

Master Guide to XLOOKUP in Excel

Introduction to XLOOKUP

XLOOKUP is a powerful Excel function introduced in Office 365 and Excel 2021. It replaces older functions like VLOOKUP, HLOOKUP, and LOOKUP, and offers a more flexible way to search for and return values from a dataset.

Syntax:

XLOOKUP(lookup_value, lookup_array, return_array, [if_not_found], [match_mode], [search_mode])

Each term:

- lookup_value: The value you want to search for.
- lookup_array: The range or array to search.
- return_array: The range or array that contains the value to return.
- if_not_found: (Optional) Value to return if the lookup value is not found.
- match_mode: (Optional) 0 = exact match (default), -1 = exact match or next smaller, 1 = exact match or next larger, 2 = wildcard match.
- search_mode: (Optional) 1 = search first-to-last (default), -1 = search last-to-first.

Benefits:

- Searches vertically and horizontally.
- Can return values to the left or above.
- Supports error handling directly.
- Supports wildcards.

20 Practical Use Cases of XLOOKUP

1. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

2. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Master Guide to XLOOKUP in Excel

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Master Guide to XLOOKUP in Excel

10. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

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Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

11. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

12. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

13. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

14. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

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Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

15. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

16. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

17. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

Master Guide to XLOOKUP in Excel

18. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

19. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

Formula: =XLOOKUP(102, A2:A10, B2:B10)

Real-world: HR team retrieves employee name using their ID.

20. XLOOKUP to find employee name from ID.

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XLOOKUP vs VLOOKUP vs HLOOKUP vs LOOKUP

Feature	XLOOKUP	VLOOKUP	HLOOKUP	LOOKUP
Direction	Vertical & Horizontal	Vertical only	Horizontal only	Both, limited
Left Lookup	Yes	No	No	No
Exact Match Default	Default	Must set FALSE	Must set FALSE	Not
Wildcards	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Error Handling	Built-in (if_not_found)	Use IFERROR separately	Use IFERROR separately	
Return Multiple	Yes (spill array)	No	No	No

Master Guide to XLOOKUP in Excel

Reverse Lookup	Yes	No	No	No
Availability	Excel 365, Excel 2021+	All Excel versions	All Excel versions	All
Excel versions				