

How to use the FILTER function in Excel

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If you regularly work with data sets in Excel, you know how important it is to be able to quickly find the information you need. Whether you're analyzing sales figures, tracking inventory, or managing a budget, the ability to filter data is essential.

Fortunately, Microsoft Excel has a powerful built-in tool that can help: the FILTER function. Using the FILTER function, you can quickly sort through large data sets and extract the data you need based on specified conditions.

What is the FILTER function?

The FILTER function in Excel allows you to extract a subset of data from a range based on one or more criteria. This function evaluates each value in a data range and returns rows or columns that meet the criteria you set. The criteria are expressed as formulas that evaluate to a logical value.

The FILTER function uses the following syntax:

```
=FILTER(array, include, [if_empty])
```

In there:

1. **array** is the range of cells you want to filter.
2. **include** represents the condition you want to use to filter your data. This can be a single criterion or multiple criteria separated by Excel logical functions.
3. **[if_empty]** is an optional argument that specifies the return value if no data meets the specified condition.

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Let's look at an example to understand how to use the FILTER function in Excel. Suppose you have a data table that includes columns for Name, Age, and Gender, and you want to filter the table to show only females. You would use the following formula:

```
=FILTER(A2:C10, C2:C10="Female")
```

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Name	Age	Gender			FILTER								
2	Honour	22	Male			Jummy	18 Female							
3	Jummy	18	Female			Jennifer	25 Female							
4	Michael	20	Male			Sam	27 Female							
5	Jennifer	25	Female			April	21 Female							
6	Alex	19	Male			Chioma	20 Female							
7	Sam	27	Female											
8	Justin	30	Male											
9	April	21	Female											
10	Chioma	20	Female											
11														

To parse the formula, the array argument is **A2:C10** and the criteria argument is **C2:C10="Female"**. This formula will return an array of values ??that includes only rows where Gender is "Female".

Let's look at another example! Let's say you have a data table that includes columns for **Product Name**, **Category**, and **Price**. You want to filter the table to show only rows with a price less than or equal to \$400. You would use the following formula:

`=FILTER(A2:C10, C2:C10<=400)`

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Product Name	Category	Price			FILTER					
2	Sunlight	Detergent	\$10			Sunlight	Detergent	10			
3	Pure Heaven	Malt Drink	\$100			Pure Heaven	Malt Drink	100			
4	Eyeliner	Makeup	\$25			Eyeliner	Makeup	25			
5	iPhone X	Smartphone	\$429			Coca-Cola	Soft Drink	189			
6	Coca-Cola	Soft Drink	\$189			FreePods Pro	Phone Accessories	400			
7	Virony	Feminine Care	\$520								
8	FreePods Pro	Phone Accessories	\$400								
9	Nivea Lotion	Beauty	\$436								
10	IdeaPad 15	Computing	\$769								
11											

The FILTER function uses the logical operator (=) to test the **Price** column for a condition of less than or equal to \$400.

Using multiple criteria in the FILTER function

Excel's FILTER function allows you to specify more than one criteria to filter data. To add multiple criteria in the FILTER function, you need to use the "AND" or "OR" logical functions.

The AND function requires all criteria to be true for a row to be included in the filter results, while the OR function requires at least one of the criteria to be true for a row to be included in the results.

Here is an example of using the AND function within the FILTER function to extract data from a range based on two criteria:

`=FILTER(A2:C10, (B2:B10="Tech")*(C2:C10>400))`

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Product Name	Category	Price								
2	Sunlight	Detergent	\$10			iPhone X	Tech	429			
3	Pure Heaven	Malt Drink	\$100			IdeaPad 15	Tech	769			
4	Eyeliner	Makeup	\$25								
5	iPhone X	Tech	\$429								
6	Coca-Cola	Soft Drink	\$189								
7	Virony	Feminine Care	\$520								
8	FreePods Pro	Tech	\$400								
9	Nivea Lotion	Beauty	\$436								
10	IdeaPad 15	Tech	\$769								
11											

This formula returns rows that meet two specified criteria. The first criterion is that the value in column B must be **Tech** and the second criterion is that the value in column C must be **greater than 400**. The asterisk symbol (*) represents the AND operator, which combines the two criteria.

Filter data effectively with Excel's FILTER function

Excel's FILTER function allows you to quickly and easily filter data based on specified conditions. Using the FILTER function, you can avoid the hassle of manually sorting through large data sets to find the data you need. You can specify multiple criteria and combine them using operators like "AND" and "OR", giving you flexibility and control over your filter formula.

Whether you're an experienced analyst or a beginner, Excel's FILTER function can help you streamline your workflow and get the most out of your data.

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