

6 ways to fix arrow keys not working in Excel

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With this tutorial, TipsMake.com.com will show you how to fix arrow keys not working in Excel.

1. Disable Scroll Lock

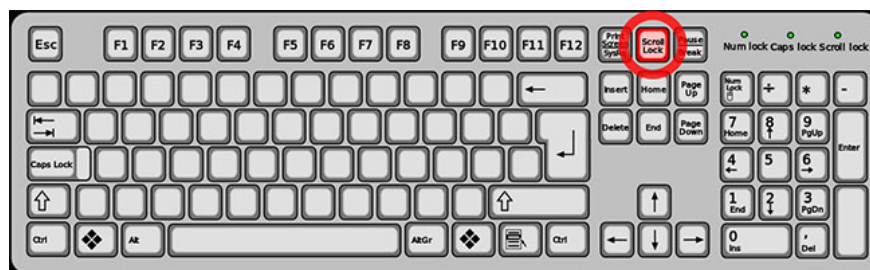
You won't be able to use the arrow keys if you have Scroll Lock enabled on your keyboard. So the first fix for the arrow keys not working problem in Excel is to disable Scroll Lock.

Look at the light above the Scroll Lock button on your keyboard. If it is lit, it means that the Scroll Lock button is enabled and the arrow keys are not working properly. The solution is to simply press the button to disable the key.

How to disable Scroll Lock on your keyboard

To disable Scroll Lock on a Windows computer, simply press the Scroll Lock key.

It is usually located in the control section of the keyboard, above the arrow keys, or to the right of the function keys.



On a Mac, press **F14** or the **Shift + F14** key combination . If Scroll Lock doesn't turn off, try pressing **Command + F14** .

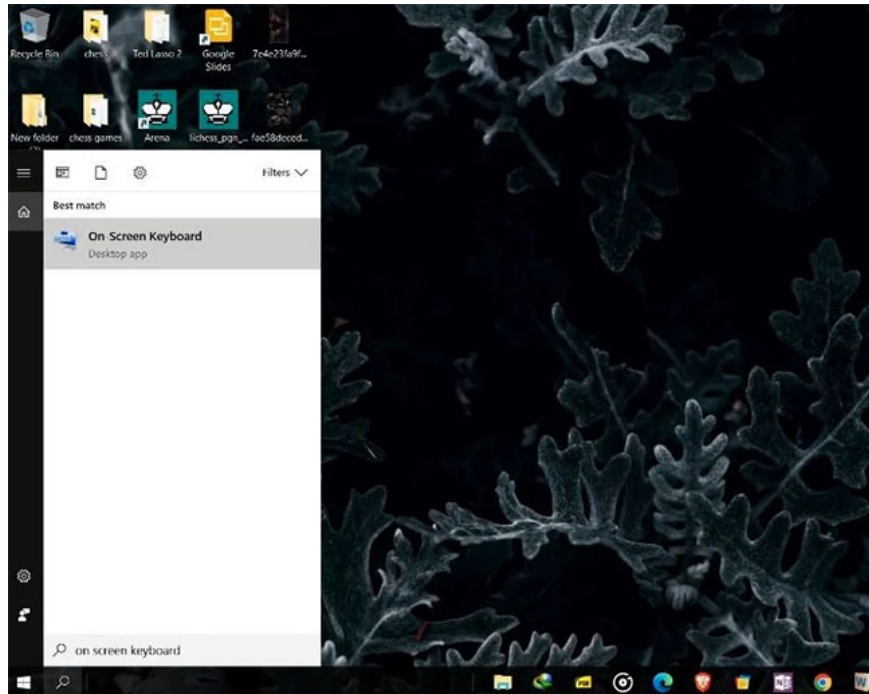
How to Disable Scroll Lock Without a Keyboard

Most computers don't have a Scroll Lock key these days. But you can still disable Scroll Lock without a keyboard.

For Windows users

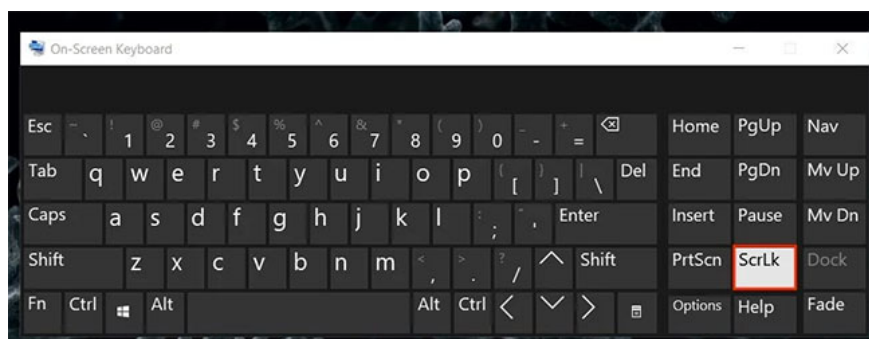
Windows has a virtual keyboard feature that gives you keys that don't exist on a physical keyboard.

