

HLOOKUP function

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

Description

Searches for a value in the top row of a table or an **array** of values, and then returns a value in the same column from a row you specify in the table or array. Use HLOOKUP when your comparison values are located in a row across the top of a table of data, and you want to look down a specified number of rows. Use VLOOKUP when your comparison values are located in a column to the left of the data you want to find.

The H in HLOOKUP stands for "Horizontal."

Syntax

```
HLOOKUP(lookup_value, table_array, row_index_num, [range_lookup])
```

The HLOOKUP function syntax has the following **arguments**:

- **Lookup_value** Required. The value to be found in the first row of the table. Lookup_value can be a value, a reference, or a text string.
- **Table_array** Required. A table of information in which data is looked up. Use a reference to a range or a range name.
 - The values in the first row of table_array can be text, numbers, or logical values.
 - If range_lookup is TRUE, the values in the first row of table_array must be placed in ascending order: ...-2, -1, 0, 1, 2,... , A-Z, FALSE, TRUE; otherwise, HLOOKUP may not give the correct value. If range_lookup is FALSE, table_array does not need to be sorted.
 - Uppercase and lowercase text are equivalent.
 - Sort the values in ascending order, left to right. For more information, see [Sort data in a range or table](#).
- **Row_index_num** Required. The row number in table_array from which the matching value will be returned. A row_index_num of 1 returns the first row value in table_array, a row_index_num of 2 returns the second row value in table_array, and so on. If row_index_num is less than 1, HLOOKUP returns the #VALUE! error value; if row_index_num is greater than the number of rows on table_array, HLOOKUP returns the #REF! error value.
- **Range_lookup** Optional. A logical value that specifies whether you want HLOOKUP to find an exact match or an approximate match. If TRUE or omitted, an approximate match is returned. In other words,

if an exact match is not found, the next largest value that is less than lookup_value is returned. If FALSE, HLOOKUP will find an exact match. If one is not found, the error value #N/A is returned.

Remark

- If HLOOKUP can't find lookup_value, and range_lookup is TRUE, it uses the largest value that is less than lookup_value.
- If lookup_value is smaller than the smallest value in the first row of table_array, HLOOKUP returns the #N/A error value.
- If range_lookup is FALSE and lookup_value is text, you can use the wildcard characters, question mark (?) and asterisk (*), in lookup_value. A question mark matches any single character; an asterisk matches any sequence of characters. If you want to find an actual question mark or asterisk, type a tilde (~) before the character.

Example

The example may be easier to understand if you copy it to a blank worksheet.

[+](#) How do I copy an example?

	A	B	C
1	Axles	Bearings	Bolts
2	4	4	9
3	5	7	10
4	6	8	11
5	Formula	Description (Result)	
	=HLOOKUP("Axles", A1:C4, 2, TRUE)	Looks up Axles in row 1, and returns the value from row 2 that's in the same column. (4)	
6	=HLOOKUP("Bearings", A1:C4, 3, FALSE)	Looks up Bearings in row 1, and returns the value from row 3 that's in the same column. (7)	
7	=HLOOKUP("B", A1:C4, 3, TRUE)	Looks up B in row 1, and returns the value from row 3 that's in the same column. Because B is not an exact match, the next largest value that is less than B is used: Axles. (5)	
	=HLOOKUP("Bolts", A1:C4, 4)	Looks up Bolts in row 1, and returns the value from row 4 that's in the same column. (11)	
8	=HLOOKUP(3, {1, 2, 3, "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f"}, 2, TRUE)	Looks up 3 in the first row of the array constant, and returns the value from row 2 in same column. (c)	
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See Also

- [Lookup and reference functions \(reference\)](#)