

# 5 Hidden Functions in Google Sheets That Excel Doesn't Have

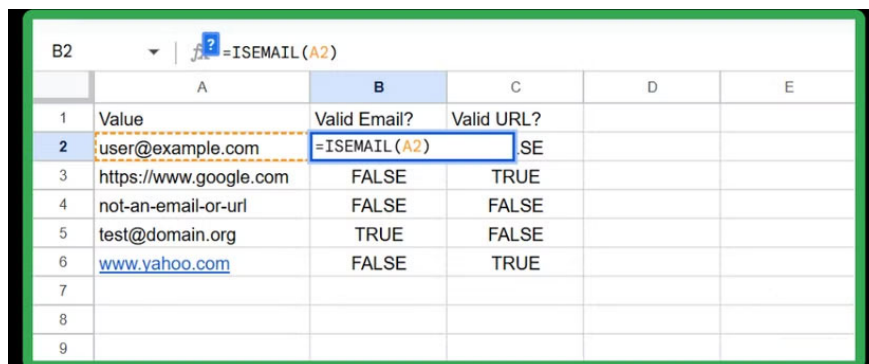
If you're thinking it's time to stop using Google Sheets and go back to Excel, you should know what you'll be leaving behind.

When you think of spreadsheets, Microsoft Excel is probably the first thing that comes to mind. It's a classic powerhouse, packed with features, powerful integration, and the ability to crunch massive amounts of data like a pro. For many, it's the de facto standard, and in many ways, that's still true. However, Excel doesn't do it all.

Many people use both apps regularly. Even though you rely heavily on Excel for heavy lifting, there are some Sheets functions that you'll miss every time you come back. If you're thinking about quitting Google Sheets and going back to Excel, it's worth knowing what you'll be leaving behind.

## ISEMAIL and ISURL functions

### Data validation made simple



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Value	Valid Email?	Valid URL?		
2	user@example.com	=ISEMAIL(A2)	TRUE		
3	https://www.google.com	FALSE	TRUE		
4	not-an-email-or-url	FALSE	FALSE		
5	test@domain.org	TRUE	FALSE		
6	www.yahoo.com	FALSE	TRUE		
7					
8					
9					

These two functions allow you to validate whether a string in a cell is a properly formatted email address or a valid URL . If you enter the following formula into a cell, Google Sheets will immediately return TRUE or FALSE depending on whether the text in cell A2 meets the criteria for a real email address:

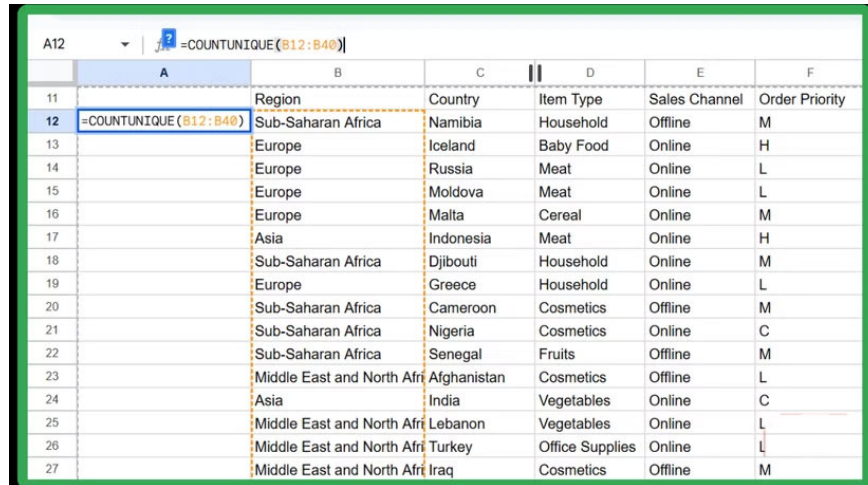
=ISEMAIL ( A2 )

The ISURL function works similarly for web links.

At first glance, these functions may seem like small utilities, but they can save you a lot of time when working with customer data, signup forms, or marketing lists.

