

# XLOOKUP vs VLOOKUP in Excel: Cheatsheet

This quick reference guide compares XLOOKUP and VLOOKUP - two powerful lookup functions in Excel. Use this sheet to understand when and why to use each one.

Feature	VLOOKUP	XLOOKUP
Lookup Direction	Vertical only	Vertical & Horizontal
Column Restriction	Lookup must be to the right	Lookup in any direction
Exact Match Default	FALSE (must specify)	TRUE (default is exact match)
Handling #N/A	Needs IFERROR	Built-in 'if_not_found'
Return Range	Static column index	Dynamic return array
Performance on large datasets	Slower	Faster
Availability	All Excel versions	Excel 365 and Excel 2019+ only
Ease of Use	More syntax to remember	Cleaner, modern syntax

## Formula Examples

- VLOOKUP: `=VLOOKUP("Product1", A2:C10, 3, FALSE)`
- XLOOKUP: `=XLOOKUP("Product1", A2:A10, C2:C10, "Not Found")`

## Tips

- Prefer XLOOKUP when using Excel 365 or later - it's more powerful and flexible.
- Always use named ranges or dynamic tables for better performance.
- Remember to check compatibility if you're sharing files with users on older Excel versions.