



14 Essential Skills for Excel

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Getting Started	1	Absolute basics	What is a spreadsheet? Cells, rows, columns, sheets, and workbooks. How cells are named (A1). The difference between numbers, text, and formulas. What the ribbon and formula bars are. Changing from read only when you download a spreadsheet.
	2	Formatting	Text formatting. Borders. The Format Cells menu. Wrapping text. Resizing rows and columns. Labeling your columns. Merging/unmerging cells. Inserting and deleting rows and columns. Number formats. Copy-paste value. Format painter. Page layout menu. Freezing panes. Print setup
	3	Basic formulas	How formulas work. Syntax, arguments, references. Basic arithmetic formulas: +, -, *, /, ^, SUM, AVERAGE

Useful Tools	4	Filters and sorting	Work with/organize data in easy and sensible ways
	5	Filling and dragging	Necessary for building out spreadsheets
	6	References - Absolute vs. Relative	The difference between a formula referring to \$A\$1 or A1. Vital for creating larger/more complex spreadsheets.
	7	Useful simple formulas and tools	MAX/MIN, DAY/MONTH/YEAR, ROUND/ROUNDUP/ROUNDDOWN, TODAY, Transpose, Finding duplicates, common keyboard shortcuts, Hiding, Grouping, working with multiple sheets, Conditional formatting, Find/replace.
	8	Graphs (optional)	Creating simple bar, line, or pie charts. Only necessary for certain applications of Excel
	9	IF formula	Basic logical statements

Unlocking Excel's Power	10	COUNTIF, COUNTIFS, SUMIF, SUMIFS	Using simple criteria in powerful ways to analyze data
	11	Pivot Tables	A quick automated way to summarize data
	12	VLOOKUP	Finding specific data. Referencing tables.
	13	Text functions (Optional)	Text-to-columns, &, LEFT, RIGHT, MID, LEN. Only necessary for certain applications of Excel
	14	Error-checking and corrections	Check formulas/cells, Common formula errors, dates displayed as numbers, numbers as text, best practices to avoid problems