How do I perform fuzzy matching in Excel? Can you provide an example?

Authored by

stats writer

June 27, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I perform fuzzy matching in Excel? Can you provide an example?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=155206

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

Fuzzy matching in Excel is a technique used to compare and match similar data between two columns or datasets. It is useful when dealing with data that may have slight variations or inconsistencies, such as misspellings or abbreviations. To perform fuzzy matching in Excel, you can use the built-in function called "Fuzzy Lookup" or "Fuzzy Match." This function uses algorithms to identify and match similar data, even if it is not an exact match. An example of fuzzy matching in Excel would be to match the names of customers from two different datasets, even if they are spelled differently or have different formats. This can help streamline data analysis and improve accuracy in data comparisons.

Perform Fuzzy Matching in Excel (With Example)

Often you may want to join together two datasets in Excel based on imperfectly matching strings. This is sometimes called fuzzy matching.

The easiest way to do so is by using the Fuzzy Lookup Add-In for Excel.

The following step-by-step example shows how to use this Add-in to perform fuzzy matching.

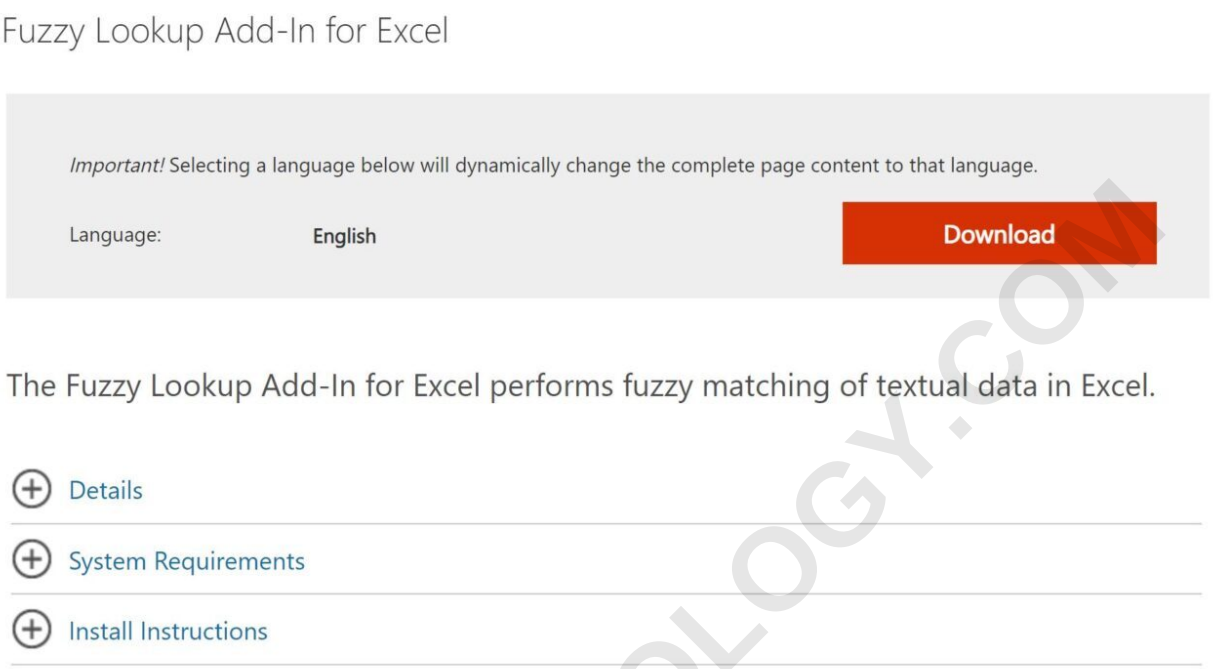
Step 1: Download Fuzzy Lookup Add-In

First, we need to download the Fuzzy Lookup Add-In from Excel.

It's completely free and downloads in only a few seconds.

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

To download this Add-In, go to and click Download:



Then click the .exe file and follow the instructions to complete the download.