Open the Start menu, search for and launch **On-Screen Keyboard**.



Once it opens, look at the right side of the virtual keyboard. There you will find all the lock keys.

Click the key named **ScrLk** , and the Scroll Lock key will be disabled if it is enabled.



For macOS users

If you can't disable the Scroll Lock key using physical keyboard commands on your Mac, you'll need to run an AppleScript.

This method is not too difficult if you follow the simple steps below:

Click **Launchpad** , search for **TextEdit** and open it.

Create a new document by clicking the **File** menu and selecting **New**.

Copy the following code and paste it into your document.

```
set returnedItems to (display dialog 'Press OK to send scroll lock keypress to M.
```

Save the file by pressing the **Command + S** keys .

Name the file **FixExcelKeys.applescript**.

Now, open the Excel spreadsheet.

Double-click the **FixExcelKeys.applescript index**. This will open the script. Click the **Run** button at the top of the window and this will fix the arrow keys not working in Excel.

2. Enable Sticky Keys

Another way to fix arrow keys not working in Excel is to enable Sticky Keys on your Windows computer. Sticky Keys isn't directly related to the arrow keys or your Excel application, but you can try turning it on and off to see if that fixes the problem for you.

3. Disable Scroll Lock in Excel

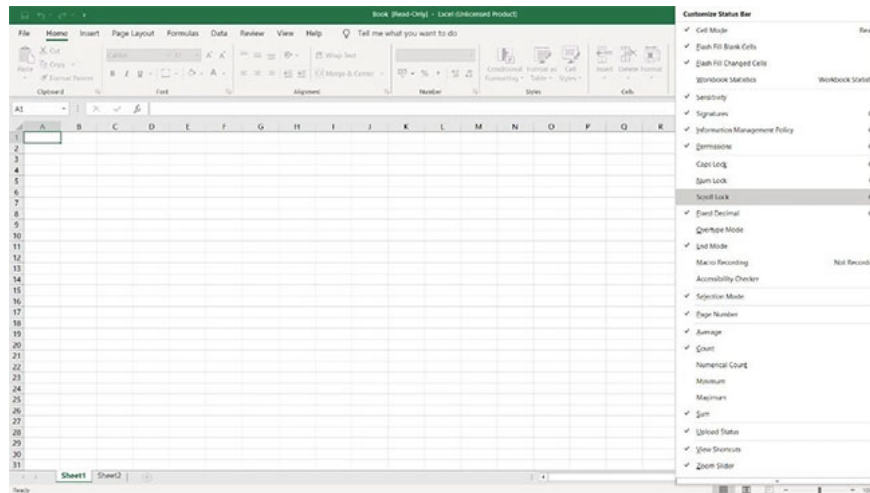
If your arrow keys aren't moving cells in Excel, run a quick test to see if they work in other programs. If they do, the problem may be with Excel itself.

Excel also has a built-in Scroll Lock feature. If it is enabled, it could be the reason why your cursor is not moving in Excel. Luckily, it is quite easy to fix.

Launch Microsoft Excel, and then open a new or existing spreadsheet.

Right-click the **Status** bar , at the bottom of the worksheet. If you have trouble finding it, look for features like the **Zoom** and **Page Layout sliders**.

From the **Status bar** menu , find **Scroll Lock**. **If the feature has an On** status next to it, click it once to turn it off.



4. Exit formula entry mode

If you find that your cursor isn't moving in Excel, you might be in Excel's formula mode. This means you've selected a cell, typed = , and then started entering a function.

The selected cell in the formula will change if you press the arrow keys in this case, but the arrow keys will not control the cursor in the worksheet.

To re-enable the arrows, simply press **Enter** and then press **Ctrl + Z** to undo the formula and exit input mode.

5. Disable add-ins

Excel add-ins are useful, but sometimes they can cause some errors when using the application. You may need to disable any Excel add-ins you have previously installed to use the arrow keys in Excel.

You can disable add-ins in Excel easily by following these steps:

1. Launch Excel on your computer.
2. Click the **File** menu and select **Options** from the left sidebar.
3. Click **Add-ins** in the left sidebar to view Excel add-in settings.
4. From the drop-down menu, select **Excel Add-ins** and click **Go**.
5. Select all add-ins and click the **OK** button.
6. Uncheck all add-ins, then click **OK**.
7. Repeat the above steps for all options in the drop-down menu to disable all Excel add-ins.
8. Go back to the spreadsheet and try using the arrow keys.

6. Unfreeze columns

If you're viewing cells in a group of rows or columns that have been frozen, you might think that the arrow keys have stopped working. But this isn't true, and you don't need to unfreeze them to fix the problem.

You can just try zooming out to allow the use of the arrow keys. That way you will get a fuller view of the spreadsheet and can easily use the arrow keys in unlocked areas.

The above solutions will help you navigate your Excel spreadsheets more easily. Never stop learning new things about Microsoft Excel and how you can use it to be more productive.

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