

SUBSTITUTE Formula in Excel

Usage

The SUBSTITUTE function in Excel is used to replace existing text with new text within a string. This function is particularly useful for data cleaning, correcting errors in text data, or formatting strings by replacing certain characters or phrases. It allows you to make changes to text dynamically without altering the original data.

How to Use

Formula:

plaintext

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```
=SUBSTITUTE(text, old_text, new_text, [instance_num])
```

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- **Parameters:**
 - **text:** The original text string in which you want to make substitutions.
 - **old_text:** The text you want to replace.
 - **new_text:** The text you want to replace **old_text** with.
 - **instance_num** (optional): The specific instance of **old_text** you want to replace. If omitted, all instances will be replaced.

Examples:

1. Replace All Instances:

If you have the text "Hello World" in cell A1 and you want to replace "World" with "Excel":

plaintext

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```
=SUBSTITUTE(A1, "World", "Excel") // Returns "Hello Excel"
```

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2. Replace a Specific Instance:

If A1 contains "banana, apple, banana" and you want to replace the second "banana" with "orange":

plaintext

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```
=SUBSTITUTE(A1, "banana", "orange", 2) // Returns "banana, apple, orange"
```

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Applications

- **Data Cleaning:** Correcting or standardizing text entries in datasets, such as changing abbreviations or correcting typos.
- **Text Formatting:** Modifying reports or documents by replacing specific phrases for consistency.
- **Dynamic Text Replacement:** Creating formulas that dynamically update text based on changes in other cells, such as replacing a variable name in a template.
- **Generating Variants:** Creating different versions of a text string by substituting specific keywords or phrases.