Step 2: Enter the Two Datasets

Next, let's open Excel and enter the following information for two datasets:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Team**	**Points**		**Team**	**Assists**	
2	Mavericks	22		Mavericks	3	
3	Warriors	25		Warriors	5	
4	Nets	30		Nets	9	
5	Kings	17		Keengs	6	
6	Magic	13		Majic	11	
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

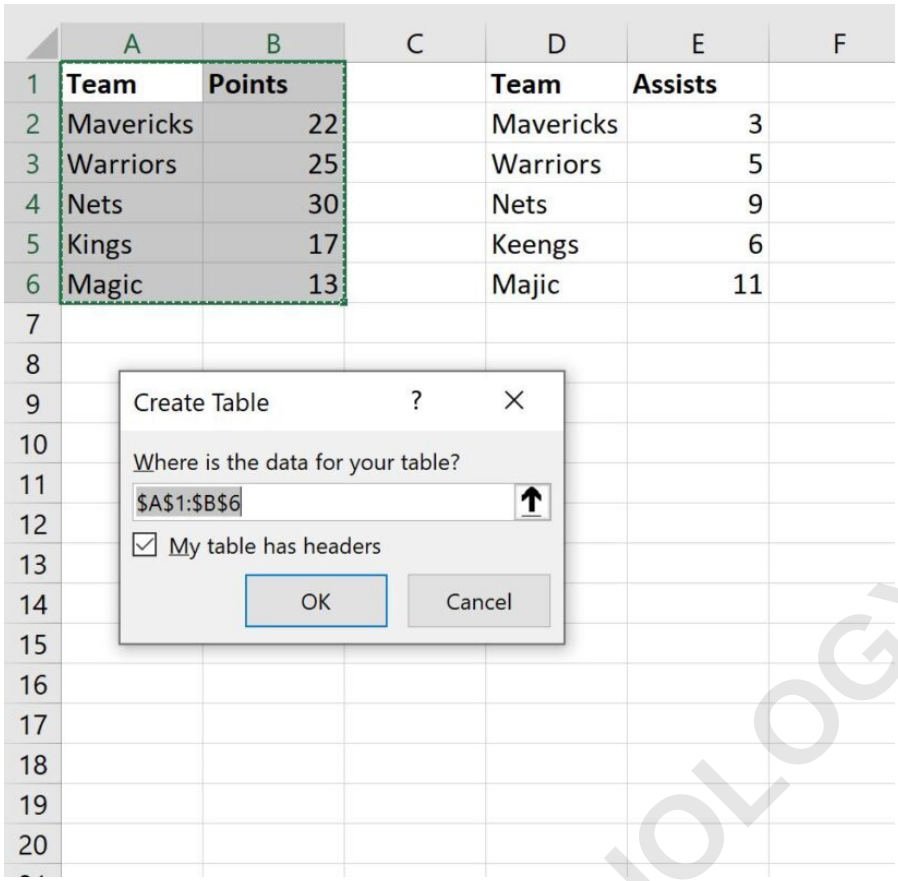
We will perform fuzzy matching to match the team names from the first dataset with the team names in the second dataset.

Step 3: Create Tables from Datasets

Before we can perform fuzzy matching, we must first convert each dataset into a table.

