

How to Check if a Cell Begins With Specific Characters in Excel

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You can check if a cell begins with specific characters using the following formula.

```
=LEFT(A1,3)="abc"
```

This checks if the left 3 characters of cell A1 is equal to "abc".

You can use the following formulas in Excel to check if a cell begins with specific characters:

Formula 1: Check if Cell Begins with Specific Set of Characters

```
=IF(LEFT(A2,2)="AB", "Yes", "No")
```

This particular formula checks if the first two characters in cell **A2** are "AB" and returns Yes or No accordingly.

Formula 2: Check if Cell Begins with One of Several Characters

```
=IF(OR(LEFT(A2,1)="A", LEFT(A2,1)="D"), "Yes", "No")
```

This particular formula checks if the first character in cell **A2** is either "A" or "D" and returns Yes or No accordingly.

Formula 3: Check if Cell Begins with Number

```
=IF(ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(A2,1))), "Yes", "No")
```

This particular formula checks if the first character in cell **A2** is a number and returns Yes or No accordingly.

The following examples show how to use each formula in practice with the following list of product ID's in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Product					
2	AA001					
3	AB004					
4	AB005					
5	CC009					
6	DC045					
7	DC900					
8	9DD50					
9	EA003					
10	9DD30					
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						

Let's jump in!

Example 1: Check if Cell Begins with Specific Set of Characters

We can use the following formula to check if the first two characters of each cell in the Product column are equal to "A" or not:

```
=IF(LEFT(A2,2)="AB","Yes","No")
```

We can type this formula into cell **B2** and then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Product	Product Starts with AB			
2	AA001	No			
3	AB004	Yes			
4	AB005	Yes			
5	CC009	No			
6	DC045	No			
7	DC900	No			
8	9DD50	No			
9	EA003	No			
10	9DD30	No			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					

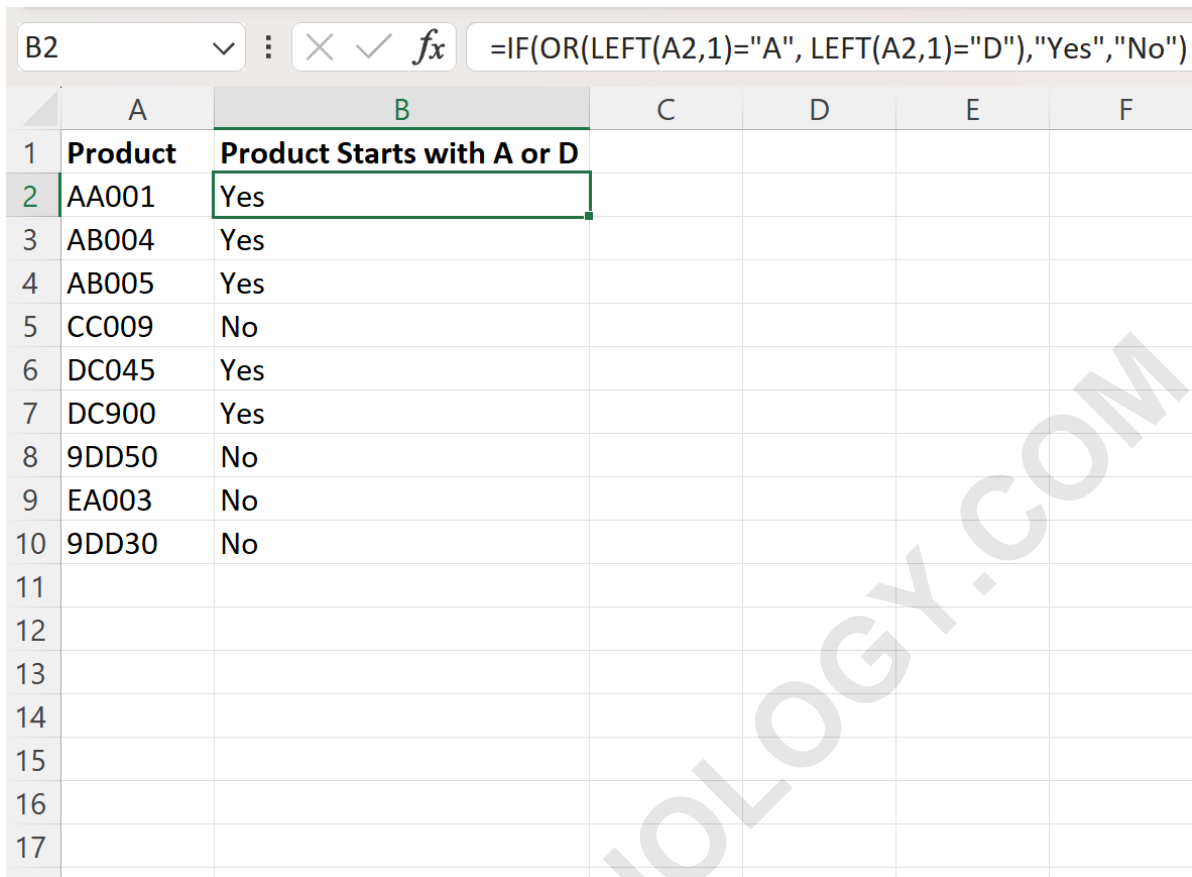
Column B now returns "Yes" or "No" in each row to indicate if the Product ID in the corresponding cell in column A starts with "AB" or not.

Example 2: Check if Cell Begins with One of Several Characters

We can use the following formula to check if the first character of each cell in the Product column is equal to either "A" or "D":

```
=IF(OR(LEFT(A2,1)="A", LEFT(A2,1)="D"),"Yes","No")
```

We can type this formula into cell **B2** and then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Product	Product Starts with A or D				
2	AA001	Yes				
3	AB004	Yes				
4	AB005	Yes				
5	CC009	No				
6	DC045	Yes				
7	DC900	Yes				
8	9DD50	No				
9	EA003	No				
10	9DD30	No				
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						

The formula bar for cell B2 shows the formula: `=IF(OR(LEFT(A2,1)="A", LEFT(A2,1)="D"),"Yes","No")`

Column B now returns "Yes" or "No" in each row to indicate if the Product ID in the corresponding cell in column A starts with either "A" or "D."

Example 3: Check if Cell Begins with Number

We can use the following formula to check if the first character of each cell in the Product column is a number or not:

=IF(ISNUMBER(VALUE(LEFT(A2,1))), "Yes","No")

We can type this formula into cell **B2** and then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:

