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WORKING WITH BASIC FUNCTIONS

A function is a predefined formula that performs calculations using specific values in a particular order.

Excel includes many common functions that can be useful for quickly finding the sum, average, count, maximum value, and minimum value for a range of cells. In order to use functions correctly, you'll need to understand the different parts of a function and how to create arguments to calculate values and cell

references.

Formula =A1+A2+A3+A4+A5+A6+A7+A8

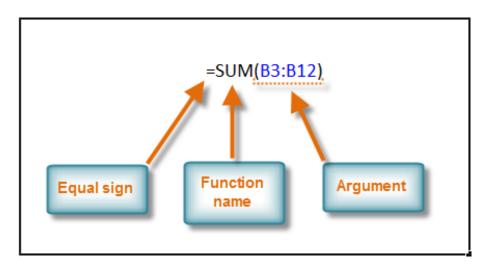
Function =SUM(A1:A8)

The parts of a function

The order in which you insert a function is important. Each function has a specific order—called **syntax**—which must be followed in order for the function to work correctly. The basic syntax to create a formula with a function is to insert an **equals sign (=), function name** (SUM, for example, is the function name



for addition), and **argument**. Arguments contain the information you want the formula to calculate, such as a range of cell references.



Working with arguments

Arguments must be enclosed in **parentheses**. Individual values or cell references inside the parentheses are separated by either **colons** or **commas**.

• Colons create a reference to a range of cells.

For example, **=AVERAGE(E19:E23)** would calculate the **average** of the cell range E19 through E23.

• **Commas** separate individual values, cell references, and cell ranges in parentheses. If there is more than one argument, you must

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separate each argument by a comma.

For example, =COUNT(C6:C14,C19:C23,C28) will count all the cells in the three arguments that are included in parentheses.

To create a basic function in Excel:

- 1. Select the cell where the answer will appear (**F15**, for example).
- 2. Type the **equals sign** (=), then enter the **function name** (**SUM**, for example).
- 3. Enter the cells for the **argument** inside the parentheses.

Unit Price	Subtotal	Date Ordered	Date Received
\$5.86	\$58.60	12-Sep	17-Sep
\$40.26	\$80.52	12-Sep	17-Sep
\$4.20	\$42.00	6-Sep	12-Sep
\$6.19	\$74.28	6-Sep	12-Sep
\$3.20	\$48.00	6-Sep	12-Sep
\$3.40	\$17.00	6-Sep	12-Sep
\$4.10	\$32.80	6-Sep	12-Sep
\$12.20	\$61.00	8-Aug	11-Aug
\$7.33	\$36.65	8-Aug	11-Aug
	=SUM(F6:F1	4)	

\$450.85

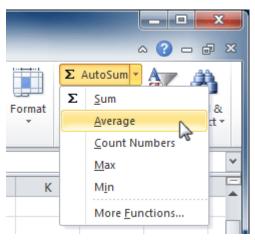
4. Press **Enter**, and the result will appear.



Using AutoSum to select common functions

The **AutoSum** command allows you to automatically return the results for a range of cells for common functions like SUM and AVERAGE.

- 1. Select the cell where the answer will appear (**E24**, for example).
- 2. Click the **Home** tab.
- 3. In the **Editing** group, click the **AutoSum** drop-down arrow and select the function you want (**Average**, for example).



4. A formula will appear in **E24**, the selected cell. If logically placed, AutoSum will select your cells for you. Otherwise, you will need to click the cells to choose the argument you want.

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Unit Price	Subtotal	Date Ordered	Date Received
\$12.03	\$36.09	18-Sep	26-Sep
\$15.95	\$31.90	18-Sep	26-Sep
\$5.87	\$58.70	8-Aug	14-Aug
\$8.83	\$88.30	8-Aug	14-Aug
\$13.54	\$27.08	22-Jul	29-Jul
=AVERAGE(19:E23)		
AVERAGE(nu	umber1, [num	nber2],)	
	Subtotal		

5. Press **Enter**, and the result will appear. \$11.24

The Function Library

There are hundreds of functions in Excel, but only some will be useful for the type of data you're working with. There is no need to learn every single function, but you may want to explore some of the different types to get ideas about which ones might be helpful to you as you create new spreadsheets.

