WORKPLACE SOFTWARE AND SKILLS



OpenStax

LibreTexts™

Workplace Software and Skills

OpenStax

This text is disseminated via the Open Education Resource (OER) LibreTexts Project (https://LibreTexts.org) and like the thousands of other texts available within this powerful platform, it is freely available for reading, printing, and "consuming."

The LibreTexts mission is to bring together students, faculty, and scholars in a collaborative effort to provide an accessible, and comprehensive platform that empowers our community to develop, curate, adapt, and adopt openly licensed resources and technologies; through these efforts we can reduce the financial burden born from traditional educational resource costs, ensuring education is more accessible for students and communities worldwide.

Most, but not all, pages in the library have licenses that may allow individuals to make changes, save, and print this book. Carefully consult the applicable license(s) before pursuing such effects. Instructors can adopt existing LibreTexts texts or Remix them to quickly build course-specific resources to meet the needs of their students. Unlike traditional textbooks, LibreTexts' web based origins allow powerful integration of advanced features and new technologies to support learning.



LibreTexts is the adaptable, user-friendly non-profit open education resource platform that educators trust for creating, customizing, and sharing accessible, interactive textbooks, adaptive homework, and ancillary materials. We collaborate with individuals and organizations to champion open education initiatives, support institutional publishing programs, drive curriculum development projects, and more.

The LibreTexts libraries are Powered by NICE CXone Expert and was supported by the Department of Education Open Textbook Pilot Project, the California Education Learning Lab, the UC Davis Office of the Provost, the UC Davis Library, the California State University Affordable Learning Solutions Program, and Merlot. This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1246120, 1525057, and 1413739.

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation nor the US Department of Education.

Have questions or comments? For information about adoptions or adaptions contact info@LibreTexts.org or visit our main website at https://LibreTexts.org.

This text was compiled on 04/22/2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Licensing

1: Technology in Everyday Life and Business

- 1.0: Chapter Scenario
- 1.1: Computing from Inception to Today
- 1.2: Computer Hardware and Networks
- 1.3: The Internet, Cloud Computing, and the Internet of Things
- 1.4: Safety, Security, Privacy, and the Ethical Use of Technology
- 1.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 1.6: Chapter Review - Summary
- 1.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 1.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 1.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 1.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

2: Essentials of Software Applications for Business

- 2.0: Chapter Scenario
- 2.1: Software Basics
- 2.2: Files and Folders
- 2.3: Communication and Calendar Applications
- 2.4: Essentials of Microsoft 365
- 2.5: Essentials of Google Workspace
- 2.6: Collaboration
- 2.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 2.8: Chapter Review - Summary
- 2.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 2.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 2.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 2.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

3: Creating and Working in Documents

- 3.0: Chapter Scenario
- 3.1: Navigating Microsoft Word
- 3.2: Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word
- 3.3: Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word
- 3.4: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Microsoft Word
- 3.5: Document Design
- 3.6: Navigating Google Docs
- 3.7: Formatting Layout and Content in Google Docs
- 3.8: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs
- 3.9: Versions and Version History
- 3.10: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 3.11: Chapter Review - Summary
- 3.12: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 3.13: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

- 3.14: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 3.15: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

4: Document Preparation

- 4.0: Chapter Scenario
- 4.1: Microsoft Word- Advanced Formatting Features
- 4.2: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Microsoft Word
- 4.3: Managing Long Documents in Microsoft Word
- 4.4: Google Docs- Enhanced Formatting Features
- 4.5: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Google Docs
- 4.6: Managing Long Documents in Google Docs
- 4.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 4.8: Chapter Review - Summary
- 4.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 4.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 4.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 4.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

5: Advanced Document Preparation

- 5.0: Chapter Scenario
- 5.1: Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word
- 5.2: Mail Merge in Microsoft Word
- 5.3: Creating Forms in Microsoft Word
- 5.4: Creating Different Document Types in Google Docs
- 5.5: Creating Forms in Google Docs
- 5.6: Advanced Collaboration in Google Docs
- 5.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 5.8: Chapter Review - Summary
- 5.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 5.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 5.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 5.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

6: Preparing Presentations

- 6.0: Chapter Scenario
- 6.1: Presentation and Design Essentials
- 6.2: Designing a Presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint
- 6.3: Formatting Microsoft PowerPoint Slides- Layout and Design Principles
- 6.4: Adding Visuals and Features to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides
- 6.5: Designing a Presentation in Google Slides
- 6.6: Creating Google Slides- Layout and Text
- 6.7: Adding Visuals and Features to Google Slides
- 6.8: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 6.9: Chapter Review - Summary
- 6.10: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 6.11: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 6.12: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 6.13: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

7: Advanced Presentation Skills

- 7.0: Chapter Scenario
- 7.1: Effective Presentation Skills
- 7.2: Finalizing a Slide Collection
- 7.3: Preparing a Microsoft PowerPoint Collection for Presentation
- 7.4: Preparing a Google Slides Collection for Presentation
- 7.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 7.6: Chapter Review - Summary
- 7.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 7.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 7.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 7.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

8: Content Management Systems and Social Media in Business

- 8.0: Chapter Scenario
- 8.1: What Are Content Management Systems?
- 8.2: Common Content Management Systems
- 8.3: Creating Content with a Content Management System
- 8.4: Search Engine Optimization
- 8.5: Social Media in Business
- 8.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 8.7: Chapter Review - Summary
- 8.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 8.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 8.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 8.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

9: Working with Spreadsheets

- 9.0: Chapter Scenario
- 9.1: Microsoft Excel Basics
- 9.2: Text and Numbers in Microsoft Excel
- 9.3: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Microsoft Excel
- 9.4: Formatting and Templates in Microsoft Excel
- 9.5: Google Sheets Basics
- 9.6: Text and Numbers in Google Sheets
- 9.7: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Google Sheets
- 9.8: Formatting and Templates in Google Sheets
- 9.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 9.10: Chapter Review - Summary
- 9.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 9.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 9.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 9.14: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

10: Advanced Excel Formulas, Functions, and Techniques

- 10.0: Chapter Scenario
- 10.1: Data Tables and Ranges
- 10.2: More About Formulas

- 10.3: Using Arithmetic, Statistical, and Logical Functions
- 10.4: PivotTables
- 10.5: Auditing Formulas and Fixing Errors
- 10.6: Advanced Formatting Techniques
- 10.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 10.8: Chapter Review - Summary
- 10.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 10.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 10.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 10.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

11: Advanced Excel Spreadsheets- Statistical and Data Analysis

- 11.0: Chapter Scenario
- 11.1: Understanding Data, Data Validation, and Data Tables
- 11.2: Statistical Functions
- 11.3: What-If Analysis
- 11.4: PivotTables/Charts
- 11.5: Data Analysis Charts
- 11.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 11.7: Chapter Review - Summary
- 11.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 11.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 11.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 11.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

12: Using Excel in Accounting and Financial Reporting

- 12.0: Chapter Scenario
- 12.1: Basic Accounting
- 12.2: Financial Functions in Microsoft Excel
- 12.3: Integrating Microsoft Excel and Accounting Programs
- 12.4: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 12.5: Chapter Review - Summary
- 12.6: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 12.7: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 12.8: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 12.9: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

13: Understanding and Using Databases

- 13.0: Chapter Scenario
- 13.1: What Is a Database?
- 13.2: Microsoft Access- Main Features and Navigation
- 13.3: Querying a Database
- 13.4: Maintaining Records in a Database
- 13.5: Creating Reports in Microsoft Access
- 13.6: Creating Forms in Microsoft Access
- 13.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 13.8: Chapter Review - Summary
- 13.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions

- 13.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 13.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 13.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

14: Advanced Database Use

- 14.0: Chapter Scenario
- 14.1: Advanced Queries in Microsoft Access
- 14.2: Multiple Table Forms
- 14.3: Customizing Forms
- 14.4: Customizing Reports
- 14.5: Using Macros
- 14.6: Data Analysis and Integration
- 14.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 14.8: Chapter Review - Summary
- 14.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 14.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 14.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 14.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

15: Integrating Applications

- 15.0: Chapter Scenario
- 15.1: Microsoft 365- Collaboration and Integration
- 15.2: Microsoft Word- Integration with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access
- 15.3: Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration
- 15.4: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration
- 15.5: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access Integration
- 15.6: Integrating Data from Other Programs into Google Workspace
- 15.7: New Developments- The Role of Artificial Intelligence
- 15.8: Mastering Workplace Software Skills- A Project
- 15.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 15.10: Chapter Review - Summary
- 15.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 15.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 15.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Index

Detailed Licensing

Licensing

*A detailed breakdown of this resource's licensing can be found in **Back Matter/Detailed Licensing**.*

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

1: Technology in Everyday Life and Business

1.0: Chapter Scenario
1.1: Computing from Inception to Today
1.2: Computer Hardware and Networks
1.3: The Internet, Cloud Computing, and the Internet of Things
1.4: Safety, Security, Privacy, and the Ethical Use of Technology
1.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms
1.6: Chapter Review - Summary
1.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions
1.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
1.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions
1.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 1: Technology in Everyday Life and Business is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.0: Chapter Scenario

WorldCorp welcomes you to your new position within the company, a multinational corporation where the jobs are plentiful, and the future is bright. To be successful at WorldCorp, you will need to know a little bit about the computing past and a lot about the computing present. You'll also need to have a sense of the computing future, especially as it pertains to business. That's what this chapter is about. You will also need to know how to perform basic functions at WorldCorp using two major computer programs you've probably heard of—Microsoft 365, or more commonly known as Office, and Google Workspace. The next chapter in this textbook, Essentials of Software Applications for Business, covers the basics of these programs.



Figure 1.1: Today's workspaces represent decades of advances in technology. Portable personal computers, cellular communications, tablets, and advances in artificial intelligence have changed the way people do their jobs. (credit: modification of "Home office, Computer, Desk" by Pexels/Pixabay, CC0)

WorldCorp activities presented in other chapters will lay out specific computing tasks, such as formatting documents, creating spreadsheets, designing online slide presentations, posting on social media, and conducting virtual meetings. Even though the online environment changes rapidly, these are fundamental computing skills that workers need regardless of their level of employment. As you move forward in the text, you will learn more about WorldCorp, its structure, products, customers, and strategies.

This page titled 1.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.1: Computing from Inception to Today

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the evolution of computing in the workplace
- Explain the rise of computing for personal use
- Discuss the use of technology in today's workplace
- Describe key technologies in mobile devices, digital imaging, and gaming
- Discuss recent advances in technology and related career opportunities

Today's workplace looks very different from the workplace of even a decade ago. Much has changed in the field of computer science and computing in general, reshaping the use of technology at both individual and professional levels. From the early uses of massive, room-size computers to perform large, complex calculations to today's much smaller, more advanced computers—even one so small it can fit in the palm of your hand like the Raspberry Pi 4 shown in Figure 1.2—computing has secured a solid foothold in our everyday lives.



Figure 1.2: The Raspberry Pi 4 contains the basic components and power of a computer. It can power a robot, smart products, and basic PCs. At 3.4 inches by 2.2 inches and only .6 inches high, it fits in the palm of your hand. (credit: "Raspberry pi" by kritsadaj/Pixabay, CC0)

Workers today need to know how to use computers to perform basic (and advanced) tasks that employers need. Those tasks could be preparing documents, creating spreadsheets for financial calculations, designing slide presentations for meetings, constructing databases, and even navigating social media and virtual meeting spaces that help companies communicate internally and externally. This text explores the basic software applications that perform these tasks, mostly through Microsoft Office and Google Workspace.

But, first, this chapter looks at the evolution of computing to provide some context and appreciation for the field itself and to show its importance not just for today's workplace, but also to give you a sense of where computing is heading.

Computing in the Workplace

The rise of computers for work came out of a need to manage a massive quantity of numbers. The early computers essentially were developed to be "data crunchers." Their origins date back to the 1800s in France. Joseph Marie Jacquard, a textile merchant, developed a machine to automatically weave designs in fabric using a punch card system, as you can see in Figure 1.3. This punch card system laid the foundation for more advances in number calculations, including those developed by Herman Hollerith for the 1880 U.S. census. Hollerith went on to improve the initial punch card system and eventually founded IBM, one of the first major computing companies.

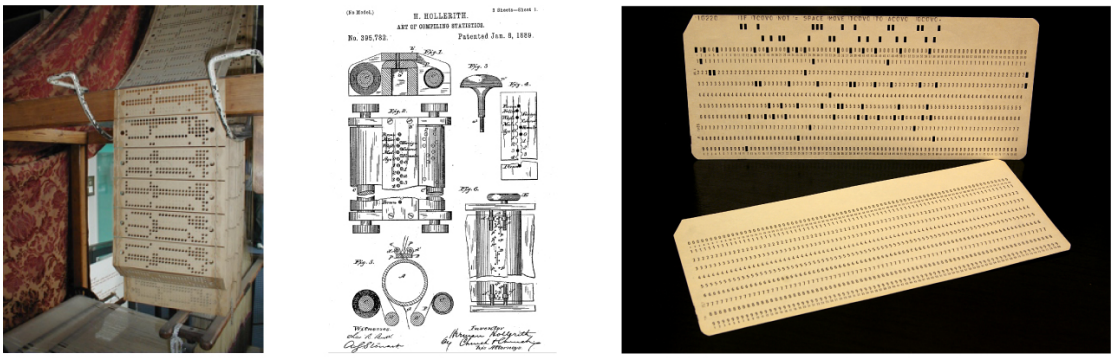


Figure 1.3: (a) Jacquard's loom, which performed calculations using a punch card system, was an early development in computing, as was (b) Herman Hollerith's punch-card tabulating machine, for which he was awarded a patent in 1889. (c) Each hole in a punch card equals a piece of data (called a "bit" today) that the machines read. (credit a: modification of work "Jacquard.loom.cards" by George H. Williams/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain; credit b: modification of work "Holerith395782Figures1-6" by Herman Hollerith/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain; credit c: modification of work "2punchCards" by José Antonio González Nieto/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 3.0)

The first computer (in the modern sense of the term) was the Z1, designed and built in the late 1930s by Konrad Zuse of Germany. This machine was motor-driven, programmable, and weighed over 2,000 pounds, about 400 times the average laptop today. The Z1 contained many of the internal components still used in today's computers, paving the way for other inventors to evolve the technology.

Bill Hewlett and David Packard, two Stanford University engineering students, began working out of a garage in California, initially developing equipment for engineers and major companies. They founded their company, Hewlett Packard (HP), in 1939, but it wasn't until a few decades later that it would become a titan in the computer manufacturing industry.

Meanwhile, the 1940s and 1950s saw major advances in computing technology. Most notable was the 1943 invention of the ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator). This massive unit, built by two professors at the University of Pennsylvania, is considered the forerunner of today's digital computers because it was the first machine to run calculations electronically. Other innovations included solving equations simultaneously and the invention of the transistor, which allowed for much smaller computers to be built.

The development of computer language is another major milestone in computing history. By using words rather than symbols, computer coding became easier to learn and write, especially for those in the business world who did not have mathematics or engineering degrees. It is thanks, in large part, to mathematician and U.S. Navy Admiral Grace Hopper (Figure 1.4). Hopper's PhD in mathematics from Yale, along with her naval career working on technology to aid the war effort during World War II, positioned her to make some remarkable contributions, and in a male-dominated field.



Figure 1.4: Grace Hopper, shown here in 1960 with a UNIVAC computer, earned her PhD in mathematics and went on to an illustrious career in computer science. (credit: "Grace Hopper and UNIVAC" by Public.Resource.Org/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Spotlight on Ethics

Grace Hopper: A Pioneer in Computer Science

Historically, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (known as the STEM fields) were seldom viewed as appropriate fields for females, and the same was true for careers in the military. Although women today make up half of the U.S. workforce, less than 30 percent of employees in STEM fields are women. As a reflection of this gender bias, in 1950, fewer than 5 percent of doctoral degrees awarded in chemistry, math, and physics were granted to females, and even today, that number has only risen to just under 20 percent.

Grace Hopper was a pioneer in the computer science field and in the military as a woman working in STEM. She was also a member of the first group of women to be granted a PhD in mathematics from Yale University. Hopper's work in computer science had a profound impact on the future of computer programming, especially through her creation of an English-language-based programming language, which eventually became COBOL (still in use today).

There are many organizations centered on narrowing the gender gap in STEM fields. One of these is the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Founded in 1881, it has been tirelessly focused on investing in education, especially in STEM fields, and on promoting these fields to females through tech camps and other initiatives.

Computers entered the workplace in the 1950s. Their use at that time was for scientific and engineering applications, mostly as calculating machines to facilitate data analysis. In 1964, the Programma 101, an Italian desktop-sized programmable calculator, was the first commercially viable workplace computer to hit the market. It was heavy and expensive—its $3,200 price tag in 1964 dollars was the equivalent of nearly $30,000 today. As a result, only large corporations and research institutions had the space and resources to use the computers that were commercially available. This remained the status quo into the 1970s, when the development of the microcomputer changed the face of the industry. The first personal computer, the Kenbak-1, came on the market in 1971. *Microcomputer* is the technical name for the personal computers that operated with a single processing unit and were much smaller than the machines used in corporations or industrial institutions. Intel's 1970 invention of the microchip (a group of small circuits that work together to make a computer operational) was quickly followed by the floppy disk (which allowed for data to be stored and moved easily), developed by IBM engineers, and ethernet connection capability, developed by Xerox. Ethernet connects computers and devices such as printers through hard cables. With advances in technology, the market for computers expanded rapidly in the 1970s. That's when Paul Allen and Bill Gates founded Microsoft to focus on developing software and an operating system for the new computers. It is also when Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak founded Apple, creating the Apple I computer with a single circuit board.

Xerox's revolutionary Alto computer, shown in Figure 1.5, introduced in 1973, included a screen resembling those we use today, plus a mouse and keyboard. The screen included, for the first time, elements such as folders, buttons, and icons controllable through the mouse. The Alto not only had the ability to act as a calculator but also could print documents and send electronic mail, anticipating the email we know today.



Figure 1.5: Xerox's Alto computer has a similar look to today's computers, even including the mouse. (credit: "Xerox Alto Computer) by Joho345/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

Early personal computers like the Programma and the Alto set the stage for the rapid expansion of computing in the workplace. By 1980, there were several microcomputers on the market that made computing more accessible to small businesses and even individuals. Computing capabilities had expanded to include color graphics, spreadsheets, and word processing programs. The market competition between Microsoft, HP, IBM, Apple, and others shaped the industry and our society. In fact, in 1983, *Time* magazine's cover recognized the computer as "Machine of the Year," replacing its traditional "Man of the Year." These early computers have evolved into today's laptops, cell phones, tablets, and wearables.

These innovations in computing technology have had a profound impact on the workplace. Figure 1.6 shows just how different today's "workplace" has become. From the automation of manual processes, to the ways we store and analyze information, to how and where we communicate with colleagues and customers—all have changed dramatically. Resulting improvements include improved efficiency and productivity, reduction of errors, improved database management and analytics, advanced communication capabilities, telecommuting, enhanced graphics and marketing, the need for new organizational structures and departments (such as information technology, or IT, departments), and the development of technology privacy policies and legal regulations. Computing machines, along with the emergence and subsequent explosion of the internet, have forever transformed both our work and our personal lives.



Figure 1.6: Computing technology has transformed the modern workspace. People no longer have to be "in the office." (credit: "left": modification of work by Cory Zanker; credit "center": modification of work by "@Saigon"/Flickr; credit "right": modification of work by Daniel Lobo)

Computing for Personal Use

By the 1970s, new workplace technology filtered into homes in the form of entertainment devices. With technological improvements and more accessible prices, the value of a computer in the home—to help manage everything from household finances to children's homework assignments—was becoming evident. The advertisement for the Apple II computer shown in Figure 1.7 shows what this early technology looked like.



Figure 1.7: This December 1977 advertisement for the Apple II computer touts its uses around the home, such as organizing finances, storing recipes, and gaming. (credit: modification of "Apple II advertisement Dec 1977 page 2" by Apple Computer Inc./Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

In the early 1980s, personal computers were made available to the average consumer through retailers such as Sears and Radio Shack. In 1981, IBM introduced a personal computer—first known by the code name "Acorn" and subsequently renamed the IBM PC—that included the Microsoft operating system and Office software, as well as an Intel microchip. Soon to follow was Apple's Macintosh computer, launched in January 1984, running Apple's own operating system and officially establishing Apple as competitors to Microsoft and the PC. Many of these new designs were streamlined and user-friendly for the whole family. Moreover, the price point made them more attainable for the consumer, though still expensive for that time.

Initially, home computers were focused on gaming and entertainment. Figure 1.8 shows what that primitive technology looked like in the 1980s. Classic games such as chess and solitaire were translated into the computer environment, a trend that quickly caught on even with rudimentary graphics and text-based games. These games allowed the user to experience the computer's capabilities in settings far beyond the workplace and established the personal computer as a technology to support not only work, but pleasure and entertainment, too.



(a) (b)

Figure 1.8: (a) The Apple II and (b) the Commodore PET offered video games that popularized the use of computers at home. (credit a: modification of "Living Computers – Apple" by Michael Dunn/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0; credit b: modification of "Commodore PET Exhibit at American Museum of Science and Energy Oak Ridge Tennessee" by Frank Hoffman/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

With developments such as disk storage and programming capabilities, the market for personal computers continued to grow. Manufacturing costs decreased with innovations in the industry and as many producers shifted manufacturing overseas. Although computers evolved into home workstations with capabilities beyond gaming, the home computing trend was slow to catch on. Many potential home users simply did not see the value in owning a personal computer; in the late 1980s, fewer than 20 percent of households owned one. This changed in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when the home computer industry exploded with the expansion of the internet, improved interfaces that were less technically challenging for the average user, and customizable products and features such as color schemes. Increasingly, home workstations became the place to maintain family finances, store recipes, and write school research reports. Email, followed quickly by instant messaging, offered a new way to connect and communicate. Then came a way to connect to the internet without wires, using high-frequency radio signals.

Since 2000, the warp speed of innovation has brought to market lightweight laptops that can be easily carried from workplace to workplace. The computing power of the computers that first took astronauts to the moon was similar to that of a couple of today's gaming consoles. Many modern home computing devices are laptops less than one inch thick, equipped with high-speed connectivity, high-quality graphics, and touchscreen capabilities. Computing power today has increased nearly 1 trillion percent since the 1960s.

Technology Today

The rapid trajectory of innovations in computing has forever changed today's workplace, where computing power is at our fingertips. It is difficult to imagine any industry that doesn't depend on computing technology as an integral part of its business. Some of the more basic technologies that are present in businesses may include:

- direct deposit of paychecks
- key card building access
- shared company computer drives for document storage
- paperless documentation systems for recordkeeping
- high-speed printers/copiers
- automated inventory systems

Industries that are traditionally considered nontechnical have also embraced improvements that depend on computing technology—for example, farmers can control irrigation and monitor field conditions. Computing technologies have also enabled individuals to embark on entrepreneurial ventures that once only seemed like a dream and have launched some of them into marketplace leadership. From manufacturing to health care to the service sector, we can see the impact of computing and how technological innovations continue to shape the future of many industries.

For example, consider the auto industry, where advances in technology continue to pave the way for changes in how we drive, safety improvements, and new ways to purchase vehicles. Recent innovations include the introduction of self-driving vehicles (see Google's self-driving car, Waymo in Figure 1.9) and of vehicle-to-vehicle communication—cross-communication that allows cars

to wirelessly share information such as speed, spatial proximity to other cars or objects, and traffic status, with the potential to reduce vehicle crashes and congestion on roadways. Technology has also created a space for nontraditional car dealers, such as Carvana, that offer an online purchase experience and home delivery. The use of technology in the auto industry can be seen at all stages of the business cycle.



Figure 1.9: Google's Waymo, a self-driving car, can navigate roads, maintain safe speeds, and see obstacles in time to apply the brakes. (credit: "Google Self-Driving Car" by R Boed/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Computing technology has also brought substantial changes to the health-care industry. Most medical practices and hospitals utilize electronic medical records. These records and the ability to share them across providers have increased the efficiency and accuracy of record management and have also increased the transparency of information provided to patients and their families and care providers. Performance of surgical procedures has been advanced through the use of visualization technology and robotics. Figure 1.10a shows a robotic arm used in surgery.

More recently, telehealth and virtual health-care options have grown. Figure 1.10b shows a virtual telehealth appointment. These options have reduced many barriers (including some financial barriers and transportation issues) for those seeking care for a variety of needs, including mental health issues, child illness, or support for the elderly. This virtual option has not only added convenience, but has also improved communication between patient and provider, increased speed of care, and allowed patients to take a better informed and more active role in addressing their own health-care needs. And, of course, the use of virtual technology for health-care needs was a lifesaver during the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person appointments were too risky.



(a) (b)

Figure 1.10: (a) Robotic surgery and telehealth services are two health-care industry-changing technologies. (credit a: modification of "Laproscopic Surgery Robot" by GPA Photo Archive/Flickr, CC BY 2.0; credit b: modification of "People on a Video Call" by Anna Shvets/Pexels, CC BY 2.0)

With today's available technologies, organizations and individuals alike are continuing to rethink the traditional business model. Many organizations have come to see the value of giving employees the freedom afforded by working from home, and even many industries that had resisted telecommuting learned to incorporate it as a necessary response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some companies have found that organizational efficiencies can be realized in terms of cost savings, improved employee satisfaction, and enhanced productivity. Other businesses, such as smaller retailers, have shifted more resources to e-commerce. Banks have found innovative ways to connect with their customers using technology rather than through in-person transactions. Still others, such as

restaurants, have used technology to deliver their products to consumers in new ways. In Figure 1.11, customers can order directly through the internet à la Uber Eats or even have their food delivered by robot.



(a) (b)

Figure 1.11: (a) Uber Eats is a popular food delivery service that is becoming more widely available because of technological advances. (b) Autonomous delivery robots are becoming a more common sight on campuses. (credit a: modification of "Uber Eats bicycle" by Yuya Tamai/Flickr, CC BY 2.0; credit b: modification of "Starship food delivery robot" by bikesharedude/Flickr, Public Domain)

Real-World Application: Technology and Food Trucks

Food trucks have been growing in popularity in the early decades of the twenty-first century. In fact, the food truck industry has grown at a faster rate than traditional restaurants. The availability of technology has helped foster this growth, especially in two areas: point-of-sale (POS) systems and social media marketing. It used to be that food trucks could accept only cash because the registers that could take credit cards did not work on the road. A POS system does even more than exchange money. A food truck can use a POS product—for example, a product called Square—to track inventory and sales, and can even use social media to post messages and to make sales.

Our interactions with computing, both at home and in the workplace, rely on interfaces and communications like those you will likely use in this course. Tools for documenting information, analyzing and exporting data, and communicating with others form the foundation of business computer applications.

Mobile Devices, Digital Imaging, and Gaming

It might be hard to imagine a world without access to information at our fingertips—or, for that matter, a world without Xbox or PlayStation. Today, many households no longer have a traditional landline phone, instead relying on mobile devices. It is estimated that less than 10 percent of homes in the United States have a traditional landline phone. Think about how advances in digital imaging technology over the past half century have forever changed the way we capture and preserve life's notable moments—our days are now routinely filled with screens and images. The rise of the computing industry has brought along changes in companion industries that have impacted most of our lives in one way or another.

In this section, you will learn about the origins of the mobile phone industry and its evolution into today's diverse handheld computing devices. The rise of the computing industry also led to a new industry, gaming. You will look at how the gaming industry not only changed the face of family entertainment but also created additional industries and shaped cultures across the world. Finally, you will explore the digital imaging industry, the impact on other fields, and recent technological developments in imaging.

Mobile Devices

The concept of a mobile phone has been around a lot longer than you might imagine—since the early 1900s, in fact. In 1908, a patent was issued for a wireless telephone in Kentucky, but the idea was considered so far-fetched that its inventors were accused of fraud. (The case was later dropped, and the invention was never produced.) Not long after, during World War I, Germany was testing radio-based wireless telephones (essentially two-way radios) on trains traveling from Berlin. By 1940, this technology had

improved, and handheld receivers were widely available and used in World War II, prompting the private sector to use this emerging technology (Figure 1.12a).

Bell Laboratories, founded in the late nineteenth century by Alexander Graham Bell, was a key player in bringing mobile phones to the public. In 1946, Bell Labs developed a system to offer a mobile phone service in cars. Because of the limited number of channels available, the system quickly reached capacity, and was mostly used by taxi drivers and emergency vehicles localized in urban areas. From the 1950s to the 1980s, the technology continued to develop, built mostly around radio frequencies.

The first cellular technology using automated cellular networks, called 1G or first generation, was introduced in Tokyo in 1979. It was deployed to other countries soon after and, in 1981, reached North America, where it was known as the Advanced Mobile Phone System (AMPS). This led to the launch of the first truly mobile cell phone, Motorola's DynaTAC, in 1983 (Figure 1.12b). With a price point of just under $4,000, the unit was not designed for the everyday consumer. Motorola believed the phone's customers would include realtors and large-company executives who could afford the purchase price as well as the $50-per-month plan to use the device. But they underestimated the appeal of the cell phone. Sales far exceeded projections, and the concept of the cell phone quickly replaced the unwieldy mobile car phones of the past.

The overwhelming demand, along with advances in digital technology, prompted the migration of the old AMPS networks to a digital format, an effort that began in 1990 and was completed in the early 2000s. The popularity of the cell phone also prompted competition between European and American networks. 2G cellular networks emerged, providing basic short message service (SMS) text messaging capabilities. The first text message was sent in 1993 in Finland. The 2G network had better security than 1G and was also much faster. These changes in network capabilities influenced the development of phone technologies.

Although smartphones are seen as a rather new technology, the first smartphone was actually introduced by IBM in 1993. The Simon Personal Communicator (Figure 1.12c) looked very different from modern smartphones. Its features included a calendar, address book, and email service. The phone even had a touchscreen. The price point, around $1,000, was high at the time, equivalent to about $2,000 in today's dollars. The device was well received in the United States, where consumers viewed it primarily as a digital personal assistant that just happened to have phone capabilities. Though popular with business executives, the Simon stayed on the market for less than a year and sold only around 50,000 units, but it did pave the way for the smartphones of today. Other notable phone introductions soon to follow were the first flip phone (the Motorola StarTAC in 1997) and the first BlackBerry device in 1999.



Figure 1.12: (a) This two-way wireless communication device was used during World War II to communicate critical information among troops. (b) Motorola's DynaTAC was the first mobile phone to use cellular technologies rather than radio frequencies. DynaTAC was marketed toward wealthy business professionals at a price point of nearly $4,000. (c) The first smartphone, a personal assistant device, was a precursor to today's cell phones. (credit a: modification of "Bärbar radio" by Flygvapenmuseum, CC BY; credit b: modification of "MF013: Figure 2.8" by Rosenfeld Media/Flickr, CC BY 2.0; credit c: modification of "Simon FIRST Smart Phone" by Mike Mozart/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

As the technology rapidly advanced, 3G and then 4G networks soon followed. This allowed faster speeds as well as streaming services—4G networks were nearly 10 times faster than their 3G counterparts. With this expanded network accessibility, phones rapidly came to be seen less as a luxury and more as a need.

Apple's introduction of the iPhone in 2008 had a major impact on the market. With this introduction came the iPhone operating system (iOS), exclusive to Apple. An operating system is one of the most important components of a computing device. It runs the interactions between the device's hardware and software components (more on these later in the chapter). The second most popular operating system to emerge during this time was the Android operating system, first developed in 2005 and later acquired by Google. These two operating systems, each of which has advantages and disadvantages, are engaged in an ongoing battle for market share. At the end of 2022, the Android operating system had a majority share of the market worldwide (nearly 72 percent). Today, nearly 90 percent of Americans own a cell phone; of those, nearly 60 percent are smartphones.

Link to Learning

It seems that people are either iPhone users or Android device users, with an unwillingness to shift platforms. Although the two operating systems that run iPhones and Android devices (such as Samsung's Galaxy phones), respectively, have similar performance capabilities, they vary dramatically in terms of the user experience. The proprietary software working behind the scenes also limits the apps, or programs, that are compatible with each device. Read this article on the differences between Android and iOS to learn more. Which operating system do you prefer? Why?

The adoption of mobile phone technology has had a large economic impact in the United States and worldwide, giving rise to new products (cell phone cases, pop sockets, wireless earbuds, screen protectors) that did not exist before mobile phones hit the market. Other industries such as clothing and handbags have also been impacted: It's now commonplace for a jacket to have a specific phone pocket, and many handbags and backpacks have slots designed to accommodate most cell phones. The creation of mobile phone apps has developed into an entirely new industry that has created many jobs worldwide. And beyond these tangible effects of the cell phone boom, there have been some significant changes in how we operate in our business and professional lives. About 40 percent of all business transactions are conducted on a mobile phone device. Companies rely on mobile technology to conduct essential correspondence with their employees and their customers.

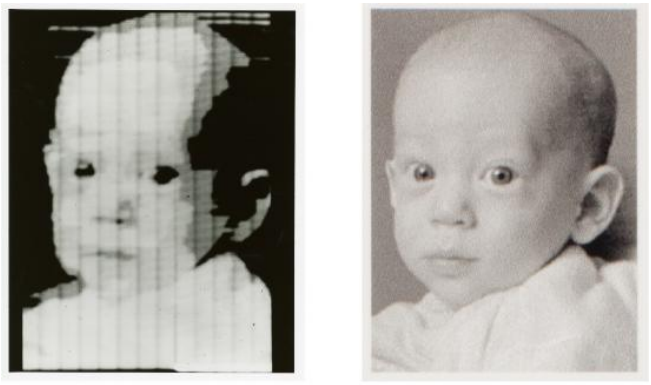
Gains in efficiency and collaboration across geographic boundaries are now easier than ever. Consumer product companies use mobile devices to advertise in new ways and to expand their market reach. We may use the technology to stay in contact with out-of-town family members, to connect to our bank or our health-care provider, and to make everyday purchases. Many children growing up today have never had a home landline phone ring or not even heard a dial tone. The dial tone is a sound that indicates that a landline is active. It can be difficult to imagine a world before cell phones, even though it was not all that long ago they first emerged on the market.

Link to Learning

Listen to this video on vintage telephone network sounds to hear what a dial tone sounds like, as well as sounds from telephone technology through the ages.

Digital Image, Video, and Audio Capture Devices

Image, video, and audio capture are another area of technological growth that many people now use daily. Photography was invented in the mid-1800s, and it took a century and a half for digital imagery to emerge, in 1957. Using binary digits, Richard Kirsch was able to convert a photograph of his son into a digital image using the only programmable computer available in the United States at the time. The photograph was scanned electronically in small squares of the image, now called pixels, and reconfigured using white and black, as Figure 1.13 shows. The binary data for the image could then be stored on the computer. This development, along with the invention of the microchip, laid the foundation for future work in digital imaging.



(a) (b)

Figure 1.13: Kirsch took a photo of his son Walden and was able to capture the image digitally using binary digits. Part (a) shows the digital scan of Walden Kirsch from (b), the original photo. (credit a: modification of "NBSFirstScanImage" by Russell A. Kirsch/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain; credit b: modification of "Walden Kirsch" by Russell A. Kirsch/ Portland Art Museum, Public Domain)

The scientific community, government, and the military soon took notice of the advantages of using the digital approach to capturing images. Beginning in the 1960s, NASA used the technology to transmit images back from space through television receivers. Tech companies created new storage methods, such as saving images to tape. RCA built the photo-dielectric tape camera for NASA, which was able to store about 120 images on tape—a huge improvement over the long processing times needed for previous digital images.

This technology continued to grow over the decades, and soon combined with mobile phone technology. In 1997, the first image was taken using a camera phone. Cell phone manufacturers quickly launched new phone models that included cameras, and most of today's devices include a digital camera. The 2004 emergence of Flickr, a popular photo-sharing site, as well as the launch of Facebook that same year, provided new ways for people to share and connect via digital photographs.

The digital camera revolution transformed how we conduct business and stay in touch with family and friends. The use of webcams and videoconferencing technology has enabled many to conduct business across geographic boundaries and to telecommute from home to their job. This has changed the face of the traditional office environment for all industries and parts of the marketplace, such as government agencies, corporations, small businesses, and service organizations. And in many ways, digital cameras have changed our everyday lives. The use of digital cameras has revolutionized many medical procedures and how we interact with our health-care providers. Digital cameras have enabled us to see space beyond the earth and moon. Consumer products can be test marketed and brought into consumers lives' virtually. Parents have the capability to monitor their babies sleeping in cribs. Doorbell cameras have increased our sense of security in our homes. The cameras we have at our fingertips today have far surpassed the imaginations of the early inventors of this technology.

Real-World Application: Virtual Reality and Marketing

Virtual reality (VR) refers to a simulated environment that is computer-generated. Through the use of devices such as a helmet or glasses, the user sees a simulated world and is able to move about it visually. Instead of simply viewing the scene from an outsider's point of view, the user is immersed in the actual scene. Companies such as Nike, Wendy's, McDonald's, and Gucci have used VR to creatively demonstrate new products to consumers and to allow consumers to interact with a new product concept. Even small businesses have capitalized on the technology, which enables them to bring ideas in front of consumers quickly without the expense of creating an actual prototype of the product. This concept has application across a wide range of industries, from restaurants to real estate to consumer products.

Games and Gaming Devices

Computerized games for entertainment existed long before today's gaming consoles. When computers were starting to gain a foothold in the American household, their primary use was for entertainment. The initial concept of computerized games was centered on taking existing, often traditional games, such as checkers and chess, and moving those to the computerized platform.

The first video game was developed by an American physicist. William Higinbotham developed the game Tennis for Two in 1958 using an analog computer with an oscilloscope display. This simple invention laid the groundwork for one of the most profitable industries in the world. It is estimated that over 60 percent of U.S. households today have members who regularly play video games. Technology progressed to the first gaming console, 1967's Brown Box, and then to 1972's Atari, with its popular game, Pong. In 1978, Space Invaders hit the arcade market—a game venue marketed heavily to bowling alleys and retail locations. The arcade craze became a huge commercial success for the game makers as well as the businesses that purchased the games (Figure 1.14). Motivated by getting to the top of the scoring list, players were readily putting their quarters into the machines. Over the next decade, nearly two dozen companies developed arcade games, including the well-known game Pac-Man, which was introduced to the U.S. market in 1981.



Figure 1.14: The arcade of the 1980s changed how teenagers spent their time and their money. (credit: "the Luna City Arcade" by Blake Patterson/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

The decades that followed saw the leap from Intellivision to the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) and Nintendo's handheld Game Boy device. At the end of the 1980s, Sega emerged as a major competitor to Nintendo. Their gaming system had better graphics and new creative energy, bringing on what would become some of the most popular games of our time, like Sonic the Hedgehog. As new game concepts emerged, controversy over violence in games and other questionable content prompted a government response and the creation of an industry rating system for games.

Spotlight on Ethics: Video Games and Violence

Early video games were based on traditional board games such as chess and checkers. But over time, with increases in graphic capabilities and new companies coming into the market purely as game developers, new game concepts were developed. At times, these new game concepts contained what some considered to be inappropriate language and situations. The American Psychological Association even considers the playing of violent video games as a risk factor for aggression. The violence in video games prompted a congressional hearing on the matter in 1993. The hearing focused on three controversial games: Doom, Night Trap, and Mortal Kombat, the first video game to include realistic depictions of violence. Despite this, the game was allowed to be sold, but a new rating board emerged from the hearings called the Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB). It is a voluntary, self-regulated entity run by the Entertainment Software Association, which rates games according to their level of violence and recommends appropriate age levels for users. Some stores will not sell video games without an ESRB rating.

As the trajectory of advances in games and consoles continues, today it seems that a new and improved system hits the market every year. Many people also have games downloaded on their phones. And the concept of e-sports has reached colleges and universities, both as an academic program and as an NCAA-recognized collegiate sport. The future of video games seems to be moving in the direction of artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual reality simulations, with both Apple and Google making company acquisitions in that arena.

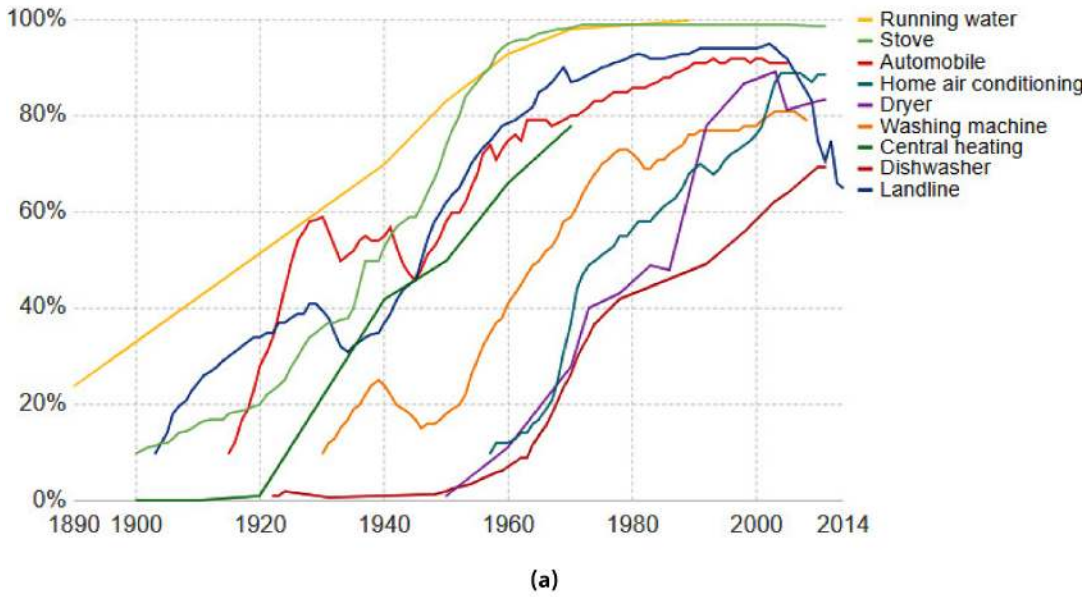
Real-World Application: E-sports in Colleges and Universities

The term e-sports refers to a sports competition using video games. Like professional football, baseball, and other sports, e-sports events have a large following, including both spectators at the actual events and others who join to watch the action virtually. E-sports became a large player in the gaming industry around 2010 and has since exploded worldwide to such an extent that colleges and universities are taking notice. The impact on the academic environment can be seen in three key areas: academic programs such as game developing, student groups focused on gaming, and collegiate sports. Some institutions are even offering scholarships for e-sports similar to traditional athletic scholarships.

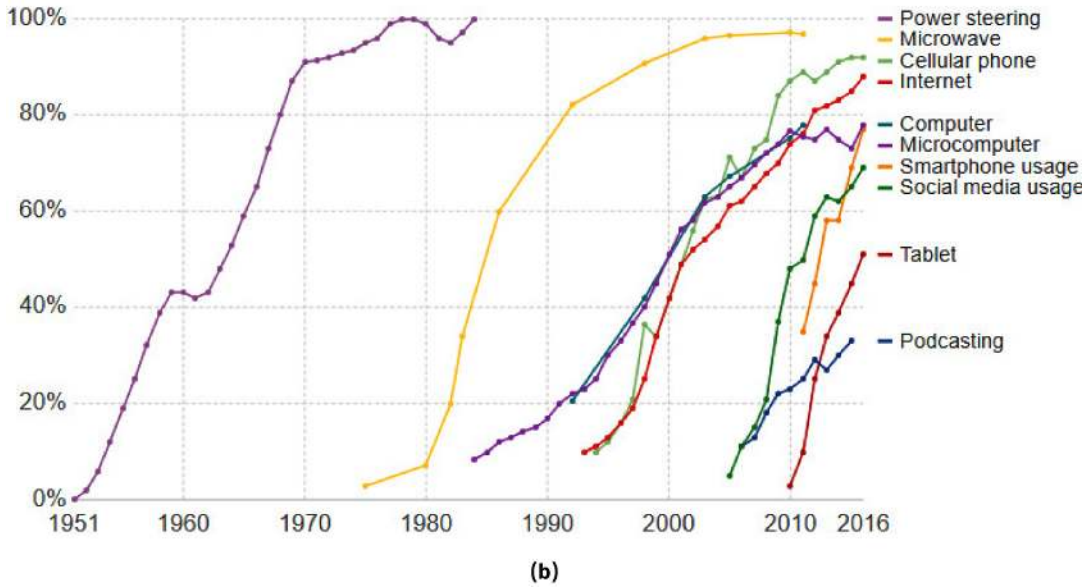
Mobile technology, digital imaging, and gaming capabilities today are inherently intertwined. Often, all three coexist on a single device. As just one example, consider how we use Google Photos on our phones to share family memories. Extending this capability, in a video game app on a mobile phone, a user can create a character using their photo and then have this virtual character interact with other players across the world. In the business world, many of us now use Zoom or other videoconferencing tools to connect with colleagues remotely. Outside of work, users of gaming consoles can chat with other players through their phones or through the console. Many games today are designed from the start to be played on multiple platforms. Microsoft is even offering mobile phone plans for customers. Each technology has changed our lives, but together their impact has been remarkable.

Advances in Technology

Technology is advancing faster than what was previously believed to be possible. In just a short period of time, we have gone from having no computers to today where nearly 90 percent of people in the United States have some access to a computing device. What's also impressive is that 90 percent of data in the world today was generated in just the last two years. Today's 5G technology is 100 times faster than 4G, and the rate of adoption of new technologies has diminished from years to mere months in some cases. As you can see in Figure 1.15, older technologies such as refrigerators and landlines took decades to reach widespread adoption with a majority of Americans buying them, while today's smartphones and tablets achieve broad adoption as soon as they enter the market.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1.15: (a) Historically, the rate of adoption for new technologies has taken decades. (b) Now, new products to the market reach more than a 50 percent adoption rate in just a few years. (credit a and b: modification of work by Our World in Data, CC BY 4.0)

Computers today typically double their capabilities in less than two years. With this in mind, we can expect computing capabilities to continue to increase at a similar rate. The rate of change is increasing exponentially because companies are building on existing technologies. Researchers can take what has worked well to rapidly refine and enhance technologies for innovations and improvements. Additionally, resources from across the world—both financial resources and human capital—are being pumped into supporting these technological advances. To put the popularity of computer technology into perspective, consider how long it takes to get fifty million users for a product. Radio took thirty-eight years after its invention to become that popular, while the hit game Angry Birds needed only about thirty-eight days to reach that milestone. Figure 1.16 shows some common products and how long each of them took to reach the same milestone.

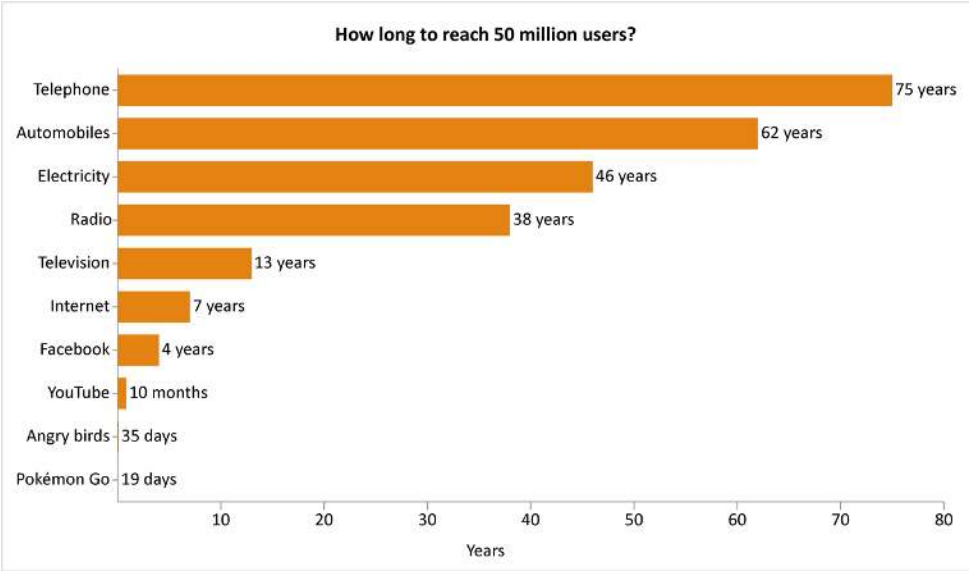


Figure 1.16: Products are being adopted at a faster rate than ever before. The advent of social media has exponentially increased the spread of some of these later innovations. (data source: Interactive Schools, https://blog.interactiveschools.com/...this-milestone)

AR/VR Simulations

Using digital objects in a real-life picture or scene is called augmented reality (AR). For example, think about the overlays or filters you can put on photos in some social media apps. A mostly simulated, 3-D environment in which the user can move about visually and interact is called virtual reality (VR). Both technologies have applications in many industries. For example, if you want to try a new style of glasses, you could use AR to see what those glasses might look like on your face. You might use a VR simulation to offer your insight on a yet-to-be-developed product concept. Other applications could be in manufacturing, real estate, medicine, and education.

One recent example of the use of VR was seen when the NBA had to cancel games because of the COVID pandemic. To keep fans engaged, the league offered VR passes that enabled ticket holders to attend past games in a VR environment and nearly be courtside for the action. The only equipment they needed was the app and a VR headset. (VR headsets are widely available for purchase, typically for under $200.) This was a unique use of the technology to keep the audience's attention during a difficult time.

Robotics and Automation

Robotics should be distinguished from automation, which refers to using computers or machines to do tasks that could be completed by a person. Automation can be quite technical, using computerized technology, or it can be a mechanical process using machines. For example, processing retail transactions, which was once handled by people using pen and paper, is now well automated through the use of a computer.

On the other hand, robotics is centered on robotic machines, which are now used in nearly every industry. These machines can automate some tasks that were previously performed by humans, but they can also be programmed to perform tasks that no human could perform. Consider some medical procedures that can now be carried out using robotic machines but that simply were not possible in the past, such as certain procedures on the brain. The use of robots in the workplace can reduce errors, increase safety, enhance productivity, and reduce time spent on routine tasks for employees.

Robotics has been a part of the manufacturing environment for some time. But today we see increasingly unique applications of robotics in the workplace. For example, the University of California is testing a robotic pharmacist, which will perform many of the functions of a traditional pharmacist, such as choosing the correct prescription and dosage. Robots are also being used to keep areas clean and sanitized; in some cases, robots can be used to clean up spills that might otherwise be hazardous to humans. Giant Food Stores is piloting a program that uses robot assistants throughout the store to monitor for spills and potential hazards in the aisle. Drones (a kind of robot) are used in some military applications, and the use of drones is being tested for package delivery. Finally,

robots can be used to find and rescue victims in disaster situations where it might be too dangerous to send in typical emergency personnel.

Nanotechnology

Another advancement in technology is nanotechnology, which entails changing individual molecules to produce different properties or attributes. It can be applied to a wide variety of fields, including engineering and chemistry, as well as to medicine and consumer products. The U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative was launched in 2000 to manage research and development in the field, and the first academic program centered on nanotechnology emerged by 2004. At that time, the technology was being heavily tested with consumer products. Nanotechnology has been used to make golf balls go straighter, make car bumpers more dent resistant, and give cosmetics and lotions deep skin-penetrating properties. With nanotechnology, drug delivery to patients can be better targeted and controlled. Filters made using nanotechnology have been used to filter drinking water sources in countries such as India. In agriculture, nanotechnology has improved yields with the use of soil analysis and targeted fertilizer applications. Nanotechnology can also be used to better combat air and water pollution through increased filtration efforts. Research into nanotechnology possibilities continues to expand.

Wearables

A wearable is a device that uses computing technology to collect and receive data via the internet. You may already be using a wearable technology device—for example, a smartwatch. Using similar technology to a smartwatch, Motiv has developed a ring that can track fitness goals and sleep cycles. As Figure 1.17 shows, you would never know it was a smart ring from its outward appearance. Other wearables include heart rate monitors and a medical alert device. These devices can be worn, incorporated into apparel, or even embedded into the skin. The military is even considering using embedded wearables to keep track of troops. Some cutting-edge wearables are centered in the medical industry; for example, a wearable has been developed that can detect early signs of breast cancer.



Figure 1.17: The fitness tracking ring is a new take on the fitness tracker. It can track activity and sleep cycles and send the information to your smartphone. (credit: “Left hand with Oura smart ring on finger, right hand shows phone with the Oura app´s energy and activity statistics” by Marco Verch/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Some professional athletes use wearables to improve performance and track incidences of concussions. Wearables for children are becoming more popular for location tracking. The possibilities are endless. It is estimated that there are nearly a billion wearable devices active globally, over 50 percent of which are smartwatches. And about a quarter of wearable users wear the device while sleeping. Revenues in the industry are nearly $10 billion in the United States. Wearables are now also being used for ticketing purposes at concerts and amusement parks.

Link to Learning

You may have a smartwatch or use a fitness tracker when working out. These are commonplace wearables in today’s society. But where is the industry headed? Wearables have been identified as an area of growth in the economy. Many tech companies are focusing on innovative ways to incorporate internet-connected devices in different settings, as illustrated in this article on the wearable tech of the future in *Time*. You may be surprised to discover just how futuristic they are becoming.

Smart Spaces

An internet-connected space—office, home, car, or building that incorporates technologies that can be controlled from the internet—is called a smart space. In homes, we see products centered on convenience, security, and comfort. The goal is to improve your life without interfering and creating a nuisance. For example, you can have a thermostat that enables you to control the temperature in your home from your phone, even when you are not at home. You can have a device that switches on the lights or the TV when you verbally ask it to do so, or home security lights that come on for your safety as you approach the front door. With products such as Google Home Smart, shown in Figure 1.18—a virtual assistant that is connected to the internet—all members of the family can control many devices. If you have your devices synced to one another, you can even have Google Home tell you your calendar appointments for the day or set reminders and alarms.



Figure 1.18: Devices such as Google Home Smart are creating "smart" spaces that are able to be managed from remote locations, such as the workplace. (credit: “Home Automation22” by mikemacmarketing/Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 2.0)

Similar technologies can be employed in the workplace. Smart offices/buildings can be equipped with many of the same technologies—a good strategy for managing utility costs and adding convenience for employees. Smart offices can make employees more productive by giving them more time to focus on creative and strategic tasks as opposed to more routine and mundane responsibilities such as sending invoices or even turning on the office lights. Job satisfaction can be increased by giving employees more control over their workspaces.

A unique application of the technology is its use in schools, which is being piloted in Texas with a partnership between two private companies and Microsoft. They are equipping schools with a variety of connected devices centered on security and communication in an emergency. These devices can communicate internally during an emergency, such as a fire, and can also communicate externally with first responders and police.

There are some challenges in the smart space industry. Many concerns arise about the invasive nature of some of the connected devices, including concerns about recording personal information, governmental monitoring of the information, and the usage/security of the data collected. Another challenge is educating consumers on how to use the equipment and its capabilities. Finally, the price point is high for some of these devices because many are still rather new to the market.

AI and Machine Learning

Using computers, robots, and machines to mimic the human brain is called artificial intelligence (AI). From problem solving to perception to learning, the goal is to reduce errors and minimize human biases and emotions in the process. In machine learning, a subset of AI, an AI device learns on its own, gathering data and using that data to continuously refine and “learn” about the system and its usage. Speech and image recognition are two examples of AI. Another example is a robot vacuum cleaner, where the AI system uses a computer and the data it collects to know where to clean in the home. Figure 1.19 shows the popular Roomba vacuum. Still another example is seen when websites show recommended products for you based on your prior searches. The device learns your likes and dislikes based on your clicks and other related data.



Figure 1.19: AI in the home can take over inconvenient or repetitive tasks such as cleaning. (credit: “iRobot Roomba 870” by Kārlis Dambrāns/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

In a more large-scale use of AI, for quite some time airlines have made use of autopilot features, including robotics, image recognition, and GPS, to fly and navigate an aircraft. In the retail industry, the use of AI is expected to grow about 30 percent by 2028, a strong increase, to include applications centered on personalizing the customer experience as well as managing distribution and inventories. Today, AI technology has evolved to create stories in the style of famous writers or even write detailed research papers when prompted.

Workplace and Career Implications

Technology in the workplace has made processes faster and more reliable, increased collaboration, made it possible to work from anywhere, and, overall, changed the typical office culture. The adoption of new technologies in the workplace has some distinct career implications for individuals, while organizations need to figure out the best mix of humans and technology to allow the business to thrive.

The idea that technology eliminates jobs is a myth: Technology introduced into the workplace is intended to help employees do their jobs better, not to replace jobs. But this does mean that employees may need to shift from more traditional tasks to tasks that are more technology-driven. For example, an employee in the human resources field may have spent hours sifting through résumés for contact information to schedule interviews. With technology, this process can be automated, freeing up time for the employee to focus on more meaningful tasks such as interviewing candidates and decision making. In a manufacturing environment, technology can enable employees to focus on process improvements and problem solving rather than working with repetitive tasks on a production line.

These changes affect our future educational and training needs. Some jobs that require a lower skill base have been replaced with technology. Additional training may be necessary in areas such as troubleshooting technology in the workplace. The shift for employees today is toward capitalizing on brain power, reserving human capital for the complex, multifaceted tasks that technological advances cannot tackle. Therefore, training and education in critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and teamwork skills are a necessity. These skills are of value at all levels within an organization. Jobs in the technological fields are expected to grow; however, an emphasis will be placed on the essential skills of communication, fostering cross-functional collaborations, and creative problem solving that cannot be replicated by technology.

Real-World Application: Changing Careers

Facing a career change (whether voluntary or not) can be a scary proposition, especially if you have been in your current position for some time. With changes in technology, many people will face decisions regarding their career direction, either needing to change focus within their current industry or, in some cases, pivoting to an entirely different industry. Here are some tips to consider when you are facing a career change:

- Identify areas where you can further develop your technological skills.
- Use your network to find out about job opportunities.
- Take a certification course for a particular computer program or a class on enhancing your public speaking skills.
- Reach out to your network, either social media or sites such as LinkedIn, to make people aware that you are interested in a new opportunity.

> It is important to take the time to find the right opportunity and then to take small steps to get where you want to be. Think about your long-term goal. Do your research by interviewing those in the industry you want to be in or utilize a job coach/mentor to assist in your journey. Would you consider a career change? Why or why not? If so, what strategies will you use to make the transition easier?

Importance of Lifelong Learning

To protect your job security in the workplace of the future, you will want to demonstrate to your employer that you are committed to lifelong learning. With the rapid acceleration of technological change, some employers today are actively seeking employees with a lifelong learning mind-set. Lifelong learning requires continuous self-improvement and education—the motivation to be a continual student. It often occurs outside a traditional educational system and includes both informal channels and formal ones such as corporate training programs. Employee development is a core part of many human resources departments within organizations. Mandatory training or education may be required for your position, or voluntary opportunities may be offered to employees. Taking the initiative to learn and adopt new workplace technologies can be both professionally and personally fulfilling.

There are some strategies you can use to help further a lifelong learning mind-set. First, understand your personal interests and set some goals that align with them. Lifelong learning does not always have to incorporate building skills or knowledge applicable to the workplace. It might be centered on something you enjoy in your personal life. For example, suppose you really enjoy genealogy and local history. Perhaps you decide you want to learn more about the history of your hometown. For local history, you might visit the local historical society or find internet resources about the history of your hometown. Then, you can determine how you might incorporate this desire for learning into your life. Will you do something related to your personal learning goals once a week? Will you share your new knowledge with coworkers, friends, or family? Or maybe you can find a way to utilize the new information in the workplace or the community.

There are many ways to incorporate a lifelong learning mind-set into your life. Regardless of your approach, the lifelong learning mind-set can be advantageous from both a personal and a professional standpoint.

This page titled 1.1: Computing from Inception to Today is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.2: Computer Hardware and Networks

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the components that make up a computer
- Describe how computers process and store data
- Discuss what networks are and how they function
- Understand how to maintain and clean computer components

You do not need to know how to build a computer from scratch to effectively use a mobile device or other computing technology. However, a basic understanding of how computers operate can help you troubleshoot problems, and with some knowledge of computer terminology, you will be a more informed consumer when you are making technology purchases. Although there are technological and programming differences between computers, tablets, gaming consoles, and mobile devices, all are built around the same basic technology. This technology has evolved through innovations in the field to offer users enhanced features, reduced costs, and increased operating speeds.

This section will cover some basic aspects of computing. These concepts will give you a broader understanding of the technology you are using beyond simply operating the computer or tablet for personal or work tasks.

What Is a Computer?

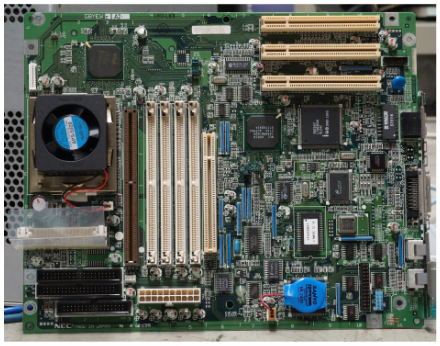
Although today's computers look and behave differently from early efforts, they include the same core features. A computer is simply a programmable machine that can execute predefined lists of instructions and respond to new instructions. A very large computers called a mainframe is capable of great processing speed and data storage. Mainframe computers today typically function as servers. Servers are powerful computers that act as a central hub of the technology needs for the organization. Servers support data storage, sharing of computer programs, and hosting websites. Another name for a computer program (language) or set of programs with the end goal of converting data into processes and actions is software. Software, such as Microsoft Word, allows the user to interface with the computer. Accessories such as a keyboard, mouse, printer, and monitor are called hardware. These input and output devices allow us to communicate with the computer and to extract information from it.

There are many different types of computer systems, including workstations, microcomputers, and supercomputers. A workstation is a powerful single-user computer that is similar to a personal computer but more powerful. They are typically used to manage business operations such as invoicing customers, managing online sales, or ordering inventory for the company. A minicomputer is similar in power to mainframe computers but, as the name implies, is much smaller in size and can be used in midsize organizations that need more power than what a typical personal computer might provide. A supercomputer is extremely powerful and has the fastest processor available. These computers can be used to process highly complex scientific data at fast speeds.

Computers are hard to get away from—they're in all kinds of everyday devices. Appliances, cars, watches, and even the heating and cooling systems in our homes incorporate computer technology that enables us to send and receive information from these devices. Today's smartphones are essentially minicomputers.

How Computers Work

Most computers consist of a few basic elements. The motherboard is the hardware that runs communications for the computer system (Figure 1.20a). It sits within the system unit, which is the container that houses most of the computer's electronic components. The central processing unit (CPU) contains a single chip called a microprocessor (the "brains" of a computer system). A microprocessor (Figure 1.20b) consists of a control and what is known as an arithmetic-logic unit, which performs math and logical operations within the computer system.



(a)



(b)

Figure 1.20: Two essential components of a computer's inner workings are (a) the motherboard and (b) the CPU's microprocessor. (credit a: modification of "Green Motherboard" by Pixabay/Pexels, CC0; credit b: modification of "Intel Core 2 Duo E6750" by Nao Iizuka/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Personal Computers and Devices

Numerous types of computers and devices are available for business or personal use today. A personal computer (PC) is a microcomputer that is suitable for individual use, including a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone, and wearable device such as a smartwatch. Desktop computers are personal workstations that you set up at a fixed location, such as a desk. They are typically equipped with a tower (where components such as the motherboard are housed), a monitor, and other peripheral accessories, such as a keyboard, mouse, and printer. Laptops are portable and lightweight—small enough to fit into most briefcases. The computer and monitor are combined, and peripheral accessories are optional. Tablets, such as the Kindle, are smaller than laptops and have less functionality but are still very powerful, with many features that support everyday personal use. They are even more portable than laptops, and their touch screens, which don't require a mouse, are their distinguishing feature.

Operating Systems

As stated earlier, a computer's operating system is software that is essential to all functionality and use of the computer. It controls the computer's activities, from memory to processes, and ensures that hardware and software components can "speak" to each other. It provides the interface necessary for humans to communicate with the computer and all its components. Here is where the big players enter the computing scene: Microsoft Windows, Apple macOS, and Google's Android OS, to name a few. You will typically interact with Windows and Apple macOS on a laptop or tablet. The programs that we discuss in this text, such as Google Sheets and Microsoft Word, use their respective operating system. The Android and iOS operating systems are used for mobile devices. You are likely to see these operating systems in use daily, both in the workplace and in your personal life.

Information Processing, Storage, and Memory

Businesses take great care in procuring computers that can handle the work that needs to get done. Before selecting computers, they'll investigate some basic functions that have to do with how fast the devices process information and how well they store data. The information processing cycle is the sequence of events involved in processing information—input, processing, storage, and output:

- Input consists of entering the data and information into the computer system.
- Processing involves a series of operations performed by the computer to organize, interpret, or otherwise make use of the information input into the computer.
- Output entails viewing this processed information in a way that makes sense to the user, either through the monitor or as a printout.
- Finally, storage is the process of saving information into the computer for future use.

There are two types of storage, primary storage and secondary storage. Primary storage refers to temporary files that are available only when the computer is on. Primary storage is also known as short-term memory, or random access memory (RAM). This type of memory is not meant to save information for future use but allows the computer to operate and process information quickly as it is being used. Secondary storage is considered permanent storage on a computer system or removable device, such as the old floppy disks. You may also be familiar with another type of memory—cache. The computer's cache holds data that can be retrieved

quickly, often including downloads from websites or other information that can be used to load websites faster. The cache operates in the background to help the computer operate more quickly.

A hard disk is considered secondary storage where users can save files and retrieve data and programs. There are two types of hard disks, internal and external. An internal disk drive is housed within the computer unit, and users update and produce copies of all files they need. Figure 1.21 shows a few types of external disk drive. These are portable, allowing the user to save information outside of the computer unit for use elsewhere.

Before an operating system loads and is ready to use, the computer needs hardwired instructions, called read-only memory (ROM). Businesses should be sure to procure computers with sufficient RAM and to make sure that data storage solutions are in place to handle their needs. The amount of RAM impacts the speed at which programs run. Computers with less RAM are slower and can hinder work productivity in the workplace. Often businesses will begin with less RAM and eventually upgrade to higher levels as their business and needs expand.



Figure 1.21: Different types of storage devices used over the years include (a) floppy disks, which are no longer used, (b) CD-ROM disks, and (c) flash drives. (credit a: modification of “Floppy Disk Data” by OpenClipart-Vectors/Pixabay, CC0; credit b: modification of “Dvd Cd-Rom Compact Disk” by OpenClipart-Vectors/Pixabay, CC0; credit c: modification of “Usb Disk Disc” by Clker-Free-Vector-Images/Pixabay, CC0)

Networks

Talk about networks is common in the workplace. You will hear that the network “has gone down” or “is running slow.” What does this mean? What is a network, anyway? A network is a connection of two or more computer systems, as well as devices, by either a cable or a wireless connection. Networks may be simple or complex, self-contained within a small area like your home or dispersed over a large geographic area.

These different types of networks are called personal area networks (PANs), local area networks (LANs), and wide area networks (WANs). Personal area networks typically connect personal computers and devices within a small area. Local area networks (LANs) are primarily used by colleges and universities as a way of linking computers and sharing printers and other resources. Wide area networks (WANs) allow access to regional service providers and span distances greater than 100 miles. The internet is a wide area network.

Network Hardware

In order to function properly, networks depend on a router. These devices perform two functions: they direct the data traffic, so to speak, from one network to another, and they allow multiple computers to use the same internet connection. Routers can vary in shape and size and also by performance. Switches coordinate direct flow of data between components. Gateways are devices that allow one local area network to be linked to other LANs or larger networks. The purpose of a hub is to send a received message to all connected devices rather than just the intended ones.

Network Servers

A client is a device that requests and uses resources available from other devices on the same network. For example, if you use a computer at your local library or a computer located on your campus, you are using a client device. In the workplace, the computers that employees have at their workstations are often connected through the network and are clients to that network. A

server connects devices and allows for resource sharing across the network. Servers may have different functions. Examples are application servers, communication servers, database servers, file servers, print servers, and web servers.

Network adapter cards connect computers and devices to a network, enabling the sharing of hardware, software, and data across the network. The network adapter card connects the system unit to the network via a network cable. These cards used to be purchased separately in the early days of personal computers, but most computers today come with integrated cards embedded in their motherboard. The devices sending and receiving data are identified by transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP), which organizes the information into small packets for transmission through the network and across the internet. One of the most widely used internet protocols, used for web traffic, is hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP). HTTPS is a more secure protocol than HTTP, for users and website owners alike, because users' information is protected with a "pass" safety inspector embedded within the protocol. Before exchanging confidential information, such as credit card information, online, users should always verify if the website begins with https. And even with this safer and more secure connection, you should always be cautious when sharing information.

Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) is a secure version of file transfer protocol; it provides a secure connection for transferring files. User datagram protocol (UDP) is a communication protocol that works across the internet for time-sensitive transmissions such as video playback. Its main goal is to speed up communication by establishing connection before data is transferred. Another security protocol that uses encryption to help ensure privacy of information and communications across the internet is secure sockets layer (SSL). Cybersecurity is a major concern of computer users, both personally and professionally. As encryption technology has progressed, there have been several iterations of SSL protocols. Today, the encryption is referred to as TLS (transport layer security), but the intent is the same—providing protection of data that is shared via the internet.

Spotlight on Ethics: Secure Information Transfers

One of the most common types of cybercrimes is identity theft, which occurs when a hacker steals an individual's identity for economic gain. The increase of hackers, individuals who gain unauthorized access to computer systems in an attempt to steal someone's information, has become a major issue and has led to the development of such software programs as Norton Antivirus and LifeLock to protect consumers' identities.

Another major safety concern when using computers is the existence of malware and viruses—software that can damage or slow down a computer system by opening an insecure portal into your computer. Malware can also damage files and allow hackers access to files and information stored on your computer. Depending on how these programs are written, they may only damage the computer that initiated the virus/malware, or the malware may flow throughout networks by attaching itself to other files that are exchanged across the network.

Users should be very careful when opening files sent to them in email or when clicking links to unfamiliar websites. Phishing scams are very common. These are attempts by hackers to gain access to your personal information, such as the credentials you may use to access financial and other sensitive accounts. Phishing most often occurs through email that appears to come from a reputable source, or via social media. It is always best to avoid logging into accounts through links sent in email, clicking on links that are not secure or recognizable, or opening files unless you know who the sender is and what is being sent.

This page titled 1.2: Computer Hardware and Networks is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.3: The Internet, Cloud Computing, and the Internet of Things

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain how the internet has evolved and how it functions in today's world
- Describe how to conduct an effective internet search
- Conduct business research on the internet
- Explain the use of cloud computing for business
- Define the Internet of Things

The internet has dramatically transformed how we access and manage information, both at home and in the business world. For many people, it's almost impossible to go about your day without needing access to the internet. It's in your home—from smart doorbells to TVs, thermostats, and personal assistants. It's on your wrist, in your car, and, of course, on your phone. It's big business and it is integral to just about every business out there.

Established businesses have taken advantage of the ability to reach new customers by selling their products online, while would-be entrepreneurs use the internet to open online storefronts. The internet also enables us to conduct both personal and professional transactions more efficiently—from accessing important health-care documents to filing our tax returns, transferring money between bank accounts, and making payments to individuals online. Many of us practically run our lives through our phones.

Link to Learning

Read this article on the invention of the internet to learn more. When was the internet first developed and for what purpose? How did it evolve into the internet we use today?

The Internet: From Inception to Today

The internet as we know it today originated in the 1960s with the idea of using a traditional telephone switching circuit to wirelessly connect computers in a network. The telephone system would allow these computers to communicate with one another, exchange data, and run shared programs. Researchers and engineers from both the public and the private sector came together to form the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) to investigate ways the U.S. military could improve communications, with the goal of protecting the country from unexpected enemy attacks.

In 1969, a new digital packet switching technology was introduced to enable two computers to communicate with each other, replacing the telephone circuit technology. Packet switching happens when computers break down data or information into smaller groups (packets) and transmit several of those packets over the network. When the packets reach the destination computer, they are put back together in their original form. The communication occurred through the traditional phone line system but was transformed into digital data during transmission. The packet technology did not require a dedicated telephone line to network the computers together. This was the origin of the ARPA Network, or ARPANET, and is the same technology used today for the internet. The networked computers were also able to send simple messages to one another, setting the stage for email as we know it today. Figure 1.22 shows an early iteration of the ARPA network.

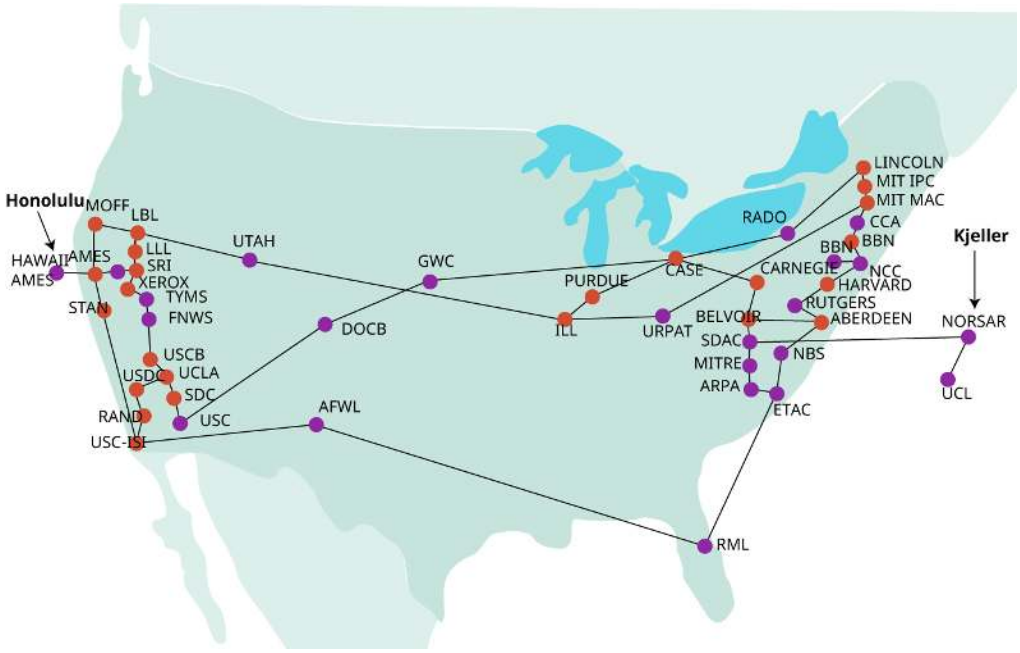


Figure 1.22: In the 1970s, ARPA's network consisted of a series of nodes (connectors) and lines that stretched across the continental United States. (credit: modification of "Arpanet 1974" by Yngvar/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

In less than five years, the network expanded to include thirty different organizations and institutions across the world, and by 1975, ARPA determined that it needed to establish standards for consistency. These rules helped ensure that the interconnected network, or internet, was secure and efficient. The transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP) was established to standardize the computer language used between the computers in the network. With these rules, a unique internet protocol address (IP address) allowed users to determine the geographic location of any computer on the network. The IP address was also used to direct the transmitted information to the appropriate destination. Because the IP address is a series of numbers and decimal points that can be hard to remember, the domain name system (DNS) was developed in 1983 to convert IP addresses into simple names. The DNS thus became the phone book for the internet, enabling users to send a message using their name, the symbol @, and the location of the computer as identified by its domain name. With the DNS, the foundation of the World Wide Web (WWW) was put into place. The term *internet* simply refers to the interconnected computers, a network that now extends across the world. The WWW is the content that has been collected over the internet and is available online. By 1981, the network had grown to over 200 hosts. The first domain name was registered in 1985 to a computer manufacturer.

By the mid-1980s, scientists and researchers across the world were working on computer networking technology. With the success of the ARPANET, the ARPA group was charged with working on other, more cutting-edge projects. The ARPANET-connected organizations were predominantly government entities or educational research centers; the system was not available for commercial or personal use. Consequently, the project was moved to the U.S. Department of Defense, where the network continued to expand through various branches, including NASA and the National Science Foundation (NSF). In 1985, the NSF created the structure for a supercomputing center to connect colleges and universities, research centers, and regional networks. By the end of the 1980s, this network had grown to over 30,000 hosts. As a result, ARPANET was decommissioned in 1990.

In 1989, the first dial-up internet service provider (ISP) was established, allowing commercial access to the internet. The term *dial-up internet* emerged to describe how users would use existing telephone technology to "dial up" internet access through a specific provider. Because the internet was established primarily for military use, access to the technology was highly restricted, limited to specific uses such as research. By 1992, Congress had allowed the NSF to grant some access to the network for uses beyond education and research. Then, in 1995, all restrictions on noncommercial uses of the internet were lifted.

In these early days, a good deal of computer knowledge was needed in order to use the network, so the internet was not yet part of mainstream life. But that was about to change. In 1990, hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), hypertext markup language (HTML), and the uniform resource locator (URL) were developed to give the average person access to the web of information. This really was the birth of the World Wide Web. HTML provides the structure on which web pages are based; it is a series of commands that

describe attributes such as the font size and background colors of the displayed page. The uniform resource locator (URL) is an address—similar to a postal address—that directs the user to a unique location or page on the World Wide Web. These two developments, along with the milestones shown in Figure 1.23 made the web less technically complex and easier for the average person to navigate.

People soon began to see the ease with which web pages could be created. In 1993, the first user-friendly web browser, Mosaic, came on the scene. A web browser provides the interface that you can use to search for the information stored on the WWW. Marc Andreessen, a student at the University of Illinois, developed it. One key feature of Mosaic was the ability to include images as well as text on a web page. Other features included buttons to select for navigating the page, the ability to include video clips, and hyperlinks. A hyperlink is a link that can take the user from one web page to another just by clicking the highlighted link. Initially available as a free download, Mosaic quickly caught on and evolved as more users came on board. Prior to Mosaic, fewer than 200 web pages were available, but in just a few short years by the late 1990s, that number grew to more than 100,000. After graduating, Andreessen formed Netscape Communications and would eventually launch Netscape Navigator, which would grow to over 10 million users globally in just two years. Microsoft was quick to respond with its browser, Internet Explorer, which was bundled with the Windows operating system.

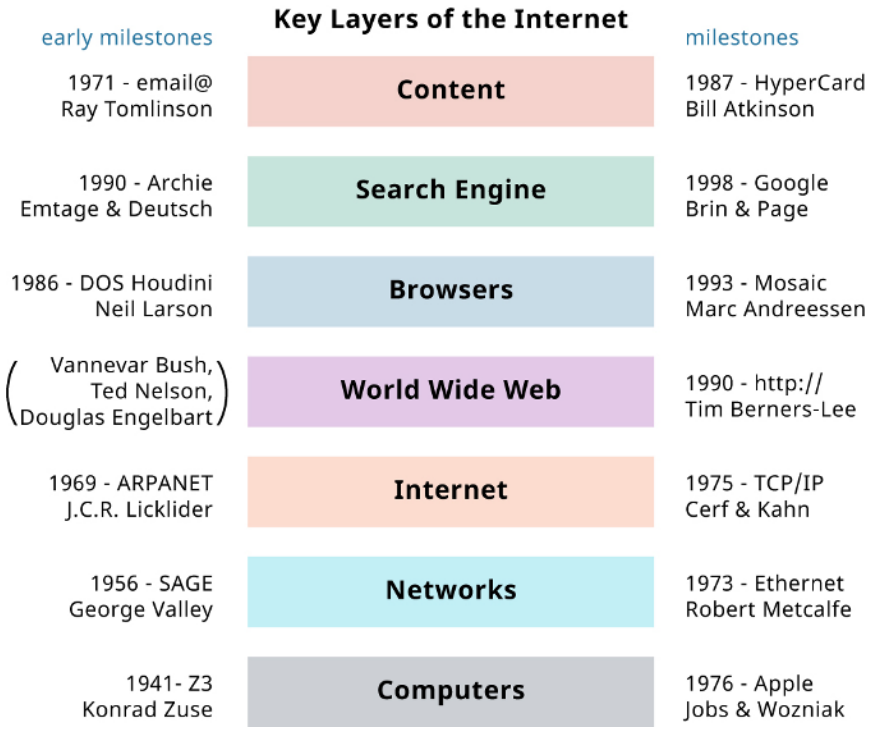


Figure 1.23: Major milestones in the creation of the internet came in layers.

Link to Learning

HTML is used to create web pages. The information is contained behind the scenes and is used to format text and the layout of the page. Read this article about HTML and the process used to learn more. Watch this video on how HTML is used to build websites to learn more.

By 1998, some big tech names established themselves as internet-based businesses—Hotmail, Amazon, Google, eBay, and Yahoo!, to name a few. The rise of the internet led to what became known as the dot-com bubble, a period when investors poured money into many internet-based ventures that promised high returns. Of course, many of these ventures failed, and their investors lost a good deal of capital. But, despite this, new ideas continued to emerge, and the internet continued to grow. Here are a few internet ventures that came out of the dot-com bubble and are still around today:

- Wikipedia—2001
- Facebook—2004

- YouTube—2005
- Twitter (now X)—2006
- Hulu—2007

Spotlight on Ethics: Inequities in Internet Access

Having access to the internet is almost essential to fully participate in society today. In some instances, without the internet, even routine tasks can seem impossible. For example, some companies can be contacted only via the internet, so you may need internet access to even apply for a job. Because of the global nature of the internet, it might be assumed that everyone has access in some way. But even in the United States, there are large disparities in access to reliable internet connections. In today's electronic world, this is furthering the gap between economic, racial, and ethnic groups; age groups; and socioeconomic groups. It is estimated that on average, nearly 15 percent of households in the United States with school-age children lack access to the internet. But in rural or low-income areas, this percentage could be much higher.

Governments are introducing initiatives to make the internet more accessible to all, often through partnerships with technology firms. For example, in a partnership with Google, the city of Austin, Texas, has been able to provide free internet services for nearly 2,000 lower-income residents. As early as 2006, India established internet access in its rural communities through the use of kiosks. These are just a couple of examples of the efforts worldwide to make the internet more accessible for all.

Using the Internet

Using the internet today is much simpler than it was even as recently as five years ago. It simply entails going to the web browser of our choice and clicking the mouse to launch it. Common browsers in use today include Google Chrome, Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge, and Firefox. The browser, once opened, will take you to where you want to go online. You can go directly to a web page by typing its URL in the navigation bar at the top of the browser. However, many browsers have a default search engine that will automatically launch when you open the browser and will allow you to search the internet for content you want to locate or research. Chrome, for example, will automatically navigate to the Google search engine when you open the Chrome program. Most browsers include a bookmark feature, and it may be helpful to bookmark/favorite pages that you visit frequently or want to remember for quick access later. With Chrome, you will see a star on the right-hand side of the URL to select to bookmark/favorite the page. Figure 1.24 shows these buttons.

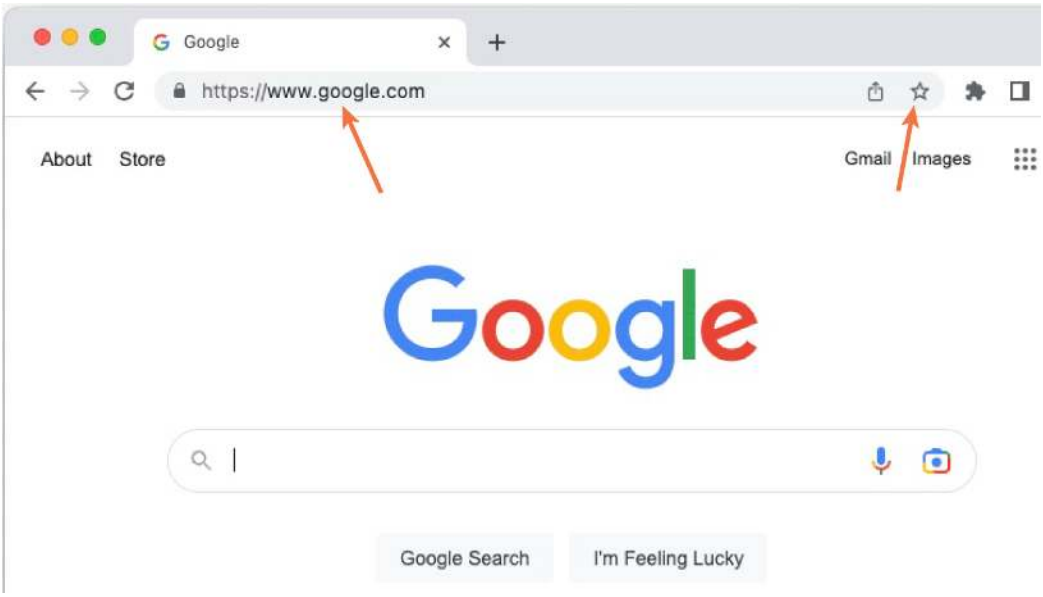


Figure 1.24: To use a browser, type the website URL address into the navigation bar. Here, we've typed www.google.com to get to Google's famous search page. You can also bookmark/favorite websites that you frequent for quick access by selecting the star button. (Google Search is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Conducting Effective Searches

Conducting searches on the internet is straightforward, but there are some techniques that will make your searches more effective. Because of the vast amount of information available on the internet, incorporating some simple changes to your search strategies can make a huge difference. You might, for example, want to narrow the number of results that you get from a search to those that are most relevant. When you begin to type in a search term, most engines will display a list of suggested searches. This list of suggestions will give you similar, related searches using the terms that you have begun to type into the search bar. This is often helpful as you try to narrow your search to obtain the desired results, as Figure 1.25 shows.

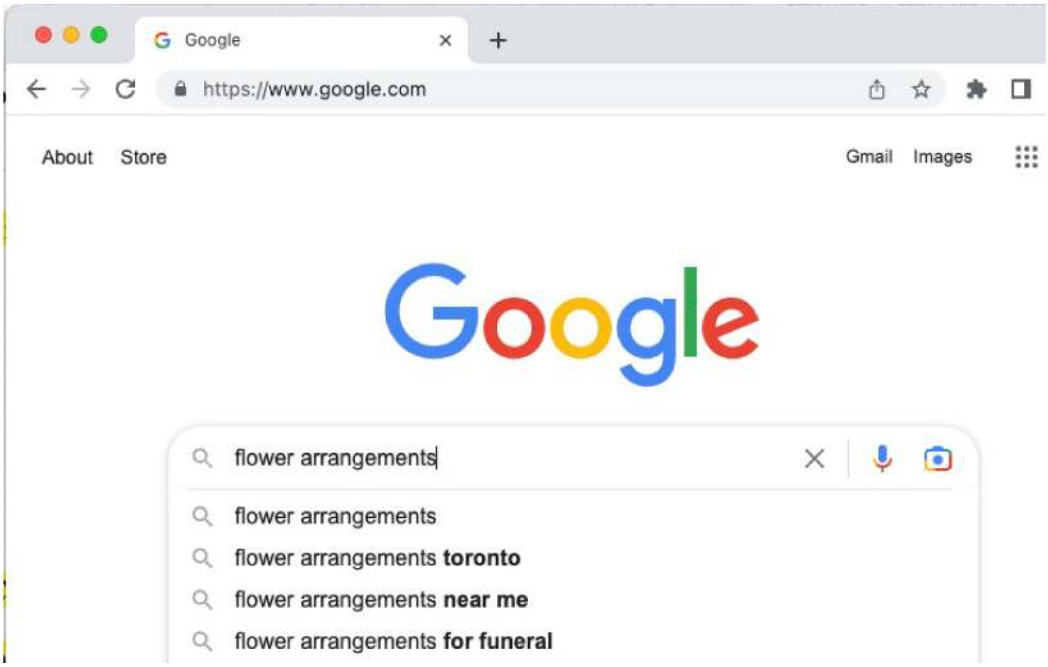


Figure 1.25: When you begin typing into a search engine, not just Google's, most will offer suggested searches based on what you typed, as you can see in the list under the "flower arrangements" entry. (Google Search is a trademark of Google LLC.)

As you conduct your search, it is often helpful to keep a list of search terms that you have successfully used. It is easy to forget that you have already used a particular phrase or word, so a simple list will make it easier to avoid replicating something you have already searched.

For example, suppose your boss at WorldCorp has asked you to search for a local nonprofit organization centered on children to support this year during the holidays. You might choose to search using the word or phrase *children*, *kids*, *not for profit*, *nonprofit*, or *children in need*, as just a few examples.

Search engines also offer the capability to search with an image or with voice instead of text. Once you have entered a search term or phrase, you have some additional options. For example, you can restrict the search to a certain date range or a certain location, or you can change the search to focus only on shopping related to your search term. See Figure 1.26. Keep in mind that once you reach a website, you will often find a search bar within the website itself. This will enable you to search within that specific website instead of conducting a search of the entire internet. A little trick for searching on a page is to use the control (Ctrl) key and the F key at the same time (Ctrl+F). When you press these two keys at the same time, a search window will appear that allows you to search on that specific web page.

Mac Tip

To search within a web page on a Mac, type Command+F.

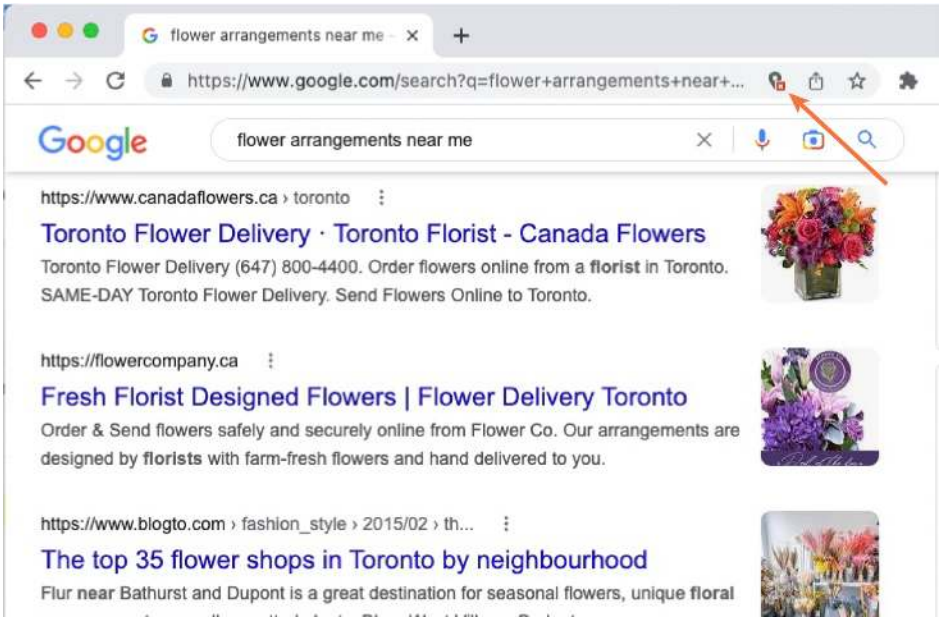


Figure 1.26: Using the advanced search features, you can restrict your search to a location or date range. You can also search using voice or search with an image. (Google Search is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To conduct an internet search, it is best to use specific and unique terms whenever possible. For example, when searching for contact information for a nonprofit organization in your hometown, rather than simply using the term “food bank,” you should use the actual name of the food bank you are searching. Or, if you are unsure of the name of the organization, you might limit the search by combining “food bank” with the name of your town or city. You can add a phrase as well. Being more specific in your searches will lead to more refined results.

In defining your search, avoid using common words such as “a” and “the,” as well as punctuation marks. Also note that most search engines are not case sensitive, so proper capitalization is unimportant. Finally, to get the most results, it may be helpful to focus on the base or root word. For example, instead of searching on “running gear for women,” you might get more results by using “run gear women,” leaving the search open to words such as “runner” in addition to “running.”

Your internet searches can be further refined by adding “+” or “–” in front of a word to either add to the search term or exclude something from the term. If, for example, you are searching for theaters but do not want movie theaters, you can type “theater–movie” to get search results that do *not* include movie theaters. This same approach can be used with “+” to add more terms to your searches. (Note: Some search engines may use NOT or AND instead of the mathematical sign.)

To search for an exact phrase or string of words, enclose the phrase in quotation marks. For example, if you are looking for information about historic theaters, you can search by typing “historic theaters” and then perhaps add a location (city or state) at the end, also in quotation marks, so your search would be “historic theaters” “Atlanta.”

Use the tilde (~) to search for synonyms for the word you type. For example, searching “~coat” might return search results including jackets and sweatshirts. The asterisk (*) can be used to search partial words. This can be very helpful if you want to search for a specific person or location but are not sure of the correct spelling or the complete term. If you are researching nonprofit organizations and want to capture information that might just say “nonprofits” instead of the complete phrase, you can search using “nonprofit*.” Finally, the “|” or OR operator can search on two terms at the same time, giving you results for either of the two terms. Searching “black shoes for sale” | “brown shoes for sale” will return results that satisfy both search phrases. These operators can be combined in various ways to make your searches much more directed. Be careful not to be too restrictive, however, as you might filter out some relevant results. Table 1.1 summarizes the key internet search operators.

Table 1.1: Internet Search Operators Using these operators can make your search more effective.

Operator	Description
+ , AND	Include a word in the search
–, NOT	Exclude a word from the search
“ ”	Search for the exact words contained between the quotation marks
*	Search partial words
~	Search for synonyms
|, OR	Search two words at the same time

Conducting Business Research

Conducting business research via the internet enables you to access information quickly at little or no cost. The internet gives you access to a large body of data from a variety of sources across the world. There are both free and fee-based services available on the internet to gather data. In addition, you can access many academic, peer-reviewed research using specialized databases. The first step is to narrow your search by determining what information you need and making a list of the data needed. As you work through your search, be sure to record relevant search terms, the website URL, and other pertinent information for you to access later if needed. A good strategy might be to keep a notepad by the computer or keep an electronic record in Microsoft Word or Google Docs.

Some common sources of information for business research can be readily accessed:

- Google Scholar is a search engine for peer-reviewed academic research. Here, you will find journal articles (often full-text .pdf files) for nearly all disciplines. This source can be handy if you are looking for targeted information based on a specific academic discipline.
- Microsoft has a similar search engine called Microsoft Academic.
- Science.gov is a website that provides access to data from nearly twenty U.S. federal agencies.
- Census.gov is an excellent source of demographic information.
- If you are searching for financial information for companies, Yahoo! Finance or Google Finance is a great place to start.
- More detailed information about specific industries and sectors is available at CSImarket.com.

When conducting research on the internet, there always will be some question of the credibility of the information you find. Because virtually anyone can create a website or post information on the internet, you should read with a critical eye. There is a wealth of quality information available, but it is just as easy to stumble upon unreliable data. Wikipedia is a commonly searched source for information. Wikipedia is an online encyclopedia built organically by users (it isn’t owned by a person or organization). It was founded in 2001 as a nonprofit organization with the goal of giving free access to information for everyone. Wikipedia is the fifth most visited site on the internet. Users submit content to pages and check one another for accuracy. They are given guidelines to follow for fact checking and editorial changes. In most cases, however, using Wikipedia as the primary source for research is frowned upon because of the lack of authentic reliability checks for the information.

With any research, it is good practice to use triangulation: To verify the credibility of a piece of research, you should find at least three sources that are in agreement. By using multiple sources, you are minimizing the risk of uncertainty of the information found. It is also good practice to follow additional guidelines when evaluating the credibility of information found on the internet. By looking a little deeper into the research, you may uncover some hidden biases or questionable conclusions that were not readily apparent.

- Who is the author and what is their affiliation?
- Who paid for the research?
- What is the date of the information?
- Has the website been updated recently, and do the hyperlinks work?
- Are any clear biases or opinions expressed?
- Is there a way to contact the author or request more information?

By taking the time to dive a little deeper into the information retrieved, you can better ensure the data is credible and suitable for your needs.

Globalization

The internet has broken down many geographic barriers. Business transactions can easily happen from points across the globe, products can be ordered and efficiently shipped to destinations thousands of miles away, and individuals can readily access information related to current events in other countries. The global nature of the internet has opened up the world, but there is little consistency between countries in their management of this technology. There are distinct differences from country to country in the laws and regulations governing internet use. For example, Facebook and Google are banned in some countries, such as Iran and North Korea, because these sites are seen as contradictory to local traditions and customs. In China, the government plays a major role in monitoring what citizens can access and view on the internet. There are nearly 100 regulations specifically centered on the internet and its use in China.

Internet regulations across the world generally fall into one of four categories:

- Encouragement of self-regulation and voluntary use of filters for illegal material
- Punitive actions for making material available online that is unsuitable for children
- Required blocking of government-selected materials
- Prohibition on public access to the internet

Many countries have enacted some type of legislation, policy, or governmental oversight with the goal of managing internet content. This governmental involvement began as early as 1996 and continues to be amended today. As you enter the workplace, you should be aware of the specific legislation that might impact the industry that you are working in. This could include protecting user information through specific privacy controls to managing content on a social media site for appropriateness. You do not have to be a legal expert, but having a general awareness of governmental involvement in the information shared over the internet is important.

Communication, Collaboration, and Social Media

Through the internet and the software programs available today, we can stay connected to colleagues and family across great distances. Email, the Google Workspace of programs, Microsoft 365, and social media sites have all had a significant impact on business and personal productivity. Email first became a reality with the ARPANET. Today, we have many options when it comes to our email service. Gmail from Google and Outlook by Microsoft led the email market. These programs are directly integrated into their other products to aid in communication and collaboration between users. The enhanced capabilities of email programs today allow easy sharing of photos, documents, video, and large files. Just the ability to connect to colleagues who are outside of your general geographic area on a regular basis greatly improves productivity and connectivity.

We also now have several options for videoconferencing. Many people use these tools outside the workplace to spend time with out-of-town family and friends. The traditional telephone conference call where several people sit around a conference table while another colleague calls in on a speaker phone is a rare sight in today's office. Now, we can gather around a virtual table and use a videoconferencing program to conduct an important business meeting (Figure 1.27). We can use the same program to have a virtual meal with a family member who lives miles away. Some of the leading videoconferencing tools today include Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, WebEx, and Google Meet. All have basically the same functionality, with features such as recording the meeting and providing a transcript of the discussion. These features have been valuable as part of a widespread shift to remote working conditions for many companies. The shift to greater use of remote working environments occurs for various reasons, ranging from global issues such as a public health emergency to more localized reasons like increasing employee satisfaction by assisting in work/life balance.



Figure 1.27: Videoconferencing tools such as Zoom make telecommuting easier than ever before. *Forbes* credited Zoom's quick rise in use to its ease in navigation. (credit: modification of "VFRÖ - Zoom Meeting 3/2020" by Radiofabrik/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Another tool people use to connect and collaborate with others is social media. Social media is digital technology that allows users (individuals and organizations) to share information about themselves such as posts, photos, or videos. More than 40 percent of the global population use social media. Social media sites had their origin in connecting friends and families. However, as the number of users increased, businesses started to see the value in connecting with their customers via these social media sites. Many businesses have a distinct presence on social media as active users, not simply advertising through the site. Today, about 70 percent of businesses have a social media presence. The line between personal and business has blurred significantly. Very few people use social media solely for connecting and sharing with friends and family. Most will interact with businesses such as retail outlets and even banks on their social media sites. Many people follow a specific brand or company that they like. Personal and business social media sites are intertwined and connected across sites.

This phenomenon has shifted how businesses manage relationships with their customers. Many banks, for example, have a social media site where they share financial tips and banking products/promotions available to their customers. Consumer products companies can use the sites to get feedback on product attributes or advertising strategies. Small businesses can use social media sites to offer promotions to bring more foot traffic into the store—whether online or brick-and-mortar.

The leading social media sites vary by age to some extent, with older generations leaning more toward Facebook and LinkedIn while younger people tend to gravitate to platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and X (Twitter). Other popular social media sites include Pinterest and Reddit.

Privacy is a concern when dealing with any interaction on the internet, but especially with social media sites, where individuals often share personal information and pictures that could open them up to cyberattacks. You should regularly check and update the privacy settings on the social media sites you use. You might consider changing your password routinely to prevent hackers from accessing your information. Never share personal information through the site or through messages within the site. You should be wary of friend/follower requests from people who are unknown to you or your other connections. Avoid being controversial or posting overly personal content. Employers now are checking applicants' social media profiles and, in some cases, monitoring employees' activity.

Finally, as a user, it is easy to get pulled into clicking on advertisements that either show up in the margins or in the social media feed. Clicking leaves a virtual footprint of your activity that both legitimate advertisers and spammers can use to target advertisements and compel you to visit their sites. Often, you can limit your exposure through the site privacy settings, but the risk of exposure of personal information probably cannot be totally mitigated unless you avoid using social media sites altogether.

Personally identifiable information (PII) may include items that directly reveal your identity, such as your address or Social Security number. But other identifiable information can also be gathered, such as race, gender, or religion. You should be cautious when sharing information on the internet via social media and other websites. Useful precautions include regularly changing your passwords, not using the same passwords for multiple sites, providing limited personal information on social media sites or putting privacy settings at a high level, and, finally, being cautious about clicking links or advertisements from unknown sources.

Libraries and Media

The internet has changed the way that libraries operate and store/share information. Many libraries still house extensive collections of books, reference materials, magazines, and the like. In fact, you may be surprised to learn that reading print books still outpaces reading electronic books. Some college students have reaped the benefits of e-books by purchasing their textbooks in (often cheaper) electronic formats. Unlike a traditional print copy of the same material, these textbooks are interactive, enabling the publisher to include updated information and links to relevant extra materials that cannot be included in the print edition. With the availability of the internet and today's technology, students can also rent electronic textbooks, which can save a good deal of money over time. Currently, electronic textbooks hold about 30 percent of the total market.

Many libraries now have online services that allow users to place a hold on materials. When the item becomes available, the patron is notified via text or email. Libraries are also moving some of their resources to a digital format. For example, some of the historical archives housed in libraries have been cataloged digitally to provide broader access. Libraries will still have a good supply of DVDs or books on CD for patrons to check out, but many resources can now be accessed electronically by using your library card.

Many states have library systems that allow patrons in one city to utilize materials owned by another library in a different city. With apps such as OneDrive and Hoopla, users can gain access to thousands of digital materials, including books and media. These apps are typically compatible with the leading e-reader apps, such as Kindle, Kobo, and Libby. Also, libraries have become a central access point and technology hub for those lacking these resources at home, as Figure 1.28 shows. Nearly 96 percent of all rural public libraries offer free access to the internet for their cardholders. In all these ways, the digital revolution has altered the way libraries think about the services they provide.



Figure 1.28: Many libraries today have computer workstations where users can access the internet and conduct research. (credit: modification of "Vancouver Public Central Library" by GoToVan/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Libraries can be a source of research that might otherwise be unavailable to you. For example, the popular genealogy site Ancestry.com has agreements with libraries to provide some of its exclusive material free of charge to users of the site's library edition. Libraries also provide free access to other databases that are centered on business research, including LexisNexis, BizMiner, Business Source Complete, and IbisWorld. These databases provide a wealth of information that is not readily obtained with a simple internet search.

Web Applications

A web application is a software program that is not installed directly onto the user's computer. Instead, the program and data associated with it are stored on the internet, and the application is accessed through a browser or app rather than through an installed program on the computer. In the past, users had to purchase a license key to install programs directly onto their computer. This takes up memory and storage space on the computer and presents limitations on updates to the program. The user would generally have to purchase the program on a regular basis to get the most updated version or purchase an upgrade. Web-based applications give users access to the most up-to-date version of the software while sometimes freeing up essential storage on the networks and allowing seamless collaboration between users in real time. Companies pay monthly or annual subscription fees for these programs, often based on the number of user licenses they want to purchase. Throughout this text, you will become familiar with the Google Workspace of products and Microsoft 365, so that you can develop basic computing skills for the work world.

E-commerce

Electronic commerce, or e-commerce, refers to conducting business transactions online—buying and selling goods or services in an online environment rather than in a traditional brick-and-mortar storefront. The first e-commerce transaction was in 1994, but it is helpful to think of e-commerce as a modern-day version of the catalog sales (Sears, JCPenney, Montgomery Ward) of times past, except that the ordering is done over a computer rather than over a telephone or by filling out a form and mailing it through the post office.

E-commerce transactions can occur between all customers in the marketing mix. In a business-to-business transaction, one business might purchase office supplies from another business. In a business-to-customer transaction, an individual purchases a product from a retailer online and has it delivered to their home. Consumer-to-consumer purchases can also be made through e-commerce—for example, when an individual purchases a product directly from another individual through a resale website.

E-commerce does not necessarily involve shipping the purchased items; for instance, you may purchase and download an electronic product, such as an e-book or music. E-commerce simply means that the purchase transaction occurs online rather than in person. Today, virtually all products or services can be purchased online. Some entrepreneurs have started exclusively online businesses with virtual storefronts and no physical inventory. Today, e-commerce makes up about 15 percent of all retail sales across the world, with over twenty million e-commerce sites worldwide, representing nearly $4 trillion in sales. E-commerce jobs are expected to reach nearly 500,000 by the end of the 2020s; it is predicted that by 2040, 95 percent of purchases will be through e-commerce.

Real-World Application: A New Kind of Entrepreneurship

Crowdfunding is a concept wherein many people contribute to fund a particular product launch or cause. Kickstarter is one such online platform where entrepreneurs can post their business idea and ask for contributions to make it happen. Some products have raised millions of dollars to fund their ideas. Pebbletime Smartwatch and the Coolertime Cooler garnered $20 million, $13.3 million respectively from Kickstarter donations.

The Cloud and Cloud Computing

Technological advances have made working remotely, or telecommuting, a possibility for many employees. In fact, one recent survey estimated that nearly 90 percent of U.S. employees would like to work remotely. Today, there are almost five million workers in the United States (nearly 40 percent of the U.S. workforce) who telecommute. Since 2015, the number of businesses that have allowed telecommuting has increased over 40 percent. Even for those who do not telecommute full time, access to the internet and such technologies as cloud computing in the workplace enable many employees to work from home at least once per month, with nearly 50 percent doing so once a week.

With cloud computing many of the resources that were traditionally stored on individual computers, including software programs, data management and storage systems, and networking tools, are moved to internet servers. This technological advance was prompted by the need to store large amounts of information and data and to enable collaboration by individuals across the world. The resources and their associated data are stored in a data center that is managed by a cloud service provider (CSP). The benefits of cloud computing are that it can handle larger amounts of data than any physical storage device can, and it also allows users to access their data from any computer, no matter the location, and from any device, as Figure 1.29 illustrates.

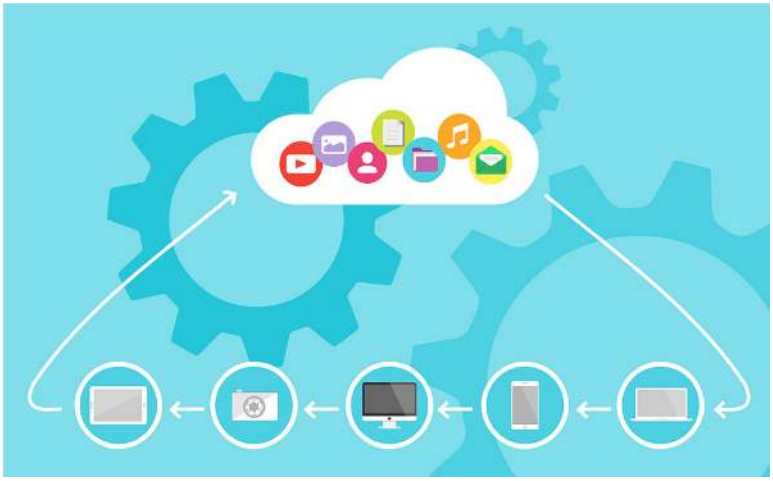


Figure 1.29: Cloud computing enables you to store much more data than can be kept on any physical computing device. (credit: "Cloud-Computing" by Learntek/Flickr, Public Domain)

The cloud is the term used to describe servers that are located at different locations and that are accessed via the internet. These servers are housed in data centers to provide storage and computer processing operations. The term *cloud* was first used in 1996 by a researcher at Compaq, and the first cloud computing service was Amazon Web Services (AWS), which launched in 2002 as a public cloud system. The cloud offers some distinct cost advantages to businesses. Companies can save money by not having to constantly upgrade individual users' storage capacity, and they can lower their IT costs because the subscription fee for use of the cloud service includes many troubleshooting and technical assistance functions. When we use the cloud for storage, we no longer need to store and maintain CDs with backups of the system or flash drives to transport documents from one computer to another. Cloud computing increases the speed of computing and gives all users real-time access to information stored in the cloud. Use of the cloud allows greater security for information storage as well as speedy distribution of new software and software upgrades. Finally, the cloud offers flexibility that enables businesses to operate more efficiently.

The security of information stored in the cloud can be of concern, but due diligence by individual users and the company can mitigate these risks. Here are some basic steps for ensuring the security of information:

1. Select a CSP that encrypts its data. Computers use the process of encryption to rewrite readable information into a code that can be deciphered only by using the key to the code, similar to solving a word puzzle that uses a secret code (see Figure 1.30). Encryption is an important step in ensuring the security of the information transmitted and stored in the cloud.

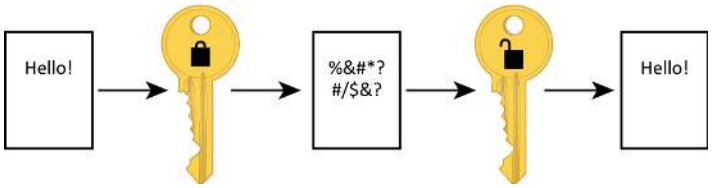


Figure 1.30: Each key has the code to the secret (encrypted) information, allowing messages to be sent safely.

2. Back up information regularly. Most CSPs will include this with the services they provide.
3. Use strong passwords and change the passwords regularly. Some businesses will set up a system that requires a password change at set time intervals.
4. Use two-factor authentication. This means that to access the system, you will need two pieces of identification, typically your username and password as well as one additional means of identification, such as an email to verify your identity, a code sent to your cell phone, or an answer to a personal question.
5. Make sure your system is protected by antivirus/antimalware software. These programs prevent unauthorized attempts to gain access to the system.
6. Avoid using public Wi-Fi access points to conduct critical business or personal transactions. Using public Wi-Fi exposes users to the potential for personal information to be compromised.

Cloud Computing in Business

Some companies set up a cloud-based intranet—a private network for internal company use. Unlike the internet, it is not available to the public and typically requires authorized users to enter a username and password. Many companies also require employees to make use of a virtual private network (VPN) to gain access to the company's intranet when they are off-site.

Link to Learning

The use of virtual private networks enables businesses to control who gains access to their computer network. Using cloud services can offer some of the same security advantages for business. Read this article on VPN and cloud computing to learn how the two are related and some differences between the two.

Many businesses today use cloud computing to manage their information technology needs. Through the cloud, businesses can more efficiently analyze, manage, and store data. They are able to deliver software to their employees on demand and make updates to programs more rapidly. Finally, cloud computing enables seamless collaboration between business units that may be located miles apart.

Three types of clouds are involved in cloud computing:

1. The public cloud is managed by a CSP. All of their services are delivered via the internet, and they charge for their service. The resources are owned and maintained by the CSP. Microsoft Azure and IBM Cloud Services are examples of public cloud service providers.
2. A private cloud is used within a single business or organization. Its resources, which are owned by the business and maintained within the organization, are stored on a private network, or the company can pay a third party to host the private cloud. With a private cloud, there are often restrictions on who can use it and what permissions are given to the users. Businesses that use sensitive information, such as financial institutions or health-care providers, prefer private clouds because they offer more security than a public cloud system.
3. The final type of cloud system is a hybrid cloud—a blend of public and private. Some resources are utilized through a public cloud and others are secured through a private cloud.

Cloud Computing for Personal Use

You are probably using the cloud already in your professional or personal life, even if you are unaware that you are doing so. For example, cloud computing is used behind the scenes for Google and Microsoft programs, so if you are using Gmail or Outlook, you are using the cloud. Likewise, if you use Google Photos to store family memories, you are using the cloud. And if your family members play video games, stream movies, or listen to music on the internet, they are more than likely using the cloud. The cloud is working behind the scenes with much of the work we do both personally and professionally. This is a natural outgrowth of advances in internet capabilities and computing power to enable us to manage information more efficiently, conveniently, and cost-effectively.

Internet of Things (IoT): Integration and Collaboration

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to the extension of internet connectivity beyond computers, to enable the transfer of information between machines and other objects, people, and animals by connecting them to the internet in some way. With the IoT, the physical connects to the virtual. Today, many consumers seek out products that connect to the internet, and some simple adjustments enable many nontechnical, inanimate objects, from light bulbs to dishwashers, to be part of the IoT.

