Excel Intellect

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Formula Error Fixes

What each spreadsheet error means, why it appears, and how to fix it.

Find the cause in four steps

1. Select the error cell and read the whole formula.
2. Check each referenced cell for blanks, text-numbers and errors.
3. In Excel, use Formulas > Evaluate Formula to walk through it.
4. Fix the first error in the chain. Later errors often clear with it.

Common errors

Error	Where	Why it appears	How to fix it
`#N/A`	Excel and Sheets	A lookup could not find the value.	Check for extra spaces and numbers stored as text. Use IFNA or the if_not_found argument of XLOOKUP for expected gaps.
`#VALUE!`	Excel and Sheets	An argument has the wrong type, often text where a number belongs.	Check that cells hold real numbers and dates. VALUE and DATEVALUE convert text.
`#REF!`	Excel and Sheets	A reference is invalid, usually after deleted rows or columns. In Sheets it also appears when an array result is blocked.	Restore the reference, or undo the deletion. In Sheets, clear the cells below or beside the formula.
`#DIV/0!`	Excel and Sheets	A formula divides by zero or by a blank cell.	Test the divisor with IF, or wrap the formula in IFERROR when a zero divisor is expected.
`#NAME?`	Excel and Sheets	The name is misspelled, or the function is not available in your version or plan.	Check the spelling and quotes. Look up the function here to confirm where it works.
`#NUM!`	Excel and Sheets	A number is out of range, or a calculation such as IRR cannot find a result.	Check the inputs. Give IRR or RATE a starting guess.
`#NULL!`	Excel and Sheets	A space was used between two ranges that do not overlap.	Use a comma for separate ranges and a colon for one continuous range.
`#SPILL!`	Excel	A dynamic array cannot fill its output area.	Clear the blocking cells and unmerge cells. Do not use spilling formulas inside tables.
`#CALC!`	Excel	An array calculation has a problem, such as FILTER returning nothing.	Add the if_empty argument to FILTER, or check the array logic.
`#ERROR!`	Sheets	Sheets could not parse the formula.	Check quotes, commas, brackets and regional separators.

Handle expected errors

Missing lookups only

```
=IFNA(VLOOKUP(F2,A2:C10,3,FALSE),"Missing")
```

Zero divisors

```
=IF(B2=0,0,A2/B2)
```

Empty FILTER results in Excel

```
=FILTER(A2:C10,A2:A10="East","None")
```

Use IFERROR with care

It hides every error, including real mistakes. Use it after the formula works.

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