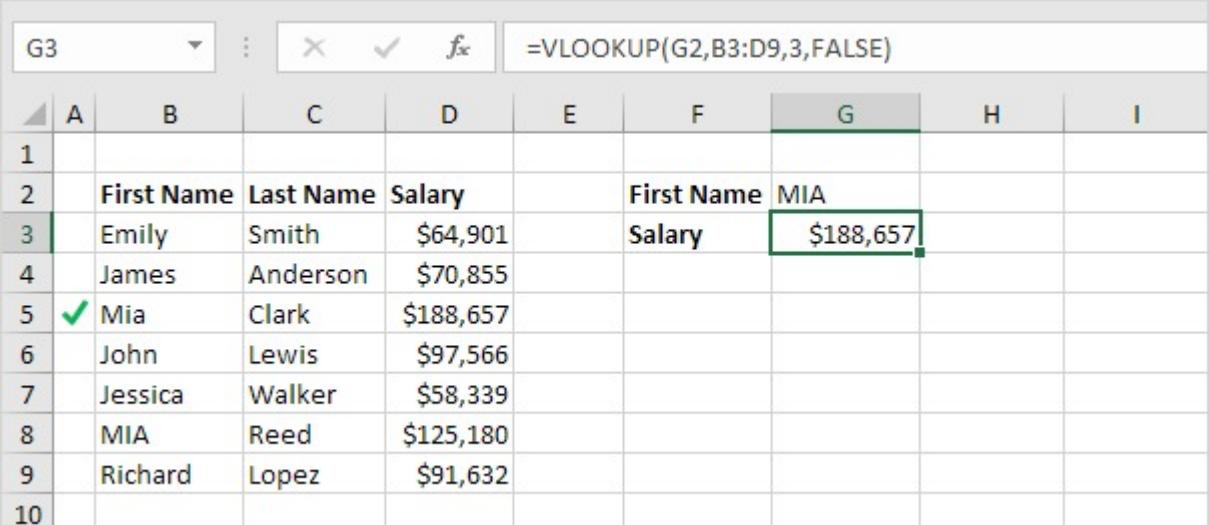


## Case-sensitive Lookup in Excel

By default, the [VLOOKUP function](#) performs a case-insensitive lookup. However, you can use INDEX, MATCH and EXACT in Excel to perform a case-sensitive lookup.

1. For example, the simple VLOOKUP function below returns the salary of Mia Clark. However, we want to look up the salary of MIA Reed (see cell G2).



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The formula bar at the top contains the formula `=VLOOKUP(G2,B3:D9,3,FALSE)`. The main table has columns A through D. Row 2 contains headers: First Name, Last Name, and Salary. Rows 3 through 9 contain data: Emily Smith (\$64,901), James Anderson (\$70,855), Mia Clark (\$188,657), John Lewis (\$97,566), Jessica Walker (\$58,339), MIA Reed (\$125,180), and Richard Lopez (\$91,632). The cell G2 contains the value "MIA". The cell G3, which contains the formula, displays the value \$188,657, which corresponds to the entry for Mia Clark. The cell G3 is highlighted with a green border.

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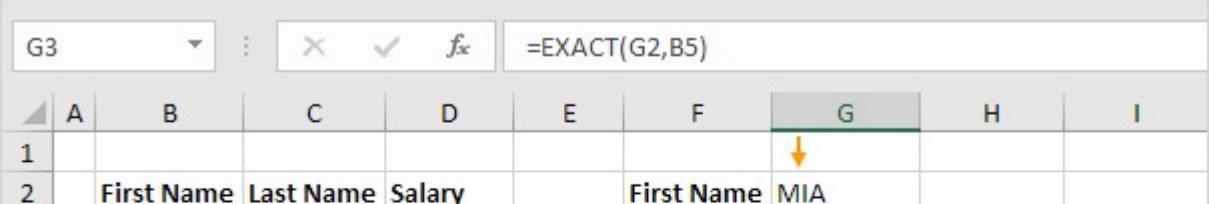
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2. The EXACT function in Excel returns TRUE if two strings are exactly the same. The EXACT function below returns FALSE.



