

What is the formula for determining if a date is before another date in Excel?

Authored by
stats writer

June 22, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *What is the formula for determining if a date is before another date in Excel?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147066>

The formula for determining if a date is before another date in Excel is the "less than" operator, represented by the symbol "

Excel: A Formula for "If Date is Before Another Date"

You can use one of the following formulas in Excel to check if one date is before another date:

Method 1: Use Cell Reference

```
=IF(B2<B$14, "Yes", "No")
```

This particular formula checks if the date in cell B2 is less than the date in cell B14 and returns "Yes" or "No" accordingly.

Method 2: Use Actual Date

```
=IF(B2<DATEVALUE("2/20/2023"), "Yes", "No")
```

This particular formula checks if the date in cell B2 is less than 2/20/2023 and returns "Yes" or "No" accordingly.

The following example shows how to use each method in practice.

Example: Check if Date is Before Another Date in Excel

Suppose we have the following list of tasks in Excel along with their completion date and we would like to know if each task was completed by the date specified in cell B14 or not:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Task	Date	Met Cutoff?		
2	A	1/1/2023			
3	B	1/4/2023			
4	C	1/19/2023			
5	D	2/15/2023			
6	E	2/21/2023			
7	F	2/25/2023			
8	G	3/14/2023			
9	H	3/28/2023			
10	I	4/1/2023			
11	J	5/1/2023			
12					
13					
14	Cutoff Date	2/20/2023			
15					
16					
17					
18					

We can type the following formula into cell C2:

=IF(B2<=\$B\$14, "Yes", "No")

We can then click and drag this formula down to each

remaining cell in column C:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Task	Date	Met Cutoff?		
2	A	1/1/2023	Yes		
3	B	1/4/2023	Yes		
4	C	1/19/2023	Yes		
5	D	2/15/2023	Yes		
6	E	2/21/2023	No		
7	F	2/25/2023	No		
8	G	3/14/2023	No		
9	H	3/28/2023	No		
10	I	4/1/2023	No		
11	J	5/1/2023	No		
12					
13					
14	Cutoff Date	2/20/2023			
15					
16					

Column C returns either "Yes" or "No" depending on whether or not the corresponding date in column B is less than 2/20/2023.

If we'd like, we could also directly type the date into the IF function by wrapping it in the DATEVALUE function so that Excel recognizes it as a date:

=IF(B2<DATEVALUE("2/20/2023"), "Yes", "No")

We can enter this formula into cell C2 and click and drag it down to each remaining cell in column C:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Task	Date	Met Cutoff?				
2	A	1/1/2023	Yes				
3	B	1/4/2023	Yes				
4	C	1/19/2023	Yes				
5	D	2/15/2023	Yes				
6	E	2/21/2023	No				
7	F	2/25/2023	No				
8	G	3/14/2023	No				
9	H	3/28/2023	No				
10	I	4/1/2023	No				
11	J	5/1/2023	No				
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

Column C returns either "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether or not the corresponding date in column B is less than 2/20/2023.

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