

# How do you use absolute references in Google Sheets?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do you use absolute references in Google Sheets?*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=159641>

Absolute references in Google Sheets are used to lock a specific cell or range of cells within a formula, so that it does not change when copied or moved to another location. This is useful when you want to maintain the same reference to a cell, regardless of where the formula is being used. To use absolute references, simply add a dollar sign (\$) before the column letter and/or row number of the cell you want to lock. This will ensure that the formula always refers to that specific cell, even if it is copied to a different location within the spreadsheet. Absolute references are a useful tool for creating more accurate and efficient formulas in Google Sheets.

## Google Sheets Absolute References

### Absolute References

Absolute reference is when a reference has the dollar sign (\$).

It locks a reference in the formula.

Add \$ to the formula to use absolute references.

The dollar sign has three different states:

Absolute for column and row. The reference is absolutely locked.

Example `=$A$1`

Absolute for the column. The reference is locked to that column. The row remains relative.

Example `=$A1`

Absolute for the row. The reference is locked to that row. The column remains relative.

Example `=A$1`

Let's have a look at an example helping the Pokemon trainers to calculate prices for Pokeballs

Type or copy the following data:

	A	B	C	D
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	Cost	
2	Iva		2	
3	Liam		5	
4	Pablo		10	
5	Jenny		7	
6	Iben		6	
7	Kasper		3	
8				
9				
10				
11	Price		2	
12				

### Data explained

There are 6 trainers: Iva, Liam, Adora, Jenny, Iben and Kasper. They have different amount of Pokeballs each in their shop cart. The price per Pokeball is 2 coins.

### Help them to calculate the prices for the Pokeballs.

The price's reference is `B11`, we do not want the fill function to change this, so we lock it.

The reference is absolutely locked by using the formula `$B$11`.

How to do it, step by step:

Type `C2(=)`

C2    fx    =

	A	B	C	D
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	Cost	
2	Iva	2	=	
3	Liam	5		
4	Pablo	10		
5	Jenny	7		
6	Iben	6		
7	Kasper	3		
8				
9				
10				
11	Price	2		
12				

Select B11

C2    fx    =B11

	A	B	C	D
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	2 x	
2	Iva	2	=B11	
3	Liam	5	10	
4	Pablo	10	20	
5	Jenny	7	14	
6	Iben	6	12	
7	Kasper	3	6	
8				
9				
10				
11	Price	2		
12				

Type (\$) before the B and 11 (\$B\$11)

C2    fx    =\$B\$11

	A	B	C	D
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	2 x	
2	Iva	2	=B\$11	
3	Liam	5		
4	Pablo	10		
5	Jenny	7		
6	Iben	6		
7	Kasper	3		
8				
9				
10				
11	Price	2		
12				

Type (\*)Select B2

C2    fx    =\$B\$11\*B2

	A	B	C	D
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	4 x	
2	Iva	2	=B\$11*B2	
3	Liam	5		
4	Pablo	10		
5	Jenny	7		
6	Iben	6		
7	Kasper	3		
8				
9				
10				
11	Price	2		
12				

Hit Enter

C2 fx  $=\$B\$11*B2$

	A	B	C	D
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	Cost	
2	Iva	2	4	
3	Liam	5		
4	Pablo	10		
5	Jenny	7		
6	Iben	6		
7	Kasper	3		
8				
9				
10				
11	Price	2		
12				

Auto fill C2:C7

C2:C7 fx  $=\$B\$11*B2$

	A	B	C	D
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	Cost	
2	Iva	2	4	
3	Liam	5	10	
4	Pablo	10	20	
5	Jenny	7	14	
6	Iben	6	12	
7	Kasper	3	6	
8				
9				
10				
11	Price	2		
12				

**Congratulations!** You successfully calculated the prices for the Pokeballs using an absolute reference.

**Note:** You can press **F4** on your keyboard and toggle between different states of absolute references.

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