A great place to explore functions is in the Function Library on the Formulas tab. Here, you can search and select Excel functions based on categories such as Financial, Logical, Text, and Date & Time.

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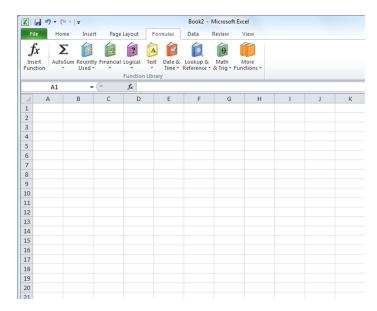
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To insert a function from the Function Library:

- 1. Select the cell where the answer will appear (I6, for example).
- 2. Click the **Formulas** tab.
- 3. From the **Function Library** group, select the **function category** you want. In this example, we'll choose **Date & Time**.
- 4. Select the desired **function** from the Date & Time drop-down menu. We'll choose the **NETWORKDAYS** function to count the days between the order date and receive date in our worksheet.

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F	ile Home Insert Pa	ge Layout Forr	nulas	Data	Review		View		
J	fx Σ 👔 🗊	P	P	Ŕ	θ			a t	fre Us
	sert AutoSum Recently Finance	ial Logical Text	Date & Time ▼		Math & Trig ▼	Fu	More inctions *	Na Man	me men c
		Function Library	[DAY	[Define
	l6 🔻 💿	<i>f</i> ∗ =NETWO	ſ	DAYS360					
	A	В	F	EDATE		_	E		F
2	Office Supply Order Log	Jul-Sep 2010	1	EOMONTH					
3									
4	OfficeMax		1	HOUR					
5	Office Supply	Item Number	1	MINUTE			Unit P	rice	Subtota
6	File Folders	EGC38290	1	MONTH			\$	5.86	\$58.6
7	Copy Paper	LBG43576			vc		\$4	0.26	\$80.5
8	Paperclips	CAD789237		N			\$	4.20	\$42.0
9	Binder Clips (Multi)	CAD256903							
10	Pens (Blue)	KLH78902	1	VOV			rt_date,end	-	
11	Pens (Red)	KLH78904			is the nui en two di		er of whole	work	days
12	Highligher Pens (Yellow)	STA73298			en two u	are			
13	Sticky Notes	JUG198430		Pres	ss F1 for I	mor	re help.		
			1 1	TMPVATTE			-	1	

5. The **Function Arguments** dialog box will appear. Insert the cursor in the **first field**, then enter or select the cell(s) you want (**G6**, for example).

ntity	Туре	Unit Price	Subtota	Date Ordered	Date	Received	Delivery Tir	ne
10	boxes	\$5.86	\$58.60	12-Sep	1	17-Sep	KDAYS(G6)	
2	cartons	\$40.26	\$80.52	12-Sep		17-Sep		
F	unction Argu	ments	1.0.00	() (may				? ×
-	NETWORKDA	YS						
		Start_date	G6	(* =	40433		
		End_date			ii =	any		
		Holidays		(=	any		
-					=			
-	Keturns the hu	mber of whole w						
nti		St	art_date is a	serial date number t	that rep	resents the	start date.	
	Formula result	=						
	Help on this fu	nction					ОК	Cancel
	Statute and the second s	1	-	1111 (186) (186)		10000		

6. Insert the cursor in the **next field**, then enter or select the cell(s) you want (**H6**, for example).

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tity	Туре	Unit Price	Subtotal	Date Ordered	Date Received	Delivery Time	
10	boxes	\$5.86	\$58.60	12-Sep	🗘 17-Sep	AYS(G6,H6)	
2	cartons	\$40.26	\$80.52	12-Sep	17-Sep		
F	unction Argu	ments	140.00	10 (mg)	-		? x
:	NETWORKDA	YS					
-11		Start_date	G6		🐱 = 40433		
		End_date	H6		5 = 40438		
		Holidays		(and	🖌 = any		
	Returns the nu	mber of whole w		en two dates. serial date number t	= 5 at represents the	end date.	
:	Formula result Help on this fur	_	- Viev	w formula resu		ок	Cancel
l		incoon .					