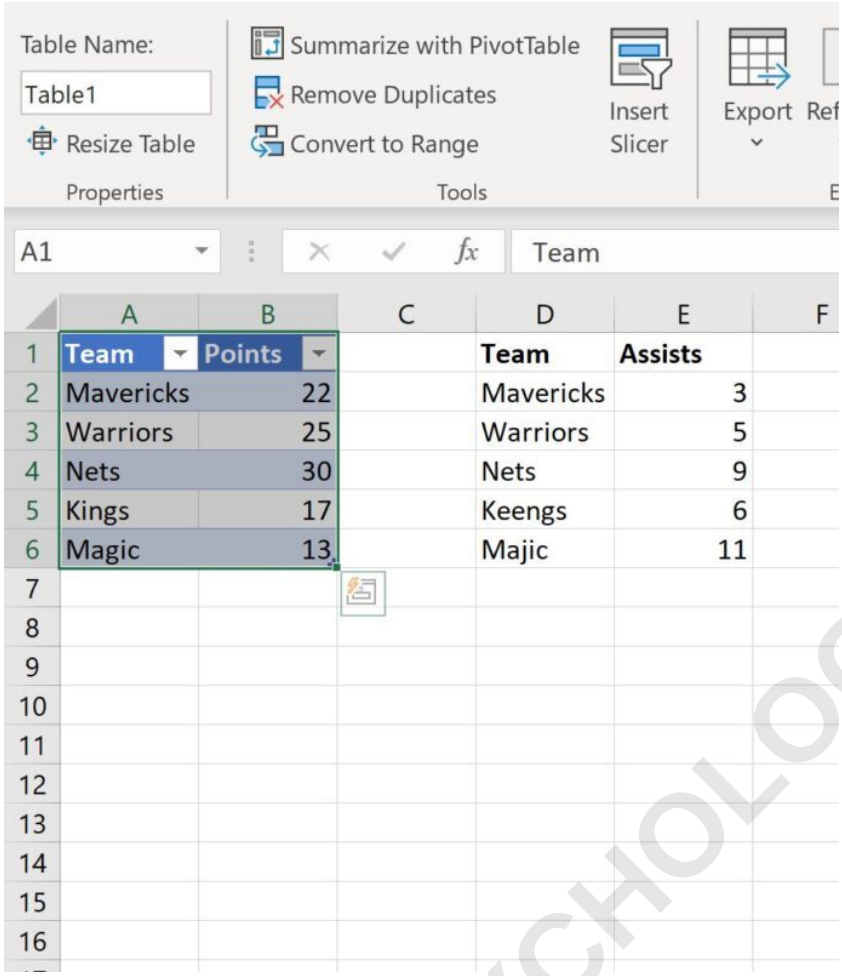
To do so, highlight the cell range A1:B6 and then press Ctrl+L.

In the new window that appears, click OK:



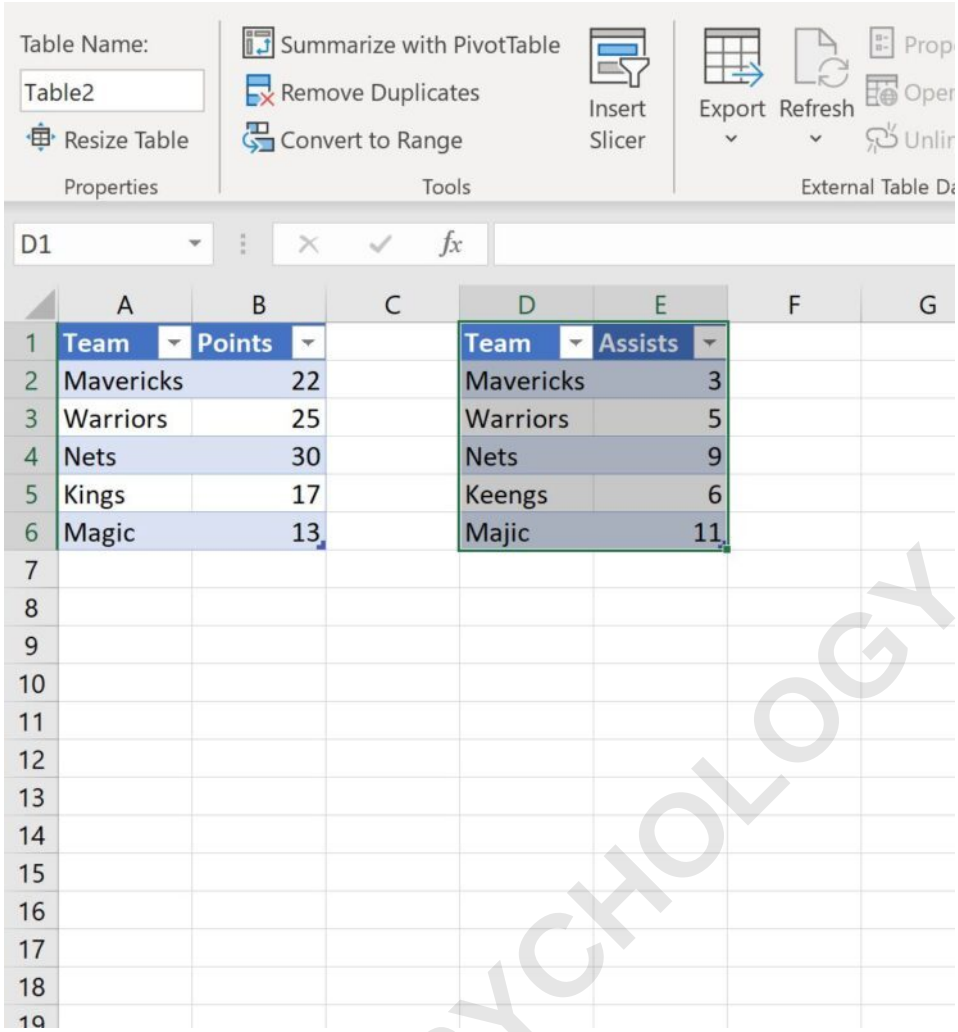
The dataset will be converted into a table with the name Table1:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM



