

Excel – Data Types

NASHVILLE SOFTWARE SCHOOL



Objective: To identify and manipulate data types

Introduction to data types

- The 4 major data types
- How to identify the datatype of a cell

Manipulating data

- Methods of converting datatypes
- Converting between data units

Major Data Types

Data Type

Examples

Number

4192, 1.3, 0.038

Text

Nashville, lights, Jason Biggs

Date

2004-04-11, 12/25/1911, 5/30

Logical

TRUE, TRUE, FALSE

Checking Data types

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|---|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Title | Budget (\$M) | Gross (\$M) | Release Date | Profit (\$M) |
| 2 | The Ring | 48 | 129 | 10/18/2002 | 81 |
| 3 | Django Unchained | 100 | 162 | 12/25/2015 | 62 |
| 4 | Scream | 14 | 103 | 12/20/1996 | 89 |

Function

ISNUMBER(D3)

ISTEXT(A4)

ISLOGICAL(C2)

ISDATE(D4)

Output

FALSE

TRUE

FALSE

TRUE

-Note ISDATE() not available in Excel

Converting Data Types

There are two typical ways to convert data types: Through a function and through formatting

Through a function:

Converting to a number: `N(<data to be converted>)`

Converting to a percent: `TO_PERCENT(<number to be converted>)`

Through formatting:

Right click a cell, row, or column -> Format Cells -> click the desired data type and format

Converting Units

=CONVERT(argument1, argument2, argument3)

Argument1 – Value to be converted

Argument2 – Units to convert from

Argument3 – Units to convert to

Converting Units

[illegible]

Exercises

1. Insert a column to the right of the age column in the Star Wars dataset. Call it age_is_number? Write a formula to check whether the value in the age column is a number.
2. Insert a column to the right of the height column in the Star Wars dataset. Call this height_inches. Write a formula in the new column to convert height from centimeters to inches. Round it to the nearest whole number.
3. Insert a column to the right of the mass column. Call the new column weight. Write a formula to convert the mass column from kilograms to pounds. Round this to the nearest whole number. What is Jabba the Hutt's weight in pounds?