As businesses see the value of the additional data that is gathered through IoT, many companies are marketing these technologies to consumers to make their lives easier and to save money. Having a reminder to put the laundry in the dryer or having the house thermostat adjust automatically based on outside temperature is more than a novelty—these features can save time and money, allowing consumers to feel more secure, better equipped to handle life's demands, and able to focus more on their pleasures in life. Businesses, too, can realize distinct improvements using real-time data and analytics, performance tracking, inventory/cost controls, and the automation of simple tasks. These capabilities can also allow businesses to adapt to challenging times.

Real-World Application: Pivoting during the Pandemic

COVID-19 drastically affected in-person business and services, many of whose owners found themselves struggling just to keep their businesses afloat. Some businesses chose to start offering their products or services online while some began or greatly enhanced their delivery operations. Others decided to close their business in the short term. Some businesses, such as Spotify and Netflix, put more resources into creating original content (podcasts, movies, series shows) rather than relying primarily on the sale of ads as a major revenue stream. Small restaurants offered delivery services and meal subscription services to keep their business thriving even during the pandemic. And larger corporations found that remote work allowed their employees to stay healthy while still meeting the needs of the business.

This page titled 1.3: The Internet, Cloud Computing, and the Internet of Things is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.4: Safety, Security, Privacy, and the Ethical Use of Technology

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the importance of practicing responsible computer safety and security
- Identify common computer security issues
- List measures to prevent computer security breaches
- Describe the importance of privacy in a digital world

At WorldCorp, you've realized how the evolution of computing has led to your present-day status as a new employee. You're getting the hang of how computers are put together, how they have changed the business landscape, and how you need to understand their basic components to thrive in your industry. Another part of that understanding is learning how to safely navigate the computer world, both in the company's internal systems and in external systems on the internet and the World Wide Web.

The Importance of Computer Safety and Security

The protection of computer systems and information that prevents unauthorized use is referred to as computer security. Computer ethics are guidelines for the morally acceptable use of computers in society. Any criminal offense that involves a computer and a network is referred to as cybercrime. One of the most common types of cybercrimes is identity theft, which occurs when an unauthorized user steals an individual's personal information, such as a Social Security number or credit card information for economic gain. An increase in the number of hackers—individuals who gain unauthorized access to computer systems in an attempt to steal someone's information—has prompted the development of software programs designed to protect consumers' identities, such as LifeLock.

There are strategies you can employ that will keep your computer, and the information you have saved on it, safe and secure from theft and hacking. These include:

- using security suites that can protect user privacy and security while on the internet
- using a firewall, which is a barrier between a network that is secured and one that is not secured, to provide additional security
- setting up password-protected network access
- avoiding logging in to accounts on an open network (one that is not password protected)
- using encryption to make it impossible for unauthorized individuals to gain access

Data and Identity Theft

In addition to hackers who target individual users, corporate espionage (also known as industrial, economic, or corporate spying) is conducted for commercial or financial gain by targeting businesses, government agencies, energy companies, and even schools. Corporate espionage can take the form of unethical or illegal acquisition of intellectual property (such as customer data, pricing, or research and development information) or trade secrets through theft, bribery, or blackmail. Examples of corporate espionage include:

- trespassing on a competitor's property and/or gaining unauthorized access to files
- wiretapping—the secret interception of electronic communications
- domain hacking, which occurs when another entity steals the original party's domain name
- phishing to lure competitors' employees to open emails, thereby exposing information

Attempts to get users to interact with an email or website that appears to be legitimate but is actually fake is called phishing. Phishing lures users to provide their personal information and login credentials through these hoax sites and emails. This is usually through the use of spoofing. Spoofing is communication (usually an email) that on the surface looks to be legitimate from a trusted source. These emails have become much more sophisticated and are designed to look more and more like real correspondence from a company or even a government agency such as the IRS. Something that has grown increasingly common is ransomware, malicious software that encrypts computer data, rendering it useless and inaccessible, and forcing the owner to pay a ransom to

regain access. Software that is designed with the purpose of damaging a user's computer system once it has access to that system is called malware.

Password Management and Biometrics

For all of these threats to online security, there are protective steps you can take. A set of principles and best practices for storing and managing passwords in a manner that is likely to prevent unauthorized access is called password management. You may password protect your computer, as well as various accounts you may access through your computer and the internet. Having a strong password will ensure that hackers cannot figure out your password easily. Many organizations today use multifactor authentication to provide an additional layer of security. For example, when accessing your bank account on your phone or your laptop, you may be asked to enter a specific code that is sent via email or text. This now provides two layers of security—first, entering the correct password, then correctly entering the code that was sent to you. Multifactor authentication can also be used by businesses when accessing the company software or computer network.

Real-World Application: Please Pass the Password

Some tips for creating a strong password include:

- Avoid using a real name (either your own or the company's) as your password.
- Use a combination of letters and numbers with at least eight characters.
- Do not use a complete word such as "password."
- Do not reuse passwords.
- Use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Incorporate special symbols instead of letters or numbers (such as an exclamation point or dollar sign instead of a numeral).

In addition to passwords, you can also use biometrics to protect your computer and information. Unique physical markers of an individual that can be used to restrict access to only those who match these physical characteristics, such as retinal scans and fingerprints, are called biometrics. Biometrics are much harder to hack as they cannot be guessed or stolen.

Internet and Web Privacy

The internet is pervasive and omnipresent. It is part of all you do in business and in your everyday life. How people conduct themselves online, what they share, and what they visit—all this information is captured and saved in various places, from internet providers' servers to browser companies such as Google to different social media sites. This information is captured and saved even if deleted from your computer or account. It is important to consider how to represent yourself and what to share to maintain your privacy.

Cookies

After you have searched for a product on the internet, do you notice that you suddenly start receiving advertisements for that product, or that a store website now displays that product on its front page? For that, you can thank cookies. Small data files that are deposited on user hard disks from websites you visit are called cookies. They keep track of your browsing and search history, collecting information about your potential interests to tailor advertisements and product placement on websites. These cookies can be either blocked or accepted, depending on a company's privacy policy. The potential risk of cookies is that they can store information about the user, user preferences, and user browsing habits. That said, they can also save time by storing users' login information and browsing preferences, allowing internet pages to load faster than if you had loaded them the first time. Regardless of convenience, it is a good idea to clear cookies from time to time and to restrict cookies on certain sites depending on your own preferences.

Browsing History

Your browsing history includes all websites you may have visited, as well as any actions you may have taken on those websites. It is typically saved locally on your computer within the browser application, as well as with the company that provides the browser. Your internet or data provider may also keep track of your browsing history. While this information is handy to have for future reference, consider clearing your browsing history from your personal computer on a regular basis. Be aware that your employer

may also collect this information; while using a work computer, you should avoid visiting websites that do not support your work function. Both Google analytics and your company can theoretically store browsing data for a long time, even after you delete it.

Temporary Files

As the name implies, temporary files are created by a program to allow it to complete a task or tasks. These files are handy to have in case of a sudden shutdown, as they may help to recover a file that might otherwise be lost. Many temporary files are automatically deleted once the task is complete or the file is saved permanently. But others may stick around; these files are saved in your temp folder. On a Windows computer, you can access your temp folder by typing %temp% in the Windows search bar at the bottom left of your screen.

Mac Tip

On a Mac, open the Finder and select Go ≫ Go to Folder. In the search bar, type ~/Library/Caches/ and then click Go to run the command. A window will open with a list of all the generated temp files saved on your Mac. You can easily select and delete these files.

Posting on Social Media

According to Pew Research, "seven-in-ten Americans use social media to connect with one another, engage with news content, share information and entertain themselves." Some of the most popular platforms today are TikTok, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Figure 1.31 shows the sites adults in the United States use most. The United States and China have the most social media users of all countries worldwide. Social media has exploded in popularity and is used widely for both personal and business purposes. Businesses and individuals must be mindful of what they post on social media. Even the most private accounts can have data breaches, allowing others to save and/or share private content. It is important to consider what you post, as well as any potential unintended consequences that might arise from social media use. You must also be aware of spoof accounts that present as a reputable person, when in fact they are attempting to con or mislead an individual. Similarly, AI and bots may interact with users, posing as real people when in fact they are nothing more than a computer algorithm.

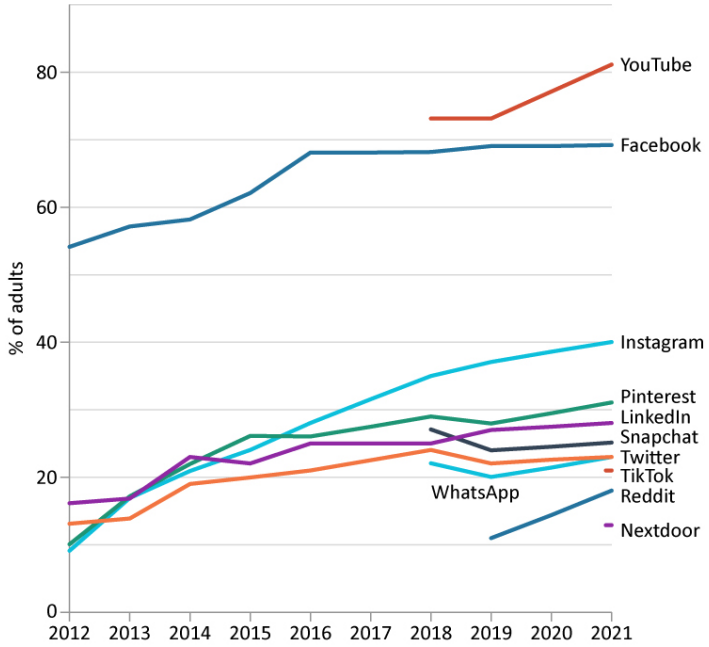


Figure 1.31: YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram were the top three social media sites among U.S. adults in 2021 for both personal and professional use. (data source: PEW Research Center, https://www.pewresearch.org/internet...a-use-in-2021/)

Ultimately, you should be sure to present a positive self-image on the internet, particularly on networking social media platforms such as LinkedIn. When considering how you want to represent yourself online, answer these questions: (1) Is this information accurate? (2) Will this post be potentially detrimental to my schooling and/or career? (3) Is the information hurtful or detrimental to someone else?

Ensuring Privacy

Privacy involves practices related to the collection and use of data about an individual. Many companies will have privacy policies when you sign up as a customer or purveyor of their content. It is important to read these policies to ensure you are not inadvertently providing permission to use your data and information in a way that you do not actually approve of. In addition, many companies will disclose they sell your information to other companies seeking similar customers. It is important to decline these permissions to avoid circulation of your contact information.

Minimal Data Collection from Customers

Collecting data from customers allows organizations to determine their needs and identify niche markets. Companies must ensure they are collecting the most minimal amount of data necessary from their customers to achieve these goals. Collecting too much data places both the company and the customer at risk. The company is responsible for ensuring that information is used responsibly and within the parameters of its privacy agreement; any data breach puts the company at risk of liability. Similarly, customers have the right to know how their information is used by the company and may request compensation if it is used inappropriately. Therefore, companies must ensure that they collect only the most minimal amount of data required to meet their business needs.

Data Security

Data security involves protecting digital information (data) from being accessed or used by parties who should not have access, or for purposes it should not be used for. Just as individuals must ensure they protect their information from hackers and malicious intent, companies are responsible for ensuring they use the most up-to-date data security measures to protect both customer information and proprietary company information and data.

Companies must ensure both internal and external security. Internally, a company should establish policies and protocols to ensure employees are abiding by data security measures. A company should also limit employee access to certain information. Keeping technologies up to date, with the most current security software, is also important. Depending on the size of the company, it may be worthwhile to establish a cybersecurity branch that employs qualified professionals dedicated to data security.

There are a number of strategies a company can use to keep data secure. Encrypting the data will render information unreadable to unauthorized users. Without the access key, encrypted information presents as nothing more than a meaningless string of characters. Companies, like individuals, can also take steps to delete files, software, and data that is no longer of use. And they can take it a step further by practicing data erasure, wherein the information is not only deleted but overwritten as well. In another approach, data masking, personally identifiable information is removed from the data, allowing the company to make decisions about its customers without associating the data with an individual's personal information. By taking these steps, companies ensure they can recover from a data breach quickly, reinforcing their data resiliency.

This page titled 1.4: Safety, Security, Privacy, and the Ethical Use of Technology is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

Android operating system
Google software operating system used to run non-iPhone mobile phones such as Samsung's Galaxy

artificial intelligence (AI)
use of computers, robots, and machines to behave "intelligently," engaging in autonomous decision making and behaviors

augmented reality (AR)
use of digital objects or elements in a real-life picture or scene

automation
use of computers or machines to do tasks that could be completed by a person

binary digits
sequences of the numbers 0 and 1 used in computer programming

biometrics
authentication that uses a person's physical characteristics as a form of digital security

cache
type of storage in a computer that operates in the background, holding data that can be quickly retrieved

central processing unit (CPU)
unit that contains the microprocessor, or "brains" of a computer system

client
device that requests and uses resources from other devices on the network

cloud
servers housed in data centers to facilitate remote storage and computer operations

cloud computing
delivering computer resources such as programs and data storage through the internet rather than storing resources directly on a computer

computer
programmable machine that can execute predetermined lists of instructions and respond to new instructions

computer security
protection of computer systems and information that prevents unauthorized use

cookies
small data files that are deposited on user hard disks and internet sites visited

cybercrime
criminal offense that involves a computer and a network

data erasure
process by which information is not only deleted but overwritten as well

data masking

process by which personally identifiable information is removed from data, allowing a company to make decisions without violating customer privacy

data resiliency
ability to recover quickly from a data breach

domain name system (DNS)
phone book for the internet, enabling a user to send a message using their name, the symbol @, and the location of the computer as identified by its domain name

e-commerce
conducting business transactions online

encryption
process of taking information transmitted through the internet and converting it into an unrecognizable code to prevent unauthorized access

ethernet
protocols used to connect computers in a local area network or LAN

external disk drive
hard disk for information storage such as USBs, CDs, DVDs, and flash memory cards

firewall
barrier between a network that is secured and one that is not secured

hackers
individuals who gain unauthorized access to a computer system to steal someone's information

hard disk
secondary storage areas where users can save files and retrieve data and programs

hardware
computer accessories such as keyboard, mouse, printer, and computer monitor

HTTPS
communication protocol that is more secure than HTTP

hub
device that sends and receives messages to and from all network connections

hyperlink
link on a page or document that, when clicked, navigates the user to that location; a connection between two web pages or documents

hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP)
rules that allow users to access information on the internet and protect confidential data such as credit card numbers

information processing cycle
sequence of events involved in processing information

internal disk drive
storage space within the computer that updates and produces copies of files

Internet of Things (IoT)
extension of internet connectivity beyond computers, enabling the transfer of information between machines and other objects, people, and animals by connecting them to the internet in some way

internet protocol address (IP address)
unique combination of characters used to identify the location of a host computer

internet service provider (ISP)
company that provides individuals or organizations with access to the internet

intranet
private network for internal company use; can be combined with cloud technology

iPhone operating system (iOS)
Apple's software operating system, used to run iPhones, iPads, and other mobile devices

machine learning
use of software applications to make computations and decisions that can inform predictions without human intervention

mainframe
computer that is capable of great processing speed and data storage for large organizations

malware
software designed to damage the victim's computer system once it gains access to it

microchip
small microprocessor unit used for programming and computer memory storage

microcomputer
personal computer that was much smaller than earlier computers and operated with microprocessors

microprocessor
consists of a control and an arithmetic-logic unit, which performs math and logical operations within a computer system

minicomputer
computer that is similar in power to a mainframe computer, but much smaller in size; used in mid-size organizations

motherboard
controls communications for an entire computer system

nanotechnology
technology that focuses on changing individual molecules to produce different properties or attributes

network
connection of two or more computer systems or devices, either by a cable or through a wireless connection

operating system
connection between a device's hardware and its software

packet switching
technology that enabled the development of the internet; computer files are broken up into segments, which are transmitted over the network and reordered into a single file at their destination

password management

set of principles and best practices for storing and managing passwords to prevent unauthorized access to the computer

personal computer (PC)
microcomputer suitable for individual use

phishing
attempts to get users to interact with an email or website that appears to be legitimate but is fake

random access memory (RAM)
computer's primary, short-term memory

ransomware
malicious software that encrypts computer data, rendering it useless and inaccessible, forcing the owner to exchange something of value to regain access

read-only memory (ROM)
memory not meant for storage but to process information as the computer is being used

robotics
use of robotic machines to perform tasks that no human could perform

router
device that directs data traffic and allows for multiple devices to run on a network

secure sockets layer (SSL)
security protocol that uses encryption to help ensure privacy of information and communications across the internet

server
connects devices and allows for resource sharing across networks

short message service (SMS)
technology for sending text messages through mobile phones

smart space
physical space that incorporates technologies that can be controlled through the internet

social media
digital technology that allows users (individuals and organizations) to share information about themselves such as posts, photos, and videos

software
computer program or set of programs with the end goal of converting data into processes or actions

spoofing
correspondence such as email that appears legitimate but instead is used to obtain your personal information

supercomputer
extremely powerful computer that has the fastest processors available

transmission control protocol/internet protocol (TCP/IP)
communication standard that allows data to be sent and received over a network, most notably the internet

triangulation
research technique whereby information is verified and validated through multiple sources

virtual reality (VR)

simulated environment in which users can interact as if they were physically present

wearable

device that uses computing technology to collect and receive data via the internet

web browser

a program used to find content stored on the WWW

workstation

powerful single-user computer, similar to a personal computer but with more powerful microprocessors

---

This page titled 1.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.6: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

1.1 Computing from Inception to Today

- Early computers were used predominantly by engineers and scientists to handle large amounts of data. Key companies in the evolution of computing include IBM, Hewlett Packard, Xerox, Apple, and Microsoft.
- With the invention of the microprocessor, computers became available to the average consumer.
- Computing technology has increased efficiencies, decreased errors, opened new opportunities, and enhanced business–customer relationships.
- Key technologies in computing include mobile devices, digital imaging, and machine learning.
- Advances in technology are applicable to nearly every industry. The rapid pace of technological change has distinct career implications.

1.2 Computer Hardware and Networks

- Hardware components that make up a computer are the motherboard, CPU, microprocessor, and memory, as well as the keyboard, mouse, and other peripheral devices.
- Computers process and store data through the information processing cycle.
- Networks are connections of two or more computer systems, such as LANs and WANs. Routers, switches, and firewalls are basic components of networks.

1.3 The Internet, Cloud Computing, and the Internet of Things

- The internet was initially rooted in government and military applications.
- Advances in technology such as HTML, URL, and DNS made the internet more accessible to the average user.
- Programs such as Zoom, Google Docs, and X (Twitter) foster new types of interactions between businesses and their customers.
- Through sites such as eBay and Amazon, e-commerce has become an efficient way to purchase products and services, not just from companies but also from individuals.
- Cloud computing refers to storing IT resources on a virtual server rather than on the actual computers where the resources are used.
- The use of cloud computing in the workplace has increased productivity and saved money for many businesses.
- Cloud computing enables individuals to access a wide variety of resources such as media files, documents, and photos without the need for computers with massive storage capacities.
- The Internet of Things (IoT) connects the physical to the virtual; with simple changes to product designs, many products can be connected to the internet.

1.4 Safety, Security, Privacy, and the Ethical Use of Technology

- Computer safety and security are paramount considerations for a company’s effective operations.
- Privacy in the digital world has become a major focus of corporate efforts to maintain the trust of employees, the public, and stakeholders.
- Common security issues include data and identity theft, cybercrime, phishing, and hacking.
- Measures that prevent computer security breaches include encryption, firewalls, password management, data erasure, and data masking.

This page titled 1.6: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
What nineteenth-century invention laid the foundation for future developments in computing?

a. Jacquard’s loom
b. Apple’s Macintosh computer
c. Programma 101
d. TRS-80

2 .
What is the main operating system for iPhone mobile devices?

a. Android
b. Google
c. iOS
d. SMS

3 .
What are direct deposit, high-speed printers/copiers, and automated inventory systems all examples of?

a. outdated technology
b. future developments in technology
c. early-stage developments in technology
d. advances in technology

4 .
What is VR?

a. a mostly live, real environment with some digital elements embedded
b. a computerized game for trying out a new product
c. a robot that can perform mundane tasks
d. a mostly simulated environment that allows the user to interact in the space

5 .
The autopilot features on an airplane are an example of _____.

a. VR
b. AI
c. AR
d. machine learning

6 .
_____ is referred to as "the brains of the computer system."

a. Printer
b. Mainframe
c. Microprocessor
d. Router

7 .
_____ allows the computer to operate and process information quickly.

a. ROM
b. RAM
c. HTTP
d. WAN

8 .
What is a network adapter card that organizes information into small packets for movement in the network or over the internet?

a. TCP (transmission control protocol)

b. HTTP (hypertext transfer protocol)
c. UDP (user datagram protocol)
d. STP (standard transfer protocol)

9 .
Microsoft 365 is an example of _____.

a. HTTP
b. LAN
c. a Web application
d. an e-commerce site

10 .
_____ is the language used behind the scenes for website formatting.

a. HTTP
b. HTML
c. URL
d. IP address

11 .
What is Wikipedia?

a. an internet service provider
b. a web browser on mobile phones
c. a domain name
d. a free source of information

12 .
_____ is the protocol used to connect computers together in a LAN.

a. HTML
b. Ethernet
c. IP address
d. Web application

13 .
Which operator is used to search partial words on the internet?

a. *
b. |
c. +
d. –

14 .
_____ refers to a private network meant for internal company use.

a. Cloud
b. Cloud computing
c. Internet
d. Intranet

15 .
Cloud computing was first introduced in what year?

a. 1982
b. 2002
c. 1996
d. 2016

16 .
_____ is a set of principles and best practices designed to prevent unauthorized access to a system.

a. Two-factor authentication

b. Biometrics
c. Data masking
d. Password management

17 .
Corporate espionage refers to _____.

a. trespassing on a competitor’s property
b. wiretapping a competitor’s office
c. domain hacking
d. all of the above

18 .
Cookies are defined as _____.

a. the practice of protecting digital information from unauthorized access, corruption, or theft
b. small data files from websites that are deposited on a user’s hard disk
c. a list of web pages a user visits, stored on a computer’s browser
d. ads that entice users to click on them

19 .
_____ encrypts information on your computer, making it inaccessible until you give the hacker something valuable.

a. Phishing
b. Data masking
c. Spoofing
d. Ransomware

This page titled 1.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

20 .
Conduct research to show how mobile, imaging, and gaming devices have contributed to the U.S. economy and the global economy.

21 .
Using some of the internet search strategies discussed earlier in the chapter, choose an industry and research some leading technologies in that industry.

22 .
Think about the concept of lifelong learning. Using the strategies outlined in the chapter, discuss how lifelong learning can be incorporated into your life.

23 .
A computer’s memory capacity and speed have an impact on its price. Perform a Google search to compare the prices of at least three laptops and three desktop computers with various speeds and memory capacities. Which is more expensive, and why? What factor has the greatest impact on the price of the computers?

24 .
Go to United States Census Bureau Data. Select the Explore Data section. Find your county and identify a variable of interest to you, such as education or poverty. List some key findings you discovered about your county from the data on the site.

25 .
You want to find out about music festivals happening this summer close to your home. First, follow your typical procedure for conducting an internet search. Then, conduct another internet search for the same information, this time using some of the techniques discussed in the chapter. What differences do you notice in the results?

26 .
Conduct an internet search for a topic that interests you. Then, navigate to a website devoted to that topic. Using the strategies discussed in this chapter, evaluate the credibility of the information contained on the site.

27 .
View your social media account (or someone else’s, if you don’t have one). From the perspective of an outsider, what do you see? Is everything that is viewable acceptable? Would you want your employer to view this social media account?

28 .
Discuss how you would protect your personal computer, including access restriction and prevention of data loss.

This page titled 1.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

29 .
Discuss how today’s technology has improved the workplace.
30 .
How was computing in the workplace instrumental in the development of computing for personal use?
31 .
How are mobile devices, imaging, and gaming interconnected?
32 .
Discuss the key differences between AR and VR.
33 .
What are some advantages to using VR in business?
34 .
What are some advantages of using smart spaces in business today?
35 .
What is the information processing cycle and why is it important?
36 .
Why is it important to understand the basic components of a computer?
37 .
Which network would you likely have in your home? At your place of business?
38 .
What capabilities must a device have to be called a computer?
39 .
If you were setting up a computer network in your small business, what security measures would you take to guard against cybercrime and security breaches?
40 .
Explain some criteria you should use in evaluating the credibility of sources for business research.
41 .
Outline some tips for conducting effective online searches.
42 .
Discuss some of the key advances with the internet that have increased business productivity.
43 .
Discuss some advantages and disadvantages of using cloud computing for business and for personal use.
44 .
Discuss some of the advantages of using the Internet of Things in business and for personal use.
45 .
Describe some ways that companies can protect their systems from cybercrime.
46 .
Define ransomware, malware, and phishing.
47 .
What are cookies? How are cookies used in business?

This page titled 1.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

1.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

48 .

Suppose you want to set up a computer network for a small business you are launching. The business will provide bookkeeping services for other businesses. You will maintain an office for yourself and one other employee. Your employees will also sometimes work remotely, either at their homes or at the clients' locations. Do some research on the process of setting up a computer network for a small business. What types of equipment might you need? What types of security precautions should you take to protect your clients' financial information?

49 .

You are working with a local entrepreneur who wants to open an organic food store in your town and is asking you for help in finding relevant demographic information to help determine appropriate pricing for some of their products.

A. What internet sources might be appropriate for this research?

B. Where would you begin your search?

C. How would you determine the key competitors for the business?

This page titled 1.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

2: Essentials of Software Applications for Business

2.0: Chapter Scenario
2.1: Software Basics
2.2: Files and Folders
2.3: Communication and Calendar Applications
2.4: Essentials of Microsoft 365
2.5: Essentials of Google Workspace
2.6: Collaboration
2.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
2.8: Chapter Review - Summary
2.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
2.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
2.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
2.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 2: Essentials of Software Applications for Business is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.0: Chapter Scenario

WorldCorp is a multinational conglomerate that produces and works in consumer goods, health care, and technology. Its functional service areas include research and development, strategy, operations, production and distribution, human resources, information technology and equipment, marketing and sales, finance and accounting, and customer service.



Figure 2.1: Software applications are what allow us to interact with our computer's hardware. It is essential to learn how to use programs like calendars, word processors, and email clients to communicate with others and create documents in the workplace. (credit: "wocintech (microsoft) - 241" by WOCinTech Chat/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

The corporation has a strong commitment to social responsibility and environmental protection. Employees are encouraged to participate in company-wide and individual charity initiatives, with paid time off to participate in each once a month.

With employees located across the globe, WorldCorp understands a successful workplace is supported by a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). It has a strong ethics policy that is enforced throughout the company hierarchy, with senior leaders and management expected to serve as models in all actions and interactions.

You have just been hired as a management trainee at the company and will be exposed to all functional areas. In this chapter, you have just been hired and are tasked with learning the basics of the software programs WorldCorp uses to run its operations, most notably Microsoft 365—or more commonly known as its longtime former name, Microsoft Office—and Google Workspace.

This page titled 2.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.1: Software Basics

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain what software is and what it does
- Describe each of the main software types used in business
- Understand how to install and maintain software

You learned about the history of computers and basic hardware in the Technology in Everyday Life and Business chapter. While hardware is the backbone of a computer, and knowledge of it and what can go wrong with it helps you to keep vital devices working properly, software is the lifeblood that gets work done personally and in the business world.

This chapter examines the basics of software programs. It also covers the terminology and functions common to most programs. Refer to this chapter as you work through the rest of the material in the textbook, especially when you encounter more advanced concepts.

One final note: Before beginning this chapter, be sure you know how to use your mouse to click and hover. Clicking (sometimes called pressing or selecting) the left side of the mouse tells it you want to activate a command directly on the screen. It is the most direct use of the mouse. Clicking the right side (called "right-clicking") of the mouse will reveal a little screen with a menu of options. Don't worry about those yet. And, finally, hovering over portions of the screen such as icons will give you a short descriptor of that tool or menu. When you hover, you do not click the mouse at all but rather direct it over the tool icon.

Mac Tip

You will need to hold the Control (Ctrl) key when clicking the mouse to reveal the menu of options, and then hold Command when clicking the mouse to activate a command directly on screen.

What Is Software?

When using a computer, we often hear the terms *programs*, *software*, and *applications*. Sometimes these terms are used interchangeably. However, there are some distinctions. Programs are the instructions that tell the computer how to operate and run specific tasks. Whereas software consists of the step-by-step instructions that tell a computer how to operate with its hardware. Software is essentially a collection of interlinked programs. More specifically, the instructions enable the program to perform specific actions such as printing, saving, or formatting text. These step-by-step instructions are written in computer language or code. Different types of programs include the Microsoft Office suite, educational software, and antivirus software.

There are two major categories of software: system-related software and application software. System software is related to the functioning of the computer. Examples include the computer's operating system and the software needed to run items such as printers, the keyboard, and antivirus software. Applications are programs that are task-oriented, including those we will cover in this text such as word processing programs and presentation software. Internet browsers are also considered application programs. They are used to search for content on the internet.

There are several facets of programs that are consistent regardless of the type of program. The programs use computer programming to add the functionality for the software or application. For example, there is a specific computer programming language (or code) that is used to simply print a document. This language is the foundation for making the program work. The basic elements of programs are shown in Figure 2.2. They are:

- The graphical user interface (GUI) is the portion of a program that allows the user to interact with it. Commands in Office are organized in groupings called tabs, while in Google Workspace, these groupings are called menus.
- A menu bar, or ribbon, typically at the top of the screen, contains an array of general commands that the user can choose, such as changing the font, printing the file, or adding elements such as pictures or shapes. In Office, this is referred to as the ribbon.
- A toolbar, typically located below the menu bar, contains icons or graphical representations for commonly used commands such as Copy or Save that are more specific than those contained in the menu bar.

- A dialog box provides information or requests inputs. These boxes typically appear after a user action, such as clicking a button or selecting a menu option. For example, see Figure 2.2, which shows more options for changing the font color or size.
- The status bar is located at the bottom of the program window. Its main function is to show the status of the program, such as the number of pages.

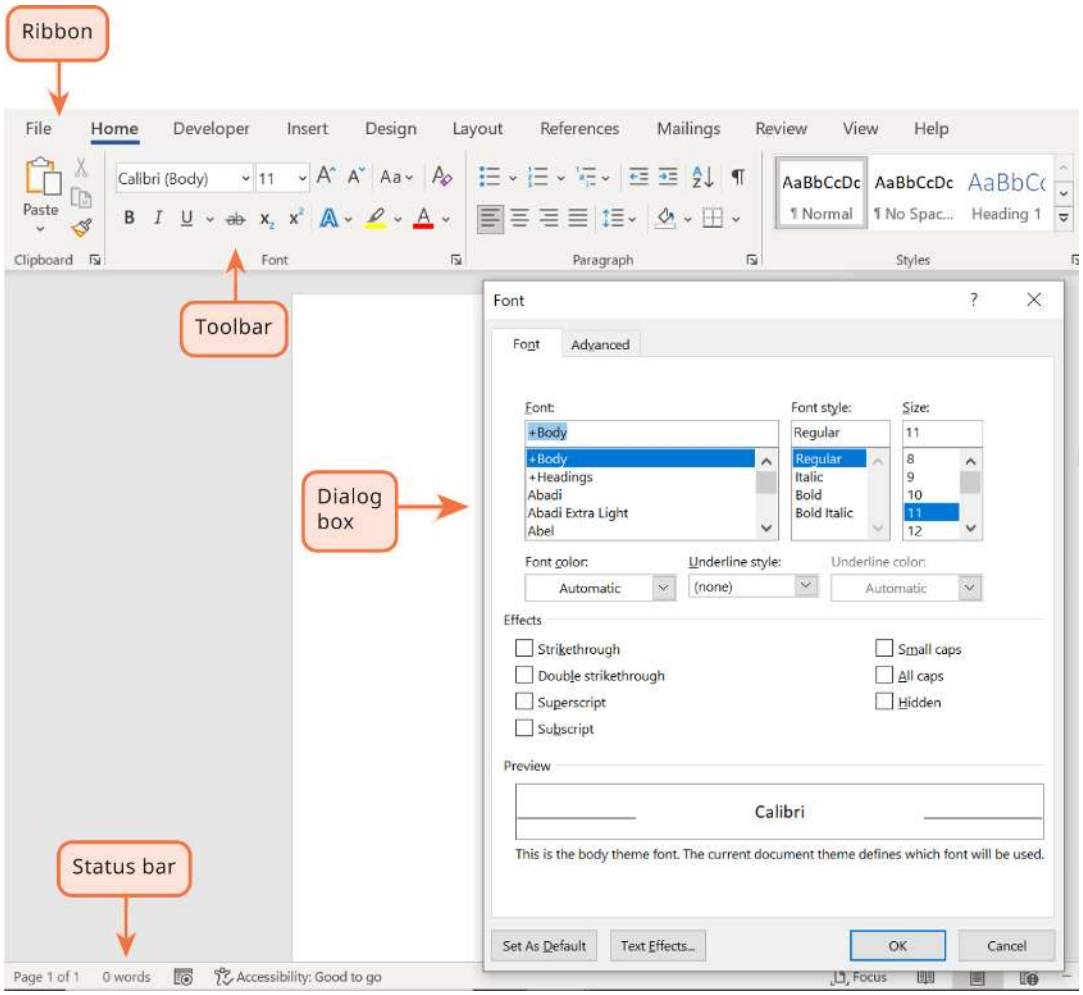


Figure 2.2: The common format for software includes a series of menus or toolbars at the top of the screen that are specific to the functionality of the program. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Common Applications in Business

Task-oriented applications include word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and database management programs. Figure 2.3 shows the icons for the popular applications in Google Workspace.

Specialized applications include programs used only for certain disciplines or occupations, such as QuickBooks, which is used for accounting. Mobile applications such as E-reader applications are programs designed primarily for smartphones and tablets.

A word processing application creates text-based documents such as memos, letters, and reports. Just about every organization uses word processing software, especially businesses, colleges, and universities. Microsoft Word is the most widely used word processing application, along with Google Docs and Open Office Writer.

A spreadsheet application organizes, analyzes, and uses numeric data. These applications are common in just about every profession today for compiling data in a table and creating visual displays (graphs and charts) of the information. Sales data from WorldCorp can be analyzed using the tools in a spreadsheet application. The most widely used spreadsheet applications are Microsoft Excel and Google Sheets.

A presentation application combines graphics and text to create attractive slideshows. These applications are used by students in colleges and universities as well as in the business world. The most common presentation applications are Microsoft PowerPoint

and Google Slides. Employees at WorldCorp can use presentation applications to prepare sales summaries to present to key executives at the company.

A database application is designed to organize and store large amounts of data. The information in a database program often includes both text and numeric information. Microsoft Access is a database application that can be used to compile and filter a large dataset. WorldCorp can use Access to store customer data in one file that includes information such as the customer address, historical purchase information, key contacts, and other related information.



Figure 2.3: Google Workspace includes applications for emailing, managing files, and creating spreadsheets. These are the common icons you will see most as you start to learn this suite. (Google Workspace is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Specialized applications include programs that are used only in certain disciplines or occupations, such as a design application used in the engineering profession. Another example would be tax software programs that accounting professionals use to prepare taxes for their clients. Desktop publishing enables users to mix text and graphics to create page designs and layouts for brochures, newsletters, and textbooks. Popular types of desktop publishing software include Adobe InDesign and Microsoft Publisher.

Finally, businesses might also use social media applications. Social media applications are used to create virtual networks or communities through which users connect and share information, messages, and/or content such as images and videos. These applications are accessed either through the internet or by downloading the application to your device. These applications are geared to connecting with others in a variety of different scenarios. For example, LinkedIn is a professional networking application that can help you connect with others in your career field. Social media applications will be covered in detail in Content Management Systems and Social Media in Business.

One of the first social media platforms was Myspace, which was used to connect individuals with family and friends, as well as for networking. Then came Facebook (which became more popular than Myspace), Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, and Twitter (now X). At WorldCorp, you would most likely use LinkedIn, which is a site tailored to the business world. Companies and workers share news, their résumés, and network through it. Social media also allows virtual collaboration, which plays a role in work life, as individuals can use Zoom or Microsoft Teams for business meetings, a feature that became crucial during the COVID pandemic. Many organizations also use social media for marketing purposes.

In addition to interacting with others, social media users can watch movies and play games on many different types of devices, including tablets, computers, and even cell phones through social media sites. The chapter Content Management Systems and Social Media in Business covers this topic in more depth.

Installing and Maintaining Software

Installing software is an automated process for the most part. Although there are some differences based on both the software and the operating systems (Windows or macOS), software installation follows a basic process. Acquisition of the software often begins with visiting the software website and purchasing the software download. Not all software requires a purchase. Some programs are freely available. Also, not all programs are directly downloaded onto your computer. With today's cloud-based technologies, some software exists in the cloud and instead you are downloading an app on your device to get access to the software.

Once you have identified the software you would like to install, generally you will find a link (or button) on the website that says Download. By clicking on the download, you agree to allow the software components to be added to your computer's hard drive. Also, although not as common today, software programs can be installed via a CD-ROM. If you have a CD-ROM to install the software, often the installation process will begin once the CD is inserted in the CD drive. You will be prompted with similar dialog windows whether installing from a download or a CD-ROM.

Keep in mind that you need to do your research and use caution when choosing software from the internet to download. There are fake sites that exist for downloading software that could harm your computer. Additionally, sometimes there are options to

download other software or additional features to install. These are generally not necessary and could again be potentially harmful to your computer. Take the time to make sure you are downloading software from trusted sites.

The installation begins with downloading a folder that contains the necessary files to install the software program on your computer. Two key files in the folder are the README file and the actual install file, which will have a .exe extension (the execute file). It is a good idea to read the README file. This file is a text file that contains the steps needed to install the program. It will also contain the system requirements information to determine if your computer is suitable for the program. The programs differ based on the computer space needed to store the software files and the version of the operating system needed for the software to function. The download prompter screens will often indicate the amount of space required for the installation.

Installation starts when you click on the .exe file. You will be prompted with a series of approvals at the beginning of the installation. These approvals could include the consent to make changes (add files) to your computer, closing all other open programs, and usage of the software. Some software programs will have options to customize the installation based on the elements you want installed or where you want to place the installation files. You may be prompted with a dialog box asking you the type of installation, which could include options such as basic installation or customized. Often, the software developers will recommend the basic installation for most applications. Unless you have a reason not to complete the installation as recommended, there is usually no reason to choose a customized installation.

Mac Tip

.exe files are only for Windows computers and cannot be installed on macOS operating systems. The Mac operating system uses .dmg files.

Maintenance of software is simple. Developers of the programs will regularly check the programs for issues. At times, there may be a need to update the software. You might already be familiar with the concept with your cell phone. These updates improve security and functionality of the programs when issues arise. Installation of the updates can be set to be automatic, or you can manually and regularly check for updates of the software programs. Many programs will notify users when the program is opened if an update is available. Updating the software is a necessary part of keeping the program functional.

Troubleshooting issues in a program is another key component of being a software user. Most software has a Help function or menu available to assist the user with questions about the program. The items in the Help function are generally centered on issues of using the program itself. Items could include how to perform a certain task such as printing or other related items. If your issue is not solved with this type of assistance, most programs have a way to connect with the software company for more assistance through registering the software. This could be in the form of sending an email, contacting customer service by phone, or through a chat function in the program. Most problems with the functionality of a program can be resolved through one of these methods.

This page titled 2.1: Software Basics is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.2: Files and Folders

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the purpose and use of files and folders
- Identify different file formats and their common uses
- Apply best practices in file and folder organization, including saving
- Understand the differences between Google Drive, SharePoint, and OneDrive

Being organized is a key skill in the business world. Disorganized workspaces, whether real or virtual, can lead to a host of negative outcomes: lost productivity, wasted money and resources, and a poor worker reputation. A study by professional staffing company Express Employment Professionals revealed that approximately six hours per week can be lost to poor organizational skills, and that employees earning $50,000 a year can cost their employers upward of $10,000 annually in lost time. You don't want to be one of those employees. So, here, we will learn how to organize your computer software files. This is a basic, key skill.

Right now, as a student, you need a way to organize the items from your classes such as the syllabus, homework papers, and class notes. Some students choose to use a physical binder to organize all the material needed for a class. You may have one binder to hold the information for all your courses, or multiple binders, one for each course. Just as you would organize class material in a binder, a computer needs a way to organize the information stored in the hard drive. Through computer coding and programming, the computer uses a system of files and folders to organize the information and run its programs correctly.

Most people will never use many of the files and folders stored on the hard drive. For example, you probably will not access the information in the Windows folder or the Program Files folder. Those files that are needed for operating the computer are generally not necessary for the average computer user to access. You will use files and folders for specific software programs for information you have created. Understanding how to navigate the files and folders on the computer is crucial.

Using and Organizing Folders and Files

A file is a collection of data, such as a document or a program. Files are stored within a folder, which can contain subfolders as well as individual files. Files contain information, unlike folders, which are used to organize the files. For example, you might organize the photos on your phone into folders labeled by year or by type of photo (family, friends, events). In addition to those folders of photos, your phone contains other folders, each named based on its contents.

In this course, you will work frequently with four types of files:

- Document files are used in word processing applications to save documents such as school assignments, communications, and lists. Microsoft Word and Google Docs are two of the programs businesses use most. WorldCorp would use document files for company memos to employees or to write up contracts with new vendors.
- Spreadsheet files are produced by spreadsheet applications, such as Microsoft Excel and Google Sheets. This type of file is often used to analyze data and for numerical recordkeeping and calculations. Spreadsheet files could be particularly useful for WorldCorp when summarizing sales data for the last quarter or to create charts to show sales trends in different regions.
- Database files are created by database management applications. Many companies have high-level, specialized databases that store information about customers or specific products they sell. In this course, you will learn about Microsoft Access.
- Presentation files consist of pages that may be used as slides or handouts. Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint are popular presentation applications.

What Is a Folder?

A folder is a defined area of a computer or drive that stores subfolders and files (Figure 2.4). Organizing files into folders and subfolders makes it easier to locate a specific file and to keep files organized for the long term. Folders and subfolders are a hierarchical way of organizing your files.



Figure 2.4: A computer stores files in the same way you might store files in a filing cabinet (although maybe a little neater). (credit: “document file, folders, carton, paper” by PPD/Pixnio, CC0)

Using and Organizing Files

As you create and use files, you will develop a system of organization that works for your needs. In some cases, the entity that you work for will have a system that is used for all employees. The goal is to gather files in such a way that facilitates finding and using those files. You could organize files by type (all Word documents in one folder), by date, or even by project. Your system will depend on how you interact with your computer and how you plan to use the files you create or download. There is no one standard way to organize files, but here are a few tips to get you started:

- Decide on an organizational system that works for you.
- Use descriptive folder names and be consistent with naming.
- Make use of subfolders within the main folder.
- When files are created, place them in the appropriate folder.
- Regularly delete or archive files or folders that you no longer need.

Opening a File

To open an existing file, locate the file wherever it is saved. It may be saved on your computer hard drive, in the cloud, or on an external drive such as a flash drive. The easiest method for locating an existing file is by using the File Explorer folder (see Figure 2.5).

Mac Tip

Folders can be found in the Finder or the Documents tab.

To access File Explorer, either double-click the manila folder icon on the desktop or access File Explorer through the Windows menu. You can also search for a specific file name using the search bar at the bottom of the screen or the search bar at the upper-right side of File Explorer. As you can see, there are several ways to find the file you are looking for.

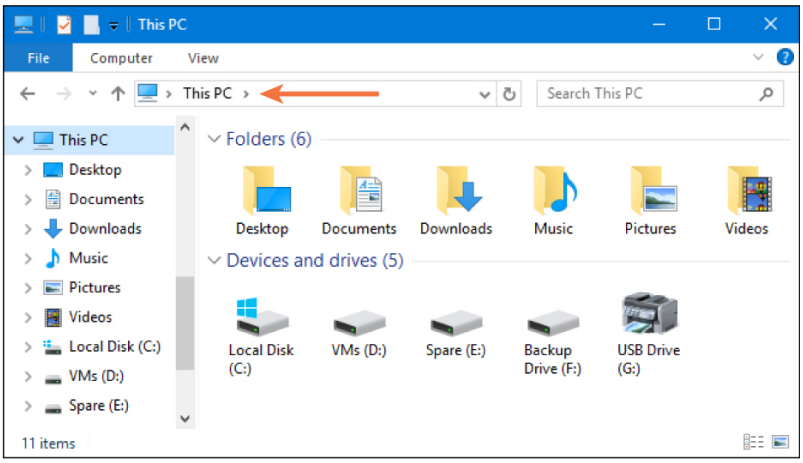


Figure 2.5: File Explorer shows the folders on your hard drive and the devices that are connected to your computer. The Search This PC search bar finds specific files on your local hard drive. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Once you have located your file, you can either right-click or double-click on the file to open it.

Creating a File

To create a file, you will likely begin in the application program itself. For example, to create a new presentation file, open PowerPoint or Slides. Or you can create a new file directly from the desktop: Simply right-click on the desktop screen itself, select New, and choose the file type you want, as Figure 2.6 shows.

Mac Tip

For Mac users, the procedure to create a file is the same, except you would use Finder.

The new file will be created when the application program opens. Once a new file opens, you can add text, images, and other items to your file as needed.

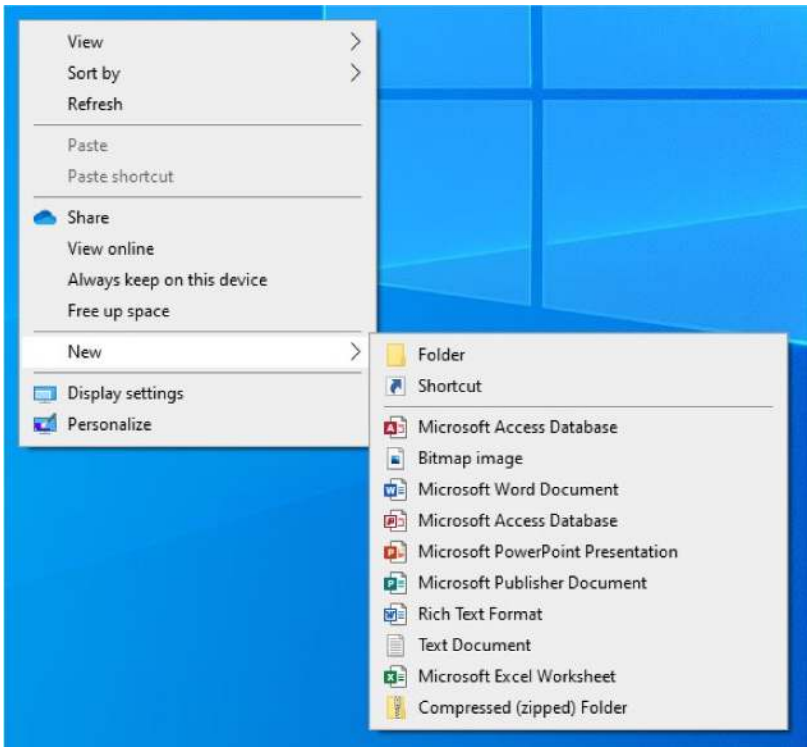


Figure 2.6: The various application programs are listed for you to select when creating a new file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Saving a File

Saving files might seem like a mundane task, but it is one of the most basic skills to master in computer work. In general, there are three broad categories of saving files: Save, Save As, and AutoSave. Save and Save As both give you the option to choose the file type and the name of the file. You would use Save if you are saving a file for the first time and also, as you go along if you are saving the file to your computer, rather than to the cloud. You can use Save As to save an existing file under a different name. This can be useful if you are keeping track of different versions or revisions of the same file. You would also use Save As to save the file in a different location on your computer. Finally, AutoSave does just what it implies—saves continuously as you make changes to the file. This is a nice feature in both Microsoft and Google applications, making it easier to retain changes in a file without having to constantly remember to save the file you are working with.

Moving and Deleting a File

From time to time, you will need to move and delete files as part of good computer housekeeping practices. To delete a file, right-click on the file you want to delete and choose Delete. Once deletion is confirmed, select OK. You can select multiple files by using either the Shift or Ctrl keys. Use Shift to select files that are listed together. You would click the first file and then hold Shift and click the last file in the list you want to move or delete. To select files that are not listed together, use the Ctrl key. Click on the first file, and then, to select additional files, hold the Ctrl key and then click on each file name.

> **Mac Tip**
>
> You can delete the file, which will move it to the trash bin, or you can simply drag the file to the trash bin. To completely delete the file, you must empty the trash bin.

To move a file, you can use one of two methods. You can click and drag the file to the new location. This is particularly useful if you have saved a file on the desktop and now want to move that file to a designated folder. Alternatively, you can Cut the file from its current location (see the Home tab) and then Paste the file to the new folder or location. This can be tricky if you do not immediately paste the file in another spot. Use caution when totally deleting files.

Recovering a File

After you have deleted a file, you may still be able to recover it. This is not always possible, but in some cases, you can recover files that have been deleted or, at least, locate a previous version that may be saved on your computer. First, check the Recycle Bin. Generally, you will find it on the desktop. Open the Recycle Bin by double-clicking on the Recycle Bin icon on the computer desktop. When you see the file that you deleted and now want to retrieve, select it by double-clicking on the file name. Then, choose Restore from the dialog box. You can also right-click on the file name and choose Restore from there. Another strategy is to simply search for the file on your computer in File Explorer. In the search bar, type in the name of the file (even a partial name will work). You may be able to locate the file or a version of the file through the search tool.

> **Mac Tip**
>
> A file that is in the Trash can be restored. If the file has been removed from the Trash, and you use Time Machine, Apple's backup program, you can recover an earlier version of the file even after it has been removed from the Trash.

Windows systems have another option for retrieving deleted files, which involves restoring files from the file history. This is in the Systems and Security area of your computer's Control Panel. The easiest way to access this tool is to type File History in the search bar by the Start menu (see Figure 2.7). If you have File History enabled on your computer, you can choose Restore your files with File History to search for the file you have deleted.

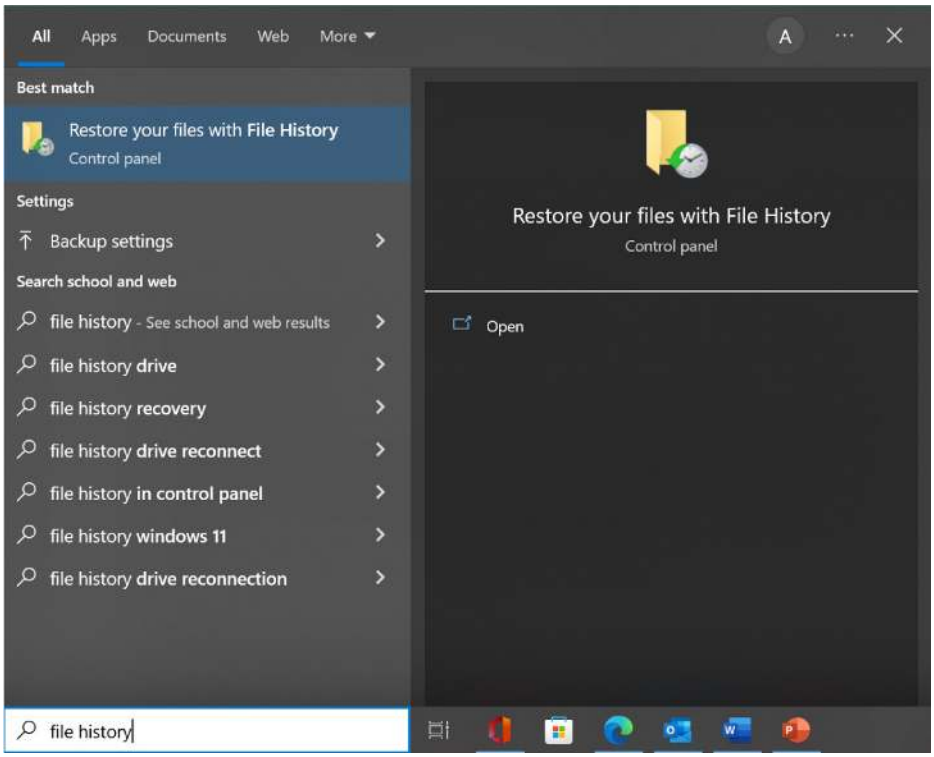


Figure 2.7: File History can also be accessed through your computer's Control Panel. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As a final option, there are apps that you can download to help you search and recover deleted files. Several apps that serve this purpose are free and can be helpful when searching for a deleted file.

Compressing and Extracting Files

Sometimes you'll be working with a file that is too big to send as an email attachment. In that case, you can shrink the file down. It's analogous to letting the air out of a raft so you can store it in a tight spot and then reinflating it later for use. The process of reducing the size of one or more files by removing unnecessary data is called file compression. Compression also allows larger files to be sent faster and more efficiently. Large files usually contain lots of dense graphics or video clips or photos. With compression, no content in the file is lost; the file is simply compressed in size by the computer to make it more manageable. These compressed files are often referred to as *zipped* files. But be aware that in some instances, email recipients may not be set up to receive zipped files. This is a setting that is managed by their information technology (IT) administrator. In this case, you may have to send the uncompressed file or share the file with the recipient in another way.

How to Compress and Extract Files

Locate the file or files that need to be zipped. Press and hold or right-click the file to select it, click Send To, and then select the compressed folder. Locate the zipped file that needs to have files extracted from it. You can extract a single file, open it, and then drag it from the extracted folder to a new location. Or, to extract all contents of the zipped folder, you can press and hold or right-click the folder and select Extract All.

Mac Tip

To compress a file on a Mac, select the file you want to compress and then hold Control and click on the mouse and choose Compress.

File Types

Information in computers is stored in a system of files. Each file will have a unique file name followed by an extension, using the file name.extension format. The file format depends on the usage of the file, the program in which the file was created, and/or the size of the file. The computer will store the data in a particular file format, which is the way the data is encoded, depending on the

type of data and the application the computer will use to read it. There are many different file formats. You may be familiar with some of them, such as .doc or .txt. The .txt file format is a general format for a text file that can be recognized by almost any word processing application. The text contained in a .txt file does not contain any formatting such as underlines, special spacing, and other related items.

There are many other file types within the computer filing system that you will probably never see. These file types are necessary instructions created to make the computer function. Those operating file types are beyond the scope of this text and are not essential for you to understand how to use a computer and the software programs on your computer effectively.

Table 2.1 lists some common software program file extensions that you may already be familiar with. You can choose the file type in the Save dialog box so that you do not have to type the file extension as part of the file name. Generally, the application you are using will have the file extension already chosen in the Save dialog box as a default. In general, an "x" is added to the end of a file extension for newer versions of the application. For example, when documents are created in Word in versions 2007 or newer, the file will have the .docx extension rather than .doc only.

Table 2.1: Types Computer application files are saved with the file name and an extension that identifies the type of file it is.

Application	File Extensions
Microsoft Word	.doc, .docx
Google Docs	.gdoc, .gdocx
Microsoft Excel	.xls, .xlsm, .xlsx
Google Sheets	.gsheet
Microsoft PowerPoint	.ppt, .pptx
Google Slides	.gslides

Rich Text Format (RTF)

Microsoft developed Rich Text Format (RTF), or .rtf, files in 1987 to enable other Microsoft applications to read Word output more easily. Today, the .rtf format can be used to make your .docx file more compatible so that other software can use the information in the file more readily. For example, information from a Word document that is saved as an .rtf file type can be fed into a database program. Text in .rtf appears fairly "plain"—that is, with minimal formatting. .rtf files have stayed more or less the same as when they were first released, but Word .docx files are frequently updated. To put it another way, an .rtf is less sophisticated than a .docx file and may not support all the features of a newer .docx. To save a file as an .rtf, go to the File tab, click on Export, hover over Rich Text Format, and then click Save As.

Mac Tip

To open .rtf files on a Mac:

1. In the TextEdit app on your Mac, choose TextEdit > Settings, and then click Open and Save.
2. Select Display RTF files as RTF code instead of formatted text.
3. Open the .rtf file.

Portable Document Format (PDF)

In the business setting, you will see many documents in Portable Document Format (PDF), or .pdf. Unlike .docx format, the .pdf format is designed as a publishing platform, so .pdf documents are not easily editable. This is an advantage because it means that everyone who opens the .pdf document will see the same format, alignment of objects, font style and size, images, tables, graphs, and so on. The appearance of the document will not change across any computer, phone, tablet, or other device. The Word file format, by contrast, is designed to be fully editable, so if you use Word 2019 or Word 365 (part of Microsoft 365), for example, to open a .docx created in Word 2013 or Word 2016, you may see unintended and unwelcome changes, such as a shifted object.

Countless companies and other institutions typically release their annual reports and other public documents in .pdf format. WorldCorp publishes its annual report using the .pdf format. Local townships, public schools, and community agencies also are likely to distribute their newsletters and other information as .pdf documents. Further, many job seekers produce a .pdf version of their résumé, as Figure 2.8 shows, to prevent style or alignment changes when the prospective employer opens the file.



Figure 2.8: Saving as a .pdf file can preserve formatting and spacing in documents such as résumés and newsletters when they are shared with others and opened in other programs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Web Page/Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)

Many professionals have their own web page, featuring their professional experience, skills, contact information, and samples of work or testimonials. The content of such a website can be created in Word. For more than a decade, Word has doubled as a What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG) HTML editor—a web page design application that lets users make their own web pages without needing to know hypertext markup language (HTML). HTML is one of the major programming languages that web designers use to make websites. Essentially, Word lets you write the content of your web page as if you were writing any document in Word; you can add images, objects, and graphs, then Save As an .html file. However, there are better ways to create content for websites rather than using Word. We will discuss more about this later in the book.

Today, many people use packaged services such as WordPress or Squarespace to create their own websites. You may still find some people who prefer to use Word to create their website or at least to design the initial content and layout of the site. Also, note that just creating a website doesn't make it available on the web. The website will need to be published, a domain name purchased (e.g., www.yourwebsite.com), and it hosted through a paid service such as GoDaddy.

Graphics

Graphics file formats are for pictures and moving images. In general, graphics can mean any program that allows a computer to display these types of images. But for our purposes here, it means a file format. Without going into detail that is beyond the scope of this text, these graphics file formats organize their information in different ways. You just need to be able to recognize what they are in the workplace.

- JPEG, which stands for Joint Photographic Experts Group, is the most common of the formats. Its benefit is that the files can be quickly uploaded to any platform, even if the images are large. However, if the files are compressed and decompressed multiple times when sending, the images can lose quality.
- PNG files (.png) are higher quality than JPEGs. PNG stands for portable network graphics. This file type is best for images with sophisticated backgrounds, making them denser and therefore needing more storage space on the hard drive, and more time to load on your computer.
- GIF (.gif) stands for graphics interchange format. It is a file format that works well for graphics with few colors.

- PDF stands for portable document format. It is a common file format that works best for online documents that you don't want altered. They print well, too. A PDF (.pdf) file format is not only used for text, but for images such as photos, as well as audio and video. Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, Word, and Docs are some of the applications that allow you to create PDFs.
- SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) file formats support digital illustrations made up of geometric shapes. SVG (.svg) file formats retain the highest quality even when resized, but they are not applicable to social media platforms.
- MP4 (Moving Picture Experts Group) is a multimedia format that stores internet videos. MP4 (.mp4) files can contain audio and subtitles. They take up a manageable amount of computer storage space and you can easily upload them on a social media channel or a website.

Best Practices in Using and Organizing Folders and Files

Remember that Word allows users to save documents in different file formats and in multiple versions within a single format, designated by changing the file name—for example, from "version1" to "version2." Word also lets you choose between different file formats depending on how you want to use the file. You may also want to publish your document on the web, using a file format that allows it to be read correctly by web browsers.

Real-World Application: Tips for Organizing and Maintaining Files

Imagine you have been asked by your professor to resubmit a homework assignment that you originally turned in at the beginning of the semester. The professor cannot find your submitted assignment, so you currently have received zero credit in the gradebook. Having a well-organized system for keeping track of your school notes and assignments will help you quickly find this assignment.

This scenario can also be applied to the workplace. Suppose you need to quickly locate a document for a customer or a coworker. A good organizational system makes this task much easier. Here are some tips for effective file management:

- After creating and naming a file, place it in the appropriate folder based on your organization system. If you want quick access to a file, you can store it on the desktop. But if you store too many files on the desktop, it can be hard to locate a specific file. It is generally preferable to store files within folders and to reserve the desktop for icons to access particular apps. Ultimately, this is a matter of personal preference.
- Group files by category. For example, your categories might be Business Plans, Résumé Services, Memos, Letters, and Meeting Notes.
- Create subfolders for all files and give them descriptive names. For example, you might want to label a subfolder Business Plan – Client 2 – June 2023.
- Use effective file name conventions for folders. Specific, informative file names like Resumes – 2022 and Employee Files – A–M will save you the time of having to search within a folder with a more generic name.

It is important to keep your files current. In many cases, you may have files that you no longer use or that have been updated. In that case, delete the previous versions of the file. Unless you need to refer to a previous version of a document or think you might need the information in the future, generally there is no need to keep older files that you no longer use. You can save multiple versions of a file and rename them in such a way that they identify the version of the original file referencing the version or even the date of the version of the file.

To make this process effective, be consistent in naming versions of files. Always use the same approach. For example, you could have the file name with the version number and the date (nameV2Mar212023). What is more important is having a consistent approach that is used by everyone who uses the files.

If you are hesitant to delete the files entirely, consider backing them up to an external drive such as a flash drive or a cloud-based storage option. This will free up space on your computer's hard drive, while still reassuring you that your files are secure. As a best practice, regularly back up all your files/folders on your computer, not just the items you are no longer using.

Create a *folder* organization system that works for your needs. For example, you might want to create folders by software program, by date, or by client. Establishing an organization system for your folders will save you time when searching for specific files. Consider writing out the system on paper first to get an idea of what it will look like. Just the process of writing out how your folders will be organized may give you additional ideas on how to structure your system. For example, if you have a few larger

folders organized by client, you may want to have several subfolders within each of them that house specific files for that client by software program or usage.

Suppose WorldCorp asks you to keep track of correspondence with four of its clients. You can create four main folders (Clients 1–4) and then, within each of those folders, subfolders labeled Invoices, Email Correspondence, and Work Tasks. It is often easier to have the folders and the files within those folders sorted alphabetically so that you can easily find information.

It is better to use full names and words rather than abbreviations in your folder names. This makes using the search function more effective in locating the folders you need. This is especially important if files are shared and may need to be accessed in your absence. Most computers have the capability to mark or flag certain folders or files for quick access so that you can readily find them. Generally, this capability is found in the File Explorer feature in your computer, which looks like a manila folder and is located on your desktop. You could also place those files or folders that you use daily on the desktop for quick access to them when you need them. Finally, organize your files as you create them rather than saving that task for later. When you create a new file in a software program, determine the folder where the file will be placed, and save the information there.

Google Drive, SharePoint, and OneDrive

Both Microsoft and Google have applications to help you manage, organize, and share your computer files. Drive is the online, cloud-based file storage system in Google. Drive is free and allows you to store, organize, manage, and create files online through the Google platform. Drive also has the capabilities to sync with multiple devices and has convenient sharing tools to share files and images with others. You will get your Drive when you create a Google account. There are limits to the storage capacity on Drive, but you can pay for more storage if needed.

Microsoft's versions of Drive are OneDrive and SharePoint. Like Drive, both are cloud-based systems. However, each serves a different purpose. OneDrive is most similar to Drive in its intended use. It is a storage system for files in the cloud, which enables you to access files on a variety of platforms and to share documents with others. You can also store and manage documents through SharePoint, but it has many more capabilities, designed for business and team communication. SharePoint helps build a shared library of resources to be used company-wide, such as links to employee documents or forms common to the organization. You can also use it to distribute comments or announcements company-wide and to create content and web pages to share. Within a company, you may have both OneDrive and SharePoint. For personal use, when you create a Microsoft account, you will be given a OneDrive account. SharePoint is more of an enterprise system for company teams.

This page titled 2.2: Files and Folders is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.3: Communication and Calendar Applications

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify common communication applications for email and messaging
- Apply best practices to crafting an email
- Describe features and uses of calendar applications

Effective communication is a key component of any organization. Today's technologies enable us to communicate nearly seamlessly across thousands of miles, so that organizations can operate more efficiently and respond quickly to their customers' changing needs.

Communication technologies fall into three broad categories: email, instant chat/messaging, and videoconferencing programs. Some companies might also conduct communication by placing calls over the internet. Email is electronic mail. It is like writing a letter and delivering it via the internet rather than through the postal service. Instant chat/messaging is designed for brief, typed messages that are delivered in real time as if you were chatting with someone face-to-face. Finally, videoconferencing programs use video to mimic a face-to-face meeting where you can see and hear the other participants, but in a virtual environment (rather than in the same physical location).

There are advantages and disadvantages to each type of communication technology. Email is not ideal for conveying emotion clearly. Instant chat/messaging, though quick, as its name implies, may not preserve the entire conversation for later reference. (This may depend on the messaging service used.) Many email and instant messaging applications include a video chatting/meeting option as well.

With video communication programs, engagement from participants could be limited, especially if participants keep their video cameras turned off or if there are a large number of participants. It may be difficult to interject to speak in such a setting. But video communication software has made it possible to hold departmental meetings where all members do not have to be gathered in the same location. This technology has transformed communication on a large scale as well, especially on the world stage, as Figure 2.9 shows.

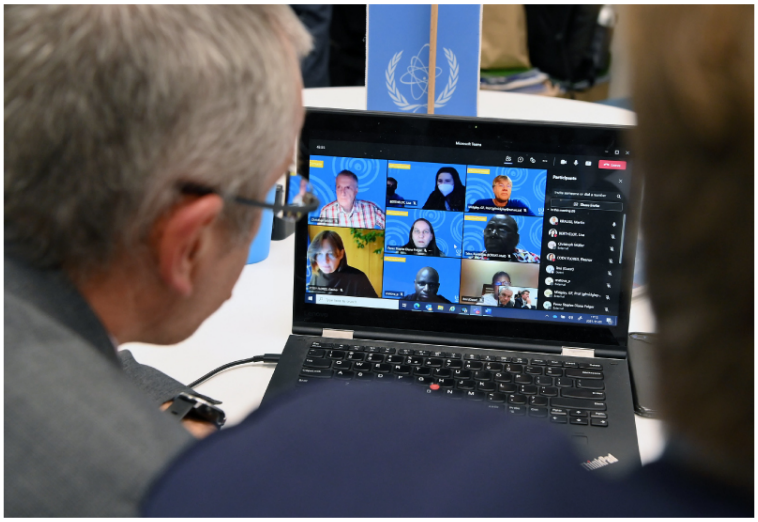


Figure 2.9: Technical Cooperation Members of the COP26 Climate Change Conference hold a virtual meeting in 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, enabling stakeholders from 200 countries to come together whether in person or over the internet. (credit: "IAEA Staff Behind the Scenes at COP26" by IAEA Imagebank/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Communication in the Digitized Office

Effective communication is essential for enhancing organizational performance. Communication is needed from upper management to effectively convey the strategic goals of the organization. Communication among colleagues is needed to ensure

that work tasks are being completed in a timely manner. And, finally, external communication of an organization to key stakeholders such as customers or vendors is necessary to increase the customer base or garner additional funding if needed. External communication is essential when marketing your company. WorldCorp can use external communication via a variety of ways (such as a website and emails to potential customers) to raise awareness about a new product line they are offering. With technology today, business can be conducted without the individuals being in the same physical space. It is likely that you will encounter a digitized office environment in your career.

Challenges of Digitized Collaboration

Some challenges of collaboration via technology include:

- Building trust
- Scheduling
- Addressing communication issues
- Overcoming cultural differences

Regular video calls with teams can be an effective way to build trust in an organization. In a digitized business environment, scheduling will need to account for time zone differences and this can be facilitated with the technologies today. Figure 2.10 shows one map of the world time zones that most video conferencing programs will automatically account for when scheduling meetings in multiple countries and continents.

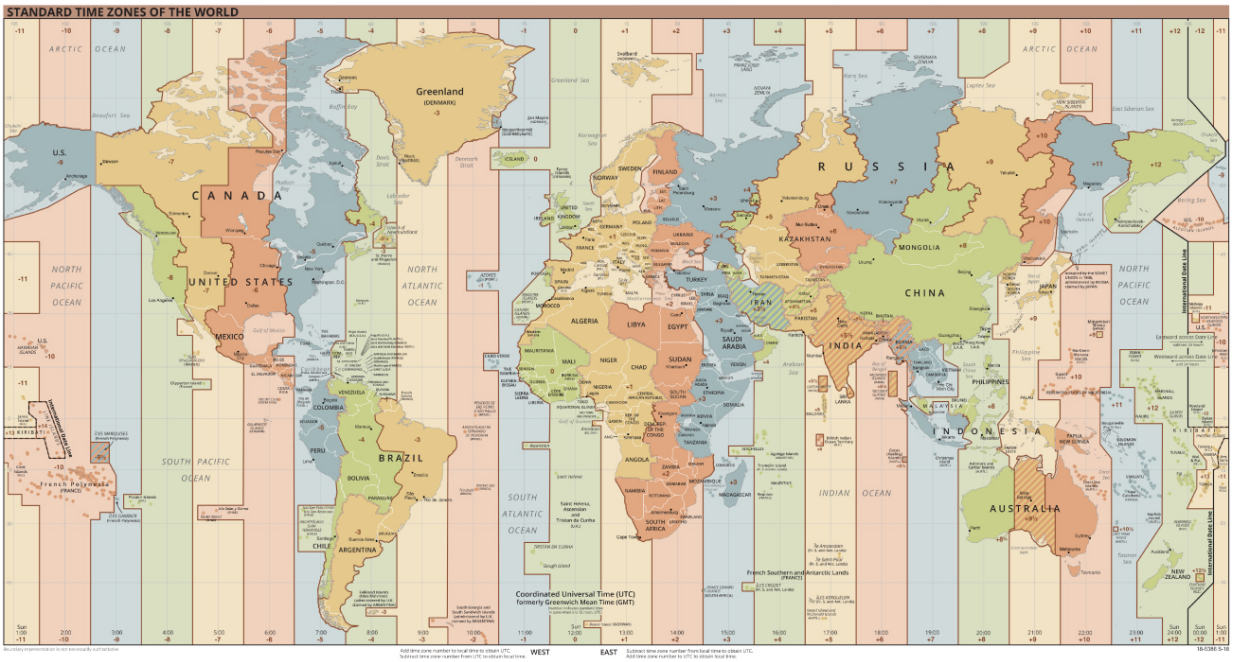


Figure 2.10: An understanding of time zones is important in running video meetings in multinational corporations. (credit: "Standard World Time Zones map (as of August 2015)" by UnaitxuGV/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

Communications issues such as language barriers can be addressed using translation capabilities within some applications. This can allow businesses to recognize cultural differences that may exist within their organization or customer base. Organizations that operate remotely should consider offering training to help overcome some of these cultural differences so that they do not become barriers to effective teamwork. The training could include cultural awareness training or even language classes to assist employees working across borders.

Essentials of Business Communication

Communication in the workplace is an essential part of the day-to-day functions for any employee. Keep in mind that communication conducted using company equipment (even if private) can be recorded and is the property of the company that can be accessed at any time. So keep this in mind when you are communicating while at work. This includes chats, instant messages, emails, video calls, and computer files.

Although the exact content of the communication will vary, there are some best practices to follow to make the communication more effective. First, one of the most important aspects of communicating is to know your audience. The way you communicate with your coworker could be completely different than how you would communicate with a senior level manager in the company. The communication style, needs, and method can vary widely based on the audience. Next, you need to understand your communication objectives: Is the intent to inform or persuade? What are you hoping to achieve with the communication? Knowing the answer to these questions can help you format the content of your communication and clearly articulate the message.

Determining the audience and the purpose of the communication leads to creating the content of the communication. First, consider the level of formality needed in the message. Communicating lunch plans with your coworkers is a different level of formality than communicating quarterly sales results with a manager. You might also consider the timing of communication in your thought process. Sending critical information via email at 5:15 p.m. on a Friday afternoon may not be the best timing for the message to go out. Some applications might give you the ability to schedule delivery of emails at a more appropriate time. Timing is especially important when communicating across time zones. Be sure to spell-check your content and read it out loud for professionalism when appropriate. This is also applicable to all attachments to the communications that you might send.

Communication Applications

WorldCorp uses email, instant messaging, and video applications because it has several employees who work remotely. Technologies of this kind are called communication applications, or software that facilitates communication between individuals or groups.

Email has become its primary means to communicate. Instant messaging also plays a role in the company as a fast way to communicate with coworkers who might not be located in the same office space as you are. Finally, video communication applications work well when not everyone can be in the same place to meet face-to-face. Within each communication type, there are several applications available, and many are integrated into one program. Most of the software for the communication type will have similar functionality. For example, many email applications offer similar tools and capabilities for communicating.

Email

Email is a digital means to send messages, ranging from a short memo to a longer narrative, which can be sent to a single recipient or to thousands (or more). You've most likely used or at least heard of popular email programs such as Outlook, Gmail, Apple Mail, and Yahoo! mail. Emails can also include attachments, such as Word or Excel documents.

Regardless of which email program you use, all emails have certain common elements. The main components of an email include: To, Cc, Bcc, subject, body of the email, and attachments, as shown in Figure 2.11. The To field is where you enter the address of the primary intended recipient(s). You can include multiple recipients for the email; their email addresses will be separated either by a "," or a ";" depending on which program you are using. All carbon copy (Cc) recipients will get the identical email and all recipients will know all that have received the email, but they are merely "copied" on the message to be informed of it. There is no action required by Cc'd recipients. A blind carbon copy (Bcc) means that the recipients in the To and Cc fields will not know the Bcc individual has received the email. This function serves to inform someone else confidentially and usually means there is a crucial need for it. It's not a function to use lightly or liberally.

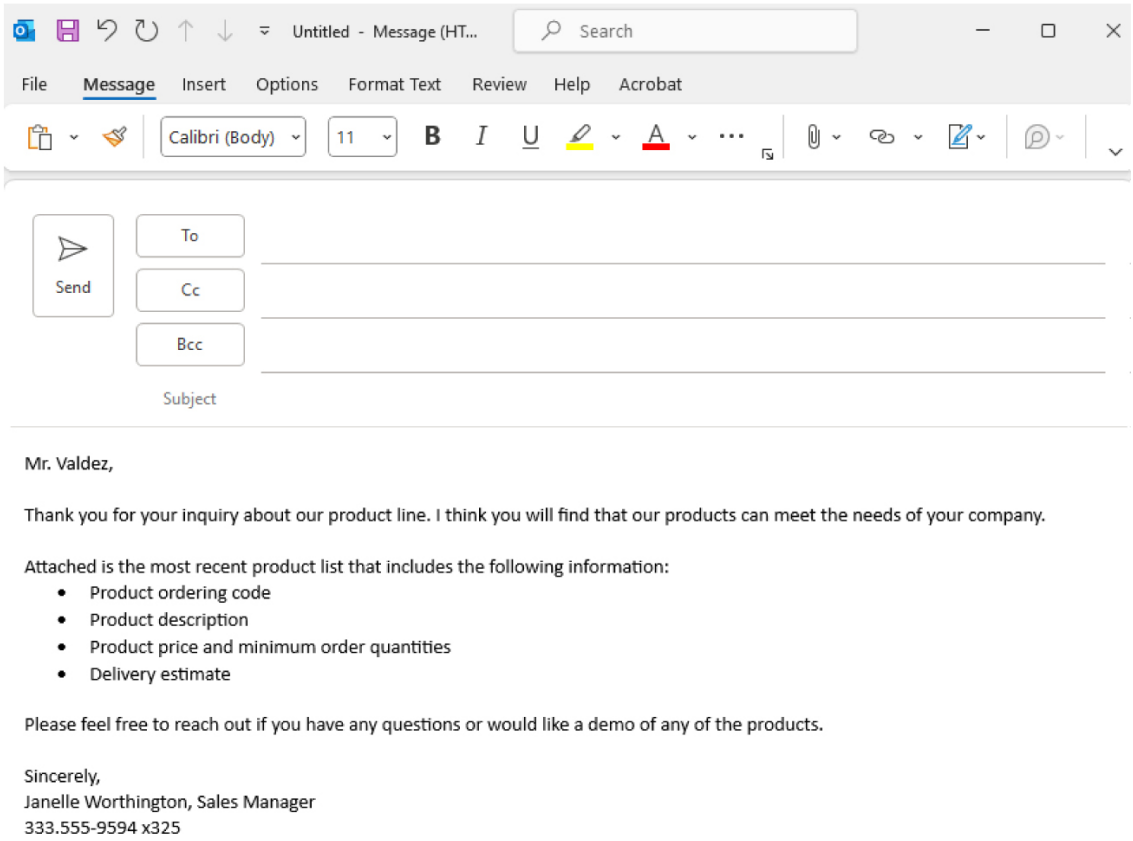


Figure 2.11: When composing a professional email, format the email in a similar manner to a business letter. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The subject line of the email is a brief description of the content or purpose of the email. The body of the email is composed in the large space. Composing an email in an email application is similar to using word processing software such as Google Docs.

The final component of most emails is attachments. Not all emails have to include attachments, but you may want to include an attachment such as a document to review or an image you want to share. To attach a file to an email, you will usually find a tool or icon that looks like a paper clip. Attachments are just as they sound—additional information that is saved in a computer file outside of the actual email, such as spreadsheets, pictures, and PDFs. These digital files can then be saved by the recipient on their computer for future use.

When responding to an email you have received, you have several options. You can choose Reply, Reply All, or Forward, as Figure 2.12 shows. Reply will allow you to compose a response, which will go to the sender of the email only. When you choose Reply All, everyone who received the original email from the sender will also get your reply. Use caution when choosing Reply All. Make sure you are comfortable with all on the email distribution list reading your response.

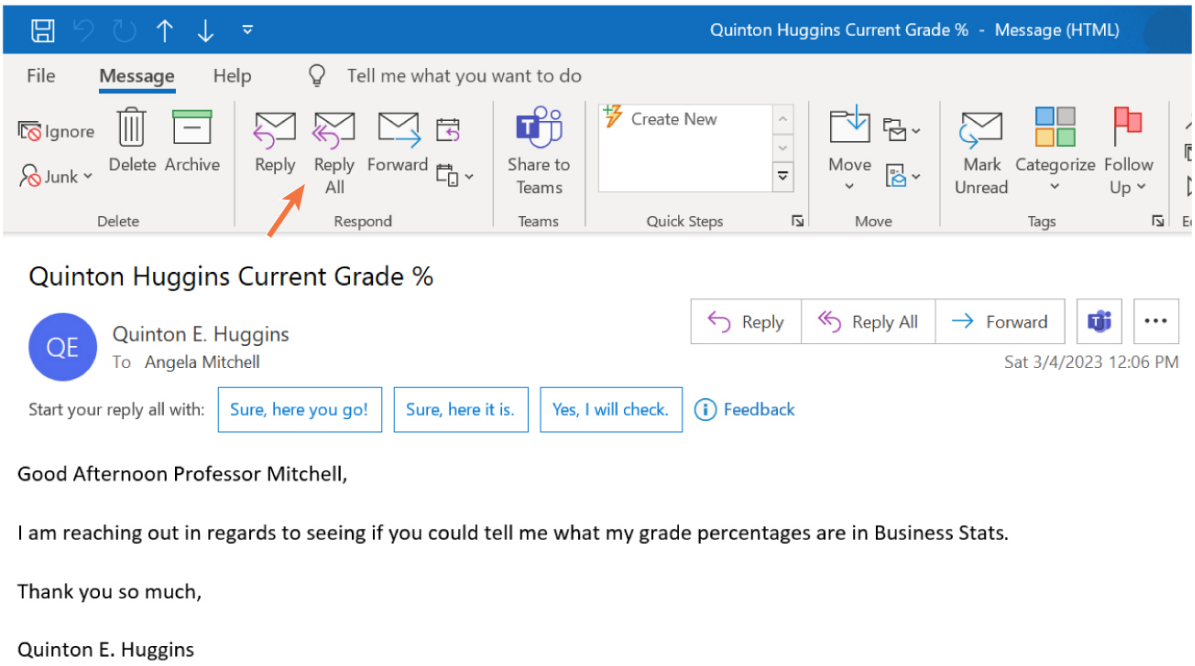


Figure 2.12: When responding to an email, be careful to choose the appropriate option. As an example, you may not want to choose Reply All when responding to an email that was sent to all employees. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For example, the human resources (HR) director at WorldCorp has just sent a company-wide email about the upcoming holiday schedule. If you had a question about the schedule and chose Reply All, everyone in the company would get your email with the question. You really intended only to ask the question of the HR director, so you should have used Reply.

Finally, Forward allows you to forward the original email to someone else. You might choose this option if you want to get some input on a topic before responding. Sales personnel at WorldCorp might use the Forward option to send accounts payable receipts for products they have purchased.

Generally, email is not the best communication channel for long discussions that require input from multiple people, because you will get multiple replies that clog your email inbox (more on that later). In general, a business email should take a formal tone. Like a business letter, it should be clear and concise. Emails should include a descriptive subject line that conveys the topic of the message. In fact, some email programs have a security feature that will flag any message without a subject line and will ask you to write one before clicking Send.

Professional business emails should start with a greeting or salutation—something like Dear Mr. Jones, Mr. Jones, or simply Jim, depending on the level of formality you desire.

The body of the email should be brief and concise. Anything longer than a few paragraphs should be put into an attachment file instead. Pay attention to spelling and grammar as you are constructing the email. Finally, end with a closing and your signature. The closing may be a sentence such as “Thank you for your time” or “I look forward to hearing your thoughts.” Some email programs have a built-in feature that allows you to include a preformatted signature on all emails, perhaps including your name, company, position, and contact information.

Common Email Applications

There are many email applications on the market. Your company will have chosen one, but that doesn’t mean you can’t have your own email addresses to use at home. Just be sure to keep those email accounts separate. It is not a good idea to use company email for personal matters because you have no privacy and it is the company’s property first and foremost. Because this text covers Microsoft and Google products, you will learn these email applications, Outlook and Gmail, respectively.

Mac Tip

Visit this Apple mail support page for information about Apple Mail.

Microsoft Outlook

Outlook is part of the Microsoft suite of applications. It contains many of the same features that you might find in Word or Excel. You can format the email text as you are composing the email. Figure 2.13 shows you the email composition screen in the application. You will notice there are common features in Outlook that you will find in most email applications. You have options to reply to the message, include attachments, and add signatures to your emails. Another handy feature in Outlook is setting a priority for your email. This allows you to give an email that needs immediate attention a high priority label. It can alert the recipient that the email is a "High Priority" email and needs to be addressed quickly.

Other features that you will see in Outlook and many other email applications are identifying emails as spam or junk. You can mark an email as junk and emails from that sender will no longer appear in your inbox. They will instead be immediately sent to the spam or junk folders. When you no longer need an email, you can choose to delete it. When you delete an email, it goes to the Trash folder. You can still access it in the Trash folder for some time based on the settings of Outlook to delete the content of the Trash folder. Finally, you have the ability to add folders to help keep your emails organized. Just as you would for folders on your computer, you can use an organization system that works for your needs. For example, a sales agent at WorldCorp might set up an email folder for each of its customers.

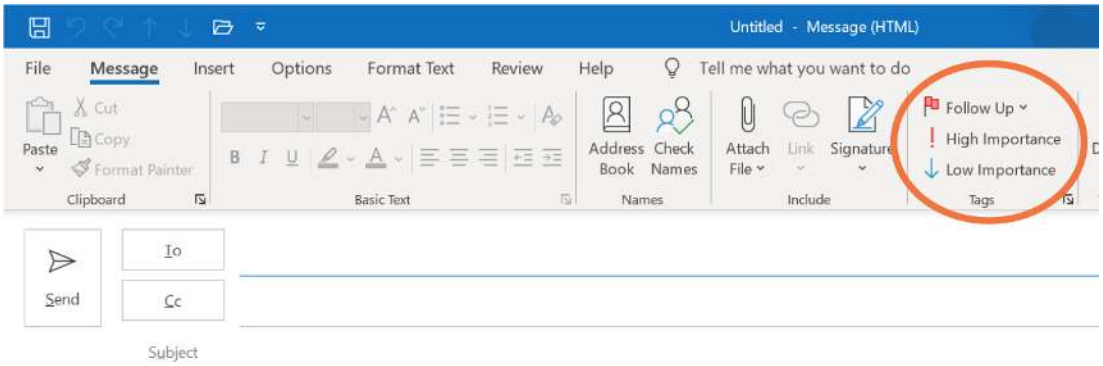


Figure 2.13: If you set the priority to High, recipients can quickly see emails that need immediate attention. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Gmail

Gmail (see Figure 2.14) is part of the Google suite of applications. You may have experience already using Gmail as many schools will assign Gmail email addresses to their students for use while they are enrolled. In Gmail, you have some ability to format text, but not to the extent that you have with Outlook. The basic setup of the email composition is similar. The functionality of Gmail is similar to that of most email programs. You can add attachments, organize emails into folders, and identify emails as junk or spam.



Figure 2.14: Gmail places the Send button at the bottom of the email composition screen. (Gmail is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Link to Learning

Email was invented in 1971 by Ray Tomlinson, a computer engineer who worked for Bolt Beranek and Newman in Massachusetts. Tomlinson developed a system that could send messages between computers using the @ symbol. The first organization to use email was the Department of Defense. Read this article on the history of email to learn more about how email has evolved since 1971.

- How has email changed the way organizations function?
- How has email changed the way individuals stay connected?

Instant Chat/Messaging (IM) Applications

Instant chat/messaging applications offer users a quick way to send messages in real time, meaning the back and forth is directly on the screen rather than in an email you have to open first to read. Often, these applications are more text based and do not offer some of the same formatting features that you might find in email programs. Many do offer the ability to send files through the instant messaging application. However, the size of the file may be limited. Usually, communicating through instant messaging is less formal than communication in email. Also, you would not expect to format a message in instant messaging applications like a business email. You might also find that users will abbreviate words more when using instant messaging applications. This is like texting via your cell phone.

Some companies offer internal programs for instant messaging. Others use commercially available tools to facilitate communication in the workplace. For example, if you had a quick question to your manager about the format needed for a presentation you are preparing, using an instant messaging application might be a good tool. You could send the message to your manager in a short, concise question and the manager would receive the message directly. Think about instant messaging like having a face-to-face conversation with your manager, but just electronically—an online chat. Instant chat/messaging applications give users the ability to send to multiple people or to create a “chat room.” Most programs also have an indication if a user is online. This will allow you to know whether your message will be viewed when you send it.

Using instant chat/messaging in the workplace can facilitate real-time communication between employees who are not in the same physical location. This can foster team building and foster trust among the employees. It can also reduce the number of emails an employee receives on a daily basis. Instant messaging can be a secure form of communication that can be archived by the information technology department. However, overuse of instant messaging can provide a distraction in the workplace. With instant messaging, we often do not place the same attention to proofreading and making sure we are conveying the message we intend. You might inadvertently send a message in error or with incorrect information. Because of the immediate nature of instant messages, take care to make sure the message is correct before sending.

Also, instant chat/messaging is not appropriate for critical discussions such as hiring decisions, strategic company decisions, or contract discussions. Instant messaging should be viewed as a means to facilitate quick conversations, not as a replacement for

company meetings and other such discussions. Instant messaging, although similar in ways to a face-to-face conversation, cannot take the place of those human interactions. Emotions and body language are not conveyed through messages. Here are the major instant message programs.

Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is a useful tool in business for instant messaging. It is included in the Microsoft suite of programs. Teams also offers video chat capability as well as file sharing. Many organizations today use Teams to conduct team meetings. Teams provides much more than just a chat function. You can take calls, schedule meetings through the calendar function, and much more in the Teams environment. Figure 2.15 shows what the Teams interface looks like with the chat function selected.

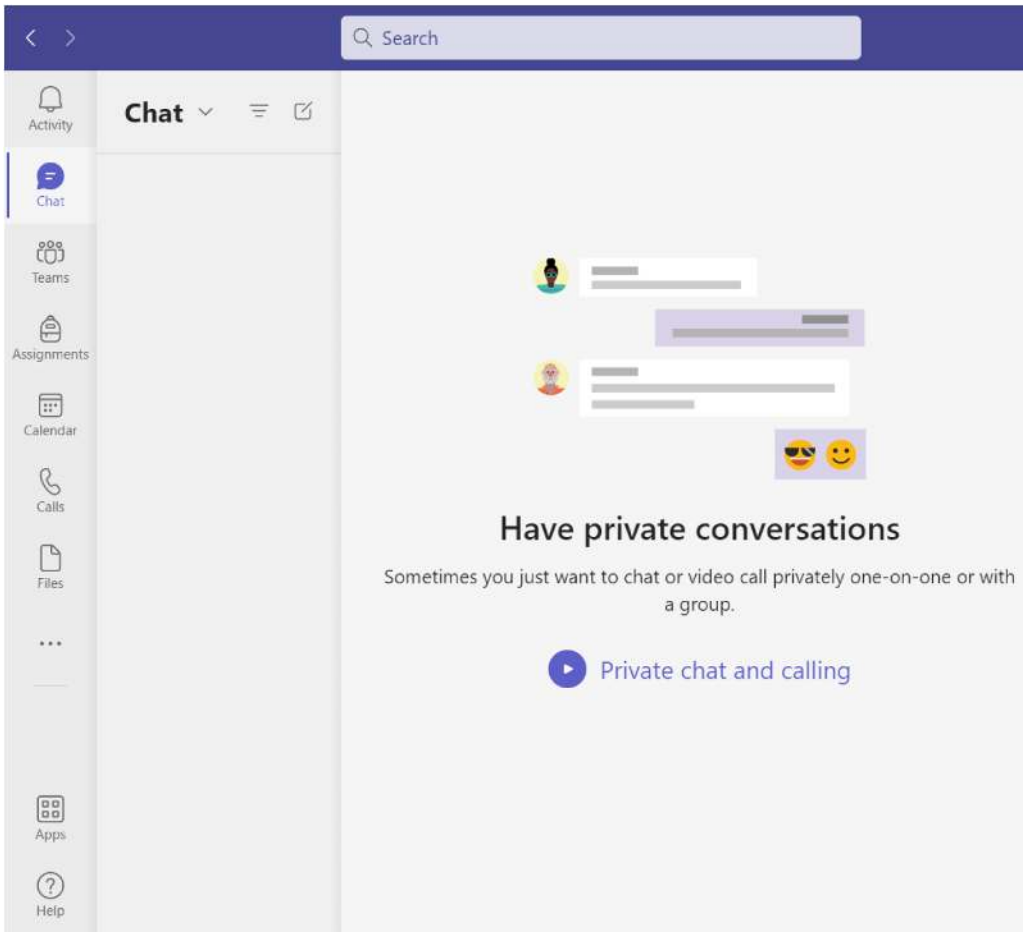


Figure 2.15: The Teams window will display your picture in the upper-right corner with a green check mark to show you are available. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Slack

Another instant messaging platform, Slack, is a free program with some extra features available for a fee. For example, with the free version, users are limited to view and access only the most recent 10,000 instant messages. This will work for many uses but may be limiting if you try to use the free version for workplace communications, where you may need to recall a conversation that goes back further. Slack is similar in many ways to Teams (see Figure 2.16). It was designed specifically for use in the workplace. Slack allows users to add emojis to messages and to create workspaces for team collaboration. Files can be shared via Slack as they are in Teams. Private and public messages can be exchanged through Slack. Slack integrates well with other programs such as the Google suite of products, including Google Calendar.

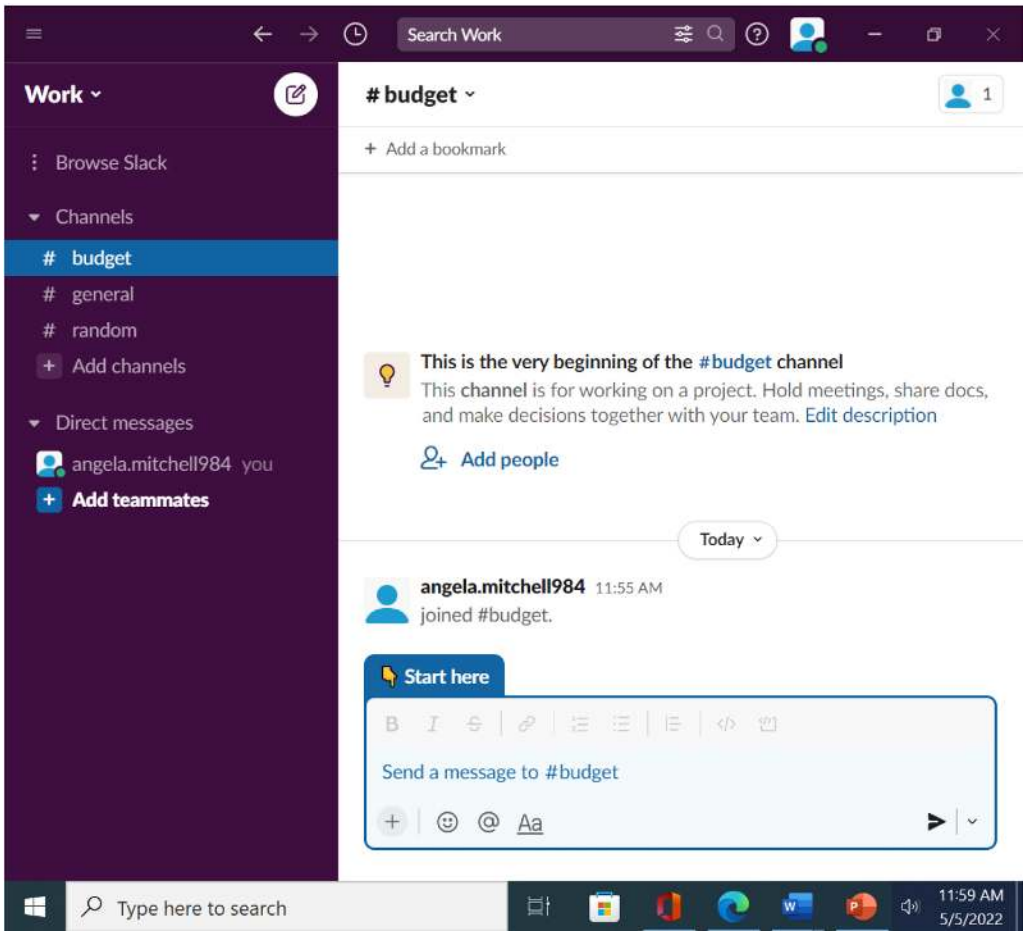


Figure 2.16: Notice that Slack uses the term “channels” to refer to different chats. (Copyright 2023 Slack Technologies, LLC.)

Calendar Applications

There are several applications that can help you keep organized. One such category of applications is calendars. Suites such as Microsoft and Google include calendar applications. One key feature of calendar applications is the ability to have both your personal and business schedules in one place that can be accessed from virtually anywhere. You can integrate the apps with your phone so that you no longer have to carry a separate day planner or schedule book with you. With the sophistication of the calendar apps today, you can enter appointment information into one place and it can be updated across many different programs and even shared to other people.

Calendar Features and Functions

With the availability of various technologies today, many people have moved their calendar to an online format, rather than a more traditional paper planner. Many prefer the convenience of storing their work and personal appointments in a single place. These calendar apps allow users to bring together multiple calendars as well as scheduling meetings and blocking out time when you might be unavailable. Many calendar applications will permit users to determine which items are visible to others or to share your calendar with coworkers and family. You can also use calendar software to allow your customers to set up meetings with you during your available time. If you want to keep your personal appointments hidden from your coworkers, you can easily set this up in the program. The settings in the application also allow users to permit others to add appointments to their calendars.

Calendar applications can also be useful for managing work tasks for project management and setting reminders for key activities. Calendar items can be color coded and/or flagged based on their importance of due date. Calendars are used frequently in organizations to make scheduling easier when including multiple people for a meeting. Using a calendar application can also increase productivity because you can manage your time more efficiently. Many of the calendar apps also integrate well with cell phones so that you can receive notifications of upcoming appointments if you are not at your computer. You may also find when scheduling family or personal appointments such as dentist appointments, those appointments can be directly added to your

calendar by the doctor's office. While some may still prefer the traditional paper planner for keeping their schedule, the convenience of calendar applications has prompted many businesses to adopt them for use in their organization.

Spotlight on Ethics

Adjusting Privacy Settings in Your Electronic Calendar

While electronic calendars are incredibly useful and convenient, we must also recognize that these calendars may be viewed by others, especially if we are using our employer's software. Google Calendar and Outlook/Calendar can be viewed by others easily, requiring us to use privacy options such as adjusting viewing permissions for different individuals. You may want to prevent some people from viewing your calendar entirely, provide only limited information (such as availability) to others, and allow full access to your calendar to some. You can also control what information you can make available on a calendar appointment. For instance, you can make an appointment private and not viewable by anyone; this slot will show up as private with no further details. This is helpful for keeping private appointments or sensitive appointments.

Calendar Integration and Syncing

Syncing calendars stored in other applications is an essential component of getting the best use of a calendar application. You could have a calendar on your phone for personal appointments and reminders, a calendar for your work tasks on your work computer, and then perhaps another calendar to keep track of your extended family birthdays. Through calendar integration, these calendars can be synced into one place. This often involves simple changes to the settings in the software to link all the calendars together. In fact, when you first install a calendar application on your device, you might be prompted to integrate existing calendars during the setup process.

Common Calendar Applications

Figure 2.17 shows the calendar feature in Microsoft Outlook. The calendar function and email are integrated in the program. You cannot delete the calendar application, but you can choose not to use it. There are no preset events in the calendar application. You can set the program to give you notifications of meetings and tasks when you are in the email program. The Outlook Calendar also has a meeting scheduler to assist with scheduling meetings and can even be used to determine if specific meeting spaces are available in the organization. Outlook Calendar has a useful feature to set up recurring meetings that happen at some frequency. For example, if your company has a set meeting each week for sales force updates, you can set this up in Outlook once and it will be added to all attendees' calendars for the time frame you desire.

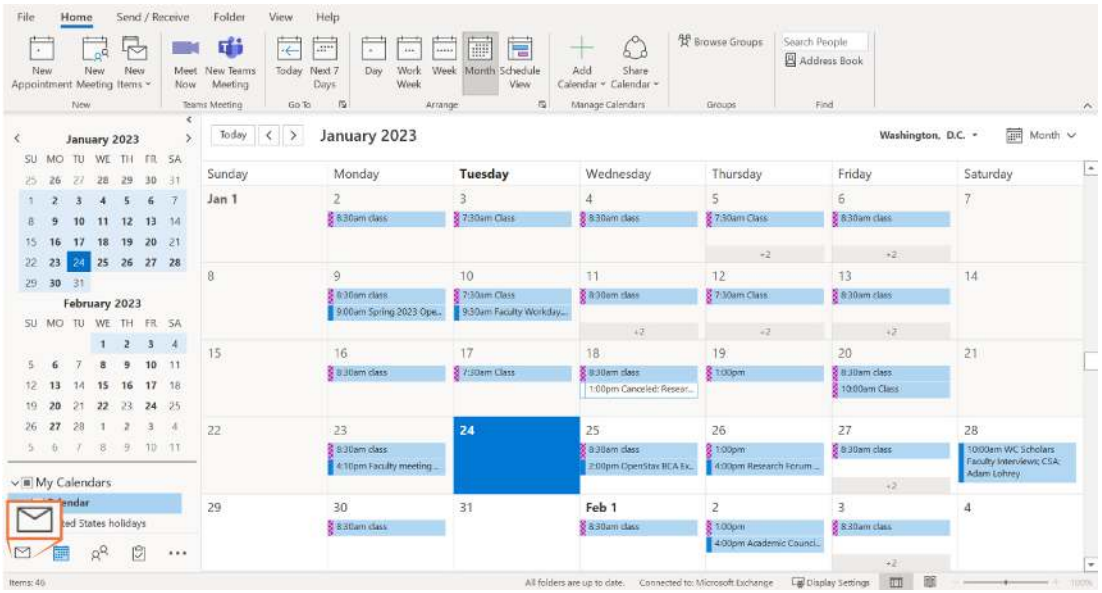


Figure 2.17: To switch back to Outlook Mail, just choose the envelope in the lower-left corner of the screen. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If you already have a Google account, you have access to Google Calendar. Google Calendar is easy to use and integrates well with a wide variety of platforms. With Google Calendar, you create multiple calendars to manage different events. You can then manage the settings for each of the calendars independently. All the created calendars are integrated into an overall calendar interface. You can use color coding to differentiate the different calendars when viewing in the main calendar view, as Figure 2.18 shows. You access Google Calendar by logging in to your Google account.

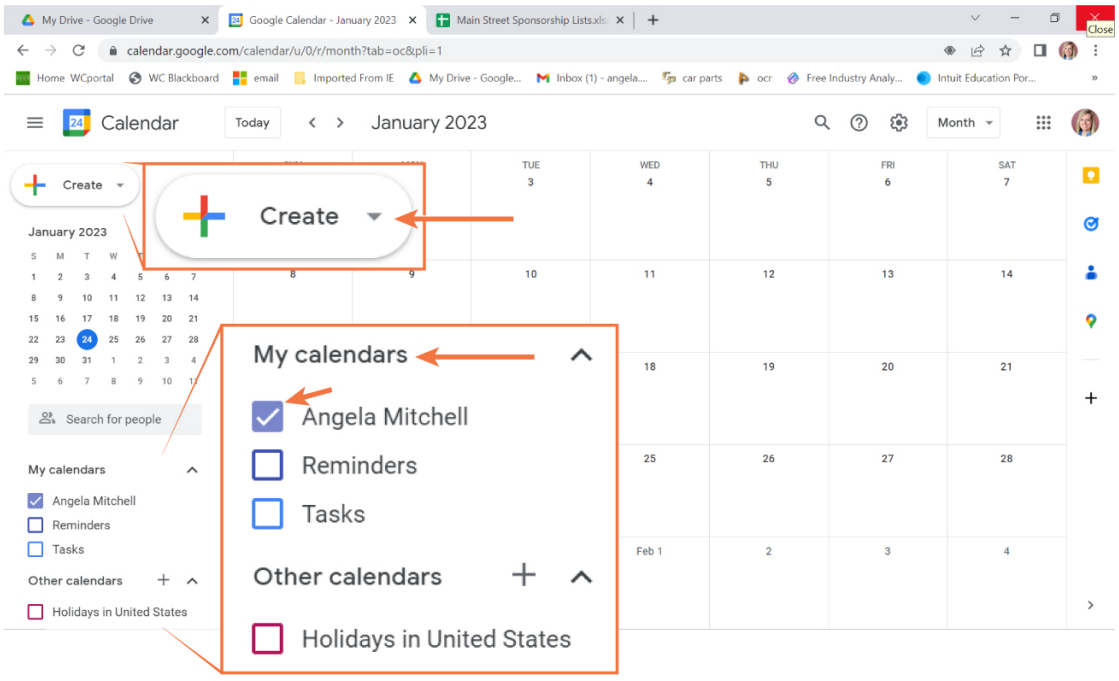


Figure 2.18: To create a new calendar appointment, choose Create. All calendars displayed in the main calendar view are listed in the lower left of the screen. (Google Calendar is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 2.3: Communication and Calendar Applications is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.4: Essentials of Microsoft 365

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Know how to access Microsoft applications
- Describe the key functions within Microsoft's standard menus
- Create, save, and open a document

Both personal and business productivity have increased as the result of technological advances. Computer technology has facilitated communication, information sharing, and data analytics. Although there have been several software programs developed over the years in these areas, two main leaders have emerged: Microsoft and Google are most common in organizations today and are suitable for a variety of purposes. Google and Microsoft have dominated the market for productivity software programs because they have adapted to the changing needs of businesses. Their success continues because of their forward-thinking and response to market needs.

Overview of Microsoft 365

Microsoft launched Microsoft Office in 1990. This suite of applications included three main programs: Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. These programs are bundled as a package to give the user the full range of productivity tools to meet a wide variety of needs. Office applications offer the flexibility to appeal to various preferences with the many ways to perform tasks within the software.

Office applications are compatible across a wide variety of platforms, including mobile devices and Apple/Mac operating systems. The applications also integrate well with other software. You may be aware of older versions of Office, such as Office 2016 or 2019, but the latest product, Microsoft 365, moves beyond these static versions, instead offering a subscription that updates automatically. With the introduction of Microsoft 365, the programs use a cloud-based technology that can be accessed anywhere. Microsoft 365 also enhanced the collaborative features of the programs.

Accessing and Maintaining Microsoft Products

When you register for a Microsoft 365 account, you are given access to OneDrive, which is its product that provides online storage in the cloud. This offers many advantages. When you save a file to your OneDrive, you will be able to access it from any computer as long as you have an internet connection. There are different versions of Microsoft 365 available for purchase, but most software today uses this subscription-based model for a fee. The software programs are installed on your devices as "apps," but can also be accessed through the web-based versions with some limitations to functionality. Updates to the programs are provided regularly by Microsoft and should be performed when prompted. Sometimes the information technology department (IT) will take care of these software maintenance issues with your company or school equipment. There are student editions of most versions of Microsoft 365 that can be purchased at a reduced cost or even for free. The student editions might also have some limitations to the functionality of the programs.

Applications

The Microsoft 365 suite includes software for many of the most common computer needs in today's workplace, as well as for personal use, including word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, database management, an email and calendar interface, and a collaboration tool. Table 2.2 provides an overview of the applications within the suite. Other chapters in this text will cover these programs in detail. What comes next in this chapter is a breakdown of commands that are common to all the Microsoft 365 applications, so you can get a basic understanding of how to navigate.

Table 2.2: Microsoft 365 Applications

Application	Type	Description
Word	Word processing	Create documents such as reports, memos, agendas, résumés, flyers, and mailings.
Excel	Spreadsheet	Create data-based sheets and workbooks for gathering data, performing functions, and analysis.
PowerPoint	Presentations	Create slide presentations for use in workplace meetings or client showcases.
Access	Database	Create and maintain databases of information.
Outlook	Email	Manage email communications and calendars.
Teams	Collaboration tool	Set up workspaces for collaboration, such as a team might use on a specific project.

Overview: Ribbons, Tabs, and Commands Menu

Since its initial release, Microsoft's suite of office products has been a driver of change, introducing new features in each subsequent version. Since the 2007 version, the apps have used the ribbon—an interactive bar of commands at the top of the application—as their user interface. With the ribbon, all the functions are clearly organized and user-friendly.

The ribbon is organized into tabs, each of which houses a collection of thematically grouped commands. The default tabs are File, Home, Insert, Design, Layout, References, Mailings, Review, View, and Help. As you hover your mouse over the ribbon, you will notice many small icons (pictures) that have a command over them. A command directs the program to complete a process, such as Save. When you select the Save icon, the command will start.

As you can see in Figure 2.19, the commands in the ribbon are organized into a command group of similar or related buttons, which appear together on the ribbon tabs.

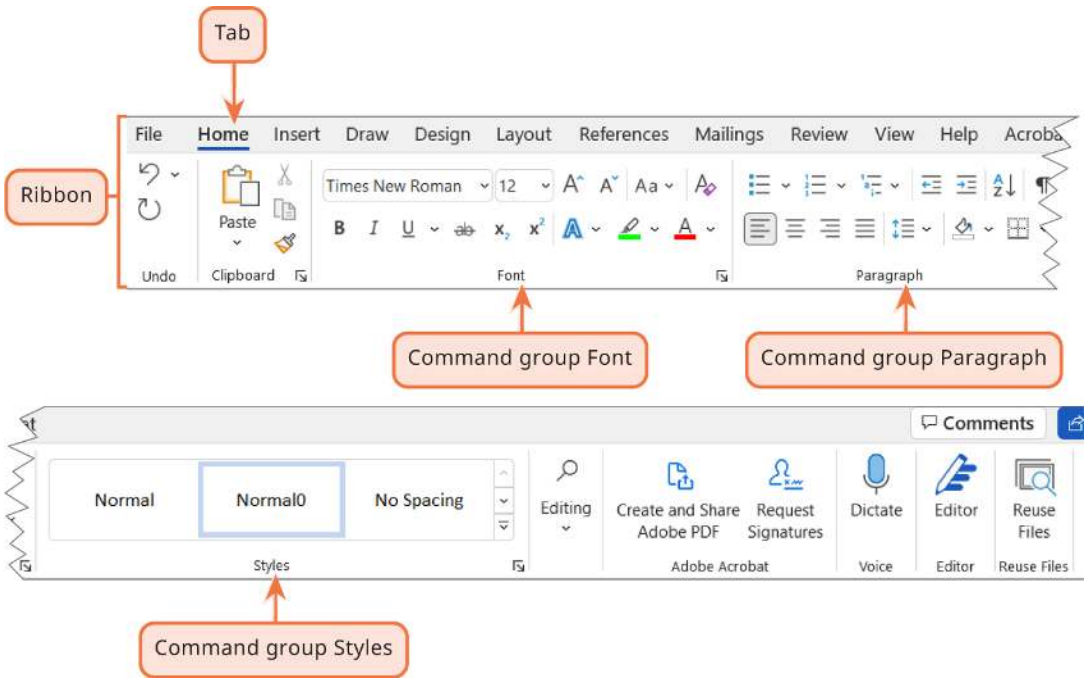


Figure 2.19: The Home tab contains the command groups Font, Paragraph, and Styles, which are used for formatting text. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Each tab generates a different ribbon with the appropriate commands and command groups. This section introduces the most used tabs. You will learn more details about them and practice using them in each specific application as the book goes on. Figure 2.20 shows the tabs available in Word and Excel, and Figure 2.21 shows the tabs available in PowerPoint and Access.

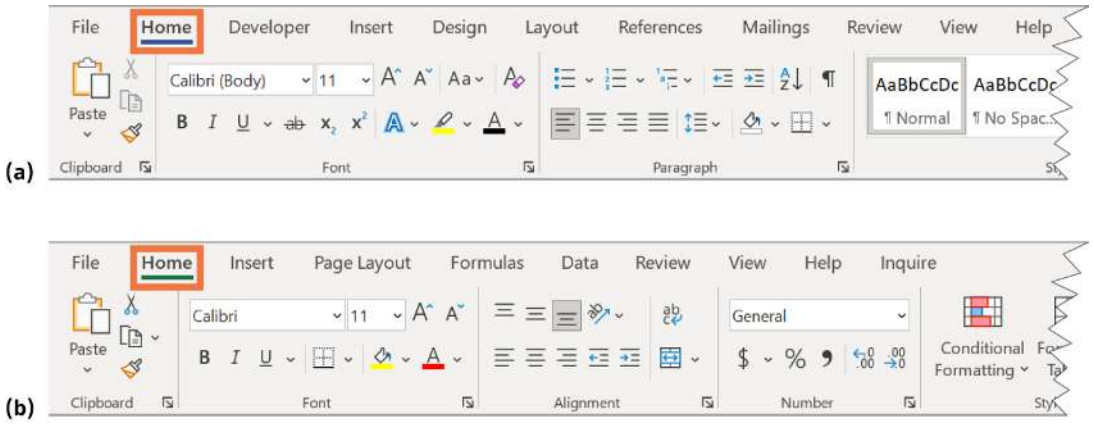


Figure 2.20: The main menu bars for (a) Word and (b) Excel share common tabs (File, Home, Insert, Help, for instance), but also contain tabs that are in character with their main functions (such as References in Word and Formulas in Excel). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

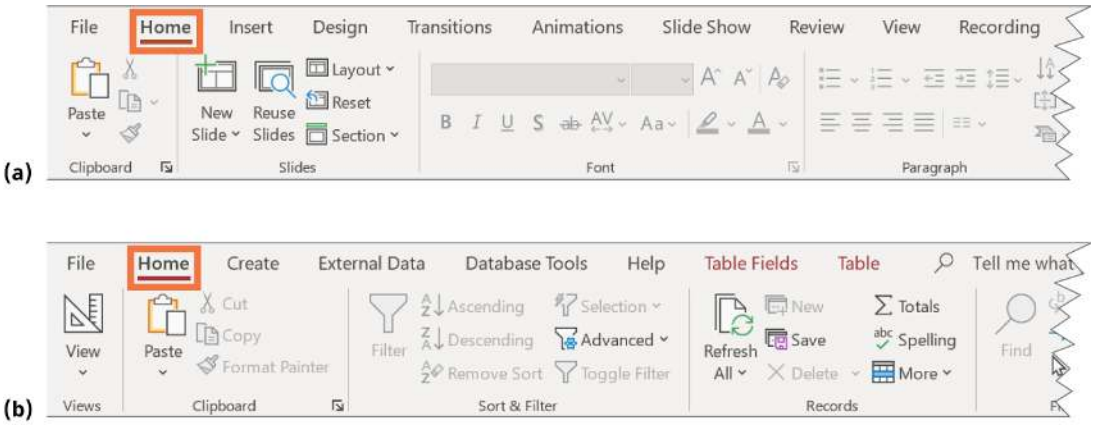


Figure 2.21: The main menu bars for (a) PowerPoint and (b) Access also share common tabs with one another and with Word and Excel (File, Home, Insert, Help, for instance). They also contain tabs that are in character with their main functions (such as Animations in PowerPoint and Database Tools in Access). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

File Tab

If you open a Microsoft product without opening any specific file, you will see the welcome screen, which provides a Backstage view. The Backstage view is located in an application for managing most tasks related to the documents. In Backstage view, you can open, close, rename, print, and control the settings for the application. There will be many commonalities within the Office programs for the tabs. When you have opened a file in an application such as Word or Excel, the Backstage view gives you information about that file you are working with. As you can see in Figure 2.22, the file properties are shown on the right pane of the Backstage view, which displays critical metrics about your document, such as its size, number of pages, number of words, file name, last saved time, and when it was printed. Backstage view also includes important commands such as file protection, inspecting the document, and managing the document, which will be discussed later in this chapter.