Repeat the same steps to convert the second dataset into a table with the name Table2:

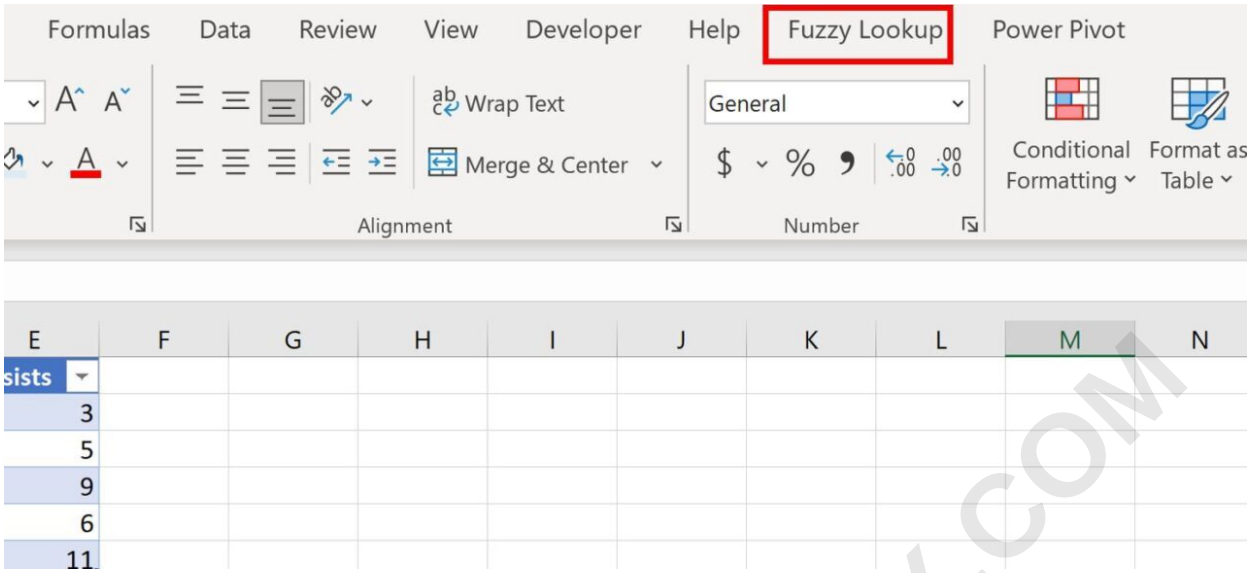
ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM



Step 4: Perform Fuzzy Matching

To perform Fuzzy matching, click the Fuzzy Lookup tab along the top ribbon:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

