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Excel vlookup multiple sheets indirect

Excel's VLOOKUP function, which stands for vertical search, will search for a value in the first column of a range, and return the value in every other column in the same row. If you cannot locate which cell contains specific data, VLOOKUP is a very effective way to find this data. It is especially useful in giant spreadsheets where it is difficult to locate information. The instructions in this article apply in Excel for Microsoft 365, Excel 2019, 2016, 2013, 2010, Excel for Mac and Excel Online. VLOOKUP normally returns a single data field as output. How this works: Provide a name or lookup_value tells VLOOKUP which row of the data table you want to search for the desired data. Supply the column number as a col_index_num argument, which tells VLOOKUP which column contains the data you are looking for. The find function lookup_value in the first column of the data table. Then VLOOKUP locates and returns the information of the column number you defined in col_index_num, from the same row as the lookup value. The syntax for the VLOOKUP function is: =VLOOKUP(lookup_value,table_array,col_index_num,range_lookup) The VLOOKUP function may seem confusing because it contains four arguments, but it is simple to use. The four arguments for the VLOOKUP function are as follows: lookup_value (required): The value to look for in the first column of the table array. table_array (required) - This is the data table (a range of cells) that VLOOKUP searches for to find the information you need. The table_array must contain at least two columns of data. The first column must contain the lookup_value col_index_num (required) - This is the column number of the value you want to find. Numbering begins with column 1. range_lookup (optional) - Indicates whether or not the lookup value is within a range contained in the table array. The range_lookup argument is TRUE or FALSE. Use TRUE for an approximate and FALSE match for an exact match. If omitted, the value is TRUE by default. If the range_lookup argument is TRUE, then the lookup_value is the value you want to check if it is within a range defined by the table_array. The table_array contains all ranges and a column containing the range value (such as high, medium, or low). The col_index_num argument is the resulting range value. Using range_lookup argument is complicated for many people to understand, so it's worth looking at a quick example. The example above uses the VLOOKUP function to find the discount rate based on the number of items purchased. The example shows that the discount for purchasing 19 items is 2% because 19 falls between 11 and 21 in the Quantity column of the lookup table. As a result, VLOOKUP returns the value of the second column of the since this row contains the minimum of this range. Another way to set up a lookup table would create a second column for the maximum, and this range would have a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 20. But the result works the same way. The example uses the following formula which contains the VLOOKUP function to find the discount for the quantities of goods purchased. =VLOOKUP(C2,\$C\$5:\$D\$8,2,TRUE) C2: This is the lookup value, which can be in any cell of the worksheet. \$C\$5:\$D\$8: This is a fixed table which contains all the ranges you want to use. 2: This is the range lookup table column that you want the LOOKUP function to return. TRUE: Enable range_lookup of this feature. Once you have pressed Enter and the result returns to the first cell, you can automatically fill the entire column to search the range results for the rest of the cells in the search column. The range_lookup argument is a compelling way to sort a column of mixed numbers into multiple categories. The VLOOKUP function can return the following errors. #N/A is the error value not available and occurs under the following conditions: The search_value is not in the first column of the table_array Argument Table_array is inaccurate. For example, the argument may include empty columns on the left side of the range. The Range_lookup argument is set to FALSE, and an exact match for the lookup_value argument is not found in the first column of the table_array. The range_lookup argument is set to TRUE, and all values in the first column of the table_array are greater than lookup_value. #REF! (reference outside the range) occurs if the col_index_num greater than the number of columns in the table_array. By combining excel's VLOOKUP function with COLUMN function you can create a lookup formula that returns multiple single-row values from a database or a data table. Learn how to create a search formula that returns multiple values from a single data record. The instructions in this article apply in Excel 2019, 2016, 2013, 2010, and Excel for Microsoft 365. The search formula requires the COLUMN function to be nested within VLOOKUP. Nesting a function involves entering the second function as one of the arguments of the first function. In this tutorial, the COLUMN function is entered as column index number argument for VLOOKUP. The last step in the tutorial is to copy the search formula to additional columns to retrieve additional values for the chosen part. The first step in this tutorial is to enter the data in an Excel worksheet. To follow the steps in this tutorial, please enter the data as following picture shown in the following cells: Enter the top range of data in cells D1 to G1. Enter the second range in cells D4 to G10. The search criteria and search formula created in this tutorial are entered in row 2 of the worksheet. This does not include the basic Excel format shown in the image, but this does not affect the work of the search formula. A named range is an easy way to refer to a range of data in a formula. Instead of typing cell references for the data, type the range name. A second advantage of using a named range is that cell references in this range never change even when the formula is copied to other cells in the worksheet. Range names are an alternative to using absolute cell references to prevent errors when copying formulas. The range name does not include the headers or field names of the data (as shown in row 4), only the data. Highlight cells D5 to G10 in the worksheet. Place the cursor in the name box above column A, type Table, and then press Enter. Cells D5 to G10 have table range name. The range name for the VLOOKUP table array