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. The formula bar at the top contains the formula `=EXACT(G2,B5)`. The main table has columns A through D. Row 2 contains headers: First Name, Last Name, and Salary. Rows 3 through 9 contain data: Emily Smith (\$64,901), James Anderson (\$70,855), Mia Clark (\$188,657), John Lewis (\$97,566), Jessica Walker (\$58,339), MIA Reed (\$125,180), and Richard Lopez (\$91,632). The cell G2 contains the value "MIA". The cell G3, which contains the formula, displays the value FALSE. An orange arrow points from the formula bar to the cell G3.

3	Emily	Smith	\$64,901		Salary	FALSE		
4	James	Anderson	\$70,855					
5	Mia	Clark	\$188,657					
6	John	Lewis	\$97,566					
7	Jessica	Walker	\$58,339					
8	MIA	Reed	\$125,180					
9	Richard	Lopez	\$91,632					
10								

3. The EXACT function below returns TRUE.

G3		:	X	✓	f <sub>x</sub>	=EXACT(G2,B8)		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1								
2	First Name	Last Name	Salary		First Name	MIA		
3	Emily	Smith	\$64,901		Salary	TRUE		
4	James	Anderson	\$70,855					
5	Mia	Clark	\$188,657					
6	John	Lewis	\$97,566					
7	Jessica	Walker	\$58,339					
8	MIA	Reed	\$125,180					
9	Richard	Lopez	\$91,632					
10								

4. Replace B8 with B3:B9.

COUNTIF		:	X	✓	f <sub>x</sub>	=EXACT(G2,B3:B9)		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1								
2	First Name	Last Name	Salary		First Name	MIA		
3	Emily	Smith	\$64,901		Salary	=EXACT(G2,B3:B9)		
4	James	Anderson	\$70,855					
5	Mia	Clark	\$188,657					
6	John	Lewis	\$97,566					
7	Jessica	Walker	\$58,339					
8	MIA	Reed	\$125,180					
9	Richard	Lopez	\$91,632					
10								

Explanation: the range (array constant) created by the EXACT function is stored in Excel's memory, not in a range. The array constant looks as follows:

{FALSE;FALSE;FALSE;FALSE;FALSE;TRUE;FALSE}

5. All we need is a function that finds the position of TRUE in this array constant. MATCH function to the rescue! Finish by pressing CTRL + SHIFT + ENTER.

G3		:	X	✓	f <sub>x</sub>	{=MATCH(TRUE,EXACT(G2,B3:B9),0)}		
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I

	First Name	Last Name	Salary	First Name	MIA
1					
2	Emily	Smith	\$64,901	Salary	6
3	James	Anderson	\$70,855		
4	Mia	Clark	\$188,657		
5	John	Lewis	\$97,566		
6	Jessica	Walker	\$58,339		
7	MIA	Reed	\$125,180		
8	Richard	Lopez	\$91,632		
9					
10					

Explanation: TRUE (first argument) found at position 6 in the array constant (second argument). In this example, we use the MATCH function to return an exact match so we set the third argument to 0. The formula bar indicates that this is an [array formula](#) by enclosing it in curly braces {}. Do not type these yourself.

6. Use the INDEX function (two arguments) to return a specific value in a one-dimensional range. In this example, the salary at position 6 (second argument) in the range D3:D9 (first argument).

7. Finish by pressing CTRL + SHIFT + ENTER.

Note: the formula correctly looks up the salary of MIA Reed, not Mia Clark.

8. If you have Excel 365 or Excel 2021, simply use the XLOOKUP function to perform a case-sensitive lookup.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2		First Name	Last Name	Salary		First Name	MIA		
3		Emily	Smith	\$64,901		Salary	\$125,180		
4		James	Anderson	\$70,855					
5		Mia	Clark	\$188,657					
6		John	Lewis	\$97,566					
7		Jessica	Walker	\$58,339					
8	✓	MIA	Reed	\$125,180					
9		Richard	Lopez	\$91,632					
10									

Note: visit our page about the [XLOOKUP function](#) to learn more about this great new Excel function.

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