Left Lookup in Excel

The VLOOKUP function only looks to the right. To look up a value in any column and return the corresponding value to the <u>left</u>, simply use INDEX and MATCH.

1. The MATCH function returns the position of a value in a given range.

| B2 | ▼ | ⋮ | ✕ | ✓ | *fx* | =MATCH(A2,$G$4:$G$7,0) |

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ID	Product							
2	104	4							
3	103				Product	Brand	ID		
4	104				Computer	Dell	101		
5	101				Keyboard	Logitech	102		
6	102				Mouse	Logitech	103		
7	103				Printer	HP	104		
8	101								
9	104								
10	101								
11	102								
12									

Explanation: 104 found at position 4 in the range $G$4:$G$7.

2. Use this result and the INDEX function to return the 4th value in the range $E$4:$E$7.

| B2 | ▼ | ⋮ | ✕ | ✓ | *fx* | =INDEX($E$4:$E$7,MATCH(A2,$G$4:$G$7,0)) |

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I

	ID	Product							
1	ID	Product							
2	104	Printer							
3	103				Product	Brand	ID		
4	104				Computer	Dell	101		
5	101				Keyboard	Logitech	102		
6	102				Mouse	Logitech	103		
7	103				Printer	HP	104		
8	101								
9	104								
10	101								
11	102								
12									

3. Drag the formula in cell B2 down to cell B11.

B2 f_x =INDEX($E$4:$E$7,MATCH(A2,$G$4:$G$7,0))

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ID	Product							
2	104	Printer							
3	103	Mouse			Product	Brand	ID		
4	104	Printer			Computer	Dell	101		
5	101	Computer			Keyboard	Logitech	102		
6	102	Keyboard			Mouse	Logitech	103		
7	103	Mouse			Printer	HP	104		
8	101	Computer							
9	104	Printer							
10	101	Computer							
11	102	Keyboard							
12									
13									

Note: when we drag this formula down, the absolute references ($E$4:$E$7 and $G$4:$G$7) stay the same, while the relative reference (A2) changes to A3, A4, A5, etc.

4. If you have Excel 365 or Excel 2021, simply use the XLOOKUP function to perform a left lookup.

B2 f_x =XLOOKUP(A2:A11,G4:G7,E4:E7)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ID	Product							
2	104	Printer							
3	103	Mouse			Product	Brand	ID		
4	104	Printer			Computer	Dell	101		
5	101	Computer			Keyboard	Logitech	102		
6	102	Keyboard			Mouse	Logitech	103		
7	103	Mouse			Printer	HP	104		
8	101	Computer							
9	104	Printer							
10	101	Computer							
11	102	Keyboard							

Note: the XLOOKUP function, entered into cell B2, fills multiple cells. Wow! This behavior in Excel 365/2021 is called spilling. Visit our page about the XLOOKUP function to learn more about this great new Excel function.

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