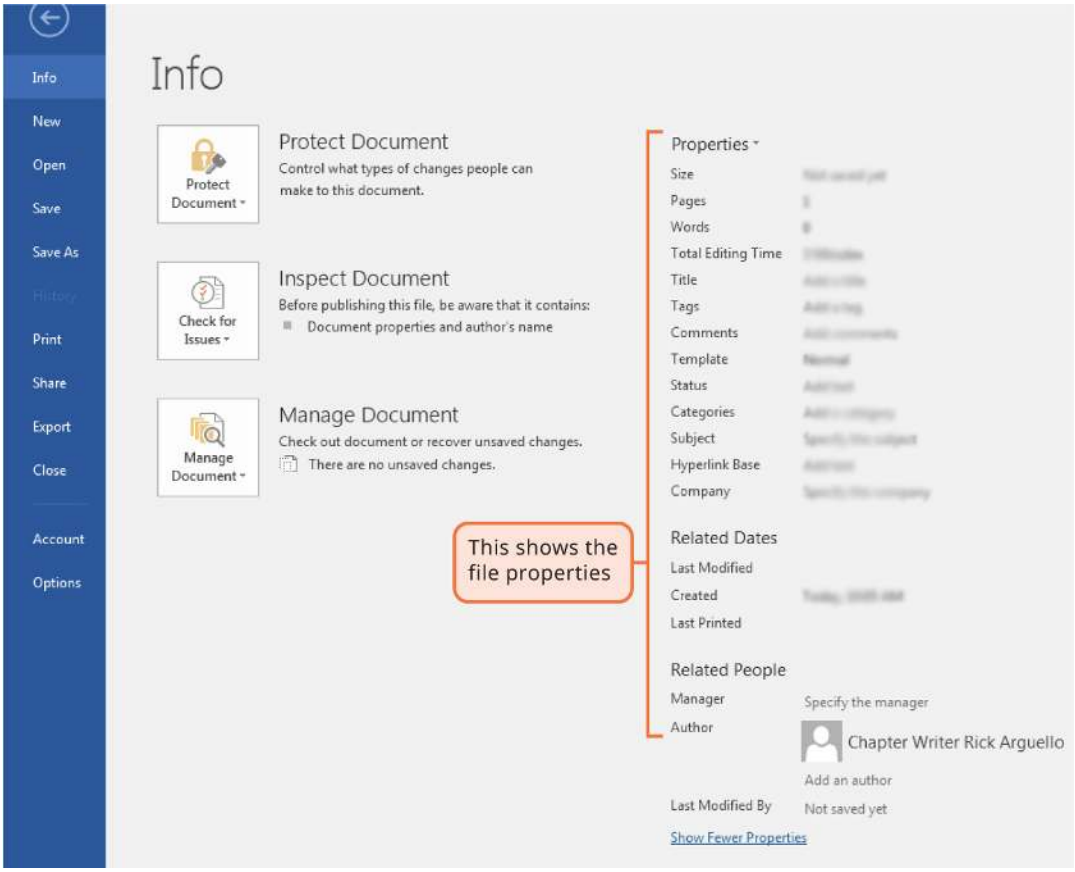


Figure 2.22: Backstage view shows file properties, which are the statistics and technical details of your file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

The Backstage view is not included in the Mac Version of Office, but you can get the properties of a file by going to the File tab and choosing Properties.

Creating a New File

As you open an Office application, you will be introduced to the welcome screen, which shows your recent files on the left and your options on the right. See Figure 2.23. Because you are in Word, you can choose Blank document to start a new document, or you can select a template from the default template list. A template is a document with many fields already filled and formatted, ready for the user to work on.

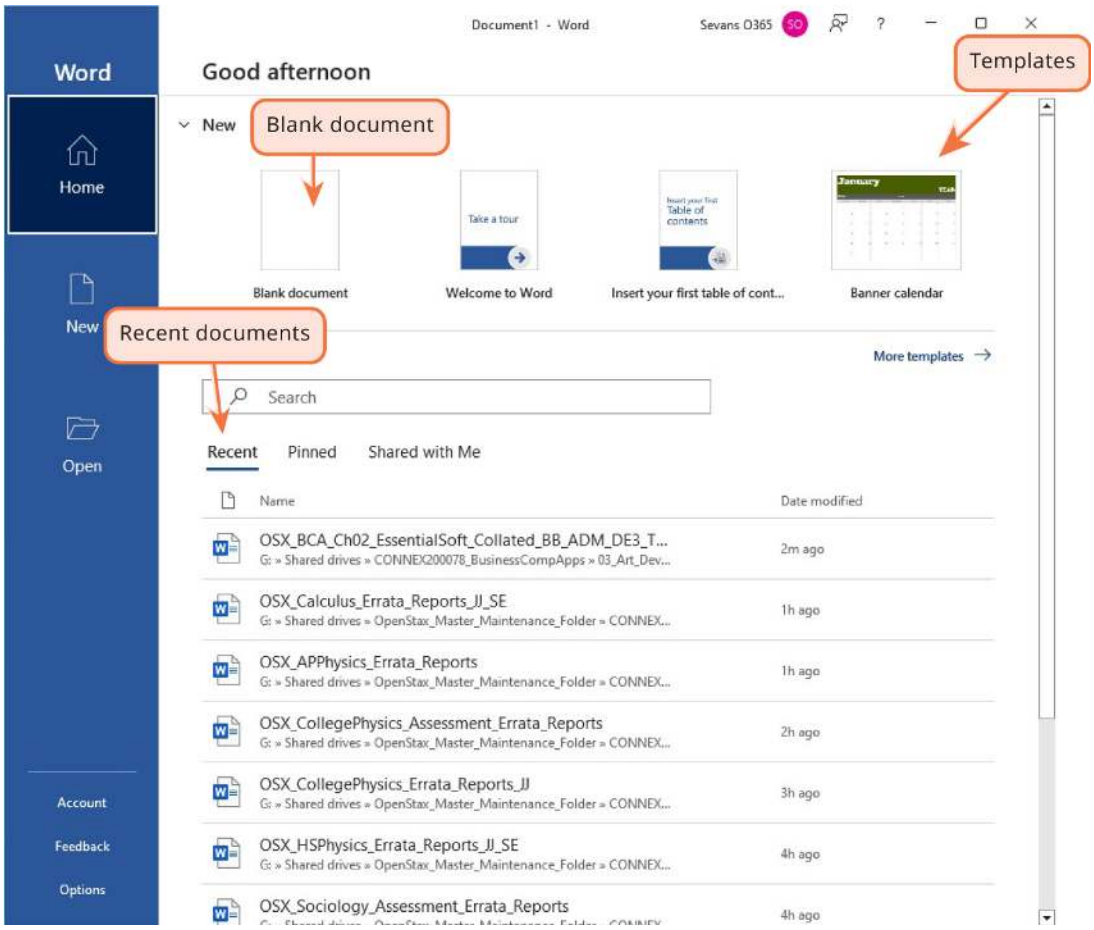


Figure 2.23: The welcome screen gives you three choices: start from scratch with a new file, create a file from a template, or open a recent file you have already saved. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

The Mac version does not have the same welcome screen. To create a new file, go to the File tab and choose New Document or New Document from Template.

To create a new document without using a template, simply select Blank document. A new document will be opened with a blank screen for you to create your file. This new document will be opened in a new window. You can then add the content to the document and save the document if desired. More about document creation will be covered in later chapters in the book.

Saving a File

The Save command is located at the upper-left corner of the window. Using the Save command saves your document in its same location, with its same file name. It is a way of making sure your work does not get lost in case your computer crashes or the application closes suddenly. A good best practice is to save your document occasionally, by either pressing on the Save icon or using Ctrl+S. You can also set up automatic saving at specified time intervals.

The Save As command, located on the File tab, allows you to not only save the file with a different name but also to change its location and its type. When you save the file to a new type (for instance, Save As PDF), the file opens in the new file format. The previous file type remains open. When you click on the Save As command, a dialog box will appear, asking you to select the location where you want to save the new version and what you want to name it.

Large companies like WorldCorp will typically give their employees a schema or convention to follow when naming files so that the company will have a unified system that all employees can easily identify and understand. This also allows people within the organization to be able to keep track of different information about the file, such as its version and the project or department it is

associated with. For example, if the name of your market trends report is “market_report_v1.docx,” the next version could be “market_report_v2.docx.” This gives you a version history of the file, which enables you to keep track of older and newer versions. Figure 2.24 shows the current folder and the name of the file you want to change.

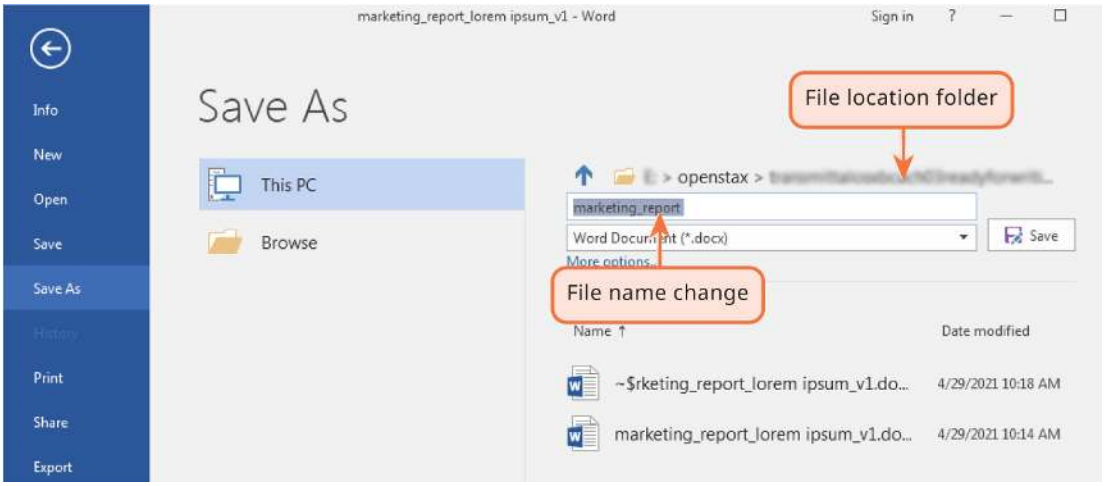


Figure 2.24: When you Save As, you can change the file name, the file format, or both. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Save As can also be helpful in other situations. For example, you may want to save your file in a different format so that it can be opened by a different application. You would also use the Save As command to save the file in a different folder, with a different name for categorization purposes. The default Word file format is .docx, but you could also save it as a .pdf or .rtf.

Microsoft also offers the option to save to a different location—for example, your local computer, a shared private location (such as a company drive), or the cloud OneDrive. This allows you to save your work easily even if the device you are working on does not have saving capacity, and also gives you the ability to share your work with others. (You will learn more about collaboration later.) To share a file with others, first save your presentation to OneDrive. Choose File, then Share, and then Share with People.

Opening an Existing File

With the desktop version of Microsoft 365, your recent file list will be readily available in Backstage view. If the file you want does not appear in your recent file list, click on File and then Open. Locate the file, select it, and click Open. If you want a file to always appear in your recent file list, you can “pin” it: Go back to File, and the file that is now open will have a pushpin icon next to its name. Click on the pushpin, and the file will be pinned.

To access a file in Microsoft 365 online, you must set up an account with Microsoft if you do not already have one. Then, you can go to the program you are working in and you will find your recent file list. OneDrive also gives you access to files not listed in your recent file list. Locate the file you want and click Open. Your document should appear.

Printing a File

To print a file, choose the File tab. In the list of options on the left, you will see Print. When you click on Print, you will be shown a preview of your document along with print options. See Figure 2.25. The print options include a variety of settings, such as number of copies, printer selection, and paper size. You can also print on both sides of the paper or select only certain sheets to print. When you have chosen the desired settings, choose Print on the upper-left side of the screen.

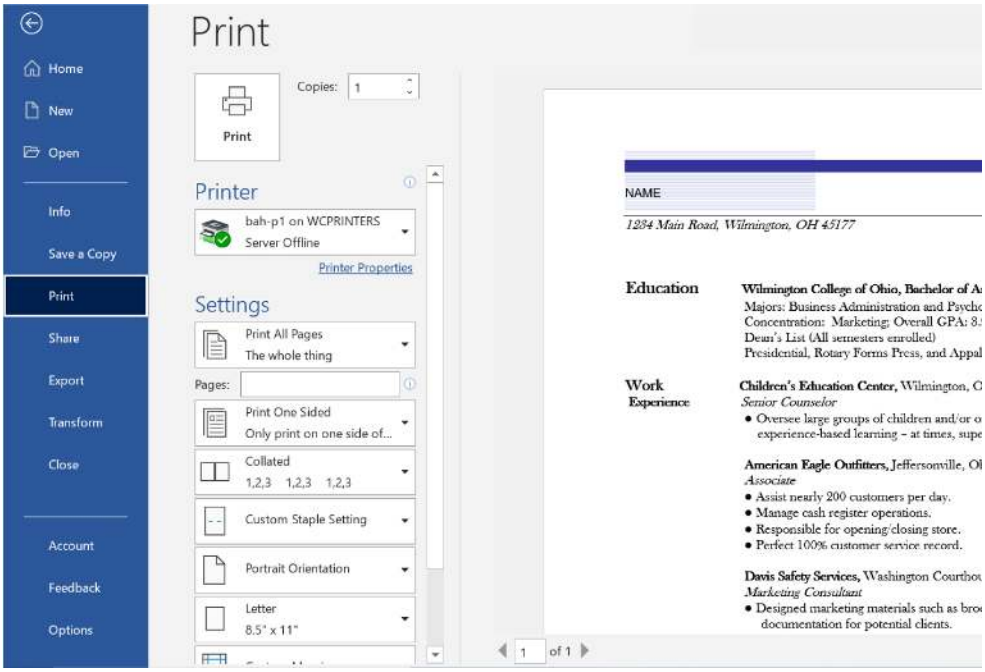


Figure 2.25: You can also choose to have your document stapled if that option is available on your printer. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

Print screen on a Mac displays the options that are included with the user's installed printer.

Options

The Options command at the bottom of the File tab contains a multitude of choices that control the way your workspace appears, determine the way the text is corrected, and allow changes to many aspects of the program. A summary of the options available is shown in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Summary of the Options Dialog Box The Options command appears in all Office applications and provides helpful settings.

General	Provides options that affect the user interface
Display	Changes how the content is shown on the screen and when it is printed
Proofing	Sets the way spelling and grammar are checked
Save	Sets up AutoSave to save a copy of your work at scheduled intervals
Language	Chooses the language in which menus and controls appear
Accessibility	Checks your documents for accessibility to people with visual or other challenges
Advanced	Sets how words are edited, replaced, or cut and pasted
Customize Ribbon	Allows users to choose which commands are shown on the ribbon
Quick Access Toolbar	Allows users to choose what is displayed on the Quick Access Toolbar above the ribbon
Add-ins	Manages the available Office add-ins
Trust Center	Sets security settings, most of which should remain as set

The Options command, present in all Office applications, opens an Options dialog box, as shown in Figure 2.26. Before you start working, it's advisable to click on each of the Options items to see what each covers.

An Options item that is critical to your work is a Save option called AutoRecover. Just ask yourself, "Has my computer ever frozen in the middle of a sentence?" This happens to everyone, but AutoRecover can prevent a catastrophe by allowing you to set the program to automatically save your work every two minutes, five minutes, or whatever interval you choose.

Another helpful option is proofing, which allows Microsoft to check your spelling as you type.

You will find some options that you may never need to change. In the future, however, you will be glad to know where to locate these hidden settings.

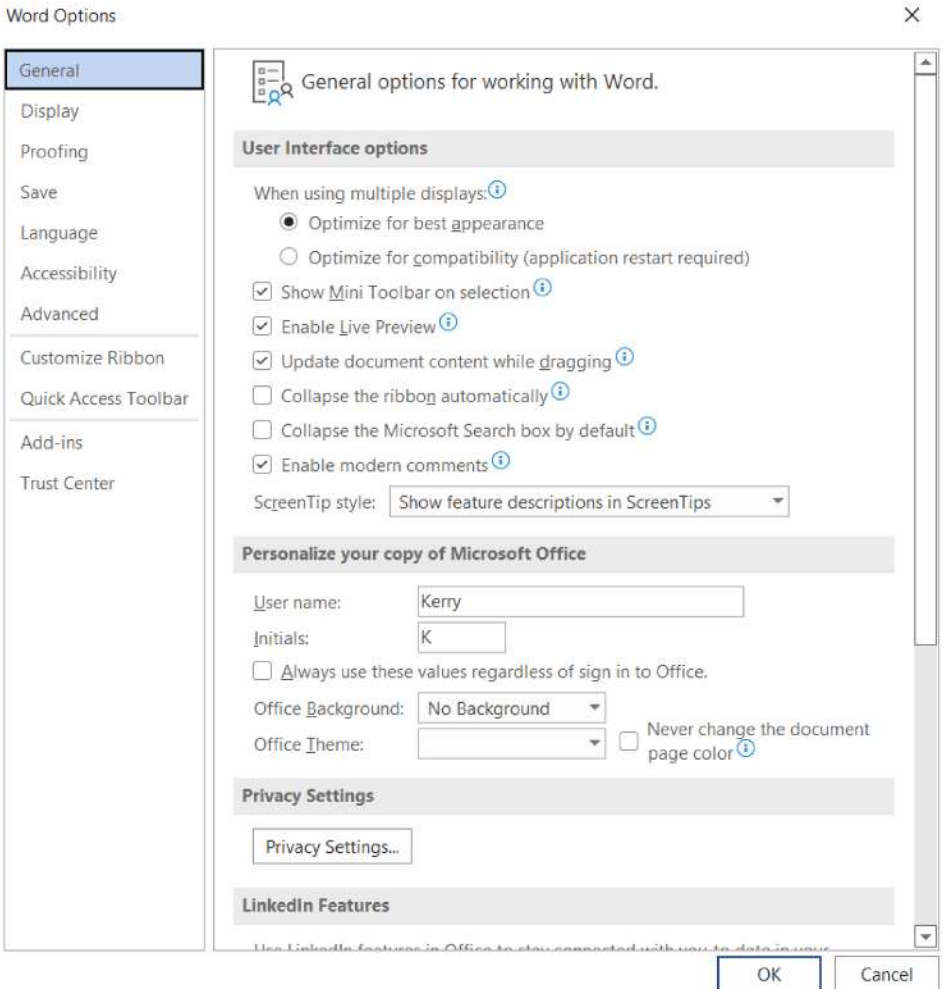


Figure 2.26: The Options command, present in all Office applications, opens an Options dialog box with many available options or settings that can be changed. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Customize Ribbon and the Quick Access Toolbar are useful features. Because you are likely to use both functions on a regular basis, you want their commands to always be visible. This is most easily done by customizing the ribbon or the Quick Access Toolbar.

There are probably some other commands that you wish you had immediate access to but did not know this was possible. For example, did you know that you can add an email command to either the ribbon or the Quick Access Toolbar? Suppose you want to email someone and add a presentation to your email as an attachment. If you add Email to your ribbon or Quick Access Toolbar, you can just click on the Email command, which will open your regular email program with access to your address book and add an attachment of the presentation to the email. No more need to open the email program independently, then search for the file on your computer, and finally attach it.

As another example, suppose you work with a lot of graphics. There are numerous commands associated with drawing and inserting graphics that are generally hidden. You may not even be aware that these functions exist, but when you change the scope to All Commands and look through the choices, you will find many commands that can save you a lot of time if you set them up for immediate access.

There are two ways to customize the Quick Access Toolbar. First, from the Options dialog box, select the Quick Access Toolbar, shown in Figure 2.27.

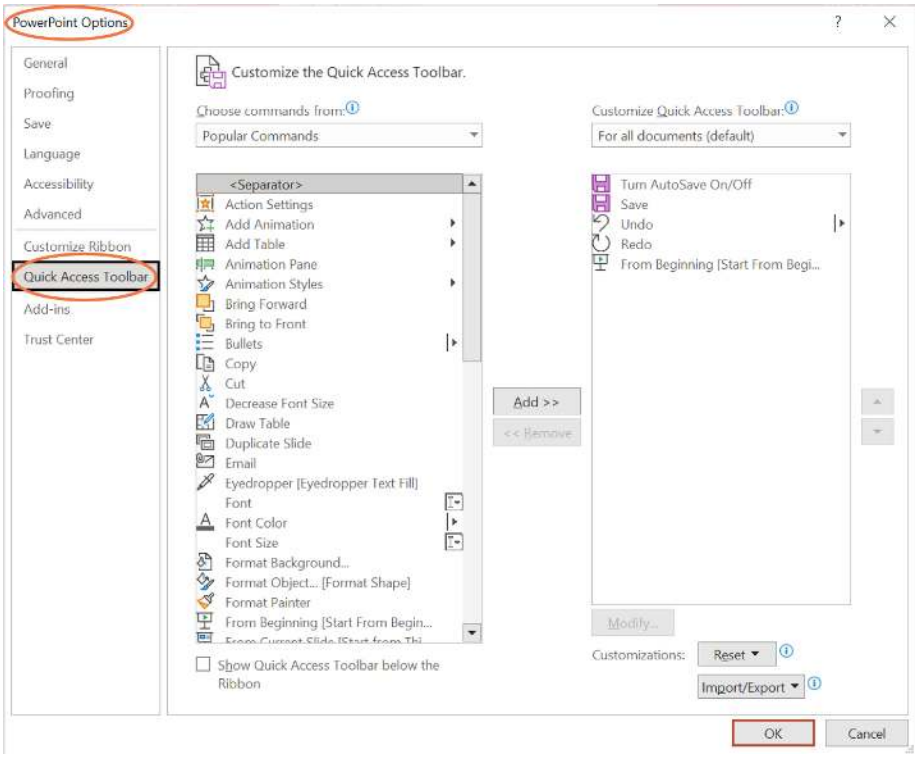


Figure 2.27: To customize the Quick Access Toolbar, add commands from the selections on the left to the list on the right. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For example, to add a Quick Print option, scroll down to Quick Print in the list of commands on the left. Highlight Quick Print, click the Add button, and Quick Print will appear on the Quick Access Toolbar, as seen in Figure 2.28, which shows the result of customizing the Quick Access Toolbar.

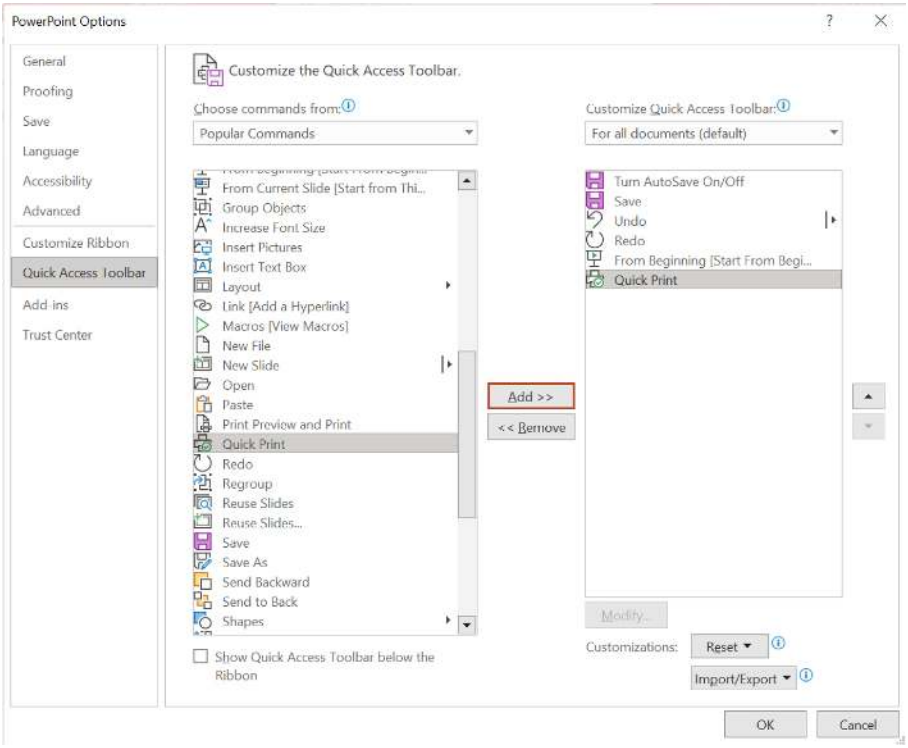


Figure 2.28: Items added to the Quick Access Toolbar will appear at the top of the screen when you open the program. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The second way to customize is to right-click on the Quick Access Toolbar, which opens a context menu. Choose Quick Print from the menu items, as shown in Figure 2.29. The Quick Print option should appear on the Quick Access Toolbar.

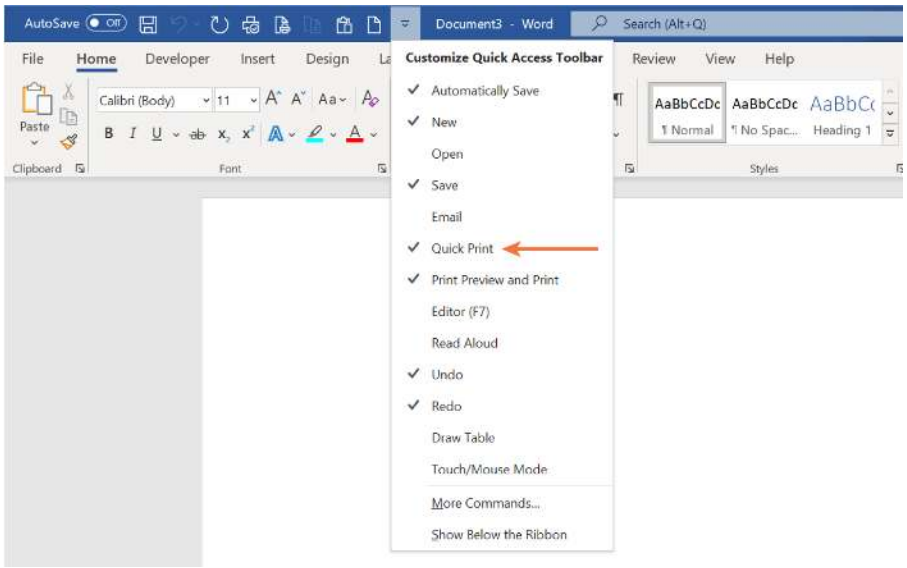


Figure 2.29: Using the context menu, you can easily add the Quick Print option to the Quick Access Toolbar. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

The Quick Access Toolbar is found on the Preferences tab on the app main page.

Customizing the ribbon is a similar process. Start at the Customize the ribbon command from Options in Backstage view. To add a command to the ribbon, you first have to create a new group, as follows:

1. Choose the tab on the right where you want to add the new command. (For the purposes of this demonstration, choose the Draw group, making sure there is a check mark next to the Draw box.)
2. Click on New Group, which will be listed when you click on the plus sign next to Draw.
3. In the box at the top left, select Commands Not in the ribbon (see Figure 2.30).
4. Scroll down to Borders and Shading and click Add.
5. Then, select another command, Brightness, and click Add.

When you return to the application, you will see your New Group with the options selected. Using this method, you can select any command from the left and add it to the ribbon commands on the right. This works for all the Office programs.

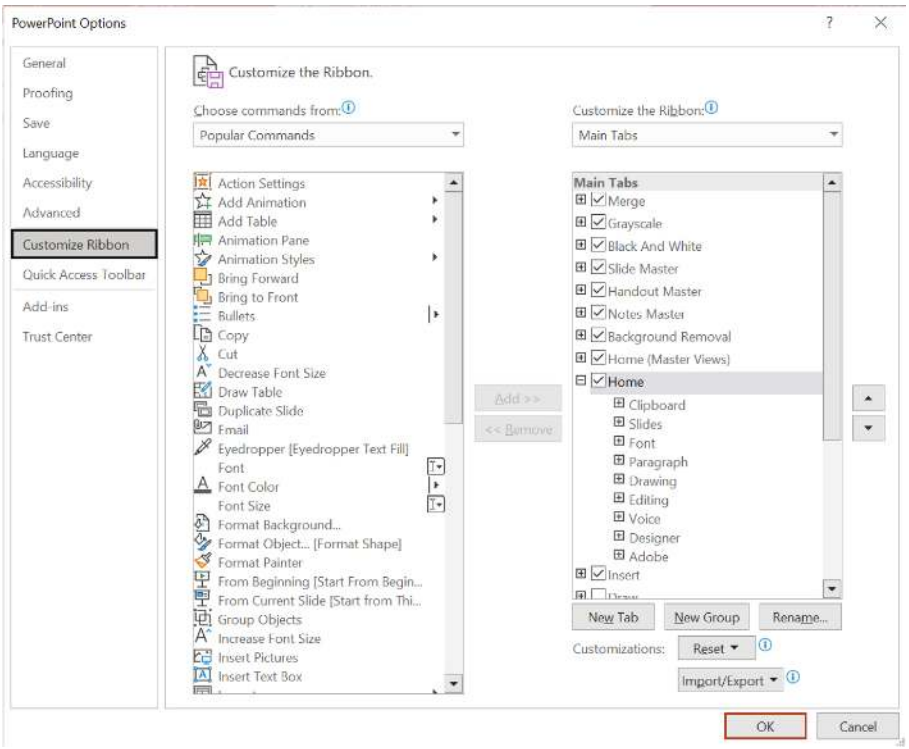


Figure 2.30: Customizing the ribbon can facilitate your productivity by including items you use frequently for quicker access. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Microsoft products offer hundreds of keyboard shortcuts (such as holding down the Ctrl button and S at the same time saves a document) that can help you work more quickly and efficiently. The Microsoft support page on keyboard shortcuts in Word provides a long list of these shortcuts, categorized by activity type.

Home Tab

The Home tab is where you begin to create your document, spreadsheet, or presentation. The ribbon for the Home tab in Word is shown in Figure 2.31. You can view the ribbon as command central for the application: It is a collection of commands and command groups that govern the basics of the program you are working with. Each group of commands is separated by a thin vertical line (see arrow in Figure 2.31).

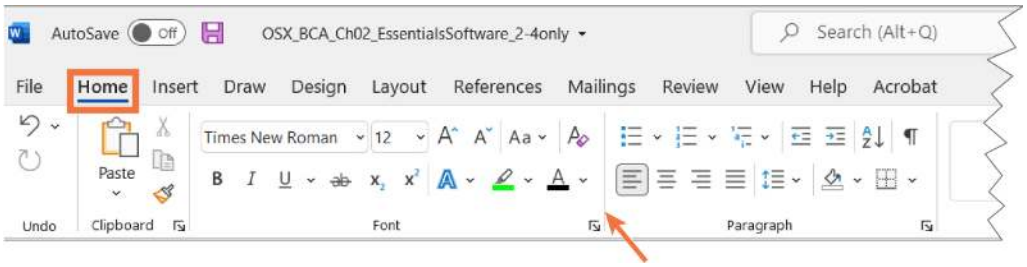


Figure 2.31: The Home tab contains items such as formatting the font size and determining the line spacing. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

First is the Clipboard group, which contains the commands for all the cut-and-paste functions. As in all the Office applications, an arrow next to or below a label means that there are other possible choices for that function. Notice that the Paste command has an arrow below it. Clicking on the arrow gives you several Paste options; if you hover over them, you will see helpful descriptions and previews.

The Font command group is similar across applications. You can choose Bold, Italic, Underline, Strikethrough, and Highlight. You can also regulate character spacing and add a superscript or subscript. Primarily, however, you will change the font face, color, and size.

Sticking with Word to get an idea of how the Home tab operates, the Paragraph command group contains the commands for indentation and for aligning text to the right or to the left, centered, or justified. You can create columns, change the direction of the text by rotating 90, 180, or 270 degrees, or stack the letters on top of one another. The Paragraph command group also contains the commands for creating bulleted and numbered lists and for adding SmartArt graphics to text. Notice that there is an arrow associated with most of these commands, indicating that each one offers still more choices for formatting a paragraph.

Table 2.4 lists common keyboard shortcuts. To use each action, press the Ctrl button, and while holding it down, press the next key. You may find these shortcuts useful so that you do not have to take your hands from the keyboard to use the mouse. It might be helpful to bookmark this table for future reference as you work through the rest of the book.

Table 2.4: Common Keyboard Shortcuts in Office

Action	Keyboard Shortcut	Action	Keyboard Shortcut	Action	Keyboard Shortcut
Copy	Ctrl+C	Italic	Ctrl+I	Help	F1
Cut	Ctrl+X	Center	Ctrl+E	Open a file	Ctrl+O
Paste	Ctrl+V	Justify	Ctrl+J	Create a new file	Ctrl+N
Undo	Ctrl+Z	Underline	Ctrl+U	Save a file	Ctrl+S
Redo	Ctrl+Y	Align left	Ctrl+L	Print a file	Ctrl+P
Bold	Ctrl+B	Find	Ctrl+F	Close a file	Ctrl+W

Mac Tip

On a Mac, Control is replaced with Command.

Format Painter

Format Painter, represented with a paintbrush icon, is a shortcut tool that is available in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. This tool lets you copy the formatting of a section of text, a cell, or whatever you choose to another place on a document, spreadsheet, or slide, respectively. It is especially useful when you need to reformat large amounts of text.

First, select the text that has been formatted in the way you want. Then, click on Format Painter, and the cursor will turn into a little paintbrush, as Figure 2.32 shows. Brush over the text you want to change, let go of the mouse, and the text will now be formatted in the desired style.

Note that if you want to use Format Painter again, you will have to repeat the steps outlined above. To format a lot of text, double-click on the Format Painter icon, and it will last until you click on it one more time.



Figure 2.32: Format Painter is a handy tool to brush, so to speak, over text and format it as you like. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Insert Tab

The Insert tab allows you to insert a variety of items into your file, including visual images such as pictures or diagrams, tables, links, and equations or special symbols. The Insert tab will differ a bit by program. Figure 2.33 shows what the Insert tab looks like for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. For example, in Word and PowerPoint, you have options to insert SmartArt. Excel has many options to insert charts and graphs. More details about the specific insert options will appear in the chapters to follow on each of the programs.

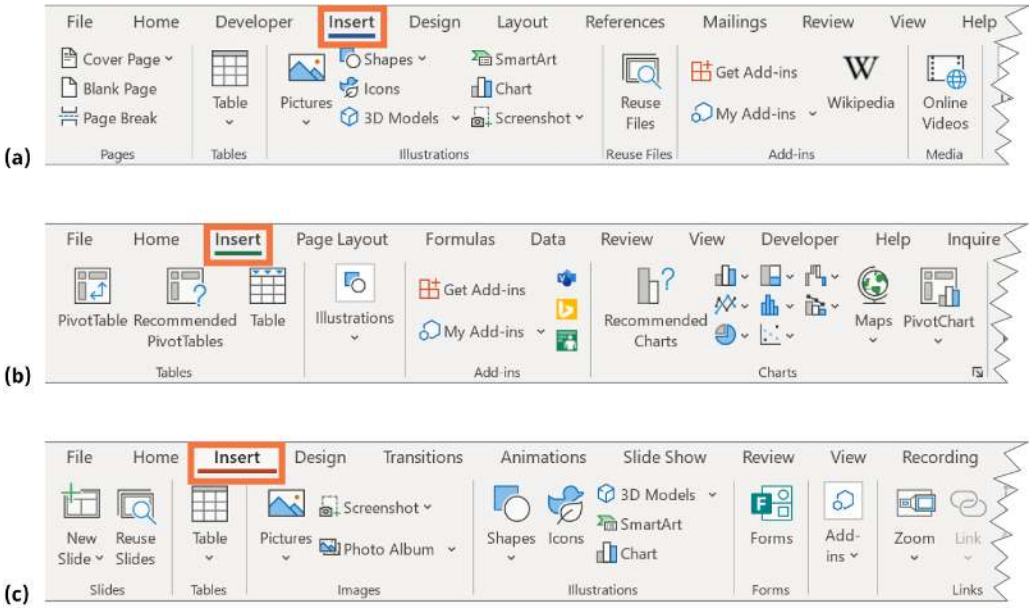


Figure 2.33: (a) Insert tab for Word, (b) Excel, and (c) PowerPoint. Different tabs appear for each program depending on the program's purpose. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Design Tab

The Design tab is found on the ribbon in Word and in PowerPoint. See Figure 2.34. The tab includes options to customize the look of the document or presentation. There are preset themes that you can use to enhance the document or slide, or you can create your own theme. The options on the Design tab are covered in more depth in Creating and Working in Documents and Preparing Presentations.

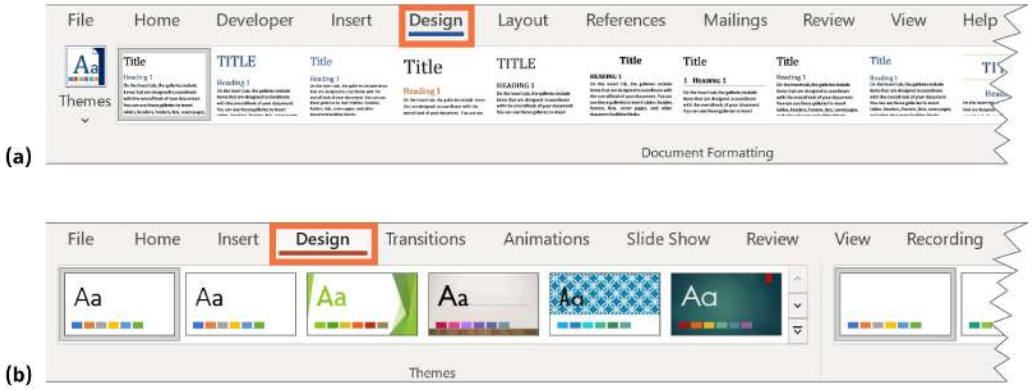


Figure 2.34: (a) The Design tab in Word allows you to choose preset themes for formatting text or you can create your own design choices. (b) PowerPoint's Design tab functions similarly. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Layout and Page Layout Tabs

The Layout tab (Word) and Page Layout (Excel) tabs control items such as spacing and margins in your file. You can use the options on the tabs to insert page breaks, change the orientation, and define the print area. In Page Layout in Excel, you can also apply a theme to your spreadsheet to enhance the visual appeal. This is similar to what you would find on the Design tab for Word and PowerPoint. Figure 2.35 shows the tabs for Word and Excel. The chapters on Word and Excel will cover these tabs in depth.

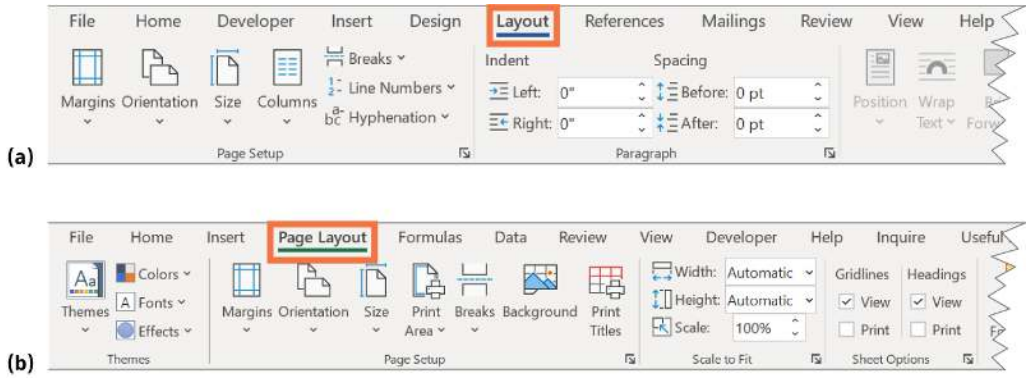


Figure 2.35: (a) The Layout tab in Word and (b) Page Layout tab in Excel allow you to set up your document or spreadsheet for easier reading and visual appeal. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Review Tab

The Review tab is found in three Office programs (Access does not have a Review tab). In Word, the Review tab is useful to check spelling, track changes within a document, and compare previous versions of documents to each other. The Review tab in Excel also contains a spell-check feature, but also allows you to add comments and to protect the worksheet from editing by others. Finally, the Review tab options in PowerPoint are very similar to those in Excel. The Review tab is a great place to reference to make sure your file is ready to share with others and to collaborate by adding comments. Figure 2.36 shows the Review tabs for Excel, Word, and PowerPoint.

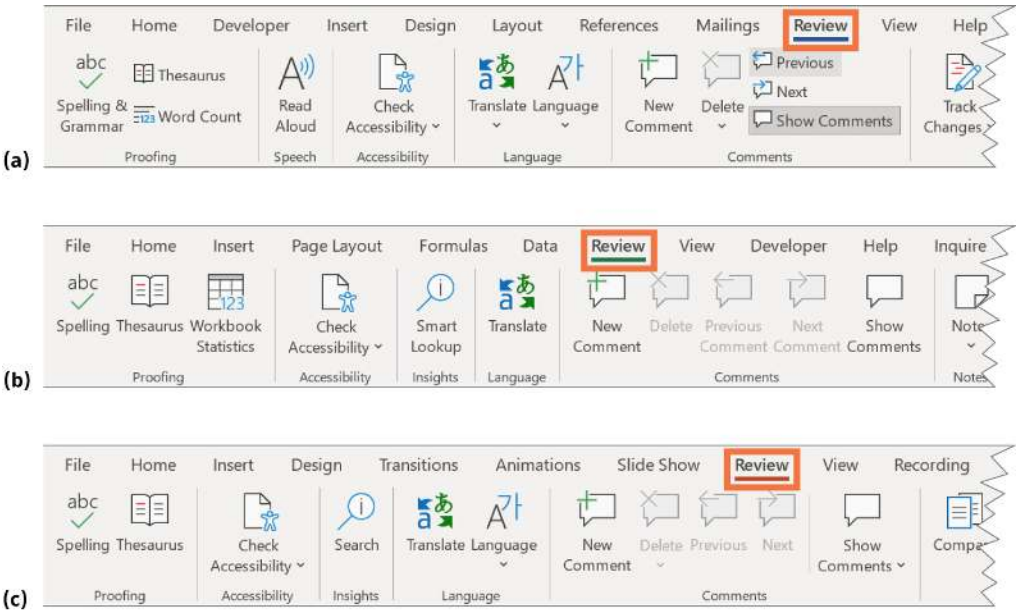


Figure 2.36: The Review tab in (a) Word, (b) Excel, and (c) PowerPoint all share common functions, such as creating and managing comments from multiple users. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

View Tab

The View tab is also seen in Office applications, except Access. It can customize what you see on the screen. You can change the options to show you what the file will look like when printed by choosing the Print Layout view. You can use the options to zoom in to make the screen larger. Finally, there are options to view files open in the same program side by side or to switch between the open windows when working with multiple files at a time. Notice the slight differences in options between the three applications in Figure 2.37.

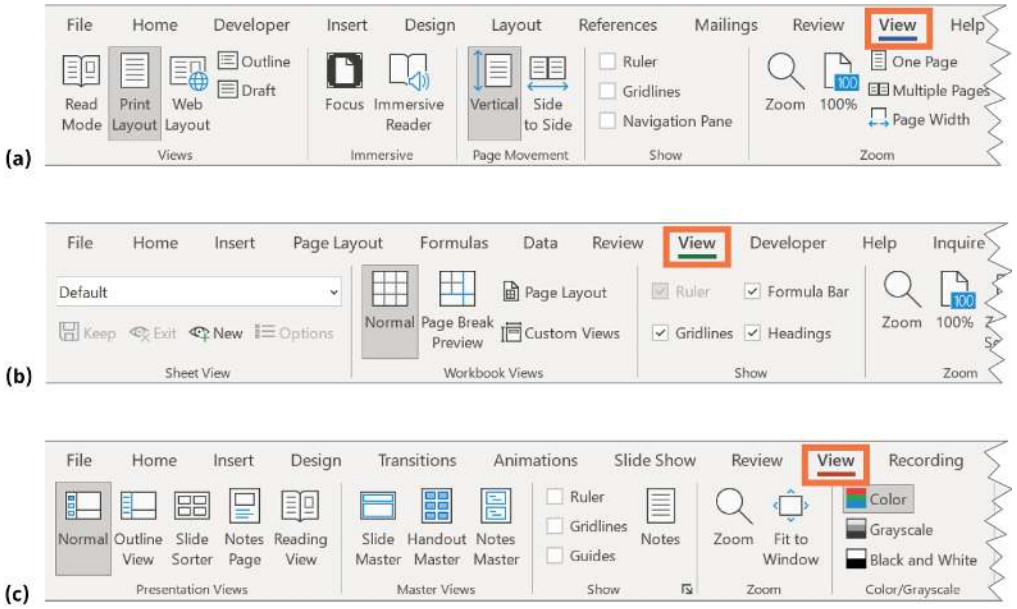


Figure 2.37: The (a) View tab in Word, (b) Excel, and (c) PowerPoint sets how your document, spreadsheet, or presentation will appear on-screen. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Help Tab

The Help tab looks the same in all the Office applications. The Help tab gives you options to seek help on an issue with the application you are working with. Through the tab, you can use the Help search by clicking on the question mark or you can contact support directly. The Show Training is a good place to start if you have not used the program at all before. It gives you a

collection of help tutorials to walk you through many of the more common features used in the program. When you select any of the options on the Help tab, a window will open at the right to assist you further (see Figure 2.38).

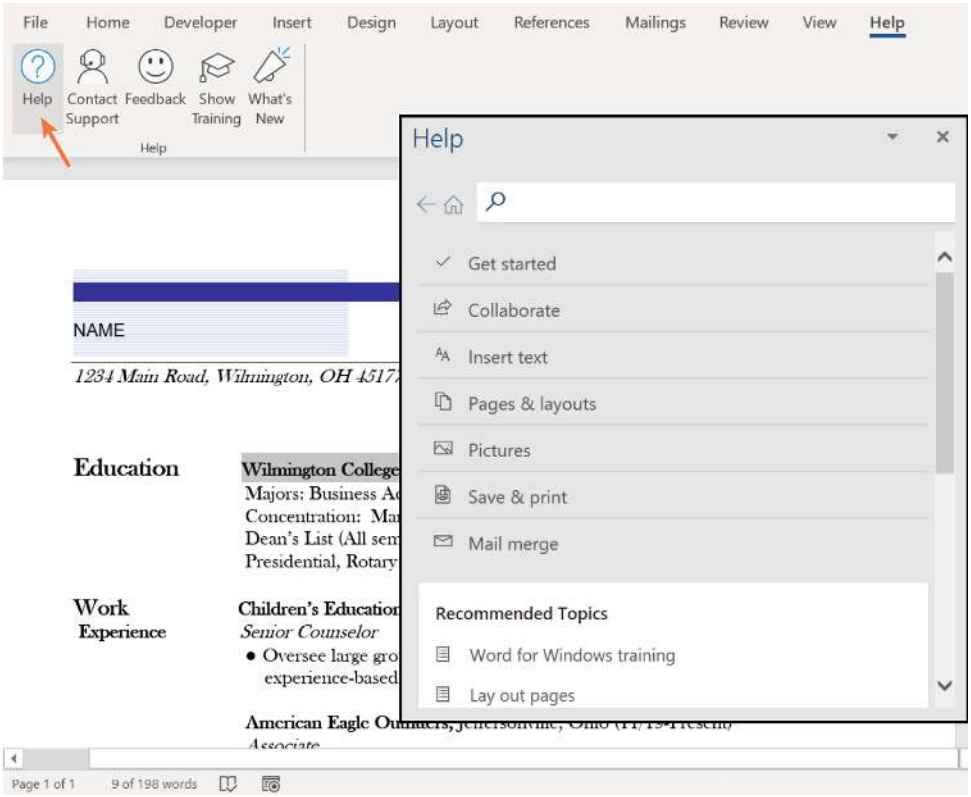


Figure 2.38: When you select the general help search with the question mark, you can type the topic or question you need help with into the search bar. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Other Tabs

Based on the application you are using, there are different tabs that are included in the ribbon specific to that program. These tabs offer options that relate to the functionality of the program. For example, in Word, you have a Mailings tab that can send a document to a large database of individuals. In PowerPoint, you have the Slide Show tab that contains options for developing your presentation. Table 2.5 gives you the default tabs for each program. Remember, using the Customized Ribbon option, you can change which tabs you have displayed in the programs.

Table 2.5: Default Tabs by Office Program Each program has a ribbon of default tabs.

Word	Home, Insert, Layout, References, Mailings, Review, View, and Help
Excel	Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View, and Help
PowerPoint	Home, Insert, Design, Transitions, Animations, Slide Show, Review, View, and Help
Access	Home, Create, External Data, Database Tools, Help, Table Fields, and Table

This page titled 2.4: Essentials of Microsoft 365 is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.5: Essentials of Google Workspace

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Access Google Workspace's applications
- Describe the key functions within Google's standard menus
- Create, open, and save a document

The Google group of programs, called Google Workspace, includes applications similar to those of Microsoft Office. But a key difference between Google and Microsoft programs is that Google is a cloud-based platform only. That means the programs are accessed through the cloud and not installed on your computer or device. Google first launched its platform in 2006 as Google Apps for your Domain. The collection of applications has been rebranded by Google, first as Google Suite and then as Google Workspace, as it is called today. Many of the programs in Google Workspace are free, but there are some additional programs and features that are available to businesses for a fee. You can also pay to have additional cloud storage through Google. Many schools and colleges use an educational version of Google called Google Classroom.

In your role at WorldCorp, you work closely with a team of six colleagues in the marketing department. The team leader has decided that for internal teamwork, you will use the Google suite of products because of their advanced capabilities for collaborating with others. Also, the user-friendly nature of Google products makes them appropriate for working with others in your small marketing team.

Overview of Google Workspace

Google Workspace consists of several applications that are useful in the workplace. You may be most familiar with its communication and scheduling tools (Gmail and Google Calendar, discussed in Communication and Calendar Applications). Google also offers a suite of applications similar to those in Office, including software for word processing (Google Docs), spreadsheets (Google Sheets), and presentations (Google Slides).

One distinctive feature of Google's Docs, Sheets, and Slides applications is that your work is automatically saved to the cloud. This automatic save function helps prevent accidental file loss. Google also maintains a history of all versions of the file, so if you need to restore to an earlier version or check on the history of an edit formatting change, you can view that information in the Version history, which will be covered later in this section.

Although each application has specific purposes and performs different tasks, some features are shared across the entire Google suite of products. These include essential functions like opening and saving a file, formatting fonts and spacing, inserting objects like a visual image, and accessing help to learn new skills within the software.

Accessing and Maintaining Google Products

To access Google's products, you must first create an account with Google and acquire the free email program Gmail. You get to that through google.com. Once you have set up a Gmail account, you will have access to all the Google apps.

Since the software resides online rather than downloaded onto your device, maintenance is automated: Google regularly provides updates as new features and improvements are introduced. Whenever updates are rolled out, you will typically receive a notice along with a summary and walk-through of changes. It is a best practice to take the time to view these explanations, as they will allow you to take advantage of new features as they are released.

Applications

Once you have a Gmail account set up, you can access Google's applications by opening the Google Chrome browser or any other browser by going to google.com and signing into your account. In the upper-right corner, you will see nine dots arranged in a 3 × 3 array, as shown in Figure 2.39. Clicking on the dots opens a menu of all the Google apps.

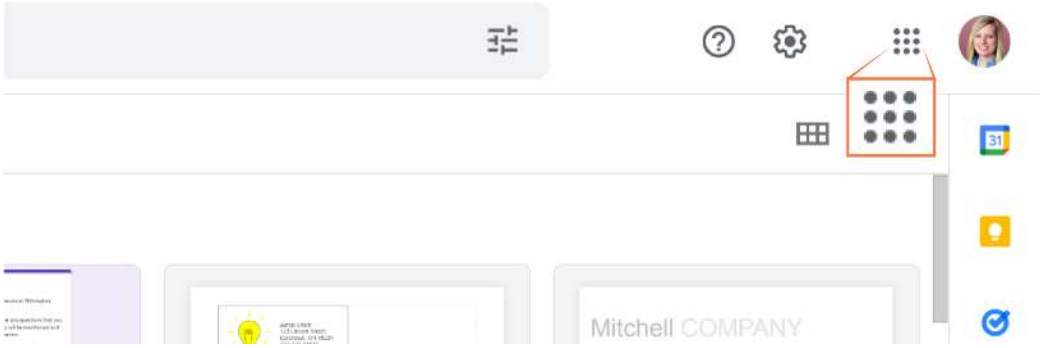


Figure 2.39: Click on the dots in the upper-right corner to open the menu of apps. (Gmail is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You will see two sections of offerings. In the first, shown in Figure 2.40a, you can access your Google account settings and can use common tools such as the Google search engine for internet searches, Maps for locating places and navigating trips, Play for accessing apps for your mobile device, Meet for online meetings, Drive for storing your files, Gmail for email, and Calendar for scheduling.

The second section includes the offerings that are the focus of this course. You will see various applications, including Docs and Sheets. If you wanted to work on a presentation, you would select the Google Slides option, as shown in Figure 2.40b.

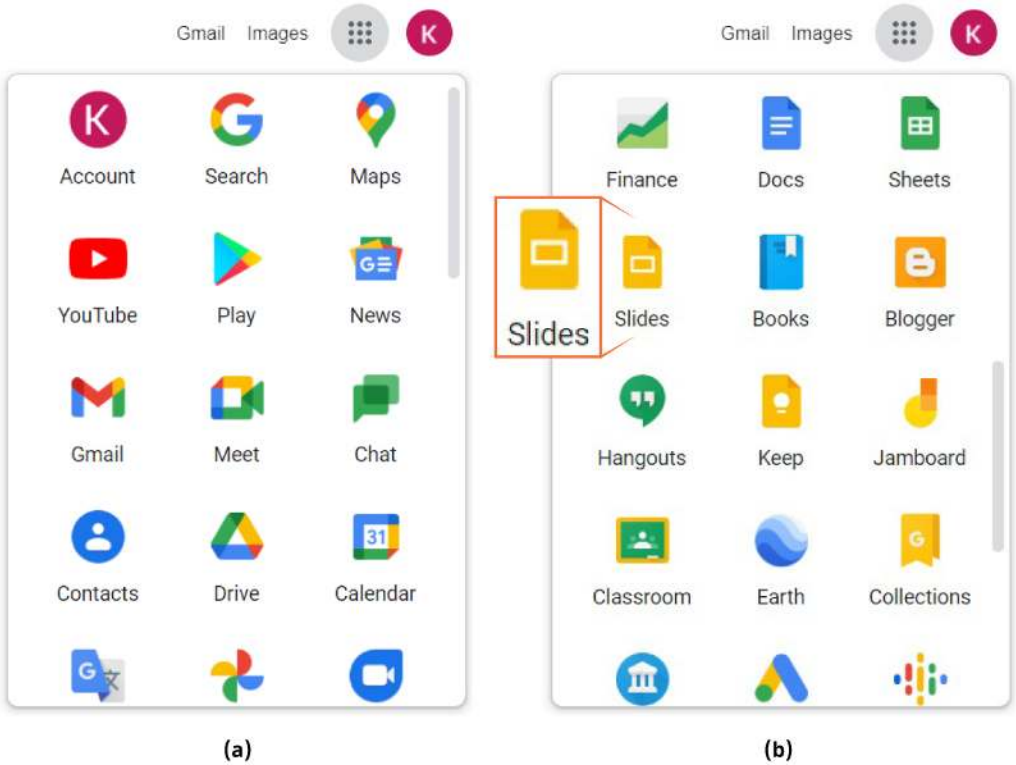


Figure 2.40: (a) Gmail includes many apps. (b) Slides, which is similar to PowerPoint, is one of them. (Gmail is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Like most application suites, Google continually expands and changes its offerings. Older applications may be phased out over time, while the most popular applications undergo regular updates. Table 2.6 provides a summary of Google offerings. In this course, we will focus mostly on Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides.

Table 2.6: Common Google Applications The Google Workspace includes applications for all the tools you need in the workplace from communicating with colleagues to creating documents and presentations.

Application	Type	Description
Docs	Word processing	Create documents such as reports, memos, and agendas
Sheets	Spreadsheet	Create data-based spreadsheets for storing and analyzing data
Slides	Presentations	Create slide presentations such as for a workplace meeting or client showcase
Gmail	Email	Send and receive emails
Calendar	Calendar	Schedule individual events and collaborative meetings
Search	Internet search	Search the internet based on search terms
Maps	Maps and navigation	Provide navigation directions based on location or address
Play	Application store	List apps on android devices that are available for download
Meet	Online meetings	Video Conference with others
Drive	File storage	Store files; similar to OneDrive; the cloud-based storage for files in Google
Contacts	Contact information	Organize and store contact information such as email addresses and phone numbers for people
Classroom	Educational interface	Create a classroom interface to share files, turn in assignments, and have class discussions virtually

Menu Overview

As you've learned, all the applications in the Google Workspace share some general features and functions, which are found in the menus. Although there are slight differences between the apps, they all contain these essential menus: File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tools, Add-ons or Extensions, and Help, as Figure 2.41 shows. These menus are similar to the tabs in Office, but in Google they are called menus.

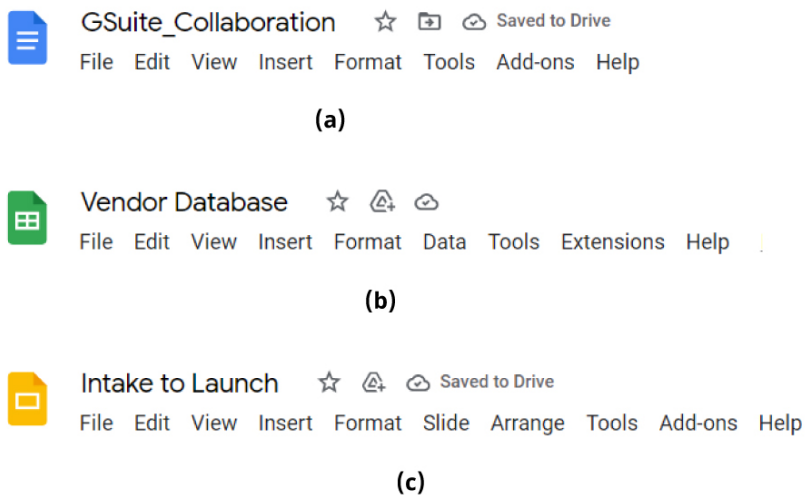


Figure 2.41: The main menu bars for (a) Docs, (b) Sheets, and (c) Slides are similar—from File to Help. (Google Workspace is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Not only are there similarities between the various Google applications, but many of the menu options are also similar to those you learned about in Essentials of Microsoft Office). As you progress through the course, you will learn and practice most of the specific features within each menu. Here, our focus is on the essential shared functions.

File Menu

The File menu is used to open files in Drive, to create new files, and to print materials. In addition, the Make Available Offline option lets you work on files when you do not have internet access. (See Figure 2.42.)

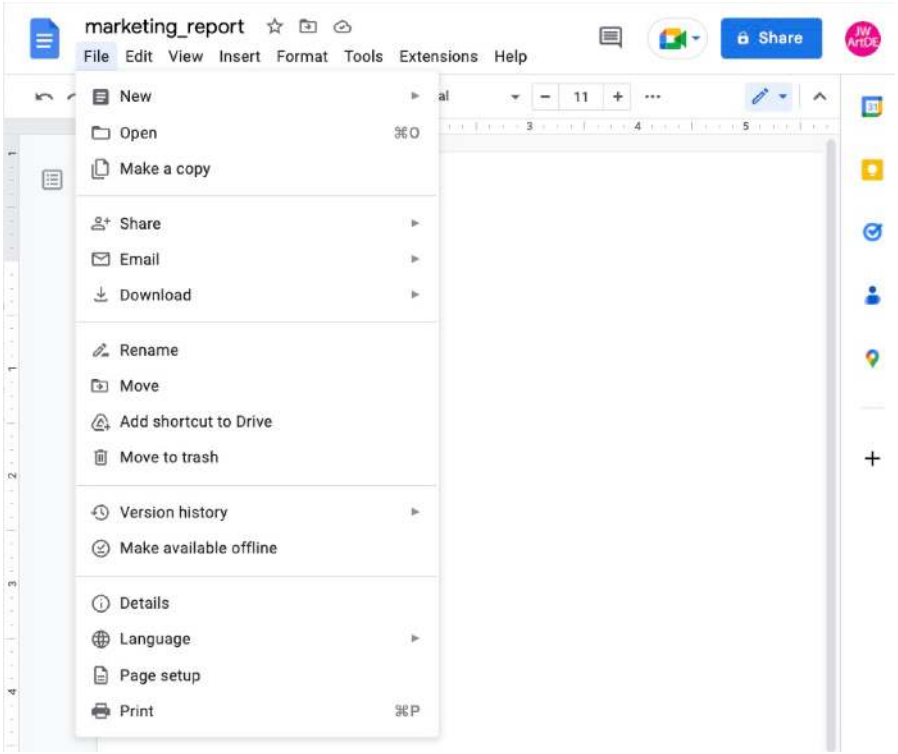


Figure 2.42: The File menu is mainly used for opening and saving documents. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The File menu also has tools for saving and exporting files in different formats. Docs and Sheets are compatible with their Microsoft counterparts, so users have the option of either working on a Word or Excel file in Docs or converting the file into a Google file. This appears in the menu as the Save as Google Docs command. Google files can be opened and edited in only a browser window, from your Drive.

Recall that Google automatically saves your work for you in the cloud. If you want to save files locally or to other locations, you will need to use the Download command, which enables you to export the current version of the document onto your own computer as a Word document, Excel spreadsheet, PDF, or some other file format.

Link to Learning

If you own a smartphone, you likely already use the cloud to capture your text messages and other activities performed on your cell phone. The cloud has become increasingly important in the business world, and it is helpful to understand how it works. To learn more, watch this video on what the cloud is and how it pervades our lives from *Scientific American*.

The Download command brings up the menu shown in Figure 2.43. Using Slides as an example, one of the download options enables you to download your presentation as a PowerPoint file.

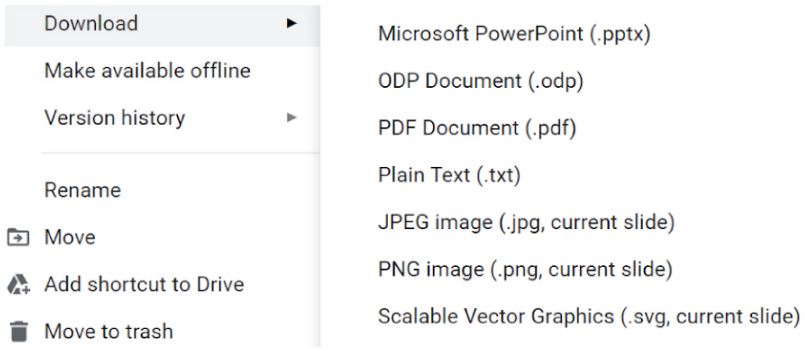


Figure 2.43: Download your presentation to one of seven other formats, including a PowerPoint file. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The File menu also allows you to explore your document settings. You can use the Email command to send the file to one or more collaborators. The Document Details option contains the file's statistics and technical data. The Page Setup command can modify paper size or format; as in Word, you can make your document's orientation either portrait (vertical) or landscape (horizontal).

The two most critical tools in the File menu are Version history and Share. Version history is a feature unique to Docs. Every time you make a change in a file, Google autosaves your document, keeping many versions of the file. Version history allows you to revert to a previous version of a file or simply to look back at previous versions for reference.

The Share command enables a document's owner to invite others to work on it. It is used to tag or add collaborators who can read, comment, develop, or edit the file.

If you want to create a copy of an existing file, you can use the Save a Copy command. As Figure 2.44 shows, this command allows you to make a copy of your Doc and save the document under another name. You can save it to the Drive, which uses the cloud, as discussed. Or you can save the file to your hard drive, but your files are safer in the cloud, and using cloud storage allows you to free up storage on your local device.

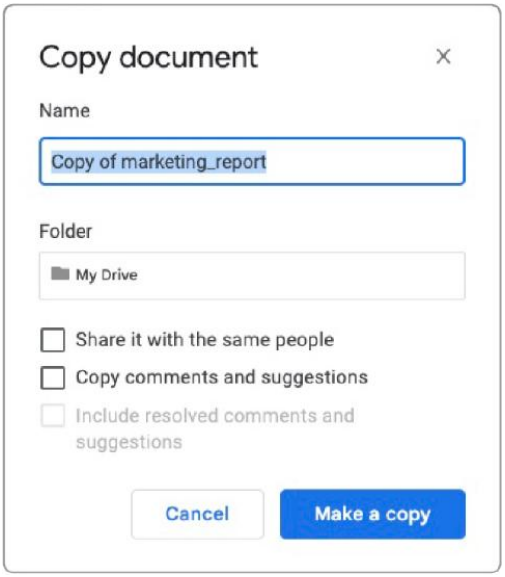


Figure 2.44: Creating a copy of an existing file by using the Save a Copy command. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Opening an Existing File

To open an existing presentation in Slides, first, go to Drive (called My Drive on your computer). You will see your recently saved presentations listed across the top. Even if you are working offline, you will still have access to your files. If you do not see your presentation file, click on Recent under My Drive in the left pane, or scroll down.

Figure 2.45 shows a typical Drive page. Your most recent presentations will be shown across the top, and below you will find all the files you created using one of the Google apps. Click on your presentation to open it.

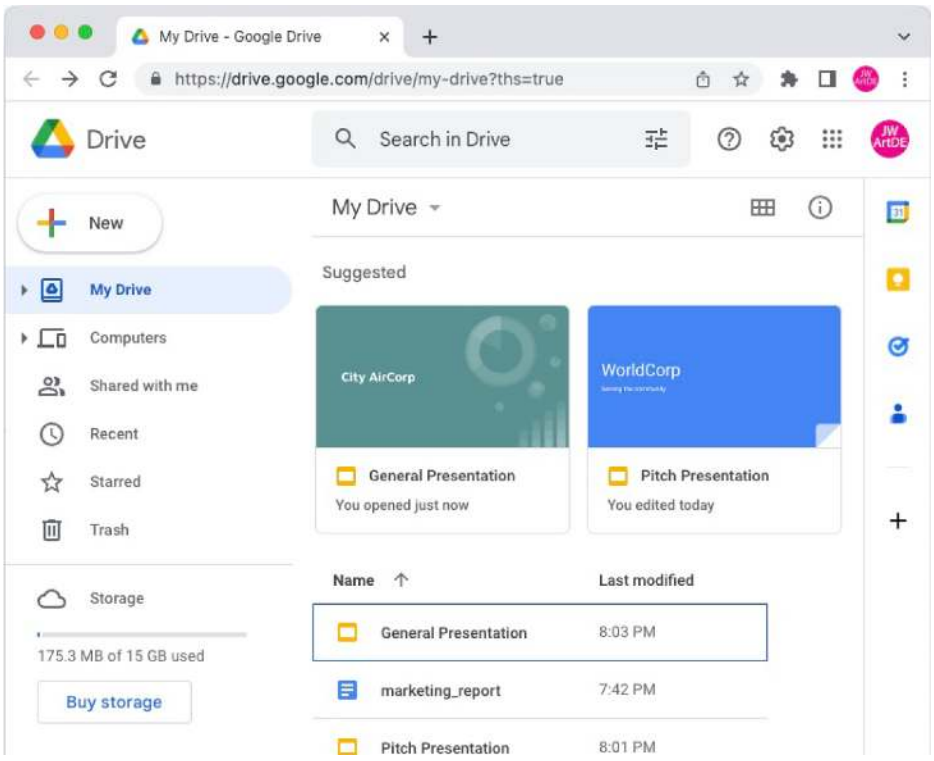


Figure 2.45: This is a typical Drive page showing recent presentations and other recent work. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Creating a New File

In the File menu, selecting New opens a menu, as shown in Figure 2.46. You can select a new Presentation From template, new Document, new Spreadsheet, new Form, or new Drawing.

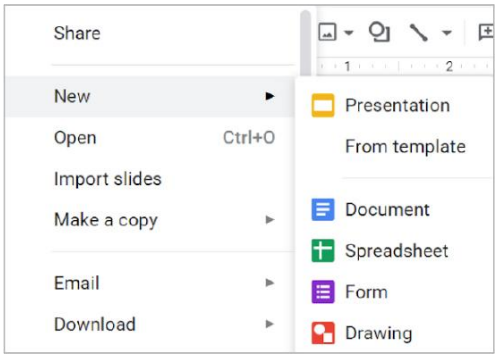


Figure 2.46: Select New Presentation, New Document, New Spreadsheet, New Form, or New Drawing. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

After you have chosen the file type you want to create, a blank file of that type will appear on the screen. The document will open with a default name based on the program. For example, a new Doc will have the default name of "Untitled Document" and this will be listed at the top of the screen (see Figure 2.47). To change this name to something more meaningful, double-click on the current title at the top of the screen. This will highlight the words "Untitled Document" so that you can delete that and rename the file. You can also access the Rename command in the File menu. The process is the same for Sheets and Slides.

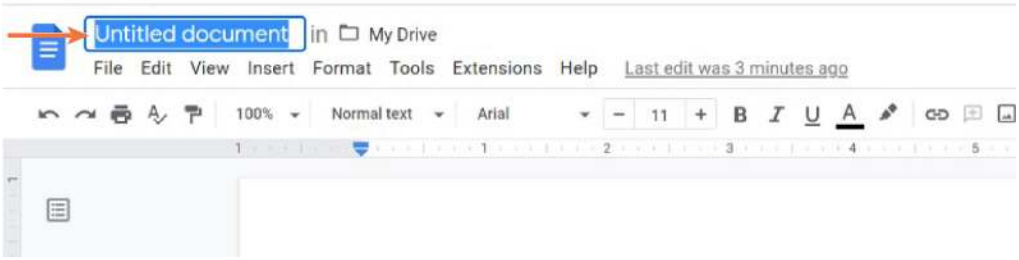


Figure 2.47: You can also rename the file you just created by using the Rename command in the File menu. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Google also has a wide variety of templates to choose from. You can create a new file using a template in a similar manner to how you use templates in Office. Templates can be a great place to start if you are designing a specialized document or file such as an invoice or a budget worksheet. They can also be useful when doing more creative work such as designing flyers. The templates can provide a starting point for you and you can customize to meet your needs. To access the templates in Google for each of the programs, use the expanded menu to the side of the program name when you choose New (see Figure 2.48).

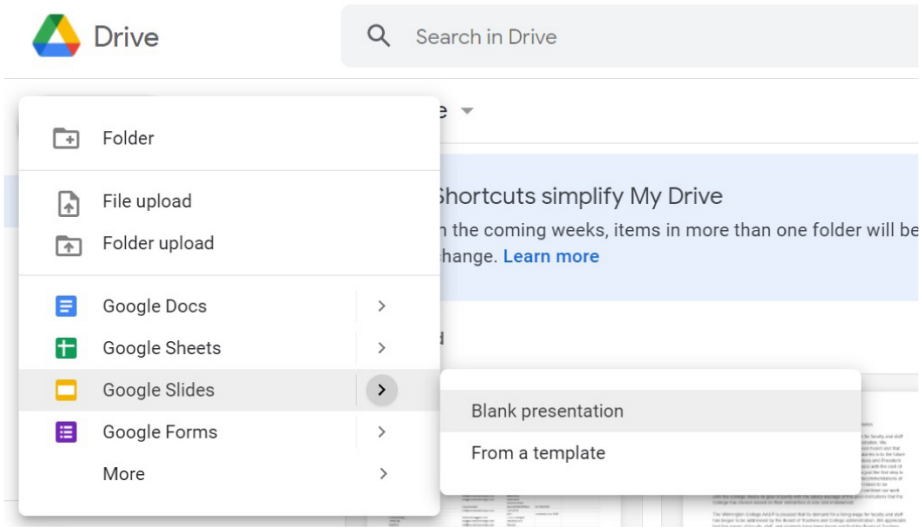


Figure 2.48: When creating a new file in Google, you can either create a file from scratch or start with a template. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Printing a File

The Print command in Google is found in the File menu. There are also two shortcuts to printing a file: Ctrl+P or the printer icon on the toolbar. When you select print, a window will open with similar settings that you might see in Office (Figure 2.49). You can manage the various settings related to printing such as the number of copies, orientation, and paper size. Like with Office, you will also be able to see a preview of the file you are printing.

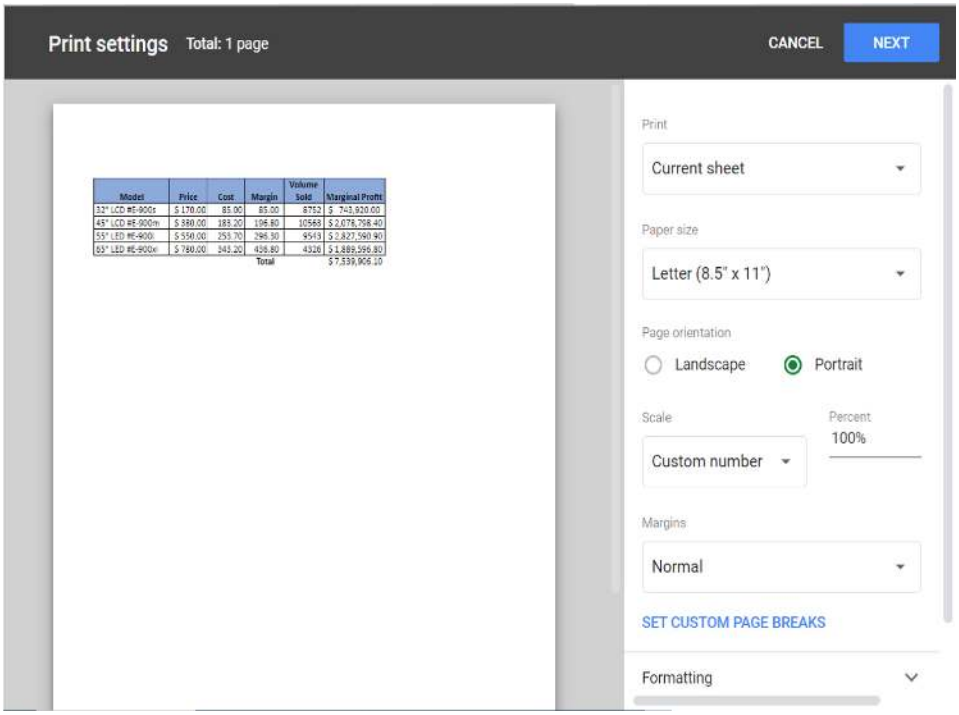


Figure 2.49: When you have changed the appropriate settings, click Next to print the file. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Edit Menu

The Edit menu contains the expected choices: Undo, Redo, Cut, Copy, Paste, Delete, Duplicate, Select All, and Find and Replace. Clicking on Find and Replace brings up the window shown in Figure 2.50. You type in a word from your file. For each occurrence, you confirm whether you want to replace it with another word. Although most misspelled words will be caught by the spell-check

function, if, for example, you have misspelled a title or name throughout the file, using Find and Replace is an efficient way to make sure you catch all the errors.

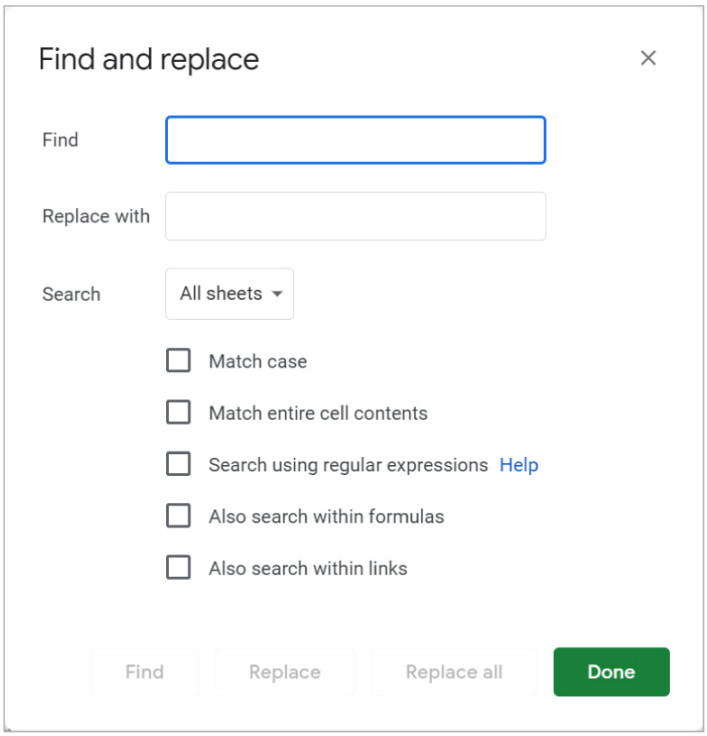


Figure 2.50: You can use Find and Replace to find specific text in a file and replace it with other text. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The Edit menu for each of the apps looks similar. Figure 2.51 shows the Edit menu.

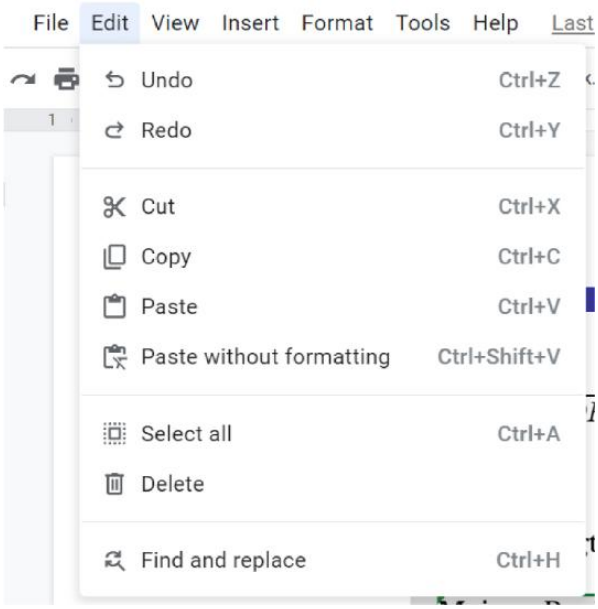


Figure 2.51: The Edit menu will look the same in Docs, Sheets, and Slides. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

View Menu

The View menu controls the way your document or file appears on your screen, allows you to show certain components to others, and lets you set three different modes in Docs: Editing, Suggesting, and Viewing. The default mode is Editing, which allows the user to edit the document directly. The Suggesting mode is similar to Track Changes in Word, as shown in Figure 2.52. In this mode, the changes you type into the document become suggestions rather than actual edits. You can then either accept each change

by clicking on the check mark or reject it by choosing the X. You can also add comments to the edits, which is especially useful when you are collaborating with others on a document.

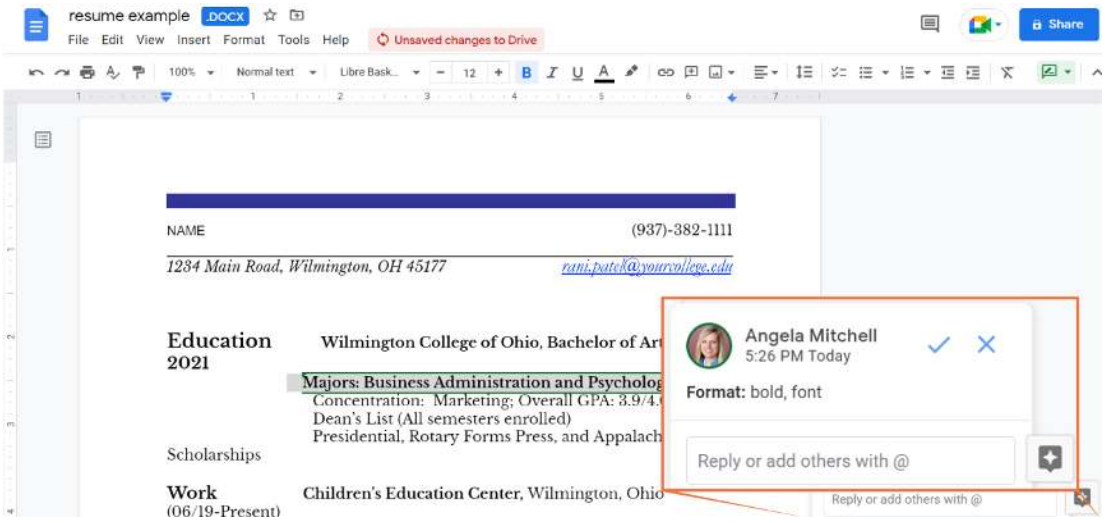


Figure 2.52: Notice that when you are in Suggesting mode, changes are not saved until you first either accept or reject the edits, as represented by the check mark or X in the comment box. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

In Sheets, you can use the View menu to display the gridlines or not, or to display a ruler at the top. In Slides, you use the View menu to view the slideshow, zoom in if needed, or show the speaker notes for the presentation. Figure 2.53 shows the different View menus for each application.

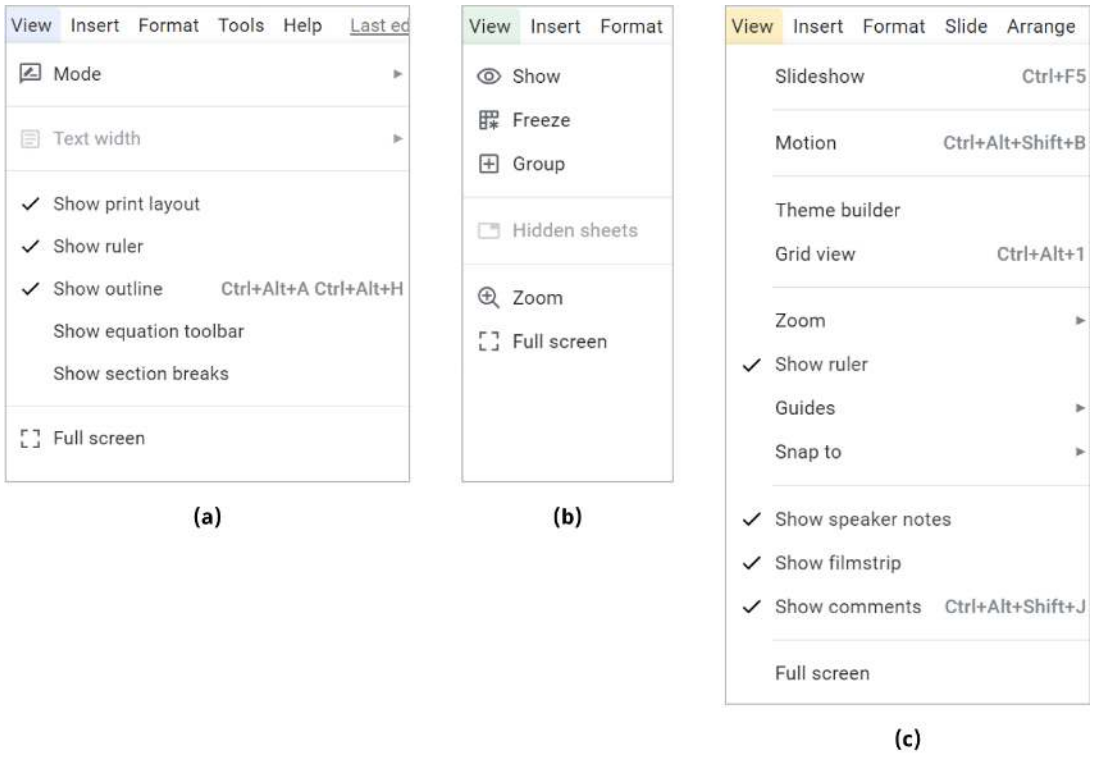


Figure 2.53: The View menus for (a) Docs, (b) Sheets, and (c) Slides will become more familiar to you as you navigate the programs. (Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides are trademarks of Google LLC.)

Insert Menu

The Insert menu is used to insert a variety of items into a file. The different apps may offer different items that are best suited to the purposes and uses of that app (see Figure 2.54). In Docs, the Insert menu includes items such as inserting images, footnotes,

headers, and page numbers. Sheets insert options include inserting columns/rows, charts, and formulas. Finally, Slides includes options for inserting tables, drawings, text boxes, and WordArt. Other chapters will cover the Insert menu in more detail.

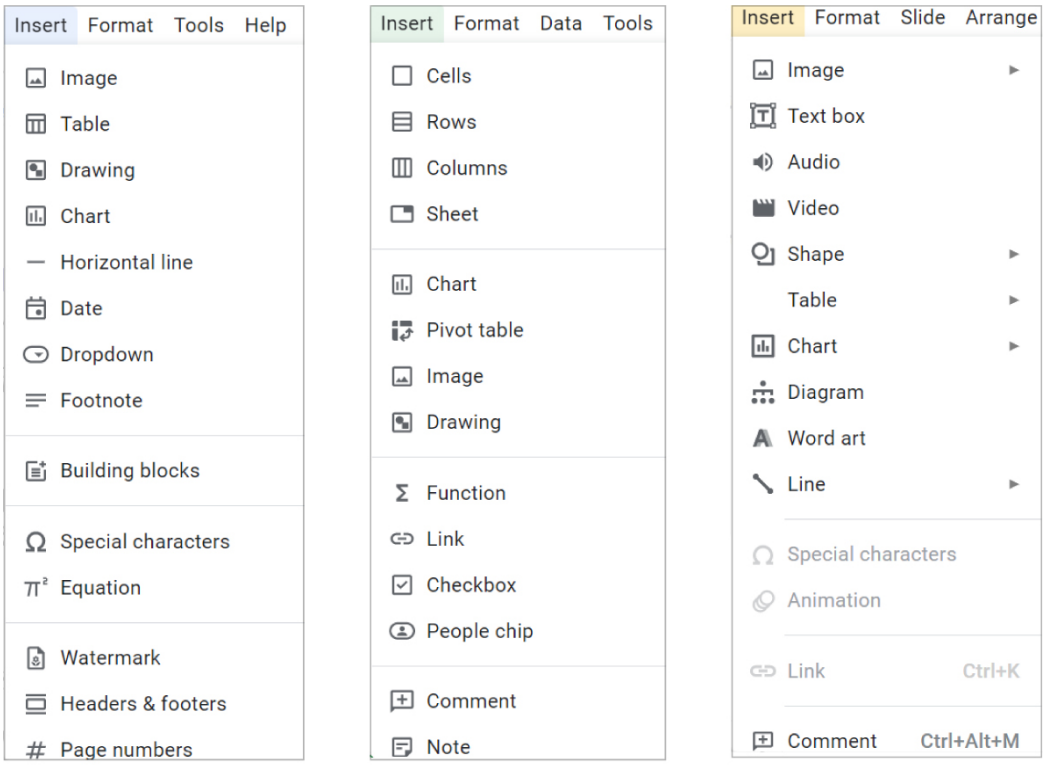


Figure 2.54: The Insert menu in (a) Docs, (b) Sheets, and (c) Slides differ slightly from one another depending on the function of each program. (Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides are trademarks of Google LLC.)

Format Menu

The Format menu enables you to alter the visual appearance of most elements within your document, spreadsheet, or slide. Most frequently, you will be formatting text, paragraph setting, spacing, and layout in Docs. In Sheets, you will be formatting the information in the cells and adding conditional formatting based on specific rules. For Slides, the Format menu is much like that of Docs. To see the differences between the Format menus, see Figure 2.55.

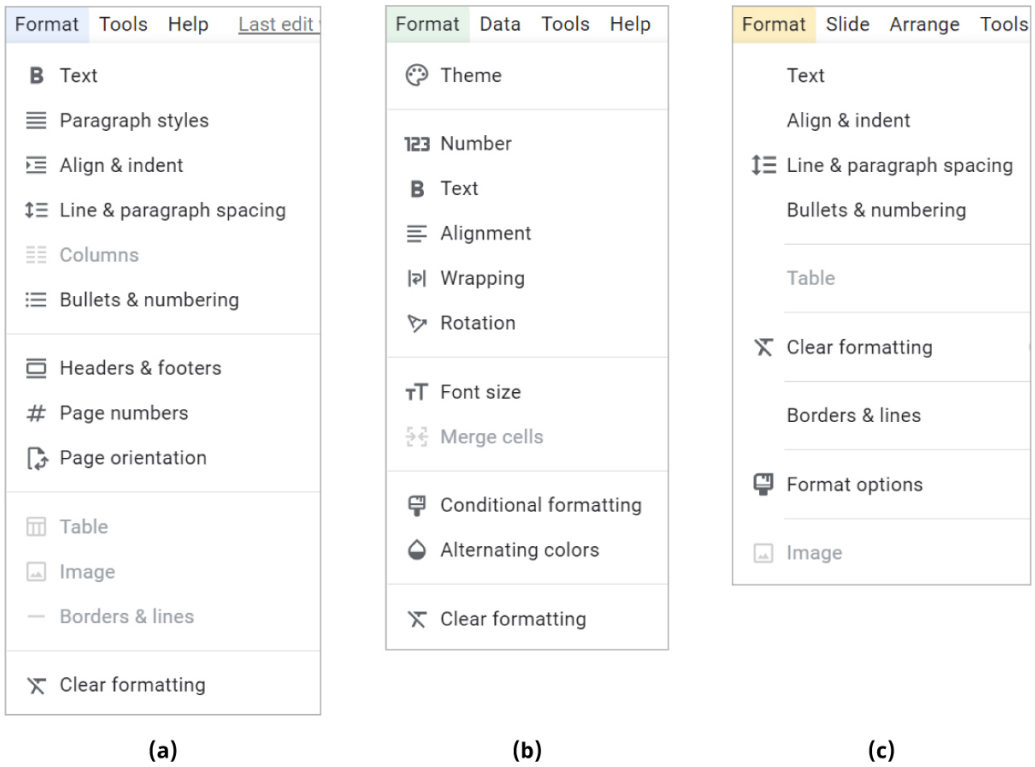


Figure 2.55: The Format menu in (a) Docs, (b) Sheets, and (c) Slides. While the options in Docs and Slides focus on formatting text, Sheets's options allow you to format numerical information in the cells. (Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides are trademarks of Google LLC.)

Tools Menu

The Tools menu is where you'll find the tools you need to help ensure the quality of your document, sheet, or slide. Let's examine some of the Docs offerings, shown in Figure 2.56. "Spelling and grammar" allows you to check for misspelled words, to ensure phrasing and sentences are grammatically correct, and to create a personal dictionary to which you can add frequently used names or words that are not in a standard dictionary. There are also tools for quickly checking editorial matters, such as counting the number of words in your document or seeing a list of linked objects. Notice how the menu also includes keyboard shortcuts. The Tools menu also offers the option of typing by voice recognition, and it includes accessibility settings such as the ability to use a screen reader to read the text on a page aloud and a magnifier to see content at a very large scale. The Tools menu among the three Google apps is very similar.

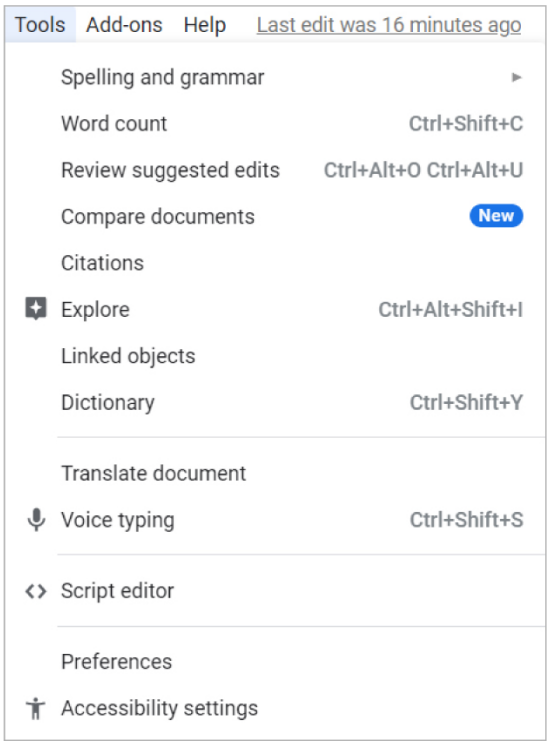


Figure 2.56: The Tools menu contains some of the most useful features of the Google Workspace. (Google Workspace is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The Tools menu is also where you can set standard preferences for your Google app. The General options allow for automatically capitalizing initial words, automatically applying certain quotation mark styles, and having spell-check running in the background, among other functions. In the Substitutions section, you can set certain manually entered items to be automatically formatted, such as fractions. See Figure 2.57.

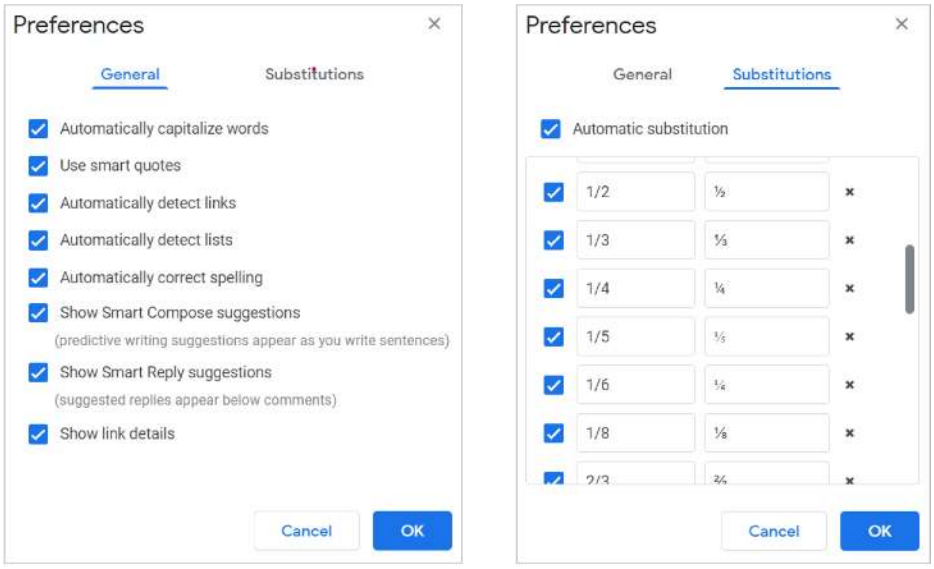


Figure 2.57: The list in (a) shows the general preferences; (b) shows the substitutions. (Google Workspace is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Add-ons or Extensions Menu

The Add-ons menu is where you will find accessory programs that can be used for additional features compatible with Google. For example, in Docs, if you need to work on a document with lots of mathematical formulas and equations, you can install an add-on

like MathType, which has offerings that go beyond Docs's equation feature. Or you might install Box, a cloud-based, file sharing, and storage app, to share files with colleagues or clients.

Help Menu

The Help menu is self-explanatory: It contains the body of available knowledge concerning each Google application, as well as all the fine print of the terms of use for the consumer or business. You can search for content related to your question and you can access training materials in the Help menu (see Figure 2.58). Conveniently, Docs also offers the user a dialog box with a list of all the keyboard shortcuts. The Help menu in each of the Google apps is similar to the one shown for Docs.

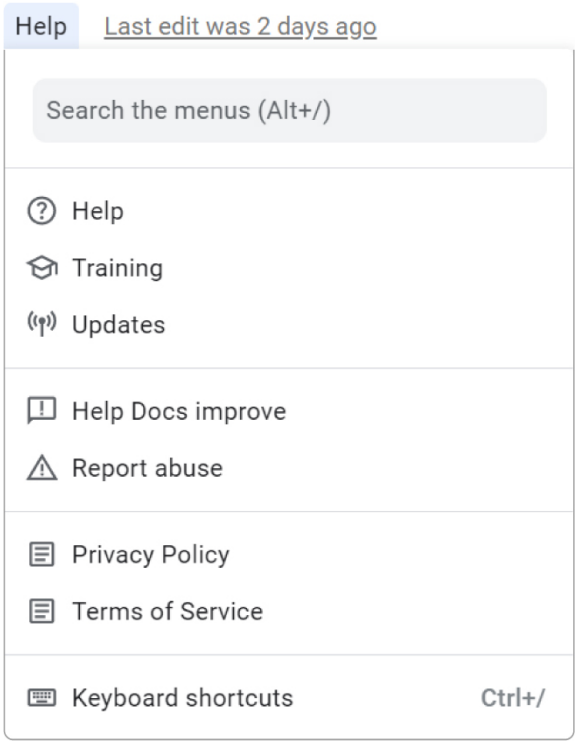


Figure 2.58: Using keyboard shortcuts can be a time-saver. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Other Menus

Some Google products have menus specific to the application. For example, Sheets contains a Data menu to help format and organize data. Slides has both a Slides tab, with a variety of options specific to the presentation page, and an Arrange menu for organizing the various slides within a presentation. You will learn how to use these specific menu features as you practice using the software later in the course.

This page titled 2.5: Essentials of Google Workspace is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.6: Collaboration

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Discuss the benefits and challenges of collaborating with technology
- Describe professional behavior in collaborative meetings
- Outline how to attend and host a meeting
- Share and collaborate on documents via editing and commenting

Businesses in nearly all industries have benefited from advances in technology that have presented the need for collaboration among workers who are not located in the same geographic area, maybe not even on the same continent. Collaboration is essential in today's business environment and occurs at all levels within an organization. For example, the marketing department uses collaboration to make sure that company products are meeting customer needs. This could include working with product developers in the company to convey key customer preferences. It could also mean working with the accounting and finance departments to make sure that the products have the correct price point and that profit margins are being met for the company's strategic goals.

Collaboration and *teamwork* are often used to mean the same thing, but there is a key difference. Both terms are centered on a group of people working toward a shared goal. With teamwork, however, the group will have a defined leader, whereas with collaboration, there is no leader, and the group is more self-managed. Collaboration and teamwork have become a core part of most business structures. In fact, being a "team player" and being comfortable working with others have become key metrics in job performance evaluations. Also, hiring managers seek out these skills in potential candidates. Effective collaboration takes practice. It requires trust, information sharing, listening, an ability to accept feedback, and strong leadership to work well.

Collaboration in the Digitized Workplace

Reasons for collaboration are numerous. Collaboration provides innovative solutions to problems through the sharing of ideas and ways to solve the issue at hand. But some results of collaboration can be more concrete. For example, through shared resources, cost savings can be realized. Goals can be attained sometimes at a faster pace with collaboration. Collaboration can contribute to enhanced job satisfaction as well as develop employees' skills.

Collaboration does not just happen spontaneously in organizations. Management will need to make an effort to develop the structure and establish the culture of collaboration within the organization. This could mean that management will set up teams or develop other such strategies to encourage the practice of collaboration.

Collaborative Meetings

Meetings are necessary in nearly all types of organizations. Business meetings may be more discussion-based or more centered on making specific decisions. Meetings are used to make decisions, exchange information, announce changes, convey organizational goals, solve a specific problem, meet with stakeholders outside the organization, or celebrate successes. Historically, meetings have occurred face-to-face, either in a traditional conference room setup or in an individual's office. But today's technology enables us to conduct meetings virtually, and this is where collaborative software programs come in handy.

Videoconferencing allows users to have a face-to-face meeting without being in the same room or even the same part of the world. Videoconferencing tools include Google Meet, Zoom, and FaceTime. You can do videoconferencing on a laptop, desktop, phone, or iPad. Meet, as shown in Figure 2.59 is part of the Workspace. If you have a Google account, you have access to Meet.

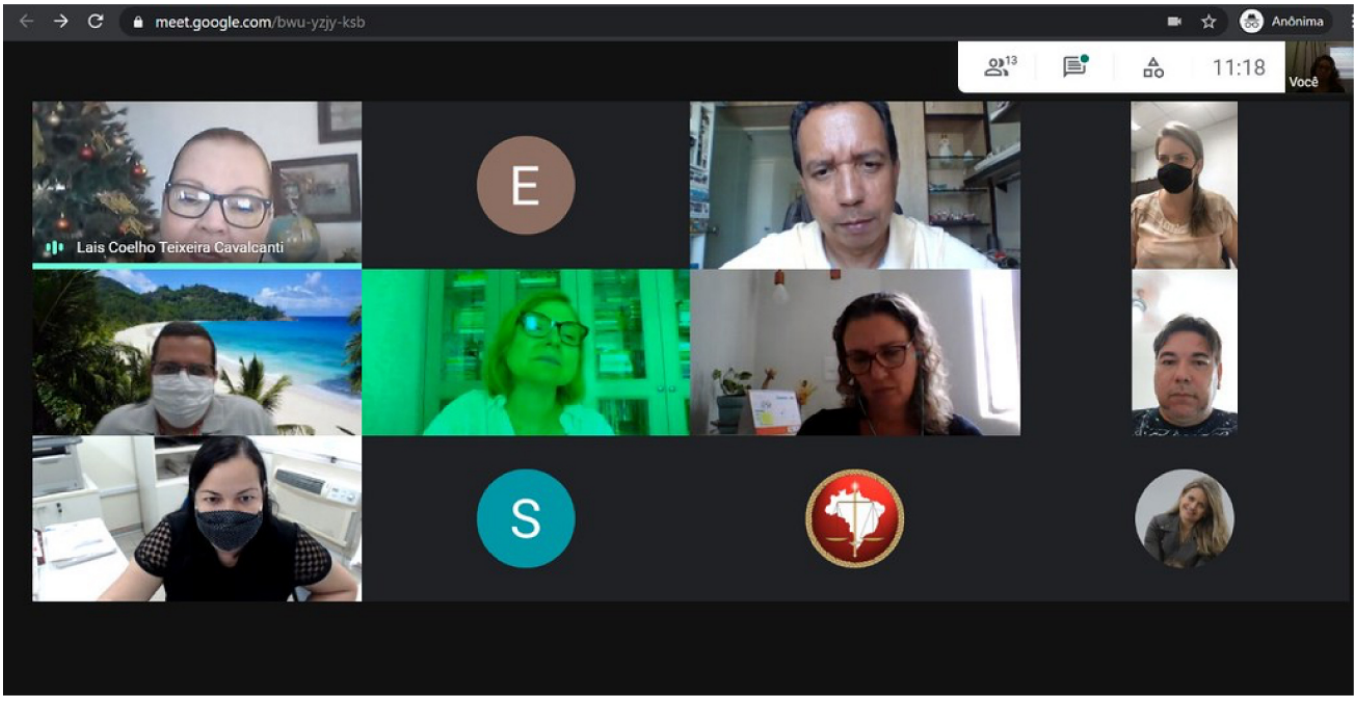


Figure 2.59: Today's technology enables us to meet with coworkers from across the world in a virtual meeting room. Depending on meeting rules and norms, participants have the option of participating without having to turn on their cameras. (credit: "7.12.2020 - Reunião GT – Retomada" by Ministério Público de Pernambuco/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Zoom has recently become a leader in videoconferencing. Zoom offers both individual and corporate-level subscriptions. The program has also been used for educational purposes in many schools and colleges.

Skype is a Microsoft product that has been around since 2003. However, it is not as popular as it once was, and Microsoft Teams has taken over much of the functionality that Skype has to offer.

Finally, FaceTime is a video calling interface. FaceTime is an Apple product and is used for personal communication rather than for conducting meetings in a business environment. To use videoconferencing to its full capability, be sure your computer has either an internal camera or a webcam.

Professional Meeting Etiquette

Meeting etiquette for a videoconference should be given the same attention as preparing for an in-person meeting. Although expectations may vary by organizational culture and the context of the meeting, there are some general expectations to keep in mind. First and foremost, be sure to check your technology to make sure you can access the link and that your internet connection is stable. Make sure you are familiar with the software that is being used and know how to use some of the features within the program. Some key items to understand prior to the meeting are:

- How to mute/unmute yourself
- How to turn your camera on/off
- How to participate in the group chat during the meeting if applicable
- How to enter comments
- How to use screen sharing options
- How to share files
- How to use emojis (if available and appropriate) during the meeting

During the meeting, unless you are the speaker, be sure to mute yourself. Also, be sure to be in a quiet place without distractions such as pets and children. Consider what might be on the wall behind you. Some programs offer the ability to customize the background that other participants see behind you.

Be on time for the meeting just as you would be expected to do for a face-to-face meeting. And finally, dress appropriately for being on camera. In business meetings where you are an active participant, you should have your camera on. If instead, it is a large

group presentation, it might be appropriate to turn off the camera. It is a good idea to check with the meeting organizer ahead of time to understand the expectations. For best practices in videoconferencing:

- Make passwords mandatory for all participants to prevent uninvited guests from attending.
- Check meeting links to ensure they are accurate and are sent to the appropriate participants.
- Review security settings on participants' computers to prevent identity theft.

Spotlight on Ethics

Ethical Considerations for Recording

Use of videoconferencing has grown exponentially due to its convenience and fairly straightforward technology. It is quite easy to use, and most conferencing programs come with useful features and tools to augment the experience. One of these conveniences is the ability to record. Recording meetings can be incredibly useful; we can capture what was said for later reference or we can share the recording with those unable to attend. That said, there are considerations to keep in mind when using the record feature. For instance, some videoconferencing tools may record silently, with no indicator that the conversation is being recorded. In most business settings, however, we want to avoid recording without the express approval of all parties. Some applications will request participants accept the recording; failure to accept the recording will usually take you out of the session. In addition, different states have different rules about recording audio, video, or both. It would be wise to inform yourself of your state's laws, as well as the company policy for recording meetings and conversations.

Collaborative Work

One of the biggest differences between Word and Docs is Google's capacity for sharing. Workspace was first in the market for use in offices based on sharing and collaboration. Its biggest advantage is that it allows many people to work on the same document at the same time, with all participants having the document open at once and seamlessly writing and editing different parts of it. Microsoft 365 incorporates some of these capabilities now, but Google has secured a strong market share since its introduction in 2006. Because both Microsoft 365 and Workspace are widely used, it's necessary to learn to use and collaborate in both systems, especially in the file sharing and editing functions.

File Sharing and Transferring

The most popular types of file sharing software are Drive, Microsoft SharePoint and OneDrive, and Dropbox. When sharing and transferring files, you need to have a system. Develop a system that is simple and easy to understand. This might mean that you limit the number of folders or develop a file/folder naming system that is used for all content in the shared drive. You might consider grouping files together by software program or by business function. For example, you could have a folder that contains all relevant marketing PowerPoint presentations or a folder in the drive for Marketing, for Accounting, for Management, and so on.

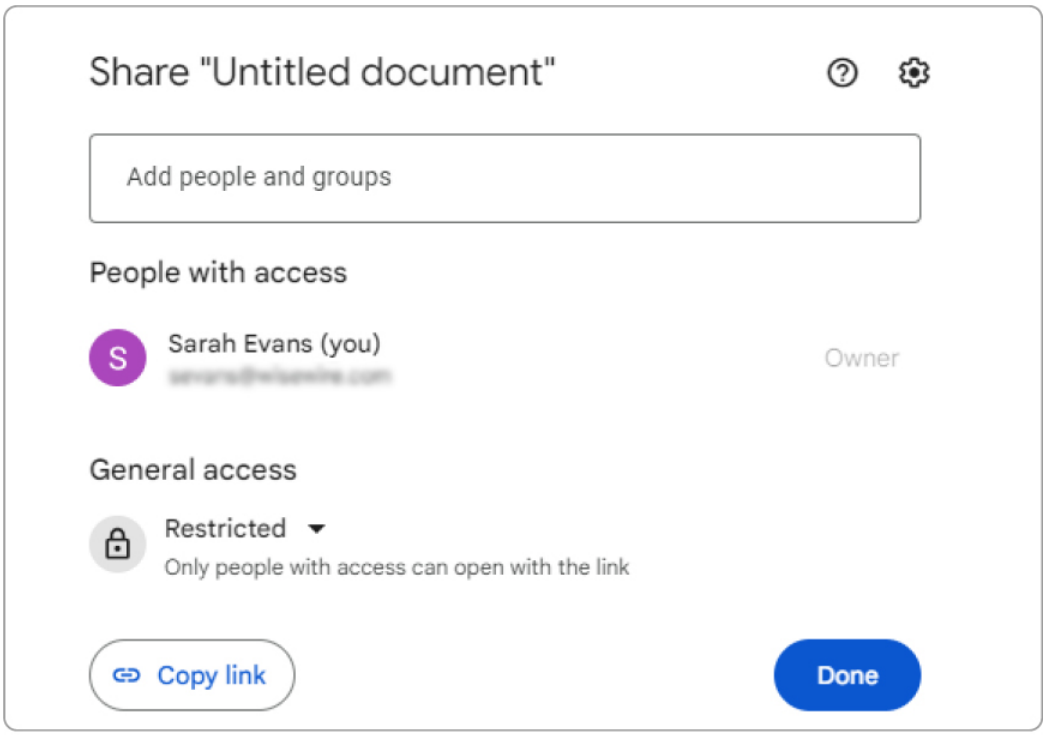
Consider creating a manual or at least a list of expectations and rules associated with the shared information. This could include the file naming process, where to store specific file types, and how to obtain permission to add files or folders. When a new person joins the team, make sure they get training on using the shared drive space. Finally, you should also control access to certain files and/or folders in the shared drive. Not everyone will need access to all documents in the drive. These permissions can be easily managed based on the shared software platform you are using.

Collaborative Writing and Editing

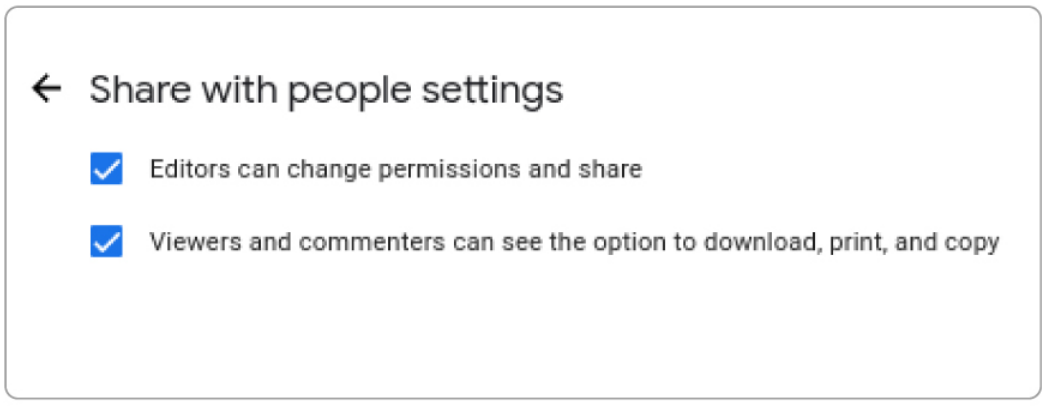
Because Workspace is web-based, all documents are in the cloud, making it easy to collaborate with coworkers. Multiple users can have the same file open at the same time and can make changes together. As one example, this functionality is useful in a small business accounting system that generates many invoices. Sales associates in different locations can update their sales amounts online, all using the same workbook. This type of collaboration was not possible in Office until Microsoft released its online version of Office. Office 365 (now called Microsoft 365) was the first version that allowed collaboration and sharing similar to that in Workspace. The Excel 2016 and 2019 desktop versions now permit collaboration and sharing in real time on files that are saved to OneDrive.