7. Click **OK**, and the result will appear. Our results show that it took five days to receive the order.

Date Ordered	Date Received	
12-Sep	17-Sep	5

Excel Formulas You Should Definitely Know

1. SUM Formula: =SUM(5, 5) or =SUM(A1, B1) or =SUM(A1:B5)

The SUM formula does exactly what you would expect. It allows you to add 2 or more numbers together. You can use cell references as well in this formula.



2. COUNT Formula: =COUNT(A1:A10) The count formula counts the number of cells in a range that have numbers in them. It only counts the cells where there are numbers.

3. COUNTA Formula: =COUNTA(A1:A10) Counts the number of non-empty cells in a range. It will count cells that have numbers and/or any other characters in them. The COUNTA Formula works with all data types. It counts the number of non-empty cells no matter the data type.

4. LEN Formula: =LEN(A1) The LEN formula counts the number of characters in a cell. This includes spaces!

SORTING DATA

With more than 17 billion cells in a single worksheet, Excel 2010 gives you the ability to work with an **enormous amount of data**. Arranging your data alphabetically, from smallest to largest, or using other criteria can help you find the information you're looking for more quickly.

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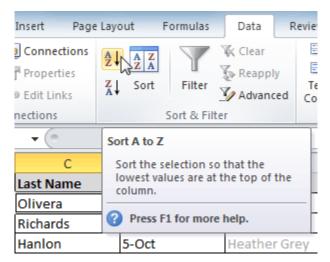
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To sort in alphabetical order:

1. Select a cell in the column you want to sort by. In this example, we'll sort by **Last Name**.

	С	D	E
1	Last Name	Payment	T-Shirt Color
2	Olivera 🖧	1-Oct	White
3	Richards	4-Oct	Dark Red
4	Hanlon	5-Oct	Heather Grey
5	Means	5-Oct	Dark Red

- 2. Select the **Data** tab, then locate the **Sort and Filter** group.
- 3. Click the ascending command²↓to Sort A to Z or the descending command²↓to Sort Z to A.



4. The data in the spreadsheet will be organized alphabetically.

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	С	D	E
1	Last Name	Payment	T-Shirt Color
2	Ackerman	1-Oct	Heather Grey
3	Albee	13-Oct	Heather Grey
4	Bell	11-Oct	Dark Red
5	Benson	11-Oct	White
6	Chen	5-Oct	Dark Red
7	Del Toro	13-Oct	White
8	Ellison	Pending	Dark Red
9	Flores	6-Oct	White
10	Hanlon	5-Oct	Heather Grey
11	Kelly	11-Oct	Dark Red
12	Kelly	11-Oct	Heather Grey
13	Lazar	14-Oct	White
14	MacDonald	Pending	Dark Red
15	Means	5-Oct	Dark Red
16	Naser	14-Oct	Dark Red
17	Nichols	6-Oct	Dark Red

Sorting options can also be found on the Home tab, condensed into the Sort & Filter command.

CHARTS

Excel workbooks can contain **a lot of data**, and this data can often be difficult to interpret. For example, where are the highest and lowest values? Are the numbers increasing or decreasing?

The answers to questions like these can become much clearer when data is represented as a **chart**. Excel has various types of charts, so you can choose one that most effectively represents your data.

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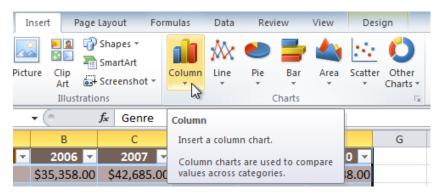
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To create a chart:

1. Select the **cells** you want to chart, including the **column titles** and **row labels**. These cells will be the **source data** for the chart.

	А	В	С	D	E	F
1	Genre 💌	2006 🔽	2007 💌	2008 🔽	2009 🔽	2010 🔽
2	Young Adult	\$35,358.00	\$42,685.00	\$20,893.00	\$16,065.00	\$21,388.00
3	Classics	\$18,580.00	\$49,225.00	\$16,326.00	\$10,017.00	\$26,134.00
4	Mystery	\$78,970.00	\$82,262.00	\$48,640.00	\$49,985.00	\$73,428.00
5	Romance	\$94,236.00	\$131,390.00	\$79,022.00	\$71,009.00	\$81,474.00
6	Sci-Fi & Fantasy	\$16,730.00	\$19,730.00	\$12,109.00	\$11,355.00	\$17,686,40
7						U^.

