

What are Excel absolute references?

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Excel absolute references are a type of cell reference in Microsoft Excel that remains constant or fixed, regardless of where it is copied or moved to within a worksheet. This means that the reference will always point to the same cell, making it useful for formulas that need to be applied to multiple cells. Absolute references are denoted by the use of the dollar sign (\$) before the column and/or row reference in the cell address. This allows for more precise and reliable calculations in Excel spreadsheets.

Excel 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 =`A1`

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
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	

Copy Values

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(=)

Select B11

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

Type (*)

Select B2

Hit enter

Auto fill C2:C7

C2 fx =

	A	B	C
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	

C2 fx =\$B\$11

	A	B	C
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	Cost
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	

C2 fx =\$B\$11*B2			
	A	B	C
1	Trainers	Pokeballs	Cost
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	

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

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

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

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