

# How do I perform a Left Join in Excel? Can you provide an example?

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June 27, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I perform a Left Join in Excel? Can you provide an example?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=155217>

A Left Join in Excel is a function that allows you to combine data from two different tables based on a common key or field. This join type includes all the data from the left table and only matching data from the right table. To perform a Left Join in Excel, follow these steps:

1. Ensure that both tables have a common key or field.
2. Click on the cell where you want to display the combined data.
3. Go to the Data tab and select "From Other Sources" and then "From Microsoft Query".
4. Select the two tables you want to join and click "Next".
5. Choose the common key or field and click "Next".
6. Select the "Left Outer Join" option and click "Next".
7. Choose the columns you want to include in the combined data and click "Next".
8. Click "Finish" to complete the Left Join.

An example of a Left Join in Excel would be joining a table of customer information with a table of sales data. The Left Join would include all customers, even if they have not made any purchases, and any corresponding sales data for customers who have made purchases.

## Perform a Left Join in Excel (With Example)

**A left join allows you to join together two tables in which every row in the left table is kept and only the rows who have a matching value in a particular column of the right table are kept.**

**The following step-by-step example shows how to use the VLOOKUP function to perform a left join in Excel.**

### Step 1: Enter the Values for Each Table

**First, let's enter the following values for two tables in Excel:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>			<b>Team</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Rebounds</b>
2	Mavs	99			Mavs	30	29
3	Warriors	103			Thunder	22	40
4	Lakers	104			Magic	28	42
5	Nets	98			Kings	25	28
6	Heat	99			Grizzlies	25	34
7	Thunder	104			Pelicans	28	36
8	Magic	110			Hornets	32	37
9	Kings	90			Nets	30	33
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							

We will perform a left join in which we keep all rows from the left table and only join in the rows from the right table that have matching values in the Team column.

**Step 2: Create a Copy of the First Table**

Next, let's copy and paste the values of the first table into a new cell range:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>			<b>Team</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Rebounds</b>	
2	Mavs	99			Mavs	30	29	
3	Warriors	103			Thunder	22	40	
4	Lakers	104			Magic	28	42	
5	Nets	98			Kings	25	28	
6	Heat	99			Grizzlies	25	34	
7	Thunder	104			Pelicans	28	36	
8	Magic	110			Hornets	32	37	
9	Kings	90			Nets	30	33	
10								
11								
12	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>						
13	Mavs	99						
14	Warriors	103						
15	Lakers	104						
16	Nets	98						
17	Heat	99						
18	Thunder	104						
19	Magic	110						
20	Kings	90						
21								
22								
23								
24								
25								

### Step 3: Perform Left Join Using VLOOKUP

Next, we'll type the following formula into cell C13:

**=VLOOKUP(A2, \$E\$2:\$G\$9, {2,3}, FALSE)**

We'll then drag and fill this formula down to each remaining cell in column C:

C13     $\times$      $\checkmark$     *fx*    =VLOOKUP(A2, \$E\$2:\$G\$9, {2,3}, FALSE)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>			<b>Team</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Rebounds</b>
2	Mavs	99			Mavs	30	29
3	Warriors	103			Thunder	22	40
4	Lakers	104			Magic	28	42
5	Nets	98			Kings	25	28
6	Heat	99			Grizzlies	25	34
7	Thunder	104			Pelicans	28	36
8	Magic	110			Hornets	32	37
9	Kings	90			Nets	30	33
10							
11							
12	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>					
13	Mavs	99	30	29			
14	Warriors	103	#N/A				
15	Lakers	104	#N/A				
16	Nets	98	30	33			
17	Heat	99	#N/A				
18	Thunder	104	22	40			
19	Magic	110	28	42			
20	Kings	90	25	28			
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							

**Feel free to add the column headers Assists and Rebounds as well:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>			<b>Team</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Rebounds</b>
2	Mavs	99			Mavs	30	29
3	Warriors	103			Thunder	22	40
4	Lakers	104			Magic	28	42
5	Nets	98			Kings	25	28
6	Heat	99			Grizzlies	25	34
7	Thunder	104			Pelicans	28	36
8	Magic	110			Hornets	32	37
9	Kings	90			Nets	30	33
10							
11							
12	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Rebounds</b>			
13	Mavs	99	30	29			
14	Warriors	103	#N/A				
15	Lakers	104	#N/A				
16	Nets	98	30	33			
17	Heat	99	#N/A				
18	Thunder	104	22	40			
19	Magic	110	28	42			
20	Kings	90	25	28			
21							
22							
23							
24							

The left join is now complete.

If a given team didn't have a match in the right table, then a #N/A value is shown for the Assists and Rebounds columns.

For example, the Mavs did exist in the right table, so they have corresponding values for Assists and Rebounds.

**However, the Warriors did not exist in the right table, so they have #N/A for Assists and Rebounds.**

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

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