Excel FILTER Function – Complete Guide

🔧 Function Syntax

=FILTER(array, include, [if_empty])

📑 Arguments

Argument	Description
array	The range or array to filter (e.g., A2:C6)
include	A Boolean array (TRUE/FALSE) that defines which rows or columns to return
[if_empty]	*(Optional)* Value to return if no entries match the filter condition

🗂 Example Data

A	B	C
Product	Sales	Region
Apples	1200	West
Bananas	800	East
Oranges	1500	West
Mangoes	950	South
Grapes	1100	East

(Data range: A1:C6)

✅ Examples

▶ Example 1: Filter Sales > 1000

=FILTER(A2:C6, B2:B6 > 1000, "No results")

Returns:

Product	Sales	Region
Apples	1200	West
Oranges	1500	West
Grapes	1100	East

▶ Example 2: Filter Region = "West"

=FILTER(A2:C6, C2:C6 = "West", "No match")

Returns:

Product	Sales	Region
Apples	1200	West
Oranges	1500	West

▶ Example 3: Filter with Multiple Conditions (AND logic)

=FILTER(A2:C6, (B2:B6 > 1000) * (C2:C6 = "West"), "No match")

Returns:

Product	Sales	Region
Apples	1200	West
Oranges	1500	West

🔁 Return Value

- A **dynamic array** containing only the rows that match the filter.
- If no match is found:
  - Returns value in [if_empty] (if provided), e.g., "No match".
  - Otherwise returns #CALC! error.

🔄 Alternatives to FILTER Function

◆ 1. IF + INDEX + SMALL (Array Formula for Legacy Excel)

=IFERROR(INDEX(A2:C6, SMALL(IF(B2:B6>1000, ROW(A2:A6)-ROW(A2)+1, ROW(1:1)), COLUMN(A1)), "")

- Press **Ctrl+Shift+Enter** (for Excel 2019 or older)
- Complex, but simulates FILTER behavior

◆ 2. Advanced Filter (Manual Method)

Steps:

1. Go to **Data > Sort & Filter > Advanced**

2. Set:

   - **List Range** (e.g., A1:C6)

   - **Criteria Range** (e.g., E1:E2 with criteria)

3. Choose to filter in place or copy to another location

📌 **Tips & Notes**

- FILTER is **case-insensitive**

- Use * for **AND** logic: (Condition1) * (Condition2)

- Use + for **OR** logic: (Condition1) + (Condition2)

- Combine with SORT, UNIQUE, LET for more dynamic formulas