

# How do I remove characters after a dash in Excel?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 22, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I remove characters after a dash in Excel?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147072>

Removing characters after a dash in Excel can easily be done using the "Text to Columns" feature. This feature allows you to split a single cell into multiple cells based on a specific delimiter, in this case, the dash. To remove characters after a dash, you can simply select the cell containing the information, go to the "Data" tab, and click on "Text to Columns." From there, choose the option to split the data based on a delimiter and select the dash as the delimiter. This will split the cell into two columns, with the characters after the dash appearing in the second column. You can then delete the second column to remove the unwanted characters. This method is useful for cleaning up data or extracting specific information from a larger string of text.

## Excel: Remove Characters After Dash

**You can use the following formula in Excel to remove characters after a dash in a cell:**

**=TEXTBEFORE(A2, "-")**

**This particular formula removes all characters after the dash (and including the dash) from cell A2.**

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

**Example: Remove Characters After Dash in Excel**

**Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that contains a phrase that classifies various NBA teams as elite, great, good or bad:**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Classification</b>				
2	Mavs-Elite				
3	Spurs-Great				
4	Rockets-Bad				
5	Hornets-Good				
6	Kings-Bad				
7	Warriors-Great				
8	Lakers-Good				
9	Nets-Great				
10	Celtics-Good				
11	Pelicans-Bad				
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

**Suppose we would like to remove all characters after the dash (and including the dash) from each cell in column A.**

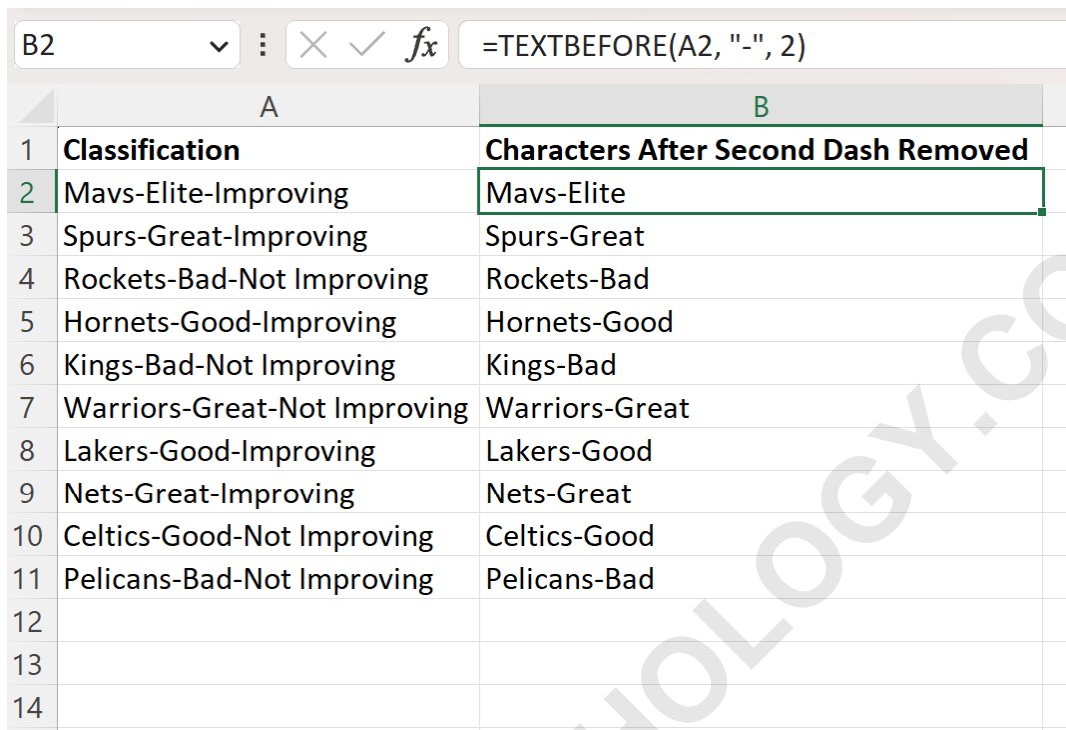
**We can type the following formula into cell B2 to do so:**

**=TEXTBEFORE(A2, "-")**

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



## =TEXTBEFORE(A2, "-", 2)



	A	B
1	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Characters After Second Dash Removed</b>
2	Mavs-Elite-Improving	Mavs-Elite
3	Spurs-Great-Improving	Spurs-Great
4	Rockets-Bad-Not Improving	Rockets-Bad
5	Hornets-Good-Improving	Hornets-Good
6	Kings-Bad-Not Improving	Kings-Bad
7	Warriors-Great-Not Improving	Warriors-Great
8	Lakers-Good-Improving	Lakers-Good
9	Nets-Great-Improving	Nets-Great
10	Celtics-Good-Not Improving	Celtics-Good
11	Pelicans-Bad-Not Improving	Pelicans-Bad
12		
13		
14		

**Column B contains the text in column A with all of the text after the second dash removed.**

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

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