## COUNTUNIQUE function

Count unique values ??instantly



	A	B	C	D	E	F
11		Region	Country	Item Type	Sales Channel	Order Priority
12	=COUNTUNIQUE(B12:B40)	Sub-Saharan Africa	Namibia	Household	Offline	M
13		Europe	Iceland	Baby Food	Online	H
14		Europe	Russia	Meat	Online	L
15		Europe	Moldova	Meat	Online	L
16		Europe	Malta	Cereal	Online	M
17		Asia	Indonesia	Meat	Online	H
18		Sub-Saharan Africa	Djibouti	Household	Online	M
19		Europe	Greece	Household	Online	L
20		Sub-Saharan Africa	Cameroon	Cosmetics	Offline	M
21		Sub-Saharan Africa	Nigeria	Cosmetics	Online	C
22		Sub-Saharan Africa	Senegal	Fruits	Offline	M
23		Middle East and North Afr	Afghanistan	Cosmetics	Offline	L
24		Asia	India	Vegetables	Online	C
25		Middle East and North Afr	Lebanon	Vegetables	Online	L
26		Middle East and North Afr	Turkey	Office Supplies	Online	L
27		Middle East and North Afr	Iraq	Cosmetics	Offline	M

With this function, Google Sheets makes it easy to determine the number of distinct values ??in a data set. By entering the following formula, you can calculate the number of unique items that appear in that range without any hassle:

```
=COUNTUNIQUE ( A1 : A100 )
```

If your list contains *apple, apple, banana, orange, orange*, the result is 3. Each unique item will have a value, no matter how many times it appears.

You can use this function to count the number of unique customers in an order list, the number of unique product categories in inventory, or the number of distinct project codes in a dataset. Instead of manually sorting, filtering, or scanning through rows, you can count them directly in one step.

## IMPORTFEED, IMPORTHTML, IMPORTRANGE, and IMPORTXML functions

Live data at your fingertips

IMPORT

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

100% 123 Default...

A1 =IMPORTHTML("https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_countries\_and\_dependencies\_by\_area", "table", 2)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	=IMPORTHTML("https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area", "table", 2)										
2		" Earth"	510,072,000 (19,148,940,000 (57,961,132,000 (13			70.8					
3	1	Russia	17,098,246 (6.6K, 16,378,870 (6,32,721,380 (278.53			4.2 [b]					
4	--	" Antarctica"	14,200,000 (5.4E 14,200,000 (5.4E			0 [c]					
5	2	Canada	9,984,670 (3,85E 9,093,507 (3,511,891,163 (344.08			8.9 [d]					
6	3/4	China	9,596,960 (3,70E 9,326,410 (3,60C 270,550 (104.46			2.8 [f]					
7	[e]	United States	9,525,067 (3,67E 9,147,593 (3,531,777,424 (145.72			4 [g]					
8	5	Brazil	8,510,346 (3,28E 8,480,415 (3,29E 55,352 (21,372)			0.6 [h]					
9	6	Australia	7,741,220 (2,98E 7,682,300 (2,96E 58,920 (22,750)			0.8 [i]					
10	7	India	3,287,263 (1,28E 2,973,190 (1,147,314,070 (121,26			9.6 [j]					
11	8	Argentina	2,780,400 (1,07E 2,736,690 (1,05E 43,710 (16,880)			1.6 [k]					
12	9	Kazakhstan	2,724,910 (1,05E 2,699,700 (1,04E 25,202 (9,731)			0.9 [l]					
13	10	Algeria	2,381,741 (919.5 2,381,741 (919.5			0 [m]					
14	11	Democratic Repu	2,344,858 (905.2 2,267,048 (875.5 77,810 (30,040)			3.3 [n]					
15	--	"Kingdom of Der	2,210,573 (853.4 2,209,913 (853.2 660 (260)			0 [o]					
16	--	Greenland (Denu	2,166,086 (830.2 2,166,086 (830.2			0 [p]					
17	12	Saudi Arabia	2,149,690 (830.2 2,149,690 (830.2			0 [q]					
18	13	Mexico	1,984,375 (756.4 1,943,950 (750.2 20,425 (7,886)			1					
19	14	Indonesia	1,904,569 (735.1 1,811,569 (699.4 83,000 (36,000)			4.9 [r]					
20	15	Sudan	1,861,484 (718.1 1,731,671 (668.6 128,813 (50,121			7 [s]					
21	16	Libya	1,759,540 (679.2 1,759,540 (679.2			0 [t]					
22	17	Iran	1,648,195 (638.1 1,531,595 (591.2 116,600 (45,020)			7.1 [e]					

IMPORT

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100% 123 Default...