Sharing a Document

In Google, you can choose to send your file to individuals by simply typing in their emails, as shown in Figure 2.60a. There are various restrictions and modifications you can add to your sharing invite. By clicking the drop-down menu next to the person's name, you can choose to make this person a Viewer, Commenter, or Editor. This is the most basic level of adjusting the sharing settings by person. You can also select the gear icon at the upper right of the sharing window and uncheck the options you don't want, as shown in Figure 2.60b. The first choice allows for collaborators to edit and share the Google file; keep it checked if you want them to be able to edit, or unchecked if you don't want the recipients to edit. If you want recipients to just read, uncheck the first option and keep the second option. But if you don't want readers to be able to edit, print, download, or copy the file, you should uncheck both options.



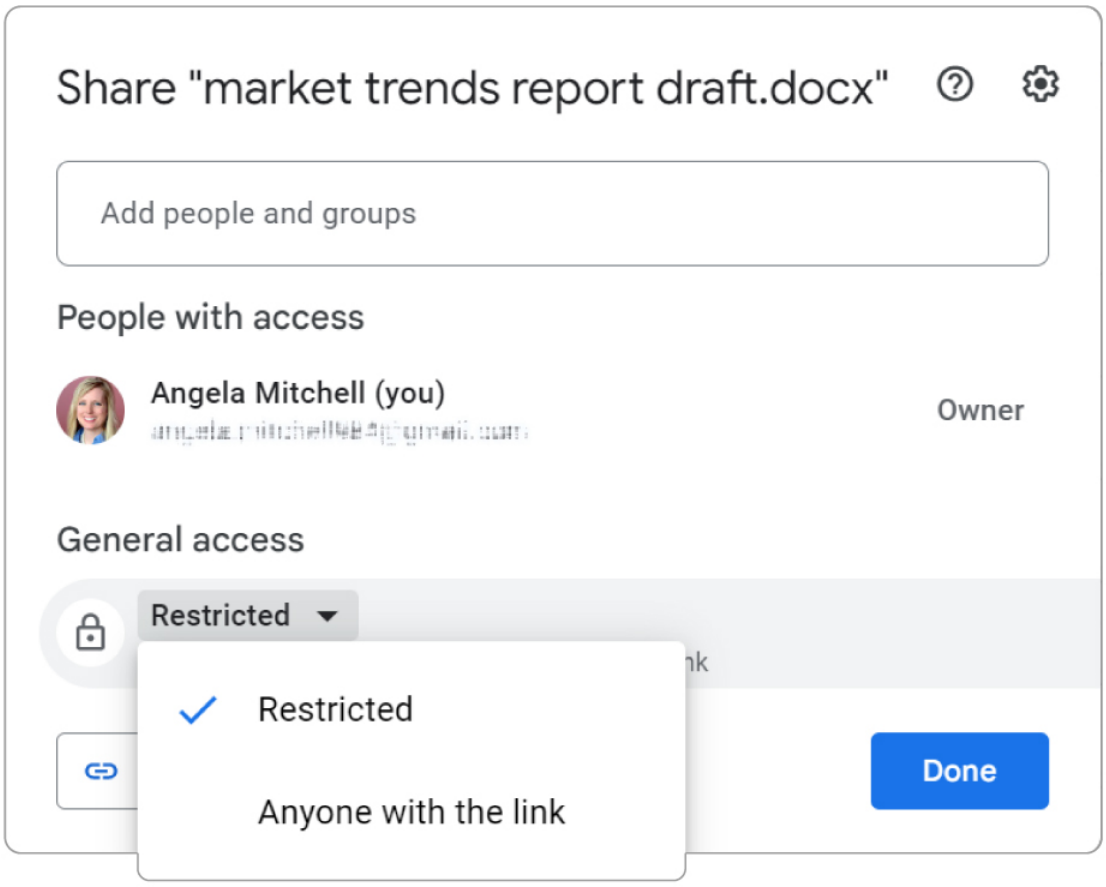
(a)



(b)

Figure 2.60: (a) To share a file, simply type in the recipient's email address to send the invitation. (b) Clicking the gear icon will allow you to manage what collaborators can do with the file. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You can send people a link to the file without adding them as collaborators. There are more sharing restrictions and options available in the Get Link box, as shown in Figure 2.61a. You can set your link sharing up as a public link or a restricted link. The public link can be configured further, as you can see in Figure 2.61b. Readers will be able to just view, comment, or edit. Or, you could choose Restricted, in which only certain people can open the link. Whichever you choose—public link or sharing to groups or individuals—any changes done by collaborators will be recorded, as mentioned earlier in the Version history feature from Docs. Adding people as collaborators by sharing the file with them means that they get an email notification, and the file is added to their "Shared with me" section of their Drive. This means that those collaborators have a Drive account, whether through Gmail or through Workspace. When you send someone a link only, it's not added to their "Shared with me" and may be accessed by someone without a Google account, or without logging in to their Google account if they have access to the link to the file.


Share "market trends report draft.docx"
Add people and groups
People with access
Angela Mitchell (you)
Owner
General access
Restricted
Restricted
Anyone with the link
Done

(a)

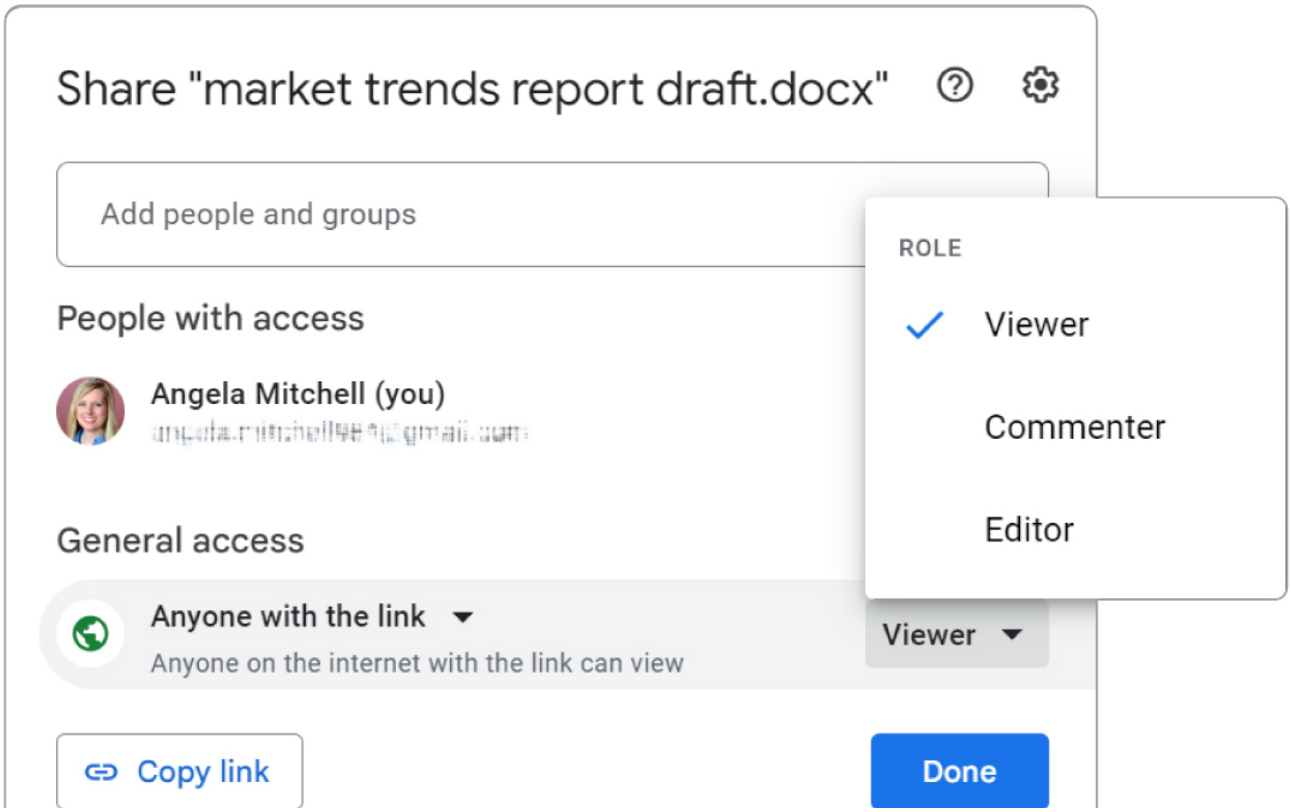

Share "market trends report draft.docx"
Add people and groups
People with access
Angela Mitchell (you)
General access
Anyone with the link
Anyone on the internet with the link can view
Viewer
Copy link
Done
ROLE
Viewer
Commenter
Editor

Figure 2.61: (a) You can set up a public link for people to access a file, whether they have a Google account or not. (b) You can also place some restrictions on access to the file. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

(b)

Accessing a Saved Document with Drive

Your options for sharing and viewing files will depend on how you save files in Drive. Drive is the main location from which you will create and save your Docs. However, Drive can also act as simple data storage, where you can keep your Word documents, pictures, PDFs, and many other types of files. Word documents are compatible with Docs to some extent; you can even open a Word document directly from Drive and edit it in your browser. However, you may notice some differences between your original Word file and the way it opens in Docs. For example, some formatting may not seamlessly transfer to the Docs version of your file. Be aware that you may need to make adjustments to clean up any incompatibilities. (Some other file types, like PDFs, may need a separate application to edit.)

There are two ways to access files on your Drive. One is directly through your browser: Simply log in to your Google account and navigate to the Drive app or go to drive.google.com and log in from there. This method requires only an internet connection and an internet browser. When you select a .gdoc file, it will open directly in your browser and you edit it from there. If you select a different type of file, you may want to edit it in-browser or download it to your computer to use with another application.

The other way to access files is to sync your Drive with your computer. If you install Drive on your computer as a network drive, you can access your files from your Windows File Explorer or macOS Finder window, as you would your pictures or other documents. You can create folders or rename files all from File Explorer or Finder. The advantage of this method is that you can open non-Google files, such as Word documents or PDFs, in their native applications. That is, if you open a .docx file from FileStream, it will open in Word, instead of opening the Google-compatible version in your browser. However, if you open a Docs file from FileStream, it will automatically prompt your computer to open your internet browser and open the file there, as .gdoc files do not have a native computer application.

The advantage of the in-browser method of accessing files on Drive is that it offers the user different options for sharing and viewing files. In Figure 2.62, you can see on the right the available options: My Drive, Shared with me, Recent, Starred, and Trash. My Drive contains your personal files: ones that you either created yourself, uploaded from your computer, or copied to your Drive from people who shared files with you. Shared with me contains shared files sent to you for collaboration. Recent contains the most recently opened or edited files. “Starred” is a special category that contains only files that you have deliberately added to it by selecting the “Add to Starred” command. These may be important files that you want to see later or files that have high-priority issues needing to be solved. Trash, like the Windows Recycle Bin, is simply a place where you send files to be deleted. Below these categories, you will see the amount of space you have left in Drive.

There are added benefits of using Drive. The most obvious one is that you can access your files from anywhere in the world, with any device. A second advantage is the online drive’s interactive sharing ability: You can send your file to anyone, either an individual or a select group. Finding and opening a file is as easy as signing into your Google account, going to Drive, and locating your file.

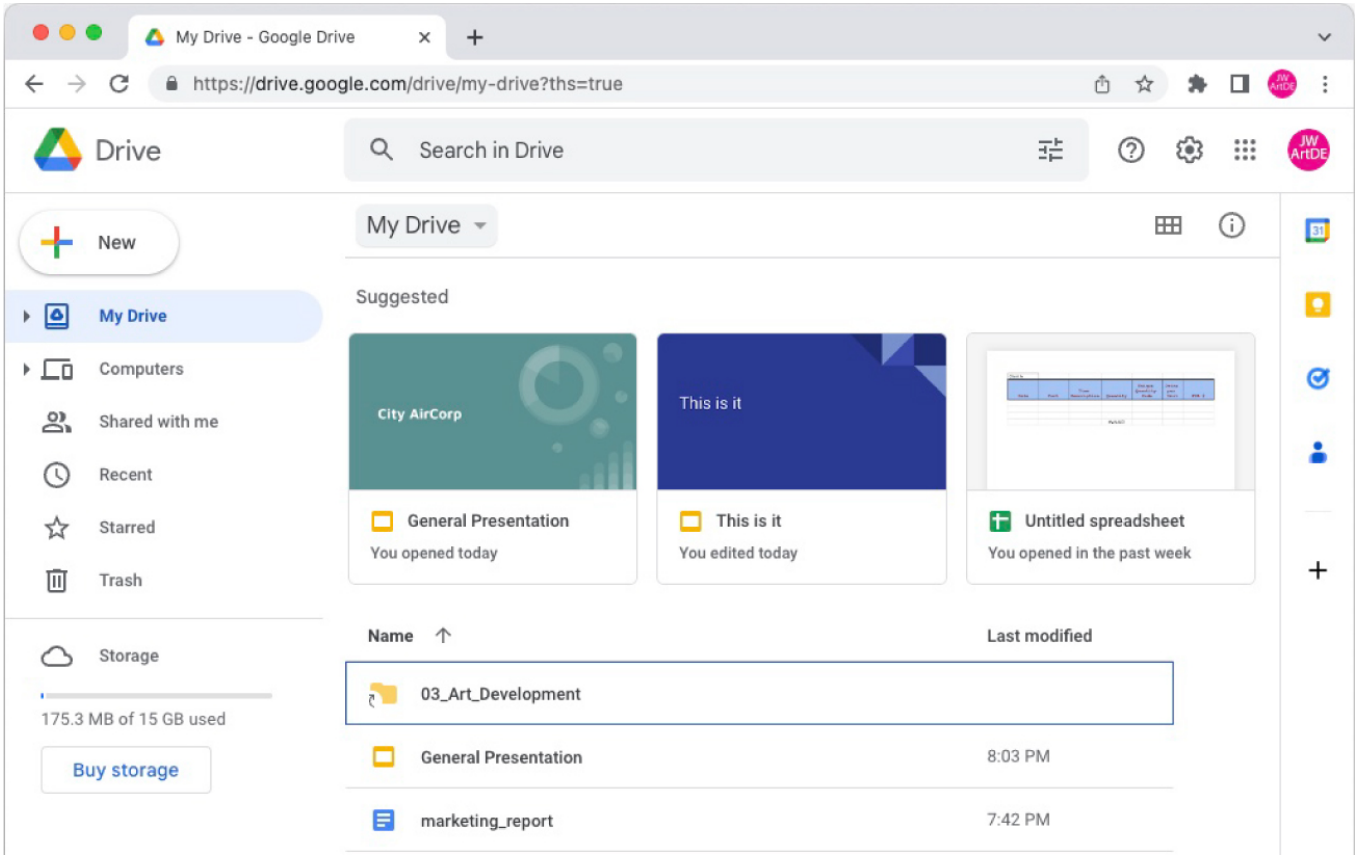


Figure 2.62: Drive is the storage space that customers get on Google's servers. As you pay fees, your storage capacity is increased. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The one potential drawback of Drive is its reliance on internet access. All files are accessed and saved through the internet.

This page titled 2.6: Collaboration is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

AutoSave
a function that saves continuously as you make changes to a file

Backstage view
welcome screen and the File tab, where you can open or save a document, create a new document, or configure settings for the application

blind carbon copy (Bcc)
recipient in email; the recipient will receive the same email as recipients in the Cc and To fields but will not be known to those recipients

carbon copy (Cc)
recipient in email; the recipient who is Cc'd on the email will receive the same email as the recipient in the To field, but the Cc recipient will be known to all other recipients

command
process the user selects; located on the toolbar, on the ribbon, or in a menu

command group
group of related commands that are placed together in one area of the ribbon

communication applications
software that facilitates communication between individuals or groups

database applications
software that organizes and manages large amounts of data, which could be textual or numeric

dialog box
window that appears within a software program prompting the user to choose or enter information for a task

Download
command in Google Docs that lets the user Save As their .gdocx file by exporting the file in another file extension

email
mail sent and received electronically

file
electronic system used to store data and programs

file compression
process of reducing the size of one or more files by removing unnecessary data

file format
way data is encoded based on the application that the computer will use to read the file

folder
defined area of a computer that stores files and subfolders

graphical user interface (GUI)

portion of an application that allows the user to interact with the program

instant chat/messaging
chat application that allows messages to be sent and received in real time

menu bar
screen display of software commands that can be arranged in tabs and often at the top of the screen; also called a *ribbon*

Portable Document Format (PDF)
file format designed for publishing documents; maintains the same text and object alignment when read in different software versions of .pdf readers

presentation application
software used to create slides that combines text and visuals to be shared in a presentation

ribbon
area at the top of the application window where all commands are housed; organized into tabs

Rich Text Format (RTF)
older text file format that is plainer and less sophisticated than .docx

Save
way of saving a document that resaves the file with its existing name

Save a Copy
command that creates a duplicate version of an existing file

Save As
way of saving a document that enables you to rename the file or save it in another format

Share
command that enables a document's owner to invite others to work on it

spreadsheet application
software that is used to work with data, especially numerical data

status bar
feature that shows the computer's progress in loading a website and is often found at the bottom of the software screen

tabs
sections of the ribbon that refer to related processes, organized by labels

template
preformatted file, designed to save the user time in document formatting

toolbar
bar of icons that are used in the program to perform functions; often found below the menus in the program

Version history
Google Drive feature that allows users to access past versions of the same document, created using AutoSave

videoconferencing
allows you to communicate with individuals over the internet using sound and video

word processing application

software that is used to create text-based documents such as memos, letters, and reports

---

This page titled 2.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.8: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

2.1 Software Basics

- Software is the lifeblood of a computer system that gets work done personally and in the business world.
- Word processing applications are used to create text-based documents such as memos, letters, and reports.
- Spreadsheet applications are used to work with data, especially numerical data.
- Presentation applications are used to create slides that combine text and visuals to be shared in a presentation.
- Specialized applications include programs that are used only in certain disciplines or occupations.
- Installing and maintaining software is an important skill to have in today's business world and beyond.

2.2 Files and Folders

- Some best practices for organizing and cleaning your files include never storing files on your desktop, removing files from the download folder, and using descriptive folder names.
- The different types of files include document, worksheet, presentation, and graphics files.
- Files can be managed, shared, organized, and stored in the cloud using the applications provided by Google or Microsoft.

2.3 Communication and Calendar Applications

- Communication in organizations today is facilitated with technology.
- Many applications include features to facilitate communication across time zones and borders.
- Email applications such as Outlook and Gmail make it possible to communicate and to send files via the internet.
- Instant chat/messaging platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Slack have been used to create virtual workspaces for teams in organizations.
- Productivity in teams can be enhanced by using calendar applications to manage team meetings and project tasks.

2.4 Essentials of Microsoft 365

- Applications in the Office suite have generally the same layout.
- The options to customize files are arranged on the ribbon by tabs based on the usage.
- The Save, Save As, Open, and Print options are common among all applications.
- By using the settings options in the applications, you can customize the view and the ribbon to meet your needs.

2.5 Essentials of Google Workspace

- Apps in Workspace include Docs, Sheets, and Slides. These apps are similar in many ways to their Microsoft counterparts.
- Google has some of the same functionality that you will find in Microsoft, but items may use different terminology.
- A unique feature of creating files in Google is that the files are automatically saved in your Drive in the cloud.
- Commands and settings in Google are arranged in menus, with the more frequently used commands appearing as icons on the toolbar.

2.6 Collaboration

- Collaboration and teamwork are essential aspects of today's workplace. Both can be fostered through technology. Sharing platforms such as OneDrive and Drive make it possible to collaborate and track teamwork across a wide variety of applications.
- Today's companies expect workers to treat videoconferencing with the same level of professionalism as in-office meetings.
- Companies use popular software programs such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams to run videoconferences.
- You can share and collaborate on documents through editing and commenting functions.

This page titled 2.8: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
Which program is focused on numerical information?

a. LinkedIn
b. Google Slides
c. Microsoft Excel
d. Adobe InDesign

2 .
_____ is software used primarily for developing slides.

a. A word processing application
b. A spreadsheet application
c. A presentation application
d. Adobe InDesign

3 .
_____ show(s) the computer's progress in loading a website.

a. Menus
b. The status bar
c. The toolbar
d. A dialog box

4 .
What are the advantages of saving your file as a .pdf?

a. The document will have a higher resolution.
b. The document will be editable and ready for sharing.
c. The document will not easily alter its font or change the position of objects across any device that opens the file.
d. The document will not be able to be viewed by a web browser.

5 .
_____ is a programming language used for designing websites.

a. PDF
b. HTML
c. JPEG
d. RTF

6 .
If you want to save your file in a different format or in a different location, you would choose the _____ command.

a. Restore
b. New
c. Save
d. Save As

7 .
The file extension .xls is associated with which software program?

a. Google Sheets
b. Adobe InDesign
c. Microsoft Excel
d. Microsoft Word

8 .
Slack is a(n) _____ application.

a. calendar

b. email
c. meeting scheduler
d. instant messaging

9 .
_____ is used to send a copy of an email to a recipient without others on the email being able to see that recipient's address.

a. Bcc
b. To
c. Attachment
d. RTF

10 .
When multiple calendars are centralized in a single calendar, this is called _____.

a. calendar creation
b. calendar color coding
c. calendar attachment
d. calendar integration

11 .
What type of Word file lets you start with a preformatted new document?

a. .pdf
b. Open
c. themes
d. templates

12 .
Where would you find the AutoRecover command?

a. on the Home tab
b. on the Review tab
c. on the Slides tab
d. in the Options dialog box

13 .
Which tab contains the command group for paragraphs?

a. the Home tab
b. the Review tab
c. the Transitions tab
d. the Insert tab

14 .
Name three items that are found in the Options dialog box.

a. Save, Save As, Text
b. Save As, Font, Insert
c. Save, Proofing, Customize the Quick Access Toolbar
d. Insert, Proofing, Customize the Ribbon

15 .
What is the method of saving in Docs that lets you save a document to your own computer in a different format?

a. Download
b. Save a Copy
c. Save As
d. Export

16 .
Where will you find the settings to automatically capitalize words at the beginning of sentences?

a. Backstage view, Options

b. Home tab, Styles command group
c. in the Paragraph command group
d. Backstage view, Info

17 .
_____ is an example of a feature that is automatic in Google but not in Office products.

a. File sharing capability
b. File storage
c. Find and Replace
d. AutoSave

18 .
Which videoconferencing application is used more for social interactions rather than business meetings?

a. Skype
b. Google Meet
c. Zoom
d. FaceTime

19 .
What is one potential drawback of Drive?

a. It lacks the ability to share links with others.
b. It is a cloud storage platform.
c. It is incompatible with Microsoft products.
d. The organization of files is not predetermined.

This page titled 2.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

20 .
Provide an image of a user interface (UI) and label the menu, toolbar, and dialog box.
21 .
Describe an application you use regularly. Have you ever needed to upgrade the program? How did the upgrade change the application?
22 .
Choose a file that you are comfortable deleting that is saved on your computer. Open that file and create a backup of that file by saving it in another location with a different name. Then, delete the original file. Go to the Recycle Bin and choose the file you just deleted and choose Restore. What did you notice about the Restore process and the restored file?
23 .
Using your classes this semester, create a folder organization system for your electronic class files using the best practices covered in this section. Explain how you can use this framework for future semesters.
24 .
Using either Outlook or Gmail, create a business email following up on a recent interview you had for a job opportunity. Apply the best practices discussed in this section.
25 .
Establish a Google account if you do not already have one. Access the Google Calendar function and create a calendar for one of your classes. Enter a few assignments as calendar appointments into the class calendar.
26 .
Go into the Backstage view of Word and customize the Quick Access Toolbar to include cut, paste, and another command of your choice. Remove the Redo command from the Quick Access Toolbar.
27 .
Go to the Backstage view in PowerPoint. Examine the options for additional ribbon tabs you can add. Choose two to add to the ribbon that you think might be helpful when creating a presentation in PowerPoint.
28 .
Go to the appropriate menu in Docs. Find the MathType add-on and install it. Use the add-on to create a couple of mathematical equations in a blank document.
29 .
Create a new Slides file using a template. Go to the appropriate menu in Google, choose a presentation template that appeals to you, and create a new Slides file from that template. Examine the menus that are available in Slides and the tools found in those menus.
30 .
Create a meeting in Meet and invite participants. Create a document that will be shared with the participants for collaboration. Use comments as appropriate in the collaboration document.

This page titled 2.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

31 .
Why is the user interface important?
32 .
Why is software important?
33 .
You have been asked to prepare a presentation to introduce yourself to the other participants in the management trainee program. Which program(s) could you use and why?
34 .
Describe the different types of Microsoft files that are commonly used and how each one can be used both by a user and by a business.
35 .
What is the difference between a file and a folder?
36 .
Why would you compress a file?
37 .
Examine your own files and folders. How do you typically name your files and folders? Does your system work for you? How might you improve your file/folder structure and protocol?
38 .
Describe an instance where you needed to work or learn remotely. What tools did you use? How did the experience differ from an in-person meeting? What were the challenges? What were the benefits?
39 .
Why is email still so widely used in businesses today?
40 .
Discuss the benefits and challenges of communicating electronically in a global business world.
41 .
What is the purpose of being able to see document properties in Backstage view?
42 .
How does a command group differ from a ribbon tab?
43 .
What is the advantage of using AutoRecover?
44 .
What are the Workspace apps, and how do they compare with those in Office?
45 .
Explain the difference between Download and Save a Copy in Docs.
46 .
Why would you choose to create a new file using a template instead of starting with a blank document?
47 .
Why do we use videoconferencing?
48 .
Discuss how you see collaboration and teamwork in organizations. What are the challenges? What are the benefits? What are the differences?

This page titled 2.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

2.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

49 .

Imagine you are working for a realtor in your hometown. You are asked to organize the files on the realtor's computer to make it easier for them to keep up with the properties they are selling and their clients who are looking for homes. The realtor also deals with several rental properties. Design a folder structure that is logical and that will be easy for your boss to manage when new clients or new properties are added.

50 .

Aquent is a staffing agency for marketing professionals (Aquent: Global Work Solutions Company). As a result of the pandemic and their business needs, they have converted to a permanently remote workforce. They have kept some office space for meetings and other needs that necessitate meeting in person. What communication tools could they use to facilitate a remote work policy? What are some challenges they might face?

51 .

Go back through Essentials of Microsoft Office and find a command that you would like to add to your ribbon. Then, follow the directions in the chapter to do so. Once you have added your command to your ribbon, answer the following questions: Why did you choose to add what you did? Which ribbon did you add it to? Why there?

52 .

Discuss the value of specific Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) in a business context, giving examples of *why* Office has become so dominant.

53 .

Read this article about conducting a hybrid meeting in the workplace. Describe at least three key takeaways from the article that will help you plan a meeting where some participants attend in person and others participate virtually. What are some challenges posed by setting up such a meeting?

This page titled 2.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

3: Creating and Working in Documents

3.0: Chapter Scenario
3.1: Navigating Microsoft Word
3.2: Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word
3.3: Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word
3.4: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Microsoft Word
3.5: Document Design
3.6: Navigating Google Docs
3.7: Formatting Layout and Content in Google Docs
3.8: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs
3.9: Versions and Version History
3.10: Chapter Review - Key Terms
3.11: Chapter Review - Summary
3.12: Chapter Review - Review Questions
3.13: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
3.14: Chapter Review - Written Questions
3.15: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 3: Creating and Working in Documents is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.0: Chapter Scenario

You have been tasked with writing a market trends report on the manufacturing division of WorldCorp's consumer goods company, which produces products such as televisions and computer monitors. A market trends report summarizes the current status of an industry, details the major competitors and their market share, and provides some information on where the industry is moving. You are the main document editor, but you need to get information from other WorldCorp employees in different departments, such as the manufacturing and the accounting departments, as well as from international business statistics databases. Creating this report will require a considerable amount of collaboration and sharing of information, as well as layout and design skills, to make the final report look good. The process of creating this market trends report will require a thorough, working knowledge of the program you are using to generate it.



Figure 3.1: Many people use word processing software for a variety of purposes, such as writing a paper for an assignment, or creating a report for a manager. Companies often use both Microsoft Word and Google Docs in the workplace. (credit: modification of "WOCinTechChat" by wocintech (microsoft) - 175/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Microsoft Word and Google Docs are two of the more popular document preparation and editing software programs. Both programs have a distinct look and feel, as well as their own advantages. Word is full of powerful tools that can be used across different fields, from education to accounting. In contrast, Docs, a free application, has more user-friendly and collaborative features. Offices around the world use both tools for different purposes. First, you will learn about Word, and then Docs, building on the basics from the chapter on the Essentials of Software Applications for Business.

This page titled 3.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.1: Navigating Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify the most commonly used tabs in Microsoft Word
- Use the Navigation pane

Microsoft Word is a sophisticated word processing application. It completely transformed the document-creation process, replacing typewriters and existing word processing programs, such as WordPerfect and WordStar, with a user-friendly digital interface and hundreds of options for formatting. The comprehensive features allow users to easily adjust fonts and page layouts, insert graphics, track revisions, communicate collaboratively via comments, check spelling, search for text, and much more.

Let's get started on our market trends report. As you learned in the chapter on Essentials of Software Applications for Business, you should first open a new, blank document in Word. Using the default settings, type the following into the document:

> *Industry and Market Analysis*
>
> *The laptop industry is growing at a rather slow rate with sales expected to grow around 1% annually. Sales in the industry currently are over $20 billion. A large part of sales comes from consumer demand. There are several key players in the laptop industry. The largest companies in the industry in terms of consumer laptop ownership in the United States (market share) are HP, Dell, Apple, Acer, and Lenovo. Individuals can purchase a laptop at various price points based on the features, speed, and storage capabilities of the laptop. These companies also compete in the tablet industry and some consumers might make the decision to choose a tablet over a laptop. There are also laptops that are considered "convertible," meaning that they can be more like a tablet or a laptop with the screen feature that allows full rotation.*

You will use this text to build the framework for the market trends report as you move through the sections in this chapter and in subsequent chapters.

Tabs

Word comes with a set of default tabs (or menus), which are the interface for most of the functions and features you will use. Those tabs are File, Home, Insert, Draw, Design, Layout, References, Mailings, Review, View, and Help.

Mac Tip

These same tabs are on the Mac Menu Bar, but the menu bar varies when you are in Word. There is no File tab on Word's toolbar in Mac. The default tabs you see depend on the settings you have selected. They usually are Home, Insert, Draw, Design, Layout, References, Mailings, Review, View, and Tell Me. You can access Word preferences and settings via the taskbar at the top of the screen.

Many of the features that are common among the tabs in Office were covered in the Essentials of Software Applications for Business chapter. In this chapter, you will learn more about how the tabs work in Word.

You can customize your menu bar by adding or hiding tabs, and by modifying the tools that appear on each tab. There are hundreds of commands you can choose from; the Word interface is highly customizable. Customization of the tabs was covered in the chapter on Essentials of Software Applications for Business. The next sections introduce some of the most important default tabs and their overall function, as well as the most-used commands, as Figure 3.2 shows.

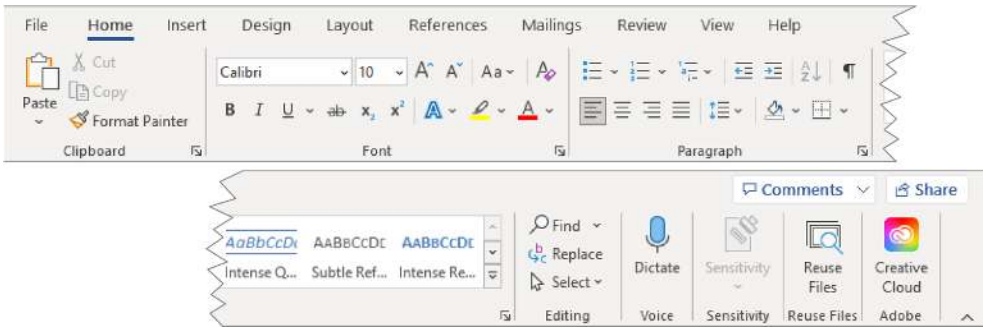


Figure 3.2: Notice there are several tabs, such as Home and Insert, that are common to all Office programs, as covered in Chapter 2. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Home Tab

The Home tab is where you will spend most of your time, as it contains the formatting of fonts, alignment, headings, numbering, and lists, as well as the Find commands. It is also the default tab that displays when you open your document. We will go over the Home tab commands in detail in Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word.

Insert Tab

The Insert tab is useful for adding certain material into your document. The Insert tab also allows the user to include elements such as headers and footers, page numbers, page breaks, and bookmarks. We will review using these features in more detail in the chapter on Document Preparation.

Knowing how to use the Insert tab is particularly important for designing business documents, such as your WorldCorp market trends report. Your report will contain many pages and sections, as well as a table of contents and page numbers. It will also likely contain charts, graphs, and images, all of which need to be inserted into the document. For example, you could insert a chart of the top-selling TV screens (by using the Charts drop-down menu), then add a callout or label explaining the chart (by using the Shapes drop-down menu).

Layout Tab

The Layout tab is where you will configure your page setup. It includes commands for adjusting margins and the paper size, as well as options for shaping the text on the page with columns. The Paragraph command group is for adjusting the alignment of lists, body text, and objects such as pictures in your document. This tab also gives the user options for adding page breaks and line numbers.

Review Tab

If you are working with a team on your documents, you'll likely use the Review tab. This tab has a commenting function that allows users to add comments to a file, and to respond to each other's comments, as also discussed in the Essentials of Software Applications for Business chapter. As Figure 3.3 shows, the Review tab contains the Track Changes feature, which is helpful when many people are taking turns reviewing and contributing to a document. When Track Changes is turned on, edits to the document appear underlined and in colored text. Each user's edits will be colored differently to easily distinguish input from multiple people. This is particularly helpful when documents go through several revisions and are reviewed by many people. The market trends report for WorldCorp is a team effort, requiring several people to contribute to the final product. You can expect that as the document is created and revised, comments will be used to help reach the final version of the report.

The Track Changes process might feel familiar to you, as it is designed to mimic the act of marking up a paper document with a pen. You might have had someone work on your résumé or mark up a homework assignment of yours, using a red pen to make suggestions and revisions on the document itself. In a Word document, comments and Track Changes serve the same purpose as using a red pen on a paper document. This process will be covered in more detail later in the chapter.

The Review tab also has many commands that allow commenting and suggesting changes in documents that are used and edited by multiple people. Figure 3.3 shows two comments that users made by choosing the New Comment function. As people work on the document, they can read and respond to those comments, or remove them by clicking on them and selecting Delete in the

Comments menu. There are also options in the Show Markup button found in the Tracking command group to display (or not display) formatting changes such as boldfacing or underlining.

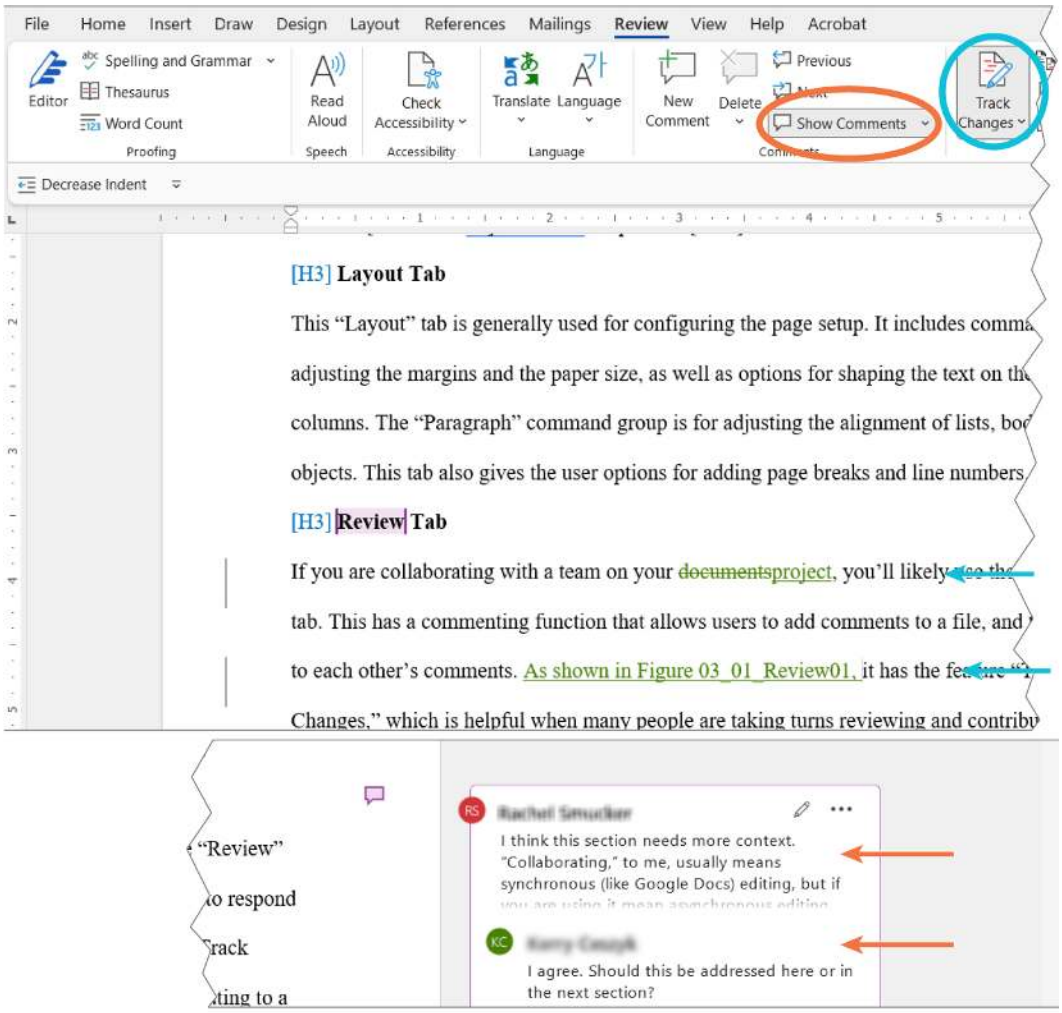


Figure 3.3: The Review tab in Word is helpful when multiple people are working on a document. It allows them to add comments and track revisions. The second comment is the lower one and is the reply to the one above it. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Also on the Review tab, the Proofing command group contains helpful tools that you will use often when writing and editing a document. You can check your spelling and grammar, look up words in a dictionary or thesaurus, and keep track of your word count.

You will learn more about the Review tab and its features in Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word.

View Tab

The View tab is useful for changing how you see your document. For instance, it gives you the option of looking at your document one or two pages at time. You can also activate the zoom option from here, as well as add rulers and gridlines, which are helpful when placing objects, such as a table or picture, in the report you may be writing. You can also access the Navigation pane in the View tab. You may also use the read, print, or web viewing modes when typing, which give you different ways of seeing your document, as Figure 3.4 shows.

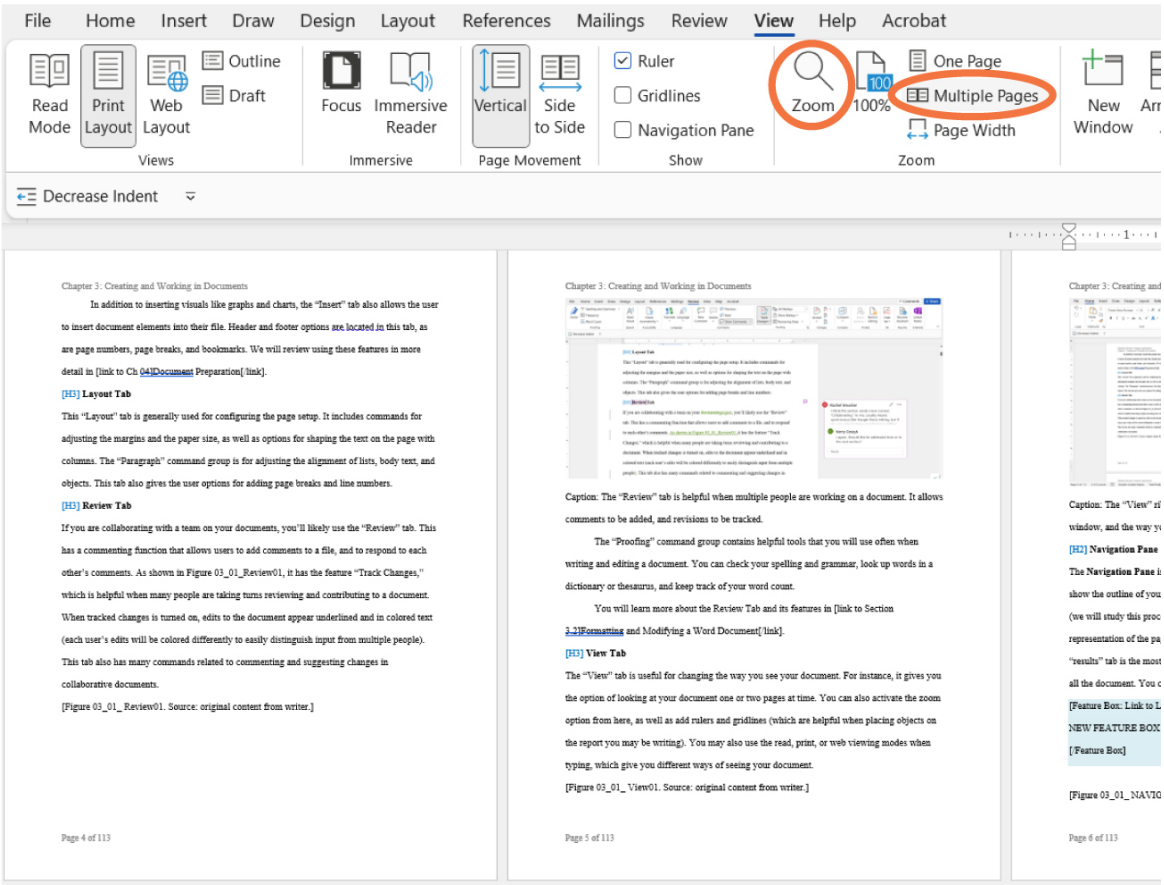


Figure 3.4: The View tab allows users to view documents in a variety of ways. The multiple pages selection, shown here, lets you see several pages at once. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Navigation Pane

The Navigation pane serves various purposes. The Navigation pane is accessed directly by checking the box on the View tab in the Show command group. You can also get the Navigation pane by selecting Find from the Home tab. With either of these options, a pane will open on the left side of the screen. There are three tabs in the Navigation pane: Headings, Pages, and Results. The first tab, Headings, is the first thing you will see when you open the Navigation pane. This tab shows the outline of your document, but only if you have placed headings for each section and subsection (which you will learn more about in the section on Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word). The Pages tab shows a thumbnail representation of the pages of the document. The Results tab is used for searching for a particular word, phrase, or number throughout the document, as Figure 3.5 shows. You can always activate the Find function with the Ctrl+F keyboard shortcut.

Mac Tip

To activate the Find function on a Mac, press Command+F.

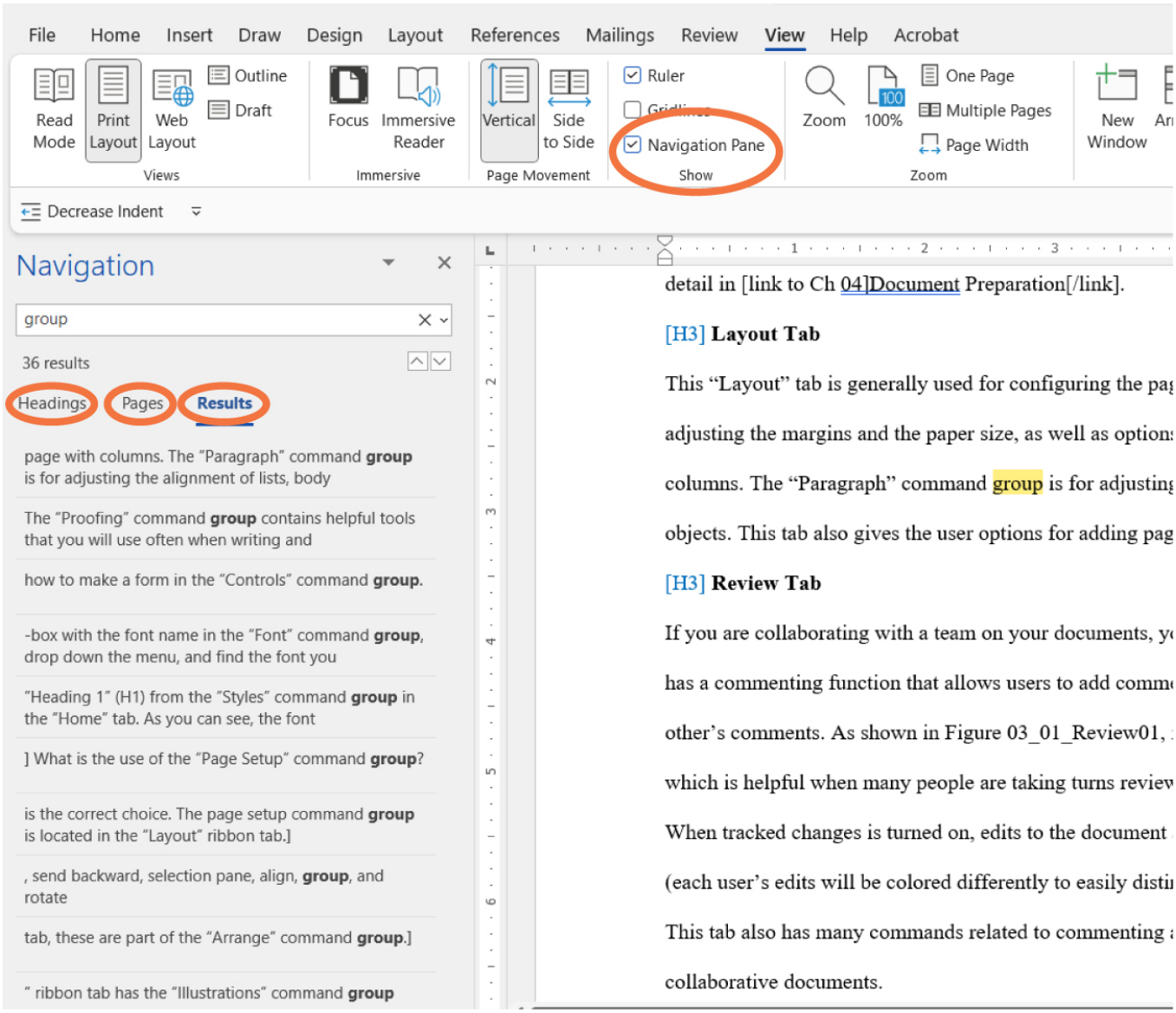


Figure 3.5: The Navigation pane is a sidebar that helps you move quickly from one section of your document to another, or locate a specific term or phrase through its search feature. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application

What Is a Document?

You will likely work in creating, editing, and consuming documents throughout your personal life and professional career. But what exactly is a document? Generally, a document is any type of file that contains information or transferred thoughts/ideas. While historically these documents were transferred to some type of paper or physical presentation on a chalkboard or displayed with an overhead projector, nowadays these are largely found in electronic format. However, when we are referring to a document with respect to Word, we are referring to a very specific type of file. This document file will contain primarily text and images that have been formatted and processed electronically. Hence, Word is a word processor, a type of program that contains a number of different text formatting capabilities for producing primarily text-based files and documents. This is an important distinction, as you can create any number of different text-based files in several different programs.

There will be times when you may not have access to Word or another word processing program. Many computers, and even some portable devices, will come with a preinstalled basic text processing as part of their operating system. Notepad is one example. While you will not be able to format the text (not even bold, italic, or underline), you can capture basic text

> information and save it as a basic text file (.txt) to your computer. This can be useful for jotting down quick notes—hence the name Notepad. Then, later, when you have access to Word, you can copy and paste the text from Notepad into Word, where you can format it and incorporate it into other documents if needed.

This page titled 3.1: Navigating Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.2: Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Format page setup and margins
- Create different types of sections and modify section formatting

At WorldCorp, each major division represents a product line. All these divisions have their own functional departments, such as finance, marketing, manufacturing, research and development (R&D), and logistics. To write your report on market trends, you will need to get information on the products from these different departments. For example, the marketing department might provide sales data for a particular product, while the finance department can provide the profit made for each product sold. Practically speaking, this means creating a document that is readable and easy to use for everyone.

Setting the page layout for your document in Microsoft Word allows you to present material in a way that maximizes ease of use. Page layout includes setting margins and page size, choosing the page orientation, introducing features like columns, and breaking up a document into sections so that different parts can have different formats applied. These functions can be accessed using the tools on the Layout tab (see Figure 3.6).

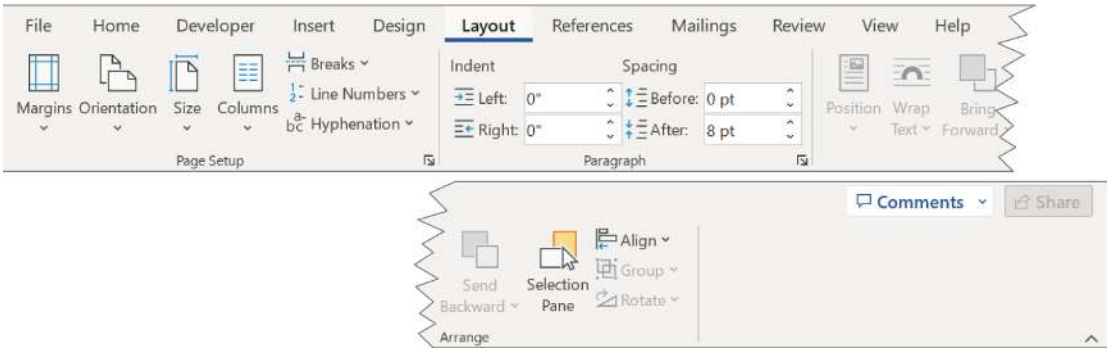


Figure 3.6: The Layout tab has clearly defined drop-down menus and buttons for its page layout tools. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Page Setup

The Layout tab contains commands and tools for adjusting the overall page setup of your document, located within the Page Setup command group. Page setup typically includes adjusting the paper size, margins, and orientation, as well as adding features like section breaks and columns. There are accepted standards for document formatting, but these can vary by target audience and by industry. For business reports, such as your market trends report, a 12-point font for body text (Calibri, Times New Roman, and Cambria are some popular fonts), and one-inch margins on all sides (top, bottom, left, right) are typically standard. Most reports also have sections and section headings to help break up and organize the content. The line spacing in the reports can vary, but the most common spacing will be either single-spacing, 1.5-spacing, or double-spacing.

Each of these elements has an important role to play in presenting the document to its audience (e.g., business professionals), as well as an impact on readability. Some fonts are easier to read than others, or are more appropriate for a specific genre of document. You may use a style guide (a manual for consistent styling and editorial treatment) like the *Chicago Manual of Style* or the *Modern Language Association* (MLA) style for published corporate reports, but many businesses do not strictly follow a manual of style for internal reports. For reports like your market trends report, it is usually left up to the employee or the supervisor to determine the best formatting and style for the report. For reports that will be distributed externally, such as at a conference, you should ask colleagues in charge of these events if they have formatting and style requirements for documents. It is important to keep the intended audience in mind when setting up the document.

Real-World Application: Style Guides

Different industries will establish certain expectations around the types of documents that are typical of their field, as well as how these documents are formatted and presented. For instance, newspapers will use a certain type of font and use only certain types of formatting options. They will also define the paper size, margins, and how the content is laid out on the page. If you review a handful of different printed newspapers, you will find that each has a very specific style and that no two really look alike, although we recognize that they are newspapers because they share a subset of agreed-upon standards (such as page size). So too, will you find that your industry has a specific style, and in your studies, you will be asked to adopt different writing and formatting standards. These are known as style guides, or style manuals. Common ones you may encounter while in college are the APA (*American Psychological Association*) and MLA (*Modern Language Association*) style manuals; however, others exist, including ones used in specific industries, such as the CSE (*Council of Science Editors*) style used in biology and other sciences. These guides will define how documents should be formatted in their entirety, from font type to the general layout of pages, including margin width and line spacing. It is important to know that these styles are updated regularly. You will want to stay abreast of these updates. To make this easier, most major style guides, such as APA and Chicago, have websites that provide information about updates. To ensure that you stay informed, some of these websites offer subscriptions for information about updates.

While Word does not come preset with these formatting requirements, you can create your own style sets, which you will learn more about in later chapters. What's more, there are many online resources that can help guide you in these formatting requirements. For instance, the reference or citation page tends to be a sticky spot for many students. There are several citation styles in the citation tool in Word. There are also many free online services that can help you create your reference list by inputting relevant information into guiding categories. They then generate your reference list for you. A word of caution: You should also review and verify if the produced content does align with the formatting requirements of that style. Styles do change and are updated, and these services do not always remain current.

Margins

All pages in a document have a margin, a blank area from the edge of each side of the page to the content. Margins make a page more readable, and in printed documents, allow space for bindings, notes, and so on. You may encounter projects that need different margins on different pages, or unconventional margins—that is, custom margins.

To adjust the margins of a page, go to the Layout tab. Select the Margins icon, and a drop-down menu will appear. The default margin is Normal (1 inch on all sides), but this can be adjusted via the prepopulated options, such as for different layouts with narrower margins. If you want to set your own margins, choose the Custom Margins option at the bottom of the drop-down menu. In the dialog box shown in Figure 3.7, notice how you can adjust the margins to be various measurements.

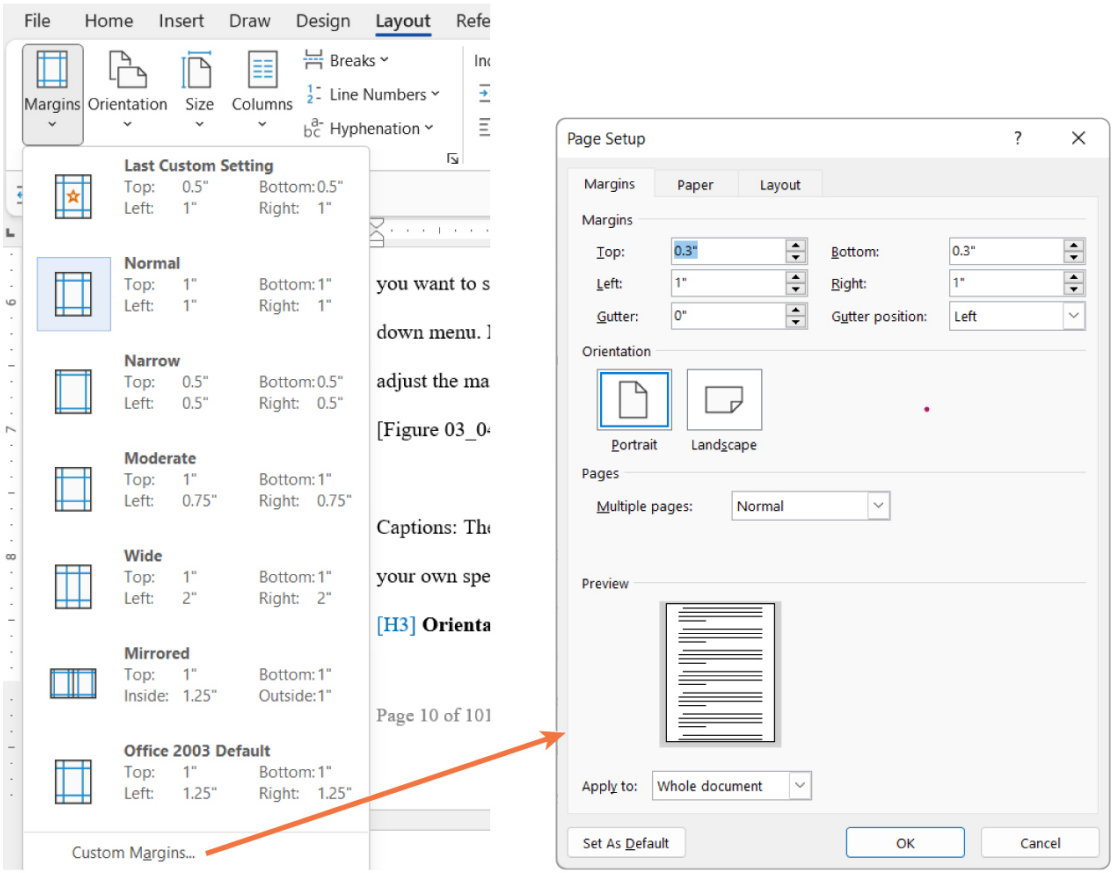


Figure 3.7: The Margins tab in the Page Setup dialog box lets you (a) choose from predetermined selections, or (b) create your own specifications through the custom margin dialog box. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Orientation

Page orientation refers to whether the page is vertical or horizontal. The default in Word is the vertical layout, called portrait orientation. This layout works best for everyday text documents, such as business reports and correspondence. The horizontal layout is known as landscape orientation, and works best for documents with tables and graphs that otherwise would not fit well on a vertical page. Using the Orientation command in the Page Setup command group, you can alter the orientation of your entire document, or also limit the changes to certain pages or sections. Figure 3.8 shows the two layout options.

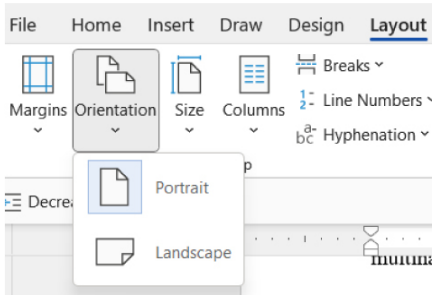


Figure 3.8: Inserting sections in your document allows you to change the page orientation between sections. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Line Spacing

The space between lines of text as you move through the document is referred to as line spacing. You might be familiar with double-spacing, which is often required when creating documents for a class assignment. However, the default in Word is single-spacing. To change the line spacing, access the Line and Paragraph tool from the Paragraph command group on the Home tab

(Figure 3.9). To change the spacing of text that has already been typed, select the text and change the line spacing to the desired spacing. You can also set the spacing before typing anything in the document.

The line spacing can vary throughout the document. It does not have to be consistent. You can, at any point, change the line spacing by selecting the text you want to apply the different spacing to, and then selecting the spacing from the Line Spacing tool on the Home tab. But keep in mind the professionalism of the document you are preparing. It is not advisable to vary the line spacing throughout the document, as that can impact the readability of the report. It can also look as if you did not take care to ensure consistency in formatting when preparing the report. However, if you have a few sentences that need to stand out for some reason —such as a table caption, or a block quote—having these elements set with a different line spacing might be appropriate.

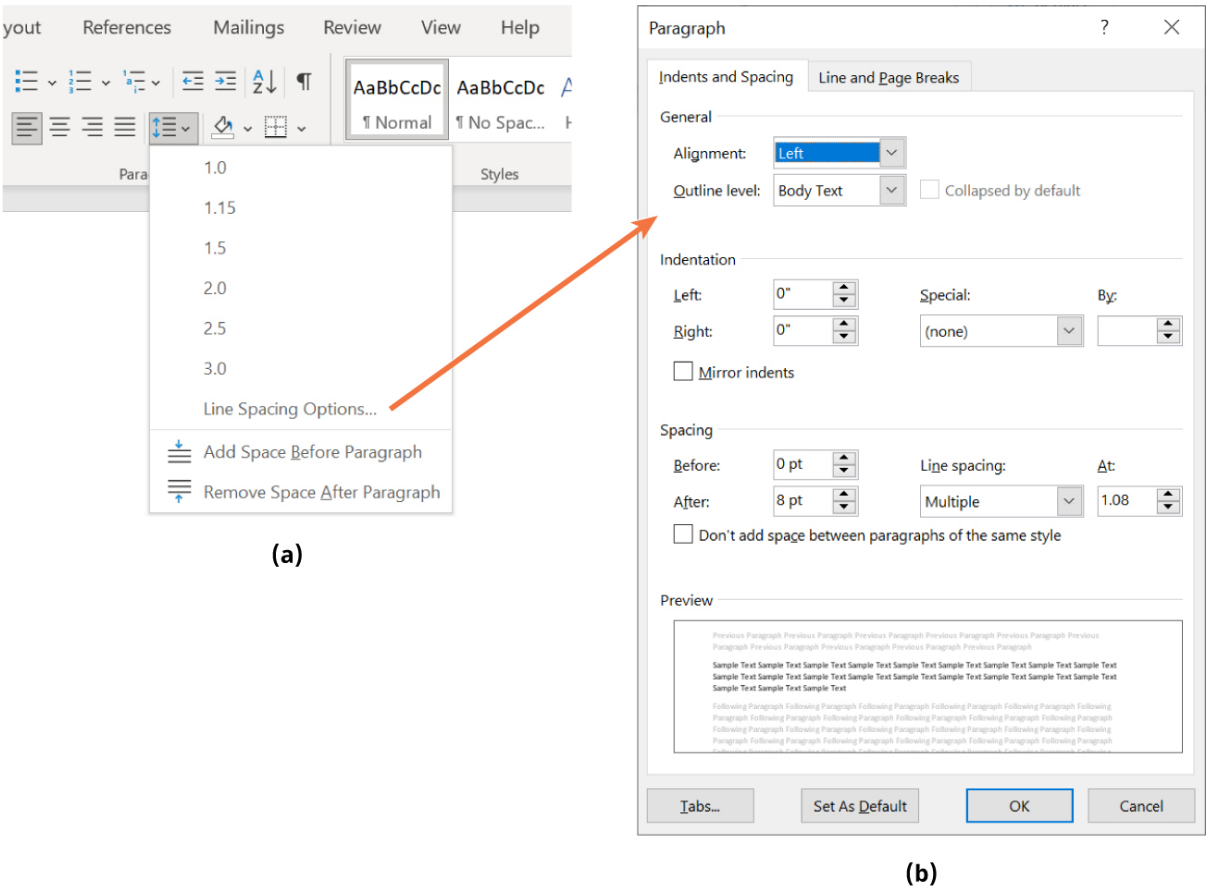


Figure 3.9: (a) You can change the line spacing of a document by using the tool in the Paragraph command group. (b) There are additional options for indentation and line spacing by selecting Line Spacing Options. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Through the Line Spacing Options tool, you can change the spacing before and after lines of text, the spacing before and after paragraphs, and the indentation of lines of text.

Page Size

Understanding page size is particularly important when working at a global corporation like WorldCorp. Different countries use different standard page sizes, and it is helpful to know how documents might vary across various company locations. For example, the United States uses standard letter size (8.5 inches wide by 11 inches long), whereas Europe and East Asia typically use A4 size (8.25 inches wide by 11.75 inches long).

Similar to margin selection, when you select the Size command, there is a drop-down list of default pages sizes, as Figure 3.10 shows. You can select from these options or choose to create a custom page size. Note that the size selections include materials other than standard pages, such as envelopes.

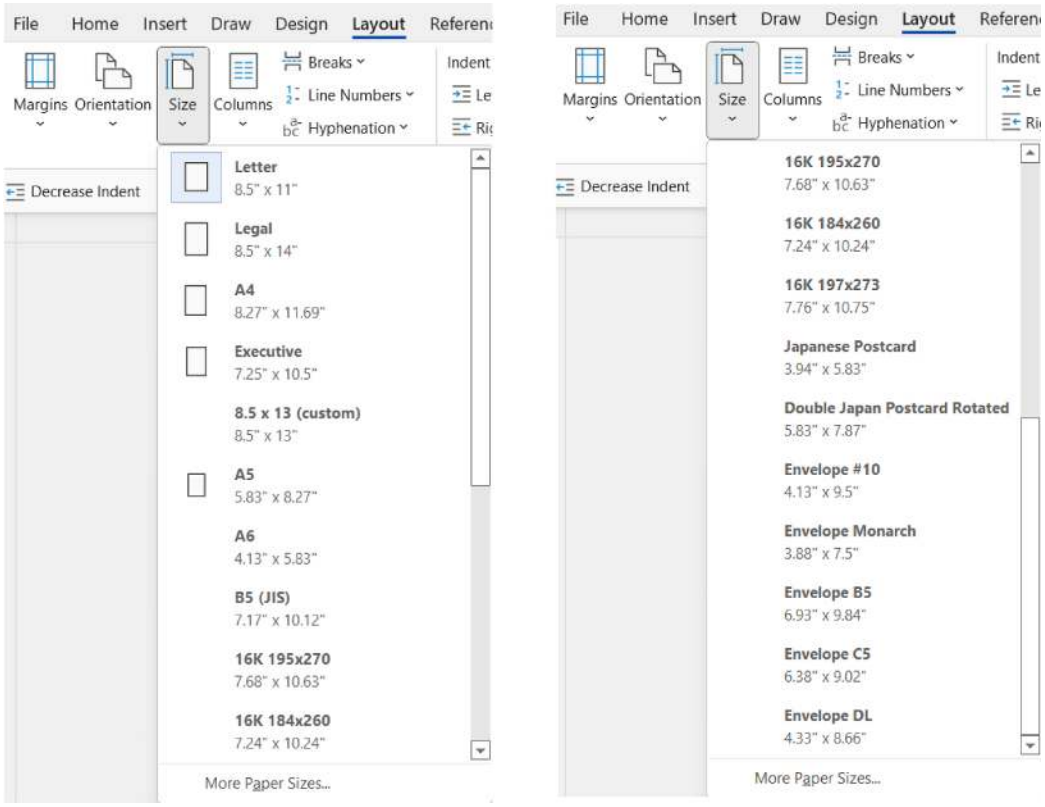


Figure 3.10: You can select from a variety of predetermined page sizes for your document, or create a custom paper size if desired, such as for a poster or invitation. This figure shows the entire drop-down list as two panels. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Columns

You may be familiar with the column format in print media such as newspapers and magazines, where the text on a page is separated into multiple, vertical columns. Sometimes columns are desired in specific types of Word documents, such as newsletters or brochures. They can also be useful if you have a long list of short terms and want to optimize page space by utilizing columns instead of having a large expanse of white space.

Word has many options for creating columns. To do this, you can select a section of text, go to the Columns drop-down menu, and select from common column layouts. Menu options include columns of equal size, or options where there is one narrower column on the side of a wider column. If you want to customize a column to be of a specific width, or you want more than three columns in one page, choose More Columns. In Figure 3.11, you can see the options. The dialog box shows a preview of how the document will look. A line between the columns is possible, as seen in the dialog box.

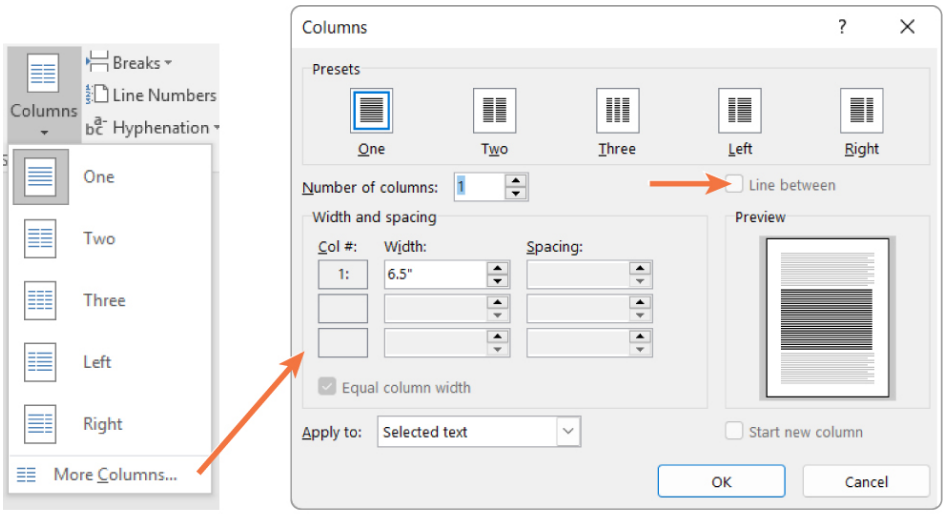


Figure 3.11: (a) More Columns opens a window where you can (b) customize their width and spacing. Columns are common in certain types of documents, such as newsletters and brochures. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Working with Section Breaks

Sections in Word are especially useful for long documents. A section allows the user to partition part of the document, such as front matter, body text, and back matter, and apply different styles and formatting to each section, while still maintaining all the text in one document. Sections are also important when creating a table of contents and assigning page numbers in a large report. These concepts will be covered in more detail in the chapter on Document Preparation.

The division of a document into front matter, body text, and back matter is more common in longer documents, such as extensive reports, booklets, and manuals. Front matter typically includes the title page, the table of contents, and prefaces or forewords. The body contains the main text of the document. The back matter may include appendixes, an index, a glossary, or references.

Regardless of how you partition a document, having sections allows you to apply different styles to each separately, including page numbering, page orientation, and formatting. Consider an example where your document has a title page and a table of contents, and the main text begins on the third page. You don't want a page number to appear on the title page, but you would like the main content to start on page 1. You can achieve this with a section break.

First, go to the Insert tab, select Page Number, and add page numbers to your document. The market trends report is expected to be quite lengthy. Including page numbers in the WorldCorp market trends report will be essential to help readers navigate through the document to the areas that are of interest to their needs.

To insert a section break, go to the Layout tab, click on the Breaks drop-down menu, and select the Next Page section break, as Figure 3.12a shows. This will start a new section on the next page. Then, choose where you want your page number to appear. As Figure 3.12b shows, it will be on the bottom right. Then, right-click on the page number in that new section and choose "Start at 1" from the dialog box that appears. You can use this feature to apply different page numbering styles, such as using Roman numerals in front matter.

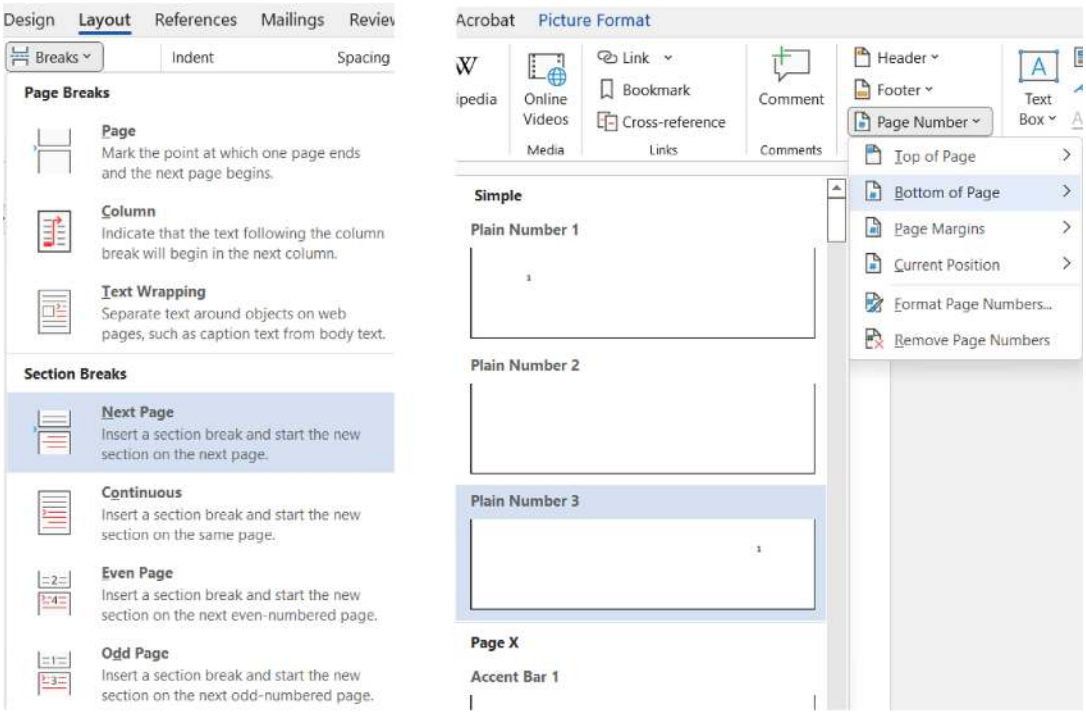


Figure 3.12: Section breaks (a) allow you to have different page formats for different areas of the document. Panel (b) shows that the number will be at the bottom of the page. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another advantage to having different sections in a document is that you can accommodate different graphics well. This can be helpful when working with graphics that are best suited for landscape orientation, for example. As with the page numbering, you can change the orientation for a specific section. Figure 3.13 shows successive pages of a document with different orientations.

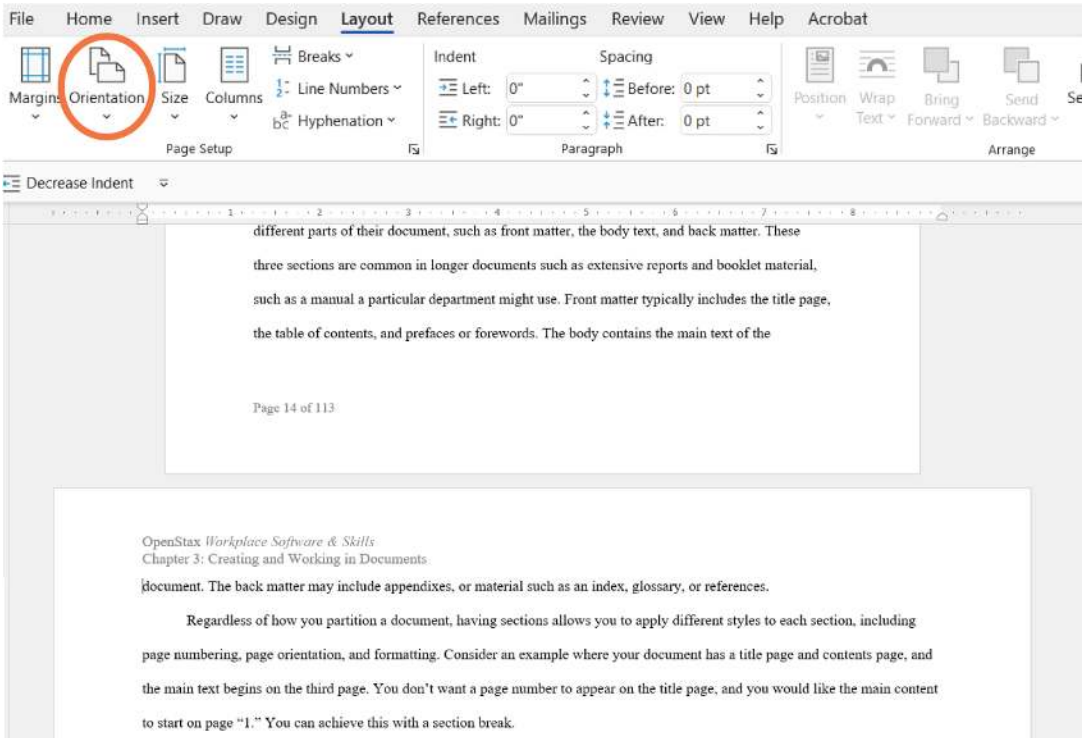


Figure 3.13: Inserting sections in your document allows you to change the page orientation between sections. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 3.2: Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.3: Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Format font types, sizes, and styles
- Modify paragraph styles in a document
- Use headings for reader and internal organization
- Adjust settings for how text and graphics flow together

You want your WorldCorp market trends report to look professional. To achieve this, you need to consider how the content should be formatted for its intended audience. Formatting applied to content includes line spacing, font type and size, alignment, and the use of organizational features like headers. Many employees in the organization, including those in upper management, will view the report, so you need the report to show your professionalism and skills in your role in the marketing department.

Formatting Font

There are many ways to change your text formatting in Microsoft Word. The most basic ways of adjusting your text are through the font, font size, and font style (bold, italic, or underlined).

The default Word font is currently Calibri. (Formerly, it was Times New Roman, and could change again.) Fonts are described as either serif or sans serif (Figure 3.14). A serif font is one that has short lines on the ends of the parts of each letter, whereas a sans serif ("without" serif) font doesn't have those embellishments on the characters. Serif fonts are usually considered easier to read when there is a large amount of text being presented, and sans serif fonts are often considered to have a more contemporary look. For accessibility, simple fonts such as Arial are a better choice to accommodate all readers. Fonts that are curvy or more artistic in nature are difficult to read and decipher, particularly for people with vision-related impairment. However, curvy and artistic fonts may be used to attract attention and add flair to promotional materials, such as brochures.

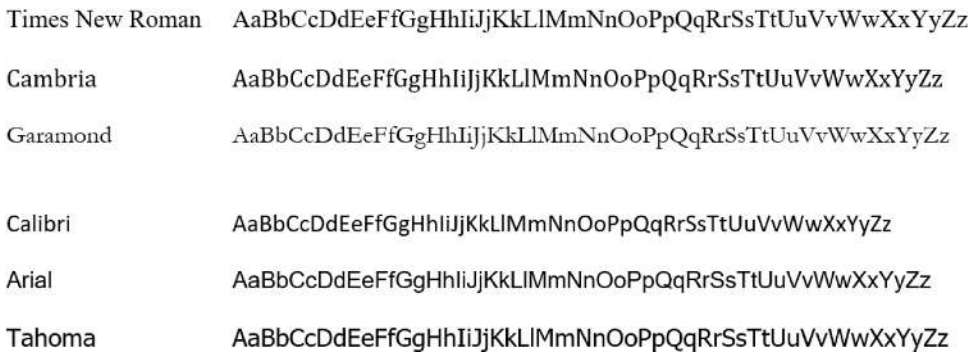


Figure 3.14: The top three fonts are common serif fonts, while the three on the bottom are sans serif. Note the differences in the lines on the ends of the letter strokes. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can select fonts using the drop-down menu within the Font options on the Home tab. There are many fonts in Word, most of which are not appropriate for business reports because they are too ornate or decorative. You should think carefully about the type of font you want to use and what it will convey to its readers. You want to stay professional and avoid "fun" fonts like Comic Sans and Papyrus. Font choice also affects the readability of your document. Script-like or blocky fonts can be difficult to read, especially with long documents. Additionally, some fonts are more appropriate for headings or logos instead of the body of a report or document.

Mac Tip

Mac offers some fonts that are not included in the Microsoft OS version, and, by default, is missing some that can be added by downloading and loading the fonts into the application.

To adjust the font size, go to the Font Size drop-down menu, directly to the right of the Font menu on the Home tab. There are other ways to adjust the font in a selection in a document, but this is the most direct way to make the changes. The default font size is 12-point, but you may want to make your font larger or smaller. Most documents use fonts in sizes 10- to 12-point. For your market trends report, you will probably want an 11- or 12-point font for your main body text, and a larger size for your report title and section headings. You should ensure your font size is easily readable, especially if you plan to provide printed copies of your document.

You can apply additional styles to your font, such as bold, italic, or underline, using tools in the Font command group (Figure 3.15). There are also options for special text applications, such as adding superscripted text (text that is raised above the line) and subscripted text (text that appears below the line), and changing font color. Additionally, you can easily change the capitalization style through the Aa drop-down menu. This allows you to set a selection of text in all capitals, all lowercase, or to capitalize each word, such as is common in headers or titles.

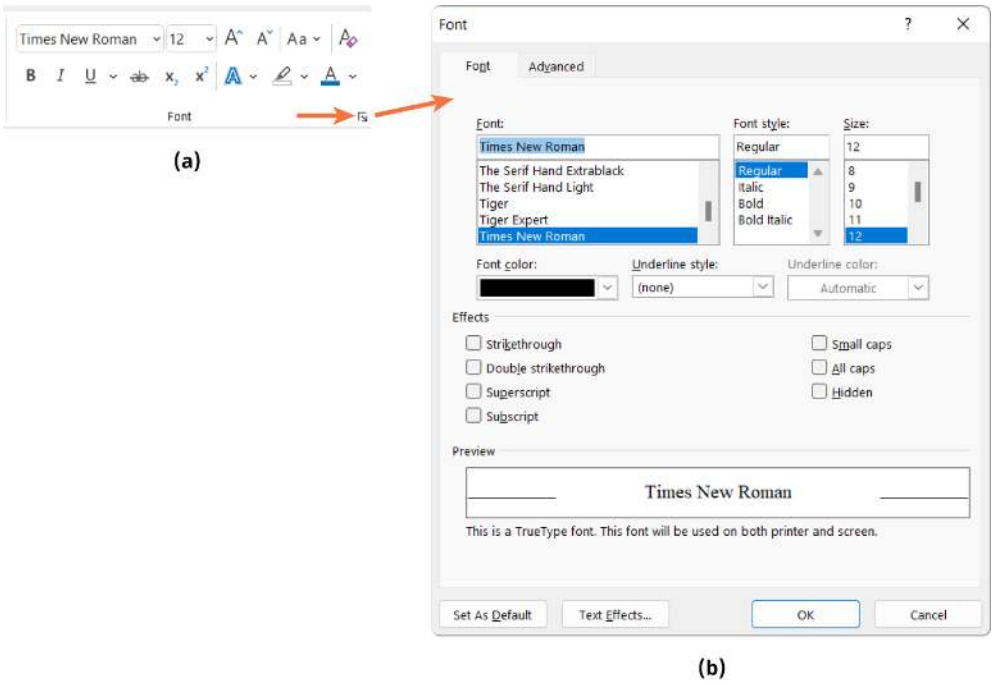


Figure 3.15: (a) The Font command group lets you select your font and font size, apply special treatment like bold or italic, and set case. Selecting the arrow (a) opens the dialog box (b) where you can apply multiple formats at once. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Formatting Paragraphs

Paragraph formatting entails customizing the way the text appears on the page and how it flows from one paragraph to the next. Specifically, this includes line spacing, tab indentations, and alignment justification of text.

As you learned in Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word, line spacing determines how much space there is between the lines of text within a document. There are different advantages to single-spacing versus double-spacing. Most business documents, such as emails and printed letters, use single-spacing. This means that each line of text comes right after the other, with very little space between them. However, double-spacing may be used in working documents, and can be useful when there are multiple collaborators and you are using Track Changes. This allows for better visibility for the changes or edits, and makes it easier to see the revisions in progress. Double-spacing means that there is a complete line of space between lines. In addition to single-and double-spacing, users can use 1.5-spacing, or set custom spacing between lines within a paragraph (Figure 3.16).

You can also specify spacing *between* paragraphs, which is different from the line spacing *within* a paragraph. For example, you might want your paragraphs single-spaced, but want a visual break between paragraphs.

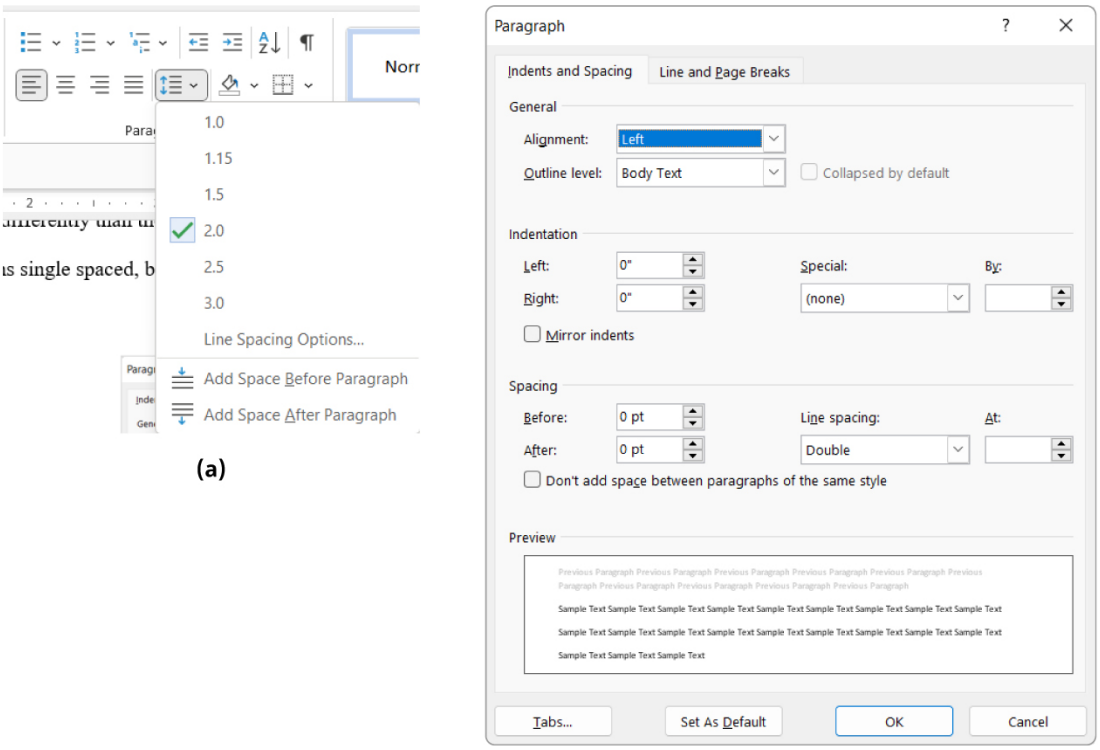


Figure 3.16: The Paragraph command group offers a variety of line spacing options in (a) a drop-down menu or (b) in more detail in a dialog box. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Paragraph separation is typically indicated in one of two ways: by indenting the first line of the paragraph with a tab indentation as Figure 3.17a shows, or by adding a space between paragraphs, as you can see in Figure 3.17b. In the latter case, the paragraph is usually not indented, as the space serves the same purpose as the indentation (i.e., to indicate a new paragraph). Most documents, including those used in business, have small 0.5" indentations at the start of each new paragraph as the default setting. If indentations are too small, they are difficult to distinguish, and large indentations can look awkward and confuse readers.

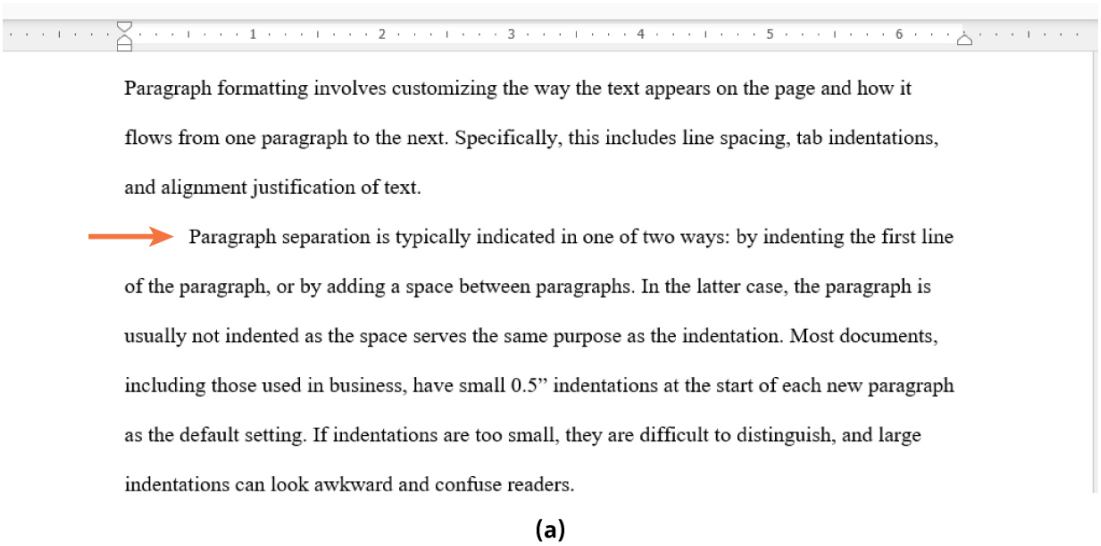


Figure 3.17: Paragraphs can be indicated by (a) a first-line indentation or (b) by spaces between paragraphs. The latter works well in documents where page count is not an issue as it could make for a longer document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Paragraphs can also be formatted with different alignment, or justification, styles (Figure 3.18). In documents, the most common alignments for the body of the text are left-justified or fully justified. Left-justified means that the text all lines up in a straight line along the left margin, but where text ends on the right margin varies. Fully justified text lines up in a straight line along both the left and right margins. This produces a clean and professional look and is often used in publishing or print materials. However, full justification can also lead to awkward gaps within lines of text if the material contains a lot of long words or specialized content. Determining which alignment is appropriate for a document depends on the audience. For example, if you submit your WorldCorp market trends report for publication in an industry journal, it should be fully justified.

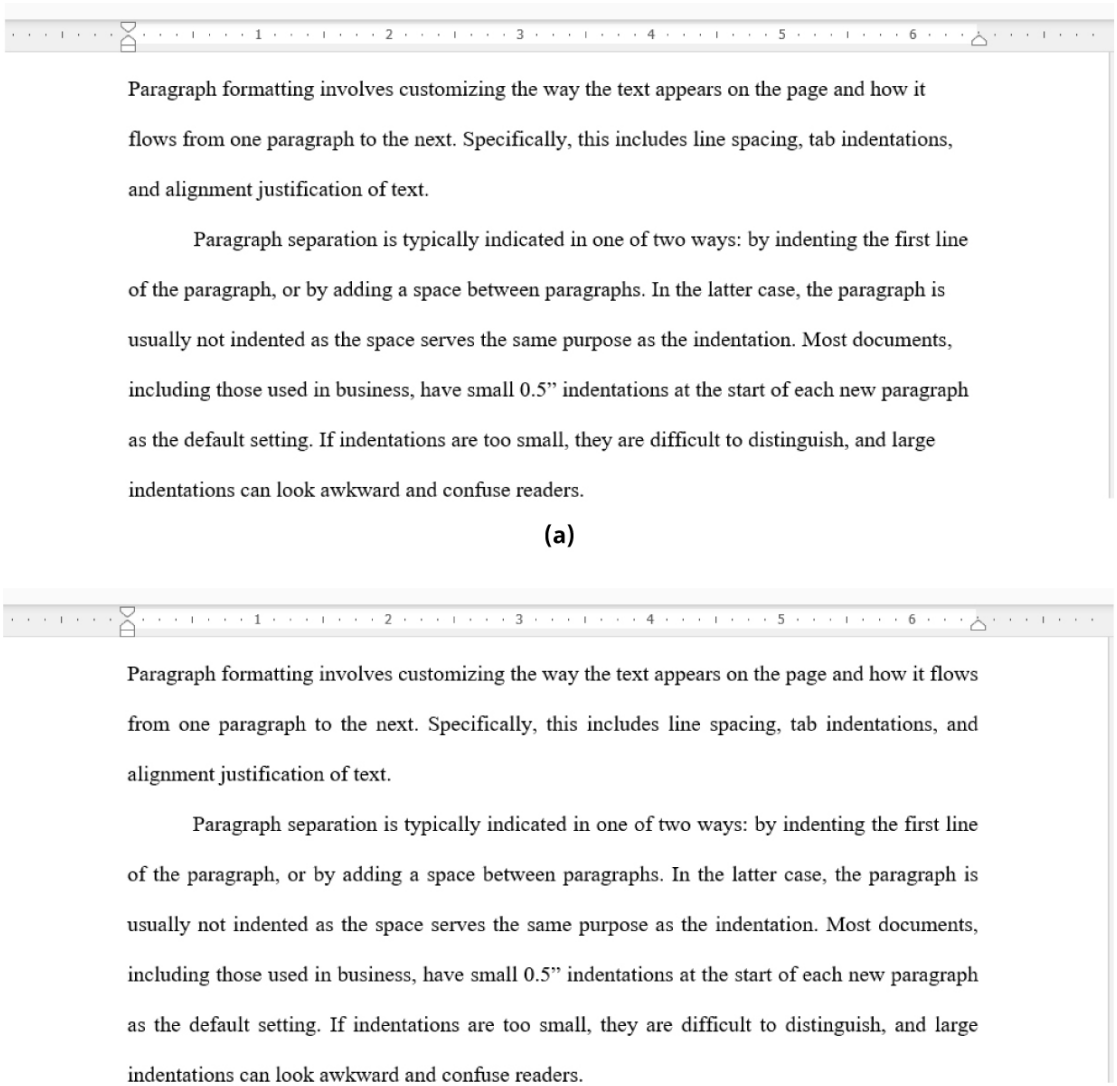


Figure 3.18: Most documents set the main text with either (a) left alignment or (b) full justification. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Other alignment options include centering text and right alignment. Centering is often used to give special treatment to a particular element of content. Right justification is often used in financial data, where, for example, numbers align best if they align on the right.

Headings

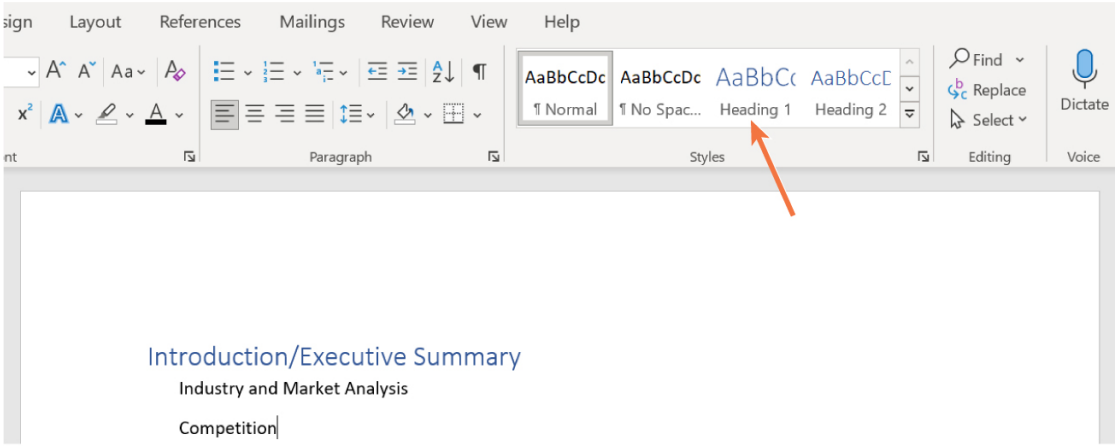
A heading helps readers understand the organization of a document by breaking it into meaningful chunks. Different heading levels can be used to create a hierarchy of content that also helps users best understand the material. In Word, headings can be set using styles that give them additional functionality, such as quickly displaying an outline of your document and providing the ability to link to or between sections. You can also generate a table of contents using headings.

As an example, let's select three section titles from your market trends report. Let's say that the major sections of your report are as follows:

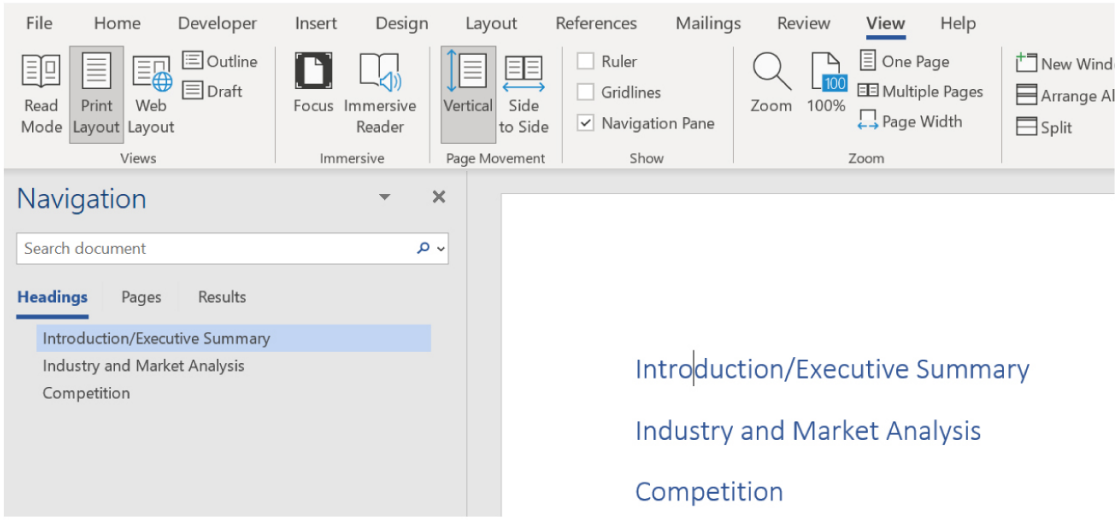
- Introduction/Executive Summary
- Industry and Market Analysis
- Competition
- SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)

- Recommendations/Key Findings
- Summary

Open a blank Word document and type in the first three headings from the list above. For each header, select the text, go to the Styles command group, and select Heading 1 (H1). H1 represents the top-level heading, which you might want to use for a title or a high-level section title. As you can see, the font size and the color changes automatically because you are selecting from the preset heading styles in Word. Repeat this formatting for your next two headings. If you open the Navigation pane, you will now see that your three H1 headings appear in outline format (Figure 3.19).



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.19: (a) Headings serve as organizational signposts for a reader, collecting passages into sections and providing a hierarchy. (b) Headings can also help you navigate documents. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Heading hierarchies use the design of the heading to indicate levels of sections. The heading levels are usually referred to by numbers (such as Heading 1) and sometimes the shorthand H1, H2, H3 is used. Word's default heading styles are designed to have a logical and intuitive hierarchy, which typically includes font size, and sometimes font style. In general, color should not be used to indicate levels in a hierarchy since this is neither logical (i.e., it is not clear why one color would be higher or lower than another) nor accessible (some colors are not readily conveyed to users who may be visually impaired or have other accessibility needs).

Adjusting Graphic and Text Layouts

If you are using graphics in your document, you will need to determine how the graphics and text should interact in the layout. When you insert a figure into a text document, the figure can be positioned in several ways in relation to the text using the text

wrapping menu, as Figure 3.20 shows. Text wrapping refers to how the text is placed around an image or figure you place in the document. Text wrapping is accessed through the Layout tab in the Arrange command group. Your wrapping style may depend on the size of the graphic, as well as its purpose. If it is an important figure being discussed in the text and/or if it has a caption, you may want to clearly separate it from the text with the "Top and bottom" option, allowing the text to flow above and below the image, but not to either side of it. If the image functions more as a design element, such as a logo or photo to add interest, you might have the text wrap around it.

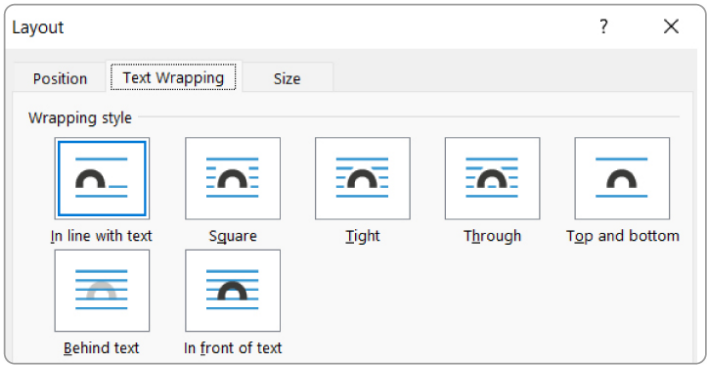


Figure 3.20: The wrapping style of how an image and text interact should be based on the purpose of the image. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For example, let's assume you want to add an image of one of WorldCorp's products to the market trends report. As you may recall, WorldCorp sells products such as computer accessories, laptops, and TVs. When discussing trends in the laptop industry, you may want to include a picture of a laptop from a top-selling brand in the industry, such as HP. To insert the image into the report, place your cursor in the area of the report where you want the image. Then, copy and paste the image into the market trends report. Then, from the Layout tab, select the Wrap Text tool and select the appropriate text wrapping style to present a professional look for the inserted picture. The Wrap Text tool can also be accessed by right-clicking on the inserted image or figure, as shown in Figure 3.21.

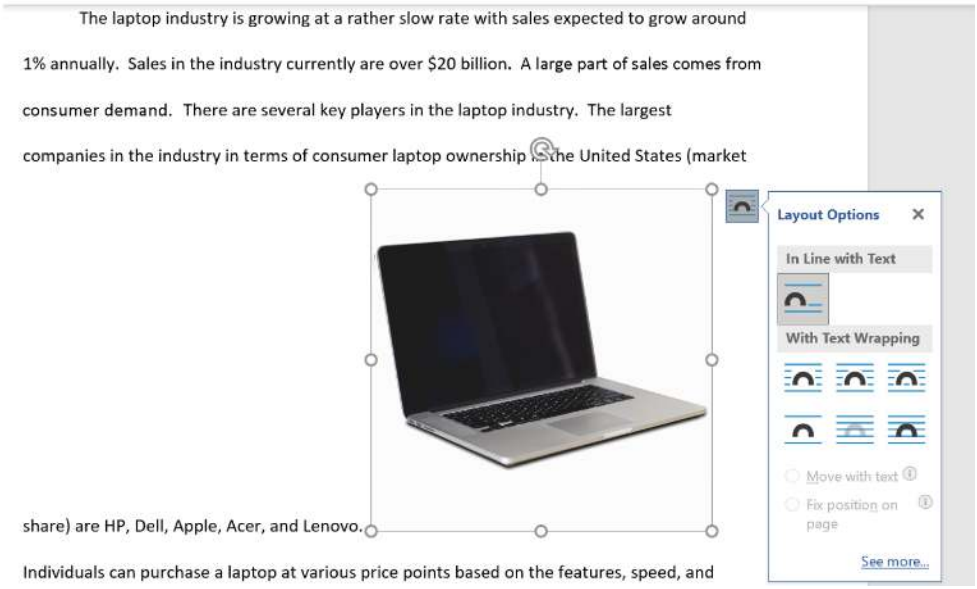


Figure 3.21: The default when inserting a picture is to have the picture inserted where the cursor is located "In line with text." (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Notice that you can change the wrapping style using the tool that appears in the upper-right corner of the image when you paste it in the document (Figure 3.22).

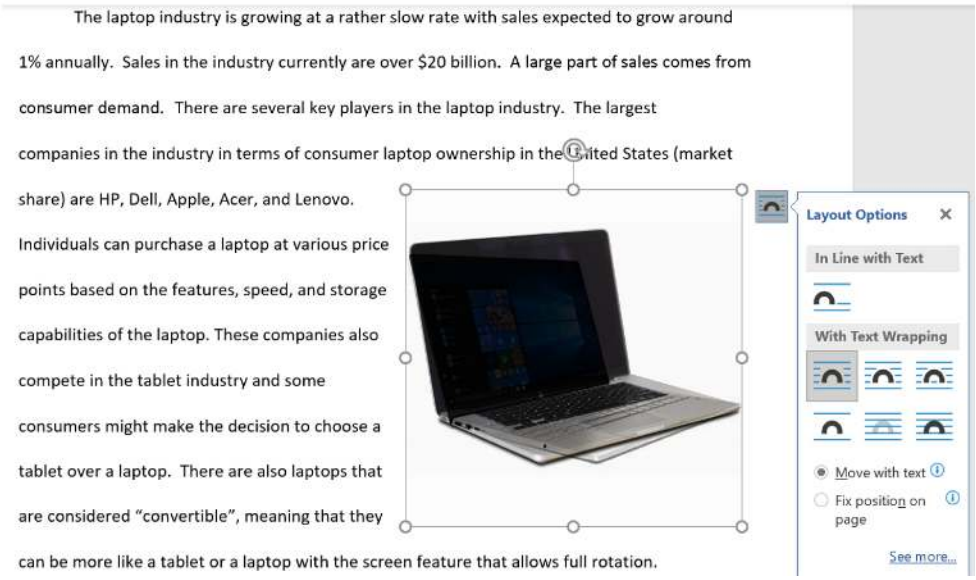


Figure 3.22: You can choose to have the picture inserted with text wrapping blocked around the picture using "Square." (Inserting the picture "In front of text" does not present a professional appearance as it hides some of the text.) (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 3.3: Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.4: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the tools in the Review tab
- Use the Editor tool

To put together the market trends report, you will need to gather information from several departments. This information will likely include past sales data, information about current major vendors and customers, an evaluation of the major competitors, and other related content. To ensure the accuracy and integrity of the content, you want to have each department review the data specific to their sector. You also want to have the report reviewed by a peer colleague and your supervisor to ensure it is correct and of the quality expected. Word offers collaborative tools in the Review tab that make it easy to solicit, see, and implement feedback from other stakeholders.

Review Tab

The Review tab is vital for teamwork between collaborators of documents. Many documents are created in collaboration across functional departments, and each contributor to the document needs to record their changes and suggestions so others can review them. The Review tab also has several proofreading tools you might need for editing a document, such as a thesaurus.

Proofing Tools

As a student, you have probably been instructed to spell-check your work before handing it in. Word offers spell-check by simply selecting Spelling and Grammar on the Review tab. This tool will automatically check your spelling and grammar according to the dictionary and other language parameters in Word (which you can adjust from the default settings if desired). A dialog box will appear, and Word will give the option to accept or reject each of its corrections. It should be noted that spell-check will not always check when a word is misused.

For example, if you have typed “four” instead of “for”, spell-check will not indicate a misspelled word. The document creator will still need to proofread the document and not rely entirely on the Spelling and Grammar check tool.

Word gives its users many options for customizing their dictionary and language preferences. For example, you may frequently use the abbreviation “e.g.,” in your business documents, which means “*exempli gratia*,” or “for example.” If you don’t add this abbreviation to your Word dictionary, it may be labeled as a spelling mistake. “*Id est*” is another Latin term you might see, which means “that is to say.” After you add these words to your dictionary, Word will stop flagging them as an error (Figure 3.23).

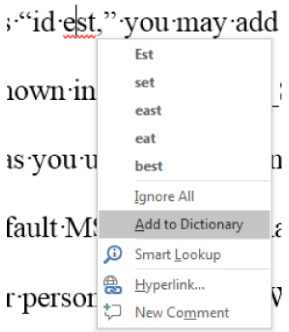


Figure 3.23: Adding regularly used new words to your dictionary will save you time when spell-checking a document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another language customization feature is setting the proofing language. Word comes with dictionaries for several languages, as well as a variety of English dialects, including British, Canadian, Australian, Caribbean, Singaporean, New Zealander, and American English. After you set your preferred dialect, Word will check your spelling and grammar according to that dialect. For example, if you choose American English as your preferred dialect, the Spelling and Grammar tool will mark the word “favour” as an error and suggest the American spelling “favor.”

Comments

Comments are used for calling attention to any content in your document that you want to solicit input on or note for yourself. You can also use comments to flag spelling or usage queries, provide instructions to others reviewing your document, remind yourself to address something later like adding a graphic or fact-checking a statement, or ask questions about the content. To add a comment, select the segment of text in question, and then select New Comment from the Review tab, as shown in Figure 3.24. You can then type within the comment and click the arrow when you're done to make sure the comment sticks.

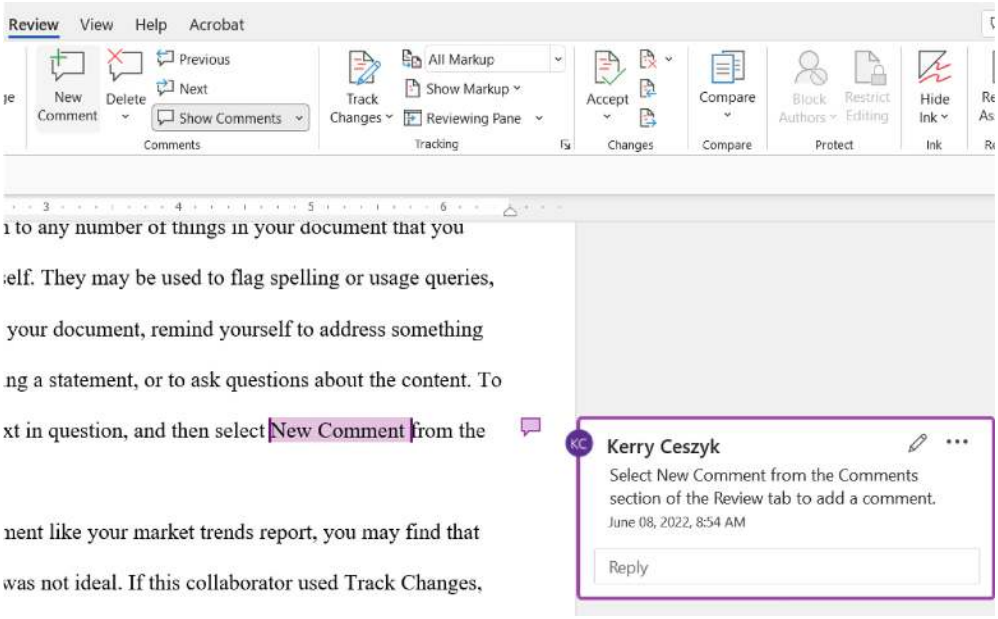


Figure 3.24: Comments can be used to communicate collaboratively within a document, or to add notes to yourself. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When working in a document with comments, you can reply to any comment to add additional information or start a dialogue about a specific item. Once comments are addressed and are no longer needed in the document, you can either delete or resolve them, as Figure 3.25 shows. Deleting a comment removes it completely from the document, whereas resolving a comment retains the comment in a history stored digitally with the document.

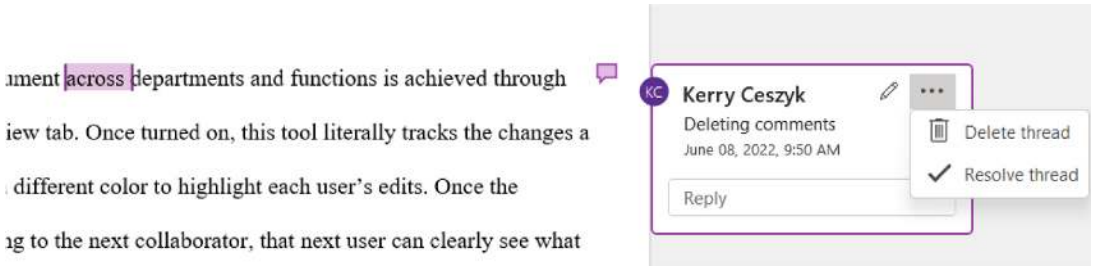


Figure 3.25: Comments can be either deleted or resolved when they are no longer needed. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In a collaborative business document like your market trends report, you may find that another collaborator added content that was not ideal. The next collaborator or editor in the process could flag this content with a comment and send the document back to be revised. When the collaborator is done making the changes, you or they can resolve the issue.

Tracking Changes

The shared effort of writing a document across departments and functions is achieved through the Track Changes tool on the Review tab. Once turned on, this tool literally tracks the changes a user makes to a document, using a different color to highlight each user's edits. Once the document is saved and passed along to the next collaborator, that next user can clearly see what has changed from the original document. This makes collaborating on a document asynchronously—that is, not at the same time—easy to do.

Sometimes, you might work in a document that goes back-and-forth between you and one or two colleagues, and you review each other's changes and resolve comments at each pass. In other cases, all feedback may be collected and processed by one person. In the latter situation, after all collaborators have added their inputs to the document, a final author decides what changes are going to be kept for the final draft. This person might be a project manager or higher-level editor, depending on the workflow and organization of your company's editing process. This type of editing cycle—sending documents to various stakeholders for revisions and/or input—is common in many industries. An editing cycle may repeat multiple times before the document is finalized. Using Track Changes and comments allows for many iterations of the editing cycle, all while maintaining clear version history and control.

The Tracking command group offers options for which changes or markups are shown. You can toggle between No Markup and All Markup to see tracked and clean versions of a document (Figure 3.26). The Show Markup selections allow you to turn off Formatting revisions so you can focus more easily on content changes. There is also an option to turn on/off feedback from specific reviewers. These possibilities are helpful when you have a document with a lot of markup and want to focus on one area of input in particular.

