

What is the Excel addition operator?

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The Excel addition operator is a mathematical function used to add two or more numerical values in a spreadsheet. It is denoted by the "+" symbol and can be used in formulas and cell references to calculate the sum of multiple values. This operator is useful for performing basic arithmetic operations in Excel, such as adding up sales figures or calculating a budget. It can also be combined with other functions and operators to create more complex calculations. Overall, the Excel addition operator is a fundamental tool for data analysis and manipulation in spreadsheets.

Excel Addition Operator

Addition Operator

Addition uses the + symbol in Excel, and is also known as **plus**.

There are two ways to do addition in Excel. Either by using the + symbol in a formula or by using the **SUM** function.

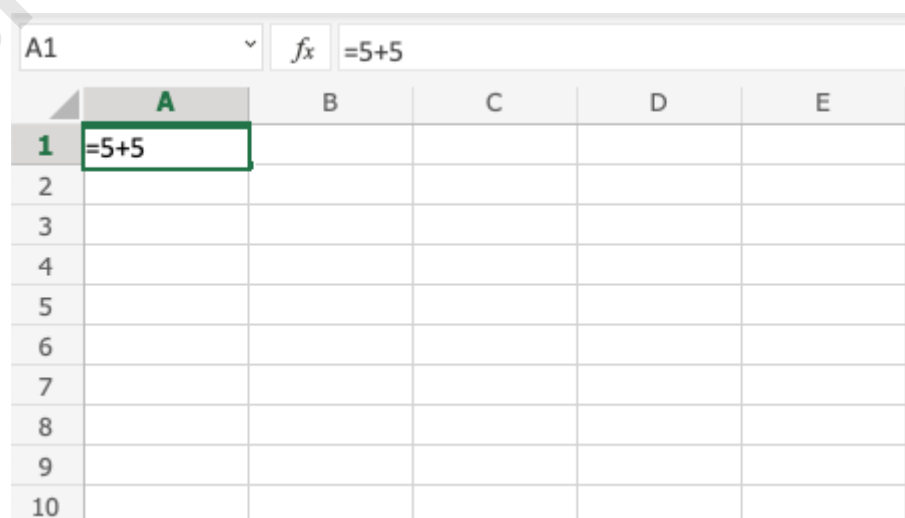
How to add cells:

Select a cell and type (=)Select a cellType (+)Select another cellHit enter

You can add more cells to the formula by typing (+) between the cells.

Let's have a look at some examples.

Adding Two Manual Entries



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with a grid of cells. The formula bar at the top displays the formula `=5+5` in cell A1. The spreadsheet grid has columns labeled A through E and rows numbered 1 through 10. Cell A1 is highlighted with a green border and contains the text `=5+5`. The formula bar also shows the text `=5+5`.

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | =5+5 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

Type A1 (=) Type 5+5Hit enter

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

Congratulations! You have successfully added $5+5=10$.

Adding Two Cells

First let's add some numbers to work with. Type the following values:

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

How to do it, step by step:

Type B1 (=) Select A1 Type (+) Select A2 Hit enter

| B1 | | fx =A1+A2 | | | | |
|----|----|-----------|---|---|---|--|
| | A | B | C | D | E | |
| 1 | 10 | =A1+A2 | | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | |

| B1 | | fx =A1+A2 | | | | |
|----|----|-----------|---|---|---|--|
| | A | B | C | D | E | |
| 1 | 10 | 30 | | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | |

Great! 30 is the result by adding A1 and A2.

Adding Several Cells

First let's add some numbers to work with. Type the following values:

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

Step by step to add several cells:

Type B1(=)Select A1Type (+)Select A2Type (+)Select A3Type (+)Select A4Type (+)Select A5Hit

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|-----------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | =A1+A2+A3+A4+A5 | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

enter

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|-----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | 100 | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

Good job! You have successfully added five cells!

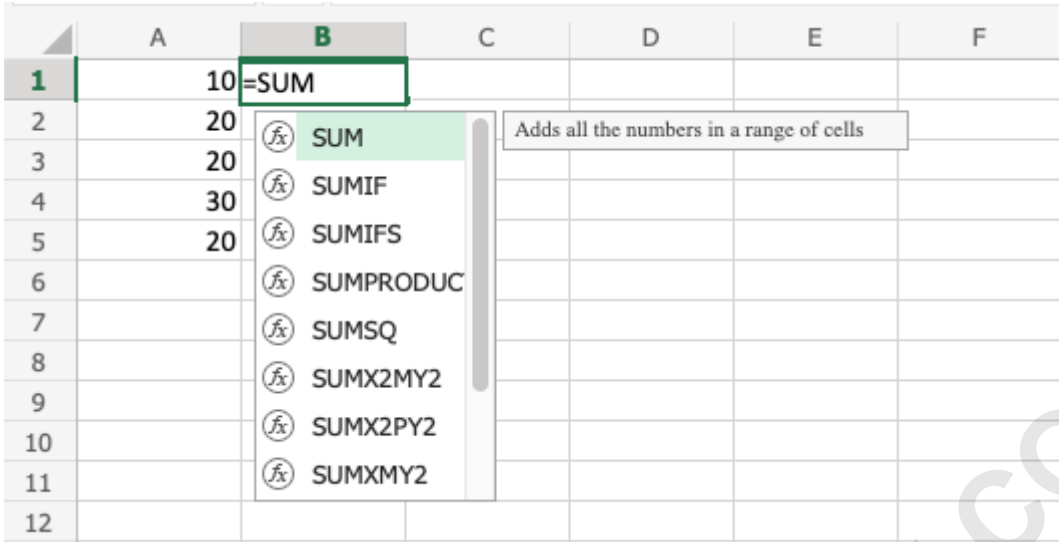
Adding with SUM

Let's keep the numbers from the last exercise. If you did last exercise, remove the value in B1.

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |

Step by step to add with SUM:

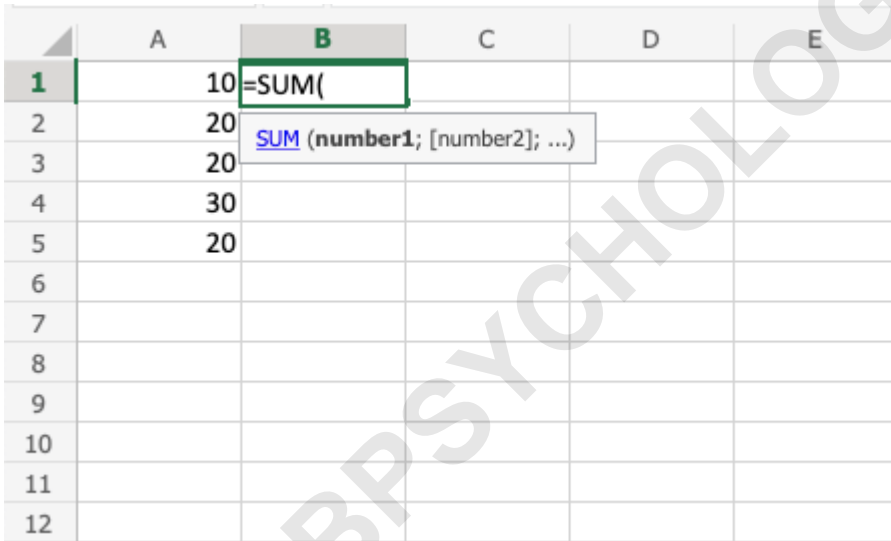
Type `B1(=SUM)` Double click the `SUM` command Mark the range `A1:A5` Hit enter



| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|----|------|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | =SUM | | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | |

Function list:
SUM
SUMIF
SUMIFS
SUMPRODUCT
SUMSQ
SUMX2MY2
SUMX2PY2
SUMXMY2

Tooltip: Adds all the numbers in a range of cells



| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|-------|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | =SUM(| | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |

Tooltip: SUM (number1; [number2]; ...)

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | =SUM(A1:A5 | | | |
| 2 | 20 | SUM (number1; [number2]; ...) | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|----|-----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 10 | 100 | | | |
| 2 | 20 | | | | |
| 3 | 20 | | | | |
| 4 | 30 | | | | |
| 5 | 20 | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |

Note: SUM saves you time! Keep practicing this function.

Adding Using Absolute Reference

You can also lock a cell and add it to other cells.

How to do it, step by step:

Select a cell and type (=) Select the cell you want to lock, add two dollar signs (\$) before the column and row Type (+) Fill a range

Let's have a look at an example where we add B(5) to the range A1:A10 using absolute reference and the fill function.

Type the values:

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 50 | 5 | | |
| 2 | 45 | | | |
| 3 | 40 | | | |
| 4 | 35 | | | |
| 5 | 30 | | | |
| 6 | 25 | | | |
| 7 | 20 | | | |
| 8 | 15 | | | |
| 9 | 10 | | | |
| 10 | 5 | | | |

Step by step:

Type C1(=) Select B1 Type dollar sign before column and row \$B\$1 Type (+) Select A1 Hit enter Fill

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|----|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | 50 | 5 | = \$B\$1 + A1 | |
| 2 | 45 | | | |
| 3 | 40 | | | |
| 4 | 35 | | | |
| 5 | 30 | | | |
| 6 | 25 | | | |
| 7 | 20 | | | |
| 8 | 15 | | | |
| 9 | 10 | | | |
| 10 | 5 | | | |

the range C1:C10

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|----|---|-------|---|
| 1 | 50 | 5 | =B\$1 | |
| 2 | 45 | | | |
| 3 | 40 | | | |
| 4 | 35 | | | |
| 5 | 30 | | | |
| 6 | 25 | | | |
| 7 | 20 | | | |
| 8 | 15 | | | |
| 9 | 10 | | | |
| 10 | 5 | | | |

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|----|---|----------|---|
| 1 | 50 | 5 | =B\$1+A1 | |
| 2 | 45 | | | |
| 3 | 40 | | | |
| 4 | 35 | | | |
| 5 | 30 | | | |
| 6 | 25 | | | |
| 7 | 20 | | | |
| 8 | 15 | | | |
| 9 | 10 | | | |
| 10 | 5 | | | |

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | 50 | 5 | 55 | |
| 2 | 45 | | | |
| 3 | 40 | | | |
| 4 | 35 | | | |
| 5 | 30 | | | |
| 6 | 25 | | | |
| 7 | 20 | | | |
| 8 | 15 | | | |
| 9 | 10 | | | |
| 10 | 5 | | | |

| | A | B | C | D |
|----|----|---|----|---|
| 1 | 50 | 5 | 55 | |
| 2 | 45 | | 50 | |
| 3 | 40 | | 45 | |
| 4 | 35 | | 40 | |
| 5 | 30 | | 35 | |
| 6 | 25 | | 30 | |
| 7 | 20 | | 25 | |
| 8 | 15 | | 20 | |
| 9 | 10 | | 15 | |
| 10 | 5 | | 10 | |

Great! You have successfully used absolute reference to add B1 (5) with the range A1:A10.

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