argument is later used in this tutorial. While it is possible to type the search formula directly into a cell in a worksheet, many people have difficulty keeping the syntax straight, especially for a complex formula, such as the one used in this tutorial. Alternatively, use the VLOOKUP Function Arguments dialog box. Almost all Excel functions have a dialog box where each of the function arguments are entered in a separate line. Select cell E2 from the worksheet. This is the location where the results of the two-dimensional search formula will be displayed. On the ribbon, go to the Formulas tab and select Find & Reference. Select VLOOKUP to open the Function Arguments dialog box. The Function Arguments dialog box is where the VLOOKUP function parameters are entered. Normally, the lookup value matches a data field in the first column of the data table. In this example, the lookup value refers to the name of the part you want to find information about. The Perse data types for the lookup value are text data, logical values, numbers, and cell references. When copying formulas in Excel, the cell references change to reflect the new location. If this happens, D2, the cell reference for the lookup value, changes and creates errors in cells F2 and G2. Absolute cell references do not change when formulas are copied. To avoid errors, convert cell reference D2 to an absolute cell reference. To create an absolute cell reference, press the F4 key this adds dollar signals around the cell reference, but \$D\$2. In the Function Arguments dialog box, place the cursor in the lookup_value text box. Then in the worksheet, select cell D2 to add this cell reference to lookup_value. Cell D2 is where the tile name will be entered. Without moving the insertion point, press the F4 key to convert D2 to the cell reference \$D\$2. Leave the dialog box open VLOOKUP for next step in tutorial. A table array is the data table that the search formula looks for to find the information you want. The table_array must contain at least two columns of data. The first column contains the argument of the lookup value (which has been configured in the previous section), while the second column is searched by the search formula to find information you specify. The table_array argument must be entered as a range containing the cell references for the data table or as a range name. To add the data table to the VLOOKUP function, place the cursor in the table_array text box in the dialog box, and then type Table to enter the range name for this argument. Normally, VLOOKUP only returns data from a column in a data table. The argument for the column index number sets this column. In this example, however, there are three columns, and the column index number must be changed without editing the search formula. To achieve this, nest the COLUMN function within the VLOOKUP function as the Col_index_num argument. When nesting functions, Excel does not open the second function dialog box to enter its arguments. The COLUMN function must be entered manually. The COLUMN function has only one argument, the reference argument, which is a cell reference. The COLUMN function returns the number of the column provided as a reference argument. Converts the column letter to a number. To find the price of an item, use the data in column 2 of the data table. This example uses column B as a reference to insert 2 into the Col_index_num argument. In the Function Arguments dialog box, place the cursor in the selected text box Col_index_num type COLUMN(). (Be sure to include the open round bracket.) In the worksheet, select cell B1 to enter this cell reference as a reference argument. Type a closing round bracket to complete the COLUMN function. The VLOOKUP Range_lookup argument is a logical value (TRUE or FALSE) that indicates whether VLOOKUP should find an exact or approximate match with the Lookup_value. TRUE or skipped. VLOOKUP returns a close match to the Lookup_value. If an exact match cannot be found, VLOOKUP returns the next largest value. The data in the first column Table_array be sorted in ascending order. FALSE: VLOOKUP uses an exact match to the Lookup_value. If there are two or more values in the first column of Table_array match the lookup value, the first found value will be used. If an exact match is not found, an #N/A error is Range_lookup returned. In the Function Arguments dialog box, place the cursor in the Range_lookup text box, and type False to tell VLOOKUP to return an exact match for the data. Select OK to complete the search formula and close the dialog box. Cell E2 will contain an #N/A error because the search criteria have not been entered into cell D2. This error is temporary. Will be corrected when search criteria are added in the last step Tutorial. The search formula retrieves data from multiple columns in the data table at once. To do this, the search formula must reside in all fields from which you want information. To retrieve data from columns 2, 3, and 4 of the data table (price, tile number, and provider enter a partial name as Lookup_value. Since the data is set to a regular pattern in the worksheet, please copy the search formula to cell E2 in cells F2 and G2. As the formula is copied, Excel updates the relative cell reference in the COLUMN function (cell B1) to reflect the new formula location. Excel does not change the absolute cell reference (such as \$D\$2) and named range (table) as formula is copied. There is more than one way to copy data in Excel, but the easiest way is to use the fill handle. Select cell E2, where the search formula is located, to make it the active cell. Drag the fill handle to cell G2. Cells F2 and G2 display the error #N/A which is present in cell E2. To use the search formulas to retrieve information from the data table, in the worksheet select cell D2, type Widget and press Enter. The following information is displayed in cells E2 in G2. E2:\$14.76 — the price of an F2 widget. PN-98769 — the part number of a G2 widget. Widgets Inc. — the provider name for widgets To test the VLOOKUP array formula, type the name of other parts in cell D2, and look at the results in cells E2 in G2. Each cell that contains the search formula contains a different data about the hardware item you searched for. The VLOOKUP function with identical functions such as COLUMN provides a powerful method to search for data within a table, using other data as a search reference. Reference.

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