

# How do I use LOOKUP in Google Sheets?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 29, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I use LOOKUP in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES.  
Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=160141>

LOOKUP is a function in Google Sheets that allows users to search for a specific value in a range of cells and return a corresponding value from a different column or row. This feature is useful for quickly finding and retrieving data from large sets of information. To use LOOKUP, you must specify the search key, the range of cells to search, and the column or row to return the value from. This function is helpful for organizing and analyzing data in spreadsheets, making it a valuable tool for both personal and professional use.

## LOOKUP

Looks through a sorted row or column for a key and returns the value of the cell in a result range located in the same position as the search row or column.

### Sample Usage

```
LOOKUP(10003, A1:A100, B1:B100)
```

```
LOOKUP(10003, A1:B100)
```

```
LOOKUP("foo", A1:Z10)
```

### Syntax

```
LOOKUP(search_key, search_range|search_result_array, )
```

**search\_key** - The value to search for in the row or column. For example, 42, "Cats", or I24.  
**search\_range|search\_result\_array** - One method of using LOOKUP is to provide a single row or column **search\_range** to look through for the search with a second argument **result\_range**. The other way is to combine these two arguments into one **search\_result\_array** where the first row or column is searched and a value is returned from the last row or column in the array.  
**result\_range** - - The range from which to return a result. The value returned corresponds to the location where **search\_key** is found in **search\_range**. This range must be only a single row or column and should not be used if using the **search\_result\_array** method.

### Notes

The LOOKUP function will only work properly if data in **search\_range** or **search\_result\_array** is sorted. Use VLOOKUP, HLOOKUP, or other related functions if data is not sorted.

If **search\_key** is not found, the item used in the lookup will be the value that's immediately smaller in the range provided. For example, if the data set contains the numbers 1, 3, 5 and **search\_key** is 2, then 1 will be used for the lookup.

In the `search_result_array` method, the last row or column in the provided range is returned. If a different row or column is desired, use `VLOOKUP` or `HLOOKUP` instead.

When using the `search_result_array` method, if the range provided contains more columns than rows, then the search will be from left to right over the first row in the range. If the range contains an equal number of rows and columns or more rows than columns, then the search will be from top to bottom over the first column in the range.

## Examples

This examples shows the price of part number 126.

Part Number	Price	Formula	Result
105	\$27.50	=LOOKUP(126, \$A\$2:\$A\$6, \$B\$2:\$B\$6)	\$33.00
126	\$33.00		
133	\$41.75		
171	\$26.75		
188	\$32.99		

This examples shows when the search\_key is not found (student ID 765333), a non-exact match may be returned.

Part Number	Price	Formula	Result
764541	B	=LOOKUP(765333,\$A\$2:\$A\$5,\$B\$2:\$B\$5)	C
764598	C		
765444	B-		
766765	A		

## See Also

**VLOOKUP:** Vertical lookup. Searches down the first column of a range for a key and returns the value of a specified cell in the row found.

**HLOOKUP:** Horizontal lookup. Searches across the first row of a range for a key and returns the value of a specified cell in the column found.

**MATCH:** Returns the relative position of an item in a range that matches a specified value.