A1 =IMPORTRANGE("1F5u4gR2y9Uv1zNX0GentfNqoCvTj1vW0GzY8t1cU", "Sheet1!A1:N38")

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	#REF!										
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
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22											
23											
24											

You need to connect these spreadsheets. The first time the destination spreadsheet pulls data from a new source spreadsheet, permission is needed to be granted.

Learn more [Allow access](#)

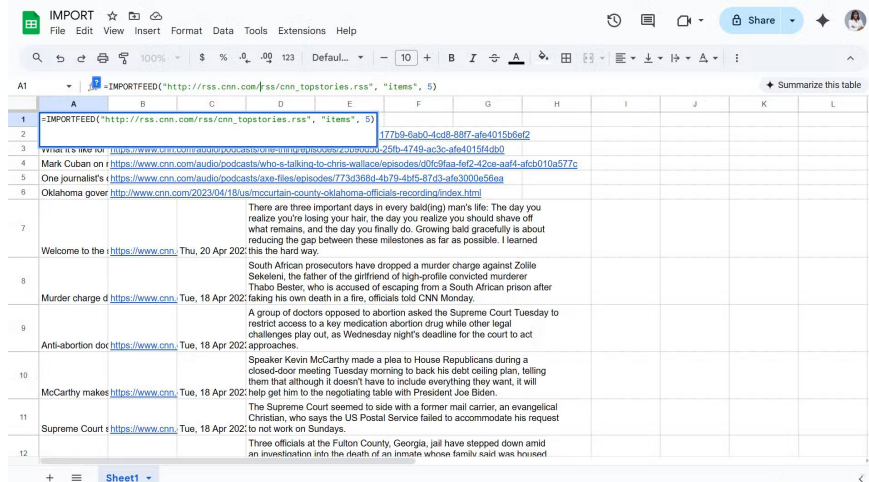
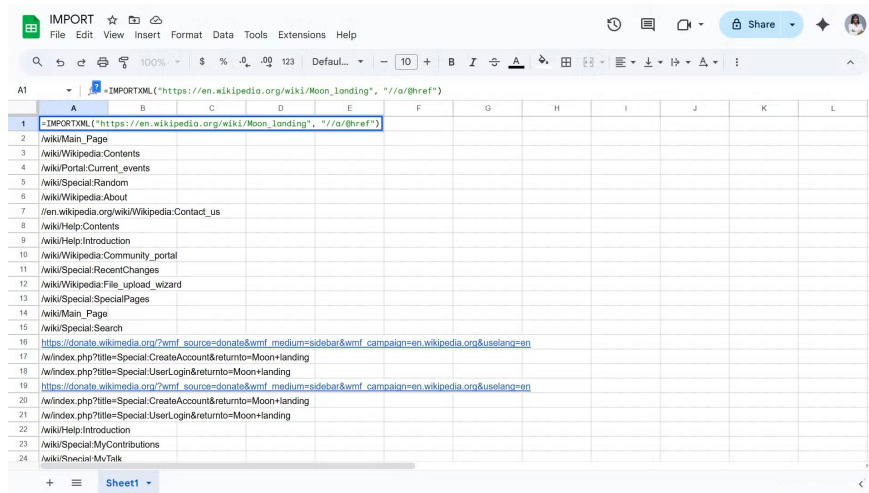
IMPORT

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

100% 123 Default...

