

# How do I use the OFFSET function in Google Sheets?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=160201>

The OFFSET function in Google Sheets is a formula that allows users to reference a range of cells based on a specified starting point and number of rows and columns. This function is useful for dynamically retrieving data from a spreadsheet, as the starting point and range can be changed without having to manually adjust the formula. To use the OFFSET function, simply enter the starting cell reference, followed by the number of rows and columns to offset from that cell. This will return a range of cells that can be used in other formulas or data analysis. The OFFSET function is a powerful tool for manipulating data in Google Sheets and can greatly improve efficiency and accuracy in spreadsheet tasks.

## OFFSET

Returns a range reference shifted a specified number of rows and columns from a starting cell reference.

### Sample Usage

```
OFFSET(A2,3,4,2,2)
```

```
OFFSET(A2,1,1)
```

### Syntax

```
OFFSET(cell_reference, offset_rows, offset_columns, , )
```

`cell_reference` - The starting point from which to count the offset rows and columns.

`offset_rows` - The number of rows to shift by.

`offset_rows` must be an integer, but may be negative. If a decimal value is provided, the decimal part will be truncated.

`offset_columns` - The number of columns to shift by.

`offset_columns` must be an integer, but may be negative. If a decimal value is provided, the decimal part will be truncated.

`height` - - The height of the range to return starting at the offset target.

`width` - - The width of the range to return starting at the offset target.

## Notes

If `offset_rows` or `offset_columns` is negative, it is possible for the offset target to be outside the upper or left edge of the spreadsheet. If this occurs, the `#REF!` error will be returned.

If `OFFSET` is used as an array formula, it is possible for the value returned by the array formula to overwrite part of the offset target, causing a circular reference. If this occurs, the `#REF!` error will be returned.

## Examples

Returns the value of a cell offset by a certain number of rows and columns from a given reference point.

Make a copy