

1.4.2

VLOOKUP

Louise was inspired by five plays she saw at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and wants to know how they were funded. We'll help Louise learn more about these plays using a new Excel function: VLOOKUP.

Louise enjoyed five plays at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe: *Be Prepared*, *Checkpoint 22*, *Cutting Off Kate Bush*, *Jestia and Raedon*, and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Family*. She wants to find out more about how these plays got started and whether they were funded by Kickstarter.

We could use Command+F or CTRL+F to search for these titles in the worksheet, but there's a more efficient method that will allow us to search for these titles and gather information about the plays' campaigns simultaneously: VLOOKUP.

VLOOKUP lets us pull specific columns from our main dataset into a new sheet without having to search for each column and then copy and paste the data. This way, we can pull only the data points we're interested in. For example, if we only want to see the blurb of the play, we can tell Excel to pull only the data in the blurb cell for that play.

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D
3389	3387	LIBERTY! EQUALITY! AND FIREWORKS!... A Civil Rights Play	Pollyanna just completed an extremely successful run of this new educational play and wants to tour to more under-served communities.	\$ 3,000.00
3390	3388	ICONS	ICONS is a unique new play about the Amazon warrior women from Greek myth and re-imagines them from a contemporary female perspective.	\$ 1,500.00
3391	3389	Chimera Ensemble Productions Fund	Chimera Ensemble is launching 2 inaugural theater productions, and we need support to do high quality work!	\$ 10,000.00

Below the main table, a separate row is highlighted with a yellow box, showing the result of a VLOOKUP formula:

3390	3388	ICONS	ICONS is a unique new play about the Amazon warrior women from Greek myth and re-imagines them from a contemporary female perspective.	\$ 1,500.00
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Annotations in the image:

- 1: Points to the search bar in the top right corner containing the text "Greek myth".
- 2: Points to the cell containing the text "Greek myth" within the data table.
- 3: Points to the cell containing the text "ICONS" in the separate row below the main table.

To use VLOOKUP, first get all of the titles in a new sheet, which we'll name "Edinburgh Research." In our new sheet, let's add headers: column A will be named "Name" and column B will be named "blurb". Next, write the list of plays in column A. Be sure to spell the titles correctly and use proper capitalization. Here's our list:

- Be Prepared
- Checkpoint 22
- Cutting Off Kate Bush
- Jestia and Raedon
- The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Family

We'll start using the VLOOKUP formula in column B. In cell B2, type the following formula, then press Enter to run it:

```
=VLOOKUP(A2, Kickstarter!B:C, 2, FALSE)
```

You should now see the blurb for *Be Prepared* in cell B2. But what is VLOOKUP actually doing?

1. We're starting the formula with =VLOOKUP.
2. Excel uses the value in A2 ("Be Prepared") to look for data for that campaign.
3. We tell Excel to look for this data in the Kickstarter worksheet.
4. It begins looking in column B; then, it searches the next column, column C, for the data in the same row.

5. Excel will then reference the data from the second column, "blurb" (B is the starting column, so it's counted as the first). Then, Excel will retrieve that data and display it in the new table where we executed VLOOKUP.
6. FALSE tells Excel that we're interested in only exact matches.

Copy the formula into B3 through B6 to get the blurbs for all five plays. Let's also add what each play's goal was and the amount pledged. In the new table in the Edinburgh Research worksheet, first update our headers by adding "Goal" and "Pledged" to columns C and D. To add additional values to the table, paste the same formula into cell C2, and then update its range to B:E. Originally, we told Excel to search for matching data in columns B through C (B:C), but now we want to search further down the same row, through column E instead.

It can be a little confusing, so let's work through this one together. In C2, use VLOOKUP to search for the play we typed into cell A2. The VLOOKUP formula starts in the left-most column of B:E in the Kickstarter worksheet, and then returns the value from the third column. This means that the third parameter will need to be revised as well, from 2 to 3. The updated formula will look like this:

```
=VLOOKUP(A2, Kickstarter!B:E, 3, FALSE)
```

Don't forget to specify exact matches.

Now, copy the formula into cells C2 through C6. We can use the same formula to get the amount pledged into column D by adjusting the VLOOKUP formula to take the value from the fourth column:

```
=VLOOKUP(A2, Kickstarter!B:E, 4, FALSE)
```

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Score to be Submitted

Based on last attempt

Score

Time spent: 2m 3s

Review



Retake

SKILL DRILL

In column E, use VLOOKUP to search for the average donation. Then, in column F, use VLOOKUP to search for the number of backers.