A1 =IMPORTRANGE("1F5u4gR2y9Uv1zNX0GentfNqoCvTj1vW0GzY8t1cU", "Sheet1!A1:N38")

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
1	=IMPORTRANGE("1F5u4gR2y9Uv1zNX0GentfNqoCvTj1vW0GzY8t1cU", "Sheet1!A1:N38")					Order ID	Ship Date	Units Sold	Unit Price	Unit Cost	Total Revenue	
2	Sub-Saharan Af	Namibia	Household	Offline	M	8/31/2015	897751939	12/10/2015	3604	668.27	502.54	2408445.08
3	Europe	Iceland	Baby Food	Online	H	11/20/2010	598490426	9/1/2011	8435	255.28	159.42	2153286.8
4	Europe	Russia	Meat	Online	L	6/22/2017	538911855	8/25/2017	4948	421.89	364.89	2045322.72
5	Europe	Moldova	Meat	Online	L	2/28/2012	458845054	3/20/2012	7225	421.89	364.89	3048155.25
6	Europe	Malta	Cereal	Online	M	12/8/2010	626391351	8/13/2010	1975	205.7	117.11	406257.5
7	Asia	Indonesia	Meat	Online	H	8/20/2010	472974574	8/27/2010	2542	421.89	364.89	1072444.38
8	Sub-Saharan Af	Djibouti	Household	Online	M	3/2/2011	854331052	3/3/2011	4388	668.27	502.54	2939051.46
9	Europe	Greece	Household	Online	L	11/9/2015	895509612	9/26/2015	49	668.27	502.54	32745.23
10	Sub-Saharan Af	Cameroon	Cosmetics	Offline	M	1/31/2014	241871583	4/2/2014	4031	437.2	263.33	1762353.2
11	Sub-Saharan Af	Nigeria	Cosmetics	Online	C	11/21/2015	409090793	7/12/2015	7911	437.2	263.33	3458689.2
12	Sub-Saharan Af	Senegal	Fruits	Offline	M	8/29/2016	733153569	5/10/2016	5268	9.33	6.92	49337.04
13	Middle East and	Afghanistan	Cosmetics	Offline	L	10/21/2016	620358741	1/12/2016	6792	437.2	263.33	2969462.4
14	Asia	India	Vegetables	Online	C	3/21/2010	897317636	5/4/2010	5084	154.06	90.93	763241.04
15	Middle East and	Lebanon	Vegetables	Online	L	10/15/2010	660954862	11/19/2010	9855	154.06	90.93	1518281.3
16	Middle East and	Turkey	Office Supplies	Online	L	4/10/2010	428504407	11/13/2010	2831	651.21	524.96	1843675.51
17	Middle East and	Iraq	Cosmetics	Offline	M	10/14/2014	787517440	10/19/2014	2766	437.2	263.33	1209295.2
18	Sub-Saharan Af	Rwanda	Personal Care	Offline	M	6/15/2013	145854508	8/7/2013	445	81.73	56.67	36369.85
19	Europe	Ukraine	Baby Food	Offline	M	7/5/2017	581689441	5/29/2017	3687	255.28	159.42	941217.36
20	Europe	Finland	Office Supplies	Online	H	5/21/2015	193508565	3/7/2015	2339	651.21	524.96	1523180.19
21	Sub-Saharan Af	South Sudan	Beverages	Offline	H	6/28/2016	750110709	7/14/2016	3283	47.45	31.79	155778.35
22	Central America	Antigua and Barb	Fruits	Offline	M	6/7/2015	940607202	12/8/2015	5428	9.33	6.92	50643.24
23	Middle East and	Kuwait	Personal Care	Online	C	2/18/2012	424421870	3/23/2012	4718	81.73	56.67	36369.85
24	Europe	United Kingdom	Office Supplies	Offline	C	9/9/2014	281291043	8/14/2014	9125	651.21	559.42	941217.36



Another advantage of Google Sheets is the IMPORT function, which allows you to import external data directly into your spreadsheet with just one formula. Each function has its own role:

IMPORTRANGE	Get data from other Google Sheets
IMPORTHTML	Get a table or list from a website
IMPORTFEED	Get RSS or Atom feed
IMPORTXML	Handle more complex extraction operations, such as extracting specific web page components

For example, you can paste this formula into a cell:

=IMPORTHTML("https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_countries\_and\_dependencies\_by...

