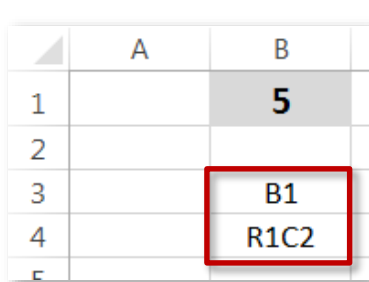The INDIRECT function returns the reference specified by a text string, and can be used to change a cell reference within a formula without changing the formula itself

=INDIRECT(ref_text, [a1])

Which cell includes the text that you are evaluating?

Is your text string in **A1** format (1) or **R1C1** format (0)?

	A	B
1		5
2		
3		B1
4		R1C2
5		

ROW(B3) = 3

ROW(INDIRECT(B3)) = 1

ROW(INDIRECT(B4,0)) = 1

In the first ROW function, Excel returns the row number of cell B3, regardless of what value it contains.

When you add INDIRECT, Excel sees that cell B3 contains a reference (B1) and returns the row of the reference

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Let's be real, the INDIRECT function is pretty confusing at first. Here are a few more examples that should give you a sense of how it works and why it can be useful:

	A	B	C	D
1	2014 Data			
2	Product	Sales		B3:B5
3	A	5		
4	B	8		A3:B5
5	C	3		A9:B11
6				
7	2015 Data			
8	Product	Sales		
9	A	12		
10	B	17		
11	C	8		

SUM(D2) = 0

SUM(INDIRECT(D2)) = 16

*The sum of "B3:B5" as a **value** doesn't make sense, but the sum of B3:B5 as a **reference** is valid – INDIRECT tells Excel to recognize that the cell you're referring to is a reference, not a value*

VLOOKUP("A", D4, 2, 0) = #N/A

VLOOKUP("A", INDIRECT(D4), 2, 0) = 5

*INDIRECT will tell a VLOOKUP formula to use an array contained **within** a cell, rather than treat the **cell itself** as the array (which returns #N/A)*

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HYPERLINK creates a shortcut that links users to a document or location within a document (which can exist on a network server, within a workbook, or via a web address)

=HYPERLINK(link_location,[friendly_name])

Where will people go if they click?

How do you want the link to read?

=HYPERLINK(http://www.example.com/report.xlsx, "Click Here")

=HYPERLINK("[C:\My Documents\Report.xlsx], "Open Report")

=HYPERLINK("#Sheet2!A1")

PRO TIP:

Use =HYPERLINK("#'"&A2&"'!A1") to jump to cell A1 of the sheet name specified in A2 (note the extra single quotation marks!)

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