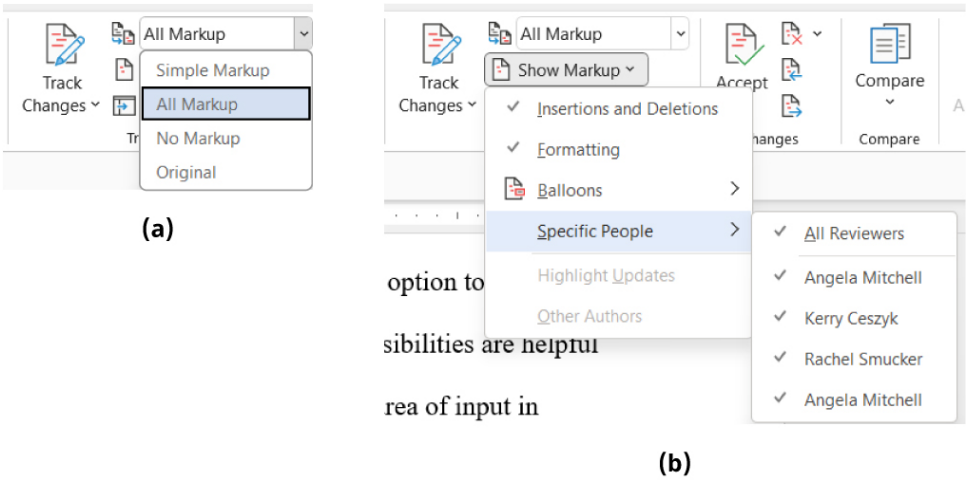
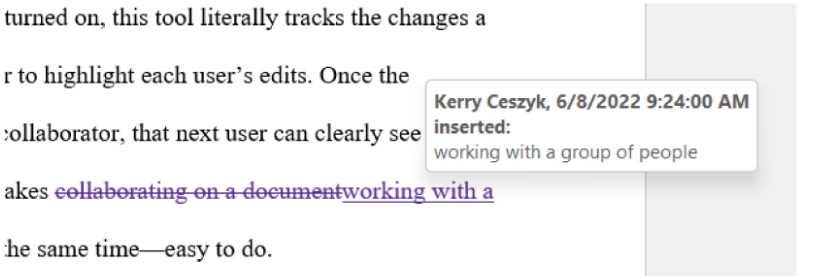
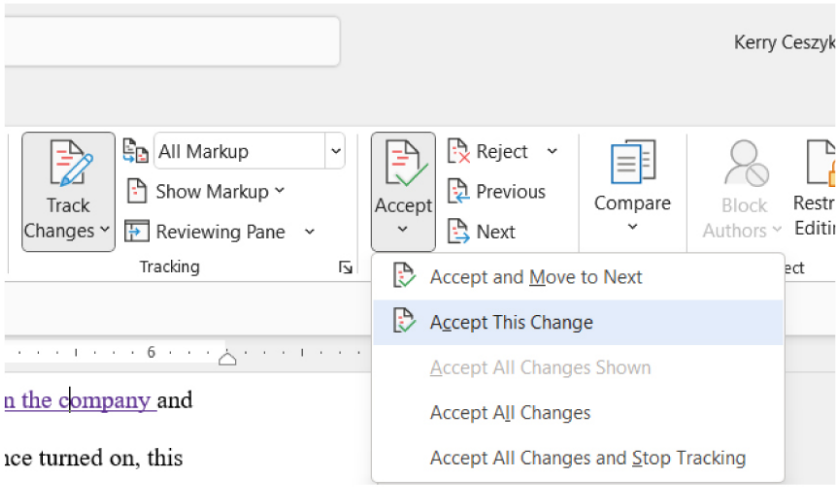


Figure 3.26: (a) Users can adjust how much markup they see, as well as (b) what types or markups are shown and which reviewers' feedback is displayed. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Collaborators, or a final author, have the option to accept or reject each change that has been tracked. While reviewing changes, you can hover over any individual edit to see who made the edit and when, as shown in Figure 3.27. The Changes command group on the Review tab has the option of accepting or rejecting the various tracked edits as they are reviewed. You can also select to accept all changes in the document without reviewing them individually.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.27: (a) Track Changes tells you who made a revision, and at what time, and (b) lets you accept or reject each suggested edit. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application

Résumé Peer Evaluation

A résumé is a summary of your work experience that you use when applying for a job. You might not have a résumé at this point, but you will probably need to create one in the near future. One option is to start with a template that you find online or in Word or Google Docs and create one on your own. However, you might consider starting at the career services office at your college. The career counselors in that department can help you craft a professional résumé for your job search. You will first be asked to develop a list of your previous jobs and the responsibilities that you had while working in those positions. Then, the career counselor will ask about what type of job you are looking for now and your career goals in general. All of these aspects will be reflected in the résumé you develop. The next step will be to create a first draft of your résumé. The counselor will likely give you some tips and maybe even a couple of examples to reference when creating your résumé. You can expect that your résumé will go through several edits and evaluations before you have a final product.

Both Word and Docs have the tools you need to get feedback on your résumé drafts from the career services department. You can share the file with others and have them insert comments or make revisions to your résumé. Through the tools in the programs, you are able to see revisions made, who made the revisions, and respond to comments. The collaboration tools in Word and Docs make it easy to get feedback so that you can create a polished résumé to help you secure the perfect job.

Protect

If you do not want certain collaborators to change a document, you may configure your document so that future readers of a document can change only certain components. In the Protect command group on the Review tab, select Restrict Editing. This will offer two types of restrictions that you can set, as Figure 3.28 shows. The first, Formatting restrictions, lets you specify which

elements of a document can be edited (see Figure 3.29). For example, you might allow editing only to the main text and not allow it to headers or tables. The second option, Editing restrictions, limits the level of editing others can do—from none, to commenting only, to only tracked revisions. Those restrictions can be further customized to allow different restrictions for different users.

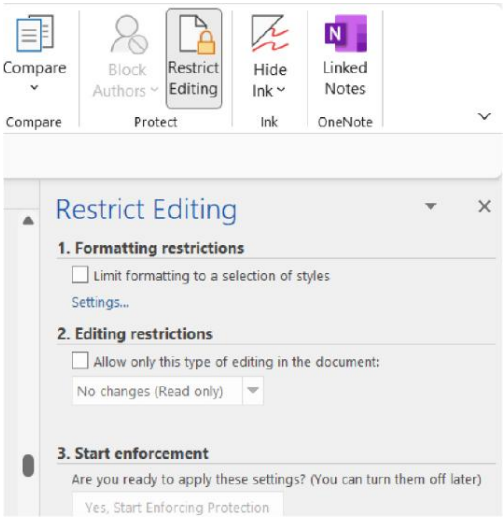


Figure 3.28: Document protections can be added by restricting editing to certain components of a document, or to limited levels of editing. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

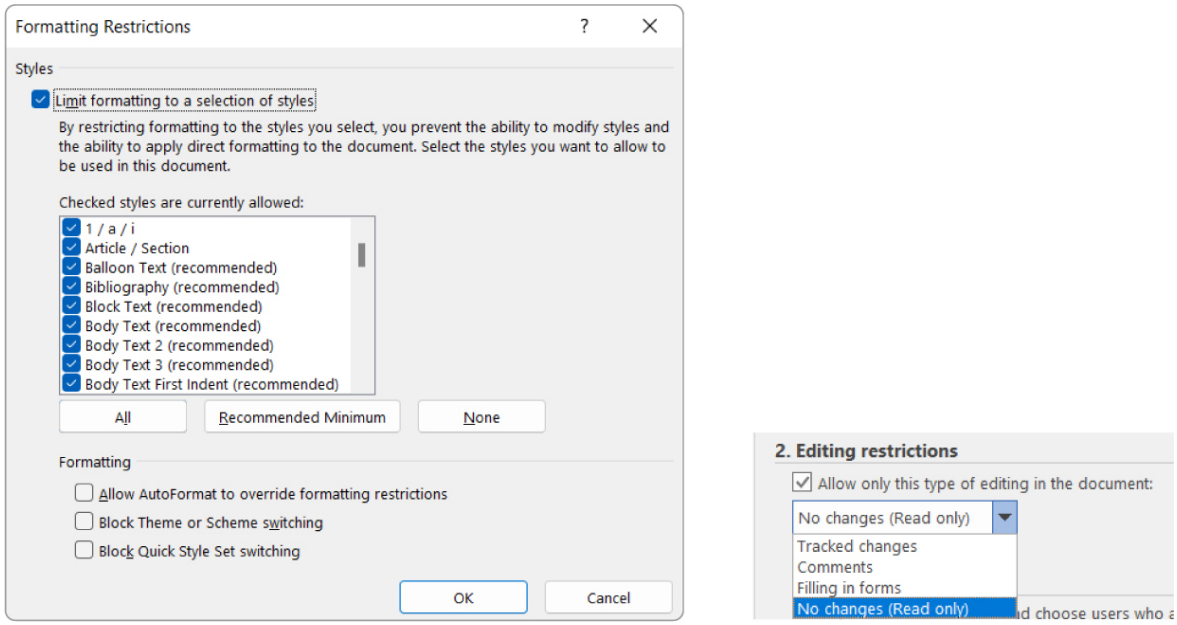


Figure 3.29: (a) Formatting restrictions can get quite detailed; however, they're important to set to keep your document's style from becoming inconsistent. (b) Editing restrictions for other users can range from allowing others to work freely, to work in Track Changes, or to "read only" and not make any changes. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

Protect menu options on a Mac also include password protections, document review protections, and privacy. There is also a menu button for Always Open Read-Only.

Editor Tool

The Editor tool in Word adds another level of document support with a more comprehensive editorial review. Essentially, it is like a virtual editor, which goes beyond simple spelling and grammar checking. The Editor tool is on the Home tab and can also be found

on the Review tab. Simply click on the icon, and it will review your document and provide a report and score. You can set the Editor to review for formal writing, professional writing, or casual writing.

The Editor tool will check for spelling and grammar errors, as well as potential improvements, providing an explanation of the issue and a suggested revision (Figure 3.30). In addition to spelling and grammar, it will check for clarity, conciseness, formality, punctuation conventions, inclusiveness, vocabulary, conciseness, clichés, and many more. In fact, the Editor tool checks for over 150 different issues with readability in documents. For each item, it will give a rationale and suggested improvement that you can accept or reject.

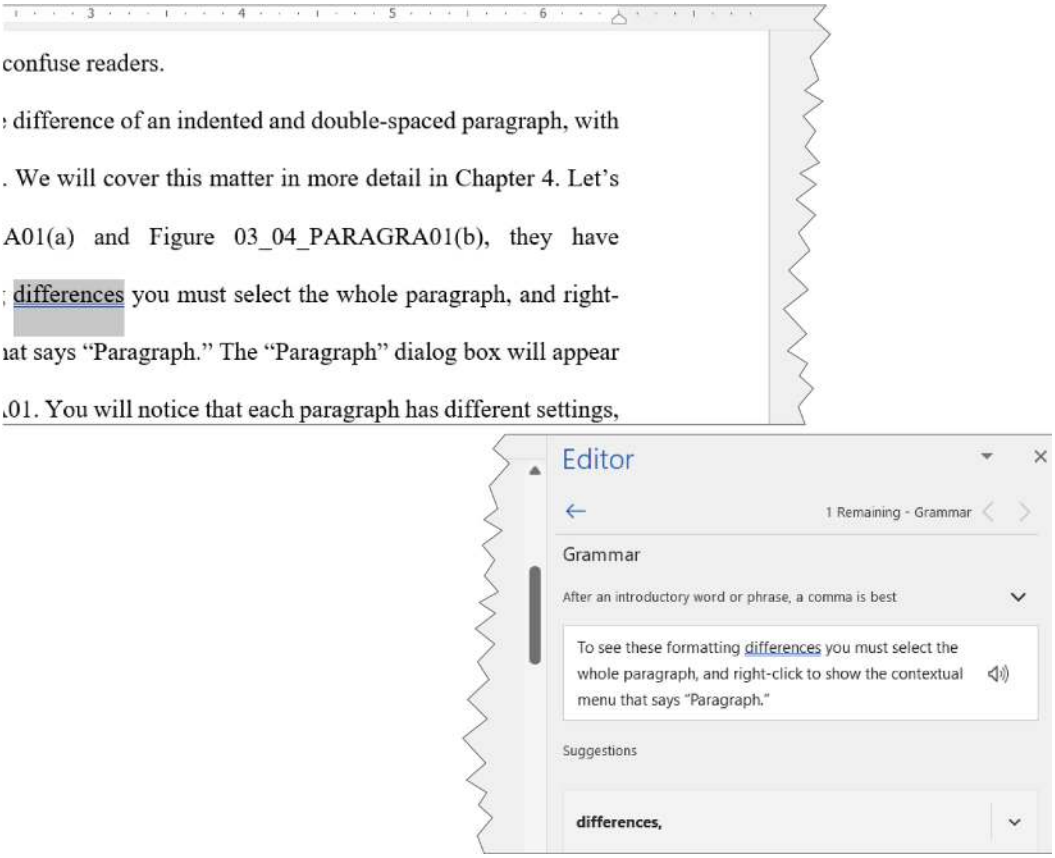


Figure 3.30: Editor will provide explanations and suggested revisions for errors of spelling, grammar, clarity, inclusivity, conciseness, and more. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 3.4: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.5: Document Design

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Apply themes and styles to a document
- Use the Page Background command group

When creating your WorldCorp market trends report, you may choose to use custom formatting or existing formatting to add styles to your document. You can achieve this via the options on the Design tab, by using existing templates in Microsoft Word, or through combining those options to customize a template. Some companies may have existing templates with logos, fonts, or colors that are part of the company brand. The Design tab offers many options for quickly changing the graphical formatting of your document, applying styles across the entire document so you do not have to manually make each change. You can change the color scheme, fonts, and paragraphs, either manually or using the themes and styles in Word.

You may also opt to use a template. Templates are predesigned documents for a variety of purposes, including reports, résumés, flyers, invitations, posters, and more. The advantage of a template is that it already has a design applied. However, you need to ensure the template you select is appropriate for your audience and purpose, and that your content will fit well in the template.

Using Styles and Themes

Your supervisor has suggested that you apply a theme to the WorldCorp market trends report. A theme is a cohesive set of fonts, font sizes, and colors that can be applied to your whole document. However, before you apply a theme to your document, you must "code" your document's style. Styles are preset formatting for font type and size, line spacing, and other formats that are used to change the appearance of text in a document. Generally, you choose the style for the document before beginning to input the text. By choosing the style, you are coding the document so that Word knows how to format various sections. These codes tell Word which parts of the text are body text, titles, subtitles, and so on. Without these style codes, the theme won't know how to apply itself to your document.

Styles Pane

Before you can implement styles, you first must label, or code, all the styles in your document. This means selecting parts of the text and using the Styles pane on the Home tab to identify them. For example, all body text must be selected and the Normal style applied; all headings must be labeled as Heading 1, Heading 2, and so on. Once all your text has a style applied, then you will be able to use the themes and styles to full capacity.

You can change the default fonts and font styles in the Styles pane, as Figure 3.31 shows. For example, if the default Normal font is Times New Roman, you may want to change it to Calibri. Then, when you select a segment of text and choose the Normal style, it will make the font Calibri, not Times New Roman. In effect, you are telling the program what you consider as "Normal" text font in this instance.

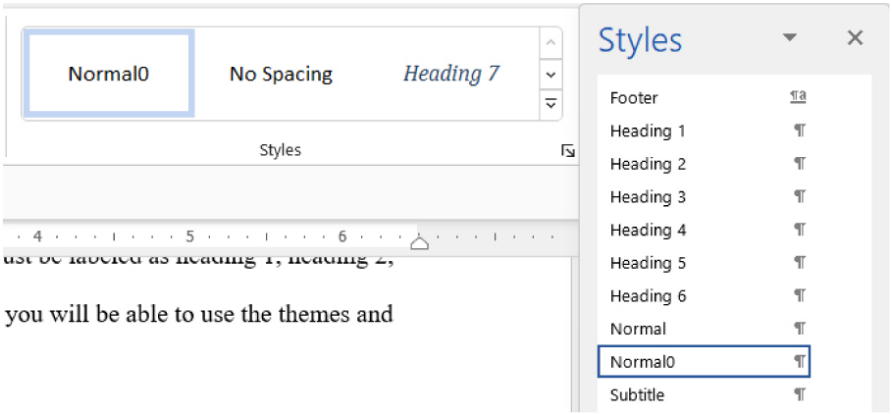


Figure 3.31: The Styles pane allows you to assign each part of a document a functional style, which can then coordinate with Word's existing themes. Hovering over each style choice will reveal the changes to the text block in which you have placed your cursor. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This is the manual way of applying styles. But the real power in using styles is to simply use them as identifiers for your text so that themes can "read" and style the text properly. For example, it wouldn't matter if you chose Calibri as your Normal font style; if you select the "Madison" theme, for instance, the new Normal font will automatically change to Arial, because that is what comes with the theme. Different themes have different Normal font settings. To see what font a theme uses, you will need to select the theme and see the fonts it uses. Now, let's explore how to apply a theme and why it works so well with styles.

Applying Themes

Let's revisit the different headings of the market trends report we worked on in Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word. Go to the Design tab and select the drop-down menu called Themes. You'll see that there are over a dozen default themes built into the software (Figure 3.32). As an exercise, choose the "Ion" theme for your document. Selecting "Ion" changes all the available styles in your document. If you want to further change the theme, you can change the color scheme using the Colors menu on the Design tab. There are many different color palettes to choose from. Word offers these preset palettes because designers have determined that the colors work together well to give documents a cohesive, professional appearance.

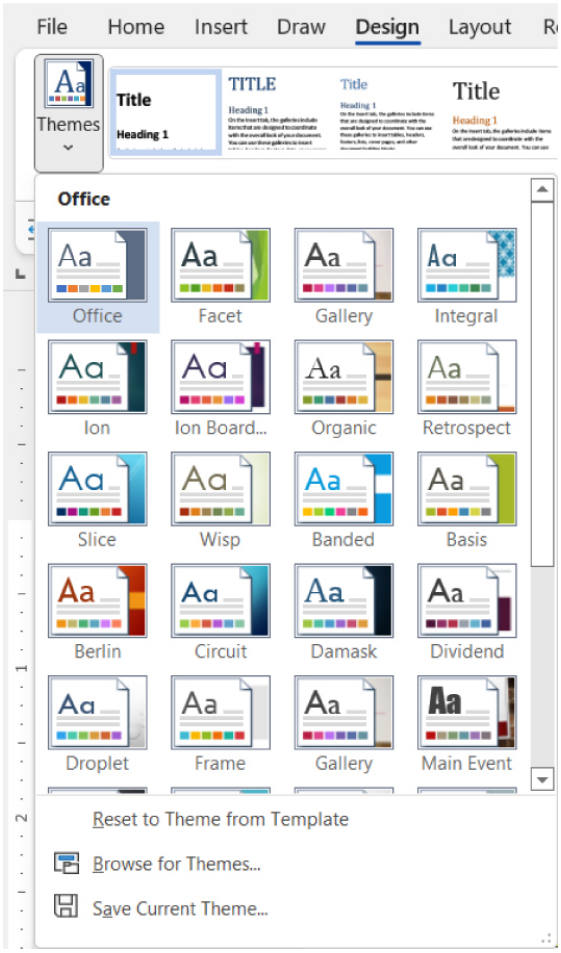
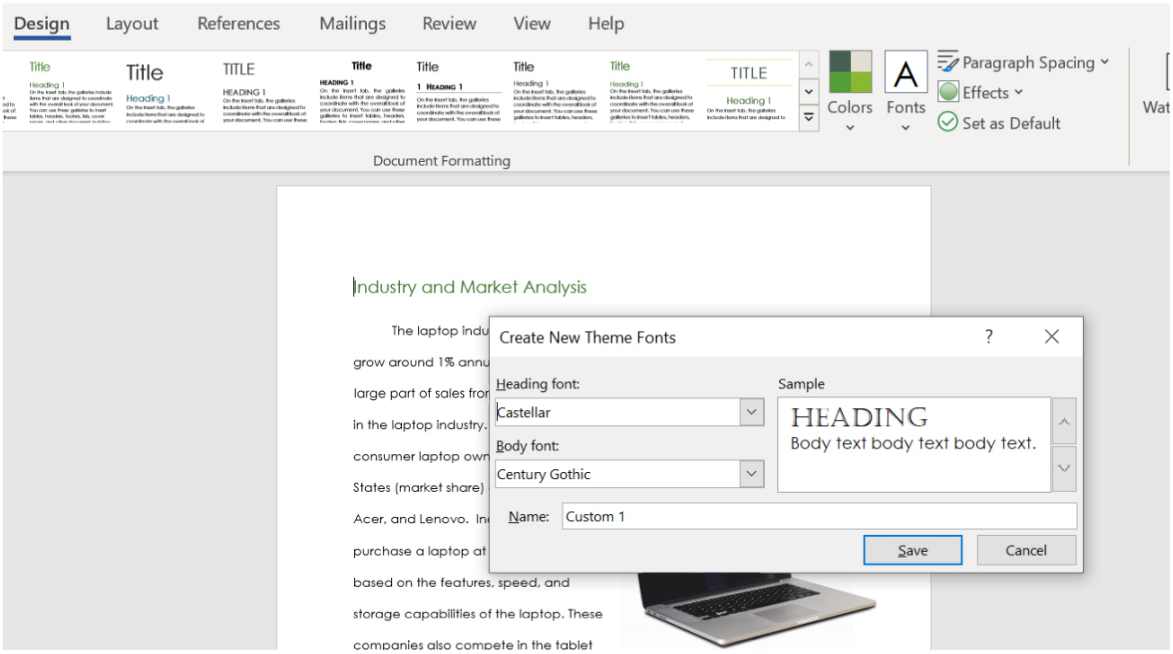


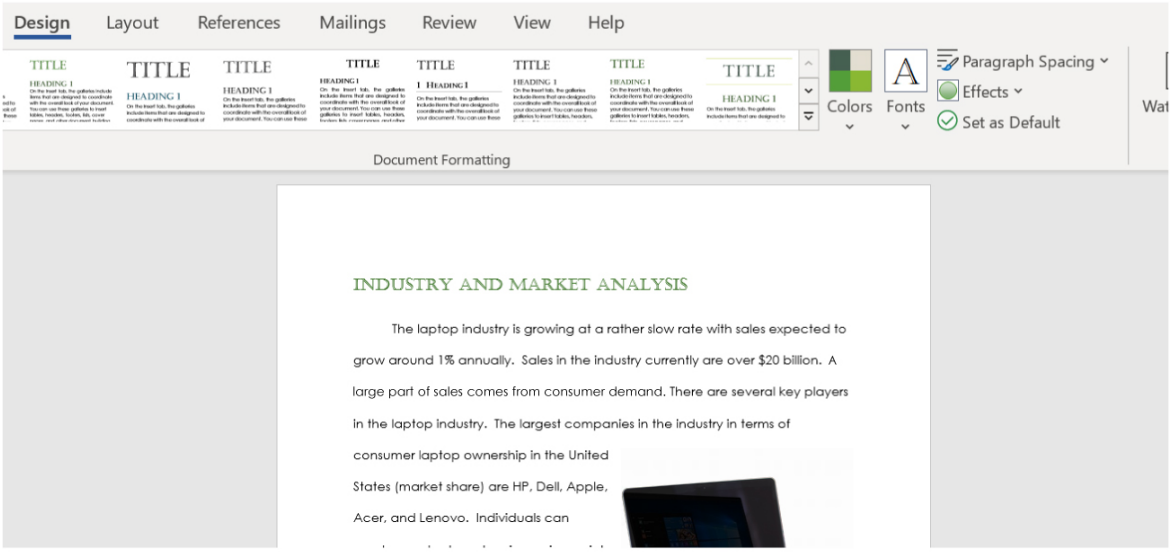
Figure 3.32: Word offers a variety of themes, each with its own set of fonts, colors, and styles. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can change the colors and fonts associated with the selected theme by choosing the menus on the Design tab. Choose the Green color group and Arial font and apply it to the report.

When you change the color and font, all headings and titles of the section will change in one step. There is no need to select each heading one by one because you already coded your document with the correct styles before you applied the theme, so the theme knows which text is which type of heading, and so forth. In the template, the current font of the Normal text is Corbel. By selecting the Fonts drop-down menu, you can change all of the Normal text and/or Headings font. Go to the bottom of the drop-down Fonts menu and select Customize Fonts. A new dialog box will appear with all the fonts installed in Office, as seen in Figure 3.33. Choose a new font and select Save and the headings will be changed.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.33: You can modify the fonts in components of a theme, such as headings, and they will change from (a) the default font associated with that theme to (b) the customized font you select to apply. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Page Background Command Group

The Page Background command group on the Design tab allows users to apply a page border, page colors, and watermarks. A watermark is a lightly colored image, logo, or text that exists in the background of the document. Like changing the page background color, adding a watermark will apply to the whole document. Some companies choose to use watermarks to indicate the status of a document (e.g., “Draft”) or to imprint their company name on each page of the document. To insert a watermark, select the Watermark icon and choose Custom Watermark, as you can see in Figure 3.34.

As an example, let’s add a watermark to the market trends report to indicate that it is a private, internal document. Type “Confidential” into the Custom Watermark dialog box and have it run diagonally across the page. There are a few options to alter

the text's appearance on the page. For instance, if you want to change the text to be less visible, choose Semitransparent. You can even use an image, like a company logo, as a watermark.

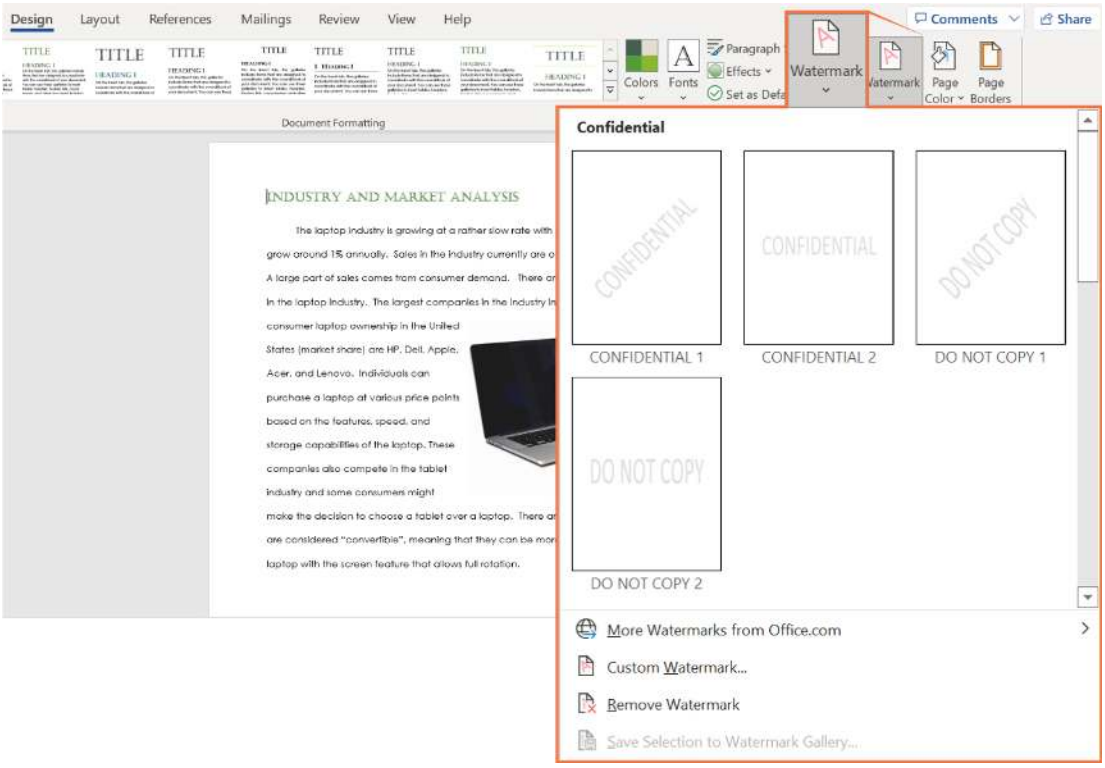


Figure 3.34: You can insert customized watermarks such as company logos using the Custom Watermark option. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

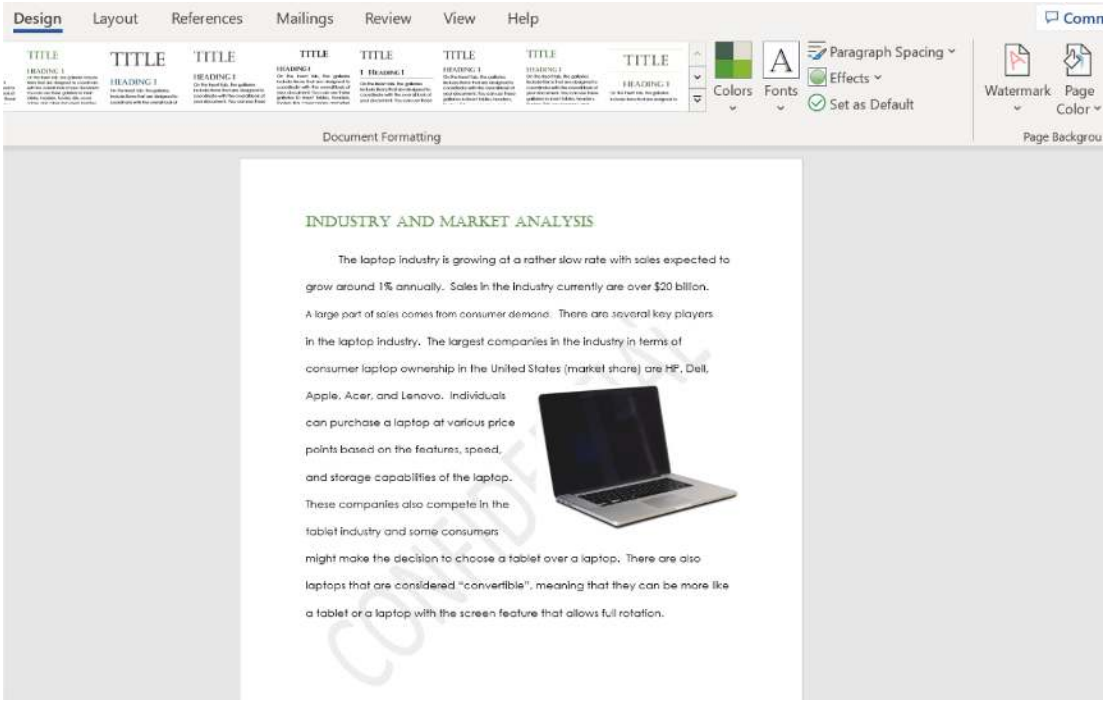


Figure 3.35: Watermarks are used to display letters or images on the page background. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 3.5: Document Design is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.6: Navigating Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the major features of Google Docs
- Understand how to create a Google Doc in Google Drive

WorldCorp uses both Microsoft Office and Google Docs to conduct its daily business activities. These activities are with both internal and external groups. For example, you might be sharing confidential sales data with the internal marketing department at WorldCorp, but also share a version of the same information with less data to external vendors. Both programs offer advantages: Microsoft has decades of being the industry standard in word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation software, while Google offers a user-friendly design and collaborative features.

In this section, you will revisit your market trends report, using Docs instead of Microsoft Word to create it. You will see how Docs is different from Word and how to use it to your advantage.

Menus

What tabs are to Word, menus are to Docs. In Word, the tools we use to prepare documents are arranged in tabs and then in command groups within those tabs. In Docs, the tools are arranged in menus instead of tabs. There are some similarities between the names of the menus and tabs: For example, you have the Insert tab in Word and the Insert menu in Docs. Docs also has a nice, user-friendly feature in which the tools that are used more frequently, such as some of the alignment tools and the font tools, are on a toolbar under the menu. This toolbar is called the action bar, and it is a static menu bar; it doesn't change, like Word's ribbon. This keeps those tools handy so that it is faster and easier for the user to change items in the document. Many of the tools on the action bar are similar to what you will find on the Home tab in Word. The menus in Google were covered in more detail in the Essentials of Software Applications for Business chapter, which discussed the essentials of the Google programs.

Edit Menu

This menu is similar to the Edit menu in Word. Looking at Figure 3.36, you can see that this menu has commands such as Select All, Undo, Redo, and Find and Replace. As in Word, the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+Z will undo the last action you took, while Ctrl+Y is the opposite: It redoes what you have undone with Ctrl+Z.

Mac Tip

On a Mac, these commands are Command+Z and Command+Y, respectively. Any time a Ctrl+ function is used on a Windows computer, the corresponding function key on a Mac will be the Command key.

Paste without formatting is a useful tool for copying and pasting text only, without any of the source formatting (such as font, font size, or color). This is particularly helpful when copying and pasting from an email or website.

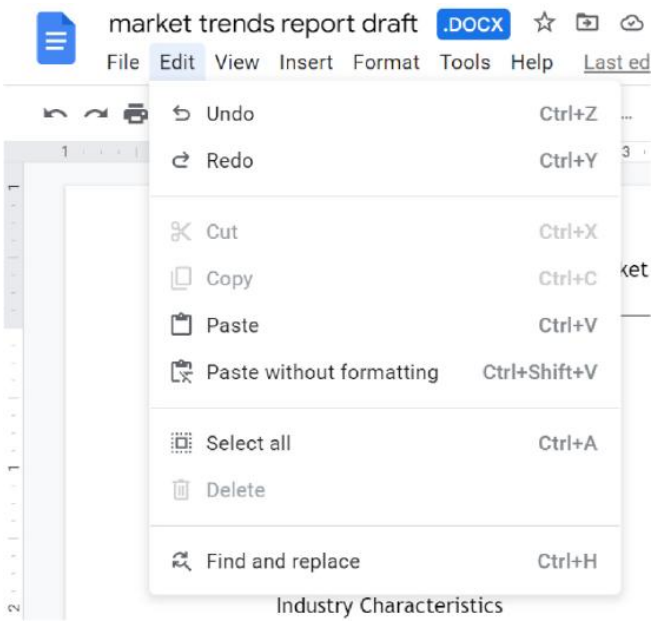


Figure 3.36: The Edit menu has the standard copy, cut, and paste commands. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

View Menu

The View menu contains tools for looking at your document in different ways. It lets you see the file in three different modes: editing, suggesting, and reading. It also gives the user options for things to toggle on and off, such as the ruler and section breaks. The document outline found in the View menu (Show outline) is similar to the Navigation pane outline view in Word (Figure 3.37). Showing the equation toolbar will let you add math notation. Show section breaks allows the user to see where their document sections begin and end. Lastly, the Full screen view is a view of the document that increases the window size to fit your whole screen (you won't see the Windows Start menu or your toolbar), and the window borders are seamless.

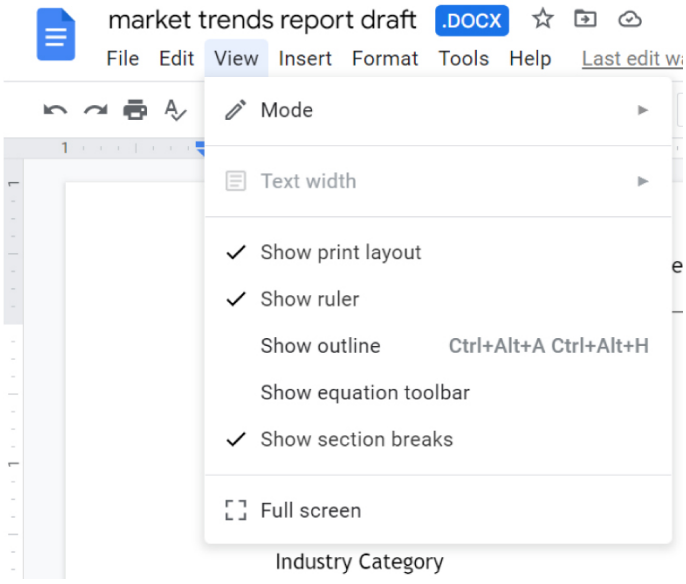


Figure 3.37: The View menu gives the user different options for how to view the document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Insert Menu

The Insert menu has many tools and features that are available in Word, yet in Word, these commands are distributed throughout different tabs. Inserting images, graphs, or tables works the same way in Docs as in Word, but inserting drawings is unique to Docs. With Docs, you can choose to insert a drawing and either make a drawing on the spot, or insert a drawing that is already saved in Google Drive.

From the Insert menu, you can also add conventional document features such as footnotes, headers, page breaks, bookmarks, and special characters (Figure 3.38). There is also a way to insert math equations using the Equation command. You will find some differences between the programs and how they deal with such features.

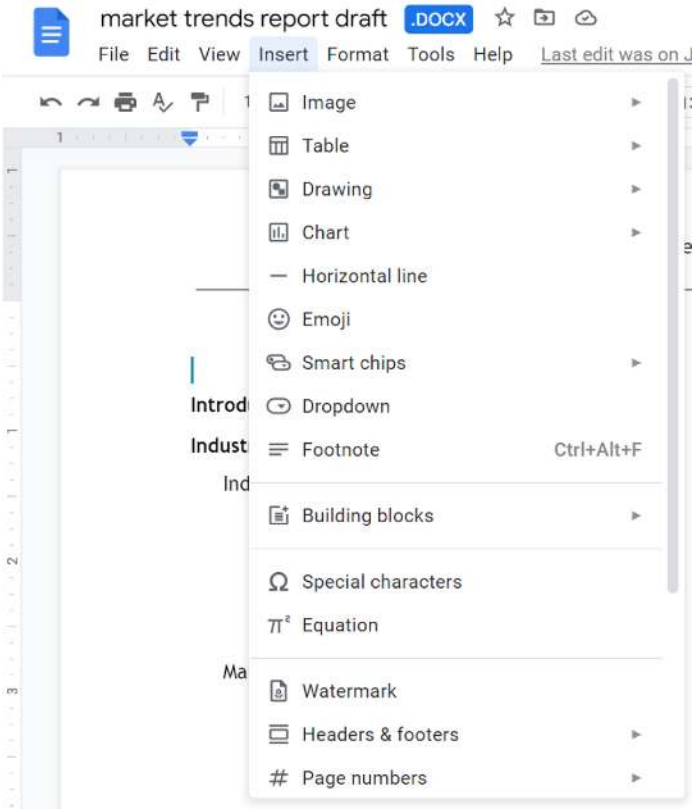


Figure 3.38: The Insert menu's central function is to add objects and document features to the document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Format Menu

The Format menu shown in Figure 3.39 is the source for formatting text, paragraphs, indents, line spacing, columns, and lists. The page's headers and footers, numbers, and horizontal or vertical canvas are also formatted here. As with Word, the user needs to select the text area that they want to change, and then select the tool needed to modify it. Additionally, tables that were inserted using the tools in the Insert menu can be further stylized to a professional look using the formatting tools available here, such as adjusting cell shading, cell borders, and font.

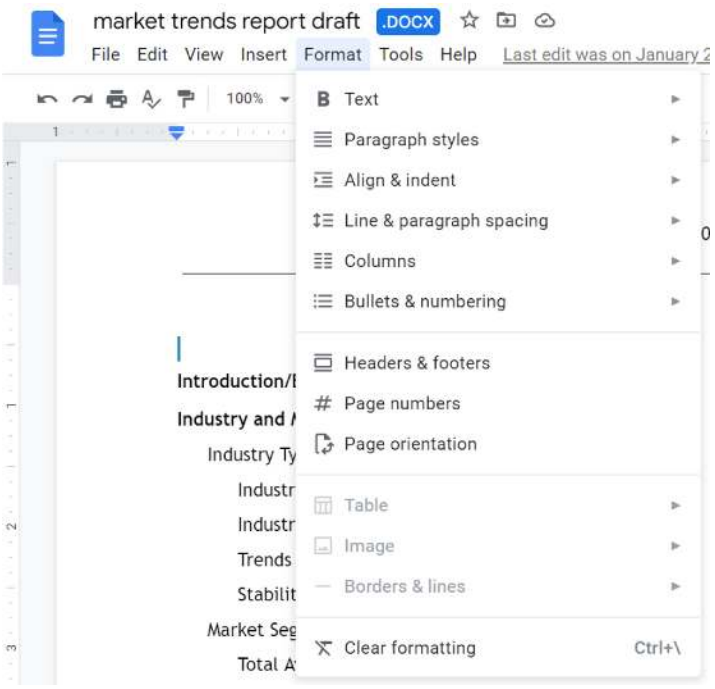


Figure 3.39: The Format menu contains all the tools for modifying the text or whole document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Tools Menu

The Tools menu has some interesting features that Word doesn't have, such as the Explore command. The Explore command is a unique feature in the Google suite of programs that uses machine learning to offer suggestions and predict what information you might need as you are creating files. For example, the Explore command lets you search the web for the citations you have but need to complete, or references that you don't have and want to find. It can also suggest other Docs and Sheets that you own or are shared on that may be referenced or connected to your current document. The Explore command can also suggest images that might be connected to what you are currently working on. These images can be from your files or from images on the web. Both citations and references will be formatted in the manual of style of your choice—APA or MLA, for instance. The tools for checking spelling and grammar and word count function in a similar way to Word. You will learn more about the Explore command in Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs.

Docs also contains a tool for tracking changes, similar to Word's Track Changes. This tool, available through a drop-down menu in the top right of the document window, allows the user to choose between Editing (normal editing of your own document), Suggesting (tracking your changes), and Viewing (view-only), as shown in Figure 3.40.

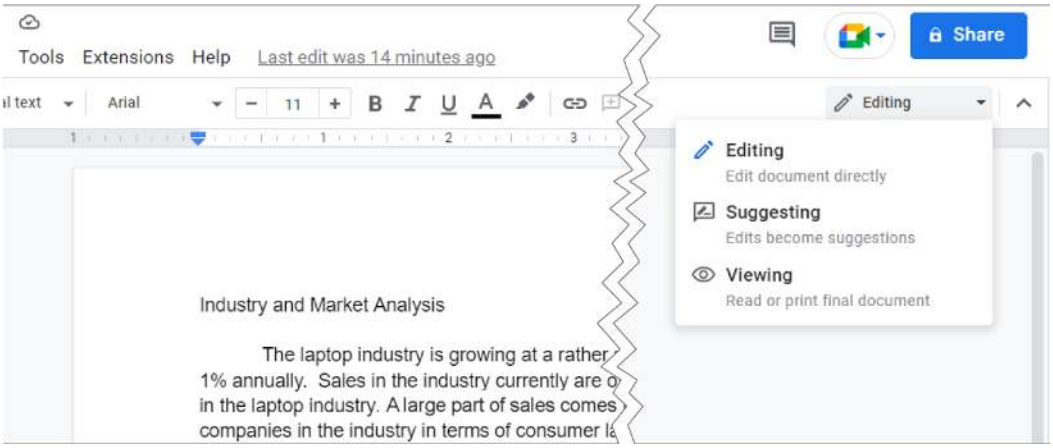


Figure 3.40: Track changes, or Suggesting, is accessed not from a menu, but from a drop-down menu on the right side of the document screen. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Through the Tools menu (Figure 3.41), you can choose Review suggested edits, which allows you to view the suggested edits one by one and choose whether you'd like to accept or reject them. The Tools menu also contains the Preferences window, which offers some of the general settings for your documents, such as whether to use Smart Quotes and autocapitalization. (In Word, the Preferences are contained in the File menu, which is covered in the chapter on Essentials of Software Applications for Business.

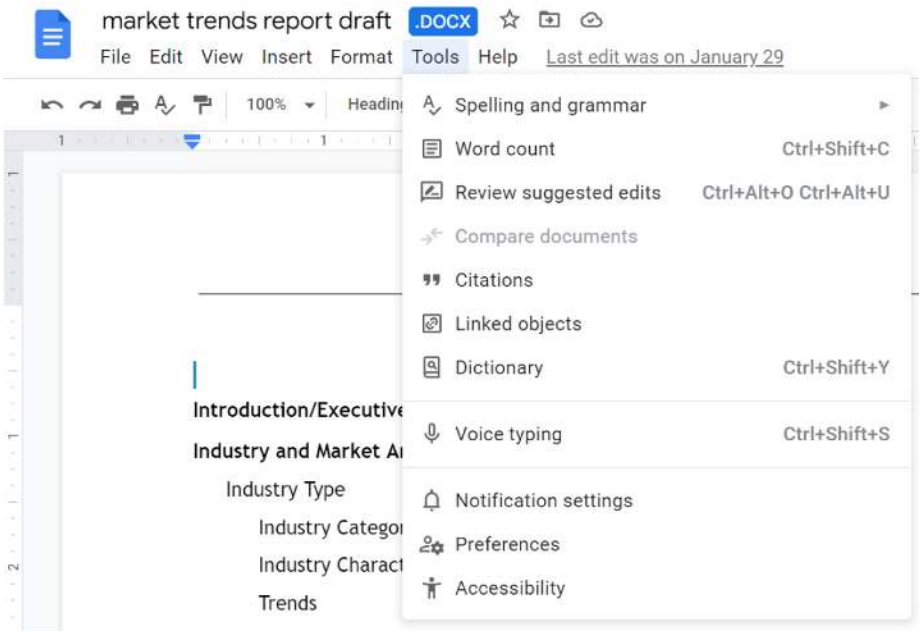


Figure 3.41: The Tools menu contains some tools for proofreading and collaborating in groups. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Creating a Doc

We are going to begin by creating our market trends report, starting with industry analysis information. The most direct way to create a new Doc is to log in to your Google Drive. Once you are in the Drive, you can create a new Doc by selecting the New plus sign, as discussed in the chapter on Essentials of Software Applications for Business. Then, choose Google Docs from the list. This will automatically open a new window with a blank document. You could also hover over the arrow to the right of the Google Docs icon and choose Blank document or From a template to create the new file. As an alternative, once in your Drive, you can create a new document by selecting the Google Apps icon, as Figure 3.42 shows. This will open a drop-down menu, and you will choose which app to access, in this case that would be Docs for the Google word processor application. A new tab will appear in your browser with the Docs. Here, you can choose to open from recent documents or create a new document either by a template or an entirely new file (by choosing blank).

If you select the first icon, Blank, Docs will open a blank canvas, similar to how Word opens its blank documents. You can also create a new document using a template. There are many kinds of default templates in Docs's Template Gallery, including résumés, letters, project proposals, work notes, brochures, newsletters, legal agreements, and several educational document templates (like essays, reports, class notes, and lesson plans).

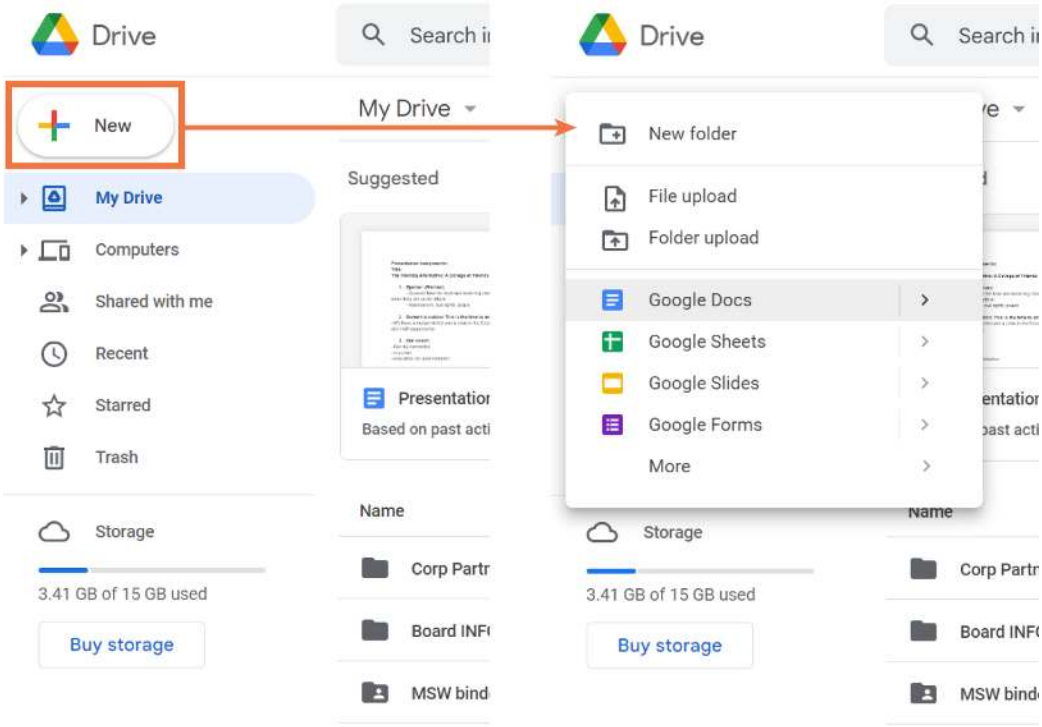


Figure 3.42: (a) Choose + New to create a new file type in your Google Drive. (b) Notice you can also use this menu to create a new folder or upload a file that is already created. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 3.6: Navigating Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.7: Formatting Layout and Content in Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Modify document formatting
- Create different types of sections
- Modify the page setup

Your market trends report is coming along in Google Docs. In this section, you'll learn how to format it and modify the page setup, similar to the way we modified the document in Microsoft Word. We are starting with the same information that we used in the previous sections, and instead now learning how to format the document using the tools in Docs. This will give you firsthand experience with the differences and similarities between the two programs. You will also learn that Docs, like Word, has the ability to include section breaks, and each section can have different formatting if needed.

Document Formatting

There are different key formatting options that you can do at the start of each document, such as set the paper size, normal text font, line spacing, inserting columns (if desired), and more. You can also select the title text of the headings and insert sections. The indent options and margins are important, too. You can certainly change these items at any point in the document creation process, but by thinking through some of the formatting at the beginning, you can make using additional tools, such as inserting a table of contents, a bit easier. Determining some formatting choices at the beginning can help with collaboration and readability as you work toward a final document.

Formatting Fonts and Modifying Styles

To modify the font in any way after you have typed in the document, you first must select the text you want to format, then either use the commands in the window menus or with icons and tools in the action bar. As Figure 3.43 shows, you can select a word and then use the action bar to change the font type, make another word bold, and make another word larger. You can also select a word and use the Format menu to change it.

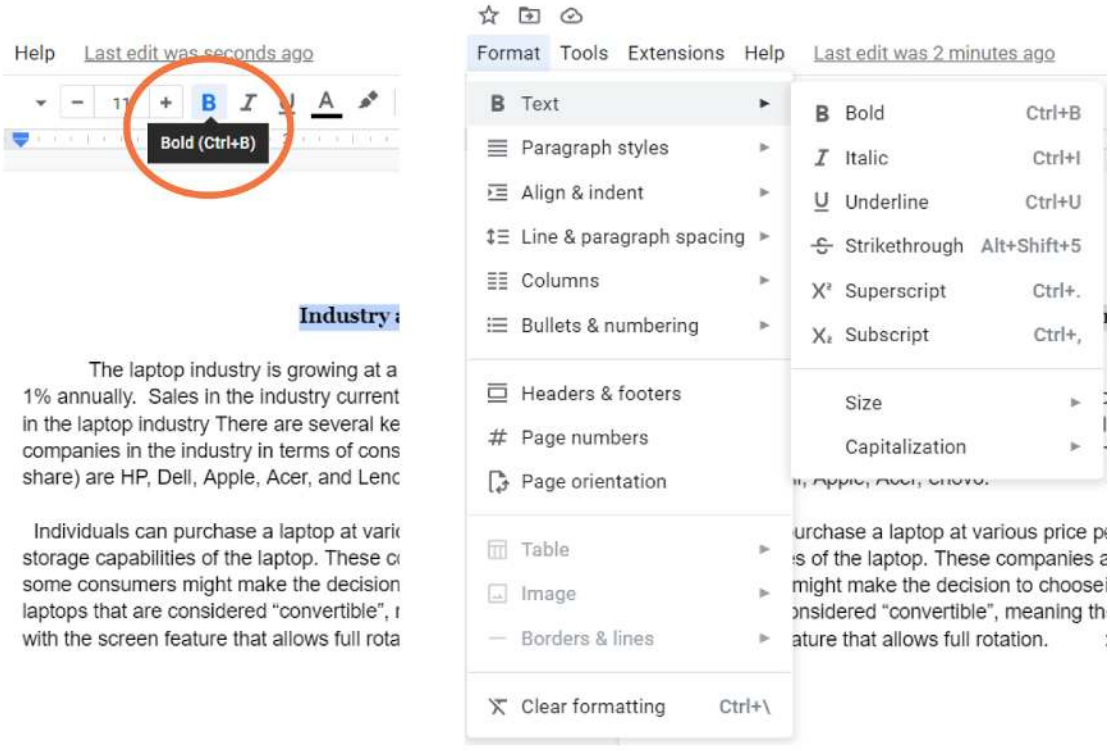


Figure 3.43: Font formatting can be done through (a) the action bar or (b) through the Format menu. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The drop-down pane lists these items for selection:

Styles also have a similar function in Docs as they do in Word. The styles code your document so that it is easier to apply formatting throughout. Docs comes with a set of default styles, like Normal text, Title, and Subtitle, but these can be customized using the Options choice at the bottom of the style combo box. Applying a style is critical for applying custom fonts and colors to a document. It is also essential when creating an outline or table of contents for your document.

In Figure 3.44, you can see how to change the style from Normal text to Heading 2. First, you select the text, then go to the action bar to select the style type.

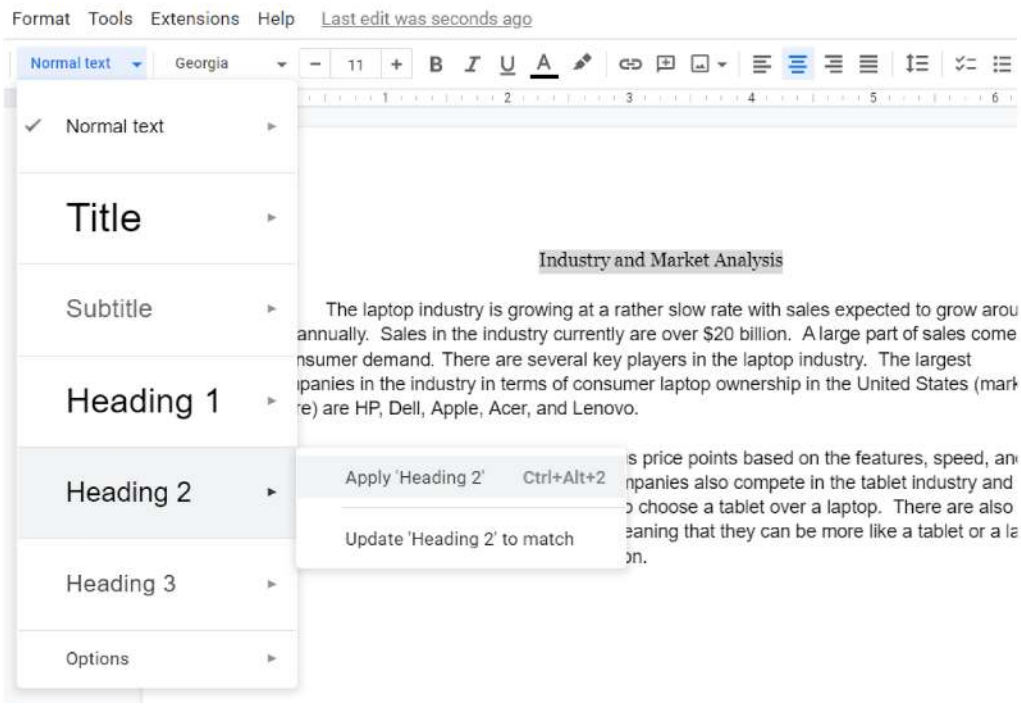


Figure 3.44: The drop-down Styles menu gives the user a preview of what the different available styles look like. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

As you can see in Figure 3.45, the text style has changed. The heading text was also added to the document outline on the left. This is an important feature of styles in Docs. As you continue to apply styles within a hierarchy, the outline in the document pane will reflect that hierarchy. For example, you can see that “Industry and Market Analysis” is now listed on the outline as a heading. This can be particularly useful when managing long documents, which Document Preparation covers.

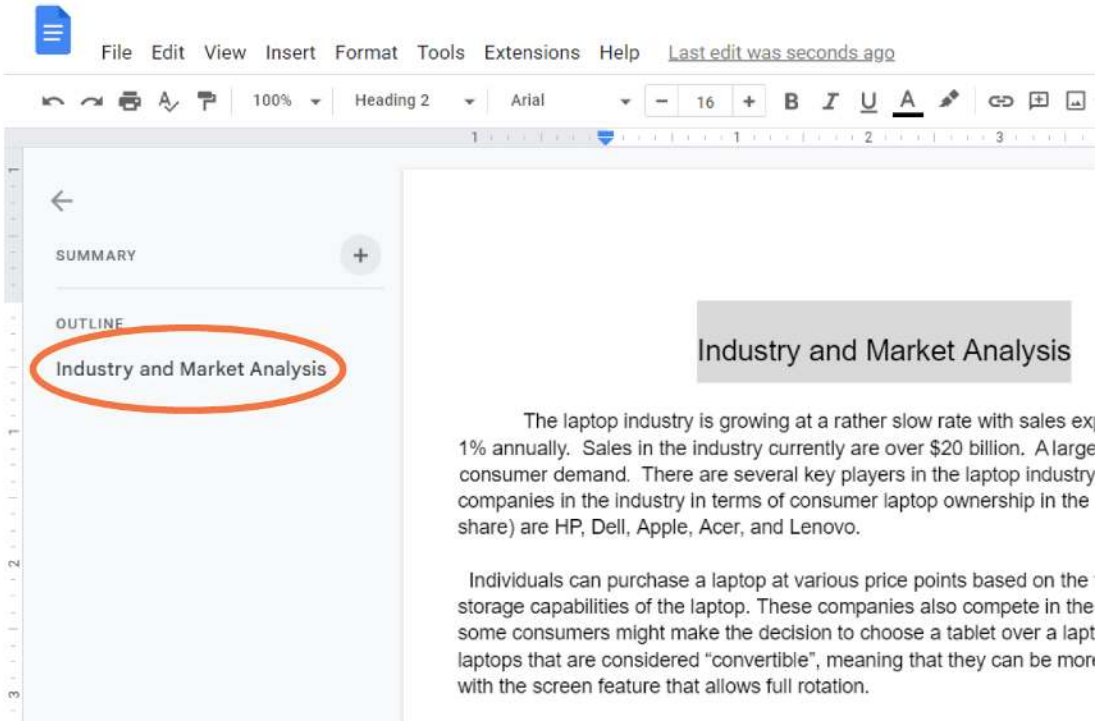


Figure 3.45: Formatting text as a heading means it gets automatically outlined in the document pane. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Changing the line spacing in a Doc is quite simple. You can easily change a whole paragraph's line spacing without having to select the whole paragraph: Just put your cursor anywhere in the paragraph and go to the Format menu and hover over Line spacing. Then, choose the spacing you want (Figure 3.46).

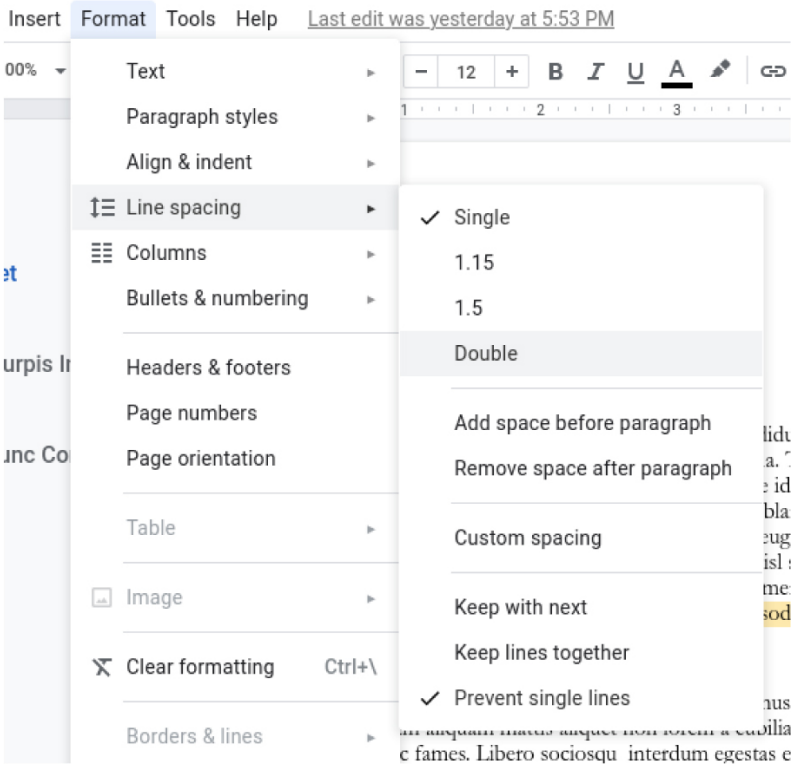


Figure 3.46: The line spacing formatting options give the user more options than the standard paragraph line spacing. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Notice that you have the option to add a space before a paragraph or remove a space after a paragraph. When you are constructing a long document, it might help the readability in long blocks of text to add some extra space in between the paragraphs. This tool will allow you to add that line space either before or after.

Docs also makes aligning and indenting text simple. As with modifying the line spacing, you can place your cursor anywhere on a single paragraph and adjust the alignment for the whole paragraph. You can either choose an indent from the action bar, or go to the Format menu, then hover over Align & indent, then choose how you want to align the paragraph. If you want to align many paragraphs, just select them all together with the mouse, and then follow the same steps.

To indent a body of text, the first line of the selection is indented to the right five spaces, which is the convention for indenting the first line of a paragraph. To do this indentation, press the Tab key on your keyboard. But if you want to move the entire paragraph to the right, click anywhere in the paragraph and go to the Format menu, then hover over Align & indent, and lastly, select Increase indent (Figure 3.47). Increase or Decrease indent can also be used to create tiers within lists, like bullets and numbers. This creates a hierarchy of bullets or numbers in your list (Figure 3.48).

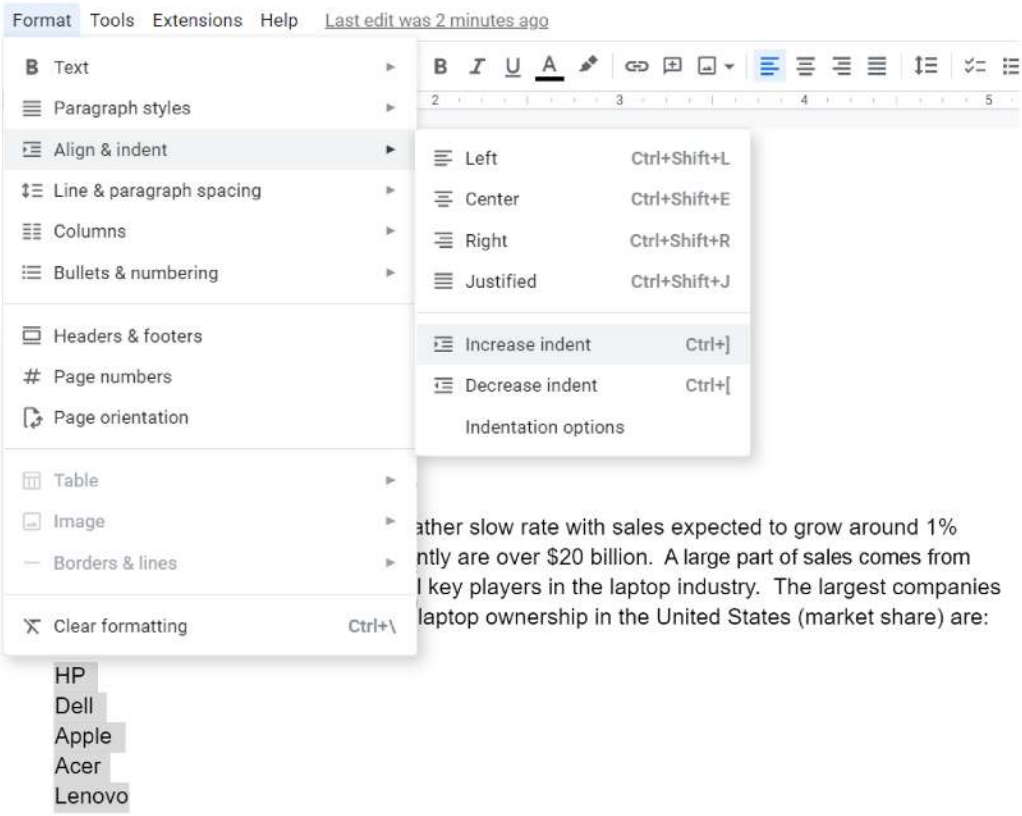


Figure 3.47: You can choose indenting from the Format menu to indent selected text. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

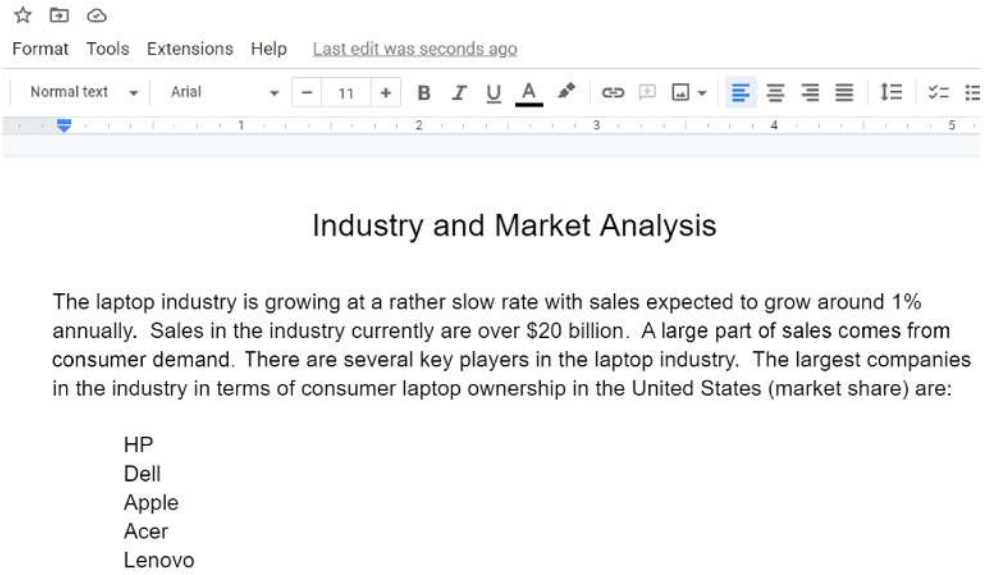


Figure 3.48: Only the selected text is indented over to the right. The rest of the text remains left-aligned. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Docs also makes it easy to create and format columns with a single click. To quickly change the text to be set in two or three columns, as in a newsletter or email advertisement, just put your cursor anywhere on the text, go to the Format menu, hover over Columns, then choose the number of columns you desire (Figure 3.49). You can do this in the Format menu as well. You do not have to do anything like selecting the whole section or document because the column formatting will apply to the section or paragraph you are in. If you want to apply it to multiple paragraphs, you will need to manually select those paragraphs.

For the WorldCorp market trends report, let's try two columns for the two paragraphs in the Industry and Market Analysis section. This might make sense if we want to add a chart or a table of data below the text.

Begin by selecting the body text that you want to format. Then, go to the Format menu using the steps outlined above and place the paragraphs into two columns. It should now look like Figure 3.50.

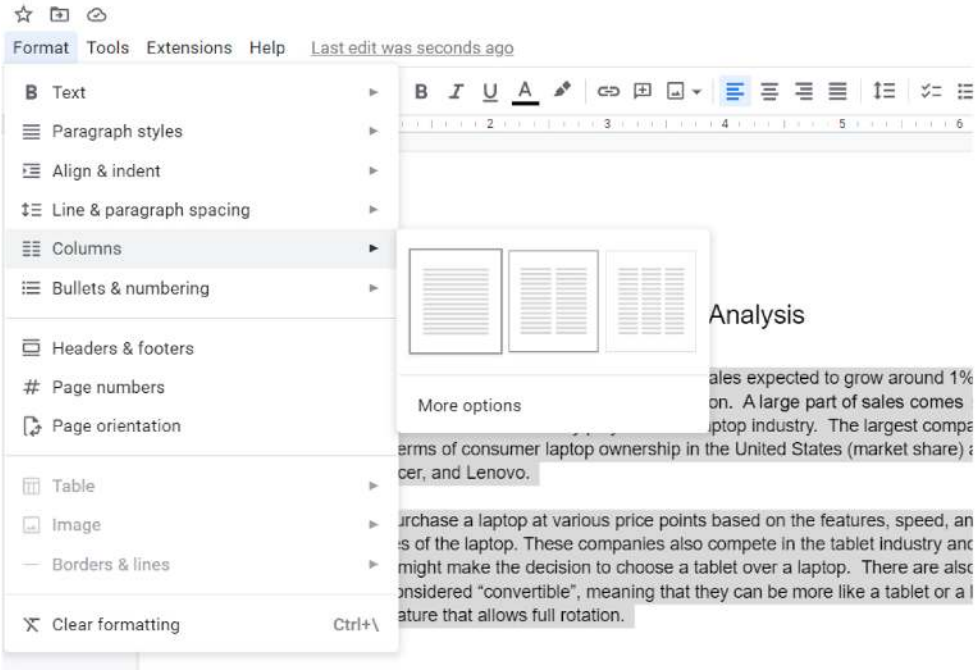


Figure 3.49: Formatting text into columns adds more space below the text for additional items in the document, such as images or charts. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

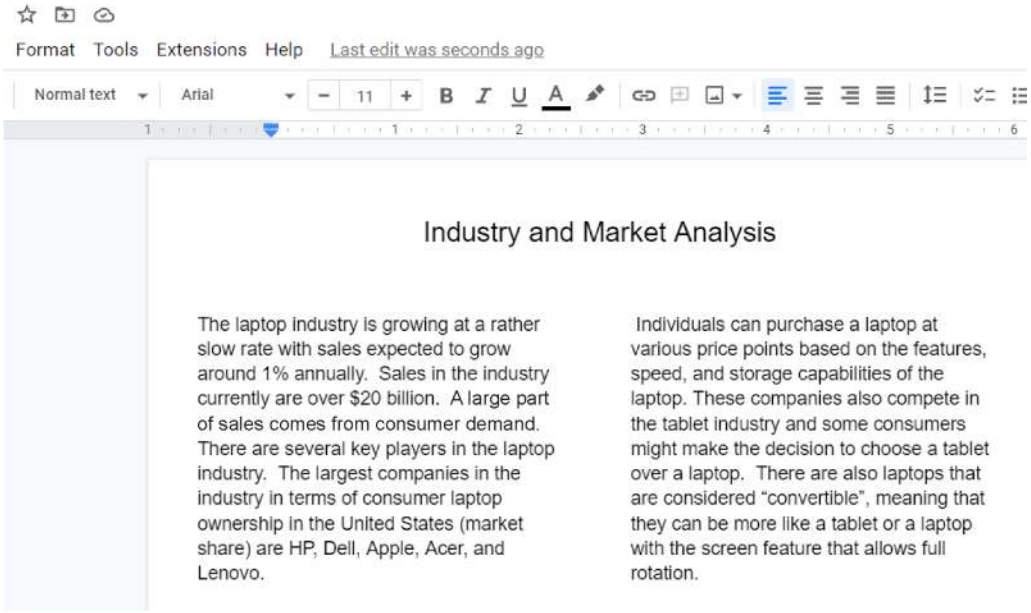


Figure 3.50: The columns present a professional look with the alignment of the text. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Lastly, let's review the Bullets & numbering tool. This tool has many useful applications, in business and in personal documentation. It is used to create lists in your document. To show how useful lists can be, see the unformatted chunks of text in Figure 3.51. The text is unorganized and hard to read.

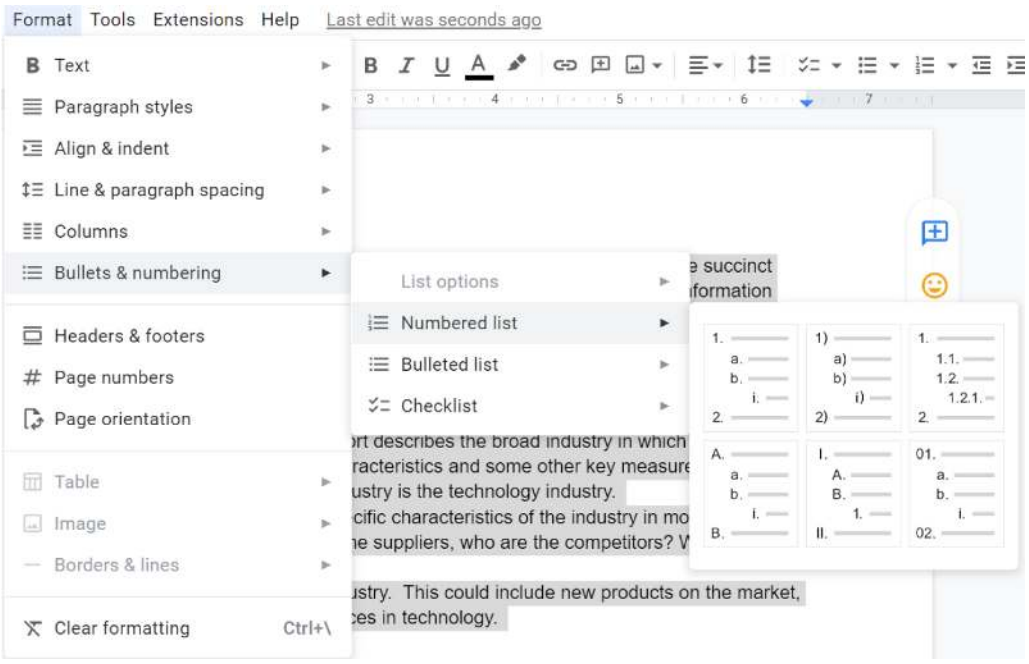


Figure 3.51: Lists are used for visual appeal as well as organizational purposes. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To make this text into a bulleted or numbered list, select all of it, go to Format, hover over Bullets & numbering, then hover over Numbered list or Bulleted list, and choose one. Figure 3.52 shows what the content would look like if you had chosen bullets. Alternatively, for new text that has yet to be typed, you can use the action bar and choose your list type first, then type the text desired.

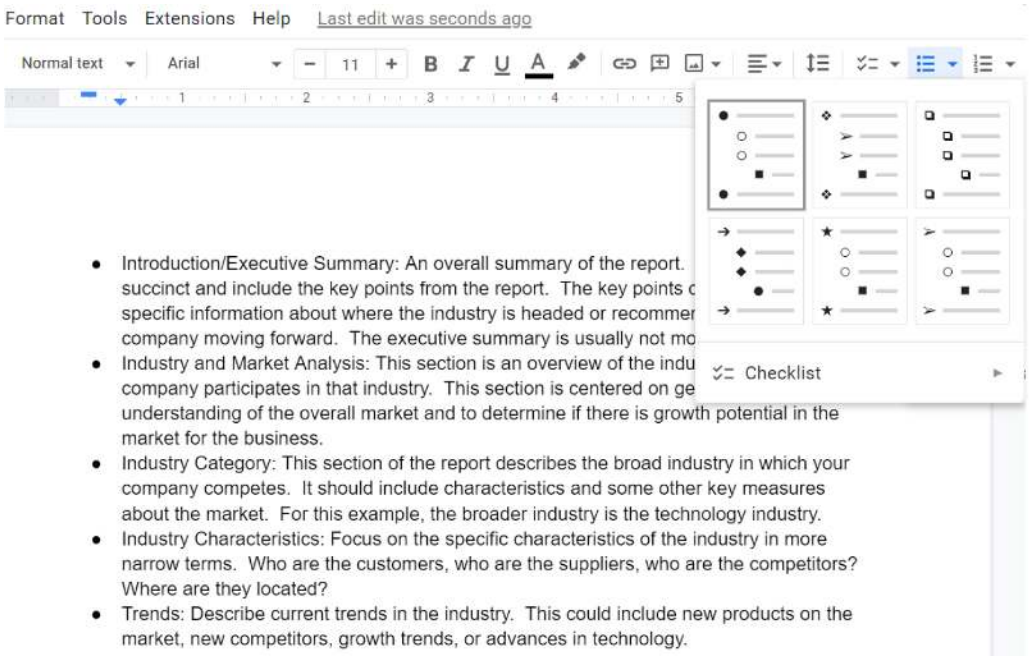


Figure 3.52: Bulleting text is preferable in professional documents when you have lists of items that you want to call out without numbering them, which could convey a hierarchy or steps. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Working with Section Breaks

Adding sections to your document is important for formatting headings and creating the table of contents. To add sections in a Doc, place the cursor where you want the section to begin, then go to the Insert menu and look for the Break command group. Select Section break (Continuous) if you want the break to stay on the same page, or Section break (next page) to start a new section on a new page, such as starting a new chapter.

Let's practice using the continuous section command with our market trends report. Recall from earlier in this chapter, the major sections of a market trends report are as follows:

- Introduction/Executive Summary
- Industry and Market Analysis
- Competition
- SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)
- Recommendations/Key Findings
- Summary

Add the remaining headings into the Doc and be sure to format the headings as you did previously using Heading 2. Add the headings in the order in which you see them here. You do not have to worry about the alignment at this point, as we are just working on getting the sections defined. As Figure 3.53 shows, if you insert a section before each heading, you can visualize the headings on the left document outline pane. As you insert a continuous section break, Docs automatically moves your text further down, about two lines, as you can see with the heading "Competition." You can now change the format of each separate heading, as each is its own section. Continuous section breaks are useful when you want to rapidly change one section's format, and not have to manually select the entire section's paragraphs. Sections can also be used to have different headers and footers, page numbers, and margins than the rest of the document. They can also be helpful to break up the monotony of reading a long document.

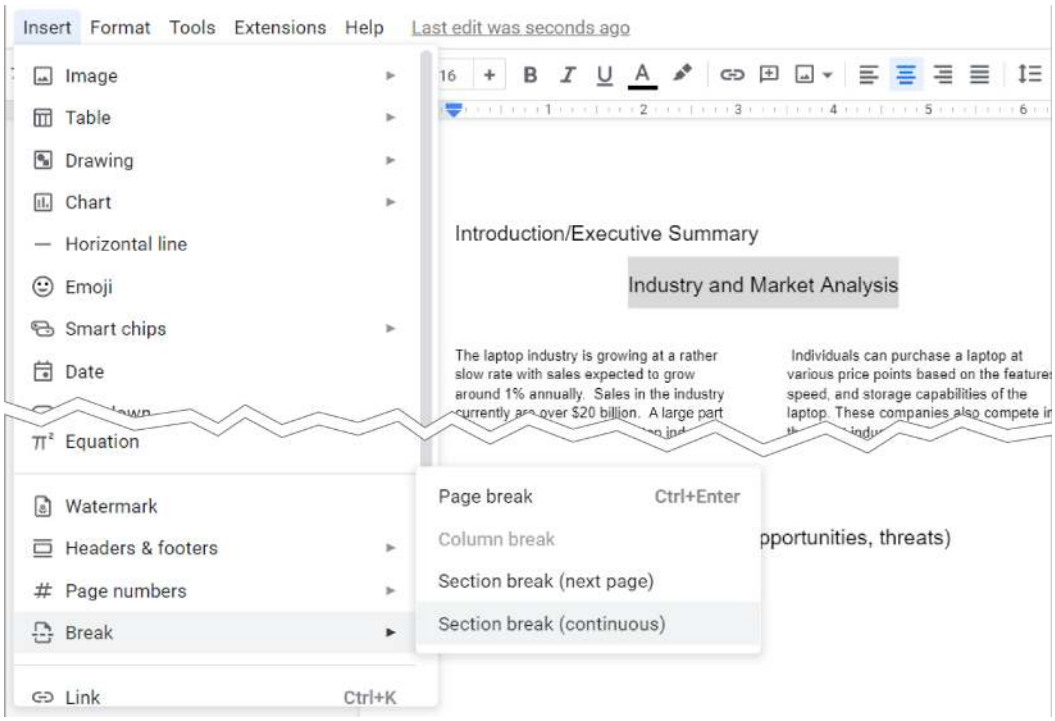


Figure 3.53: Section breaks are added using the Insert menu. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you want to view the section breaks as Figure 3.54 shows, go to the View menu, and select Show non-printing characters. The document will display a light blue dotted line where the section break is. Deleting a section is now easy because you can easily see the line; simply place the cursor at the left of the line and press the Delete key on the keyboard. (Note that section breaks must be deleted using the Delete key from the left in Docs; you cannot put your cursor to the right of the section break and use the Backspace key to remove it.)

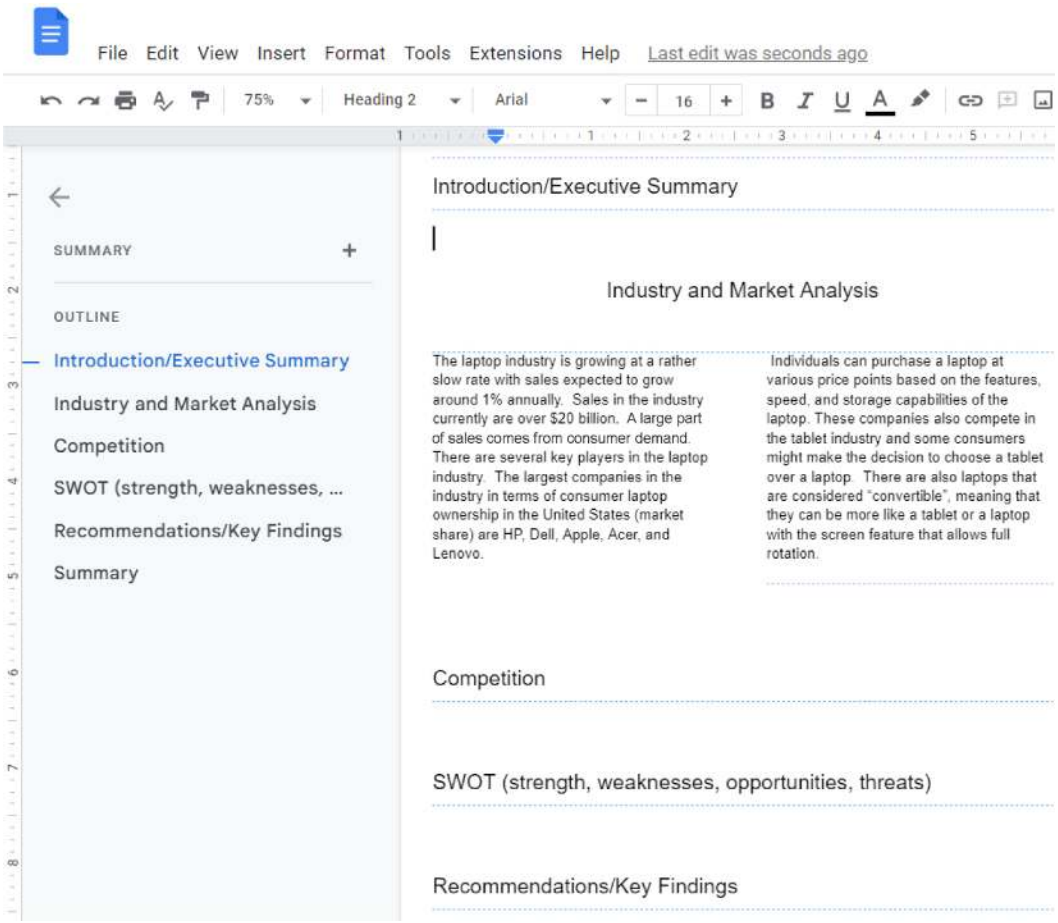


Figure 3.54: From the View menu, choose Show non-printing characters to show the blue dotted lines where section breaks have been placed. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Page Setup

As in Word, the Page Setup commands are for selecting the paper size and orientation (horizontally or vertically). In Docs, it is all done from the File menu; Page Setup is near the bottom of the File menu. In Figure 3.55, you can see the options in the dialog box. The first combo box is for choosing whether to apply page setup to the whole document, or just a section. You can also adjust the paper size; there is a combo box with popular paper sizes like letter and legal. Additionally, you can change the margins to create custom margins. You can also adjust the margins manually on the top of the window, using the mouse to move the margin markers on the ruler (Figure 3.56). Many of the page setup tools in Docs are straightforward and minimalistic. Google programs are intentionally designed to be user-friendly, and this is just one example of how easy it can be to make changes to your document.

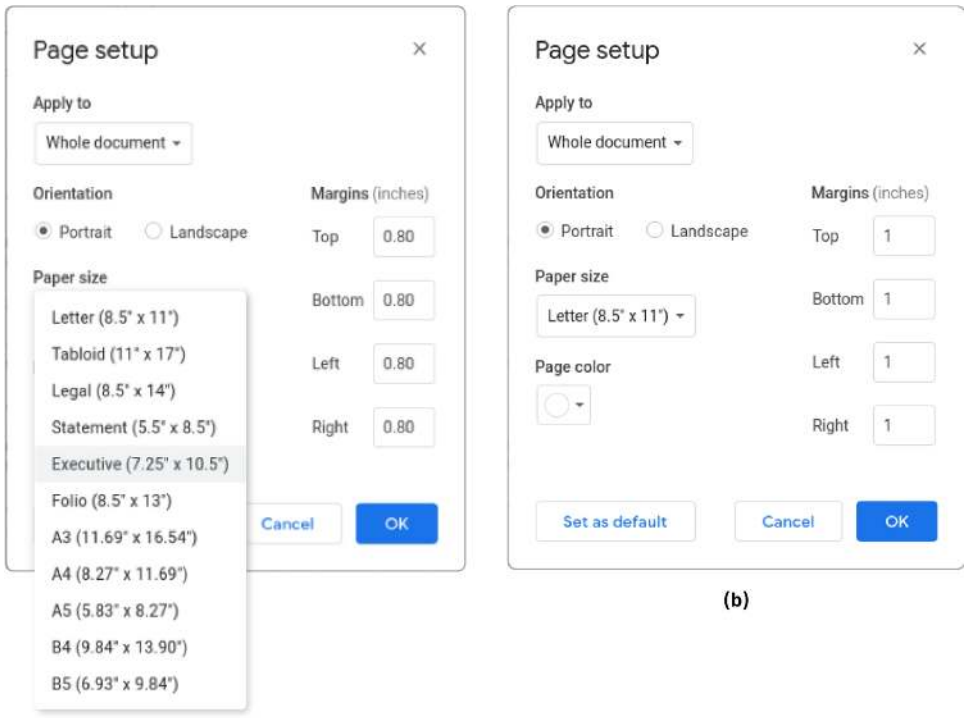


Figure 3.55: Margins are set in the Page setup dialog box. (a) These are the margins if you choose an Executive size document. (b) These are the margin sizes for the common Letter type document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

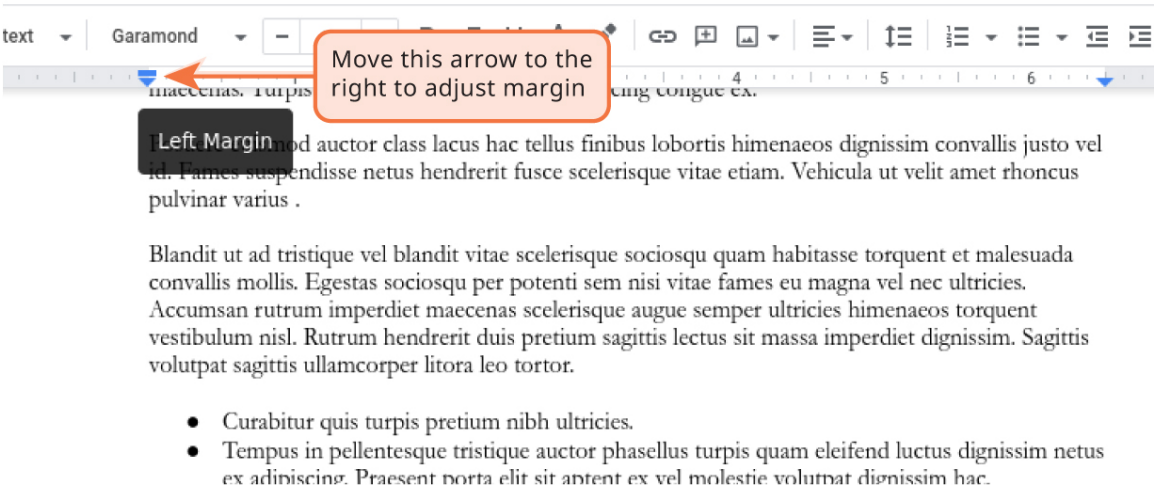


Figure 3.56: You can also set margins by using the arrows in the ruler. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Link to Learning

Docs also has numerous keyboard shortcuts that can help you perform tasks faster. These shortcuts are for font formatting, line spacing, indent formatting, making lists, applying styles, moving and resizing objects, and adding citations or comments. Docs can also be manipulated through the Alt commands, to move around in the window menus. These Google Docs keyboard shortcuts can be found at Google's support page.

This page titled 3.7: Formatting Layout and Content in Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.8: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the Tools menu and collaboration functionality

Google Docs has many desirable features, but one of its biggest strengths as a word processing software program is its ability to facilitate collaboration among multiple users. People like to use Docs for the ease of sharing documents, tagging contacts, and inserting internet-enabled comments because these features make working together easy. Microsoft Office has these capabilities as well, but because Google is free to use, many people and small businesses prefer it. Nevertheless, many businesses use both because some features function better in one product, and other features function better in the other. Google's collaboration features have been part of the apps from their inception. These features allow real-time edits to be seen by other users. In the early drafts of the market trends report, you will use Docs for collaboration, because many in your department are more familiar with the collaborative features in Docs.

In this section, you will take your market trends report and learn how to work on it with other employees at WorldCorp, getting them to insert and verify data that you need to complete your task.

Real-World Application

Recognizing Collaborators

The collaborative power of applications today is unparalleled. Internet capabilities have spurred new ways of working together and applications have incorporated these capabilities to provide collaborative features across a range of suites, including the two discussed in this textbook, Microsoft Office and Google Workspace. You can leverage not only the embedding capabilities across these suites, but you can also then create and modify these files and documents across individuals and teams.

While ease in this collaboration is well-established, less obvious is how to credit collaborators who are contributing to these files. Internet-enabled collaboration makes recognizing collaborators easier because user histories and versions can be tracked. Depending on the purpose of the document, you may or may not be listing its authors and contributors. It is important to follow your company's established protocol when identifying and recognizing collaborators formally; regardless, one should always at a minimum recognize contributions informally. This may come in an email when presenting the file or verbally during a presentation.

Tools Menu and Collaborating

The Tools menu options include spelling and grammar, citations, the Explore command, tools for reviewing changes in Suggesting mode, and the dictionary. The Docs Tools menu contains some of the same tools that are found on the Review tab in Word. These are tools and commands to make your document professional and polished, as well as enable collaboration. These tools make collaboration between cowriters and coeditors possible, as everyone can review the suggestions and comments, tag others in the comments, and add citations and references.

Spelling and Grammar

Before sending or sharing any document in the workplace, you want to make sure it is as error-free as possible. You can do that by accessing the features of the Spelling and grammar command in the Tools menu. The dialog box shown in Figure 3.57 has the same functionality and overall feel as Word, and it operates in the same way, too, resolving each incident one-by-one.

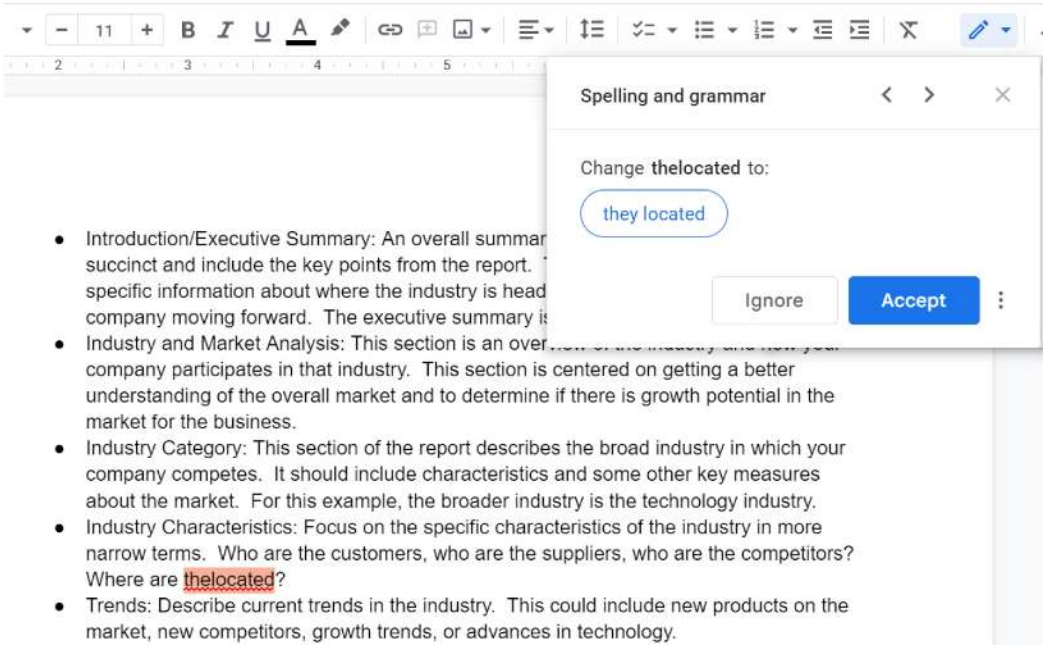


Figure 3.57: The spelling and grammar checking tool in Docs is similar to Word's. Always check that the suggestion is correct before accepting it. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

As in Word, Docs offers users the option to add words to a Personal dictionary, so that they are not flagged as errors by the spell-checker tool. To access the Personal dictionary, go to the Tools tab and hover your cursor over the Spelling and grammar command. In the drop-down menu that appears, select Personal dictionary. You can manually add words to it from there.

Citations and Explore

Citations are what give credit to sources. Sources should receive credit for contributing to your report, but citations are also vital to avoid plagiarism. Citations appear in many different kinds of documents, from educational papers to business plans. As you learned in Navigating Google Docs, Google's Explore command is an automated feature that is used in conjunction with citations. Word has a similar command called Smart Lookup, but it only allows you to search the internet, not get autogenerated citations.

Assume that you have a list of web pages that you used as the bibliography for your WorldCorp market trends report. Without automation, you would need to manually type in the website title, address, and date for each source you are citing, whether it is in a simple list at the bottom of the report, or as a footnote, or even in a separate document. With automation—that is, the Explore command—this task could become much less time-consuming.

As you are writing the report, you can cite the source, and have Docs do the formatting of the reference. You can cite the source either as a footnote or in the body of the text itself. Citing with footnotes is made easy with Docs. Just select a sentence or word and go to the Explore icon at the bottom of the page (Figure 3.58).

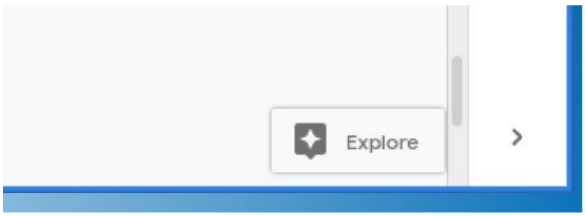


Figure 3.58: The Explore button is a gateway to formatting references. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

A sidebar will appear, where you can once again search for the source in a Google Search (Figure 3.59). When you have found the referenced site again, just use the Google Search feature of citation formatting.

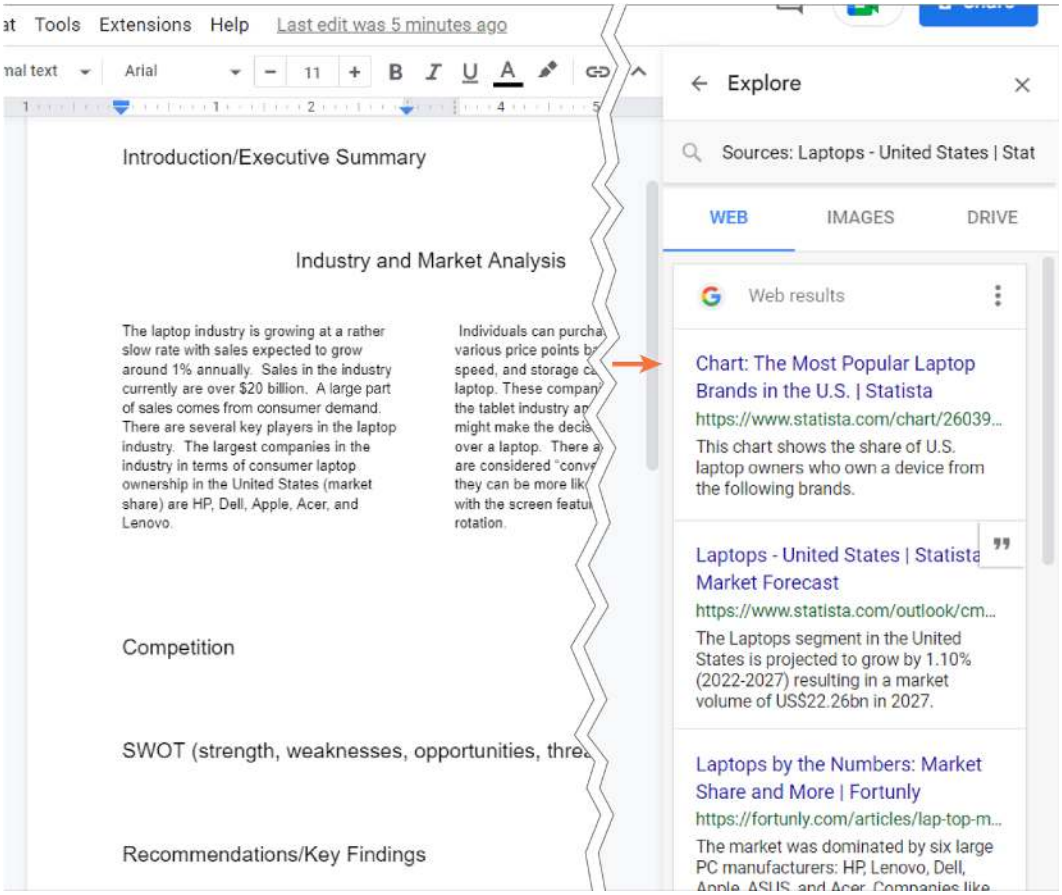


Figure 3.59: The right side of the figure shows the references for the highlighted information. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Then, click on Cite as footnote on the Google Search Explore sidebar (Figure 3.60).

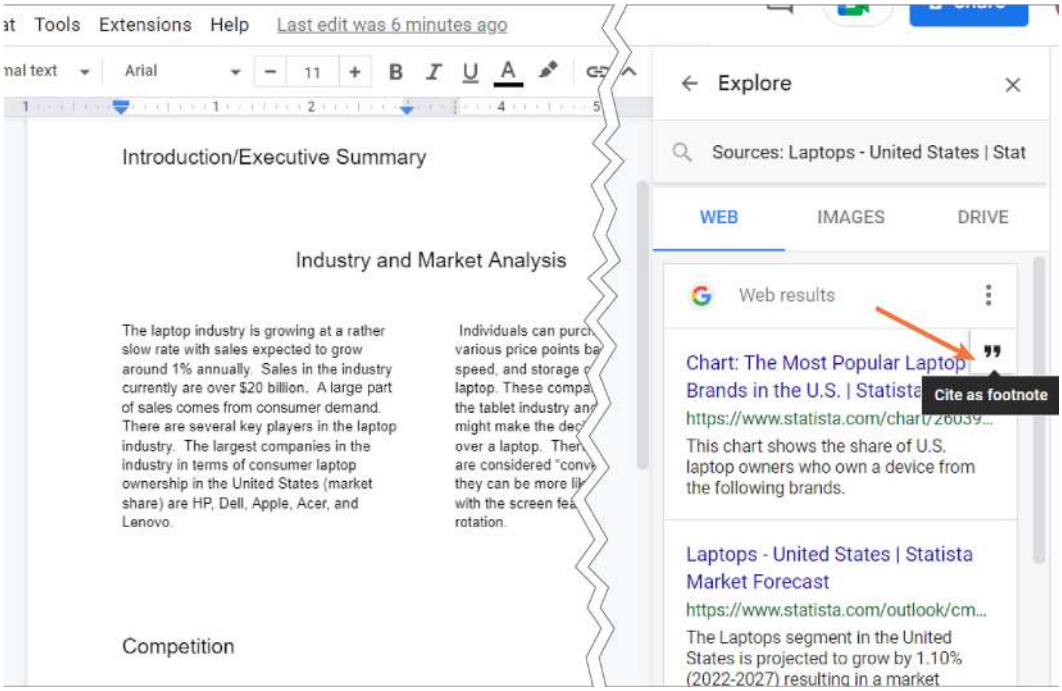


Figure 3.60: If you have a document that needs multiple sources formatted, the cite as footnote will be a handy tool. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The Explore tool automatically adds the citation on a footnote, using the citing format of the manual of style of your choice (Figure 3.61).

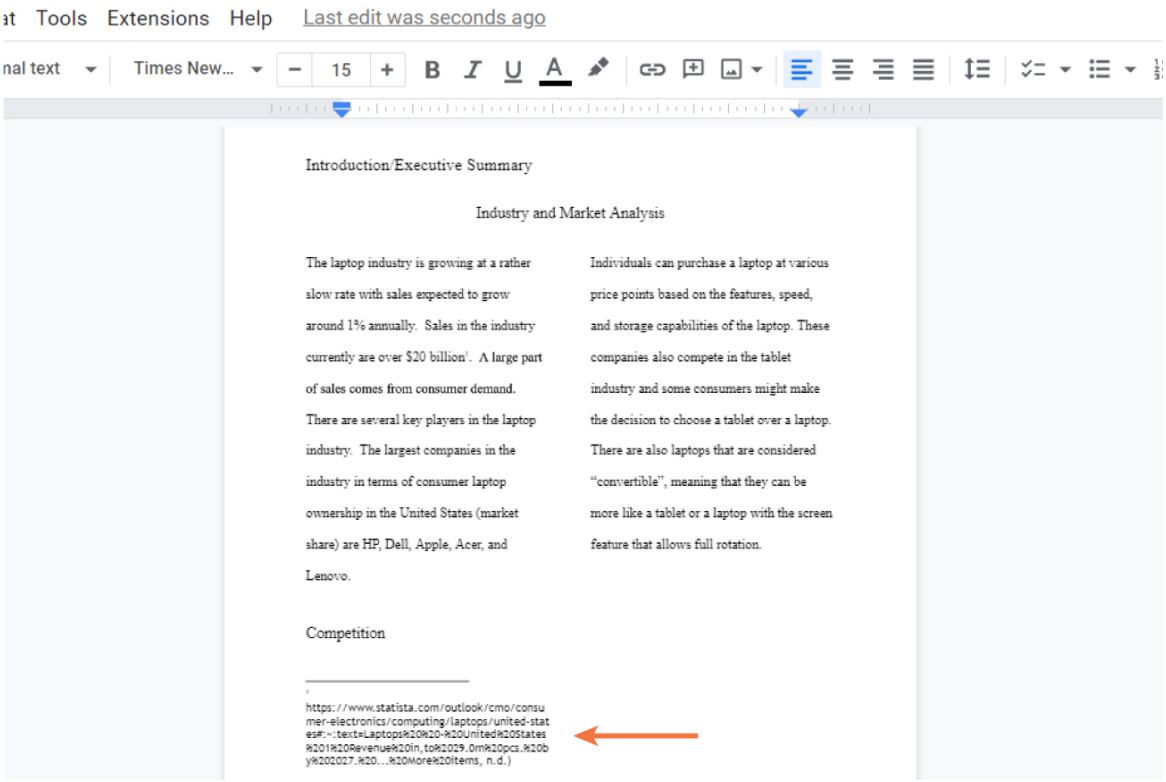


Figure 3.61: Using the Explore tool lets you add citations rapidly. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Suggesting Mode

When you share the market trends report with your colleagues for their input, you need to make sure that everyone's individual edits are captured in a clear way, similar to Track Changes in Word. The way to do this is through Suggesting mode, as the chapter on Essentials of Software Applications for Business introduced. To turn on Suggesting mode, go to the top right of the Docs window and look for the drop-down menu that says Editing. As you click on it, select Suggesting, as Figure 3.62 shows. In this mode, every time you add text, it will be surrounded with a bracket. If you delete something, the text will get a strikethrough. All of these changes will be accompanied by a comment box that shows a check or a cross. To accept the change, choose the check; to reject, choose the cross.

The key to making sure your colleagues can make these suggested changes in the first place is to make sure they know to turn on Suggesting mode when they begin working on the document. You can either inform your colleagues about this manually or share the document with them in Comment-only mode by selecting Commenter when you share the document with them.

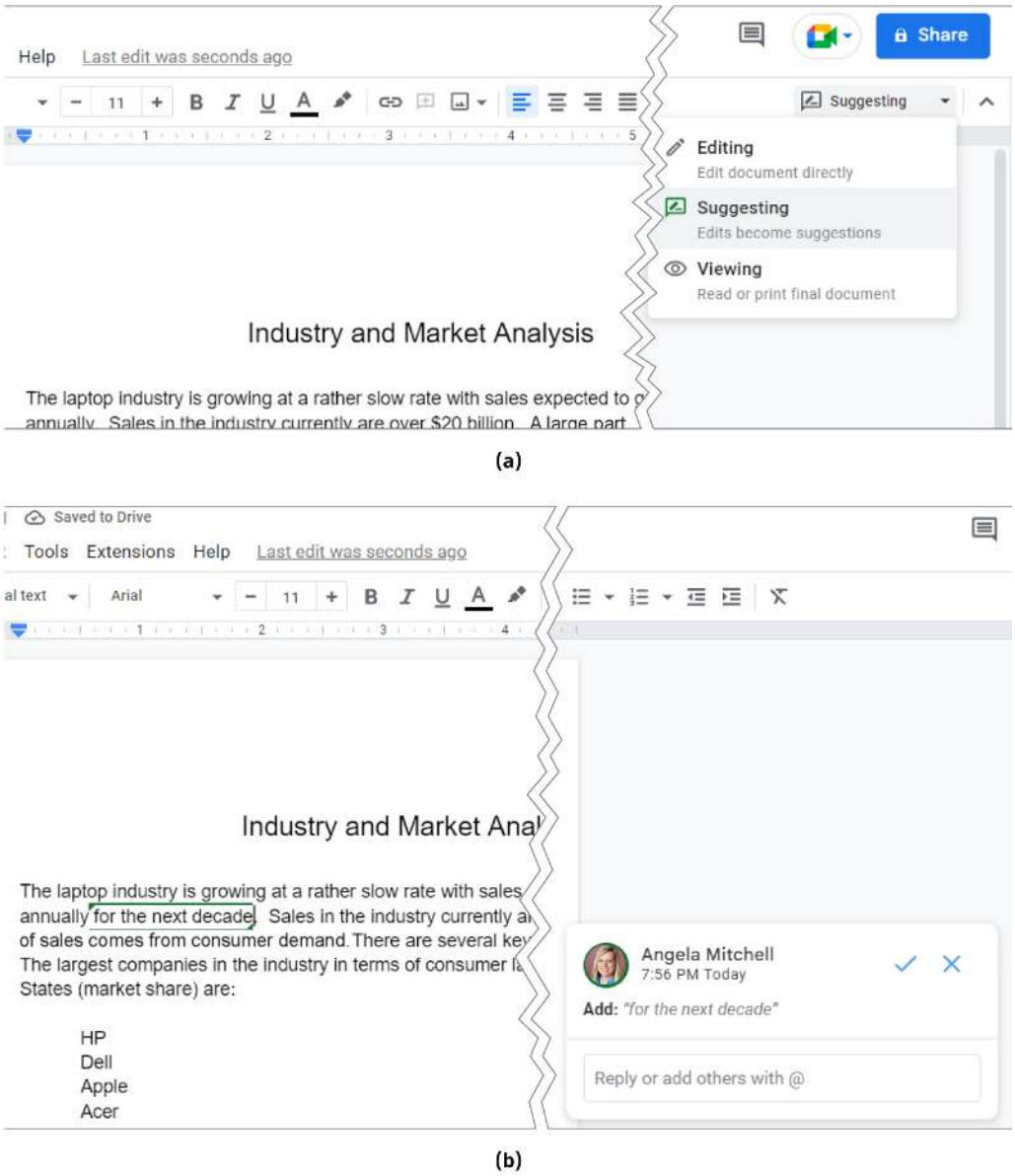


Figure 3.62: (a) Google's version of Track Changes is called Suggesting mode. (b) When you make an edit to the document, you can also add comments to other users about the edit. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Reviewing Suggested Edits

You may want to create a document outlining the processes and workflow of the changes to your document, particularly if there are multiple people working on it. You may want your report to be edited in a certain order, perhaps with differing levels of access to the document. Or, you might want several people to work on it at the same time. In the end, because you are the person in charge of producing the report, you will likely want to review the overall result, after all changes have been added by others, so that you can accept or reject all of the changes. This is where you will use the Tools menu's Review suggested edits command. If the document is filled with suggestions, it might be hard to read, so this feature is highly recommended, as it simplifies the process of reviewing.

As Figure 3.63 shows, the drop-down box will display the options of Preview Accept All or Preview Reject All. This is like the Track Changes feature combo box that says All Markup and No Markup. If you Preview Accept All, you can see the document as if all the suggested edits were accepted. This will also make the document easier to read. If you are satisfied with the changes, then you can just select Accept All. In contrast, the Preview Reject All shows the original document before this version, without the current version's changes, and it doesn't show brackets or strikethroughs as well. This way, you can control whether the document is progressing properly or communicate with some collaborators if there is an issue with their additions or edits. Although this function is available, it is not advisable to simply accept or reject *all* suggested edits in the document. You should plan to review

each suggested edit throughout the document and make the determination about the edits one by one. You can review the suggested edits individually by using the up and down arrows in the Review suggested edits tool in the Tools menu.

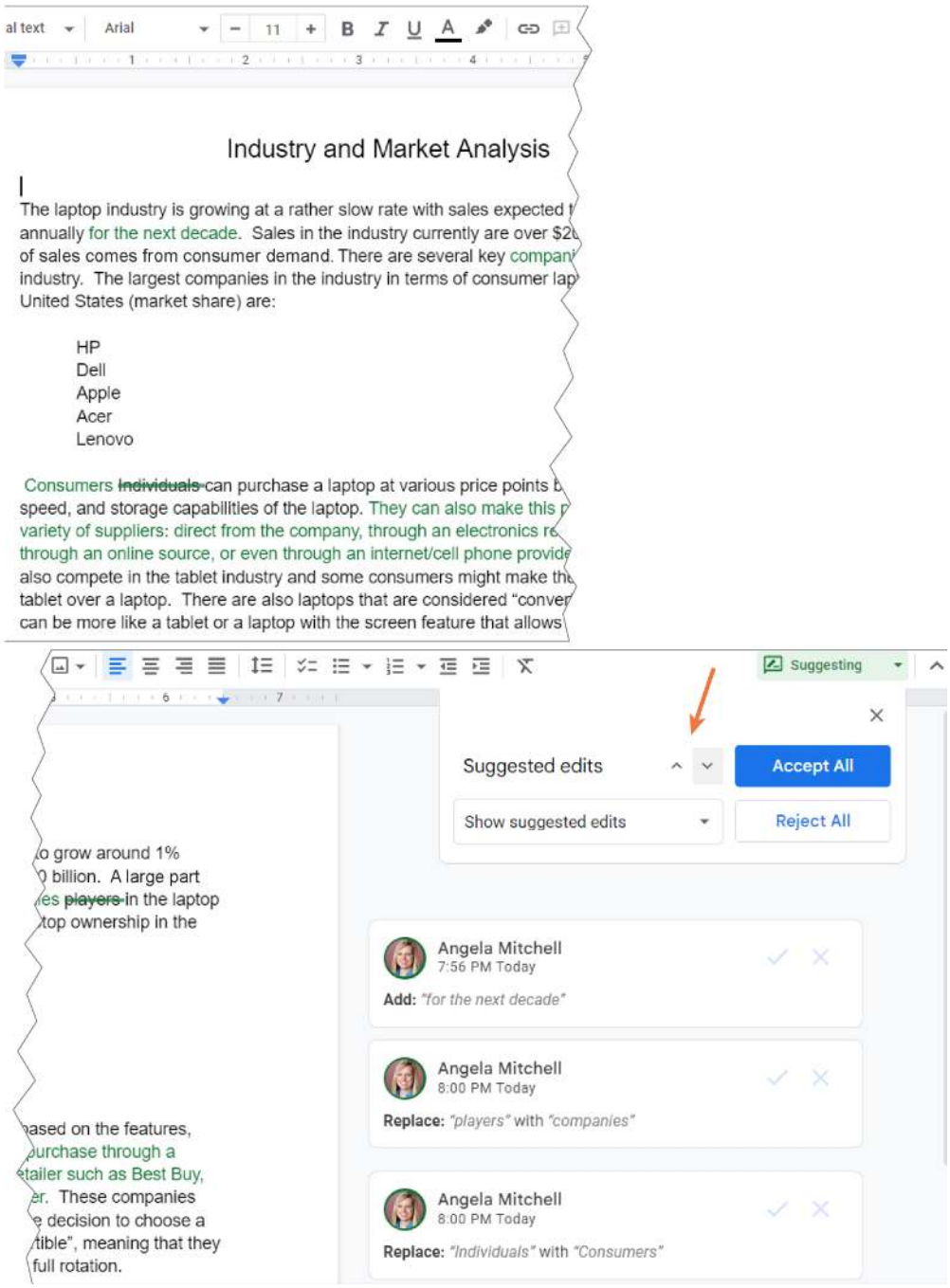


Figure 3.63: As you work in Suggesting mode, your changes are tracked and recorded. The font color changes for additions and strikethrough is used to show deletions. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 3.8: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.9: Versions and Version History

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Access and use versioning features in Google Docs
- Access and use versioning features in Microsoft Word

This section delves into a feature of Microsoft Word and Google Docs called versioning. Versioning refers to the technology where programs store multiple iterations of files until they are approved and saved. Essentially, several edited versions of the file are maintained on an online server, as well as the original document. Versioning technology can give you some peace of mind that your original document is saved somewhere, and that any changes will need to be accepted (approved) before the final document is saved.