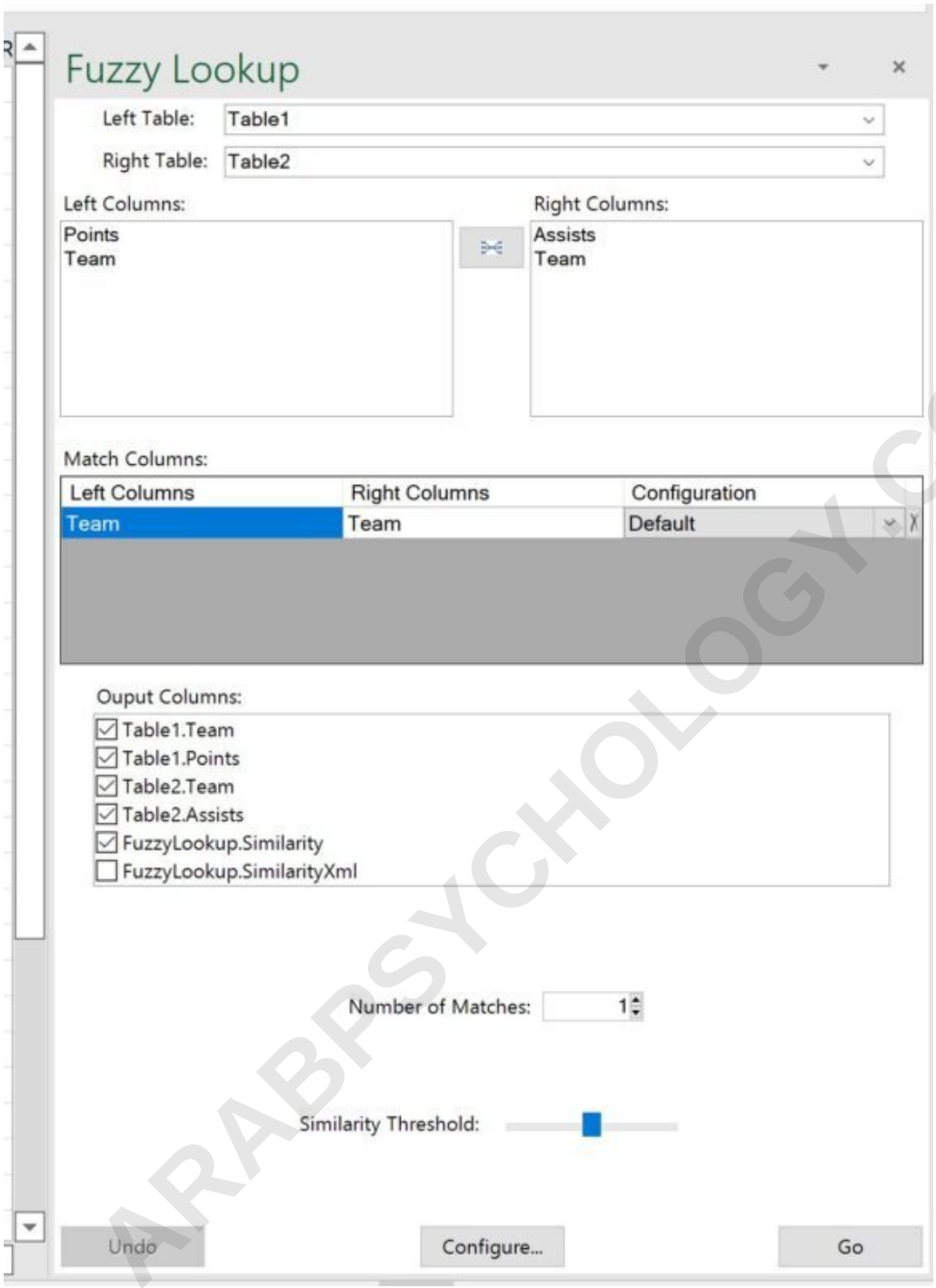


Then click the Fuzzy Lookup icon within this tab to bring up the Fuzzy Lookup panel.

