

FIND function

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This article describes the formula syntax and usage of the **FIND** function in Microsoft Excel.

Description

FIND locates one text string within a second text string, and return the number of the starting position of the first text string from the first character of the second text string.

- FIND always counts each character, whether single-byte or double-byte, as 1, no matter what the default language setting is.

Syntax

FIND(find_text, within_text, [start_num])

The FIND function syntax has the following arguments:

- **Find_text** Required. The text you want to find.
- **Within_text** Required. The text containing the text you want to find.
- **Start_num** Optional. Specifies the character at which to start the search. The first character in within_text is character number 1. If you omit start_num, it is assumed to be 1.

Remarks

- FIND is case sensitive and don't allow wildcard characters. If you don't want to do a case sensitive search or use wildcard characters, you can use SEARCH.
- If find_text is "" (empty text), FIND matches the first character in the search string (that is, the character numbered start_num or 1).
- Find_text cannot contain any wildcard characters.
- If find_text does not appear in within_text, FIND returns the #VALUE! error value.
- If start_num is not greater than zero, FIND returns the #VALUE! error value.
- If start_num is greater than the length of within_text, FIND returns the #VALUE! error value.
- Use start_num to skip a specified number of characters. Using FIND as an example, suppose you are working with the text string "AYF0093.YoungMensApparel". To find the number of the first "Y" in the descriptive part of the text string, set start_num equal to 8 so that the serial-number portion of the text is not searched. FIND begins with character 8, finds find_text at the next character, and returns the number 9. FIND always returns the number of characters from the start of within_text, counting the characters you skip if start_num is greater than 1.

Examples

Copy the example data in the following table, and paste it in cell A1 of a new Excel

worksheet. For formulas to show results, select them, press F2, and then press Enter. If you need to, you can adjust the column widths to see all the data.

Data

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Formula	Description	Result
=FIND("M",A2)	Position of the first "M" in cell A2	1
=FIND("m",A2)	Position of the first "m" in cell A2	6
=FIND("M",A2,3)	Position of the first "M" in cell A2, starting with the third character	8

Example 2

Data

Ceramic Insulators #124-
TD45-87

Copper Coils
#12-671-6772

Variable Resistors
#116010

Data

Formula	Description (Result)	Result
=MID(A2,1,FIND("#",A2,1)-1)	Extracts text from position 1 to the position of "#" in cell A2 (Ceramic Insulators)	Ceramic Insulators
=MID(A3,1,FIND("#",A3,1)-1)	Extracts text from position 1 to the position of "#" in cell A3 (Copper Coils)	Copper Coils
=MID(A4,1,FIND("#",A4,1)-1)	Extracts text from position 1 to the position of "#" in cell A4 (Variable Resistors)	Variable Resistors

Important:

- The FINDB function is deprecated.
- In workbooks set to [Compatibility Version 2](#), FIND has improved behavior with Surrogate Pairs, counting them as one character instead of two. Variation Selectors (commonly used with emojis) will still be counted as separate characters. Read more here: [The Unicode standard](#)