This command tells Sheets to fetch the second table from the specified Wikipedia page and display it in your spreadsheet. Once you grant access, the data will be imported automatically and even updated when the source changes.

## ARRAYFORMULA function

### Truly adaptive dynamic arrays

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Units Sold							
2	3604	=ARRAYFORMULA(A2:A15*2)						
3	8435	16870						
4	4848	9696						
5	7225	14450						
6	1975	3950						
7	2542	5084						
8	4398	8796						
9	49	98						
10	4031	8062						
11	7911	15822						
12	5288	10576						
13	6792	13584						
14	5084	10168						
15	9855	19710						
16	2831							
17	2766							

Instead of writing a formula in cell C1 and dragging it down hundreds of rows, you can write a single formula that autofills the entire column:

```
=ARRAYFORMULA(B1:B100*2)
```

This formula will instantly multiply every value in column B by 2, and the results will appear in the corresponding cells in column C.

This isn't to say that Excel doesn't have array formulas, but the approach has always been more complicated. First, older versions required the **Ctrl + Shift + Enter** method. You had to first select the range, enter the formula, and then confirm it by pressing the shortcut key. Then, Excel locked the formula in curly braces, creating a rigid structure that was difficult to edit or expand.

## QUERY function

### The Power of SQL in Spreadsheets

	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
142		2011-03-15		2015-04-30								
143												
144		Region	Country	Item Type	Sales Channel	Order Priority	Order Date	Order ID	Ship Date	Units Sold	Unit Price	Unit Cost
145		North America	Greenland	Personal Care	Online	H	4/27/2014	712444770	5/5/2014	7094	81.73	56.67
146		Sub-Saharan Africa	Guinea-Bissau	Baby Food	Online	H	10/18/2011	217504251	12/4/2011	3196	255.26	159.42
147		Europe	Georgia	Meat	Online	H	2/6/2012	749085032	3/5/2012	9762	421.89	364.69
148		Central America	Jamaica	Meat	Online	L	3/2/2013	799423444	3/25/2013	6017	421.89	364.69
149		Asia	Kazakhstan	Household	Offline	H	7/29/2014	526899907	8/29/2014	4641	668.27	502.54
150		Sub-Saharan Africa	Rwanda	Clothes	Online	H	4/16/2012	240035235	5/23/2012	615	109.26	35.84
151		Central America	Grenada	Cosmetics	Offline	C	1/31/2013	444017446	3/18/2013	3484	437.2	263.33
152		Asia	Mongolia	Office Supplies	Online	M	3/27/2015	919973504	4/5/2015	9459	651.21	524.96
153		Central America	Belize	Meat	Offline	M	11/28/2014	890482509	12/12/2014	2418	421.89	364.69
154		North America	United States of	Meat	Offline	H	4/22/2014	748889768	5/14/2014	1979	421.89	364.69
155		Europe	Austria	Vegetables	Online	C	1/19/2013	749905861	3/6/2013	2960	154.06	90.93
156		Australia and Oceania	Marshall Islands	Snacks	Offline	C	9/2/2011	25351852	9/20/2011	482	152.58	97.44
157		Europe	Romania	Meat	Offline	L	8/26/2011	797045363	10/6/2011	2586	421.89	364.69
158		Asia	Malaysia	Clothes	Offline	M	11/24/2014	269806039	1/10/2015	457		

The QUERY function is one of the most powerful tools in Google Sheets. While not completely hidden, it is often overlooked because many people are unaware of its capabilities. In short, it brings SQL-style commands directly into your spreadsheet. You can filter, sort, group, and summarize data, just like you would with a database.

Imagine you want to group sales by region and sort the totals from highest to lowest. You could write something like this:

```
=QUERY(A1:G100, "SELECT C, SUM(D) WHERE G = TRUE GROUP BY C ORDER BY SUM(D) desc")
```

Simply put, this query takes data from columns A to G, checks a condition, groups rows by column C, sums column D, and sorts the results from largest to smallest—all in one formula.

You finished reading the article "**5 Hidden Functions in Google Sheets That Excel Doesn't Have**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.