

# CONCATENATE function


*Excel for Microsoft 365 Excel for Microsoft 365 for Mac Excel for the web Excel 2021*

Use **CONCATENATE**, one of the [text functions](#), to join two or more text strings into one string.

**Important:** In Excel 2016, Excel Mobile, and Excel for the web, this function has been replaced with the [CONCAT function](#). Although the CONCATENATE function is still available for backward compatibility, you should consider using [CONCAT](#) from now on. This is because CONCATENATE may not be available in future versions of Excel.

Syntax: **CONCATENATE**(text1, [text2], ...)

Argument name	Description
<b>text1</b> (required)	The first item to join. The item can be a text value, number, or cell reference.
<b>Text2, ...</b> (optional)	Additional text items to join. You can have up to 255 items, up to a total of 8,192 characters.

Enter the formula by clicking the function button  and searching for "CONCATENATE." This will bring up the below window to walk you through the steps. You can also type "=CONCATENATE" directly into the formula bar and click each column you want to combine.

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**Insert function**

CONCATENATE

Joins several text strings into one text string. [Learn more](#)

Function arguments

text1 \*

text2

+ Add argument

text1: are 1 to 255 text strings to be joined into a single text string and can be text strings, numbers, or single-cell references

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Insert

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## CQI Conference Example

You have 2 columns of text you want to combine into 1 column.

**"Text 2"**



**"Text1"**



State	Capital
Alabama	Montgomery
Alaska	Juneau
Arizona	Phoenix
Arkansas	Little Rock
California	Sacramento
Colorado	Denver

Create a new empty column to the right of these and enter in the following formula into the first cell.

```
=CONCAT([@Capital],",", "[@State])
```

NOTE: Be sure to add "," in between the text items to ensure that a comma appears in between the words. This will be in addition to the commas you enter between the text items. This step is not necessary if you do not need a comma, such as combining first and last names.

Your final product will look like this:

State	Capital	Concatenate
Alabama	Montgomery	Montgomery, Alabama
Alaska	Juneau	Juneau, Alaska
Arizona	Phoenix	Phoenix, Arizona
Arkansas	Little Rock	Little Rock, Arkansas
California	Sacramento	Sacramento, California

# Common Problems

Problem	Description
Quotation marks appear in result string.	Use commas to separate adjoining text items. For example: Excel will display =CONCATENATE("Hello ""World") as Hello"World with an extra quote mark because a comma between the text arguments was omitted.  Numbers don't need to have quotation marks.
Words are jumbled together.	Without designated spaces between separate text entries, the text entries will run together. Add extra spaces as part of the CONCATENATE formula. There are two ways to do this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Add double quotation marks with a space between them " ". For example: =CONCATENATE("Hello", " ", "World!").</li><li>▪ Add a space after the <b>Text</b> argument. For example: =CONCATENATE("Hello ", "World!"). The string "Hello " has an extra space added.</li></ul>
The #NAME? error appears instead of the expected result.	#NAME? usually means there are quotation marks missing from a <b>Text</b> argument.

## Best practices

Do this	Description
Use the ampersand & character instead of the CONCATENATE function.	The ampersand (&) calculation operator lets you join text items without having to use a function.  For example, =A1 & B1 returns the same value as =CONCATENATE(A1,B1). In many cases, using the ampersand operator is quicker and simpler than using CONCATENATE to create strings.  Learn more about <a href="#">using operation calculators</a> .
Use the TEXT function to combine and format strings.	The <a href="#">TEXT function</a> converts a numeric value to text and combines numbers with text or symbols.  For example, if cell A1 contains the number 23.5, you can use the following formula to format the number as a dollar amount:  =TEXT(A1,"\$0.00")  Result: \$23.50

# Source:



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