- 2. Click the **Insert** tab.
- 3. In the **Charts** group, select the desired **chart category** (**Column**, for example).



4. Select the desired **chart type** from the drop-down menu (**Clustered Column**, for example).



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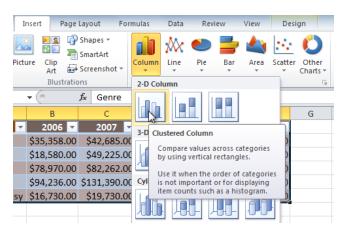
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5. The chart will appear in the worksheet.



To change chart type:

1. From the **Design** tab, click the **Change Chart Type** command. A dialog box appears.

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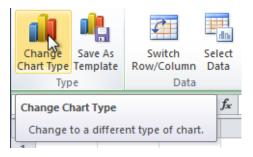
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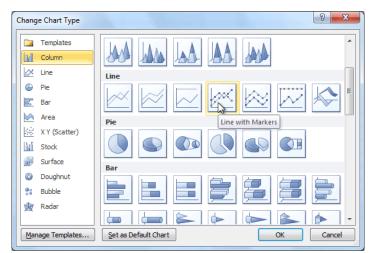
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2. Select the desired **chart type**, then click **OK**.



WHAT-IF ANALYSIS

Excel includes many powerful tools to perform complex mathematical calculations, including what-if analysis. This feature can help you experiment and answer questions with your data, even when the data is incomplete



Using Goal Seek

When you create a formula or function in Excel, you put various parts together to calculate a **result**. **Goal Seek** works in the opposite way: It lets you start with the **desired result**, and it calculates the **input value** that will give you that result.

To use Goal Seek

Let's say you're enrolled in a class. You currently have a grade of 65, and you need at least a 70 to pass the class. Luckily, you have one final assignment that might be able to raise your average. You can use Goal Seek to find out what grade you need on the final assignment to pass the class.

In the image below, you can see that the grades on the first four assignments are **58**, **70**, **72**, and **60**. Even though we don't know what the fifth grade will be, we can go ahead and write a formula or function that calculates the final grade. In this case, each assignment is weighted equally, so all we have to do is average all five grades by typing =**AVERAGE(B2:B6)**. Once we use Goal Seek, cell **B6** will show us the minimum grade we'll need to make on the final assignment.

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	SUM	- (° × ✓ .	f _* =AVE	RAGE(B2:B6)
	Α	В	С	D
1	Assignment	Grade		
2	Test 1	58		
3	Paper 1	70		
4	Test 2	72		
5	Paper 2	60		
6	Test 3			
7	Final	=AVERAGE(B2:B6)		
8				

Select the cell containing the value you want to change. When you use Goal Seek, you'll need to select a cell that already contains a formula or function. In our example, we'll select cell B7 because it contains the formula =AVERAGE(B2:B6).

	B7	▼ (*	fx =AVEF	RAGE(B2:B6)
	А	В	С	D
1	Assignment	Grade		
2	Test 1	58		
3	Paper 1	70		
4	Test 2	72		
5	Paper 2	60		
6	Test 3			
7	Final Grade	65 🗘		
8				

2. From the **Data** tab, click the **What-If Analysis** command, then select **Goal Seek** from the drop-down menu.

BOB Edit Links A+ Advanced Columns Duplicates Validation * Analysis * Analysis * T	Properties ZI Sort Filter Z Advanced Text to Remove Data Consolidate What-If Group Ungroup Subto
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3. A dialog box will appear with three fields:

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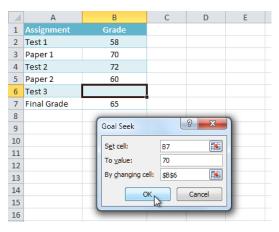
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- Set cell: This is the cell that will contain the desired result. In our example, cell **B7** is already selected.
- **To value:** This is the desired result. In our example, we'll enter **70** because we need to earn at least that to pass the class.
- By changing cell: This is the cell where Goal Seek will place its answer. In our example, we'll select cell B6 because we want to determine the grade we need to earn on the final assignment.
- 4. When you're done, click **OK**.



5. The dialog box will tell you if Goal Seek was able to find a solution. Click **OK**.

