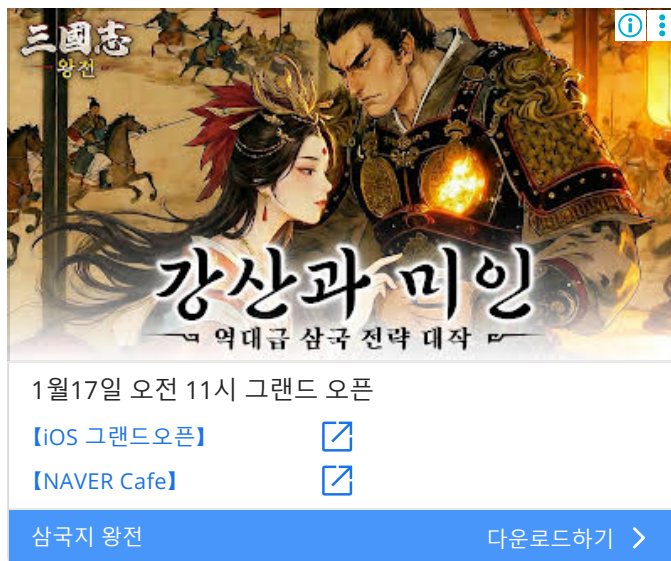# Contains Specific Text in Excel

To check if a cell contains specific text, use ISNUMBER and SEARCH in Excel. There's no CONTAINS function in Excel.

1. To find the position of a substring in a text string, use the SEARCH function.

Explanation: "duck" found at position 10, "donkey" found at position 1, cell A4 does not contain the word "horse" and "goat" found at position 12.

2. Add the ISNUMBER function. The ISNUMBER function returns TRUE if a cell contains a number, and FALSE if not.

	A	B	C					
5	Rabbit and goat	goat	TRUE					
6								

Explanation: cell A2 contains the word "duck", cell A3 contains the word "donkey", cell A4 does not contain the word "horse" and cell A5 contains the word "goat".

3. You can also check if a cell contains specific text, without displaying the substring. Make sure to enclose the substring in double quotation marks.

B2	▾	⋮	✕	✓	ƒx	=ISNUMBER(SEARCH("duck",A2))		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Text	Check						
2	Frog and duck	TRUE						
3								

4. To perform a case-sensitive search, replace the SEARCH function with the FIND function.

C2	▾	⋮	✕	✓	ƒx	=ISNUMBER(FIND(B2,A2))		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Text	Substring	Check					
2	Frog and duck	duck	TRUE					
3	Donkey and cow	donkey	FALSE					
4	Cat and dog	horse	FALSE					
5	Rabbit and goat	goat	TRUE					
6								

Explanation: the formula in cell C3 returns FALSE now. Cell A3 does not contain the word "donkey" but contains the word "Donkey".

5. Add the IF function. The formula below (case-insensitive) returns "Found" if a cell contains specific text, and "Not Found" if not.

C2	▾	⋮	✕	✓	ƒx	=IF(ISNUMBER(SEARCH(B2,A2)),"Found","Not Found")		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Text	Substring	Check					
2	Frog and duck	duck	Found					
3	Donkey and cow	donkey	Found					
4	Cat and dog	horse	Not Found					
5	Rabbit and goat	goat	Found					
6								

6. You can also use IF and COUNTIF in Excel to check if a cell contains specific text. However, the COUNTIF function is always case-insensitive.

C2	▾	⋮	✕	✓	ƒx	=IF(COUNTIF(A2,"*"&B2&"*"),"Found","Not Found")		

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Text	Substring	Check					

2	Frog and duck	duck	Found
3	Donkey and cow	donkey	Found
4	Cat and dog	horse	Not Found
5	Rabbit and goat	goat	Found
6			

Explanation: the formula in cell C2 reduces to =IF(COUNTIF(A2,"*duck*"),"Found","Not Found"). An asterisk (*) matches a series of zero or more characters. Visit our page about the COUNTIF function to learn all you need to know about this powerful function.

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