

# How to Easily Extract Text After a Colon in Excel

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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"Extracting text to the right of a colon in Excel refers to the process of retrieving text that appears after a colon in a specific cell or range of cells. This can be achieved by using the 'RIGHT' function in Excel, which allows the user to specify the number of characters to be extracted from the right side of the colon. This function is useful for separating data in a spreadsheet, such as names and addresses, and can be easily applied to multiple cells using the fill handle. By extracting text to the right of a colon, users can efficiently organize and manipulate data in their Excel spreadsheets."

## **Excel: Extract Text Right of Colon**

**You can use the following formula to extract all of the text to the right of a colon in some cell in Excel:**

**=TEXTAFTER(A2, ":")**

**This particular formula extracts all of the text in cell A2 that occurs after the first colon is encountered.**

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

**Example: Extract Text Right of Colon in Excel**

**Suppose we have the following list in Excel that shows the athlete name and team name of various basketball players:**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Athlete</b>				
2	Andy: Mavs				
3	Bob: Magic				
4	Chad: Lakers				
5	Doug: Celtics				
6	Eric: Heat				
7	Frank: Pistons				
8	Greg: Spurs				
9	Henry: Rockets				
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					

**Now suppose that we would like to extract only the text in each cell to the right of the colon.**

**To do so, we can type the following formula into cell B2:**

**=TEXTAFTER(A2, ":")**

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

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Athlete</b>	<b>Text Right of Colon</b>			
2	Andy: Mavs	Mavs			
3	Bob: Magic	Magic			
4	Chad: Lakers	Lakers			
5	Doug: Celtics	Celtics			
6	Eric: Heat	Heat			
7	Frank: Pistons	Pistons			
8	Greg: Spurs	Spurs			
9	Henry: Rockets	Rockets			
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

**Column B now displays only the text to the right of the colon of each cell in column A.**

### How This Formula Works

**The TEXTAFTER function in Excel extracts all text in a cell after a specific character or substring.**

**This function uses the following syntax:**

**TEXTAFTER(text, delimiter, , , , )**

**text:** Text to search  
**delimiter:** Character or substring to extract text after  
**instance\_num (optional):** Instance of

**delimiter** after which to extract text (default is 1)  
**match\_mode** (optional): 0 = case-sensitive (default), 1 = case-insensitive  
**match\_end** (optional): Treat end of text as delimiter (disabled by default)  
**if\_not\_found** (optional): Value to return if delimiter is not found

Recall that we used the following syntax to extract the text to the right of the colon from cell A2:

```
=TEXTAFTER(A2, ":")
```

By using ":" for the delimiter argument, we were able to specify that we wanted to extract the text after the first instance of a colon.

**Note:** You can find the complete documentation for the TEXTAFTER function in Excel .

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