There are many user-friendly options in Docs's versioning, as you can clearly see all of the changes created within each version, as well as the time stamps for when each version was made. With this versioning technology, your team can edit a document simultaneously, and everyone will see the changes happening and what changes were made before you started working with the document. You will also see when other collaborators add or edit the text. This sharing of the views of the document adds accountability to the work on the final version of the document. It can be used to enhance communication about the rationale for suggestions when comments are used. In Word, there are fewer options for accessing and using version history features, but they do exist if you keep your documents stored on Microsoft's cloud service, OneDrive, or on a SharePoint server.

When you are creating the market trends report, you will be sending the draft to key personnel in various departments to contribute to the report. Using these collaboration features will help as the document moves through each stage toward a final, accurate report.

Versioning in Docs

With versioning, you no longer have to worry about losing your files if your laptop battery dies. You do not have to be concerned if your program suddenly shuts down before you had a chance to save that last paragraph you typed. Docs has a feature that, as long as you are connected to the internet, autosaves every change you make to the file. There is no Save or Save As command because Docs is constantly saving in Google Drive, which creates version histories. This version history can be accessed by going to the File menu, then hovering over Version history, then selecting See version history. A sidebar will spring up to the right, as shown in Figure 3.64, listing many versions of the file, each with a time stamp and the name of the person or people using it at the time it was saved. With this Docs feature, it is not necessary to save multiple drafts of the same document. An alternative way to access the version history is by clicking on the title bar that says, Last edit was . . ..

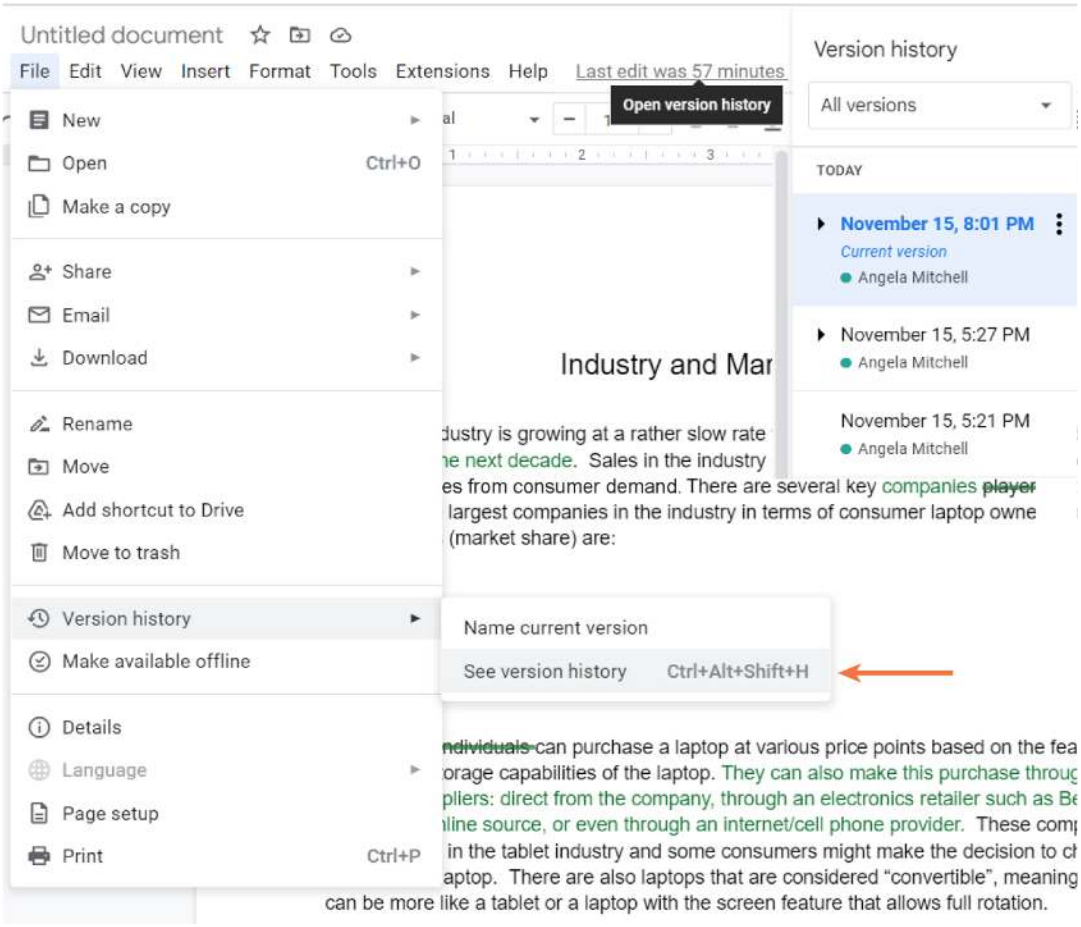


Figure 3.64: You can see the last edit of the document from version history. You can also access version history by clicking above the action bar. Version history is a Docs's feature that lets you see all your little changes in a document writing process. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To quickly see new changes in a file, Docs has a See New Changes alert. It appears where the date normally appears, next to the Help menu. If you select that, you'll be able to see the recent changes from other editors—specifically, you will see all the changes that you haven't seen since the last time you opened the file. This functionality is useful for quickly and easily seeing changes from collaborators without having to access the version history.

Real-World Application

Is Transparency Always the Right Choice?

Suggesting mode in Docs and Track Changes in Word serve the same purpose: Both help teams collaborate and share documents. These functions also help teams maintain accountability on the document's grammar, usage, style, guidelines, and subject matter inaccuracies or faults. Google automatically logs the chain of events of the addition or editing of text by time and collaborator, tracking who made each change and when they did it. Between the Suggesting mode tool and Docs's version history, the person in charge of the document or team can monitor the progression of the document and increase the efficiency and speed of its completion.

When sharing documents between a client and a vendor, there could be concerns about access to all the information in the document or the version history. Similarly, a supervisor might not want an employee to see the comments and edits in a document summarizing their job performance and proposed salary increase until they are ready to present it to the employee. That information might be important for the human resources department to keep but does not need to be shared with the employee. So, although Suggesting mode and Track Changes can assist with transparency and accountability, it can also be problematic if information is shared to the wrong audience or before the document is ready to be shared with others.

> Now think about different circumstances in your life in which tracking changes and version history could be helpful, harmful, or both. How would you store your different versions?

Browsing Versions

In Docs, all these versions of the same file are organized by date, with the newest on top (Figure 3.65). The top version in the history is the most current and is open by default. You can check the date of the current version on the title bar, right beside the name of the file. You can check the name of the collaborator who made the edits by their name on the bottom of the time stamp, but also by the color of the circle next to the name, as each collaborator will have a different color circle. If multiple people worked on the file, their usernames will be listed below the time stamp, along with their color circle on the side.

The changes on the versions themselves are shown in highlighted font, similar to the Track Changes feature in Word. But unlike Track Changes, each editor's changes will not be identified with a different color. Just the changes overall will be highlighted. If you want to find out who made the changes, hover the mouse above the text you want to query, and the name of the collaborator will appear. If you don't want to look at this highlight, as it may be distracting, go to the bottom of the sidebar and uncheck Show changes.

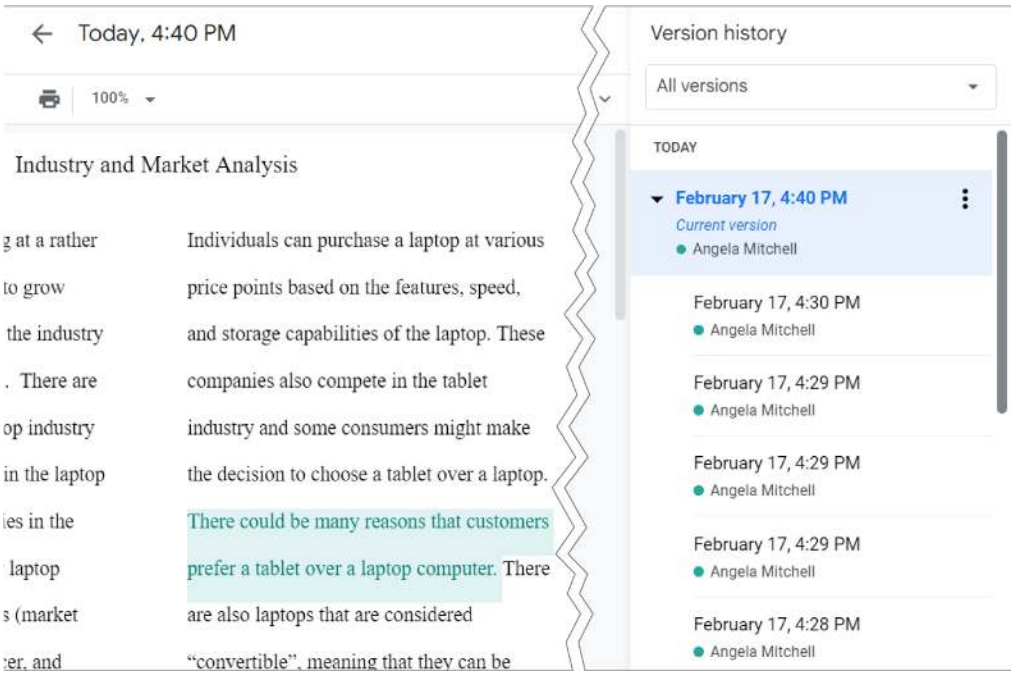


Figure 3.65: (a) You can check the date of the current version and the collaborator who made the edits. The changes are highlighted and show who made them. (b) If you want to find out who made the changes, make sure Show changes option is checked so you can hover the mouse above the text you want to query. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

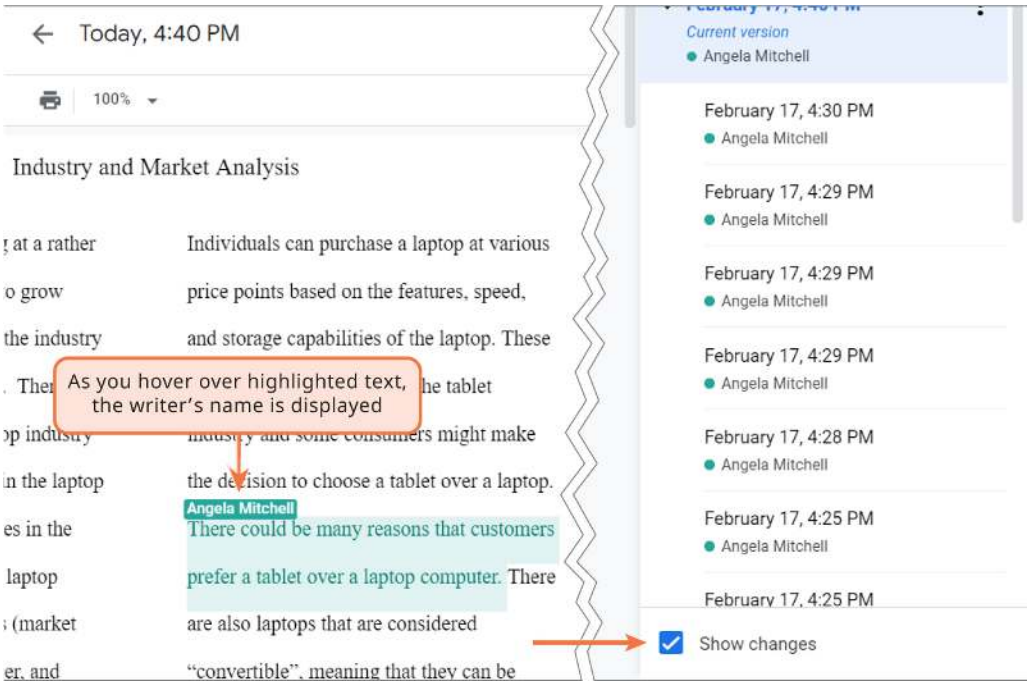


Figure 3.66: If you want to find out who made the changes, make sure Show changes option is checked so you can hover the mouse above the text you want to query. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Naming Versions

In Docs, the versions do not have a name; they simply just show a time stamp. If you like a certain version and want to keep it for future reference, or if you want to save it because it shows the progress of the file, select that particular version and give it a specific name so that it's easy to find. Select the three dots next to the time stamp and a context menu will appear, from which you can choose to Name this version, as shown in Figure 3.67. As you finish typing the name, the time stamp will still appear, yet above it will be the name of that version. This will keep track of the important changes in a collaboration.

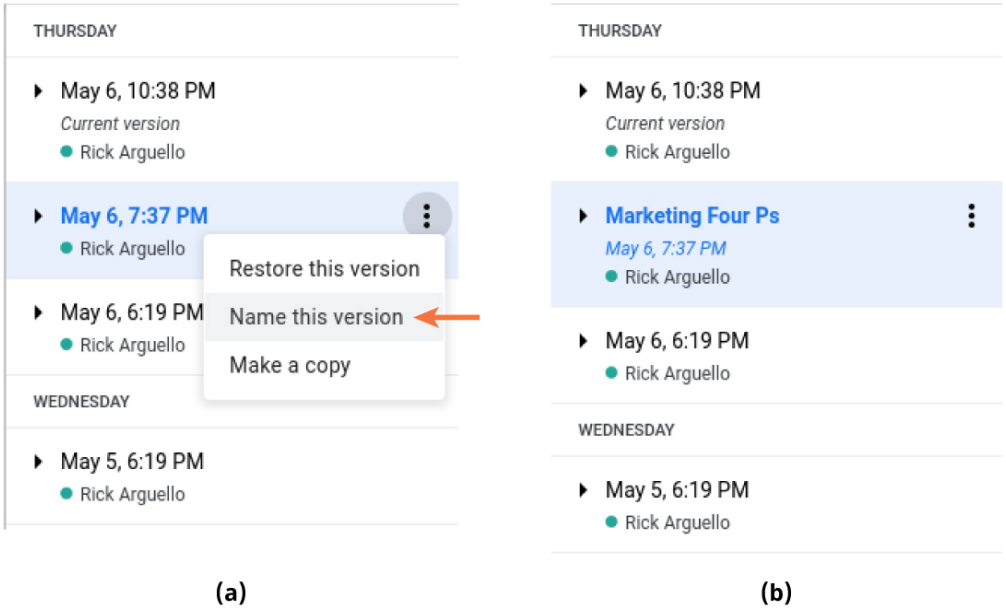


Figure 3.67: (a) Naming the version can be useful, as there are many steps and processes in completing a business report. (b) Here, the business report happens to be on marketing what are known as "the four Ps:" product, price, place, and promotion. You may learn about these in the workplace. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To name the current version, go to the File menu, then Version history, then Name current version. Next, type the name of this version in the dialog box and click Save.

After you finish your document, you might have named some of the versions, and you might just want to see only the named versions on the Version History sidebar. You can toggle the unidentified versions on and off, on the top of the sidebar with the option Only show named versions, as you can see in Figure 3.68.

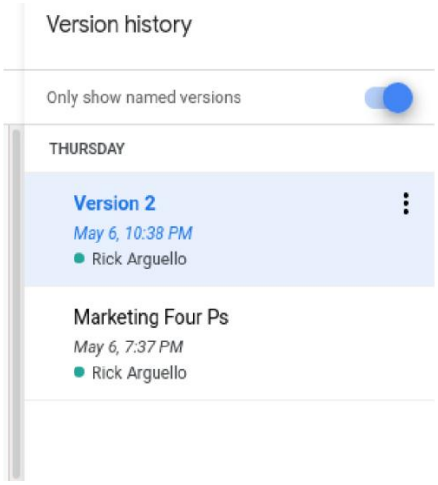


Figure 3.68: The named versions might be the most important or relevant ones. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Making a Copy of a Version

To make a copy of a version, you will also use the context menu for the specific version. The menu has the option to make a copy, in which you can make a new separate file from this document. (It is like Save As in Word, in which you can save a version with a different file name.) If you use the Name this version command, you will not create a separate file; it will still be the same document. However, it may be better in some situations to have separate files with descriptive names to them, as you would with different saved Word versions of a document. Many companies have file naming conventions to help them keep track of versions, such as "project#_document_name, ver#", followed by the initials of the collaborators who made the changes (e.g., "WC05_Market_Trends_Report_ver1_AC").

Having copies of the same file, but as different versions, is an option if you want to download these versions to your business's computer desktop or hard drive, instead of keeping them online. Having a different version can also be useful if you want to send this version to a client or any third party. When a copy is made of any version of a document, it is saved as a new Doc, without the version history attached to it. The comments and suggestions are also not copied.

You might find that at some point, you would like to preserve some content from an older version, but not the whole document. In this case, you can go to the older version and look for the information that you want to keep, then right-click to show the context menu, and select Copy. Then, go to the newest version and place the cursor where you want the recovered paragraphs to be, and right-click to the context menu Paste. This will keep your newest version, while adding the older paragraphs.

In addition to saving a copy by the context menu of the three dots, there are other commands available in the list of versions. Right on top of the window of each version there are two different commands you can choose from, zoom in and print, as shown in Figure 3.69. Some people like to have hard copies of versions of documents for archiving purposes.

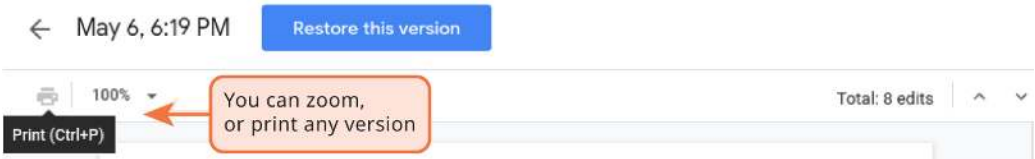


Figure 3.69: When browsing versions, you can always print a version you want save. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Restoring Versions

There may be instances when you want to revert to a previous version of the document. This is called version restore. This could occur for a variety of reasons. For example, you might realize some key information that is now needed was in a previous iteration of the document. Your team could also agree that a previous version might be preferred after additional edits are made. This feature

of versioning in Docs can offer you some assurance that even if a document has gone through several stages, the previous work on the document is not lost and can be accessed through Restore.

On the main window, where the versions are being read, there is a notification on the top right corner displaying the number of edits of that particular session, as Figure 3.70 shows. Next to the number of edits are two arrows; these are toggles for viewing the session changes. The first change of the May 6, 6:19pm session was to change the date of the marketing report.

You can also restore a version without having it on the main window display by selecting the three dots beside the version and selecting Restore this version. The newer version will not be the current version anymore, as the older version now supersedes it.

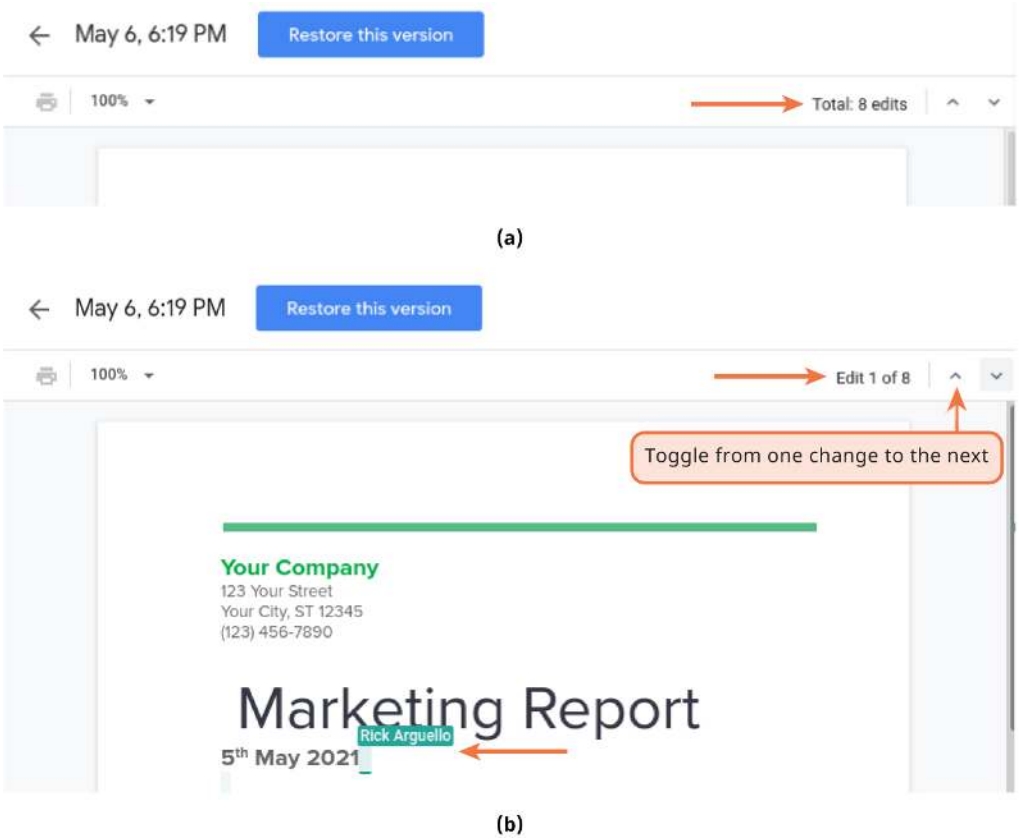


Figure 3.70: (a) Google keeps track of the number of edits in the document, as you can see on the top right. (b) You can use the arrows to move through the edits to determine if you want to keep the changes. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If, after reviewing each change, you decide that one of the older versions is better than the current one, you can select the large Restore this version button at the top of the window (Figure 3.71).

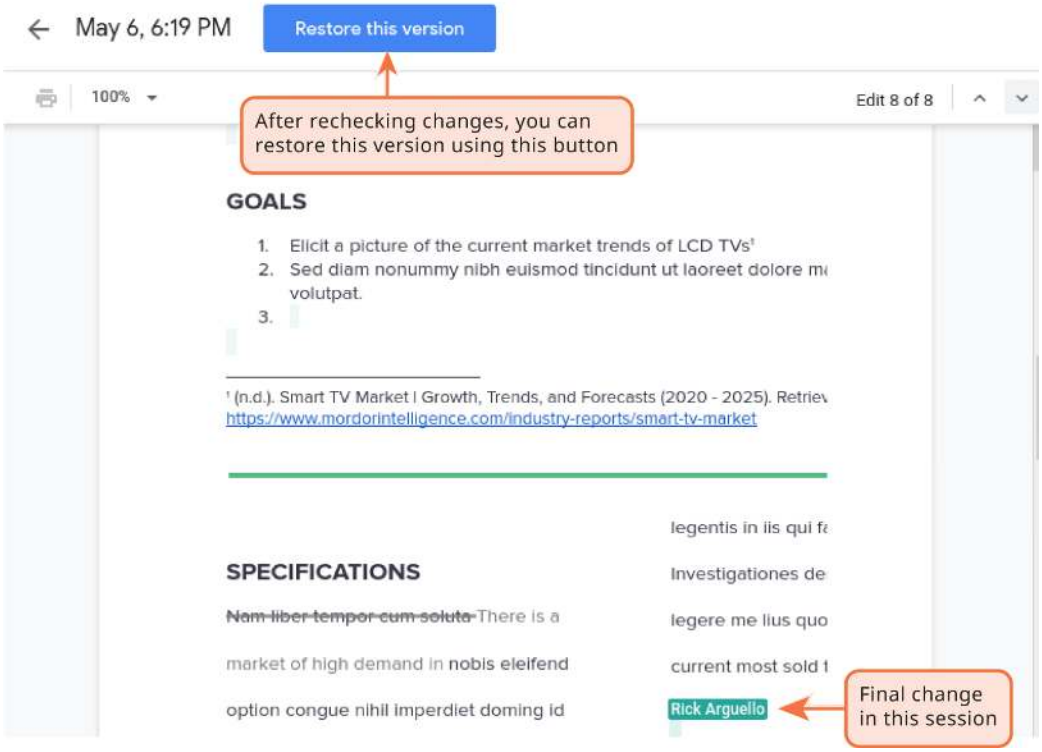


Figure 3.71: Google gives you the option also to restore the document to a previous version. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Keep in mind that the number of versions displayed on the sidebar does not show all the versions available. If you go to the sidebar, you'll see that the time stamps are typically a certain length of time apart, as you can see in Figure 3.72. That means that there are hidden versions from when the editing was taking place. Each version has many changes that were happening seconds or minutes apart. You can access these micro changes in each session by clicking on the triangle on the left of the version.

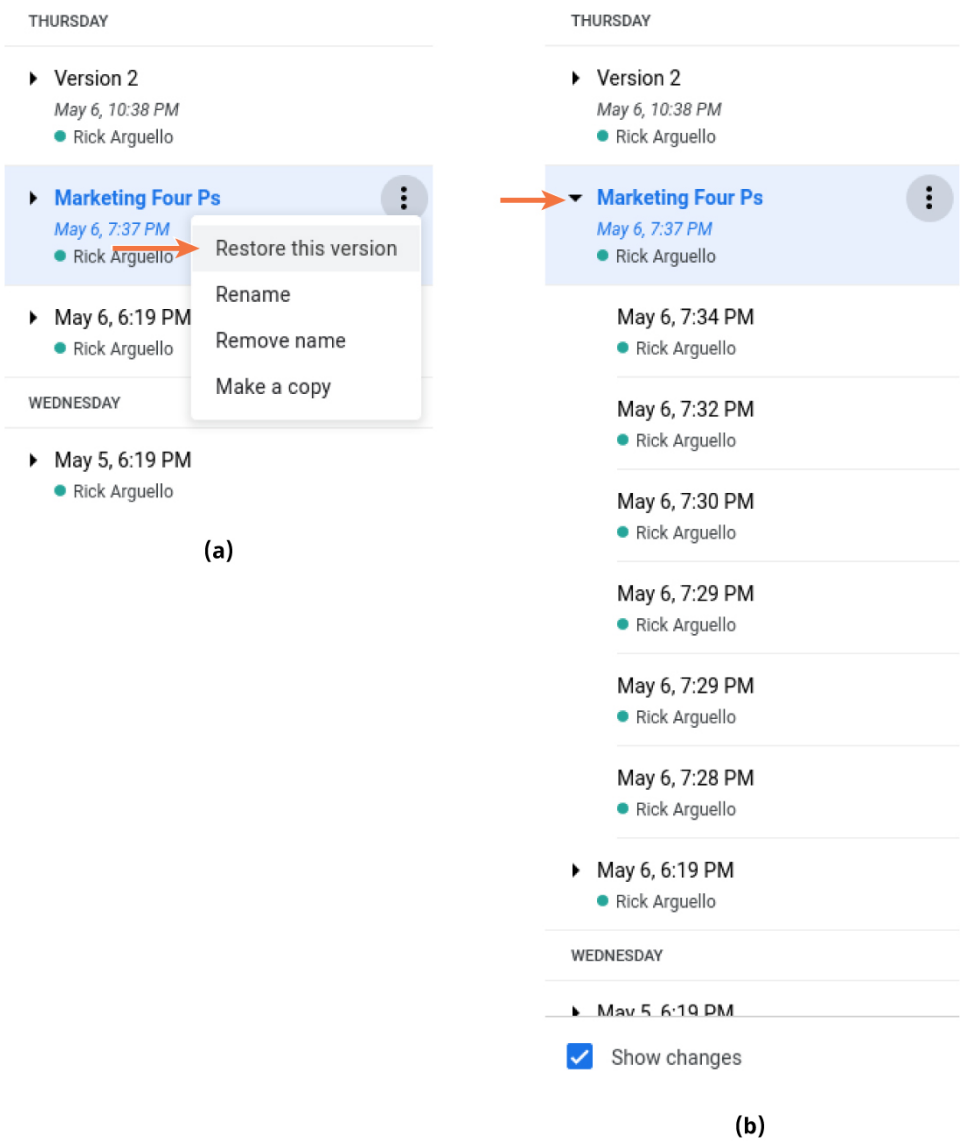


Figure 3.72: (a) The versions are both time and date stamped. (b) You can restore to a particular version, make a copy of the version, or rename the version. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To quickly see new changes in a file, Docs has a See New Changes alert. It appears where the date normally appears, next to the Help menu. If you select that, you'll be able to see the recent changes from other editors—specifically, you will see all the changes that you haven't seen since the last time you opened the file. This functionality is useful for quickly and easily seeing changes from collaborators without having to access the version history.

Versioning in Microsoft Word

Microsoft Office has many options for accessing version histories but can be done only if the file is stored in OneDrive or SharePoint Figure 3.73.

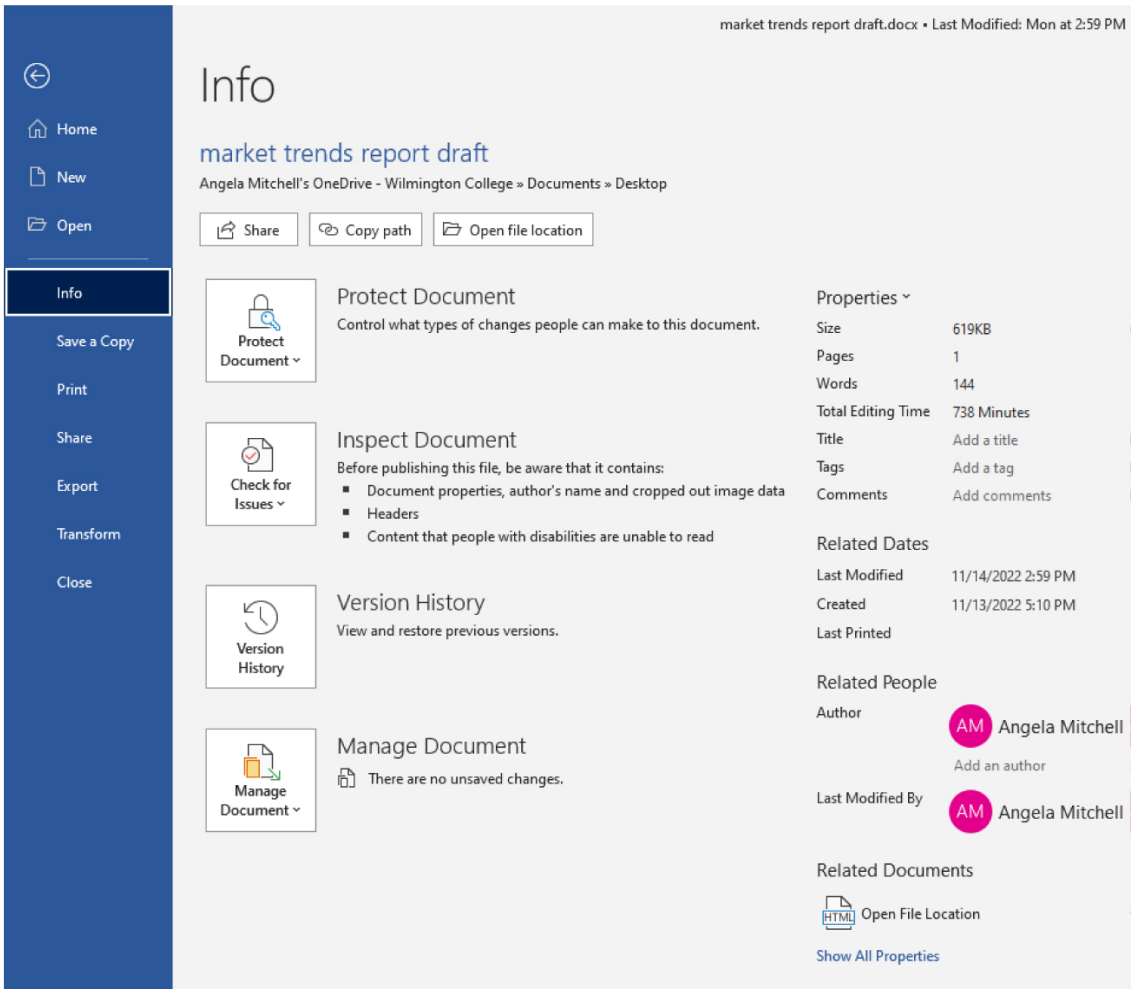


Figure 3.73: The version history in Microsoft Word desktop is activated if the document is located in OneDrive. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If you have a desktop version of Word, you have to sign in to your Microsoft account. You will be able to access the last 25 versions of your file on OneDrive (that is, if your file is stored on OneDrive), as you can see in Figure 3.74.

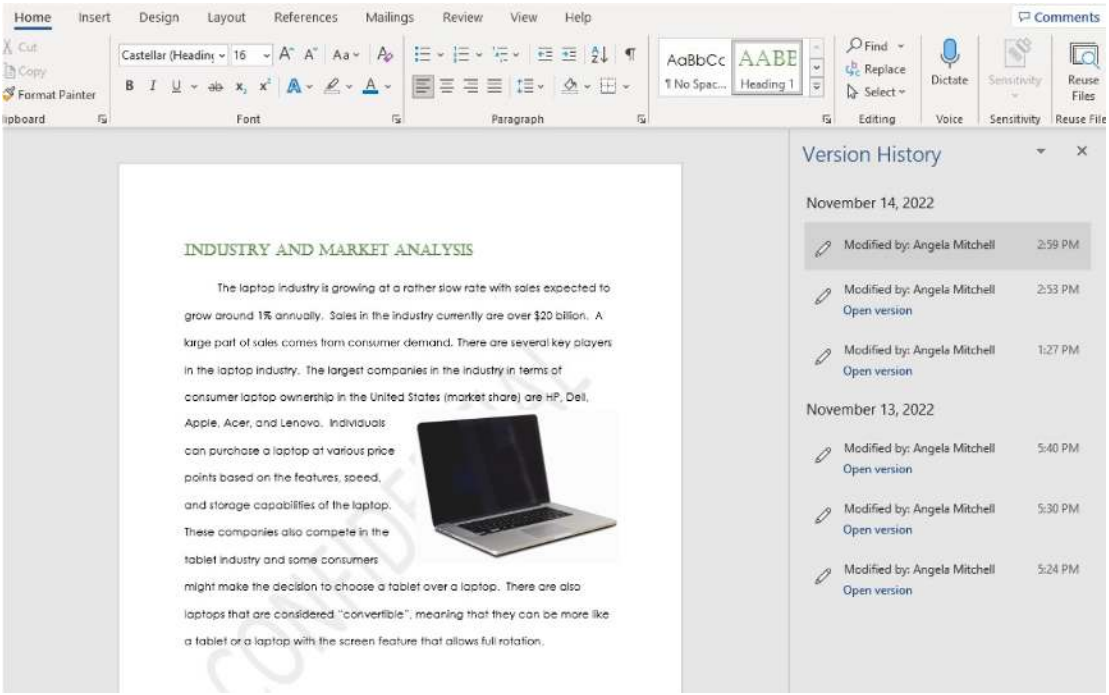
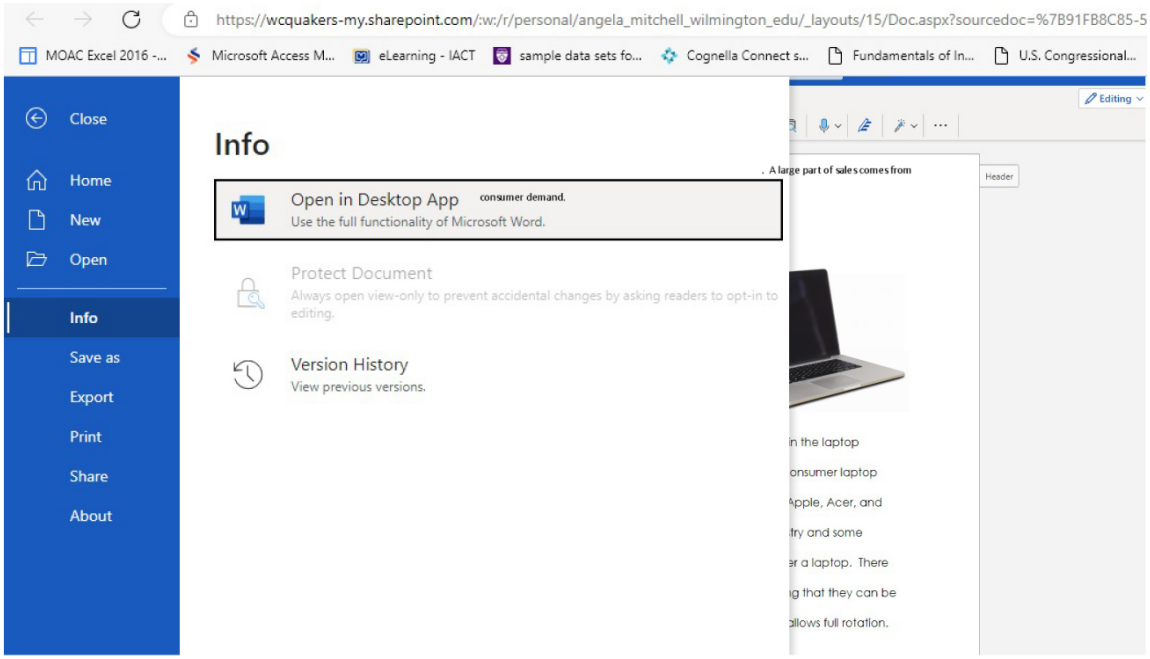
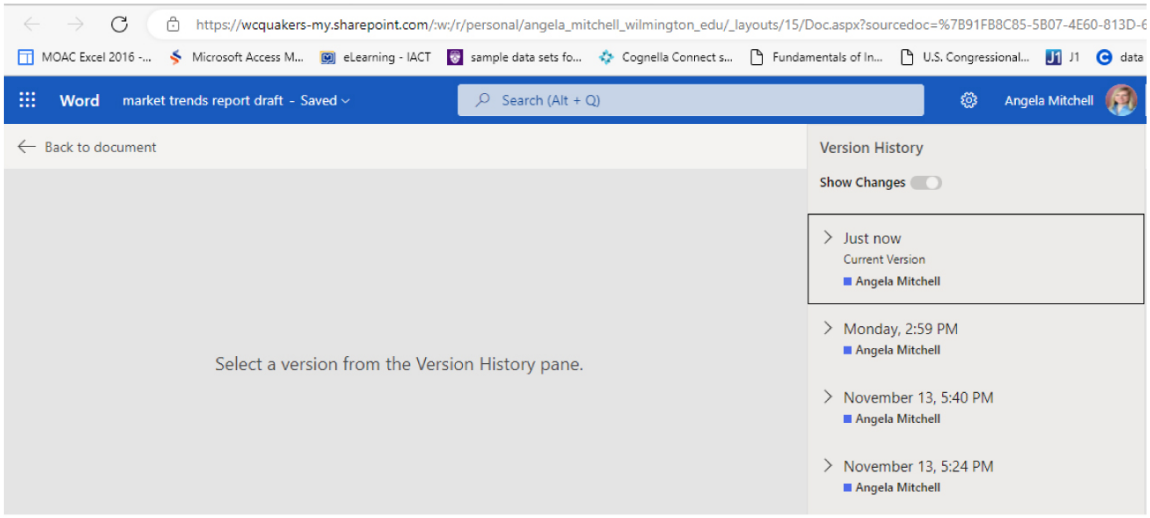


Figure 3.74: When you choose Version History from Info, you will see a pane open on the right side of the document with the versions that are saved. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can access your version histories in Word by going to the File tab and selecting History. If you have a Microsoft 365 Word subscription, you can access the version history by going to the File tab, then Info, followed by Version History. There you can see the versions available and browse through them. You can also choose to restore a previous version, as Figure 3.75 shows. Moreover, if you have SharePoint Server or SharePoint365, the possibilities of versioning are much more powerful, allowing as many as 500 versions to be retained, as you can track a version's history, view multiple earlier iterations, determine who can edit or write on the files, control the number of versions stored, and more.



(a)



(b)

Figure 3.75: (a) Microsoft 365 also has Version History that is also accessed through the File tab. (b) Select a version from the pane on the right to see that version of the document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

SharePoint is more pliable than Google Drive, but it is not free. Unless your company is paying for a corporate license, you would need to pay a fee per month per user for the standard version (Plan 1), and you would need to have the desktop Microsoft 365. The current plans are priced between $5 and $23 per month. Visit the Microsoft page comparing SharePoint plan options for more information.

If you want the Microsoft 365 applications integrated with SharePoint, you should choose Office 365 E3. This article gives you an idea of the additional capabilities SharePoint has and how users can benefit from versioning.

This page titled 3.9: Versions and Version History is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

https://workforce.libretexts.org/@go/page/32709

3.10: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

action bar
toolbar, located beneath the menus, that contains the more frequently used tools in Docs

alignment
justification of text on the left, right, or both when formatting a document

comments
digital margin notes that collaborators can create, reply to, resolve, or delete

Editor
virtual editing tool that reviews several aspects of your document's writing, and can be set for different styles

Explore command
unique feature in the Google suite of programs that uses machine learning to offer suggestions and predict what information you might need as you are creating files

heading
key term or phrase that describes the content in a section of the document; can be used to generate the table of contents

landscape
horizontal orientation of a page so that it is wider than it is tall

line spacing
spacing between lines of text in a document

margin
edges of the document page that are left blank

Navigation pane
Word feature that lets users view documents as thumbnail pages or outlines, or to search for specific text within a document

portrait
vertical orientation of a page so that it is taller than it is wide

proofreading
process of checking a document for spelling and grammar mistakes

sans serif
type of font that does not have short lines at the end of each part of a letter; considered easier to read in large blocks of text

section
partition of a document used to apply different formatting to different sections of text

serif
type of font that has short lines or embellishments on the ends of the parts of each letter

style
tool in Microsoft Office that is used in conjunction with the Themes tool; it lets the user customize a theme's color, font, and font size

Suggesting mode
Google Docs's version of the Track Changes tool in Word; it records the changes made by collaborators on a document

text wrapping
feature in Word that allows the user to insert an image or object, and have the text wrap around it in the way that the user decides

Theme
tool that lets the user change the color scheme of an entire document

Track Changes
feature in Word that records what changes different users make to a document, allowing a group of people to collaborate in writing and editing the same document

version restore
feature in cloud server services like Google Drive and OneDrive that allows the user to restore previous versions of their document

versioning
technology where programs store multiple iterations of files until they are approved and saved

watermark
text or image that is placed on the background of pages

This page titled 3.10: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.11: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

3.1 Navigating Microsoft Word

- Word's functions and features are located in customizable tabs at the top of the user interface. The most frequently used tabs include Home (to set document styles), Insert (to insert graphics or other elements), Layout (to adjust margins and page settings), Review (to use comments and track change), and View (to adjust how you see a document).
- The Navigation pane is a sidebar that allows the users to view the document in various ways. It gives the option to see an outline of the document, see thumbnails of the pages, and lets users find and replace text.

3.2 Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word

- Document formatting includes page setup configurations, such as paper size, page margins, orientation, and the use of columns or sections.
- Section breaks allow different formatting to be applied to different sections of a document.

3.3 Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word

- Options for formatting font types, sizes, and styles are on the Home tab. Using appropriate document formatting helps make business documents more readable.
- The Layout tab is used for modifying paragraph styles in a document.
- Headings are a good tool for organizing your document, can be viewed in the Navigation pane, and can be used to make a table of contents.
- When arranging objects such as images, graphs, charts, or tables around your text, use text wrapping settings that optimize the purpose of the graphic.

3.4 Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Microsoft Word

- The Review tab includes proofing tools like spelling and grammar check, commenting, Track Changes, and document protection.
- The Editor tool conducts deep grammar and style checks on your document.

3.5 Document Design

- Themes are color and design schemes that autoformat document styles. The user can modify the theme to their liking by modifying the styles.
- You can use the Page Background command group tools to make large changes to your whole document, such as changing the background of your page and applying a watermark. These are options are found on the Design tab.

3.6 Navigating Google Docs

- Docs has a menu protocol similar to other word processing applications, including File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, and Tools menus. The commands in each menu have similarities to the ones in Word, but Docs also offers unique features and abilities, such as the Explore command. Docs also features the action bar, which contains some of the more frequently used tools in Docs.
- In order to create a new Doc, you must log in to your account and access Drive.

3.7 Formatting Layout and Content in Google Docs

- All document formatting in Docs is done by using the action bar or the Format menu. The functionality of the formatting tools is similar to Word, although where the formatting tools are located can be a bit different.
- Docs offers section breaks that enable the user to differentiate the formatting from one part of the document to the next.
- Page setup is located in the File menu and is part of document formatting, too. The configuration options are minimalistic in nature, which makes Docs very user-friendly.

3.8 Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs

- The Tools menu in Docs contains many of the same functions and features as the Tools menu in Word. The Suggesting mode in Docs allows for users to work on one document simultaneously.

3.9 Versions and Version History

- Both Docs and Word have versioning capabilities that can save and restore previous versions of your document. Docs frequently autosaves your document, capturing minute-by-minute changes. These versions can be accessed, named, copied, and restored, which gives the user much flexibility when it comes to keeping track of different versions.
- Word versioning only occurs if you keep your document stored on one of its cloud services like OneDrive or SharePoint. It contains many of the same features as Docs versioning.

This page titled 3.11: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.12: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
Which tab in the ribbon is the default tab that displays when you open a document file?

a. the Insert tab
b. the View tab
c. the Layout tab
d. the Home tab

2 .
What is one function of the Navigation pane?

a. It helps the user locate web pages.
b. It helps the user access help files.
c. It helps the user find a specific word or phrase in their document.
d. It helps the user find synonyms.

3 .
What is the purpose of the Page Setup command group?

a. It is used to set page margins and the page size.
b. It is used to wrap text and align text.
c. It is used to insert object and pictures.
d. It is used to insert WordArt or a signature line.

4 .
Where is the command for putting a section break located?

a. on the Layout tab, in the Breaks drop-down menu
b. on the Insert tab, in the Page Break drop-down menu
c. on the Insert tab, in the Text Box drop-down menu
d. on the Layout tab, in the Column drop-down menu

5 .
What is the difference between indenting a paragraph and aligning it?

a. aligning a paragraph will center or position it left or right, whereas increasing the indent will add space in that selection
b. increasing the indent will center and indent left or right, whereas aligning will add a tab space in that selection
c. aligning a paragraph can increase the indent when you place it in the center or left or right
d. indenting a paragraph can increase the alignment when you place it in the center or left or right

6 .
What is the default text wrapping when inserting a picture or an object?

a. behind the text, at the point where the cursor is located
b. in front of the text, at the point where the cursor is located
c. in line with the text, at the point where the cursor is located
d. square around the text

7 .
What can Track Changes do?

a. see who made what changes to a document
b. add comments to changes made
c. search for changes to specific words
d. use Smart Lookup to select text in a document

8 .
Where are the two places the Editor tool is located?

a. on the Insert tab and on the View tab

b. on the Review tab and on the References tab
c. on the Home tab and on the Review tab
d. on the Home tab and on the Design tab

9 .
A _____ is a cohesive set of fonts, colors, and line spacing that can be applied to an entire document.

a. style
b. watermark
c. theme
d. template

10 .
What is the main use of a watermark?

a. to add a text or an image behind the body text of all pages
b. to insert an image on top of the header on all papers
c. to apply different font formatting throughout the document
d. to delete the page background on every page

11 .
Word count is found in which menu in Docs?

a. Edit
b. File
c. Tools
d. Format

12 .
What do you need to do first before creating a new Doc?

a. Create a template.
b. Click the New plus sign.
c. Go to the File menu.
d. Log in to Drive.

13 .
How does the user apply a new font to an entire paragraph in Docs?

a. Select all of the text, then either go to the Format menu or to the action bar to select a font type from the combo box.
b. Place your cursor anywhere in the paragraph and choose the new font from the action bar.
c. Navigate to the Format menu and select a new font.
d. Select the entire paragraph and choose the font type from the Edit menu.

14 .
Where is the option to view section breaks in a Doc?

a. on the action bar
b. in the View menu
c. in the Tools menu
d. in the Format menu

15 .
Page setup is found in the _____ menu.

a. Edit
b. File
c. Tools
d. Format

16 .
What is the main purpose of Suggesting mode?

a. to request comments from your coworkers

b. to collect feedback on your products
c. to gather voice messages in a chat like interface
d. to keep track of added and edited text by different collaborators

17 .
What are the two ways to access version history in Docs?

a. Go to the File menu, or click on the date link right beside the title bar.
b. Go to the action bar and click on the Style combo box or click on the title bar.
c. Go to the Explore icon on the bottom or click on insert equation on the View menu.
d. Go to the Edit menu and click on Select All, or use Ctrl+A.

18 .
What is the purpose of naming versions?

a. to have a record of the important changes in the progression of the document
b. to download the file’s versions in order to have a hard copy on your computer
c. to email each version to collaborators
d. to have track changes recorded so that the team knows about the changes

---

This page titled 3.12: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.13: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

19 .
Go to Papers & reports templates at Office.com. Choose a report template to download for Word by scrolling down through the list near the bottom of the web page. (Note: Do not choose a “premium” report. These require a subscription to access.) Select a report that is more than one page. Open the report template in Word and change the view of the report on the screen using some of the options on the View tab. What are some advantages/disadvantages of each of the view options?
20 .
Go to Papers & reports templates at Office.com and choose the “Student Paper” template for Word by scrolling down through the list near the bottom of the web page. Open the report template in Word and click on the Navigation pane. Examine the result. How could the Navigation pane be useful if you were using this template to prepare a document report for a class?
21 .
Find an online article that interests you. Copy the information into a new Word document. Save the document using a relevant file name. Change the orientation of the document between portrait and landscape. Adjust the margins and line spacing as needed to give the document a professional appearance.
22 .
Go to the website of a magazine of your choosing and copy the text from an article. Select the entire article, including the article’s images. (You can remove any advertisement images after you paste everything into Word.) Paste it all into a Word document. All the images will be pasted along with the text; they will appear in separate lines. Now, follow the steps you learned in this section to position and align the images in a way that looks pleasing and professional.
23 .
Write out the step-by-step procedure for protecting a document that you will share with other collaborators, whom you do not want changing the document formatting.
24 .
Find an article online and copy and paste the information into a Word document. Access the Editor tool and examine the suggested edits. Go through the edits and determine which suggestions you want to keep.
25 .
Find a recent sports news article online. Copy and paste the text into a new Word document. Choose a style and theme. Make some adjustments to the color scheme of your selected theme.
26 .
Copy and paste the text of an email into a Word document and format the email to appear as a WorldCorp memo. Add a watermark to indicate the memo is a confidential draft.
27 .
Using the two approaches outlined in this section, create a new Docs file for the market trends report. Which approach do you think you will use more often and why?
28 .
Create a new Doc using a template of your choice. Go to the appropriate menu and place a drawing in the template.
29 .
Your supervisor has asked you to complete a two-page newsletter in Docs. The canvas will be landscape. The first page will have single-spaced paragraphs in four columns, and the second page will have one column with paragraphs that have two indent spaces from the left. That hollow area will be occupied with an image. How would you accomplish this, given what you have learned in Formatting Layout and Content in Google Docs?
30 .
Find an article on the internet that is at least three pages long. Copy the entire article and past it into a new Doc. Use the skills from this section to reformat the text to a new font type. Insert section breaks as appropriate. Make section headings bold.
31 .
Your supervisor has assigned you to write a set of company guidelines for making reports. You need to include a section on how to collaborate on documents in Docs. List below the essential items to include in this instructional guide for employees.
32 .
Find a news story online from a news outlet of your choice such as NBC, CNN, etc. Then, select one of today’s top stories. Copy the material into a new Doc. Make some formatting changes to the document such as changing the font style or line spacing as you learned in a previous section. Then, examine the version history. Use the version history to look at the changes you made.
33 .
Select a topic and search for it on Wikipedia. Copy the material into a Word document and save the document in SharePoint or OneDrive. Make some changes to the document such as line spacing, formatting fonts, or adding lists. Close the document and

reopen the document. Make additional changes. Using the skills learned in this section, examine the version history. Access the previous version and restore the current document to the previous version.

This page titled 3.13: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.14: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

34 .
Describe how the Navigation pane can be used when working with a long document.
35 .
Where are the two places where you can find the margin commands? Explain the steps for each one.
36 .
Why is readability important for business documents?
37 .
Discuss some accessibility options that you should consider when creating a document.
38 .
Explain the difference between serif and sans serif fonts. Provide an example font of each.
39 .
Why are headings useful?
40 .
What does the Editor tool do that extends beyond a typical spell-check?
41 .
Why might you use both comments and Track Changes in a document?
42 .
What is a theme, and why would you use one?
43 .
Explain what the action bar is and how it can help you when creating a document in Docs.
44 .
Explain the process for creating a new Doc.
45 .
How do you modify document section formatting in Docs?
46 .
Why would you insert different sections in a report?
47 .
Describe how the Explore command might be useful when writing a research paper for a class. Provide an example.
48 .
Why would looking at version history be helpful in developing the final version of documents? Explain, giving at least five reasons.

This page titled 3.14: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

3.15: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

49 .
You have been assigned a semester-long research project covering a topic of your choosing. This topic must be something that directly impacts your college experience. For example, you might choose to research how students purchase books for classes, or student opinions of campus dining facilities. To get started, search for an appropriate business template and create a proposal for your research. Use the template as a guide to lay out the plan for the research project. Keep in mind that you will need to construct a report at the end of the project that includes the following sections: introduction, research question/problem, literature review (background information on the topic), methods used to collect data, results of the research, key recommendations, and conclusion.
50 .
The next step to completing your research project is building the framework for the full document. Start by adjusting the margins of your report template so that the left and right margins are 1” and the top and bottom are 1.25”. Insert the following headings: Introduction, Research Problem/Question, Literature Review, Methods, Results, Recommendations, Conclusion. Now, add section breaks between each heading. Be sure to save the document so that you can build from here.
51 .
Set up your document to track changes, and start to insert comments for yourself on what information you will include in each part of the research report. Also be sure that you have formatted the document to be double-spaced, as is typical line spacing for reports.
52 .
Apply a theme to the research report document you have started. Change the chosen theme’s colors. At this point, you will notice changes in fonts for the most part as the rest of the document has not been added.

This page titled 3.15: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

4: Document Preparation

- 4.0: Chapter Scenario
- 4.1: Microsoft Word- Advanced Formatting Features
- 4.2: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Microsoft Word
- 4.3: Managing Long Documents in Microsoft Word
- 4.4: Google Docs- Enhanced Formatting Features
- 4.5: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Google Docs
- 4.6: Managing Long Documents in Google Docs
- 4.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
- 4.8: Chapter Review - Summary
- 4.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
- 4.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
- 4.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
- 4.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 4: Document Preparation is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.0: Chapter Scenario

Your supervisor has read the first pages of the WorldCorp market trends report, which you have written with the collaboration of your coworkers. Your supervisor adds some edits and comments, and is ready for you to finalize it. This means inserting final art, updating charts and graphs, adding navigational tools such as bookmarks and headings, tidying up the organization and appearance of the document using lists, and formatting the bibliography.



Figure 4.1: Learning how to properly format a document can make your documents look more polished and professional. (credit: "wocubtech (microsoft) - 114" by WOCinTech Chat/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Using the advanced formatting tools in Microsoft Word and Google Docs means understanding these programs and their features in more detail. These tools enable the user to go beyond writing and formatting a basic text document, and will lead to the production of documents and reports that look and feel professional.

This page titled 4.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.1: Microsoft Word- Advanced Formatting Features

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use advanced configuration tools in Word
- Insert and format page numbers in a document
- Insert and format headers and footers in a document
- Insert and format a list

Your supervisor at WorldCorp has asked you to revisit the market trends report that you started in the Creating and Working in Documents chapter. The report needs to have multiple sections that may need different types of formatting based on the content in the section. You may need to update the headers and page numbers, as well as add numbered or bulleted lists to summarize main points. You will also need to insert graphics and charts to enhance the report.

This chapter covers how to take the market trends report to the next level by learning to insert visuals and formatting items, such as a table of contents, as you would expect to see in a professional report. First, you will work on the Industry and Market Analysis section from the previous chapter. Then, you will build content for the other important sections.

To get started, revisit the market trends report you created in the Creating and Working in Documents chapter. Using the skills from that chapter, format the headings for the document as shown below, using a theme you find professionally appealing. Use the following section headings for the document:

- Introduction/Executive Summary
- Industry and Market Analysis
- Competition
- SWOT
- Recommendations/Key Findings
- Summary

You created the Industry and Market Analysis section in the last chapter. You can use that document as the starting point. See Figure 4.2. The chosen theme is “Berlin,” with the colors changed to Blue II, but you can choose a different theme for your document if you prefer.

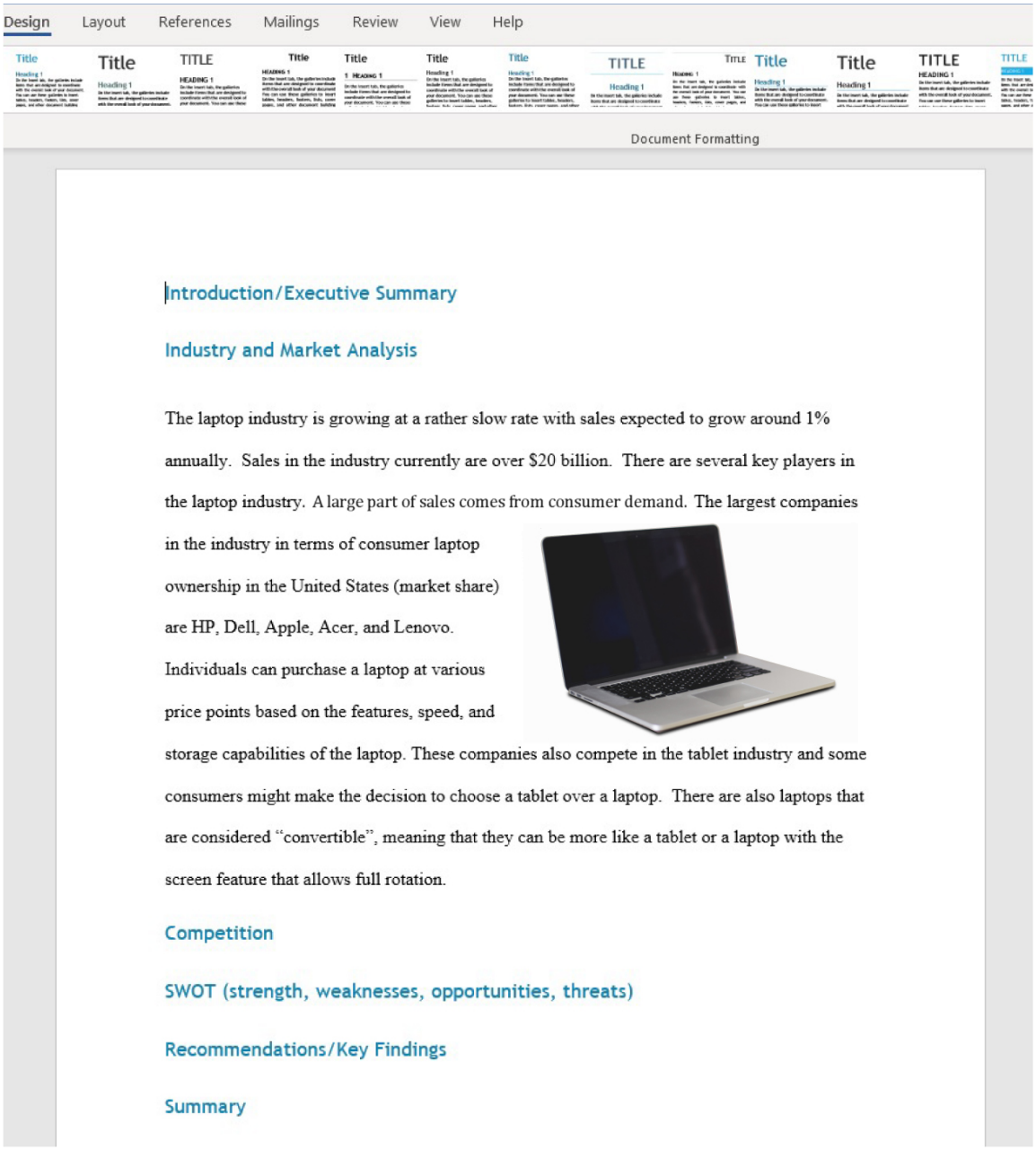


Figure 4.2: The first draft of the report has its major headings, under which you can add body text. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Advanced Configuration

As you learned in the chapter Essentials of Software Applications for Business, the File tab contains the configuration options for Word. As the market trends report evolves, you will be collaborating with others to produce the final report. You want to make sure the document options are set so that you can keep track of the contributors to the document. Recall that you can enter Word's settings by choosing Options from the very bottom of the File menu. The Word Options dialog box shown in Figure 4.3 shows eleven different sets of settings tabs, from General to Trust Center. It is helpful to learn about these settings because the settings in Options allow you to adjust the editing options, save options, and sharing options for the program. The options can be adjusted to your personal preferences as you work through the document on your own and collaborate with others.

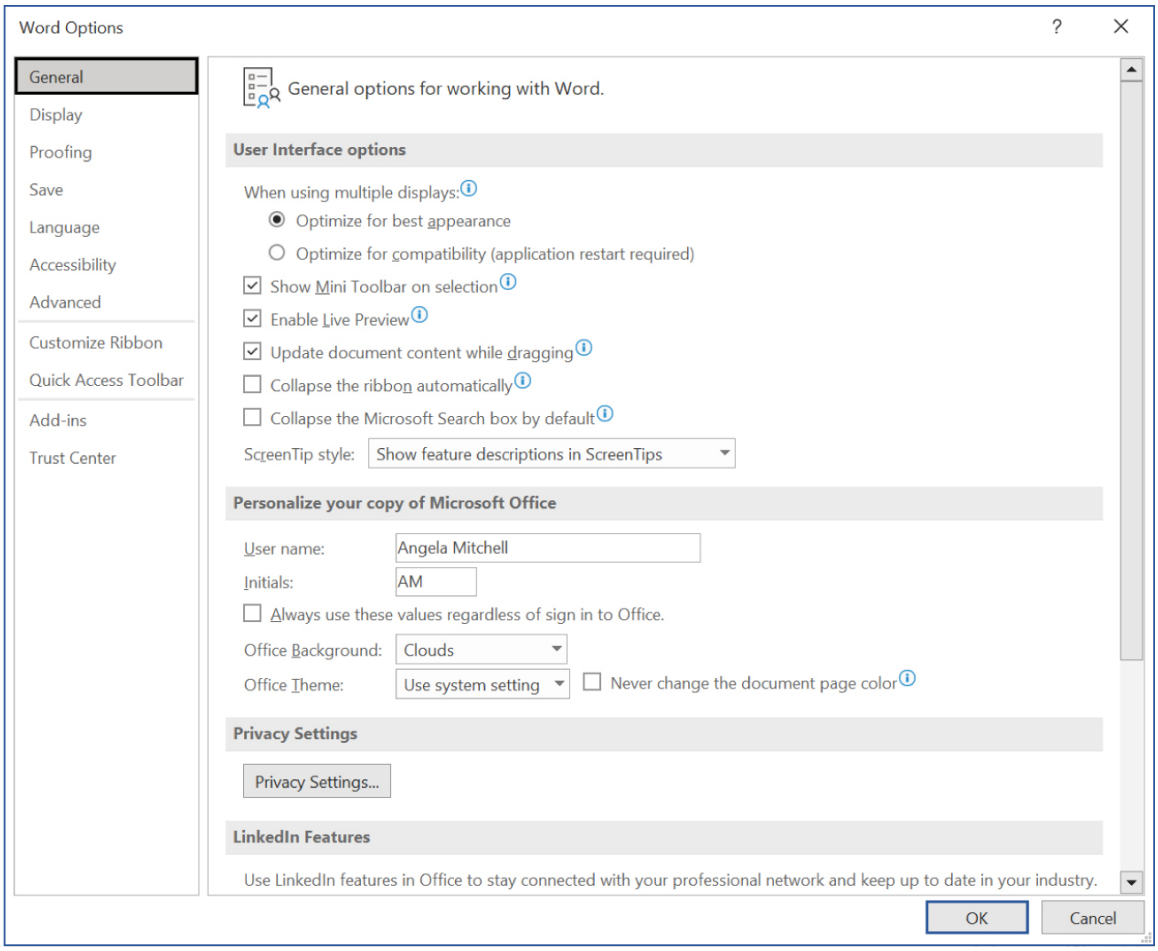


Figure 4.3: The Word Options dialog box offers many different choices for configuring your settings. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

To view the same General options in Word, click the Word tab and choose the Preference tab. That is where you will find many of the options discussed here.

First, the General tab lists information about the user. This will auto-populate based on the software registration and computer settings. You can change the document's username, which means that all of your comments and tracked changes will have your name associated with them. You also have the option of turning on "Real-time collaboration," in which your changes to the document will be broadcast to the document's collaborators. (This feature is similar to Google Docs's concurrent editing notification of documents.) This is available to users who are working on a shared file through Microsoft 365. The document must have already been shared with the collaborators, and they need to have been given permission to edit the document.

The second tab is Display. This tab includes options for adjusting how the text is seen on-screen. One of the more important options is the ability to turn the formatting marks on and off because it enables you to see if you have line breaks or extra spaces, as well as formatting settings in your text. Hidden characters that direct how text is displayed but that don't show when the document prints are called formatting marks. They have their roots in the paper-and-pencil editing process in which editors used standard markings or symbols to indicate different things. For example, the ¶ is used to represent a hard return (i.e., a new line). These formatting marks might be similar to the editing and revision marks that you may have seen when getting a graded paper back in an English class.

The third tab, Proofing, contains powerful tools for reviewing document edits. From this tab, you can turn various autocorrections on or off. Word provides the user with several convenient autocorrections, such as correcting for two capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, capitalizing a sentence that starts with a noncapitalized word, and correcting commonly misspelled words. You can

also access the number of custom dictionaries that you have saved. A custom dictionary is essentially a collection of defined words that you provide to Microsoft. When you are typing in Word and use a word that is not in the default dictionary, you can choose to have the word added to the dictionary in the program. For example, when you type “WorldCorp” in Word, it will be identified as spelled incorrectly (see Figure 4.4). If you right-click on the misspelled word, Word gives you suggestions or you can choose to have the term added to the dictionary. This will create a custom dictionary by default that can be added to each time you choose to Add to Dictionary.

The key benefit to making a custom dictionary is that you can populate it with appropriate words and terminology for documents that you work with frequently. This way, they will not come up as a spelling mistake or a term used incorrectly when using spell check. A word of caution: When you add words to the dictionary, they are added in exactly as you spell them, even if you accidentally misspell them. You should make sure when you are adding words to the dictionary that they are indeed spelled correctly.

To look at the custom dictionaries that are currently saved, click on Custom Dictionaries. You can also review and edit the word list in the dictionaries. This can be useful when you are writing different types of documents. For example, in legal documents, you might use one custom dictionary, and in economics research documents, you might use another.

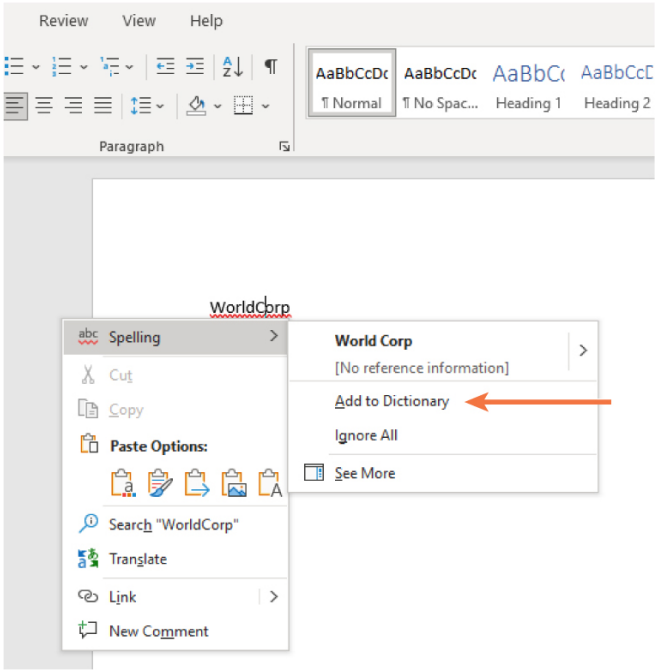


Figure 4.4: Adding words to the custom dictionary can be helpful if you use noncommon words or acronyms regularly. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another important tab is the Advanced tab. This one is the most versatile of the tabs, as it contains options for formatting, autocorrect, cut and paste, sizing of images, document viewing and display, and printing. These settings are considered more advanced because they go beyond basic settings. You might find some helpful settings in Advanced that you did not know you could change that could improve your efficiency with the program. The additional settings are separated into several major groupings:

- Editing
- Cut, Copy, Paste
- Link Handling
- Pen
- Image Size and Quality
- Chart
- Show Document Content
- Display

- Print
- When Printing This Document
- Save
- Preserve Fidelity
- General
- Layout Options
- Compatibility Options

As you can see, the list of settings is quite extensive. Spend a little time browsing through all the items that you can change or add to Word documents. You might also enable some commands or settings to see how they work for you as you construct the market trends report.

There are instances in which you might want easy access to some frequently used tools. You can add those to the Quick Access Toolbar, as the chapter on Essentials of Software Applications for Business discussed. By default, the Quick Access Toolbar is located in the upper left of the Word window above the ribbon, and it has three default commands: Save, Undo, and Redo. By customizing the Quick Access Toolbar, you could easily access heavily used commands, such as Word Count or Insert Comment.

The last tab to discuss is the Trust Center (Figure 4.5).

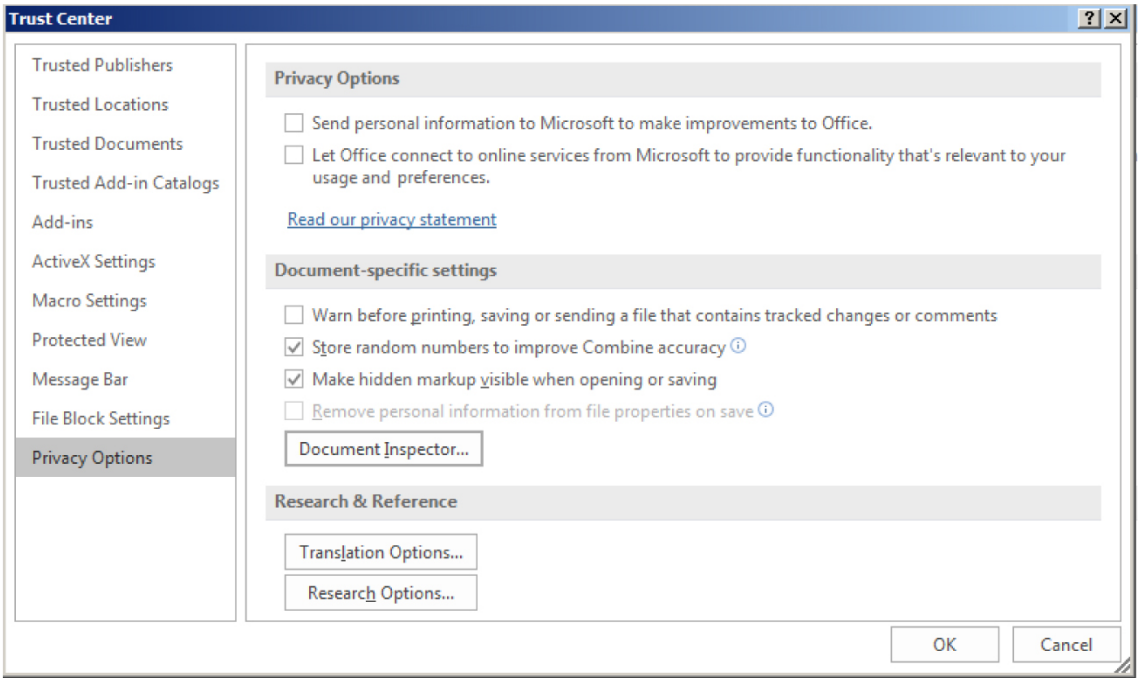


Figure 4.5: The Trust Center shows privacy settings that you can customize in Word. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As you select that tab, you'll see a button that says Trust Center Settings; select that next. Then, you'll see the many tabs of the Trust Center. Under Privacy Options, you will find Document Inspector. If you select Document Inspector, you will be prompted with a list of items the inspector will scan for. Make sure the Document Properties and Personal Information option is selected. Click Inspect and the tool will scan the document for hidden information in the file such as your personal information or comments that are linked to your name. After scanning, a results window will appear often with a warning that all of your personal information will be removed if you continue with this process, as shown in Figure 4.6. Sometimes, for example, you may need to send the document to a third party, and you don't want to send all the versioning of the track changes or comments.

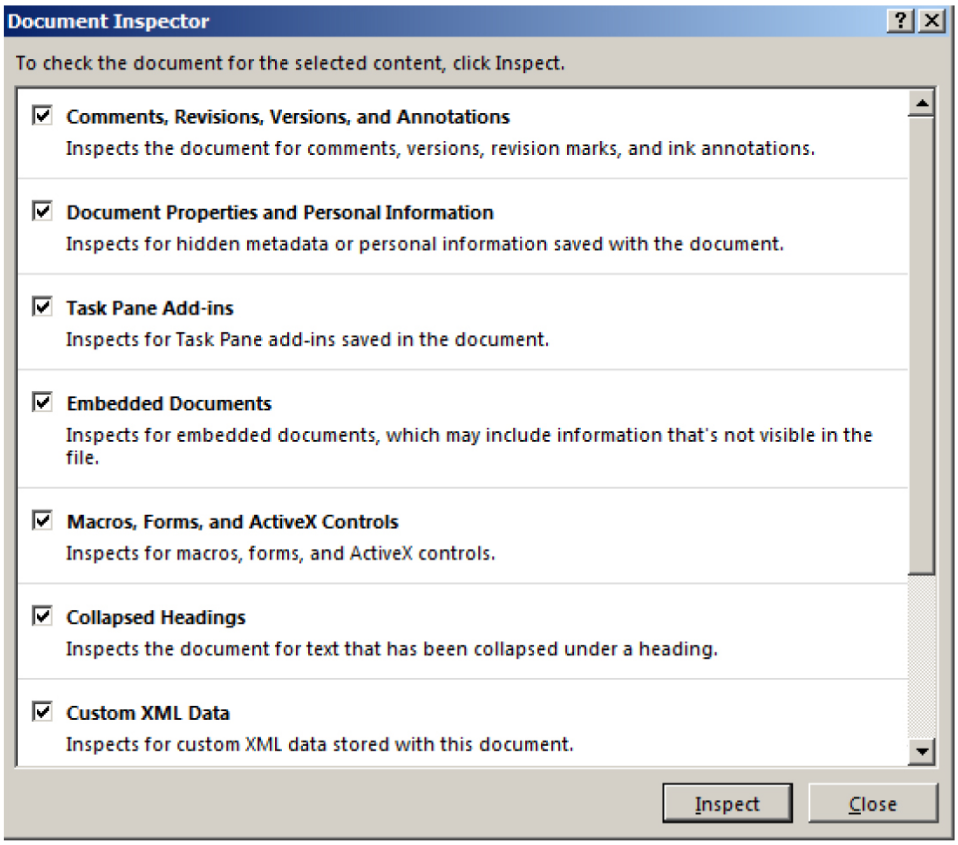


Figure 4.6: Word has many configurable settings that can help the user customize the program and make creating and editing documents as easy as possible. Selecting Document Inspector allows you to remove your personal information from a file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Page Numbers

Most professional documents need page numbers. You will likely see page numbers on business plans, marketing plans, strategic plans, or any kind of business report. The process of adding page numbers to your document so that they automatically update as you build the document is called page numbering. Recall from the Creating and Working in Documents chapter that to insert a page number, you go to the Insert tab, and then find the Page Number drop-down menu. You can choose to place the page number in four different places: top, bottom, margins, or current position. Normally, business reports have the page numbers at the bottom of the page, and you can choose to have your page numbers on the left, center, or right. You can also format the page number field with various fonts and styles, as you can see in Figure 4.7.

Let’s add page numbers to the market trends report. To begin, go to the Insert tab and then go to the Header & Footer command group. Choose the drop-down arrow at Page Number and choose Bottom of Page. For this example, choose Accent Bar 2, which adds the page number on the bottom right of the page with some nice formatting. Notice when you add page numbers, you get a Header & Footer tab that allows you to make additional changes to the page numbers if desired.

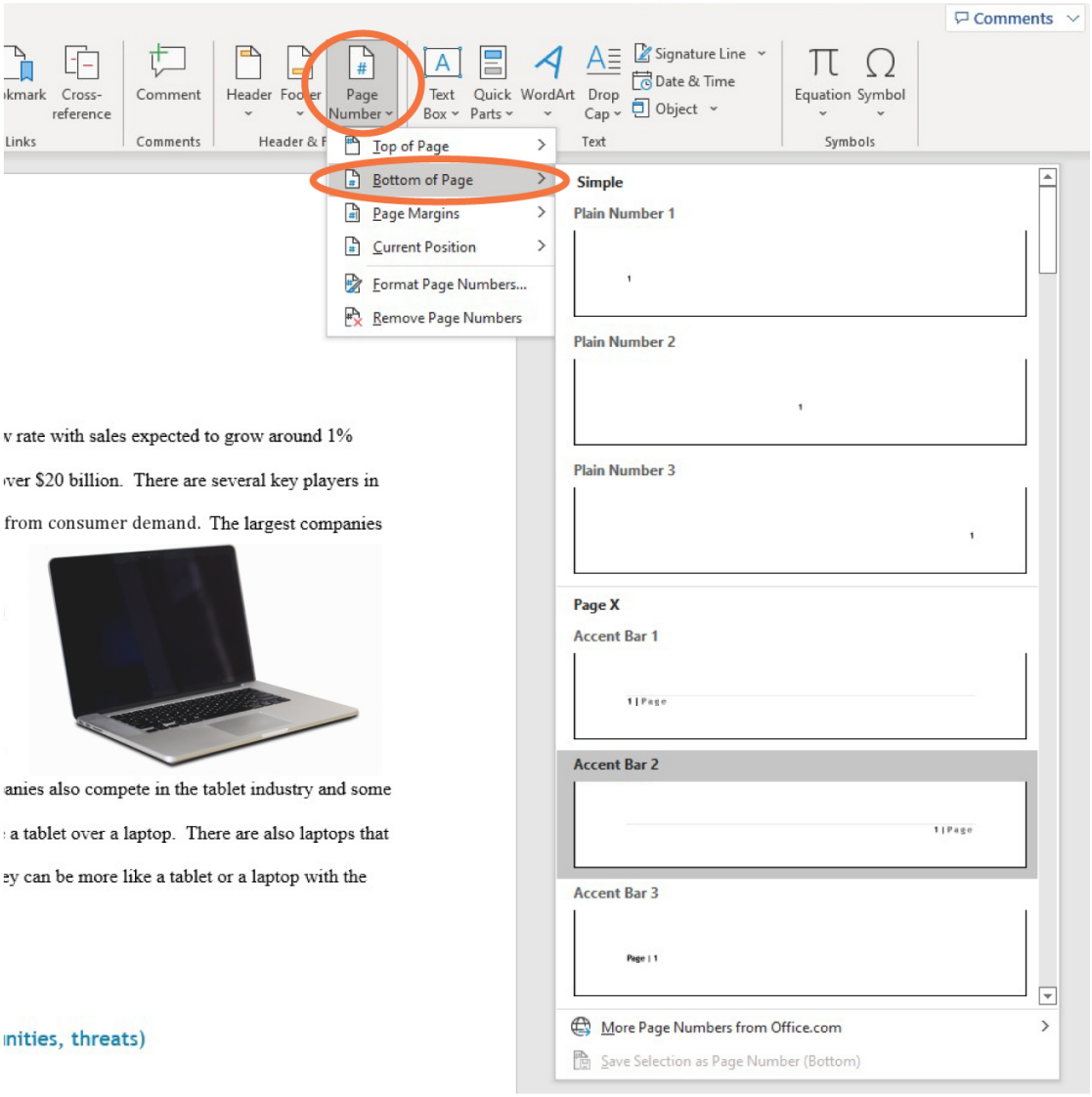


Figure 4.7: The Accent Bar 2 page numbering style automatically chooses a font and style for your page numbers. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can tailor your page numbers to your differing document sections. You can choose to start your numbering in a different place than the beginning of the document, as seen on the Header & Footer tab options. For example, if you have a cover page, you generally do not include a page number on that page. It is also possible to only number the pages in one particular section. You may choose the number format (Roman, alphabetic, or Arabic numerals). You could choose to have the pages numbered per section rather than numbering the document in its entirety starting from one. This is rare, however. You will most likely see a business document numbered from the beginning and continuing on in each section rather than starting over.

Headers and Footers

Have you ever opened a book and seen the title at the top of every page? This area of the page is called the header, in which you can put essential information about the document, such as the name, chapter name, author, and page numbers. The header will appear on every page of your file by default, but you can change this if desired, as will be discussed later in this section. If you glance at the bottom of a page, you may see the text “Page x,”; this is part of the area of the page called the footer. Many documents simply use the footer for page numbers, but you may also add your contact information, the document file name, or the contact information and logo of your company.

For the WorldCorp market trends report, we want a header that indicates the title of the report, along with the year. To insert a header, go to the Insert tab and look for the Header icon drop-down menu. As with page numbers, headers come in a few different

formats. Choose the Banded format, as Figure 4.8 shows.

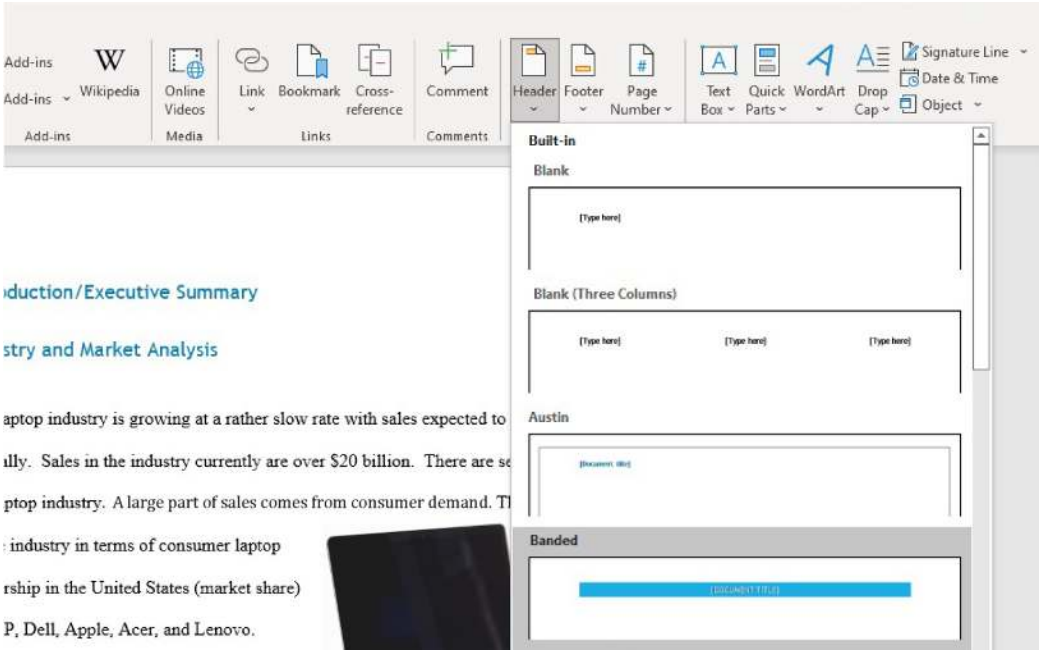


Figure 4.8: Just like the page numbers, the headers can be plain text, or formatted with designs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To insert the desired header information, simply click on the header itself to add the header text. From here, there are additional options to edit the header using the commands in the Header & Footer command group, as shown in Figure 4.9. The Document Info and the Quick Parts commands on the Insert tab can also help you add your document information or company information.

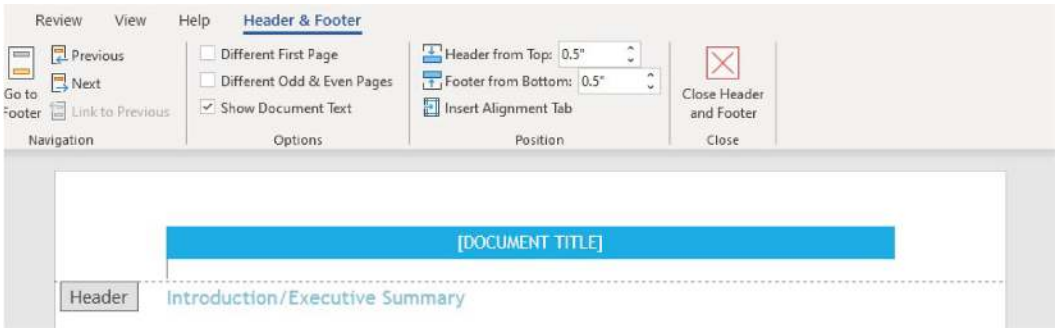


Figure 4.9: When you insert a header, the Header & Footer tab appears, where you can make further adjustments as desired. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In Figure 4.11, you can see all that data available to the header. Select Company Address, for example; note that the information contained in these fields is in the document properties as covered in Essentials of Software Applications for Business. If these fields have not been filled out in document properties, the tool will simply insert “Company Address” into the header. You will have to enter the required information there.

The header is fully viewable by default, but sometimes you may want to hide it when writing the document, rather than seeing the white space dedicated to the header. To toggle off the header, go to the View tab, and select either Read Mode, Web Layout, Outline, or Draft. The only view mode in which the header can be seen is Print Layout.

Some business reports do not have a header on all pages or have different headers on odd versus even pages; this is called an alternating header. For example, you might want to include the report title on the even pages and the section title on the odd pages. To accomplish this effect in your document, just click on Different Odd & Even Pages. This way, one page will not have the header, and one page will.

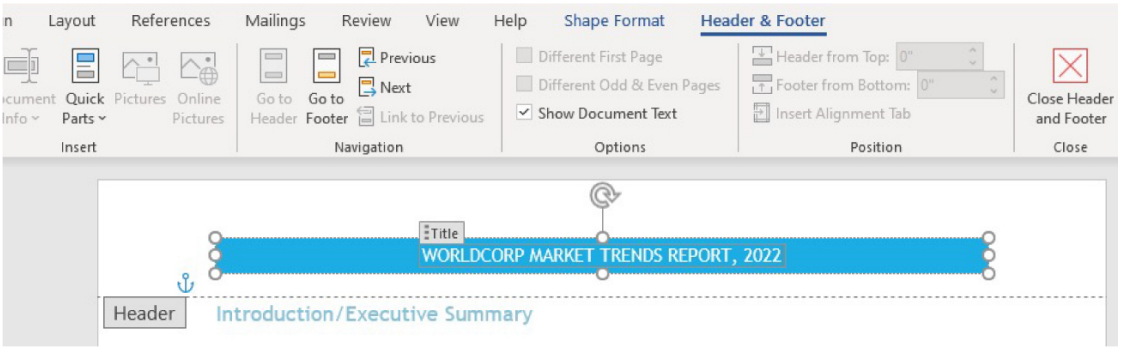


Figure 4.10: You can type directly into the header area, just as you would in the main page area. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

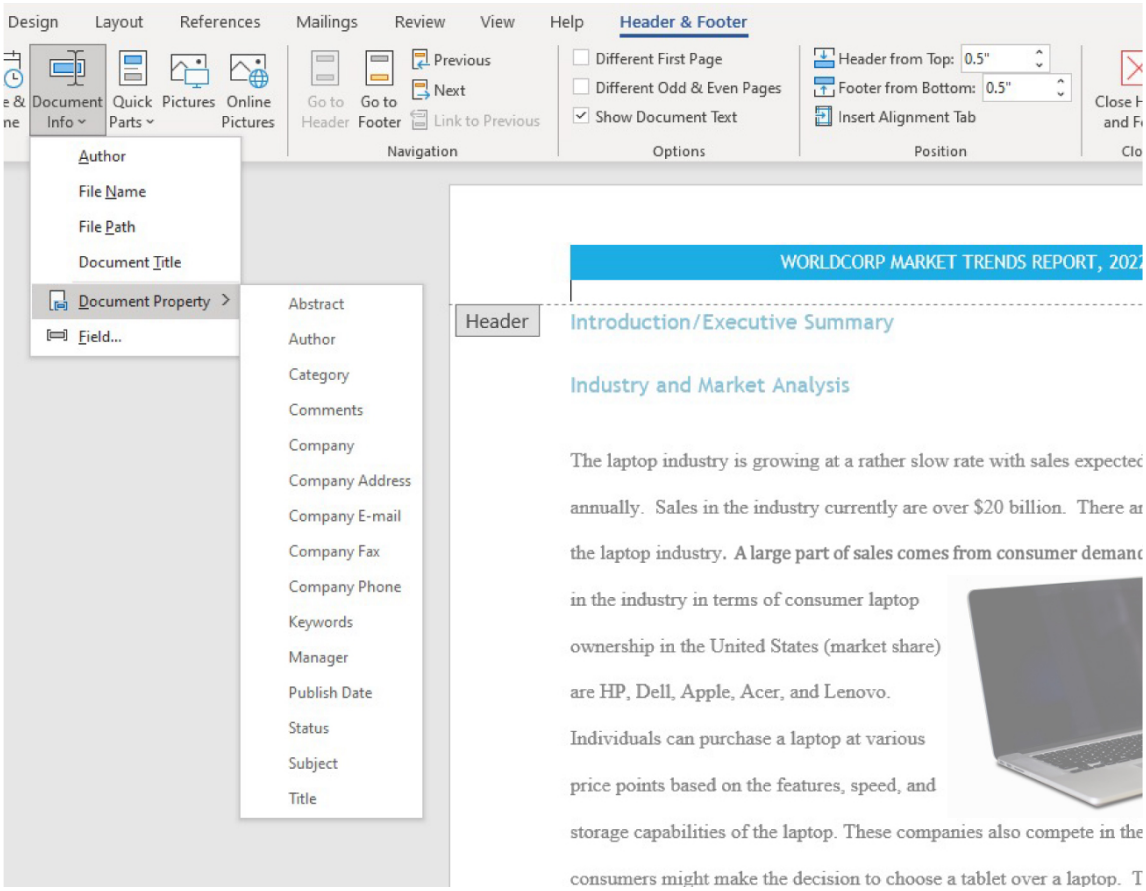


Figure 4.11: You can set up the document to include useful, company-specific properties that can quickly be added to the header. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The steps to insert a footer are exactly the same as inserting a header: Select the drop-down menu Footer. The header, footer, and page numbers should have similar designs so that your document has a cohesive feel.

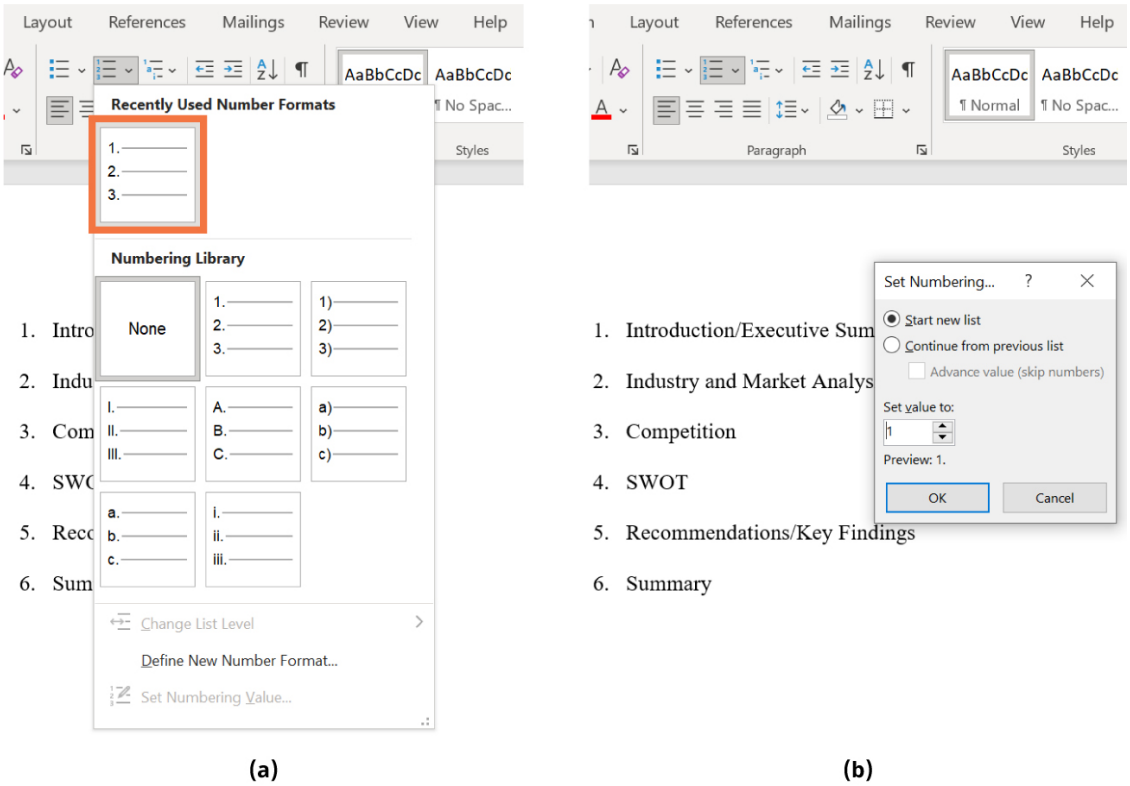
Lists

As you are crafting documents, you may find that some information is better suited to a list, rather than a paragraph of text. You learned about lists in the chapter on Creating and Working in Documents, but here you will go into more depth. Lists are useful for summarizing a long topic. The market trends report will certainly include lists, such as a list of competitors, major markets, and major product lines. Pulling information into a list can bring it to the reader's attention and help the flow of the document by preventing it from getting bogged down in page after page of paragraphs. You can choose to put text into a list after typing into the document or you can select your list type before beginning to compose the text.

There are four types of lists in Word: bulleted, numbered, lettered, and multilevel. A multilevel list has two or more different levels, and often combines different types of lists, such as numbers and letters, or bullets and Roman numerals. Different types of lists are appropriate for different purposes. For example, numbered lists are useful for indicating a sequence or order, while bulleted lists can be good for summarizing. Any type of list—numbered, lettered, or bulleted—can be made into a multilevel list.

Numbered and Lettered Lists

To create a numbered or lettered list from text already in the document, select the lines of text you want to create a list from and choose the Numbering drop-drown menu from the Home tab. In Figure 4.12, you can see the list format we chose: a number with a period after it. You can further customize your list by choosing a different starting number or letter, or by continuing your list from a previous page or list. This can be useful if, for example, you start a numbered list on one page, have a paragraph or two of text, then want to continue with the same numbering sequence. Select the entire list, go to the Numbering drop-drown menu, and select Set Numbering Value.



(a) **(b)**

Figure 4.12: (a) Both numbered lists and lettered lists are available in the same drop-down menu. (b) You can choose to start your list at any number, or continue from a previous list. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can also change the indentation in the list. Select the entire list and go to the Layout tab. In the Paragraph command group, you will see fields for typing in custom indents. In the Left box, type in your desired indent amount; 0.5 inches is a standard amount.

Bulleted Lists

Creating a bulleted list is a similar process. But unlike a numbered list, a bulleted list does not create a hierarchy. Instead of selecting the Numbering drop-down list, choose the Bullet drop-down list, and select the type of bullet you want to use for your list, as shown in Figure 4.13. You can either create your bulleted list from regular body text, or you can convert an existing numbered or lettered list to a bulleted list. To change from numbered to bulleted format, just reselect the list and go back to the Bullet drop-down menu and select the new format.

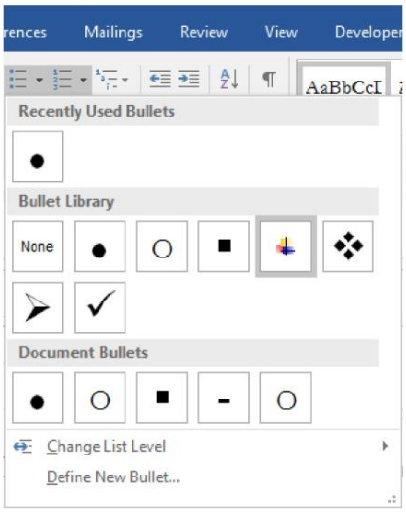


Figure 4.13: Different bullet designs may indicate different things. A checkmark list, for example, might be useful for a to-do list. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Multilevel Lists

Suppose you need to make an outline of the market trends report using the headings for the sections of the report. Because the report is so long and detailed, it is too complex for a simple numbered or bulleted list; you will need to use a multilevel list. A multilevel list will help indicate different levels of importance and hierarchies within the report. Type the list of headings below into a blank document to start the outline for the market trends report.

Introduction/Executive Summary

Industry and Market Analysis

Industry Type

Industry Category

Industry Characteristics

Trends

Stability

Market Segmentation

Total Available Market

Target Market

Market Segments

Competition

Direct Competitors

Uniqueness

SWOT

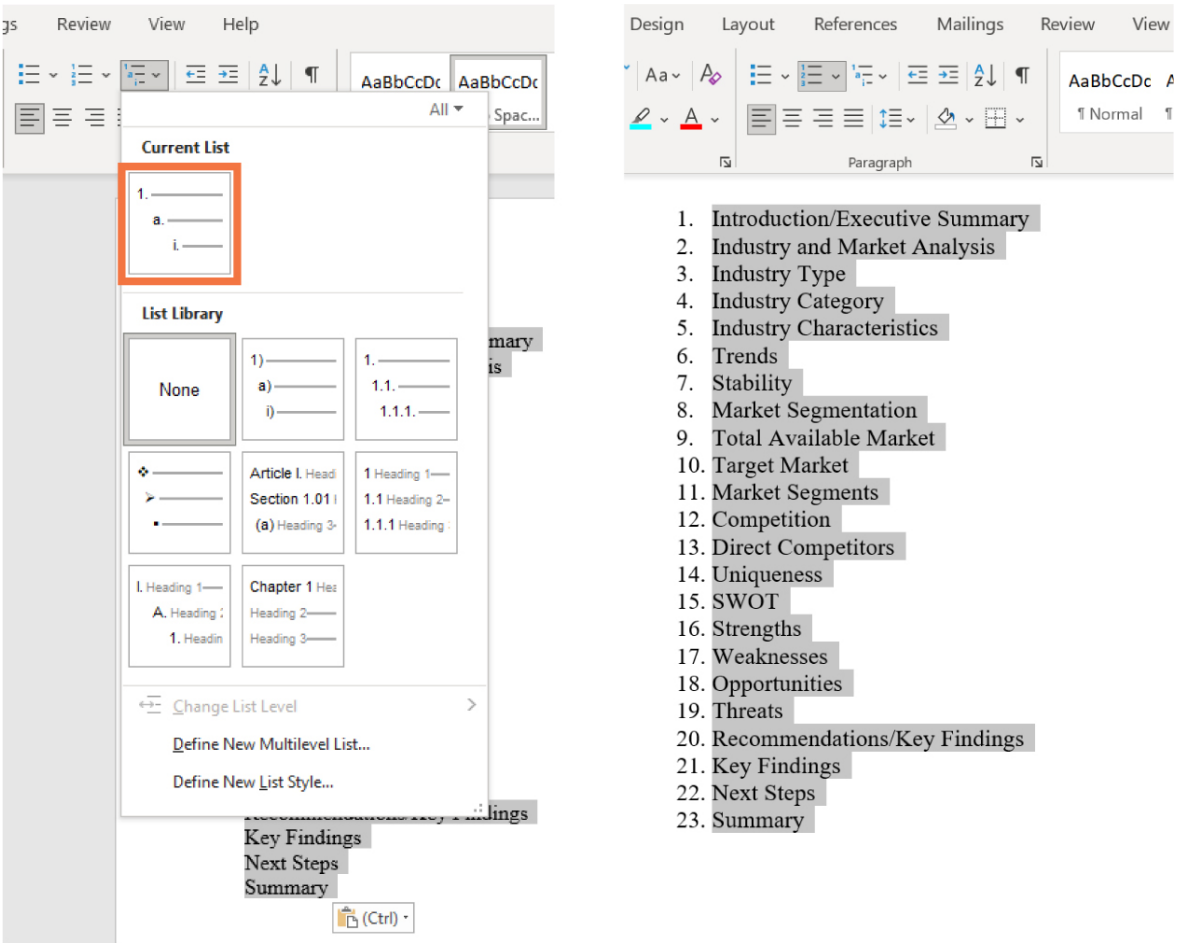
Strengths

Weaknesses

> *Opportunities*
>
> *Threats*
>
> *Recommendations/Key Findings*
>
> *Key Findings*
>
> *Next Steps*
>
> *Summary*

As they are listed now, there is no indication of what headings go with other headings. It is just a list of words and phrases.

To make this list of headings a multilevel list, first select the whole list with your cursor. Then, choose the Multilevel List drop-down menu from the Paragraph command group on the Home tab. Choose the Current List from the menu. But as you can see in Figure 4.14, you have other options for formatting your multilevel list. You can also define a new list style if you do not want to use any of the available options by choosing Define New List Style. Your list should now be numbered chronologically. You won't see any changes right away, but when you add indents, the different levels in the list will appear.



(a) **(b)**

Figure 4.14: (a) Some of the multilevel list formats include text and symbols. (b) The multilevel lists will appear to be a typical, one-level numbered list until you indent the subheadings. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You add the indents with the Tab key on your keyboard. You can also add indentations using the Increase Indent tool on the Home tab in the Paragraph command group. Place your cursor at the start of a sentence in the list and press the Tab key or click the Increase Indent button, as shown in Figure 4.15. You can see that once you add the indent, the type of list changes. There are

numbers at the top level, lowercase letters at the middle level, and Roman numerals at the third level. You can change the format of your multilevel list by selecting your list and going back to the Multilevel List drop-down menu. This process can be done with lettered or bulleted lists, too.

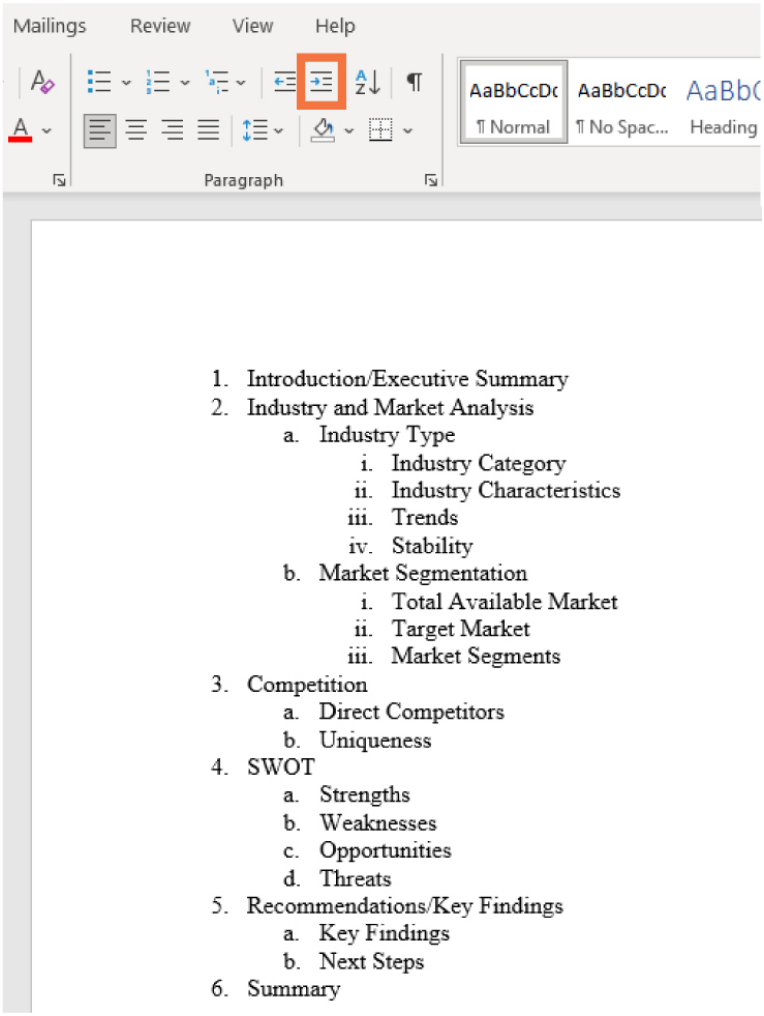


Figure 4.15: More levels can be added to any level of the list by increasing the indent. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As a final activity for this section, let's add these new subheadings to the market trends report (because it is easier to insert them at the beginning rather than going back later when creating a table of contents). Insert the additional headings not in your current draft into the market trends report. Format the headings as Heading 3 and Heading 4, as you learned in Creating and Working in Documents, based on the outline just created. For example, Industry and Market Analysis is Heading 2, Industry Type would be Heading 3, and Industry Category would be Heading 4. This will help as we build out the rest of the document toward a final draft (Figure 4.16).

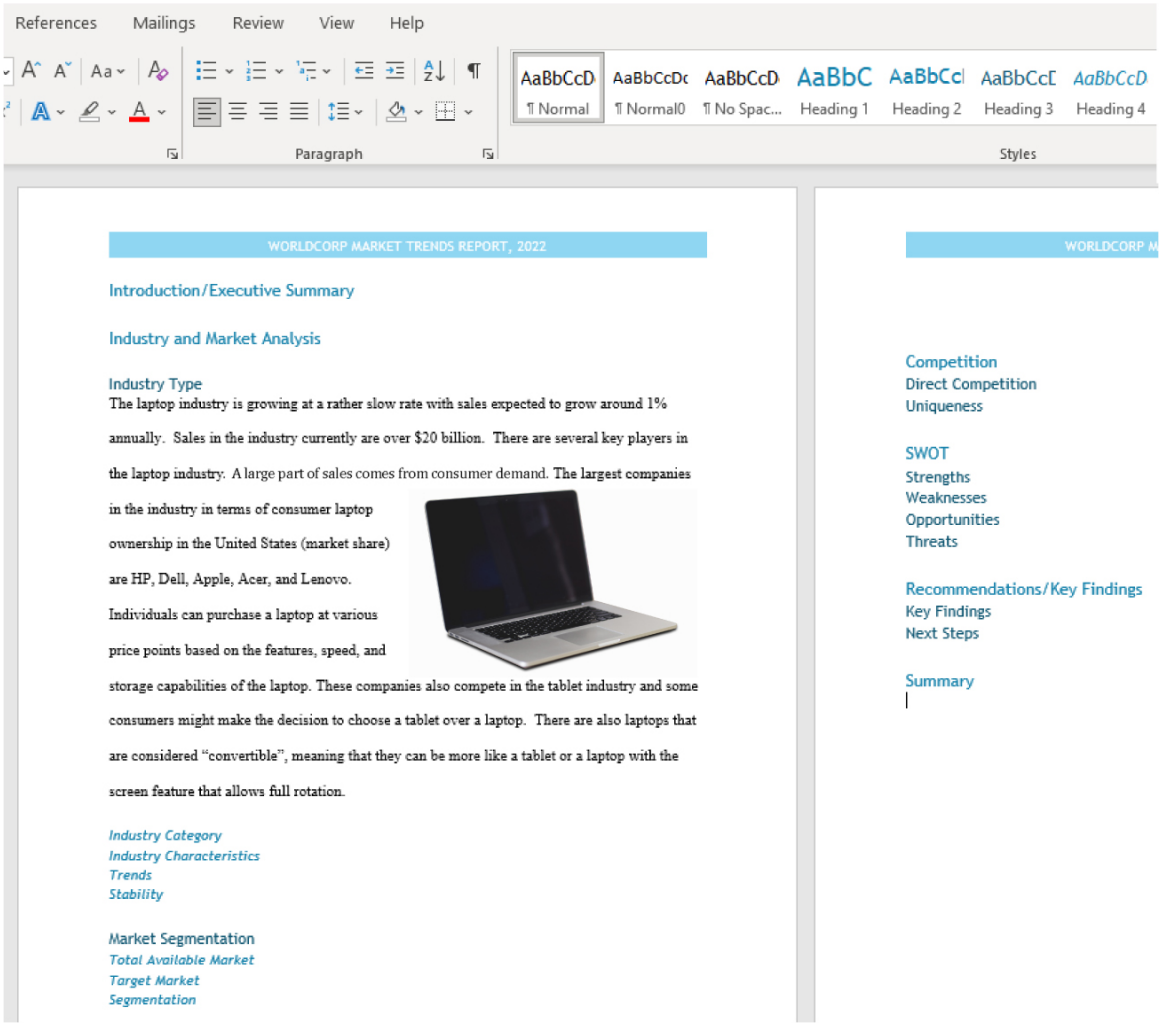


Figure 4.16: Notice the various levels of headings have a slightly different font color and style. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

As you continue to become familiar with Word and grow more comfortable with its different tools and buttons, you will want to hone your own lifelong learning skills. This textbook covers a great deal of all that is available in Word; however, programs are always changing and being upgraded. Microsoft offers excellent support and tutorials about its various products, and these support pages are invaluable in keeping current with not only Word, but all Microsoft products. Visit Microsoft's support page on the Advanced tab to learn more and become familiar with Microsoft support pages.

This page titled 4.1: Microsoft Word- Advanced Formatting Features is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.2: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Insert and modify a table
- Use tools in the Illustrations command group to enhance documents' visual appeal
- Use the Text command group to enhance and format documents
- Use the Symbols command group to insert special characters and equations

The WorldCorp market trends report will include more than just text. It will incorporate graphics and images to visually convey the information in the report. Some of these graphics are needed to show the relationship between product lines and distribution centers. Other graphics are used to visually summarize information. In this section, you will learn about the tools for creating engaging, professional graphics within Word.

Tables

Tables are a critical feature of many business documents. They are typically the most popular way of presenting results and/or data. They are particularly useful for presenting simple data with only one or two variables. You can easily glance at a table to see, for example, how many sales were made in a given month by a given group of salespeople. In other words, tables are a good way of presenting a limited amount of information in an easy-to-read format. Keep in mind that they are not best suited for complex data or information sets with multiple variables, as the tables can quickly become overloaded with information and hard to read.

You need to create a table to summarize WorldCorp sales information for the market trends report. The following columns will be needed: Product, Quantity, Price, Revenue. This information will be arranged in four rows to represent the four different product lines. (Remember that rows are represented horizontally from left to right, and columns vertically from top to bottom.) To insert a table, go to the Table drop-down menu on the Insert tab and select the number of rows and columns you want for the table by hovering over the squares (see Figure 4.17). For this example, you need four columns and five rows (the products plus the column heading row). You can add more rows or columns after the table is created if needed.

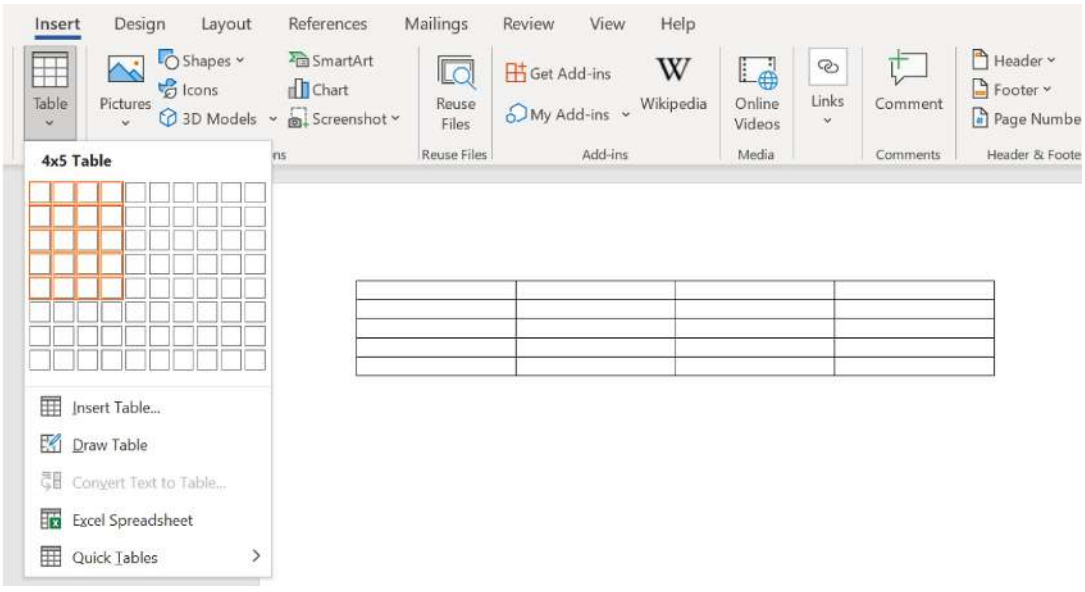


Figure 4.17: The Table tool provides an easy-to-use visual guide for creating tables. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you insert the table, the ribbon changes, giving you two additional tabs for changing the formatting and layout of the table. In Figure 4.18 you can see two new tabs: Table Design and Layout tab. These tabs open automatically when a table is inserted into the document. You can modify the table as a whole by selecting one of the Table Styles in the new Design tab. Select the whole

table, then Table Styles, and then choose style; we have chosen one with alternating white and blue rows. You can now add the desired text to the table with the new table style.

