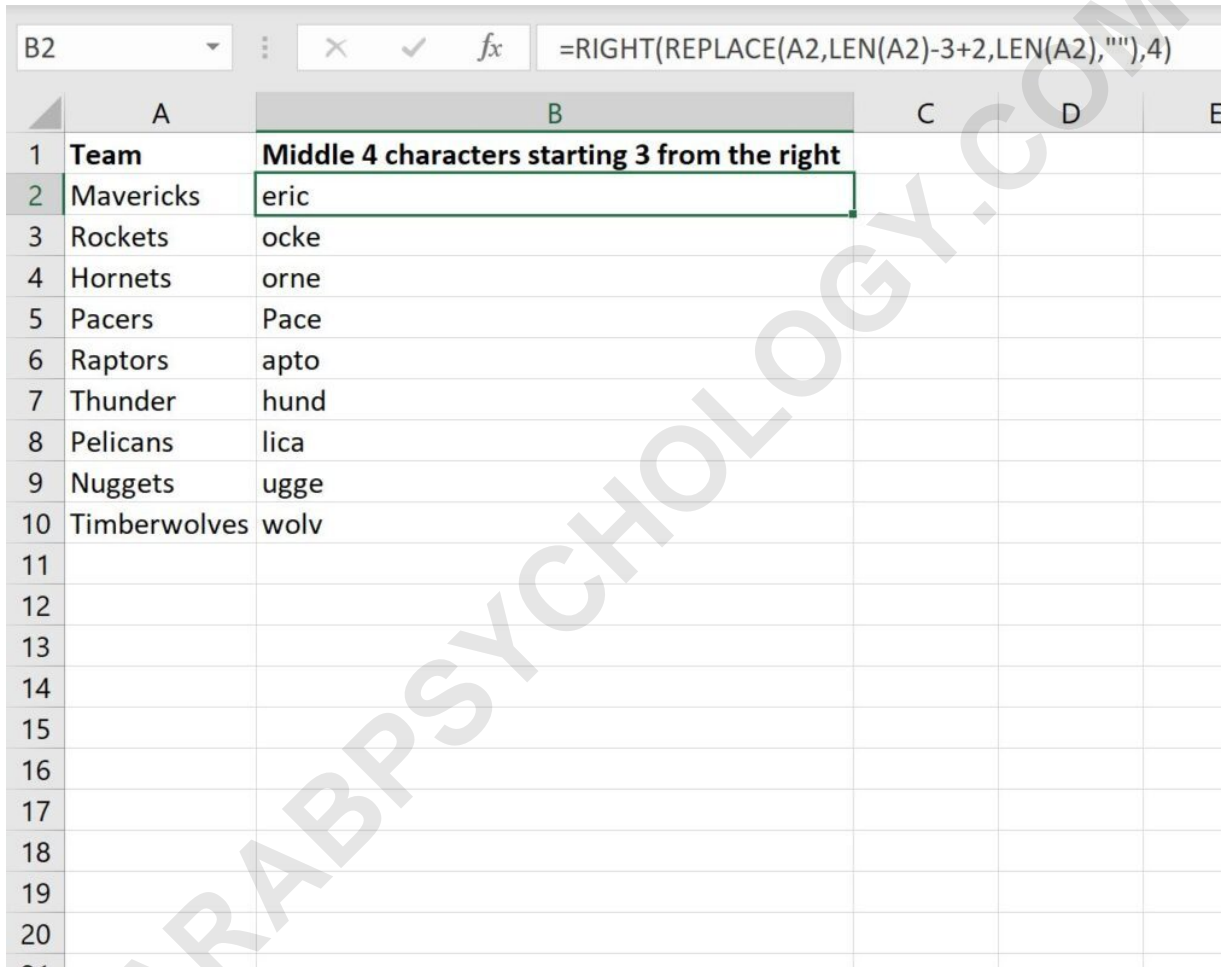
Suppose we have the following list of basketball team names in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>					
2	Mavericks					
3	Rockets					
4	Hornets					
5	Pacers					
6	Raptors					
7	Thunder					
8	Pelicans					
9	Nuggets					
10	Timberwolves					
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

We can type the following formula into cell B2 to extract the 4 middle characters from the team name in cell A2 starting 3 positions from the right:

**=RIGHT(REPLACE(A2,LEN(A2)-3+2,LEN(A2),""), 4)**

**We can then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:**



	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Middle 4 characters starting 3 from the right</b>			
2	Mavericks	eric			
3	Rockets	ocke			
4	Hornets	orne			
5	Pacers	Pace			
6	Raptors	apto			
7	Thunder	hund			
8	Pelicans	lica			
9	Nuggets	ugge			
10	Timberwolves	wolv			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

**Column B now displays the 4 middle characters from each team name starting 3 positions from the right.**

**For example, consider the first team name:**

## **Mavericks**

**The 3rd position from the right is the letter c:**

## **Mavericks**

**We then extract the 4 characters starting from this position:**

## **Mavericks**

**The result is eric.**

**The formula repeats this process for each name in the Team column.**

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