Remove Spaces in Excel

The TRIM function in Excel removes leading spaces, extra spaces and trailing spaces. Use the SUBSTITUTE function to remove all spaces or non-breaking spaces.

1. The TRIM function below removes 2 leading spaces, 3 extra spaces and 2 trailing spaces.

B1	▼	⋮	✕	✓	*fx*	=TRIM(A1)			
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Hi Jim	Hi Jim							
2									

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Note: the TRIM function does not remove single spaces between words.

2. To get the length of a string, use the LEN function.

B1	▼	⋮	✕	✓	*fx*	=LEN(A1)			
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Hi Jim	13							
2									

Explanation: the LEN function counts 2 spaces, 2 characters, 4 spaces, 3 characters and 2 spaces.

3. You can use the SUBSTITUTE function to remove all spaces.

B1	▼	⋮	✕	✓	*fx*	=SUBSTITUTE(A1," ","")			
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	A B C	ABC							
2									

Note: the SUBSTITUTE function substitutes spaces (second argument) with empty strings (third argument).

Text imported from other applications may contain ASCII characters. The CLEAN function removes the first 32 non-printable ASCII characters (codes 0 through 31).

4. The CLEAN function below removes a non-printable character, CHAR(7).

B1		▼	⋮	✕	✓	fx	=CLEAN(A1)			
	A		B		C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	▯Hi Jim		Hi Jim							
2										

5. Simply combine CLEAN and TRIM to remove non-printable characters and spaces.

B1		▼	⋮	✕	✓	fx	=TRIM(CLEAN(A1))			
	A		B		C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	▯ Hi Jim		Hi Jim							
2										

6. The CLEAN function removes line breaks. To enter a line break, press ALT + ENTER.

B1		▼	⋮	✕	✓	fx	=CLEAN(A1)			
	A		B		C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	A B C		ABC							
2										

7. You can also use the SUBSTITUTE function to remove a line break, CHAR(10), and replace it with something else. For example, a comma and a space.

B1		▼	⋮	✕	✓	fx	=SUBSTITUTE(A1,CHAR(10), ", ")			
	A		B		C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	A B C		A, B, C							
2										

The CLEAN function doesn't remove all ASCII characters. Simply use the SUBSTITUTE function to remove other ASCII characters.

8. First, find out the code number of the character.

B1		▼	⋮	✕	✓	fx	=CODE(A1)			
	A		B		C	D	E	F	G	H	I

	A		B				
1	¶		182				
2							

9. Next, use SUBSTITUTE and CHAR to return the text string without this character.

B1			⋮	✕	✓	ƒx	=SUBSTITUTE(A1,CHAR(182),"")

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	¶geo2¶	geo2							
2									

10. If your text contains non-breaking spaces, CHAR(160), the TRIM function doesn't work.

B1			⋮	✕	✓	ƒx	=TRIM(A1)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Hi John	Hi John							
2									

11. You can use the SUBSTITUTE function to substitute non-breaking spaces, CHAR(160) with normal spaces, CHAR(32). Don't forget to add a TRIM function to remove the extra spaces.

B1			⋮	✕	✓	ƒx	=TRIM(SUBSTITUTE(A1,CHAR(160),CHAR(32)))

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Hi John	Hi John							
2									

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