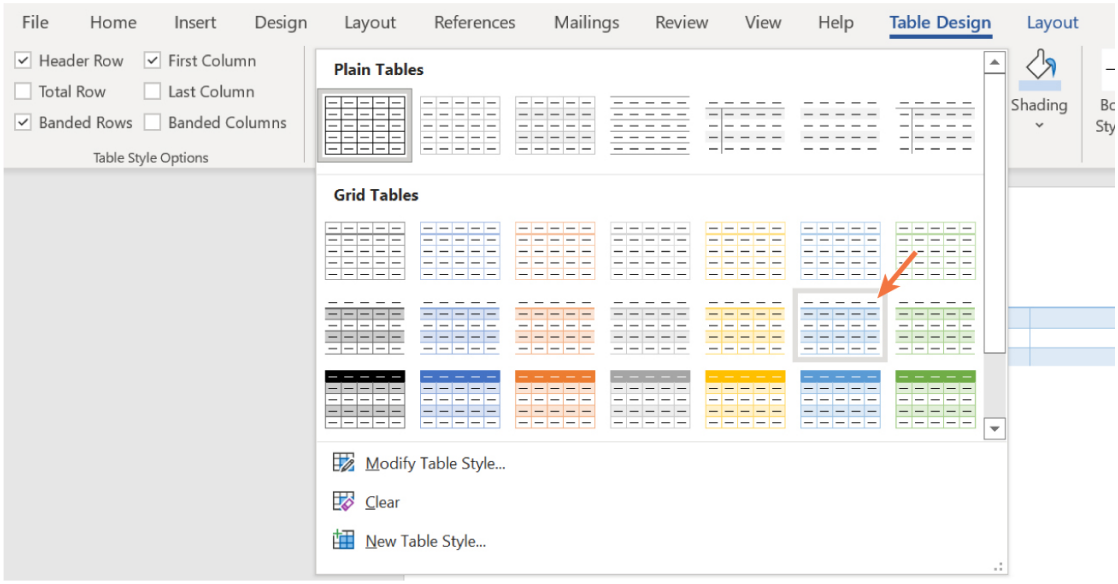


Figure 4.18: With the built-in styles, you can customize the table for a more visually appealing look. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To add new rows or columns to your table, go to the other new tab, Layout. There are options for adding rows and columns above and below, or to the right and left, of the one you currently have your cursor on. This makes it easy to expand your table as you add more information. Select the area in the table you want to expand such as the column or row. Then, choose the applicable tool from the Layout menu. In this example, we chose Insert Below and Insert Right. In Figure 4.19, you can see an added row to the bottom of the table, and a new column named YoY Same Month. ("YoY" stands for "Year over Year.")

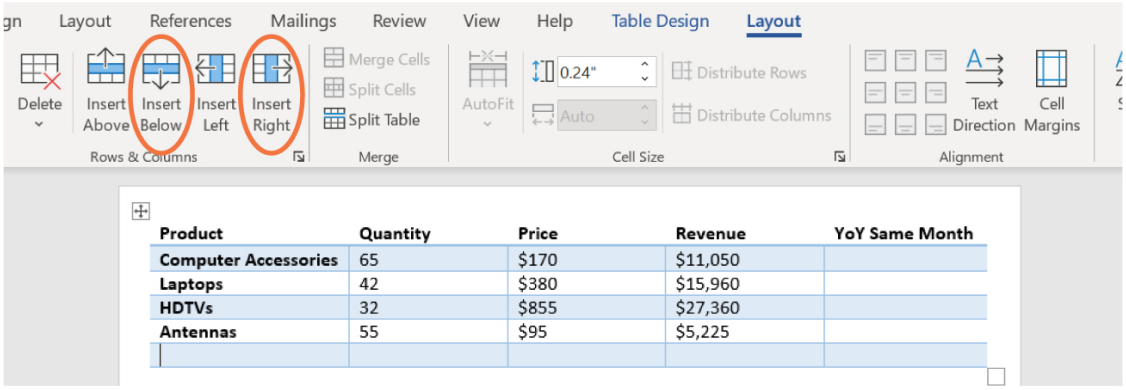


Figure 4.19: The Layout tab tools are used to make physical adjustments to the table, such as inserting or deleting rows or columns. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Illustrations Command Group

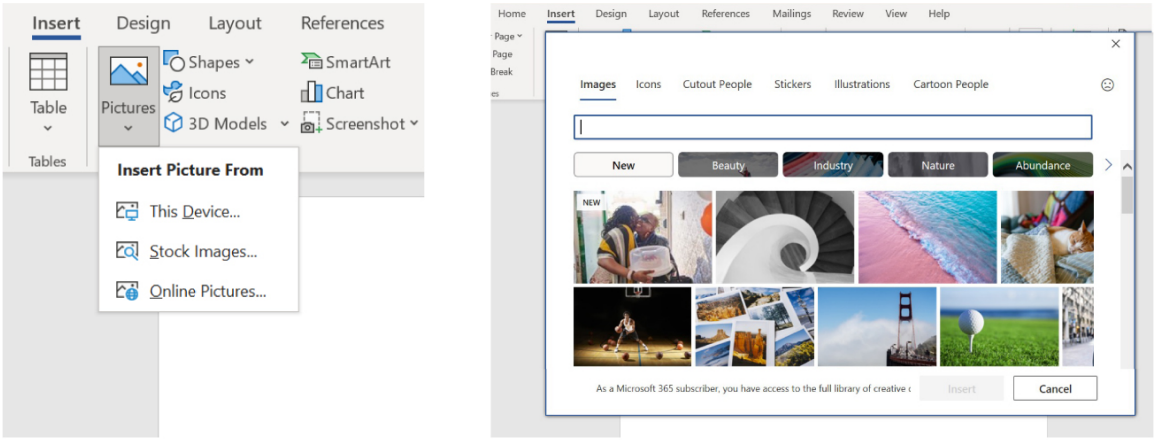
The Illustrations command group is for inserting images, shapes, SmartArt, or charts. For the market trends report, you will be inserting some graphs and charts that show the size of the market and other related information. You might also want to include images of new developments in the industry or current products on the market from competitors. The Creating and Working in Documents chapter covered the arrangement and aligning of objects. This section will cover how to insert different types of objects.

Inserting Pictures

When inserting a picture into your document, you can choose to get a picture from the internet, from stock images in Office, or from a picture saved on your computer. (Always make sure you are not violating copyright or using pictures from proprietary sites

without giving proper credit to the image creator or site.) In a business report, you might want to include images of your products or your office building. These photos will probably already be saved on your computer or be available on your shared company hard drive. To add a picture from a file saved on your computer, go to the Insert tab, choose Pictures, then select This Device from the drop-down menu (Figure 4.20). From the dialog box, choose the picture file you want to insert. The picture will be inserted at the location of your cursor.

You may also choose to insert some stock images available through Office. Stock images are photos or other images that are already licensed for general use through whatever platform you are using. There are stock image repositories, such as Getty; Office has its own repository of stock images, which you can access by selecting Stock Images from the Pictures drop-down menu. These images are searchable and include photos, icons, and cartoons.



(a) **(b)**

Figure 4.20: (a) Word makes it easy for you to insert images from a variety of locations into their document. (b) The Office stock images give you different options for more generic images or cartoons. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Word also gives you the option of inserting a picture directly from the internet. If you choose Online Pictures, a dialog box will open, with Microsoft Bing's image search available, as Figure 4.21 shows. This might be a nice option if you want to include a picture of a competitor's product in the market trends report.

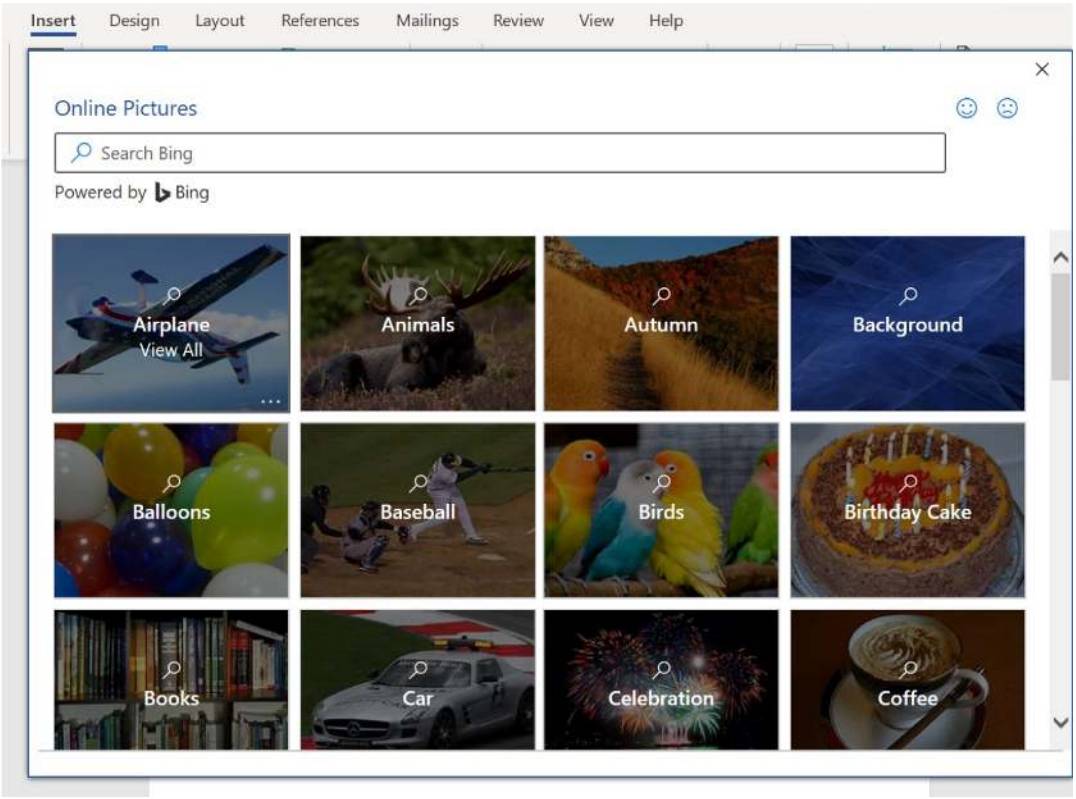
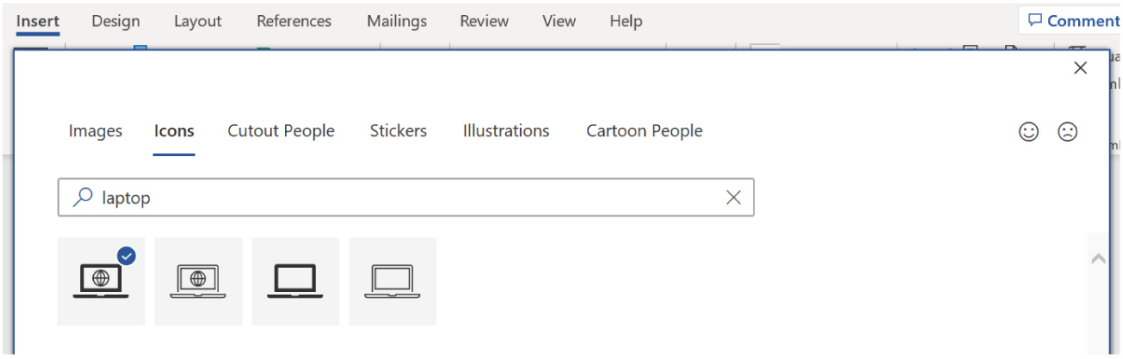


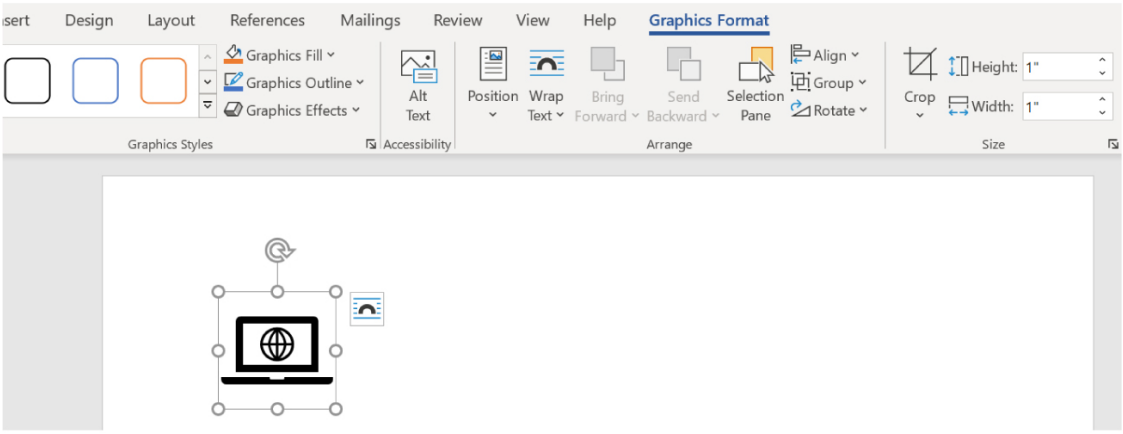
Figure 4.21: Bing's image search tool helps you look for images by categorizing them by topic. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Let's find images of laptops for the WorldCorp market trends report. Let's include one stock image and one online picture. For now, insert the images in a blank document just for practice. Later, you can insert the images into the market trends report if you desire. Open a blank document and go to the Insert tab.

Choose Picture and then choose Stock Images. Choose the Icons tab and, in the search bar, type "laptop" (Figure 4.22). This will narrow our search to icons, or simple black-and-white illustrations, rather than photographs. This type of image might be useful in a report because it is clear and simple. Notice that when an icon is inserted into the document, a new tab, Graphics Format, appears on the ribbon. The Graphics Format tab will appear when you insert something like an icon or a cartoon into your document. This tab gives you the tools to make adjustments to the icon that you inserted.



(a)



(b)

Figure 4.22: (a) Word gives you different categories to help you narrow down your search. (b) The Graphics Format tab offers tools for applying different styles, effects, and other features to your image. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now, let's find a picture of a laptop from the internet. Choose Online Pictures and type "laptop" in the search bar. This will initiate a Bing web search for that key term. Notice that you can also search by license; here, we have chosen to search for images under the Creative Commons license only. To select an image, click on the picture and choose Insert (Figure 4.23).

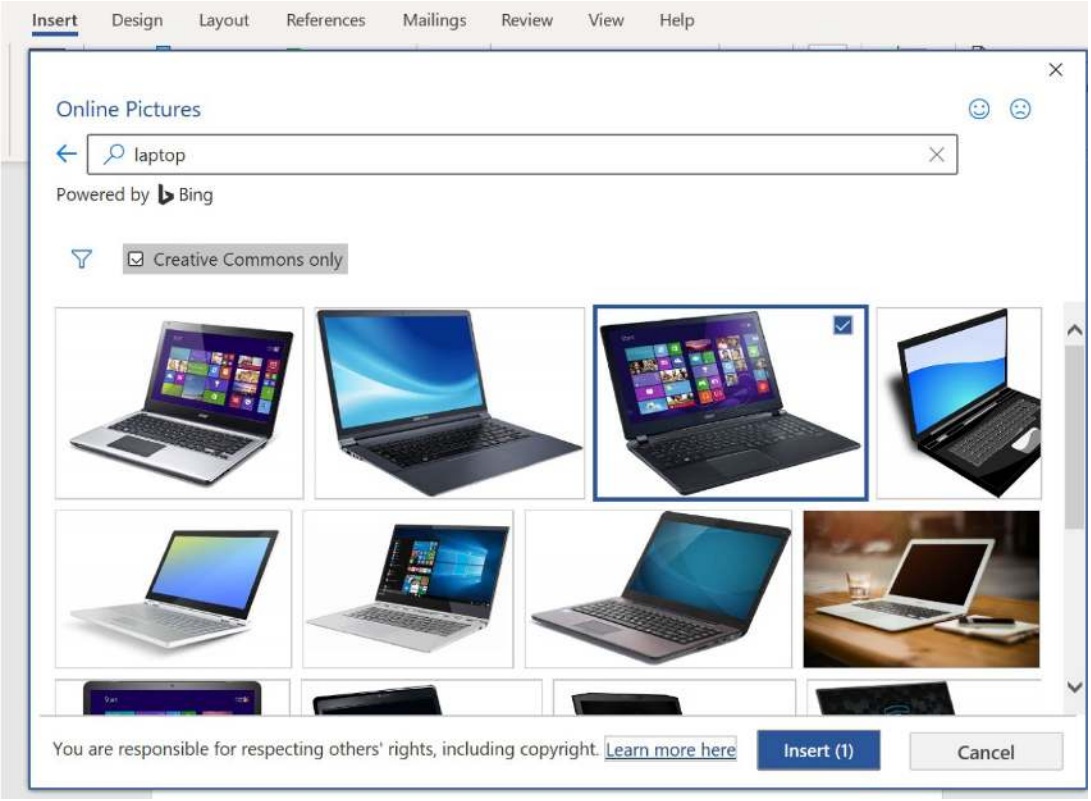


Figure 4.23: Bing is the search engine used for images because it is also a Microsoft product. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In this case, because you are inserting an actual full-color image, such as a photograph, the tab added to the ribbon is the Picture Format tab, not the Graphics Format tab. As with the Graphics Format tab, this tab gives you the tools to make adjustments to the picture and its placement in the document, as Figure 4.24 shows.

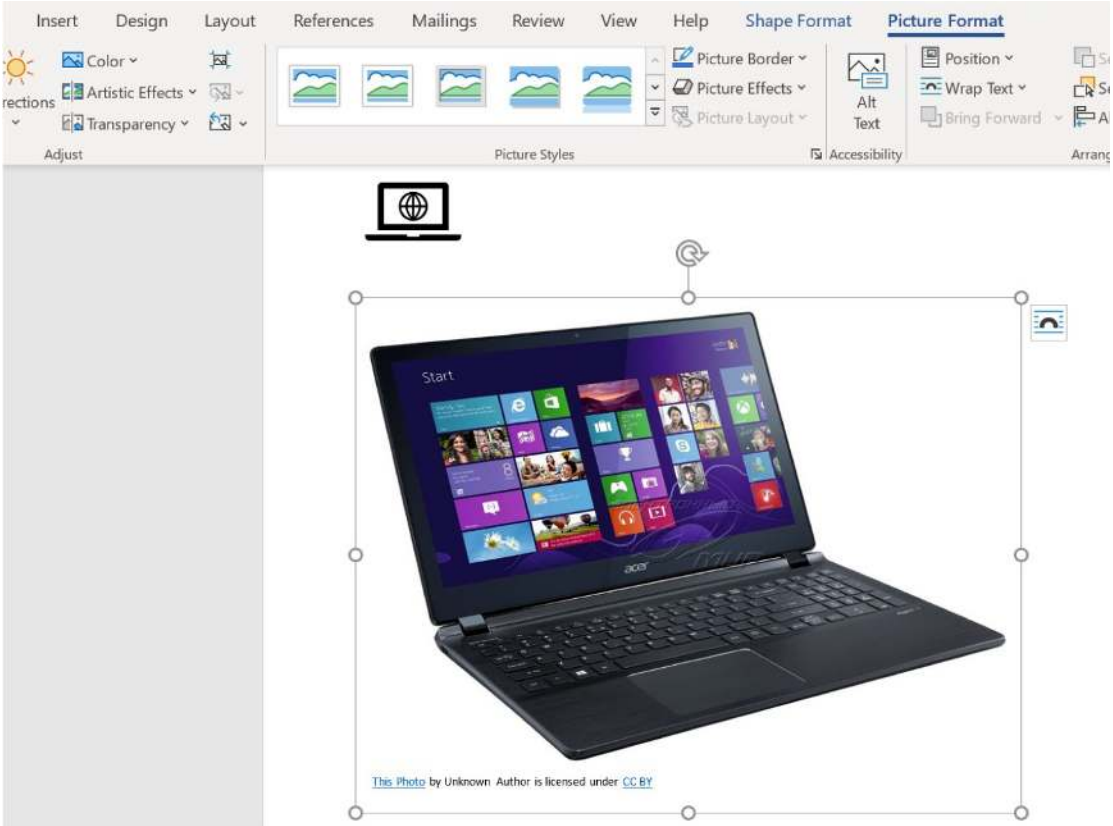


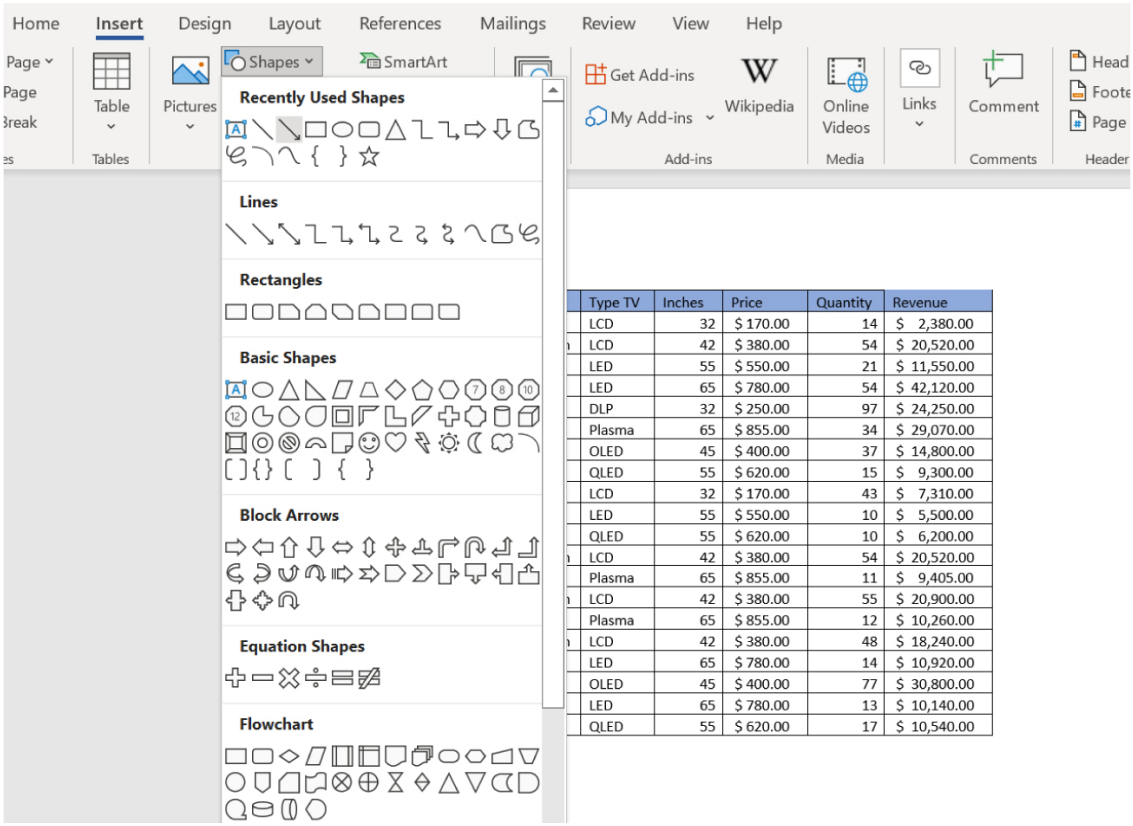
Figure 4.24: When images are used from the web, be sure to recognize copyrights and give credit for images when appropriate. Although this image is a stock photo with an unknown author, other photos you may use will show the author's name and the photo's license in the copyright line that Bing automatically generates. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Shapes

The Shapes drop-down menu is a useful command if you are designing an ad, flyer, newsletter, or other graphic-heavy document. Shapes are graphical symbols, like arrows, rectangles, circles, and lines, that can be formatted in different ways. These can be useful in business documents because they can help call attention to certain topics or data without being as eye-catching as a photograph. For example, you might want to insert an arrow shape in the market trends report to draw attention to a specific item in a graph or chart. Or you might want to use a circle to outline a key part of a table. However, keep in mind the professionalism and visual appeal of the document you are preparing. Shapes might not be appropriate in all situations.

In Figure 4.25, you can see the wide range of shapes that you can add to your document. Let’s add an arrow to a table that we might use in the market trends report to highlight an important number in the table. This table contains television sales data for WorldCorp. We will revisit some of this data as we move through the spreadsheet chapters.

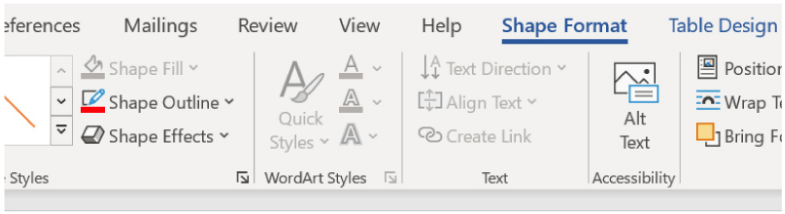
We want to point out the highest quantity sold in the table. To insert an arrow, go to the Insert tab, Illustrations command group, and select Shapes. Select the arrow you want to insert. In this example, the single line arrow (third over from the left) is selected, as shown in the figure. When you select the shape, you will get a black “+” as the cursor. Use that plus sign to insert the shape and to size the shape as you choose.



Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00
LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00
DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00
QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00
LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00
LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00
QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00
LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
Plasma	65	$ 855.00	11	$ 9,405.00
LCD	42	$ 380.00	55	$ 20,900.00
Plasma	65	$ 855.00	12	$ 10,260.00
LCD	42	$ 380.00	48	$ 18,240.00
LED	65	$ 780.00	14	$ 10,920.00
OLED	45	$ 400.00	77	$ 30,800.00
LED	65	$ 780.00	13	$ 10,140.00
QLED	55	$ 620.00	17	$ 10,540.00

Figure 4.25: There are many shapes for adding emphasis and visual appeal to your documents. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

After you select and insert a shape, the Shape Format tab is added to the ribbon, as shown in Figure 4.26. You can change the color of the shape, add visual effects, align the object, use a word wrap, and change the position of the item.



Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
2/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
2/21/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00
2/18/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00
2/15/2021	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
2/11/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00

Figure 4.26: The Shape Format tab is used to change the color, size, and other features of the shape. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

SmartArt

SmartArt is a tool in Word that lets the user design organizational charts or flowcharts. It is also part of the Illustrations command group. It is similar to Shapes, but has the shapes prearranged in useful graphic formats, such as flowcharts. In Figure 4.27, you can see the different organizational graphs and charts available. This section covers three important types of SmartArt: Lists, Process Charts, and Hierarchy Charts.

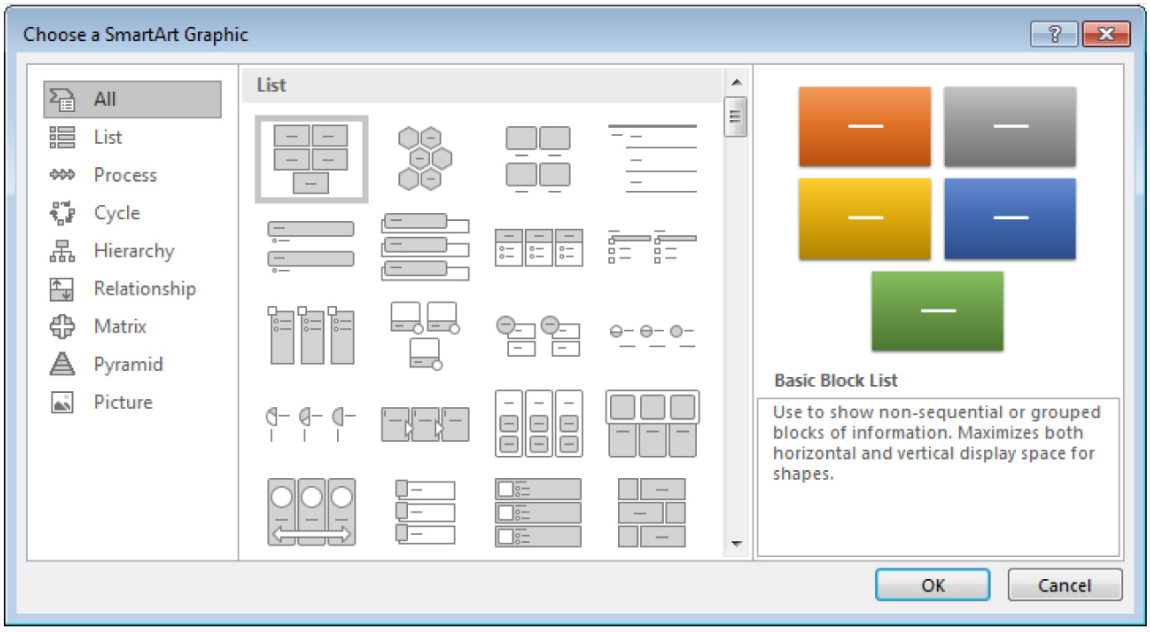


Figure 4.27: There are various business charts that you can design in SmartArt. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

SmartArt Lists

Microsoft Word: Advanced Formatting Features covered basic numbered and bulleted lists. But there are other, more visually complex options in SmartArt that an employee might have to use when creating documents that contain deeper levels of content than, say, a memo or introductory letter to a customer. SmartArt can also be used to outline an organizational structure to show reporting relationships between employees and managers.

To insert a SmartArt list, select the SmartArt icon from the Insert tab and click on the List menu to see all the options for Lists. Figure 4.28 shows a Horizontal Bullet List, which we can use to list the strengths and weaknesses of WorldCorp in the market trends report. Click OK to insert the SmartArt. As you insert it, the SmartArt Design tab is added to the ribbon, which has options for modifying the SmartArt. Figure 4.29 shows what a Horizontal Bullet List SmartArt looks like.

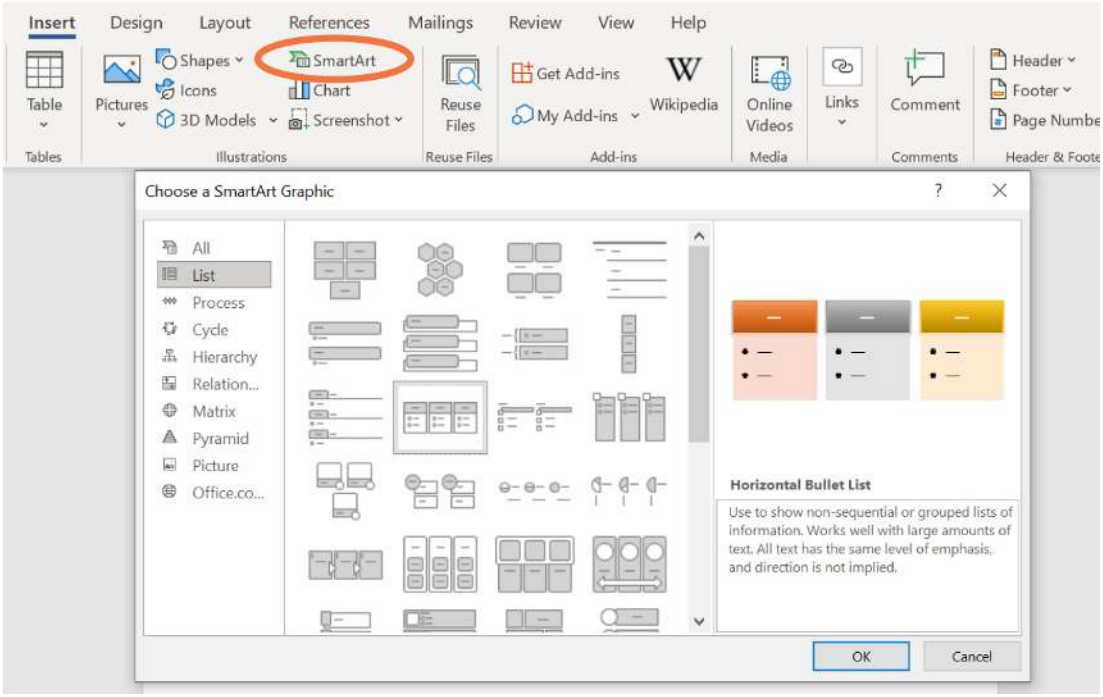


Figure 4.28: SmartArt also includes helpful hints on how to use each type of list best. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

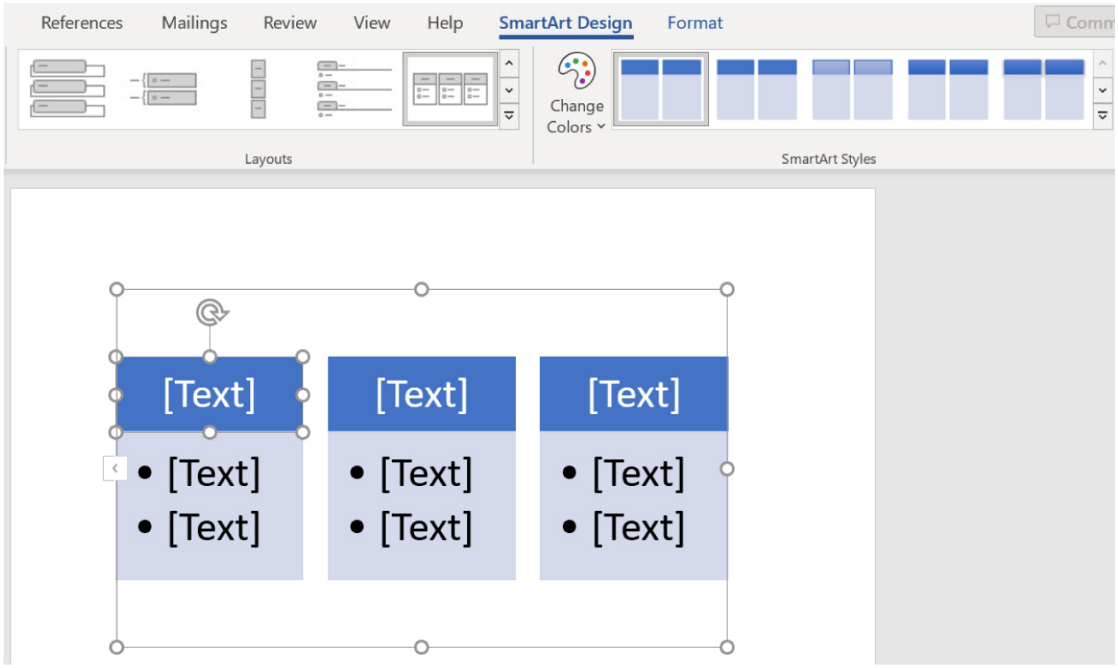


Figure 4.29: Using the text boxes, you can enter the relevant information into the SmartArt graphic. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Process Charts

Another type of SmartArt is a process chart. This is one of the types of charts that Word offers to enhance documents and is commonly used in business. A process chart is a way of graphically representing a multistep process. Most business processes or workflows can be diagrammed; think about the many steps needed to publish a book or deliver a parcel. These process charts visually organize the steps or major components in a process so that everyone involved can understand what their role is in the workflow. Workers involved in the process may use process charts to check project status or determine which worker or department to consult to move a task along. For your market trends report, you might want to use a process chart to show the sequence of departments that the report will need to move through for approval.

Complex engineering, such as in manufacturing plants, has numerous processes happening at the same time, with each set of processes being dependent on another set. The charts offered in the Process option can help encapsulate the different types of workflows in a company.

In Figure 4.30, you can see a flowchart that needs to be filled. As with the Horizontal Bullet List, the boxes are empty when the SmartArt is initially inserted. To add text, simply click on the text brackets and enter the desired information. Notice there is a line that connects each box to the next one in a down than up pattern, indicating the flow sequence.

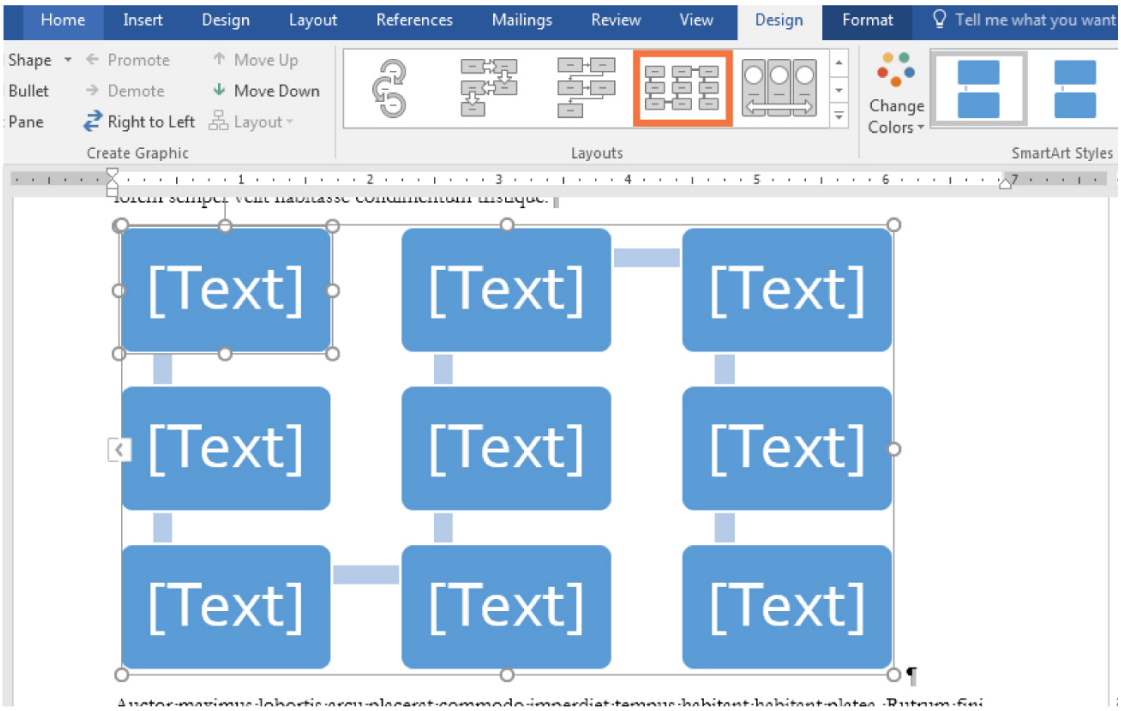


Figure 4.30: This type of SmartArt is called a Vertical Bending Process chart. It can be used to show many different steps in a linear workflow, without taking up too much space on the page. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Check out this tutorial to learn about creating flowcharts in detail. This site provides basic terminology and a step-by-step walk-through on how to create a simple flowchart using the Shapes commands and a more complicated flowchart using the SmartArt commands.

Now let's add a process chart to the market trends report. Open a blank document and go to the Insert tab, SmartArt, and click Process. Choose the first option, Basic Process, and click OK (Figure 4.31). You can also change the colors using the tools on the SmartArt Design tab using the change colors palette on the tab (Figure 4.32).

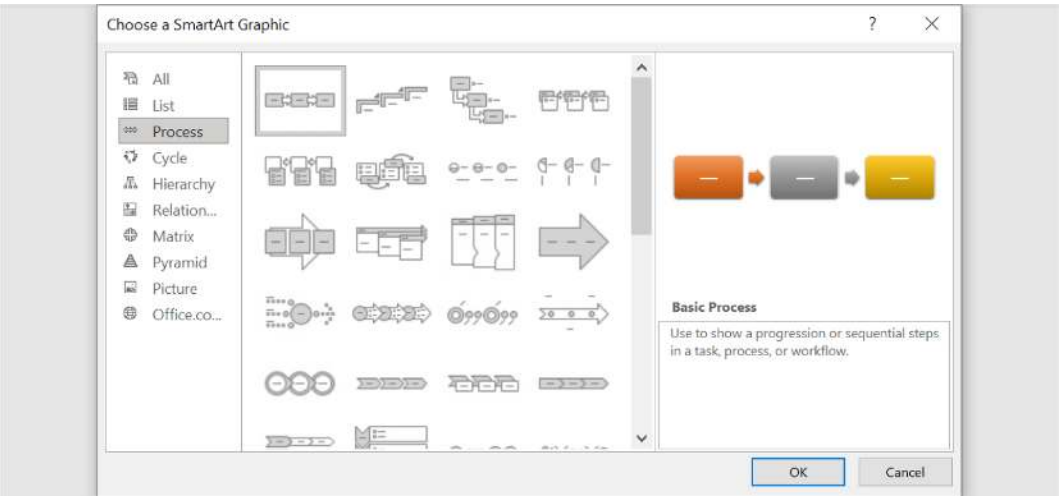


Figure 4.31: Becoming familiar with a Basic Process chart will lay the foundation for progressing to more complex charts in SmartArt that you might need later in the workplace. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

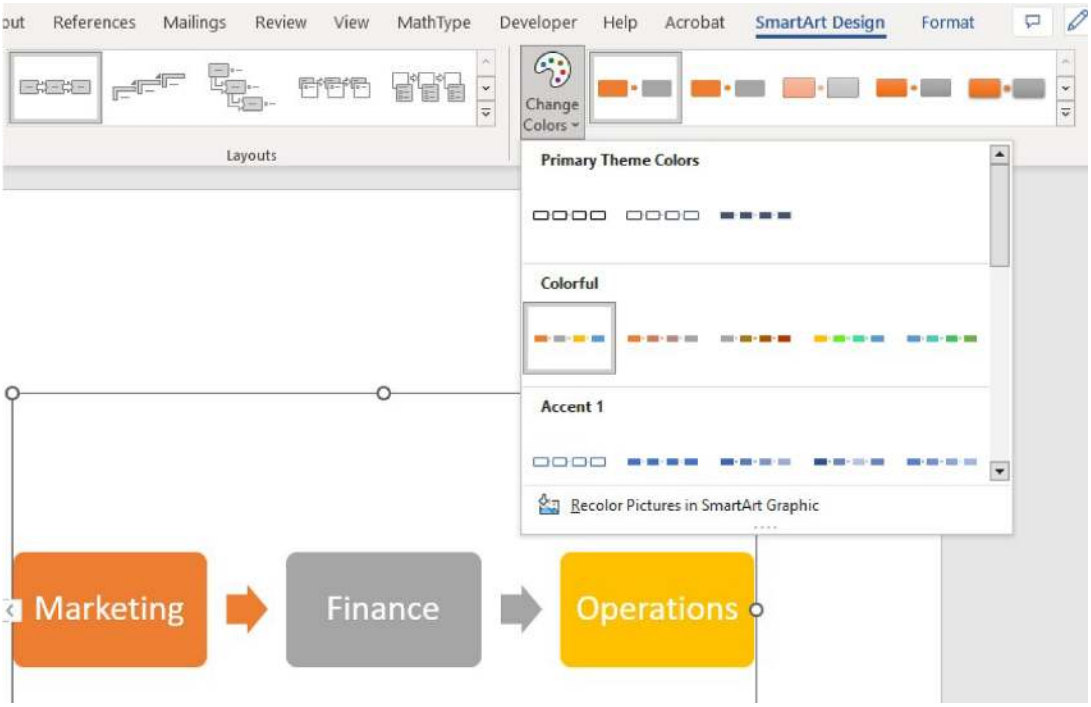


Figure 4.32: The default color scheme is blue and white when the process chart is inserted, but there are many color options to make the process chart look more professional and visually appealing. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Hierarchy Charts

Another chart often used in corporate settings is the hierarchy chart. These charts typically show the chain of command at a business; in other words, who supervises whom. In a large corporation like WorldCorp, there may be hundreds of hierarchy charts. Every manufacturing center may have dozens, one for each functional department. You could consult these hierarchy charts in a company organizational manual, or online, on the company's intranet. In Figure 4.33, you can see the inserted hierarchy chart of WorldCorp's marketing department.

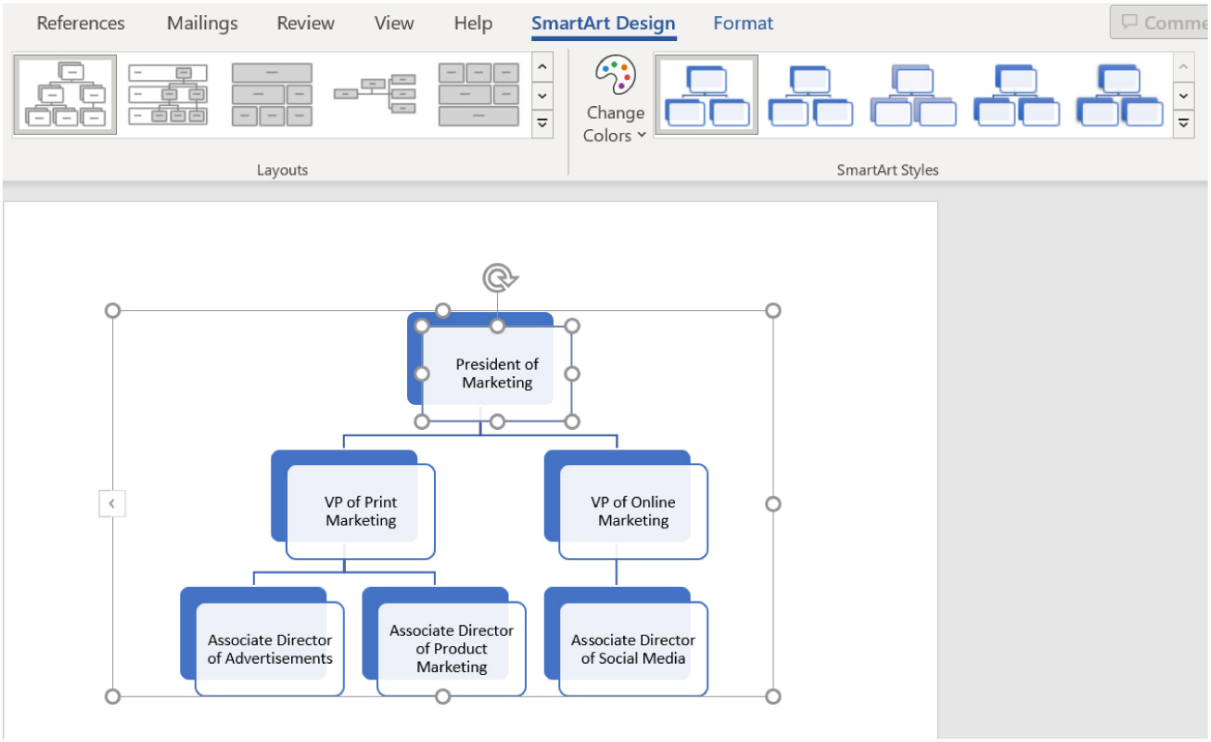


Figure 4.33: You can see the chart formatting and design options on the ribbon on this hierarchy chart. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application: Understanding Types of Organizational Charts

Many companies will include an organizational chart ("org chart" for short) within their internal documentation provided to employees. These serve as important documents that visualize the structure of the company, as well as the chain of command within its service units. Hierarchy charts can help you construct an organizational chart quickly. Before you begin, you will want to identify the type of organizational structure your company has adopted.

Hierarchical organizations will have a clear and linear chain of command, usually organized by product or function, with power primarily held at the top. These are mechanistic, or bureaucratic, organizations. They tend to be formal, with a narrow span of control within each unit. Organic structures are more fluid and flexible. Matrix organizations are a great way to try out a more organic organizational structure, while still maintaining some aspects of a mechanistic structure. In a matrix, employees may report to more than one reporting line and therefore power (and responsibility) is distributed. Dotted lines in such a chart would show informal or secondary relationships. So, before embarking on creating an organizational chart for an organization, first understand its structure to select the most appropriate chart type.

Charts

Charts are another type of visual representation available in Word. While tables present just data, and SmartArt figures show relationships, charts can show both. Word charts include many types of charts that are likely familiar to you, such as bar charts, line graphs, and pie charts. Charts can use data from another source, such as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, to create the visual representation.

You can create charts in Word using the tool in the Illustrations command group. You will use some of the data from the sales data in Figure 4.25 and Figure 4.26 to create a bar chart of the quantity sold for each product. When you finish inputting the data, you will see the chart in your document (Figure 4.35). First, select the Chart command in the Illustrations command group, and choose the type of chart that you want to design. Let's choose a bar chart, also known as a Clustered Column chart (Figure 4.34). As you select OK, Word will immediately open an Excel window so that you can enter the data. When you finish inputting the data, you will see the chart in your document. As with the other types of graphical representations that we've covered, once you click on the chart, a new tab will appear in the ribbon. Click on the chart and you can further format the chart using the Chart Format tab that

appears. You can also edit the data in the chart or table using the Edit Data tool on the Chart Format tab, as shown in Figure 4.36. You can choose to edit the data in Word. If you choose this option, an Excel window will open in Word with the data used to build the chart. If you would like to save the data as an Excel file, choose Edit Data in Excel. This will open the Excel application. Here, you can edit the data, but also save the information as an Excel file.

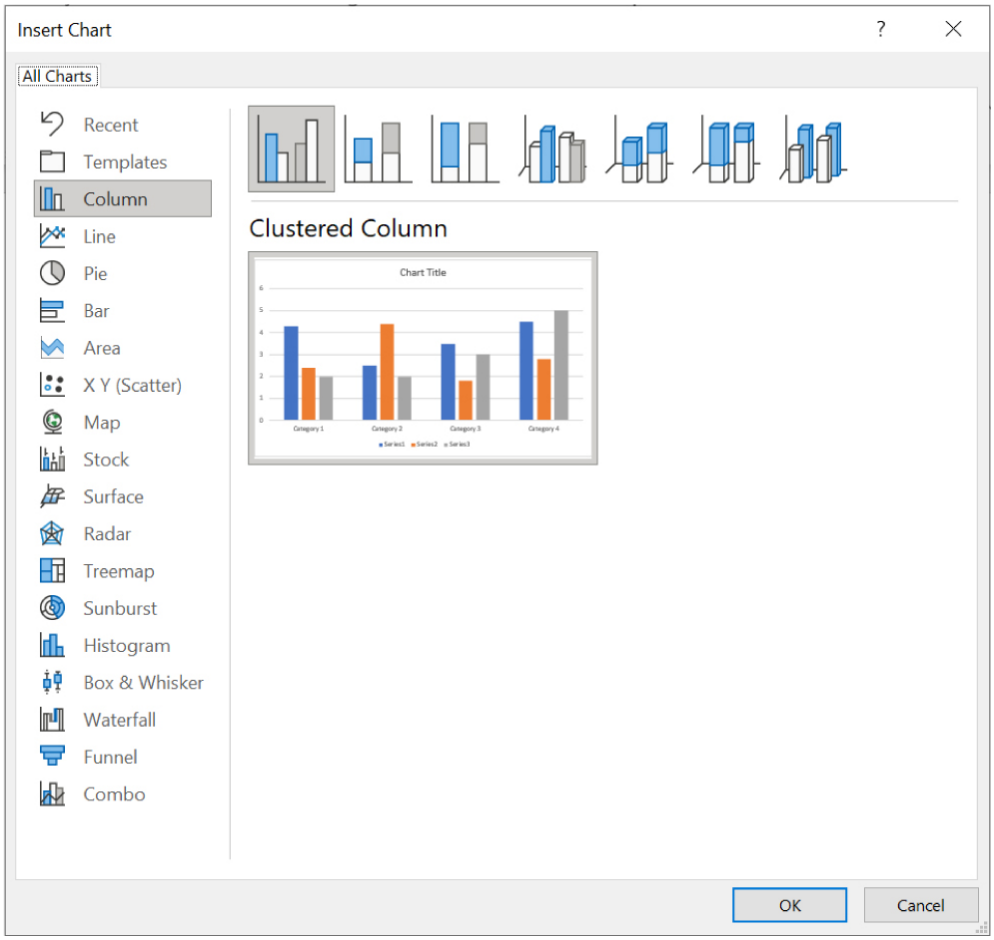


Figure 4.34: Within each chart type, there are many further options for customization. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

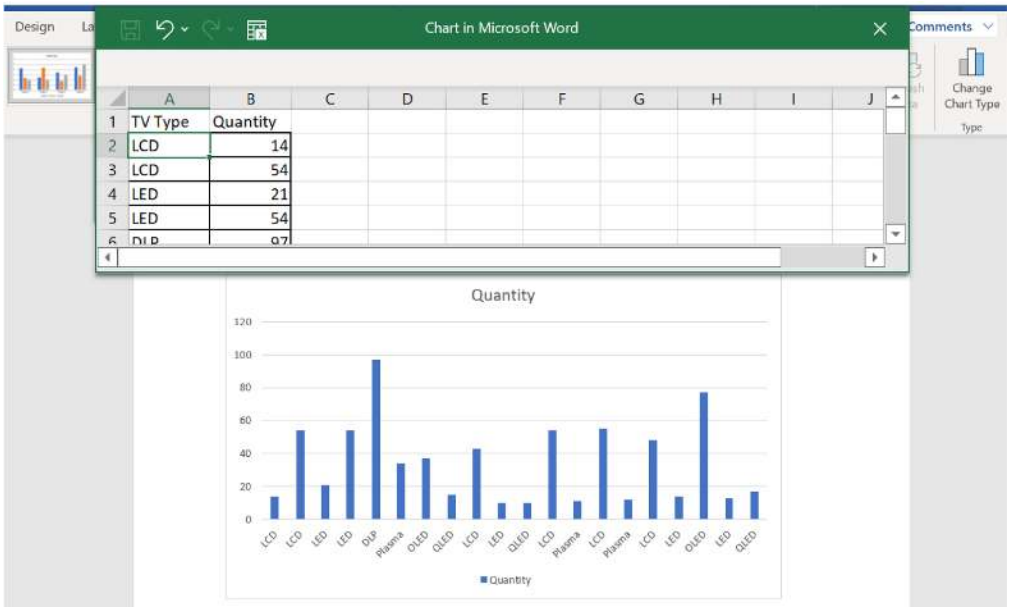


Figure 4.35: As you create a chart, Word will create a new Excel file embedded in the document. You can choose to open the data in Excel using the Edit data tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



Figure 4.36: You can change the design and type of chart using the Chart Format tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

It is worth noting that when you are looking to design a chart, typically you can use Excel as a starting point for creating your chart. This is often a much easier approach than starting your chart in Word; this process is covered in Working with Spreadsheets. After creating the chart in Excel, you would then copy and paste the chart from Excel into Word or import the file into Word.

Text Command Group

Like the Illustrations command group, the Text command group is located on the Insert tab. It houses the Text Box, Quick Parts, WordArt, Drop Cap, Signature Line, Date & Time, and Object commands. These commands are all related in their functionality, as they are tools to insert autogenerated text or specially designed text.

Text Box

You may have seen a text box, either in a Word document, on a website, or in a print article. It is simply a self-contained square with some text inside. Figure 4.37 shows text box options. The text box is often used in highly graphical documents, such as an email ad, but you may also add a text box for inserting a meaningful phrase, idea, or data that you want to stand out from the rest of

your document. The advantage of a text box is that you can format the rest of the text in your document to wrap around it in different ways, which you will learn about later in this chapter. In essence, it treats a box of text as if it were an image.

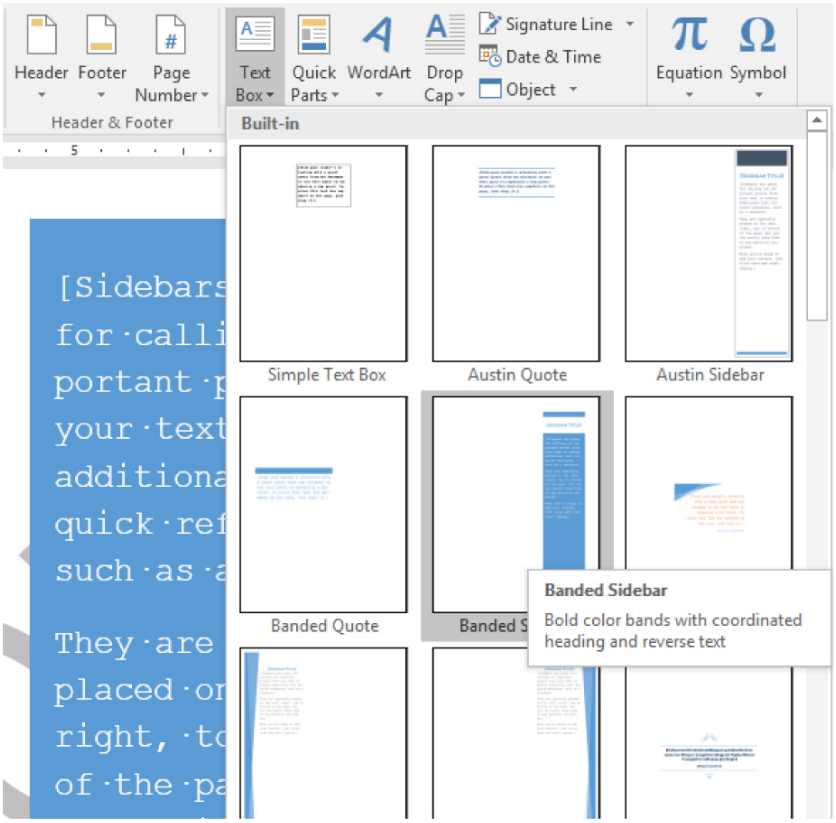


Figure 4.37: Text boxes such as this Banded Sidebar can help make your report more visually appealing and easy to read. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Quick Parts

The Quick Parts command in the Text command group was also part of the Header & Footer tab that you get when you insert a header or footer. This is an alternative path to quickly add information to the document. Through this menu, you can add a number of items to your document. The first option, AutoText, will automatically add either the author's initials or name to the header of the document. Another option under Quick Parts is to add additional information such as the company mailing address (as shown in Figure 4.38). The Fields option adds fields for a more specialized feature of Word called Mail Merge, which will be covered in the Advanced Document Preparation chapter. This information will only be added if this information was added to the document properties, as you learned in Essentials of Software Applications for Business.

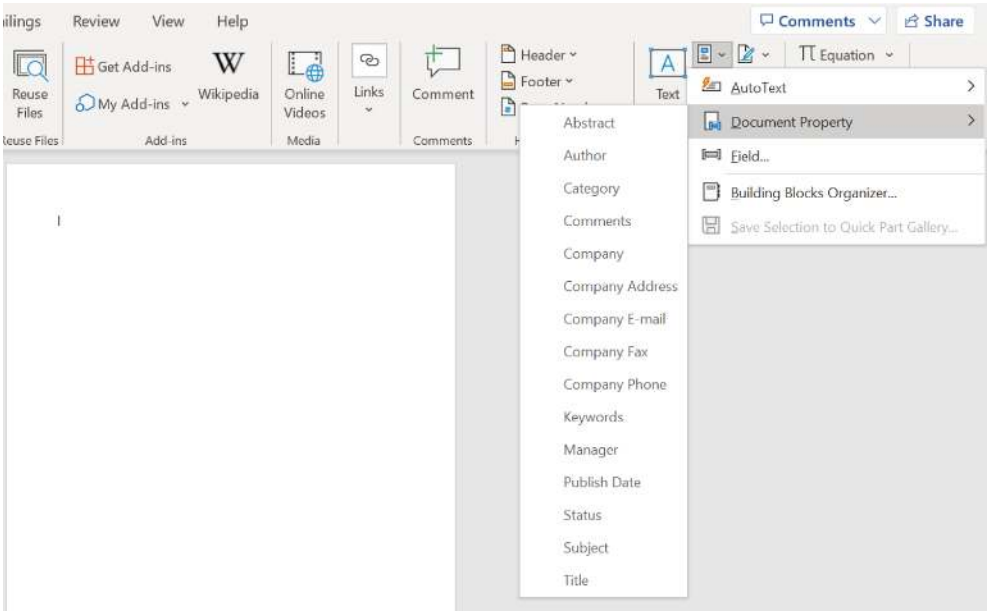


Figure 4.38: Key company information, such as address, email, and phone number, can also be added through the Quick Parts tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

WordArt

WordArt is a type of stylized font available in Word. WordArt can be used to add colors, shadows, or borders to text. In can also be used to change the text to be vertical or even diagonal. While it is appropriate to use in graphic-heavy formats, such as front pages of business reports, newsletters, or brochures, it is not appropriate for more text-heavy or professional documents, such as business correspondences, the inside of a business report, a résumé, or a cover letter. That said, using WordArt in your document can be a fun way to experiment and add color and creativity to it. WordArt could also be used to start the creation process for a logo, although many businesses will use a graphic design company to create corporate logos.

Let's practice with the company name, WorldCorp, to get an idea of what WordArt can do for plain text. To insert WordArt, select the WordArt icon from the Text command group Figure 4.39. Choose a style, and a box with "Your text here" will appear on the page, as shown in Figure 4.40. The ribbon will change to add a Shape Format tab, where you can change the color, the font effects, and the position of the WordArt object. Replace the text in the box with "WorldCorp" and choose a design that incorporates blue as the color because this is the company's primary color. Changes are made using the options in the WordArt Styles command group. You may place the WordArt object behind or in front of other objects, or align it in a certain position within the document, as you would with an image.

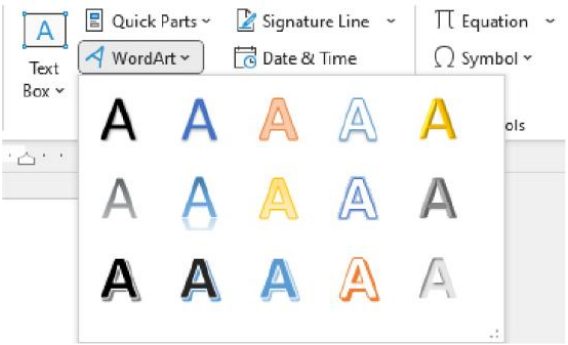


Figure 4.39: Whatever you type in the WordArt box will initially be center aligned. You can change text alignment by going to the Paragraph command group under the Home tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

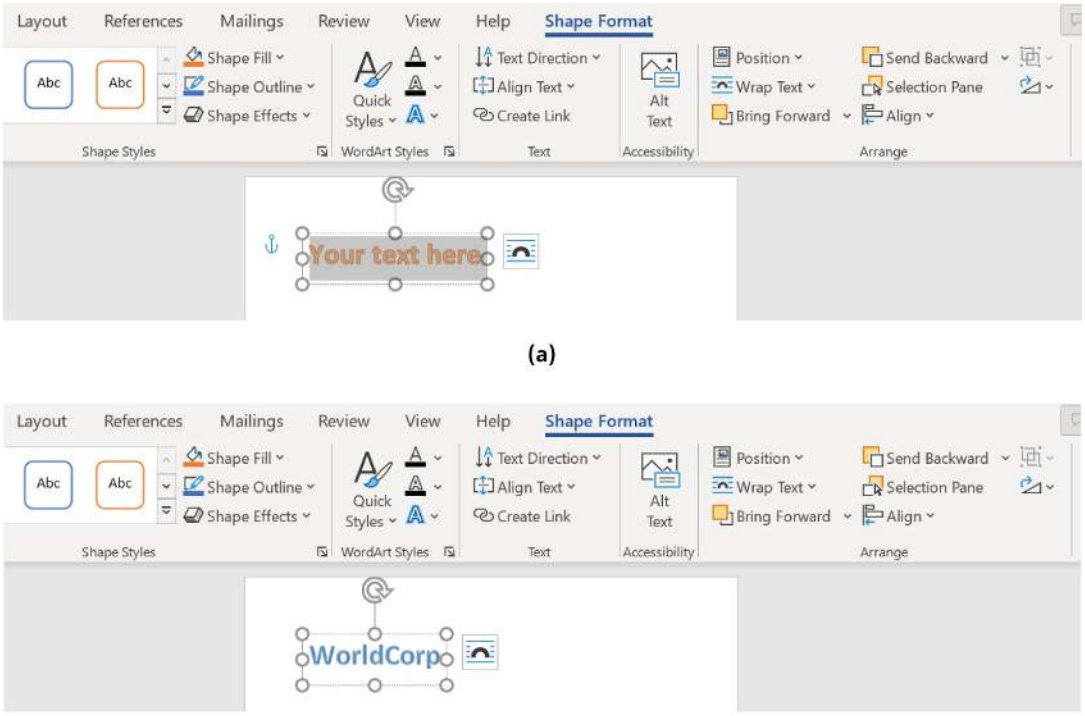


Figure 4.40: (a) When you insert WordArt, you will get another tab on the ribbon to further customize the text. (b) You can send the WordArt forward or backward using the Arrange command group. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Drop Cap, Signature Line, Date & Time

The formatting options in the Text command group can be seen in books, reports, and other kinds of stylized texts. For instance, you have probably seen a drop cap in a novel or journal article: It's when the first letter of the first sentence is large or in a stylish font, and the rest of the text is wrapped around it. To achieve this effect, select the first letter and choose the Drop Cap drop-down menu from the Text command group (Figure 4.41). Once there, you will see options for font style and placement. You can choose Drop Cap Options to change the font type and size. Generally, drop cap is not used in professional documents such as the market trends report. We are just using it here for illustrative purposes. As you can see from the figure, the large letter T is a bit distracting in the report.

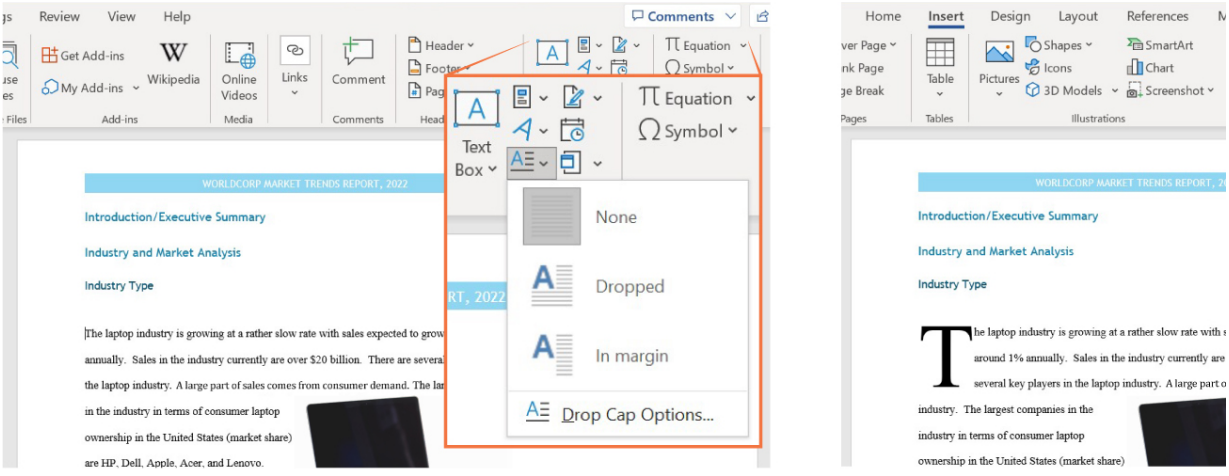


Figure 4.41: (a) You can choose from among a few different drop cap styles. (b) The drop cap design is a decorative style that you might have seen at the start of a novel or magazine editorial. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You have probably seen a signature line in many emails and letters in Word. The signature line is an autogenerated graphical object that has your name, job title, and email address, as Figure 4.42 shows.

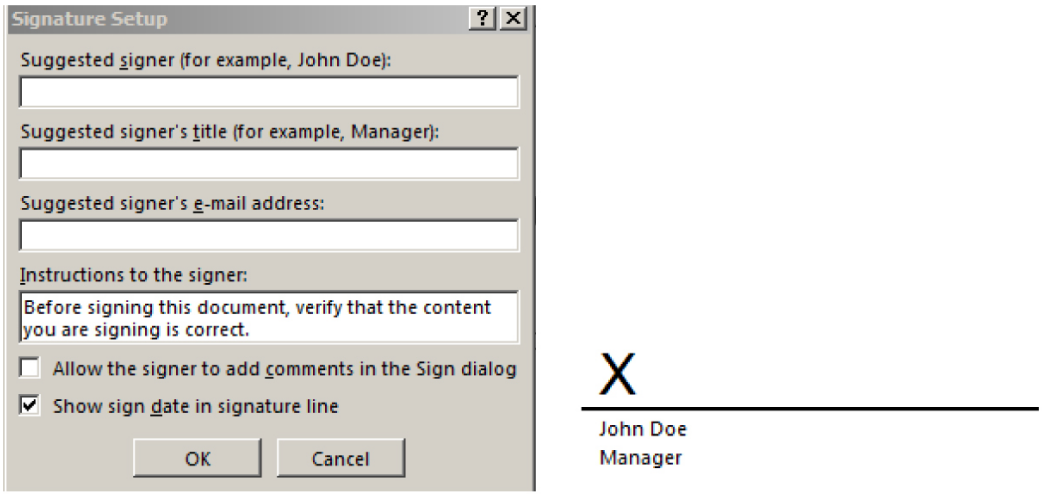


Figure 4.42: The signature line on (b) is what you will see once you fill the dialog box in (a). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Date & Time command is an autogenerated time stamp of the date or/and time format of your choosing, as Figure 4.43 shows. You might want to include the date and time stamp to your market trends report as it moves through the development process. This can help you keep track of the edits that are made in the document at various stages of writing or through the different departments at WorldCorp that will contribute to the report. You could include this information as a header or footer in your document. Note that if you use the Date & Time command, it will update to the current date and time, even if you did not make any changes to the document.

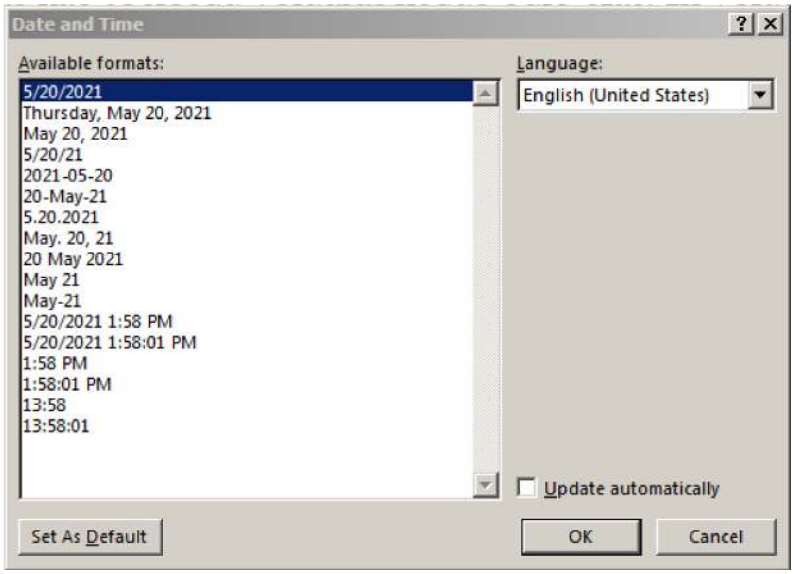


Figure 4.43: You can choose among different date and time formats, depending on the style of your company and what kind of information you want captured. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Inserting an Object

The final item in the Text command group is Object. An object is anything that is inserted into the document rather than simply typing text. An object can be a wide variety of things, including graphics (WordArt), images, charts and graphs from Excel, links to a web page, files from a program such as Adobe Reader, among others. When you insert an object, Word will create a link to the object and you will be directed to this object when you click on it; it will open in a separate window. This action might be helpful if

you want to direct someone to a file, such as an Excel spreadsheet, without having to actually include all the information in the Word document.

You can also insert an object that links to an outside source, such as a web page. The Object tool can also take text from another file and place that in the current document. This can help you save some time, instead of copying and pasting information from one document to the next. You might consider using this feature for the market trends report because you will have different departments working on different sections of the report.

To insert an object, go to the Object tool in the Text command group on the Insert tab. There are two options in the tool: Object and Text from File, as shown in Figure 4.44. When Object is chosen, a dialog box appears, in which you can select all sorts of file formats if you were to Create New, or Create from File. Create New means that you will create the file within the Word document in the chosen format such as Excel or Adobe. You could also choose to have the link to the object as an icon in your document rather than the first page of the inserted object being displayed. Create from File means that you can use an existing file to insert into the document. The Integrating Applications chapter covers inserting objects in more depth, as it includes the integration of Office programs.

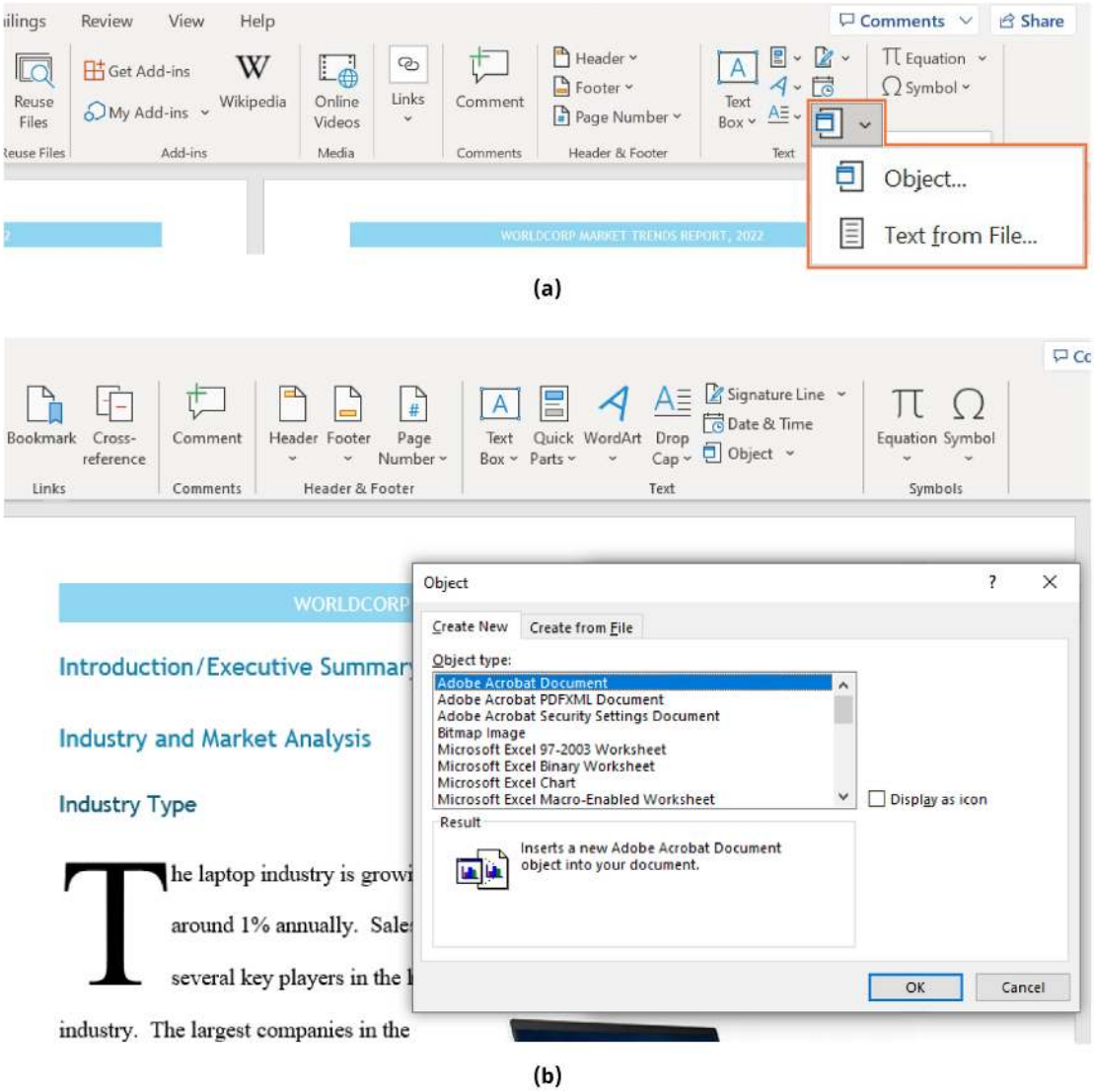


Figure 4.44: (a) You can insert an object or use text from another file in your document. (b) When you choose Object, you can create a new object or use an existing file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Symbols Command Group

The Symbols command group is also part of the Insert tab. A symbol is a special character not found on most keyboards, and includes characters such as currency symbols, en dashes and em dashes, arrows, Greek letters (often used in economic or financial math), and many other characters. Figure 4.45 shows some of the character choices available in Word.

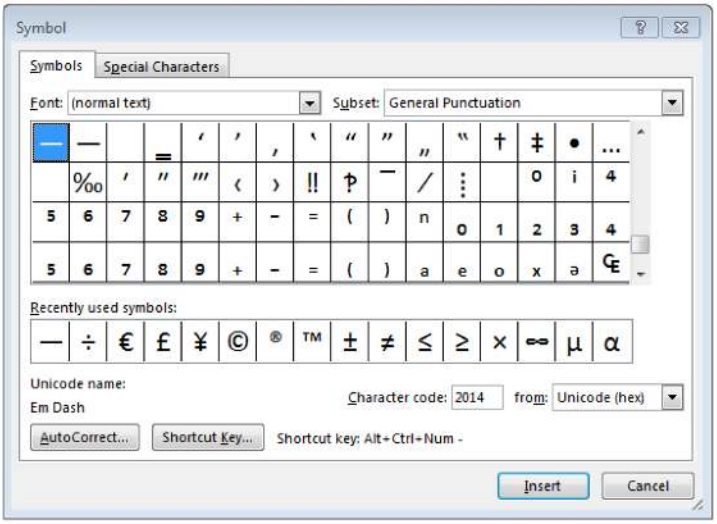


Figure 4.45: You can use the Subset combo box to look for the category you are looking for, to help narrow down your choices. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Equation command is for inserting mathematical equations into the document. The drop-down arrow by the Equation tool allows you to see some built-in equations from common calculations, as Figure 4.46 shows.

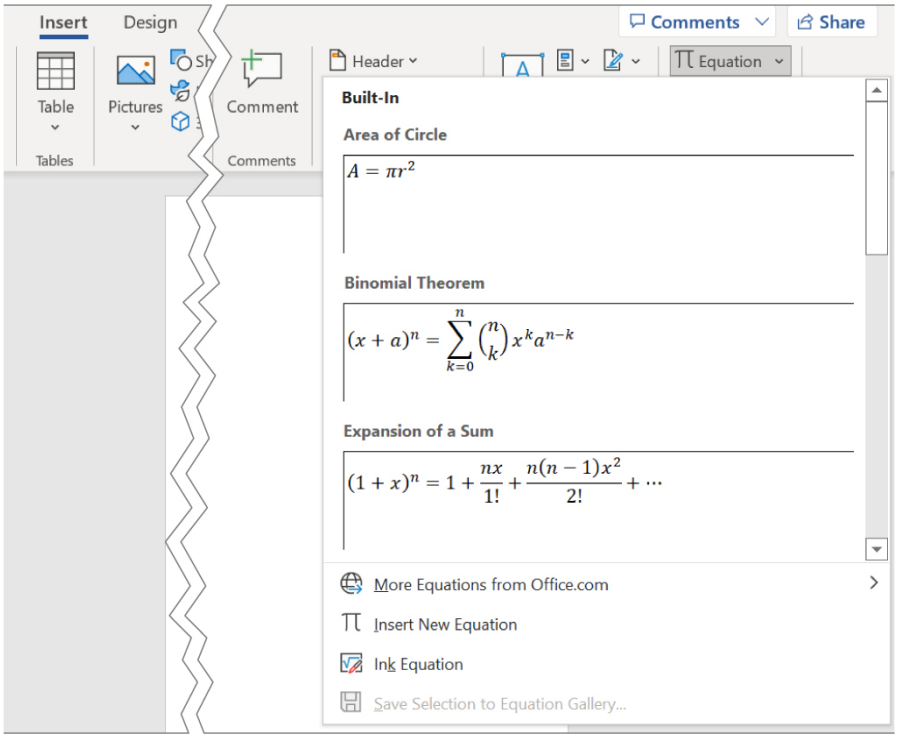


Figure 4.46: Several built-in equations are available in the Equation tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can also choose to insert a new equation if none of the built-in options meet your needs. When you insert the equation (either new or built-in), a new tab appears on the ribbon called Equation. Here, you can choose the math notation of your choice and build your own equations. This is especially useful for economic and finance research, engineering reports, or any other kind of quantitative discipline or science. You can even draw the equation that you want to insert, and Word will recognize the numbers

and symbols. Select Ink Equation from the Equation drop-down menu. This allows you to use the mouse or your finger to draw the equation symbols if your touch screen or pad allows this (Figure 4.47).

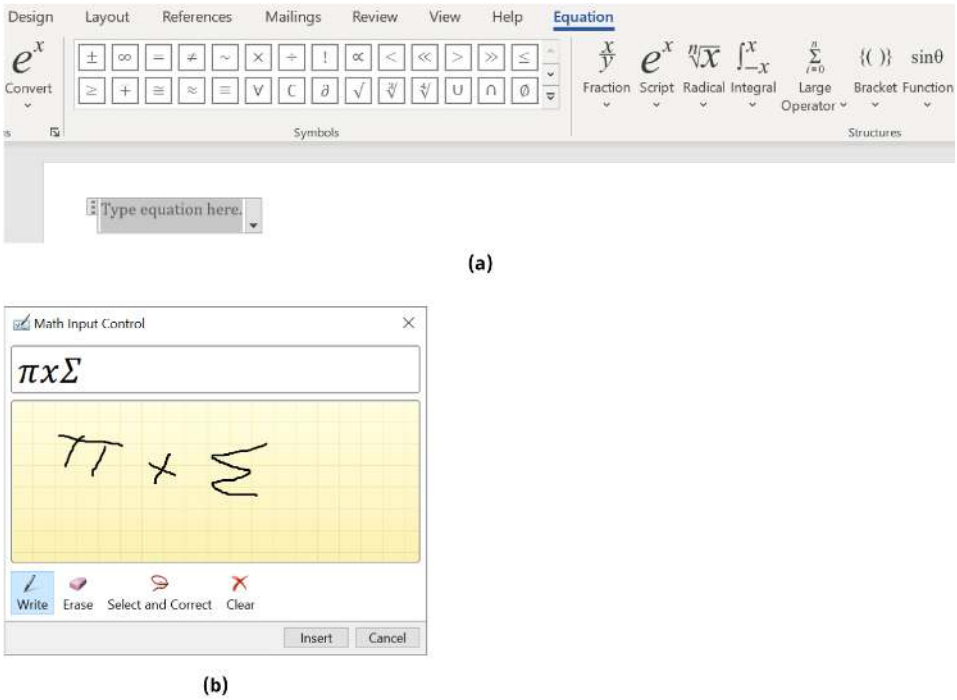


Figure 4.47: (a) The Equation tool can be helpful in making your documents look professional when you need to incorporate mathematical equations. (b) Word has the ability to read your drawings and recognize the symbols. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 4.2: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.3: Managing Long Documents in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the tools in the Pages command group
- Utilize Format Painter to apply formatting in a long document
- Use some of the tools on the References tab
- Create bookmarks for document navigation

Long documents underscore the importance of good navigation tools. Imagine working through a 200-page report, only to have to scroll endlessly through chapter headings to find what you are looking for. This is why tools like cross-references, bookmarks, tables of contents, and tables of figures are so important. They allow you to quickly access different parts of your document, as does the document outline, available in the Navigation pane.

In a business setting, these navigation tools are especially important. Think about your market trends report for WorldCorp. The high-level executives reading your report will need to be able to quickly glance at the table of contents and read a few pages of the report, without having to scroll or flip through many pages of text. In fact, they likely don't need to read the whole report; they will read the executive summary and skip around the report to graphs that interest them. (The executive summary is a short overview at the beginning of the report that highlights the main points of a long report.)

This section discusses the different command groups and tools that make long documents more user-friendly.

The Pages Command Group

The Pages command group is on the Insert tab, and it contains three commands. The most used one is Page Break; this command allows the user to finish writing on the current page and start writing on a new page. (You can also access many of these same tools on the Layout tab in the Page Setup command group.) Adding a page break can be particularly useful at the end of a chapter or section. To insert a page break, place the cursor where the break will be (the start of the new page), and select the Page Break option. You may also just use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl+Enter to place a page break. If you turn on the ability to view hidden characters, you can see exactly where the page break is on your page (see Figure 4.48). You can also view it easily in the Print layout option on the View tab. Here, we can add a page beak at the end of each major section of the market trends report.

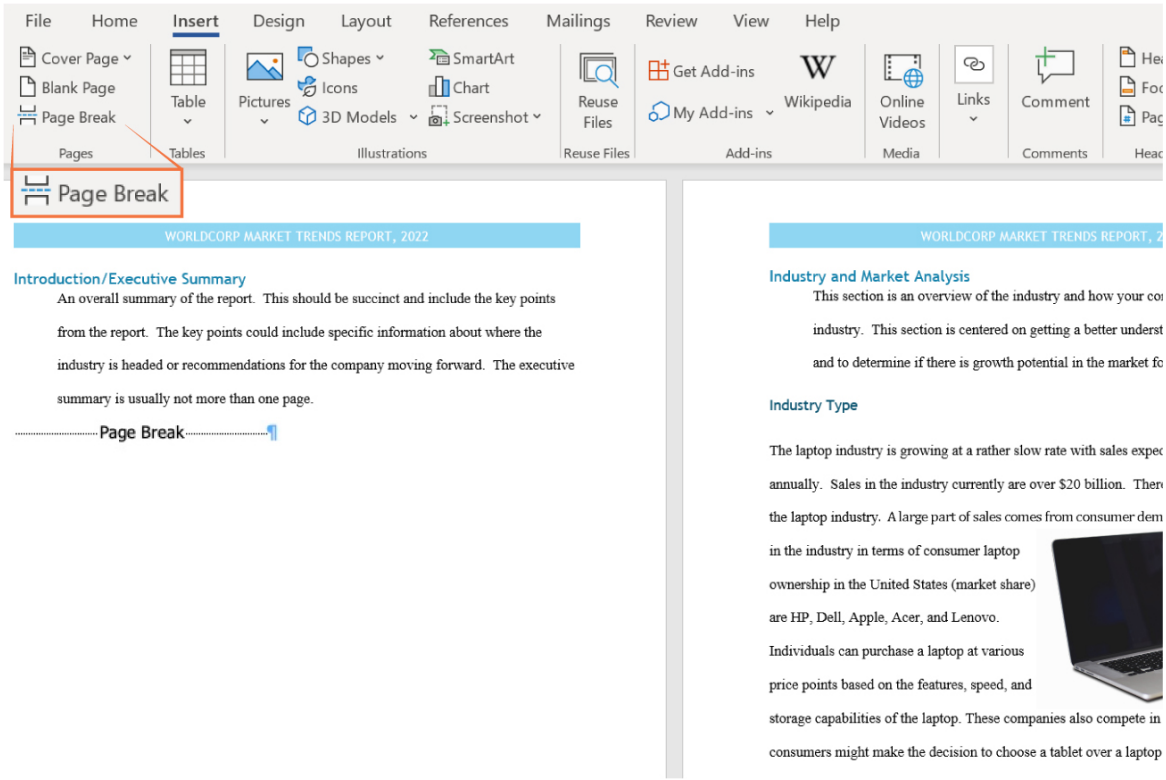


Figure 4.48: Page breaks make the subsequent text start on the next page. Here, it was placed at the end of the Introduction/Executive Summary, so that the Industry and Market Analysis section started on a new page. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

There is another command, Blank Page, which is not as commonly used as Page Break, but can be impactful in long documents such as reports and textbooks. These intentionally blank pages are added to provide a sense of closure or finality before a new chapter or section begins; they make a bigger impact than just a page break because they leave a full page empty. This convention is more often used in the publishing world when needing to, say, start a new chapter on a right-hand page.

To insert a blank page, go through the same steps as inserting a page break: Put the cursor where you want the blank page to be, and select the Blank Page icon.

The last command to discuss in the Pages group is Cover Page. Adding a cover page, or title page, is a common practice for long documents. It is an informative page that contains basic information about the report, such as the title, authors, publishing date, and the department or/and division. Some companies or organizations follow specific guidelines about title pages; formally written reports that follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, for instance, do not include any graphics, and the components must follow a set alignment and format. Yet many business reports do not strictly follow any set manual of style, or may simply follow their company's brand guidelines. It is appropriate in many business settings to use graphics, such as a logo or photograph, on a title page, as in Figure 4.49.

Insert a title page to your market trends report. To insert a title page, select the drop-down menu of the Cover Page command, and choose a design. Word offers many different options for layouts, fonts, colors, and styles. Just update the text and add an image, if applicable.

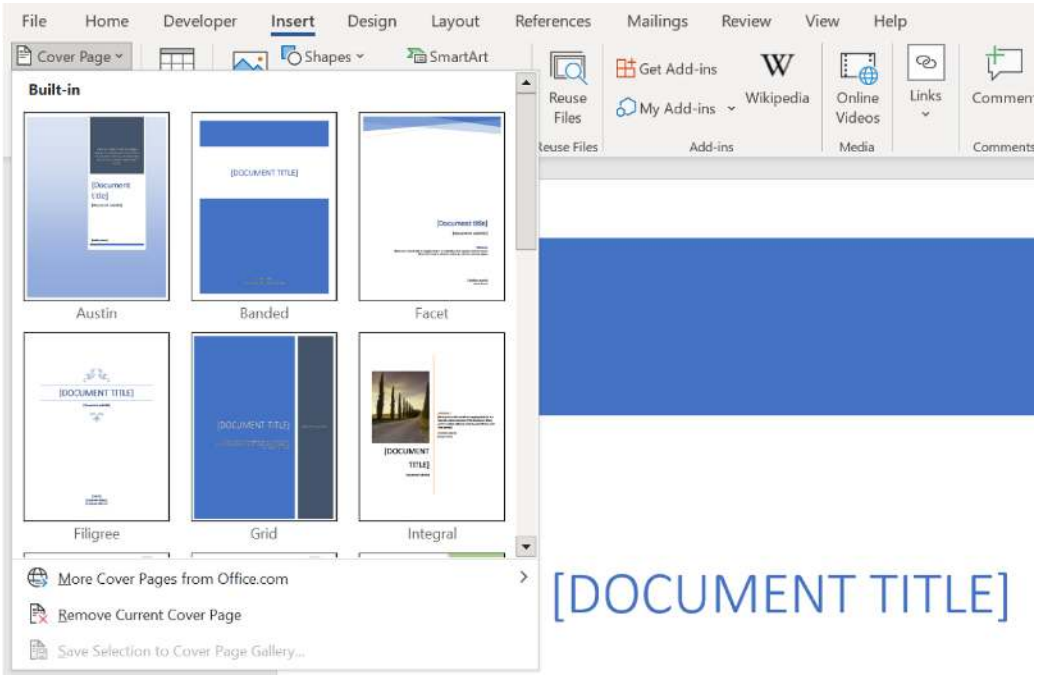


Figure 4.49: Word comes with some built-in styles and layouts for cover pages, some of which include spaces for graphics. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Format Painter

Another tool in Word that helps manage long documents is the Format Painter. Format Painter is a command on the Home tab. It is used to copy formatting from another document or section of the same document. This can be useful when you have formatting in one section of the document that you want to copy over to another section, saving you the time and effort of having to format the new document or section again manually.

To use the Format Painter, select the area of the document from which you want to copy the formatting, then choose the Format Painter command. If you single-click the Format Painter, it will only allow it to be used once. To use it multiple times, double-click the Format Painter. It can then be used until you click the Format Painter icon again or press the Esc key. The mouse pointer will change to a little brush, then with the brush, you select all the areas you want to apply the formatting to. Word will automatically mirror and apply the new formatting. If the document has a lot of chapters, if the document outline is multilevel, or if there is a lot of different elements in the previous document, then the Format Painter will not work perfectly. You might need to fix some pages or areas of the newer document. For example, when you have bullets, the Format Painter will not copy over the bullets, but instead will only copy the formatting of the text.

Format Painter is a useful tool for when you want a whole document to have the same formatting, particularly if that document contains copied and pasted text from multiple sources or collaborators. In Figure 4.50, we selected a phrase from the first paragraph, then chose Format Painter and used the brush to select the entire target paragraph. As you can see, the selected text now has matching formatting to the header.

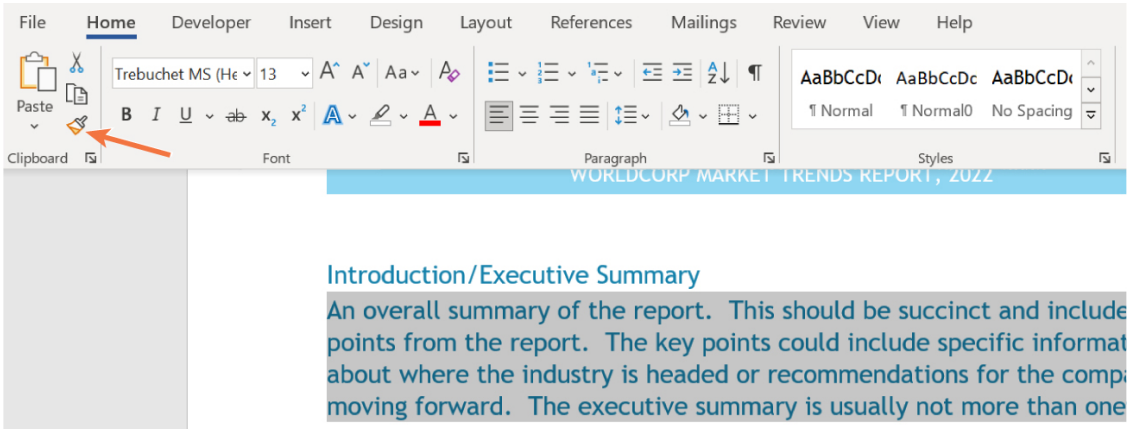


Figure 4.50: The Format Painter is useful for applying multiple types of formatting to a single chunk of text. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

References Tab

The References tab is for working with citations and the front/back matter of books. This is an important tab for anyone who is creating a document with many sources, such as a journal article or economic report. It is also helpful when dealing with long documents that include many sections such as the market trends report. Managing a table of contents, a citation list, or a bibliography manually can be unwieldy, and, fortunately, Word provides lots of tools to help users keep these organized and looking professional.

Let's review the different command groups on this tab. The first command group is the Table of Contents group. This contains tools for helping the user insert or modify a table of contents. The Footnotes command group is for managing and inserting footnotes and endnotes. The Research command group has two useful tools. The Search tool can be used to find information, definitions, and images online. The Researcher tool allows you to search for sources for information contained in the document. You can then insert the citation or link to the source using the tool. You simply click on the Research tool and type the search term or phrase into the navigation window. The Citations & Bibliography command group is for inserting, formatting, and managing your references. The Captions command group is for when you are working with figures and tables and want to add captions to later create a summary of the figures in your document. The Index command group is for building an index, like what you would find at the end of a textbook. The Table of Authorities is a command group that lawyers use when they need to cite cases and statutes. This next section walks through some of the commands you might find most helpful in this tab.

Table of Contents

If your document is formatted properly, Word will automatically generate a table of contents for you. You can select from a few different styles, which is useful for ensuring that your table of contents matches the look and feel of the rest of your document. Let's examine the requirements for a table of contents and what you need to have in your document to create a good one.

Headings for Tables of Contents

In the Creating and Working in Documents chapter, we discussed how to insert headings and why these are important for navigating long documents. We also mentioned how to access your document outline in the Navigation Pane. Recall that as you insert different levels of headings (H1, H2, H3, etc.), the Navigation Pane will read the document automatically and display them for you in the form of a document outline. This is particularly useful for long documents, as you can see the outline of the entire document without having to scroll all the way through hundreds of pages of text.

The reason these headings are relevant to generating a table of contents is that the table of contents uses the headings in the same way as the document outline. When you set up your H1s, H2s, and H3s, Word will automatically use those to generate a multilevel table of contents.

Section Breaks for Tables of Contents

In the chapter on Creating and Working in Documents, we also briefly reviewed how to insert section breaks and why they are important. Recall that there are two types of section breaks: continuous section breaks and page breaks. Continuous section breaks

are used when you want a new section but want to remain on the same page. They can also be used if you want to have different margins on two different areas of the same page, or to add columns for one section of the text. Page breaks, however, begin a new section on the next page. These do everything the continuous section break does, but simply adds a new page. These are useful for when you want to start a new chapter, for example.

Both types of section breaks are important for generating your table of contents. When you create a table of contents in Word, the program automatically generates page numbers based on the page numbers in your sections. You may have continuous page numbering throughout your document, and so in this case, the table of contents will not be concerned with your sections. However, if there is different page numbering in different sections, the table of contents will reflect this.

Inserting a Table of Contents

You need to have added your headings and sections for the table of contents to work. In the market trends report, we formatted the headings for each major section and the subsections in those sections. Recall the headings were formatted using the Style command group on the Home tab. To insert a table of contents using the headings we have defined, go to the first page of the first section. For the report, we want to include the table of contents after the cover page. So we will go to the Introduction/Executive Summary heading. Leave a blank line before the section heading by pressing Enter to move the first section downward as least one line, as shown in Figure 4.51. This will determine the placement of the table of contents. It should appear before the actual report starts, so before the first section of the document. Now, go to the References tab, choose the drop-down menu called Table of Contents, and choose any of the preset formats. Choose Automatic Table 2 for the market trends report; it will look like Figure 4.52. Conveniently, the table of contents has clickable hyperlinks by default, meaning that you can press Ctrl on the keyboard while clicking the mouse on any part of the table of contents and it will take you to that part of the document.

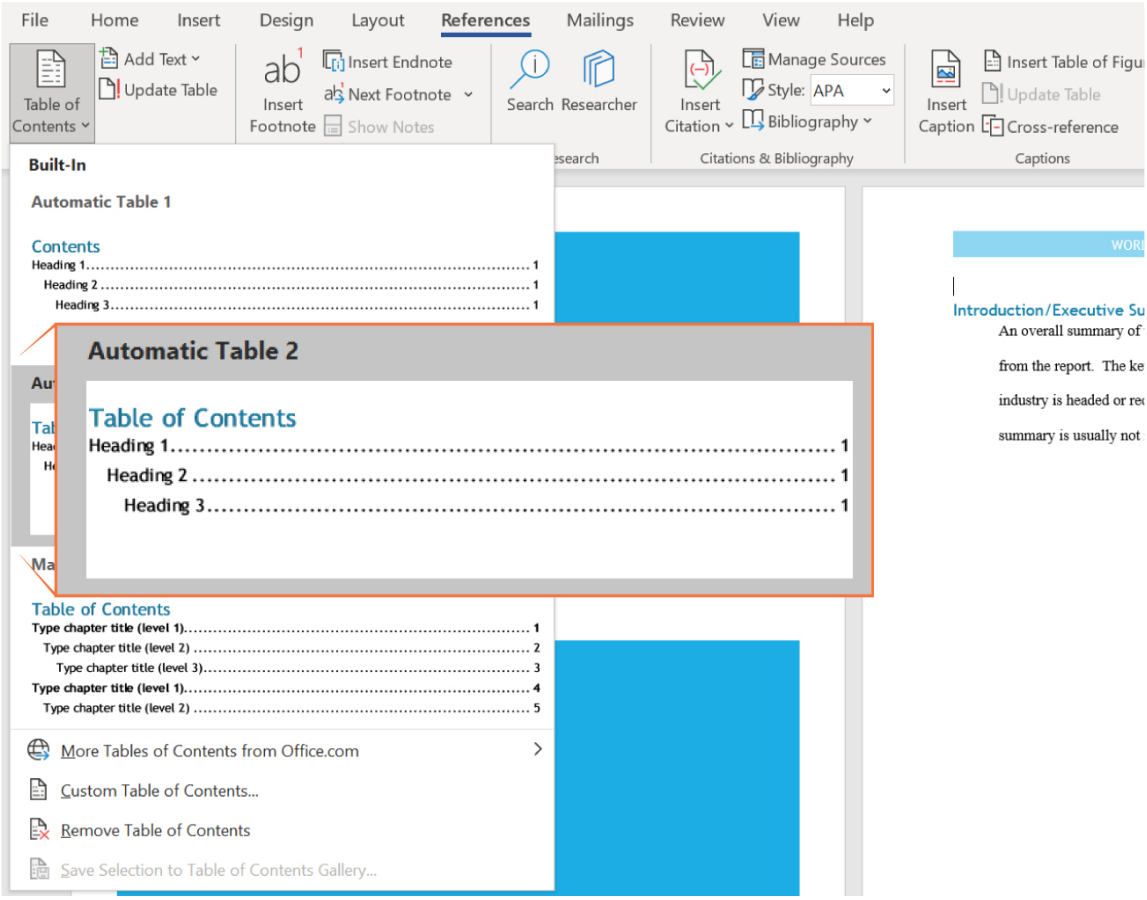


Figure 4.51: Creating a hyperlinked table of contents in Word allows the reader to click right to each section, directly from the table of contents. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

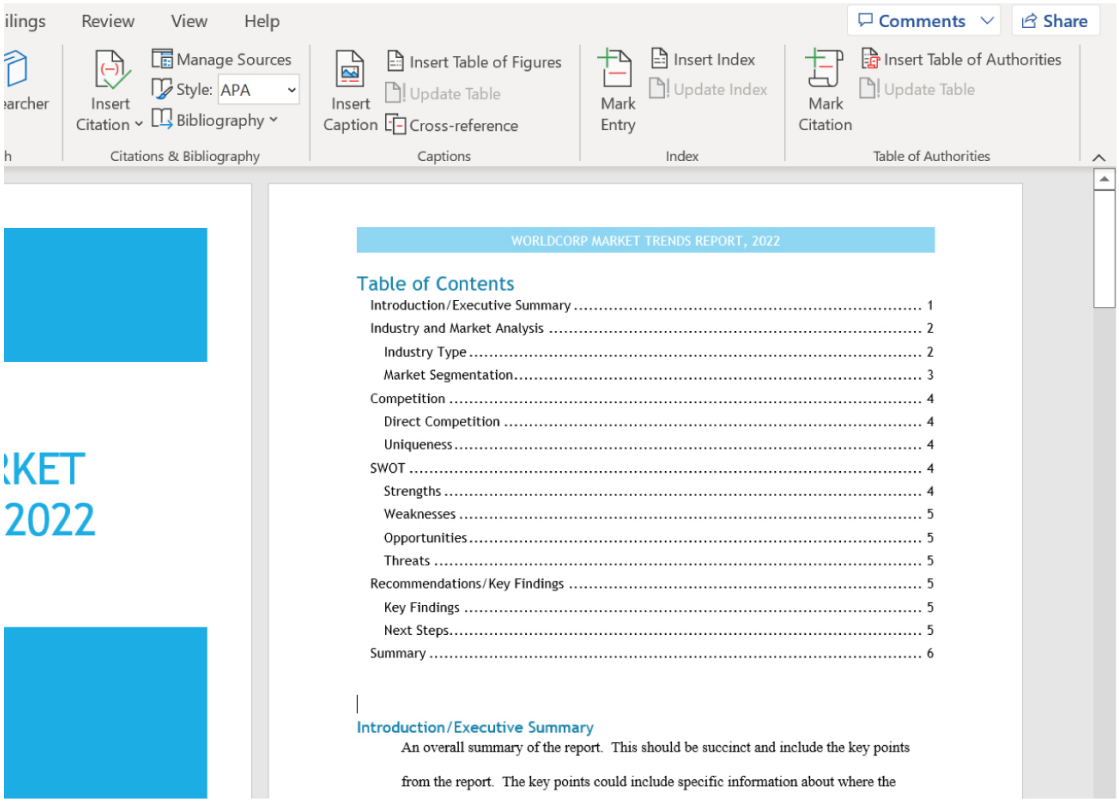


Figure 4.52: The table of contents is arranged using the headings we defined when composing the document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Note that any time you update your document, and add or delete any headings, you will also need to update your table of contents. You can do this simply by putting your cursor anywhere on the table of contents and selecting the Update Table button. This will automatically update your headings and page numbers.

Footnotes and Endnotes

A footnote is a way to add notes to a document, and/or a way to cite a reference. A footnote appears at the bottom of the page where the reference occurs. When you add a footnote, a small superscript number or symbol will appear above your text, and then the footnote will automatically be added to the bottom of the page. This is an easy way to add a reference to a source or other general notes. For example, the author may want to add a related thought or comment about the text and have it appear at the bottom of the page in the form of a footnote, so that the reader can quickly and easily read it.

An endnote is similar to a footnote, except that the note appears on a page at the end of the document. Endnotes are typically part of the back matter. They are useful for when you want to have all of your references and comments in one place. However, having them at the end of the document makes it harder for the reader to read them in the moment.

To insert a footnote or endnote, place your cursor at the end of a sentence, and choose the Insert Footnote or Insert Endnote command on the References tab. Word will automatically take you to the bottom of the page (for a footnote) or the end of the document (for an endnote) and add a short line to indicate where the footnote/endnote space will be.

For the market trends report, we need to add a footnote to provide the reference for the information about laptop sales in the industry. We will place the cursor at the end of the sentence (at the end of the word “billion”) as the place where the footnote notation will be inserted (Figure 4.53). The actual footnote will be inserted at the bottom of the page as a blank footnote. You can then insert the appropriate citation for the footnote. In this case, the website for the reference was copied and pasted into the footnote (Figure 4.54). To format the text in the footnote, click on it twice, and the whole line will be selected, then right-click on it and select Style. You can change the font type if you click on Modify. You can further change the footnote type, as there are many standard layouts of how to present a footnote, as Figure 4.55 shows. Enter the citation/text for the footnote.

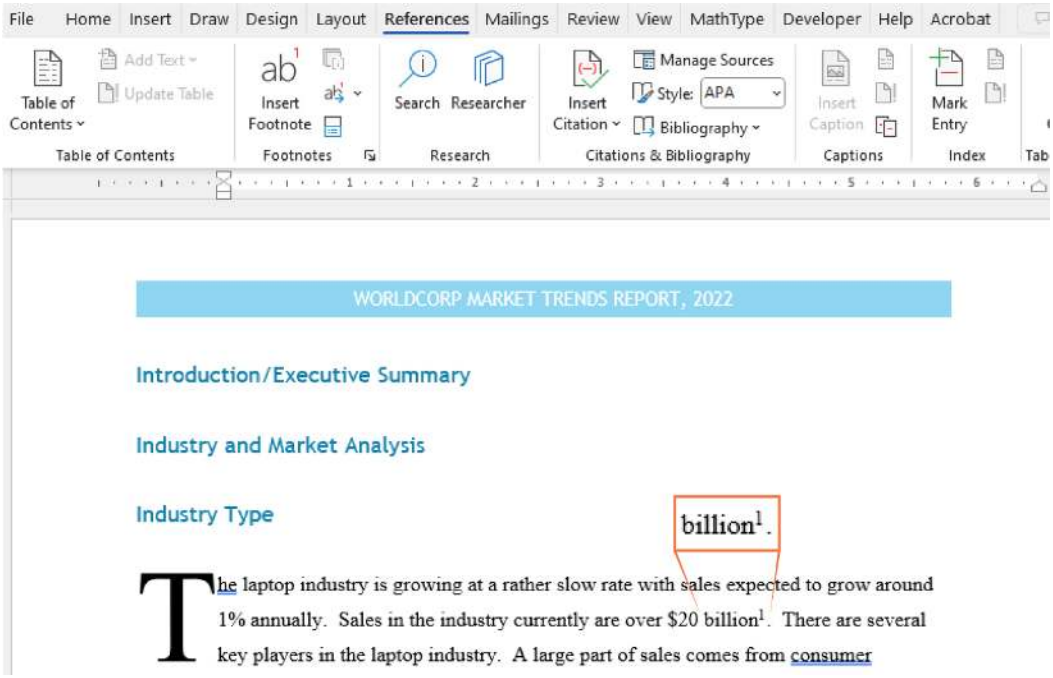


Figure 4.53: The superscript "1" indicates that there is a footnote at the bottom of the page. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

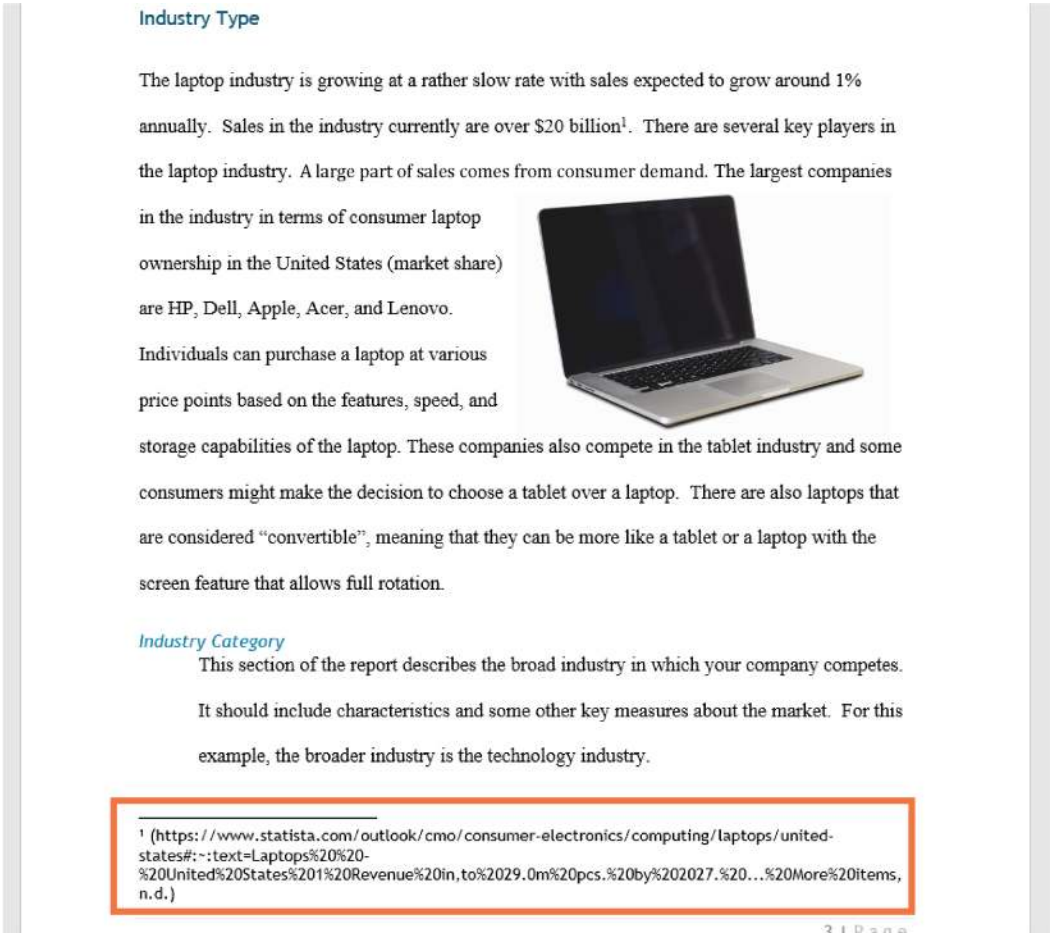


Figure 4.54: Footnotes will be numbered in the body of the document and numbered at the bottom of the page where the footnote is inserted. Include the citation for the reference in the footnote. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

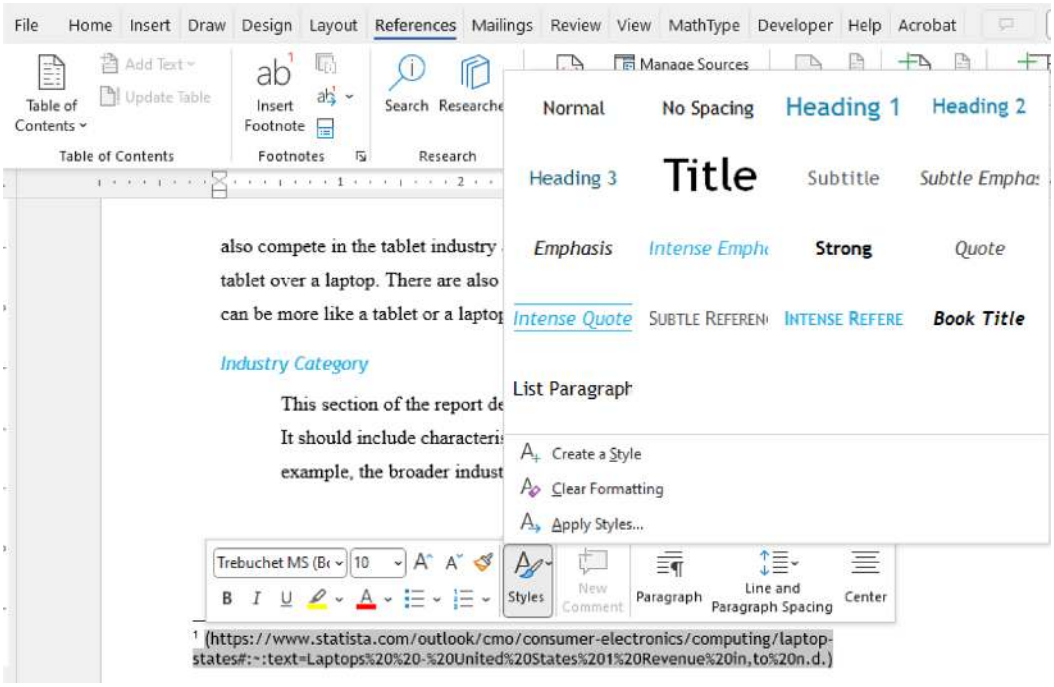


Figure 4.55: The style of the footnote font can be formatted using a wide variety of built-in styles. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

An endnote will look exactly the same as a footnote. The only difference is that it is at the end of the document instead of at the bottom of the page. For the market trends report, we could use endnotes to identify the departments that contributed the specific information in the sections or to add additional context to a statement in the report.