Choose Table1 for the Left Table and Table2 for the Right Table.

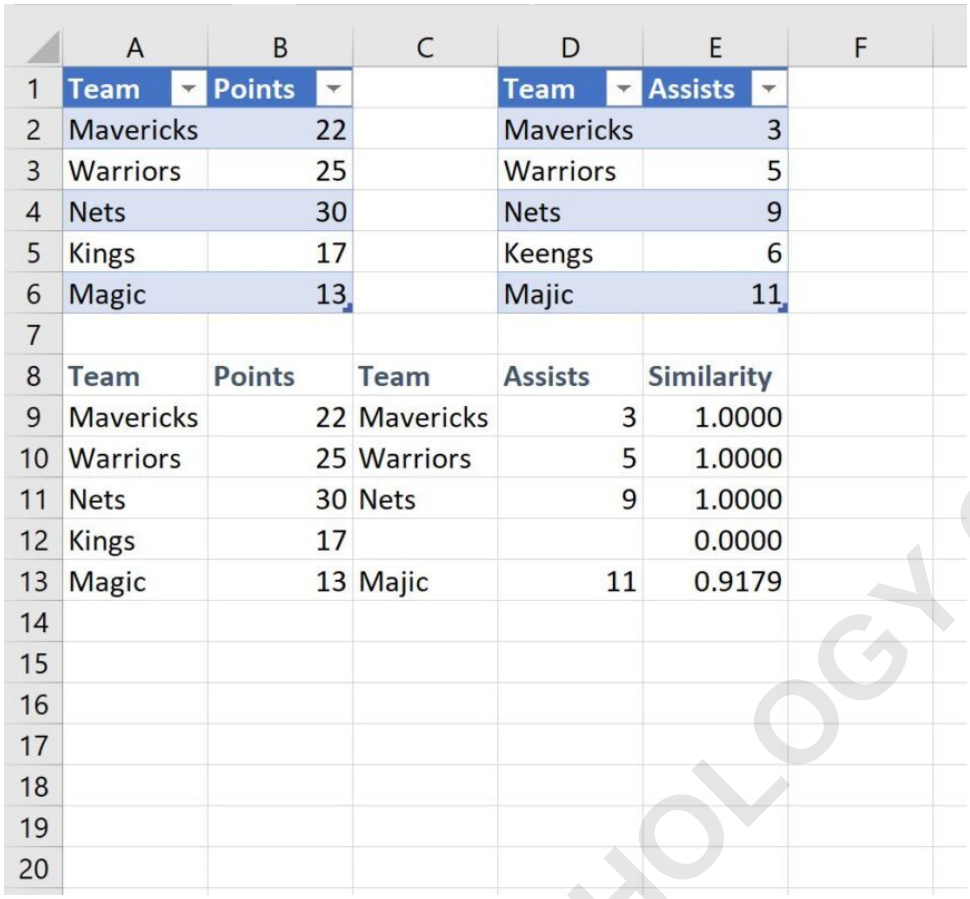
Then highlight Team for Left Columns and Team for Right Columns and click the join icon between the boxes, then click Go:

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM



ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

The results of the fuzzy matching will be shown in the cell you currently have active in Excel:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Points		Team	Assists	
2	Mavericks	22		Mavericks	3	
3	Warriors	25		Warriors	5	
4	Nets	30		Nets	9	
5	Kings	17		Keengs	6	
6	Magic	13		Majic	11	
7						
8	Team	Points	Team	Assists	Similarity	
9	Mavericks	22	Mavericks	3	1.0000	
10	Warriors	25	Warriors	5	1.0000	
11	Nets	30	Nets	9	1.0000	
12	Kings	17			0.0000	
13	Magic	13	Majic	11	0.9179	
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM

From the results we can see that Excel was able to match each team name between the two datasets except for the Kings.

Excel also shows a Similarity score, which represents the similarity between 0 and 1 of the two names that it matched.

Feel free to adjust the minimum Similarity score within the Fuzzy Lookup panel to allow for matching between text values that have lower similarity scores.

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

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM