

“What is the Excel formula for extracting characters from the left until reaching a specific character?”

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The Excel formula for extracting characters from the left until reaching a specific character allows users to retrieve a specific set of characters from a string of text. This formula uses the LEFT function to specify the number of characters to be extracted and the FIND function to locate the specific character that marks the end of the extraction. This formula is useful for extracting data from large strings of text, such as names or addresses, and can be easily customized to fit a variety of data extraction needs.

Excel: A Formula for LEFT Until Specific Character

The LEFT function in Excel is used to extract a certain number of characters from the left side of a string.

However, you can use the following formula to use the LEFT function to extract all characters from the left side of a string until a specific character is encountered:

=LEFT(cell, FIND("specific_character", cell)-1)

For example, you can use the following formula to extract all of the characters on the left side of the string in cell A2 until an underscore is encountered:

=LEFT(A2, FIND("_", A2)-1)

The following example shows how to use this formula in practice.

Example: Using LEFT Until Specific Character in Excel

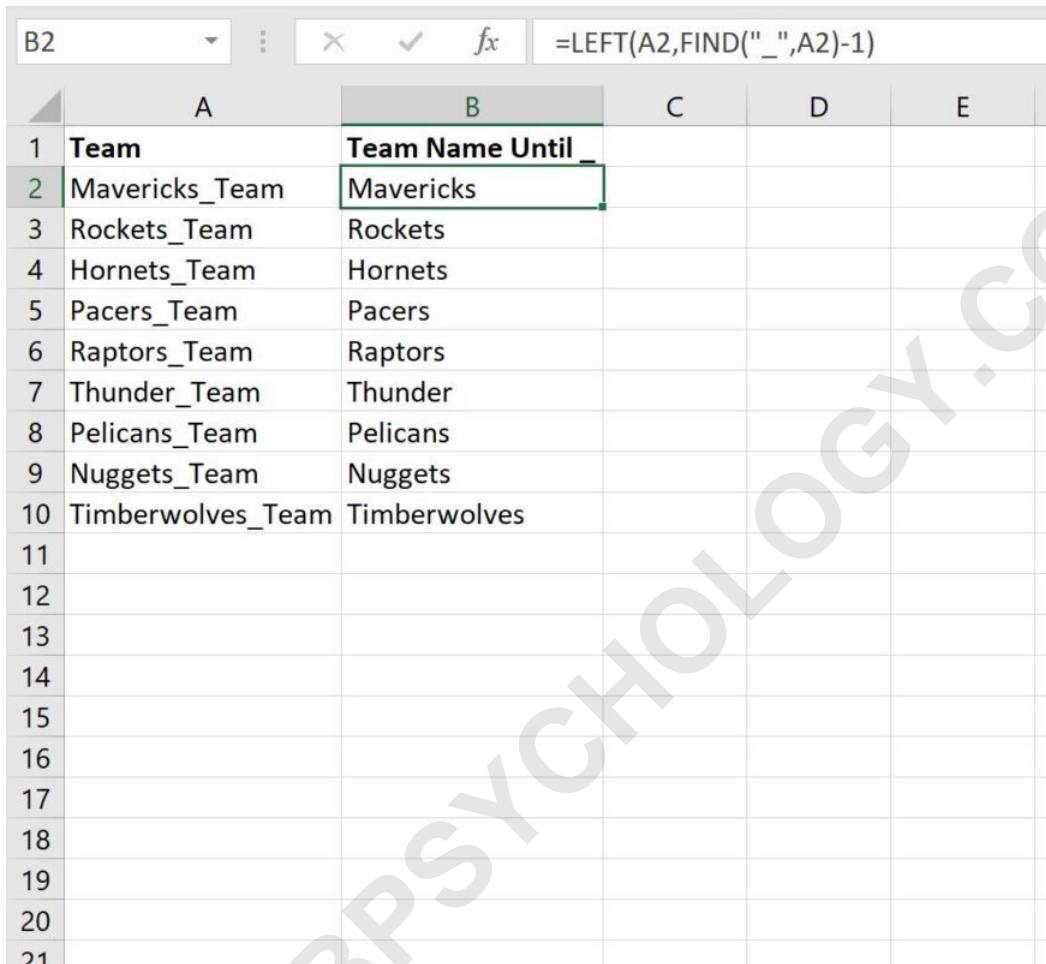
Suppose we have the following list of basketball team names in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team				
2	Mavericks_Team				
3	Rockets_Team				
4	Hornets_Team				
5	Pacers_Team				
6	Raptors_Team				
7	Thunder_Team				
8	Pelicans_Team				
9	Nuggets_Team				
10	Timberwolves_Team				
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

We can type the following formula into cell B2 to extract all of the characters in the team name of cell A2 until an underscore is encountered:

=LEFT(A2, FIND("_", A2)-1)

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



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Team Name Until _			
2	Mavericks_Team	Mavericks			
3	Rockets_Team	Rockets			
4	Hornets_Team	Hornets			
5	Pacers_Team	Pacers			
6	Raptors_Team	Raptors			
7	Thunder_Team	Thunder			
8	Pelicans_Team	Pelicans			
9	Nuggets_Team	Nuggets			
10	Timberwolves_Team	Timberwolves			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

Column B now displays all of the characters in each team name until an underscore is encountered in the name.

It's worth noting that if no underscore is found in the Team name, the formula will return #VALUE! as a result.

To return a different value, simply use the IFERROR()

function.

For example, we can use the following IFERROR() function to return "None Found" if an underscore is not found in a given team name:

=IFERROR(LEFT(A2,FIND("_", A2)-1),"None Found")

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Team Name Until _				
2	Mavericks_Team	Mavericks				
3	Rockets_Team	Rockets				
4	Hornets_Team	Hornets				
5	Pacers_Team	Pacers				
6	Raptors_Team	Raptors				
7	Thunder_Team	Thunder				
8	Pelicans_Team	Pelicans				
9	Nuggets_Team	Nuggets				
10	TimberwolvesTeam	None Found				
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

Note that you can also return a different value by simply replacing "None Found" with some other value in the IFERROR() function.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel:

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