For both footnotes and endnotes, you have the option of changing the numbering system. Word will automatically use numbers (for footnotes) or Roman numerals (for endnotes), but you can change this. Double-click to select the endnote or footnote, then right-click it to activate the context menu, and select Note Options where you can change the numbering format. If you want to change the font or layout, select Style from the context menu.

Table of Figures

A table of figures is similar to a table of contents, except that instead of listing your document's headings and section breaks, it lists the captioned figures, such as tables and images. This is useful in documents with a lot of statistical analyses, for instance, in which readers will need to easily and quickly find specific graphs or charts. It can also be useful in documents like business reports, where you might want to have a list of the different data tables. Like a table of contents, there are a few requirements that must be met before the table of figures can be generated.

Captions

For Word to automatically generate your table of figures, you need to insert captions for each of them. Let's first insert a summary chart of data using the skills learned earlier in the chapter into the market trends report. To "caption" a figure, select the entire figure, then choose Insert Caption (see Figure 4.56). In the dialog box that appears (see Figure 4.57), the caption is automatically generated to be "Figure 1," but you can rename it to whatever you like. There are also options where you can choose the placement of the caption. Do the same for all the figures in your document. Once all your figures are captioned, then you can insert your table of figures.

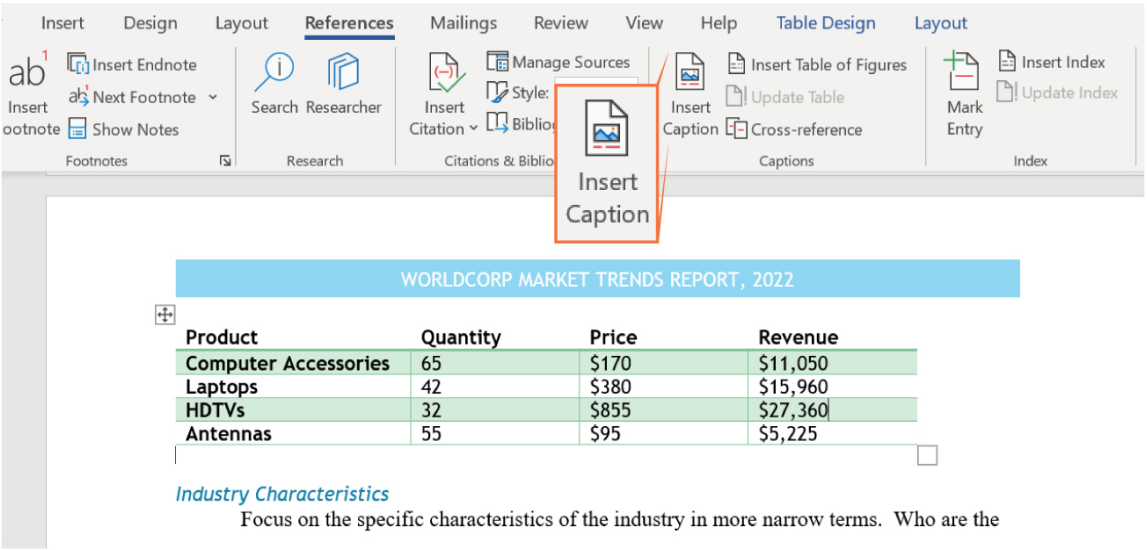
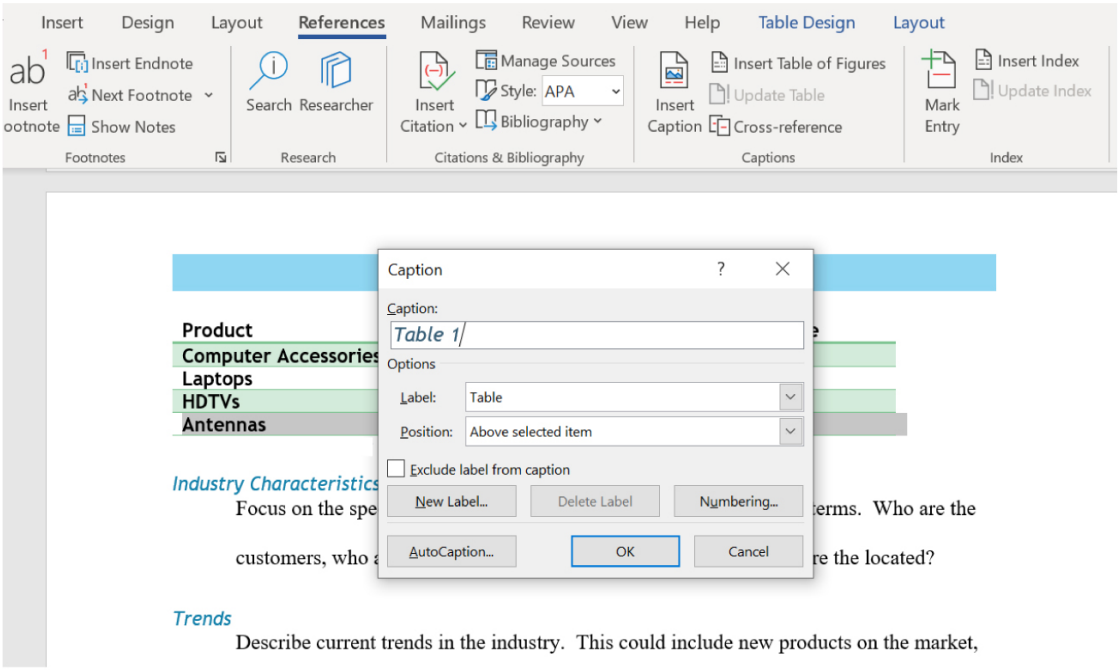


Figure 4.56: You must use the Insert Caption tool to make sure all of your captions will appear in the table of figures. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



(a)



(b)

Figure 4.57: (a) You can use the default text for captions or type in your own information. (b) The caption is placed below the table in this example, and is formatted according to the Style formatting used for the rest of the document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Inserting a Table of Figures

As with inserting a table of contents, first go to the top of your document where you will want your table of figures to appear. Typically, a table of figures is placed right below the table of contents. Now that we have labeled our table with a caption, we can create a table of figures to see how it works. As seen in Figure 4.58, insert a page break, and choose the Insert a Table of Figures command from the References tab. Word will automatically "read" the existing captions, and a table of figures will be generated.

To make your document neat and organized, add the title Table of Figures on top, and insert another page break to separate the Table of Figures page from the beginning of the document.

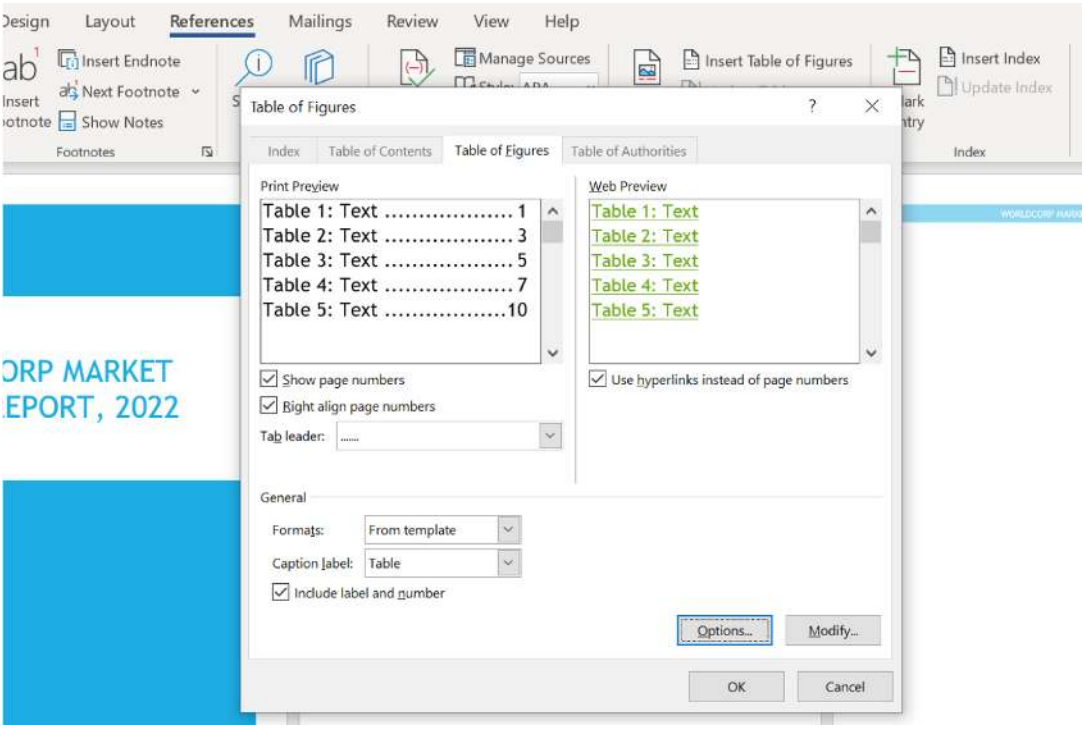


Figure 4.58: You can change some formatting options when you choose Insert Table of Figures. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

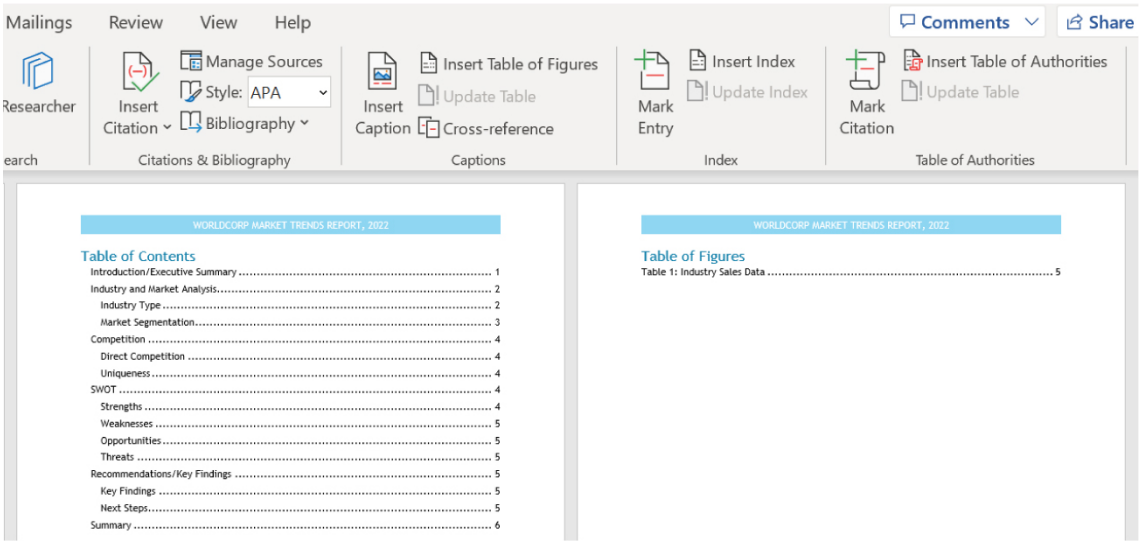


Figure 4.59: The table of figures should look similar to a table of contents, but without the multilevel tiers. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Linked Bookmarks

Another helpful tool for navigating long documents is the bookmark. You can add bookmark links throughout your document for better navigation. Place the cursor where you want the bookmark to link up to—a section header, for example, or the beginning of an important paragraph—and go to the Insert tab and click Bookmark. In the dialog box, type a name for your bookmark Figure 4.60. In this case, we chose to bookmark the start of the body text. Now, select a word that will link up to the bookmark, right-click on it, and select Hyperlink from the context menu. The same hyperlink dialog box will appear, but this time select Place in This Document. Click on the bookmark you just made, and then click OK; the link will be set Figure 4.61. Conversely, if you want to remove a bookmark from Word, click the Bookmark command in the Insert menu, locate it, and then select Delete.

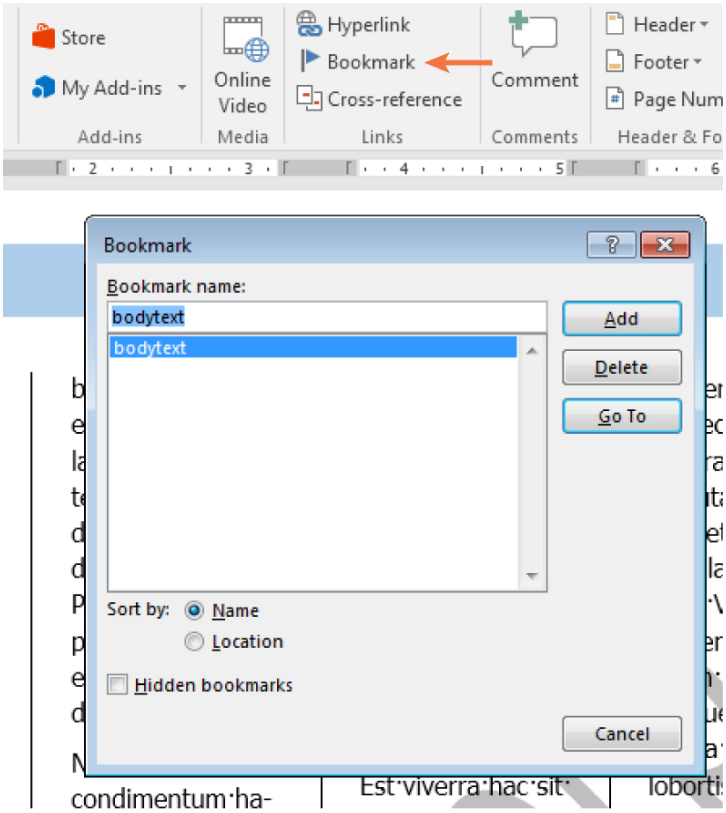


Figure 4.60: When creating Bookmarks, make sure to choose a descriptor word that has meaning to the content you are designating. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

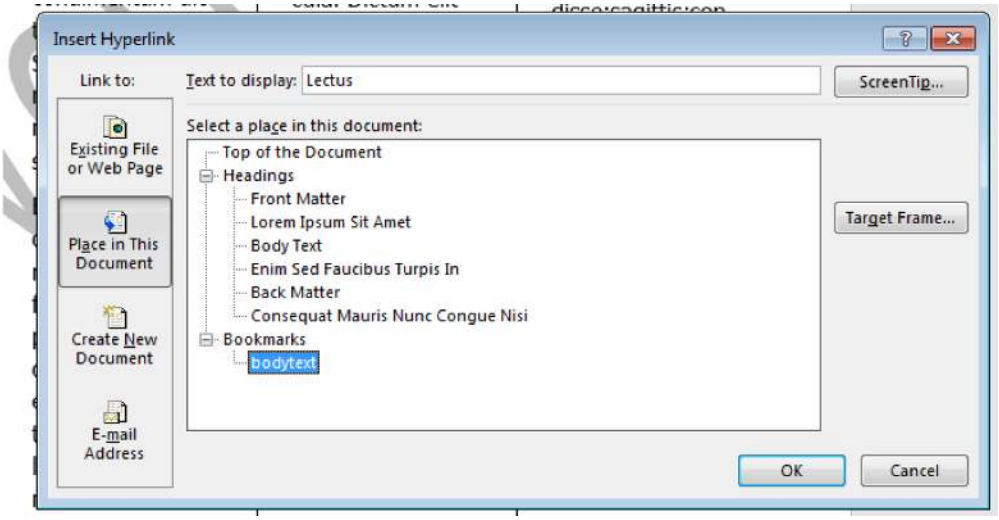


Figure 4.61: The bookmark is now set. Linking a section of text to a bookmark eases navigation through a long document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another reason to use bookmarks is to help digital readers of your document navigate back to important sections of the document while they read. For example, you can add a link at the end of each chapter that says, “Go to Table of Contents.” To do this, first place a bookmark in front of the table of contents as Figure 4.62 shows. To locate the roster of bookmarks, click the Bookmark command on the Insert tab, and then click Go to. If you want to relocate the bookmark, place the cursor where you want the bookmark to be relocated to, then open the Bookmark dialog box, click the original bookmark’s name, and then click Add. This will update the new location.

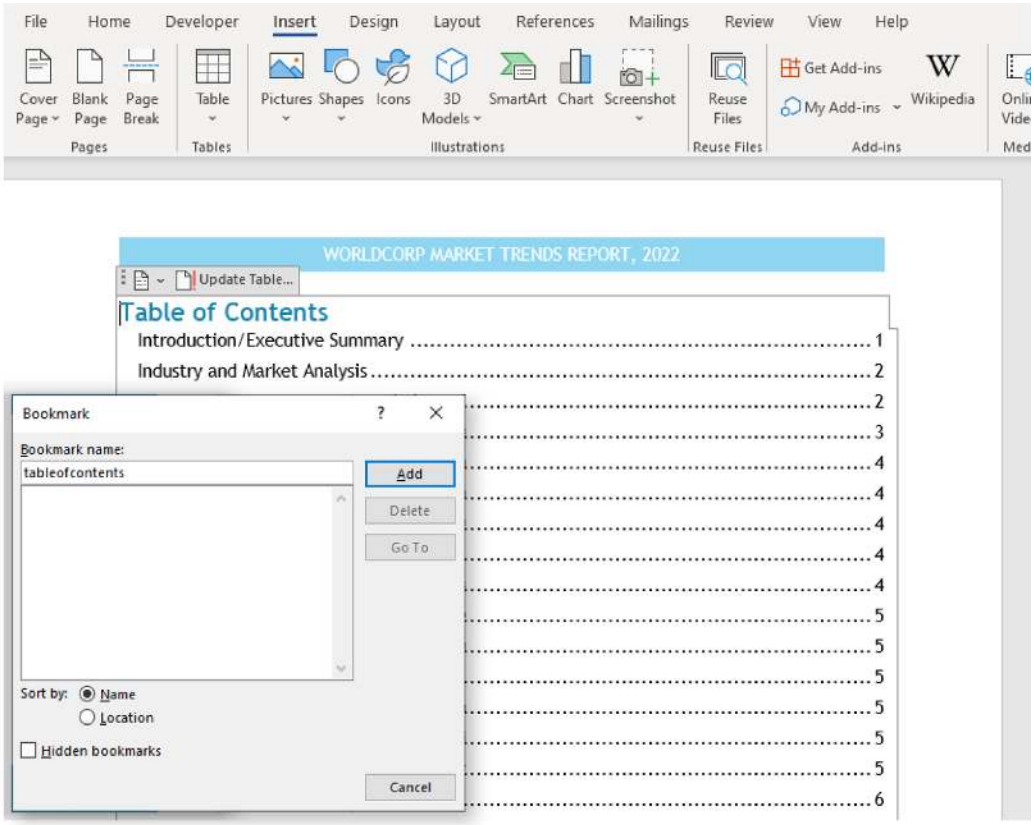


Figure 4.62: When you create the bookmark at the table of contents, you will be able to see it in your roster of bookmarks. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next, move to the area of the document where you want to link the table of contents. Go to the Insert tab and select Link. From the Insert Link window, choose the bookmark you just created. In the text box that appears, write the text you want readers to see ("Go to Table of Contents"), then choose Place in this Document as shown in Figure 4.63 and Figure 4.64. Choose the placement in the document and click OK.

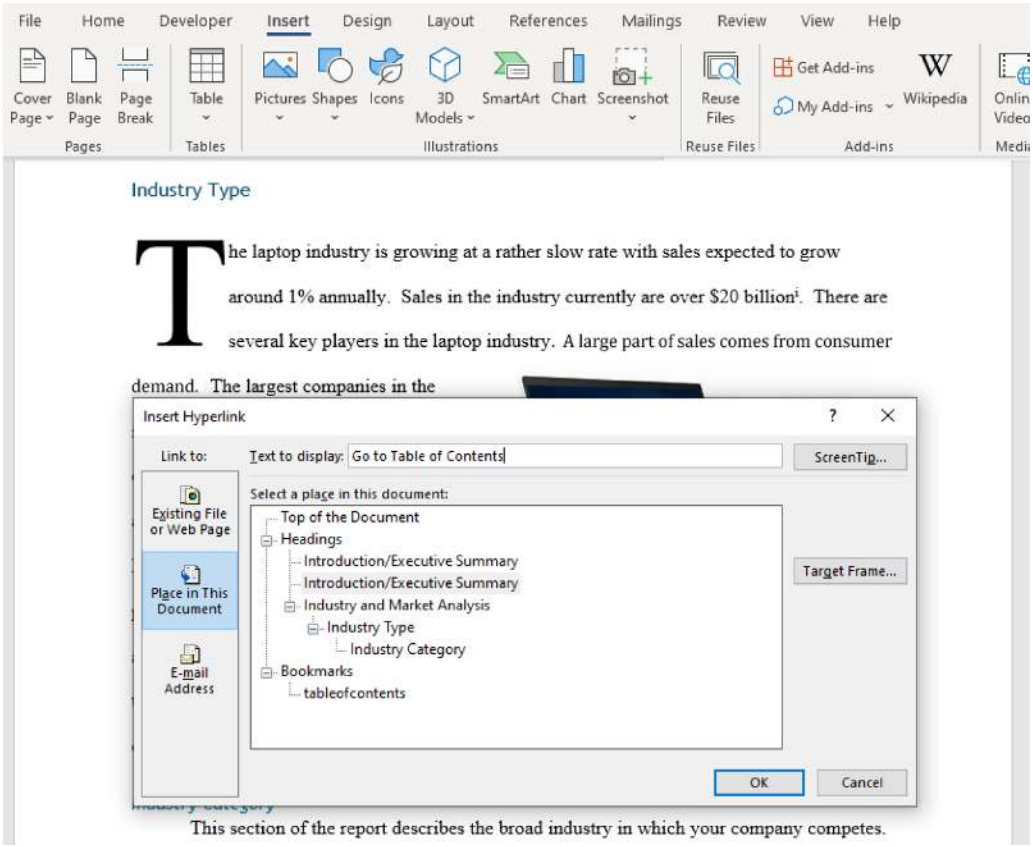


Figure 4.63: Remember to name your hyperlink something that will be helpful to the reader. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

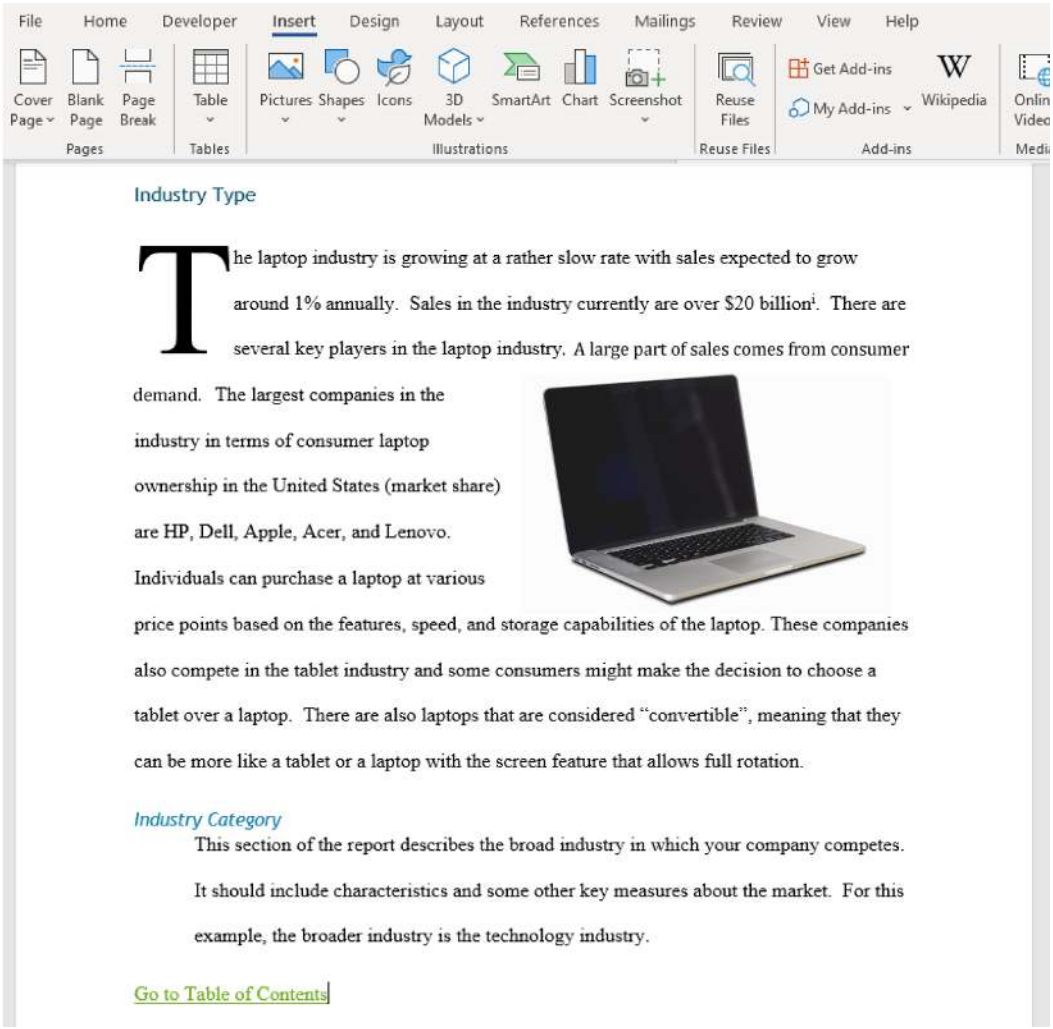


Figure 4.64: Readers can simply click on the inserted hyperlink to go straight to the table of contents. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Spotlight on Ethics: Academic Integrity

When you are creating documents, especially long documents that might include research or data that has been created by others, it is essential that you give proper credit. You might have encountered citing sources when completing a research report for a class. We have an ethical obligation to cite sources to acknowledge the work of researchers and their findings from the studies. If proper citation is not given to material that is not your own, this is called plagiarism. Plagiarism is part of a broader category called "academic integrity." Academic integrity goes beyond giving credit for work that is not your own, but it also covers issues such as cheating on a test or paying to have someone create a research report for you.

This is not to say that we cannot use information from others to support our thoughts or to help us develop a new understanding of the material. Instead, it means we have to acknowledge that the information came from another source and we are using their research in our work. From the researcher's standpoint, a measure of the quality of the research is the number of times the work is cited by others. This is similar to a product online having a large number of five-star reviews. The more the research is cited by others, the higher the credibility of the information.

This page titled 4.3: Managing Long Documents in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.4: Google Docs- Enhanced Formatting Features

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Insert and format page numbers
- Insert and modify a header/footer
- Insert and format a list

The market trends report has been composed thus far in Microsoft Word. However, it could have just as easily been composed in Google Docs. Docs has many of the same features that we see in Word. Some people prefer working in Docs as it can be more user-friendly than Word, particularly its features involving collaborating with others.

Many of Docs's advanced formatting features are similar to those in Word. Just like in Word, you can insert and format page numbers, headers, footers, and multilevel lists. Some customizable features that are present in Word may not be present in Docs, but some users might prefer fewer choices, as it facilitates a more user-friendly program. Here, we will revisit many of the tools we covered earlier and apply them to the market trends report in Docs. We will start with an earlier draft of the report where we began the chapter (Figure 4.2).

Mac Tip

Mac computers come with Safari as the default internet browser. While Docs works just fine in Safari, it functions better in Google Chrome. Chrome is also a Google product and, as such, comes with integrations that work seamlessly with Docs, such as browser extensions and notifications, as well as supports Chrome-only features, like voice typing.

Page Numbers

The tool for placing page numbers into a Google document has fewer customizable formatting options than the tool in Word. There are only two page number styles: top right or bottom right. These are both available in the Insert menu. Let's start with the market trends draft and add page numbers (Figure 4.65). If you select More options, a few more customization options appear. You can choose to have your page numbers start counting from the second page of your document, which could be useful if your first page is a cover page or a table of contents. You can also start your page numbering at a certain number (i.e., other than the number 1), as shown in Figure 4.66. The page number is always placed in the header or footer.

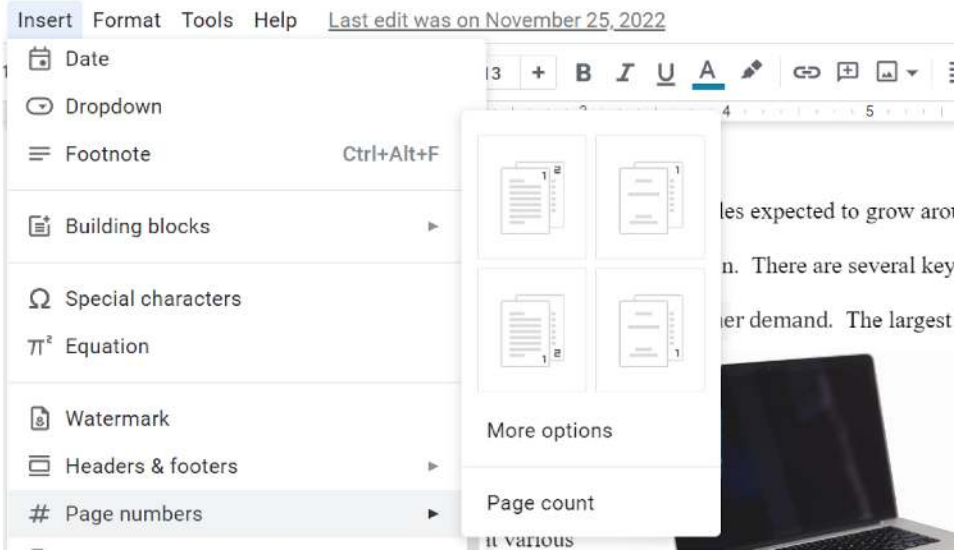


Figure 4.65: Although the default page number doesn't seem to allow the user to insert the number on the left or in the center, you can align it later using the alignment tools in the action bar. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

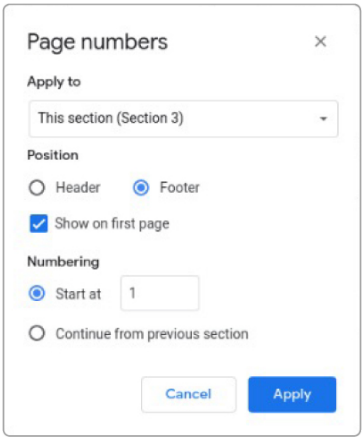


Figure 4.66: You can choose to have the page numbering continue from a previous section, which can be useful when creating long documents with multiple sections. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

One convenient feature of Docs is its ability to easily add a page count to your page number. First, you insert your page number, then manually type the word “of” after it (Figure 4.67). Then, go to the Insert menu, click Page numbers, and select Page count (Figure 4.68). This will add a field that gives the total number of pages in the document. Now, your page count should appear as “# of #” (e.g., “1 of 5”) (Figure 4.69).

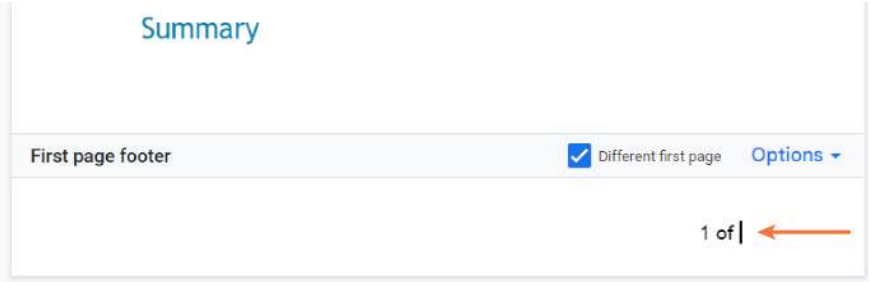


Figure 4.67: Use the Insert menu to insert page numbers. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

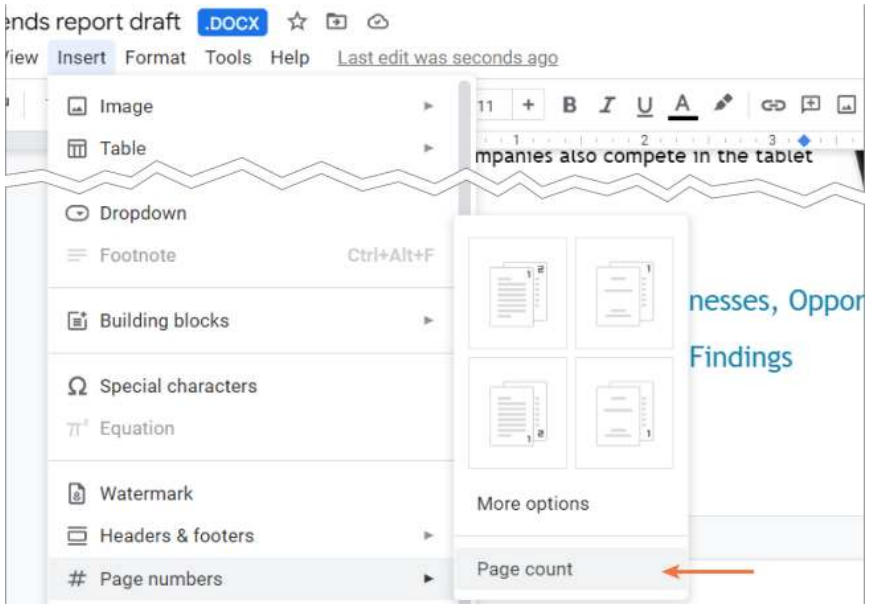


Figure 4.68: The Page count feature allows the reader to see how many total pages there are in the document or that section. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

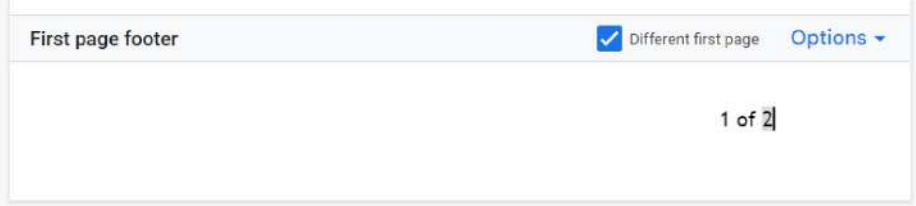


Figure 4.69: Adding a page count to your footer helps the reader know how far they've read. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Headers and Footers

You can add headers and footers to your document in Docs. The Headers & footers command is also located in the Insert menu. Once you have added your header or footer, you can choose to further configure it by choosing Options, the blue command that is located on the header or footer itself. This Options button opens to a drop-down menu with a few choices. If you select Header format or Footer format, you will see a dialog box with the option of applying certain header/footer settings to a section of the entire document, as seen in Figure 4.70. You can also control the height of each header/footer in inches, as well as choose to not have the header or footer appear on the first page. This latter choice is useful in documents for which you have a cover page. Simply tick the box Different first page. When you are finished configuring the headers/footers, select Apply.

You can edit and format the text contained in the header/footer as you would text in any other part of the document: by manually changing the font type; applying bold, italic, or underlined format; adding an image; or choosing a different alignment.

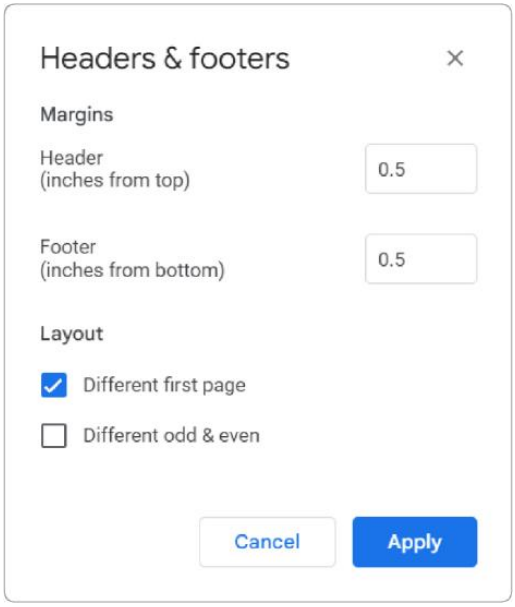


Figure 4.70: Once the header or footer is inserted, you can use the formatting tools on the action bar, such as centering the header, just like with page numbers. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You can also add a horizontal line that visually separates your header or footer from the rest of the text. This can add a neat and professional look to your document. Just put the cursor where you want the line, go to the Insert menu, and choose Horizontal line, as shown in Figure 4.71.

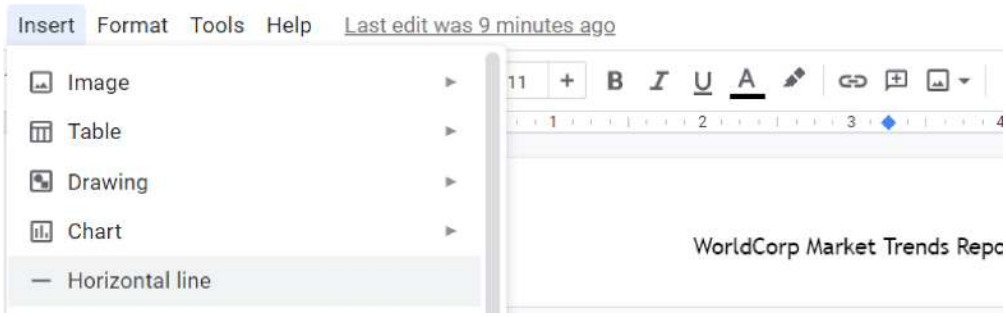


Figure 4.71: Insert the horizontal line via the Insert menu, just as you did for the header or footer itself. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

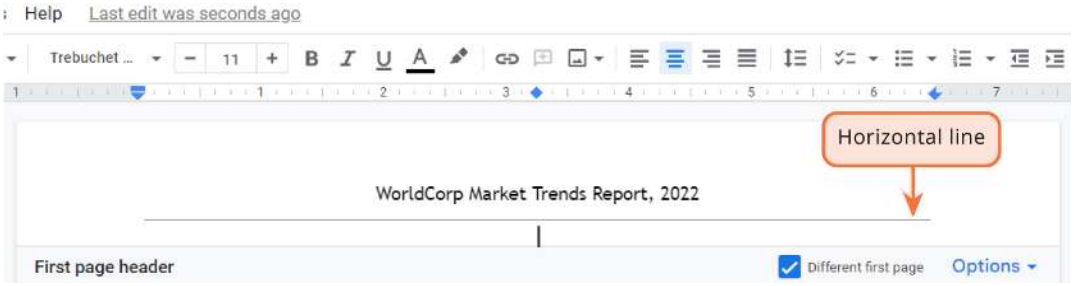


Figure 4.72: The horizontal line creates a nice separation between the document and the header. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Once you have made all your adjustments in the header/footer, just place your cursor anywhere in the body of the document to exit from the header/footer editing mode, or, alternatively, press the Esc (escape) key on the keyboard.

Remember that using the View menu, you can change the preview of the header/footer. Make sure that you are viewing the document with Print layout checked so that you can view your headers and footers. If you choose to work without the Print layout option checked, you won't see the headers/footers.

Lists

The chapter Creating and Working in Documents briefly discussed how to insert a bulleted or numbered list in Docs. In this section, we will use the document outline we used earlier in this chapter to create a multilevel list in Docs.

To access numbered, lettered, or bulleted lists, go to the Format menu and choose the Bullets & numbering option. This will open a drop-down menu, where you can see your choices for customization. You can also access lists (numbered and bulleted) from the action bar (Figure 4.73).

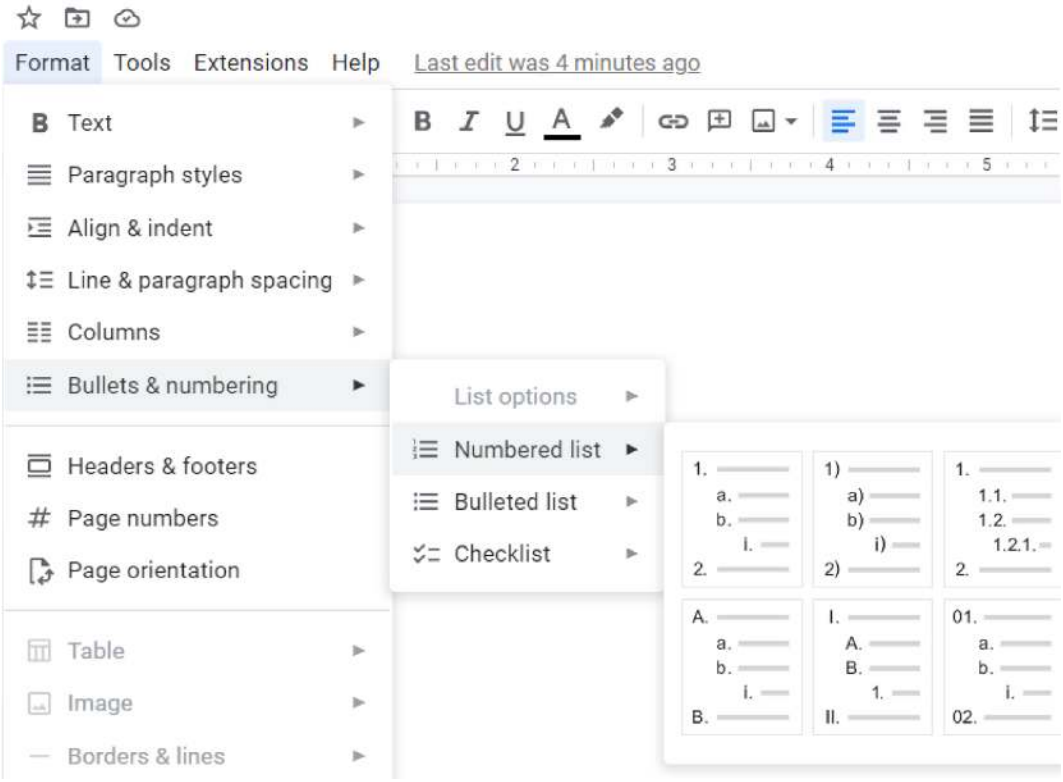


Figure 4.73: There are two ways to insert a list into your Doc: through the Format menu, or via the action bar. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Because adding lists to your document is generally done for organization and visual purposes, you want to make sure they are easy to read and showcase the most important information. For all list types, you can increase or decrease the space between the lines. This can help with readability. To do this, select the whole list and go to the Line and Paragraph spacing command and choose a wider or narrower space, as shown in Figure 4.74. You can also change the color of the text, which could be useful for helping your list stand out from the rest of your document. Select the text you want to format and use the action bar command for Text color.

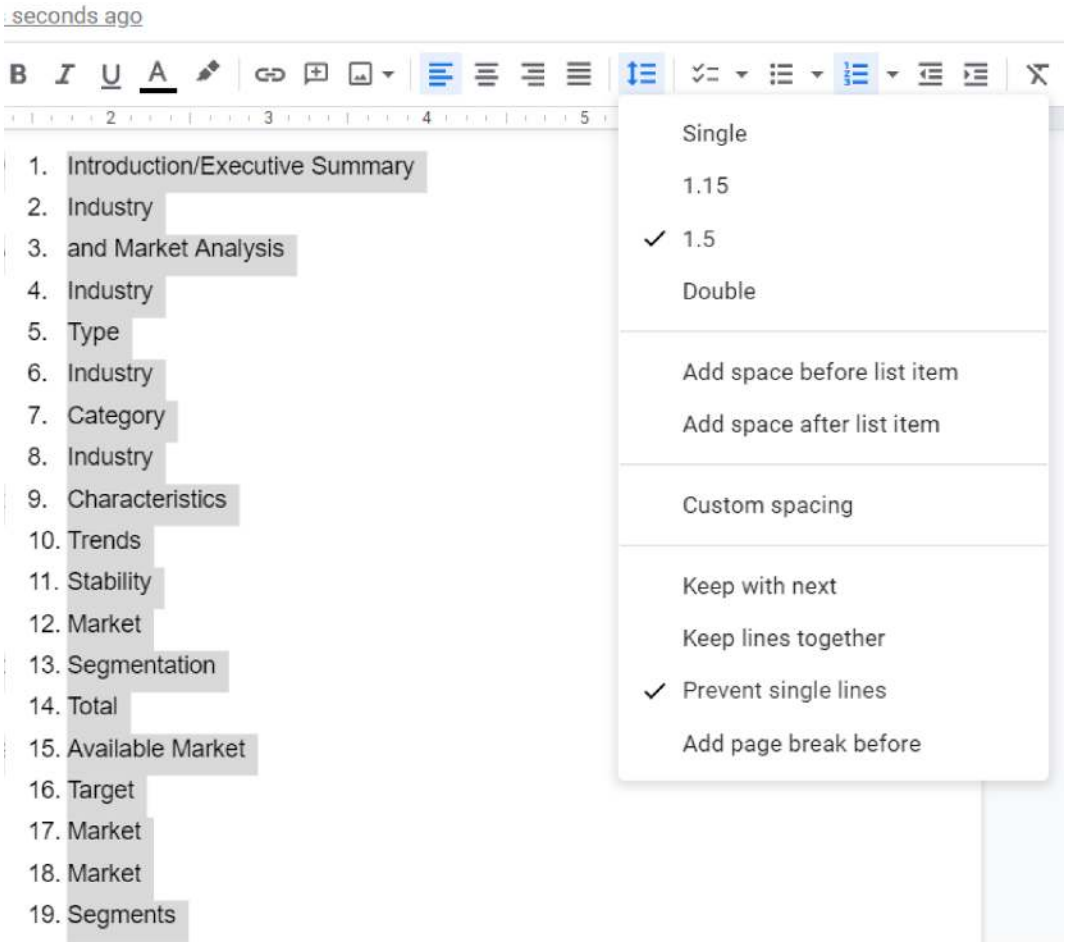


Figure 4.74: In Docs, all types of lists can be formatted just like normal text. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Numbered and Lettered Lists

To create a multilevel list, choose the style of list you want, then use the Tab key to indent your lines. We want to create an outline of the headings and subheadings for our marketing trends report. This will give collaborators an idea of the format for the report, as well as allow us to use the outline to allocate sections to certain people or departments to fill in the content. For example, Figure 4.74 shows a straightforward Numbered list from the Insert menu, but Figure 4.75 shows one with multiple levels. You can create these list levels by using the Tab key, which will increase the indent on the line, creating a sublevel. If you want a further sublevel, press the Tab key twice, making it a subcategory of the category. You can also do this by using the Increase indent command in the action bar.

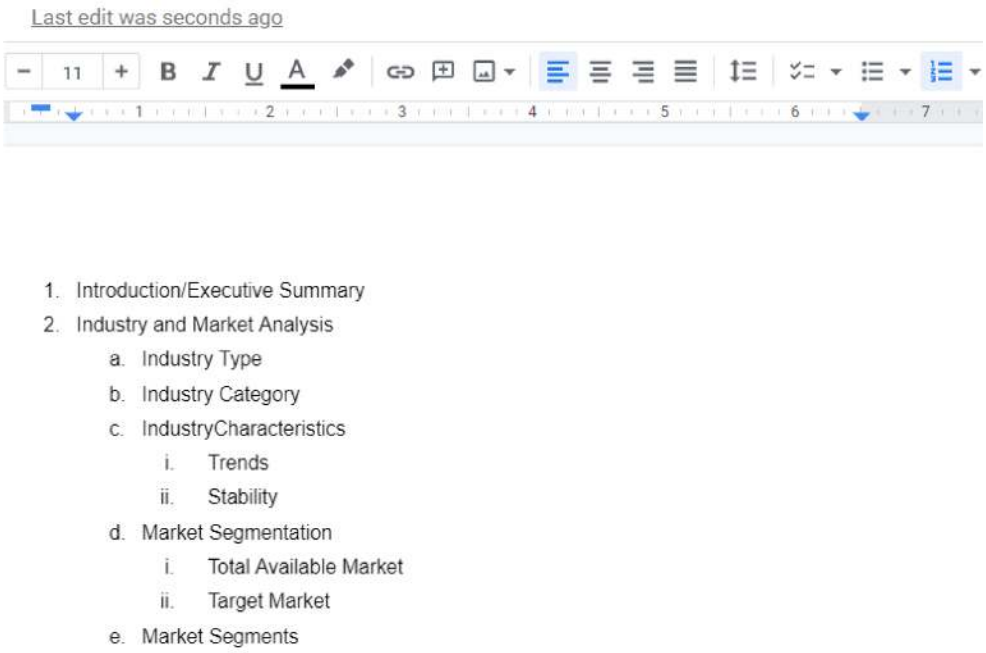


Figure 4.75: Multilevel lists are helpful for showing hierarchies and how categories are structured. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Bulleted Lists

Unlike numbered and lettered lists, bulleted lists do not have an obvious sequence. Docs offers different types of bullets to indicate the multilevel layers, which you can customize (Figure 4.76).

The process for creating a multilevel bulleted list is the same as for numbered and lettered lists: To create another sublevel below your current level, press Enter to go to the next level, then press Tab or use the Increase indent command to add it. In Figure 4.77, you can see the result of the new multilevel list using bullets instead of numbers. The best practice is to use bulleted lists only if they are no longer than half a page; after that, a numbered list is more effective. You can change the bullet type by clicking in the bulleted list, going to the Format menu, then choosing List options from the Bullets & numbering tool (Figure 4.78).

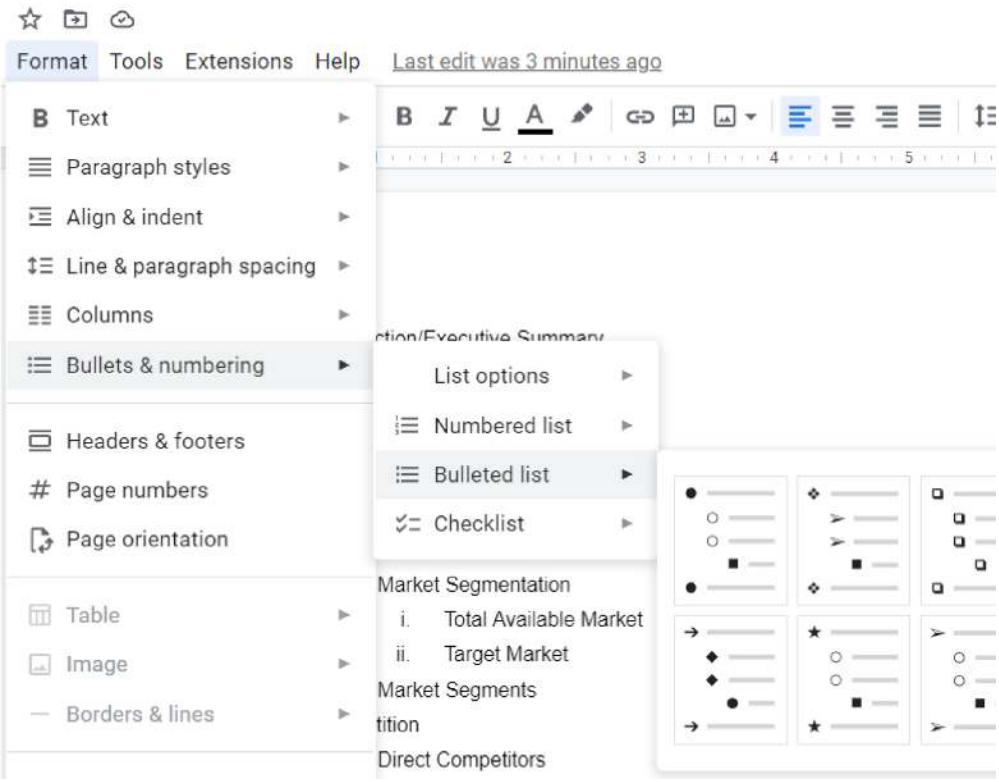


Figure 4.76: Several choices are available for multilevel bulleted lists. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

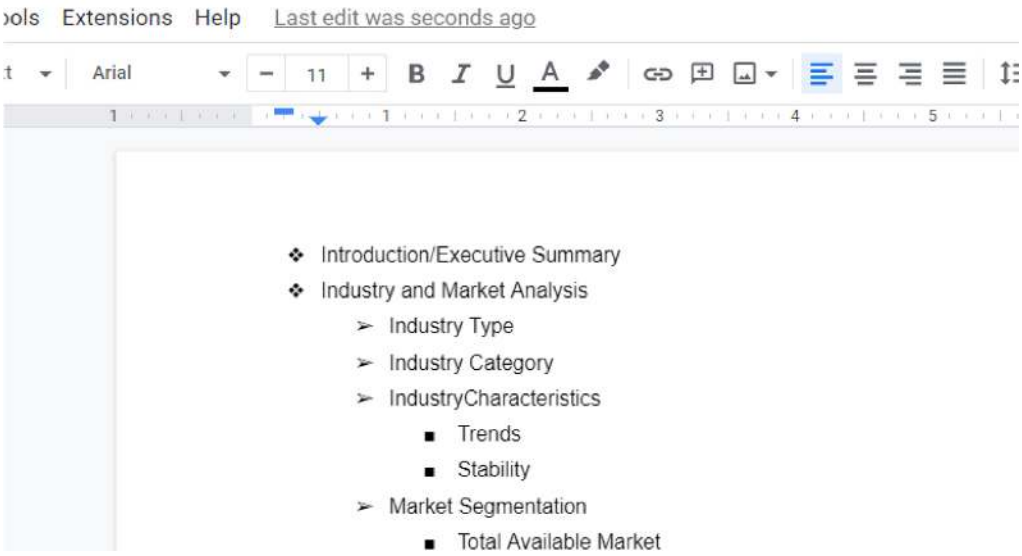


Figure 4.77: Rather than using a numerical order, the bullets change for each level when you use the Tab key. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

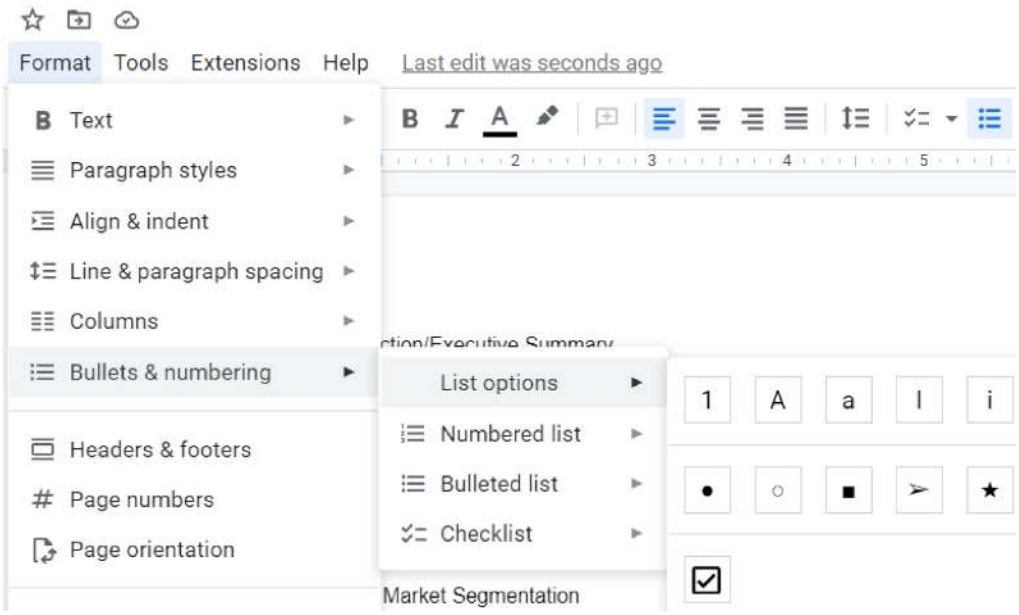


Figure 4.78: Docs offers a lot of customizability for its bulleted lists. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Checklists

A checklist is a useful type of list option in Docs that has several everyday applications. You may use them to make a printed to-do list, such as a list of tasks or errands to carry with you when you are away from a computer. Or you may want to add a checklist to a guidelines document for other people to be able to print out and reference, or use digitally. For example, it could also be useful for the multiple rounds of editing that will be needed for the market trends report. As the document progresses through the various departments for editing and revision, each department could tick a box when their round is complete, indicating that the document has been approved by the various departments.

A checklist is inserted the same way as any other type of list, except that it is technically listed as a subtype of a bulleted list in Docs. That is, you follow the same process as adding a bulleted list, but then just make sure to choose the option that shows the checklist. As you can see in Figure 4.79, the to-do checklist is complete.

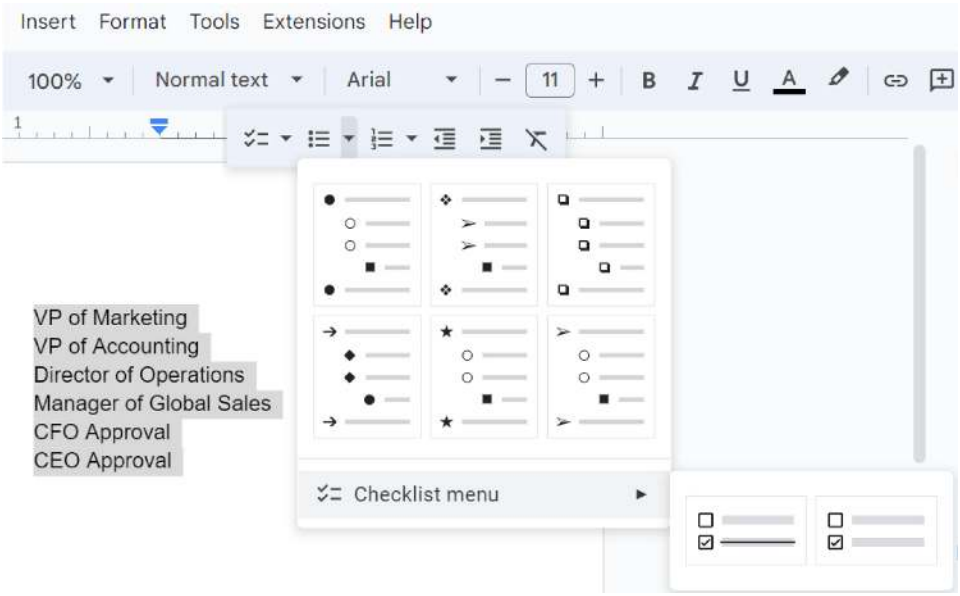


Figure 4.79: A checklist can be printed and used with pen and paper, or the boxes can be checked digitally. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 4.4: Google Docs- Enhanced Formatting Features is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.5: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Insert special characters and equations
- Insert and modify an image
- Use the Google Drawings tool
- Insert and modify a table

Google Docs has many of the same graphic-insertion tools as Microsoft Word, and often functions in a similar way. You can add tables, images, and WordArt, just like in Word. But Google also offers an embedded app called Google Drawings that lets the user have a little more freedom with designing charts and shapes. It is also seamlessly connected to Google Photos and Google Drive. This section will delve into these tools in more depth.

Inserting Special Characters and Equations

Docs has a way for the user to insert special, nonstandard characters and symbols directly into the text. In Docs, this function is accessible from the Insert menu. However, Google has some interesting functionality that Word doesn't have, such as drawing symbols, a higher degree of searchability, and automatic replacement.

Special Characters and Symbols

From the Insert menu you can see Special characters, as shown in Figure 4.80. You can insert any of the characters you see on the first screen, just by selecting one in Figure 4.81. But you may need a character that doesn't appear here. One way to find a character is to look by category. Choose the Symbol combo box on the left and select another category. Options are Punctuation, Numbers, other languages, and many other groups, as you can see in Figure 4.82. These are top-level collections of character types and include lots of special characters that are more than just symbols.

When you change the top-level collection to be, for instance, Emojis, the special character selections will change, as shown in Figure 4.83.

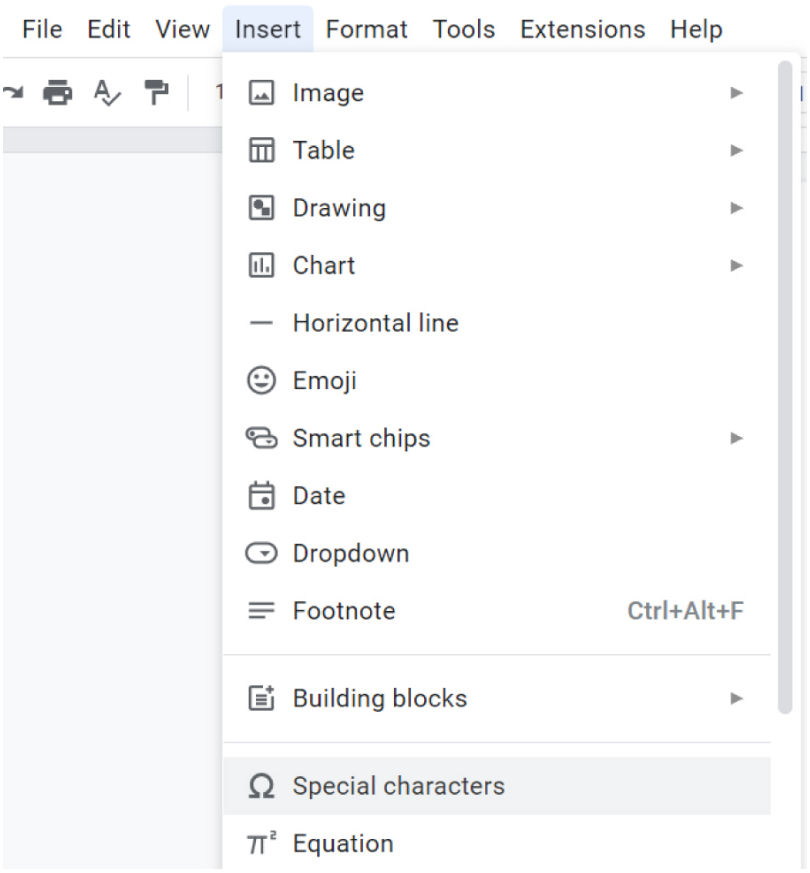


Figure 4.80: Special characters are inserted from the Insert menu. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

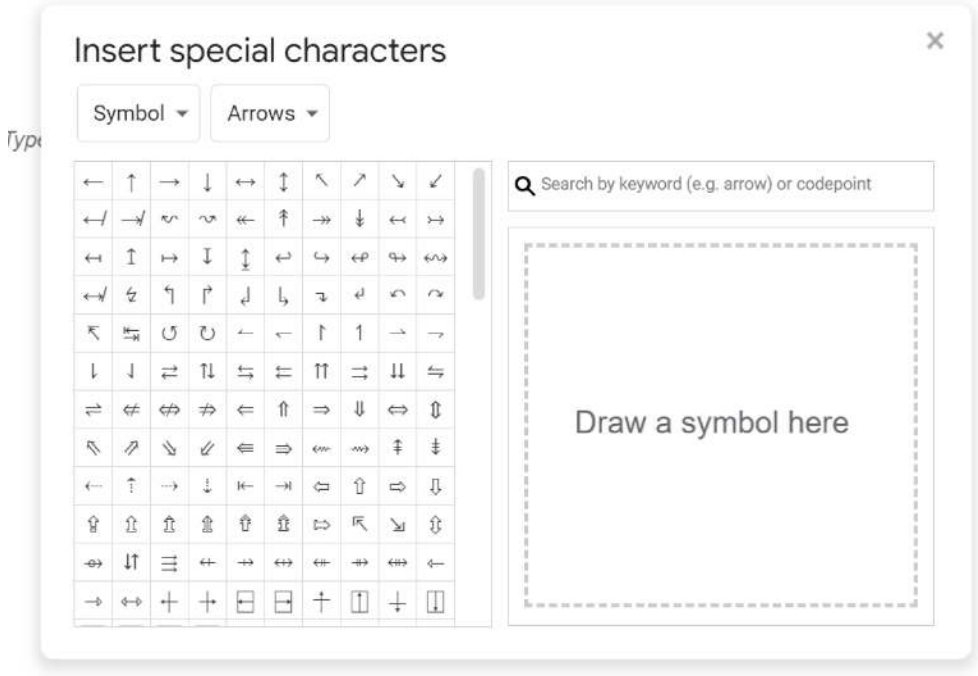


Figure 4.81: The special characters dialog box offers a number of different choices, as well as the option to draw a symbol or search by keyword. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

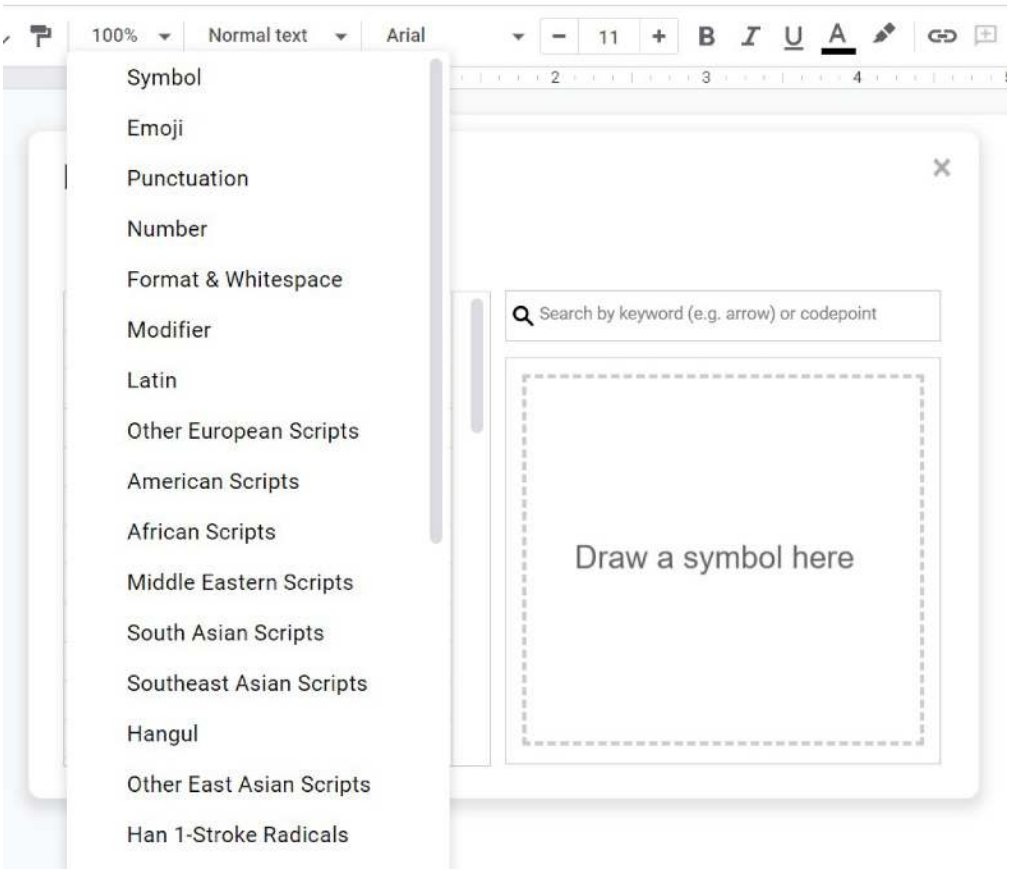


Figure 4.82: When selected, the Symbol combo box opens up a long list of different categories. Each category has a different set of characters and symbols. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

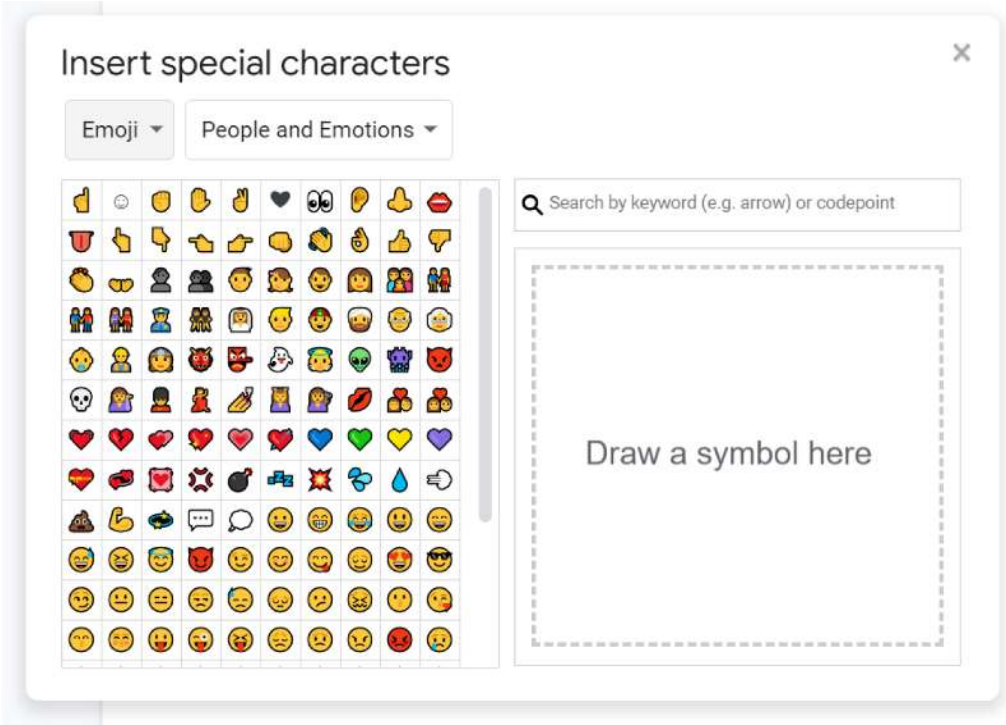


Figure 4.83: Here, the category selected from the combo box was Emoji. You can see that only emojis are shown in the main window. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you do not have time to look through the categories for a character, you can draw the character and Docs will search for one that looks similar to your drawing. If your character cannot be located through the drawing tool, you can type a description in the query box.

If you have symbols or special characters that you use frequently, then you could add these symbols to the Automatic substitution roster. This roster allows you to quickly and easily add in a symbol or special character without having to access the Special Characters menu. For example, whenever you type the word “pi,” Docs will substitute the pi symbol for the word.

The Automatic substitution tool is in the Tools menu, under Preferences. In the dialog box that appears, select the Substitutions tab and add in your custom substitution, as Figure 4.84 shows.

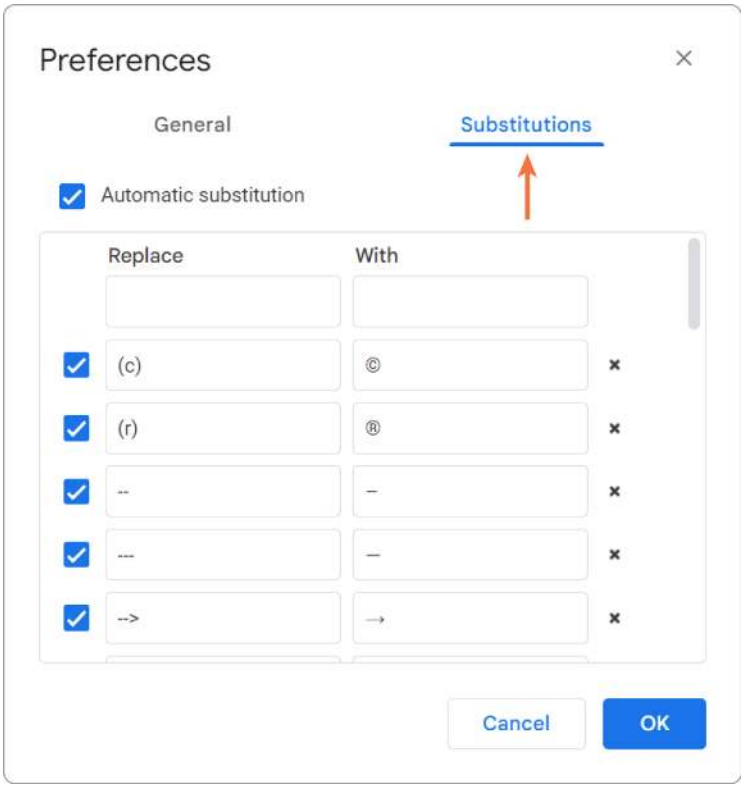


Figure 4.84: Adding symbols to the Automatic substitution tool can make it easier to insert frequently used special characters. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Equations

If you want to insert math notation or equations, go to the Insert menu and navigate to the Equation command, as shown in Figure 4.85. As you do, the Equation toolbar will appear directly below the main toolbar. From there, you can access the different groups of mathematical operations, brackets, Greek letters, and other math notation. This toolbar allows you to write custom math equations.

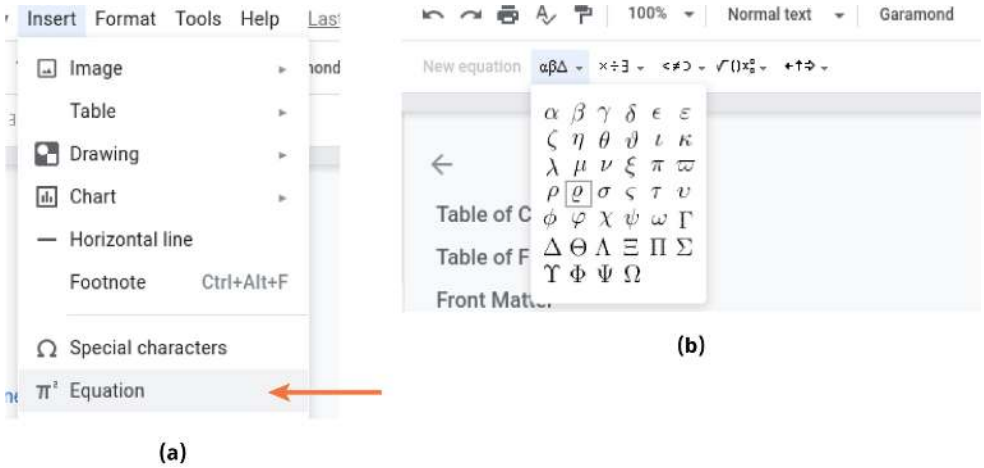


Figure 4.85: Use the Insert menu (a) to access the Equation toolbar. This toolbar (b) has an easy-to-use interface for inserting mathematical notation, such as Greek letters. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Link to Learning

To access all possible symbols for a given font, you might need to get the Unicode value. Every symbol has its own unique numerical identifier, called the Unicode value. Visit this Unicode Lookup website to see different Unicode values.

Inserting an Image

Docs has a few more interactive options than Word when it comes to inserting images. Because Docs is a Google product and you are typically online when you are using it, there are some integrations with other Google services, like Photos and Drive, that make inserting your own images easy. First, go to the Insert menu, and select Image. As seen in Figure 4.86, you have a number of different options: You can choose to get the image from your computer, do a Google Image search, insert a photo from your Drive or your Photos account, type in a web address where the image is located, or insert an image from the camera on your laptop/tablet/smartphone. This huge array of options allows for a lot of personalization. Keep in mind copyright protections for images that you might find on the internet. Be sure to cite properly when using images that are copyrighted.

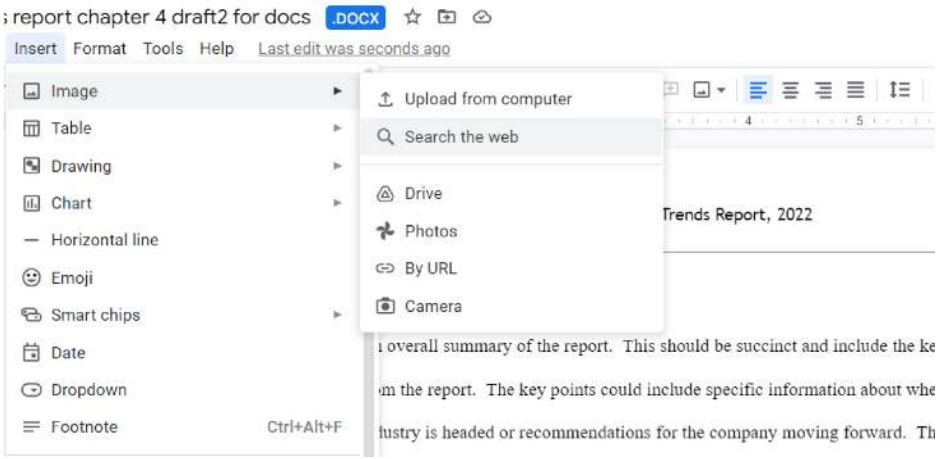


Figure 4.86: Docs features many different, integrated ways of inserting images into your Doc. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Let's revisit the market trends report and insert an image of a world map that you can use to show where WorldCorp's major markets are located. First, place the cursor where you would like the image inserted. You will insert the image at the end of the Industry and Market Analysis section, so you will want to place your cursor at the beginning of the next blank line. Go to the Insert menu and choose Search the web, as shown in Figure 4.87. Select the image you like and click Insert (Figure 4.88).

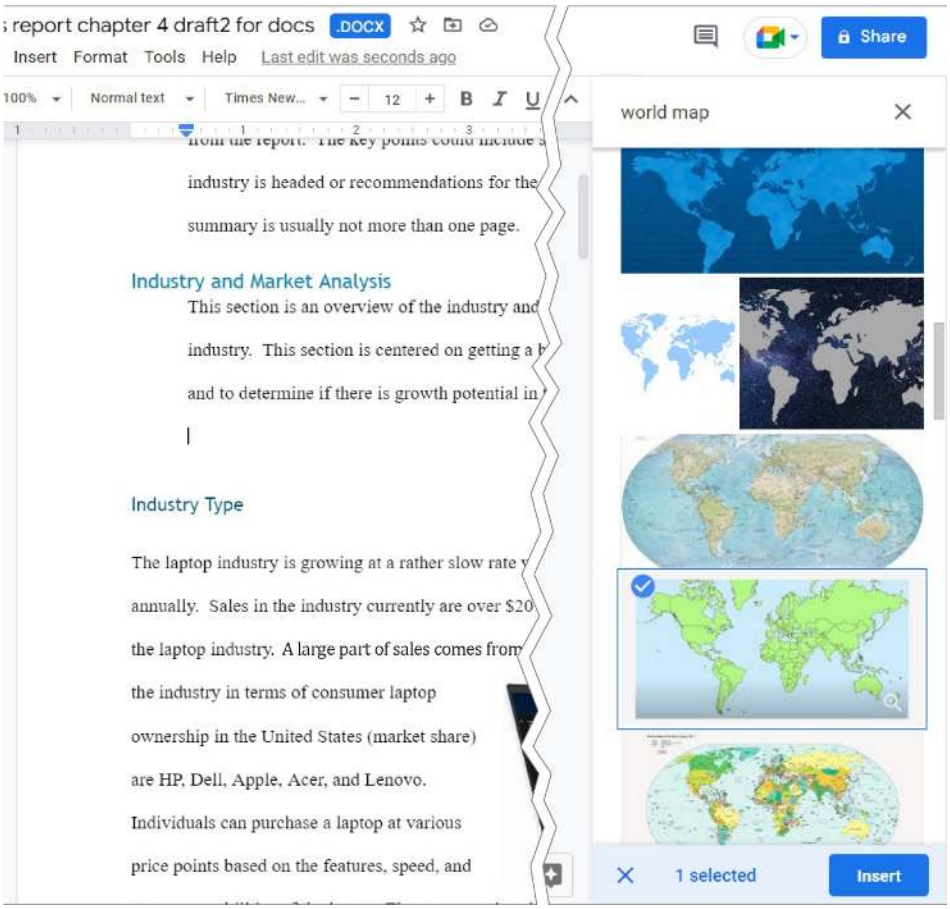


Figure 4.87: When you select Search the web, a navigation pane will open on the right side of the screen. Use descriptive search terms to get a narrower result for what you need. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

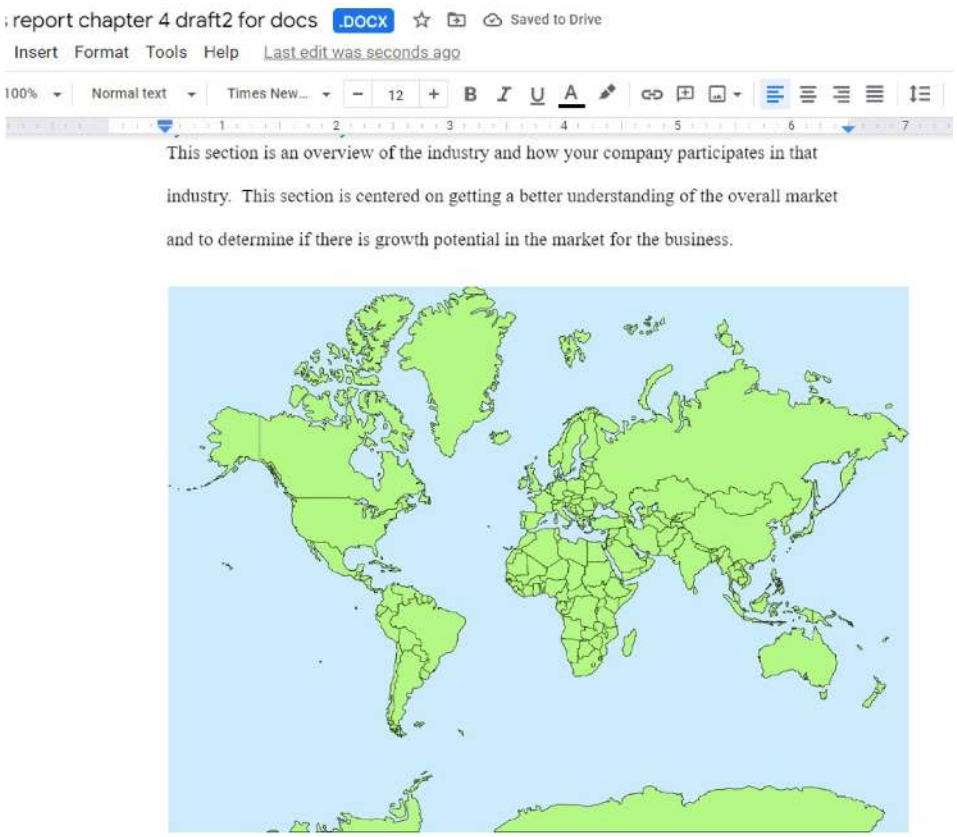


Figure 4.88: The image will be inserted at the location of your cursor in the document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you want to edit the image, simply select it with your cursor; Docs gives the user many ways and options for modification. You will first notice that when you have the image selected, a small toolbar will appear below the image. From here, you have options for text wrapping, sizing, and rotating, as Figure 4.89 presents. If you want even more configuration options, choose Image Options from the action bar, and a sidebar will appear. From here, you can modify all the above options with more detail, such as specific margin sizes. The action bar now displays, on the right side, tools for accessing image borders, cropping the image, and replacing the image.

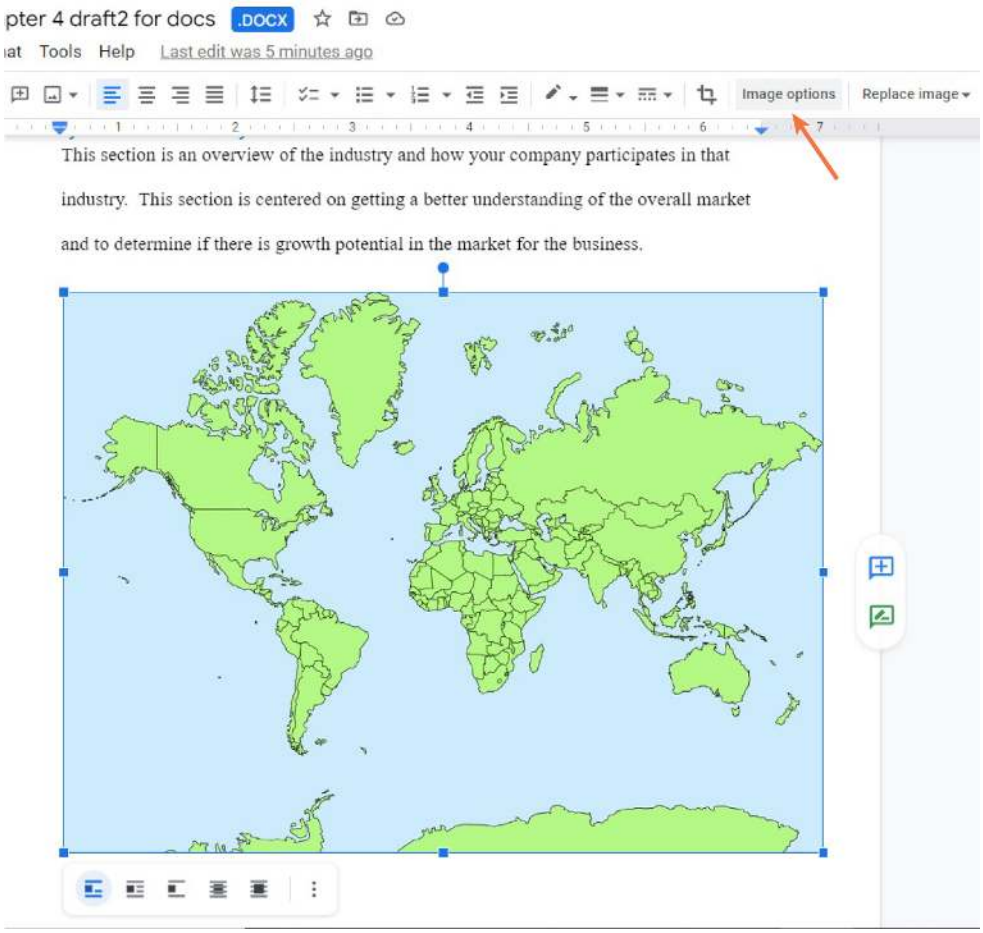


Figure 4.89: Select Image options from the action bar when the image is selected for additional formatting options. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Using the Google Drawing Tool

Google's Drawing tool is an interactive tool that allows the user to create custom shapes and insert preset shapes. Drawings is its own application that can be accessed either by going to Google Drawings or through applications such as Docs. You can create drawings and save them to your Drive. Creating custom shapes or drawings can be particularly useful if you want to insert a specific shape or combination of shapes that isn't available in the roster of preset shapes. The Drawing app also gives the user the option to insert standard preset shapes or WordArt.

Creating and Modifying Custom Drawings

To create a new drawing, go to the Insert menu and select Drawing. Docs will open a dialog box to another app called Drawings, as shown in Figure 4.90. Through the interface, you can add straight lines, curved lines, WordArt, freehand drawings, and more. This can be a particularly useful tool if you are working on a computer with a trackpad or touch screen. You can also change the color and thickness of the lines in your drawing. When you are finished with the drawing, just select Save and Close, and your drawing will appear in your Doc where your cursor is. You can change the position of the object by aligning it using the action bar align tools, or you can resize it by using the mouse over the edges of the object (Figure 4.91).

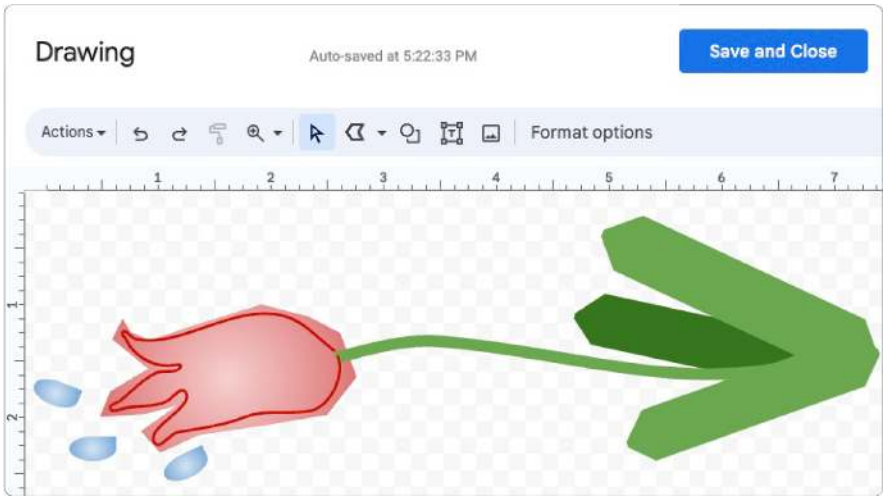


Figure 4.90: Drawings gives you many options for formatting text and adding shapes to visually enhance your document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

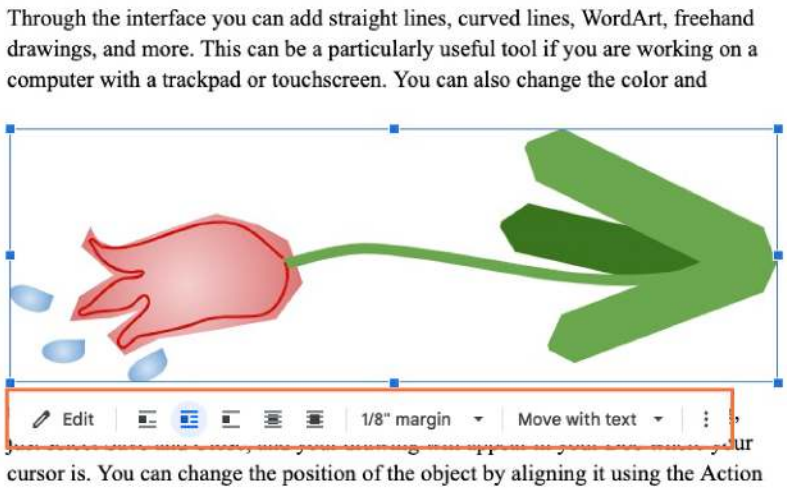


Figure 4.91: Once you insert the drawing into your document, you have further options for placement and sizing. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you want to insert an existing drawing, you need to have uploaded it first to Drive, as Figure 4.92 shows. To do this, go to the Insert menu, choose Drawing, then From Drive. You will then have to locate the item in your Drive and choose whether you want to Link to source or Insert unlinked. Link to source means that you are creating a live link from your original Drawing in your Drive, so that your drawing will be automatically updated if you change the original drawing. Insert unlinked means that you are inserting a static copy of your drawing into your current Doc.

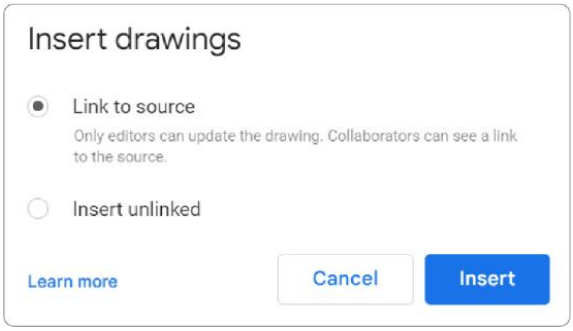


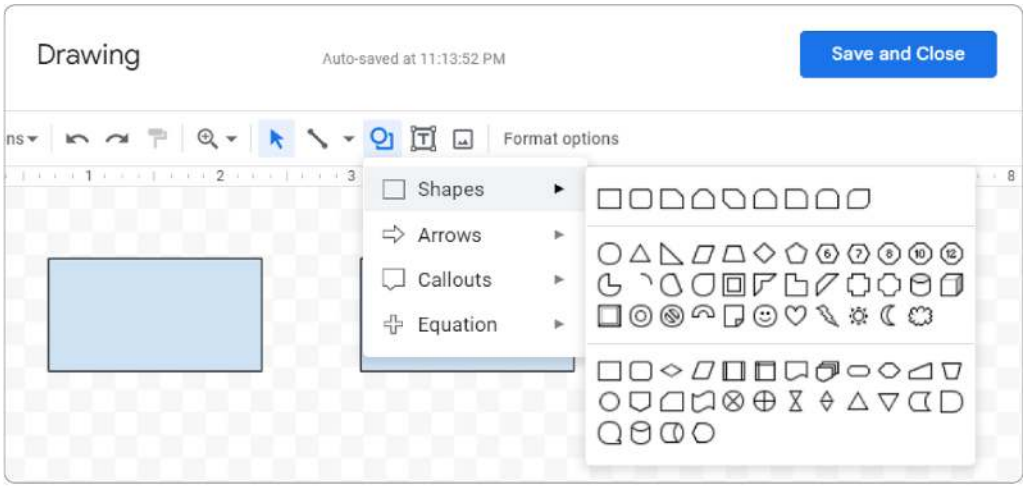
Figure 4.92: You can link the drawing to the original file, then it will update if you change the Drawings file. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Inserting Shapes

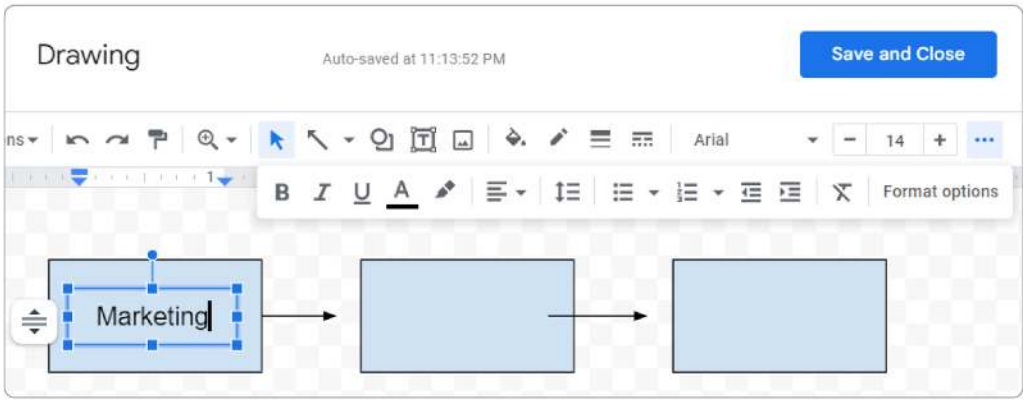
When you are creating new drawings, you might instead want to use the preset shapes. Drawings has numerous arrows, circles, squares, callouts, equations, and more, which you can select and add via the Drawing app, as shown in Figure 4.93. While on the canvas, these can be resized and modified in numerous ways.

Drawings also has other commands, such as adding lines and text boxes, the fill paint bucket, line width controls, and font color and type modifications (plus all the standard font formatting commands)—all accessible from the Drawing app toolbar, as shown in Figure 4.94. For the market trends report, your supervisor has asked that you create a graphic to show the flow of the report from department to department. The report will originate with the marketing department, then move to the finance department, and finally to the operations department. We can use Drawings to construct such a process flowchart. It is worth noting that in Docs, you need to construct your process flowchart manually, piece by piece, whereas in Word, you can use the preset SmartArt charts and shapes to create one. This means that creating graphics such as flowcharts and organizational charts is a bit more labor-intensive in Docs than it is in Word. You will learn more about this in the section on Inserting Charts.

To create your process flowchart, you first need to insert three rectangular shapes, one for each step in the process (i.e., each of the departments). Then, you will need two arrows and three text boxes. To speed up the process, you can copy the shape you inserted and then paste it in the Drawings window. This works for lines and text boxes as well. Let's change the fill color to a darker blue so that it is in line with the WorldCorp brand. From the tool menu, select Shape (to insert the rectangles) and Line (to insert the arrows). As you are lining up the images, Drawings will give you red guidelines to show when the images are in line with each other.



(a)



(b)

Figure 4.93: Docs gives you many different shapes options to work with (a), which can come in handy when creating your own custom flowcharts (b). (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

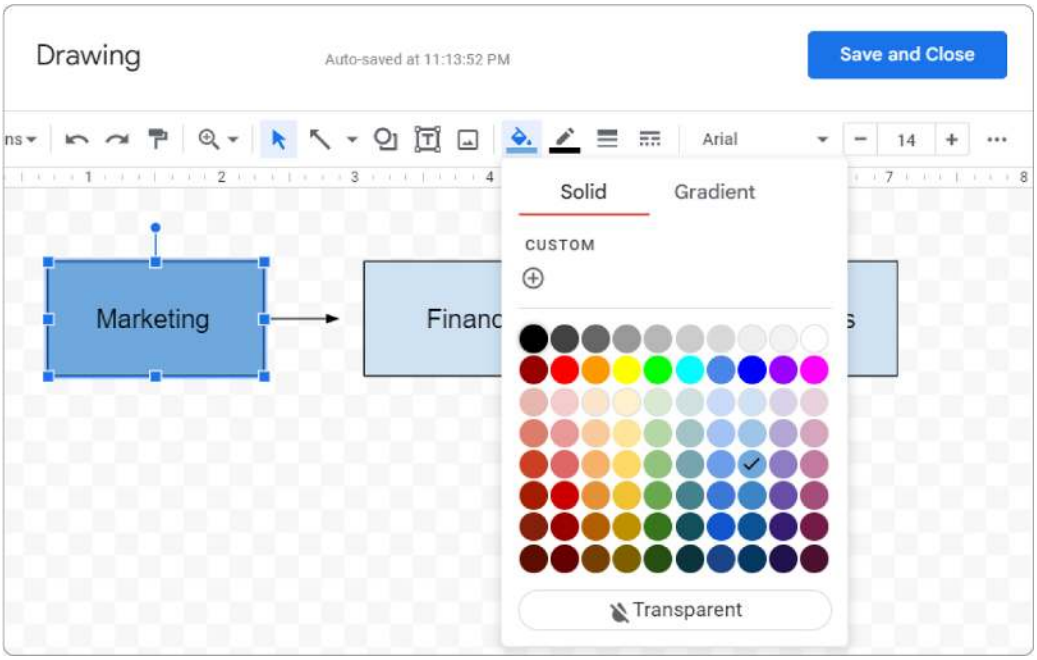


Figure 4.94: You can make the fill color disappear by using the Transparent option. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Inserting WordArt

Google's WordArt feature is similar to the one in Word: It is a way to add stylized text to your document. In Google, this feature is available through the Drawing app. When you are in the Drawing app, go to the Actions drop-down menu and select WordArt. A small box will appear, in which you type your text. If you want to change the color, font type, transparency, borders, and other elements, you can do so using the Drawings toolbar commands. Press Enter to finish (see Figure 4.95).

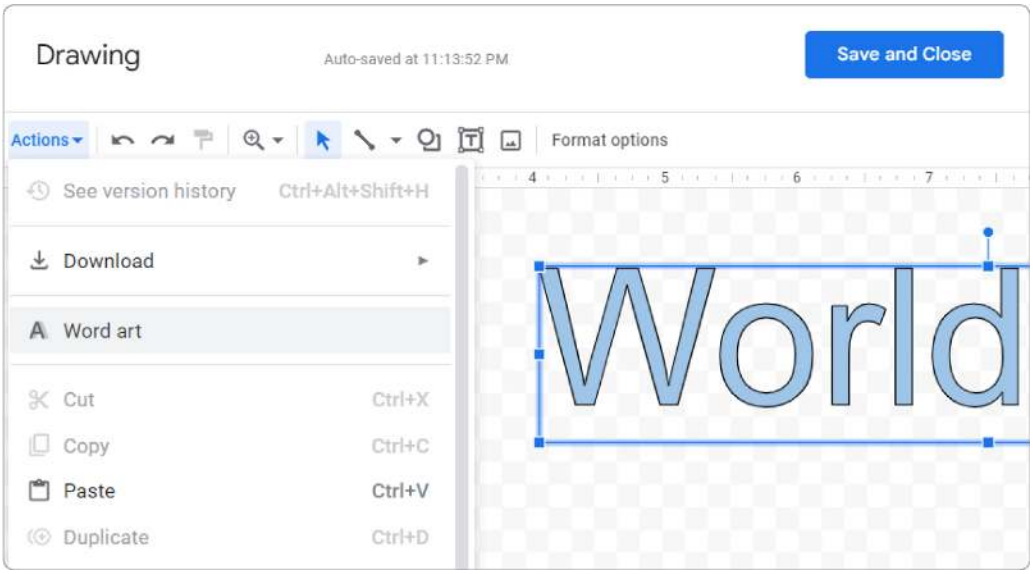


Figure 4.95: In Docs, WordArt is part of the Drawings app. You can apply all the same formatting as you would to a shape or custom drawing. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Inserting Charts

Drawings has many shapes and connectors so that you can build your organizational charts or flowcharts from scratch. Unlike Word, which comes with the SmartArt options for preset flowcharts, organizational charts, and more, Docs requires that you make your own charts. This can, however, lead to more customization and personalization of the shapes and types of charts you can make in Docs. You can see in Figure 4.96 how to create an organizational chart from scratch by adding boxes, filling them with a light

blue color, and connecting them with lines. This is just like the simple process flowchart we made in the section on Inserting Shapes, except the boxes are arranged a little differently.

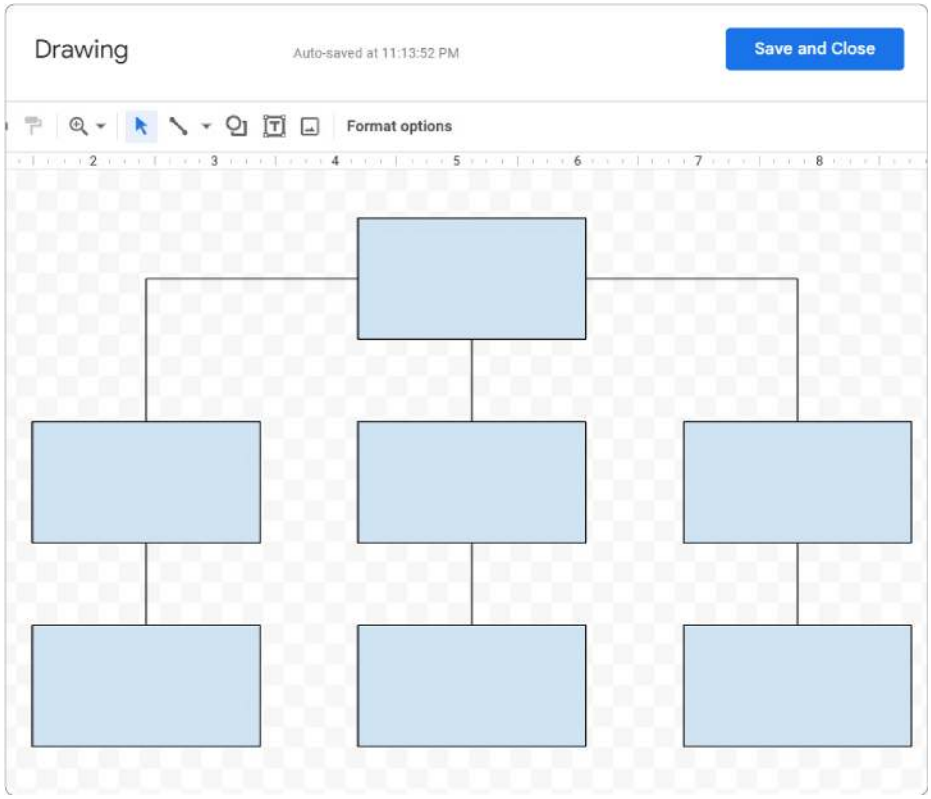


Figure 4.96: There are ways to make hierarchy charts in Drawings using both shapes and lines to connect the levels. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Tables

Inserting and modifying tables in Docs is similar to the same process in Word. To add a table, go to the Insert menu, navigate to Table, and hover your cursor over the number of rows and columns you want, as shown in Figure 4.97.

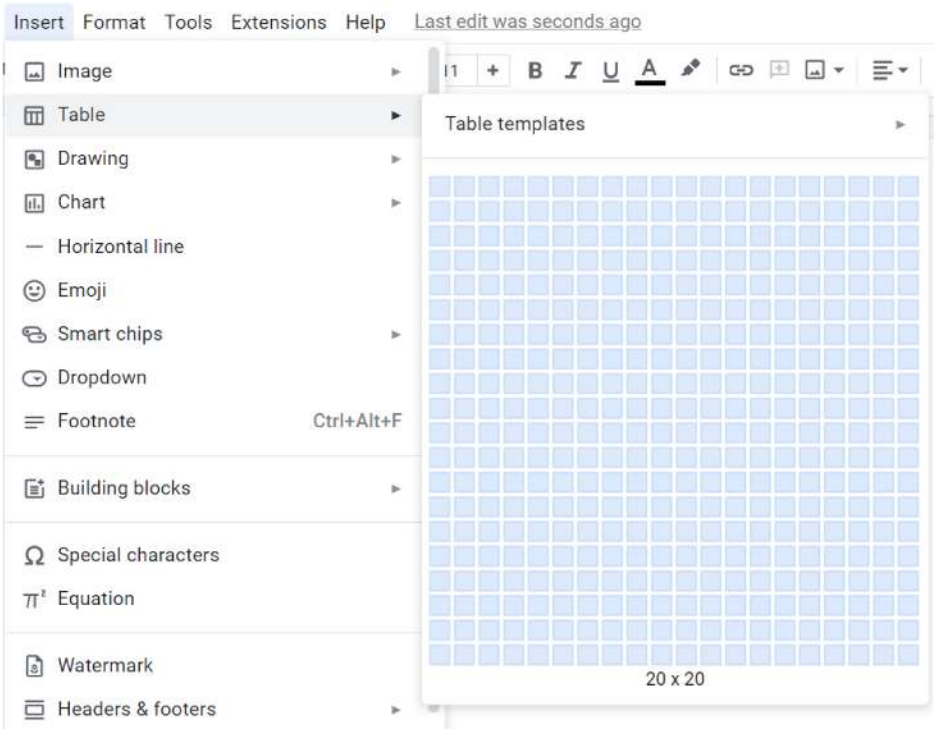


Figure 4.97: The maximum number of columns and rows in a table is 20 x 20. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

From this menu, the maximum width and length of a table is 20 x 20 cells, but you can add more columns and rows later by using the Insert column left/right or Insert row above/below tools, as shown in Figure 4.98. This menu is accessed by right-clicking when your cursor is anywhere in the table. You may also merge cells by selecting the cells and right-clicking to show the context menu and choosing Merge cells. This functionality is useful when you want to merge cells in the top row to create a header row, for example. If you want to delete a row or column, simply select it and right-click to Delete column or Delete row. The same process works for deleting the whole table: Select it, right-click, and choose Delete table.

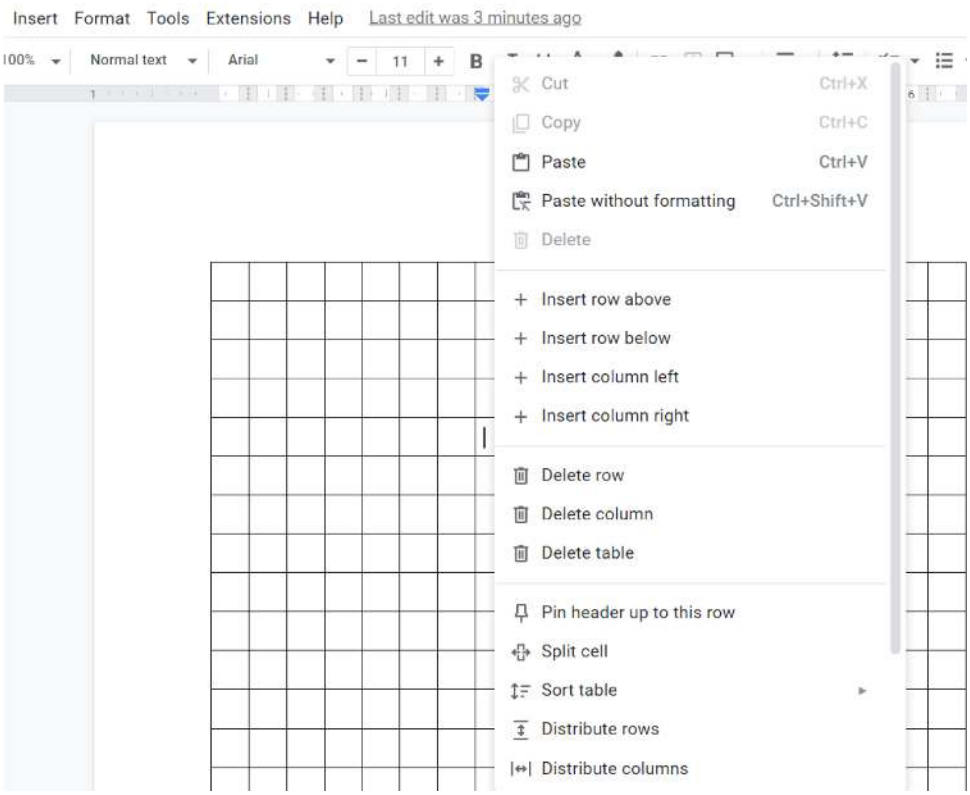


Figure 4.98: Right-clicking anywhere within the table gives you many options for adjusting your table. The menu makes it easy to add, delete, or alter existing rows and columns. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

As for applying formatting changes within the table, you can select the cells to format and use the action bar to change the borders and the background color, as shown in Figure 4.99.

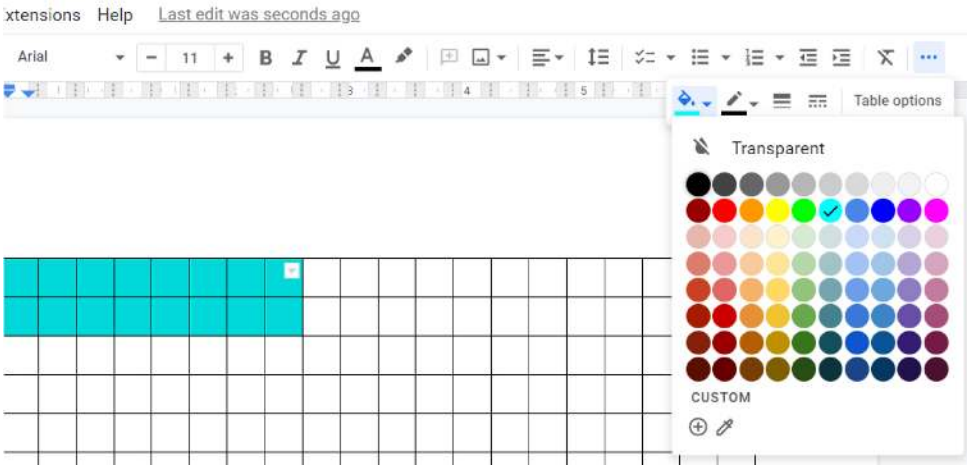


Figure 4.99: Using the Background color tool allows you to fill certain table cells with a specific color. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You can change the size of the table by selecting it and right-clicking on it to show the context menu, and selecting Table properties. The Table properties dialog box (see Figure 4.100) is where you can change the dimensions of the rows and columns (by setting a set width or height in inches), table alignment within the page, cell text alignment, cell padding, and more.

Outside of this dialog box, you can make some changes manually. For instance, you may change an individual column or row height or width by dragging the borders of cells; the mouse pointer will change shape to a two-arrow cursor. You can also make all rows and/or columns the same size by selecting the whole table and right-clicking it, then selecting Distribute rows or Distribute columns.

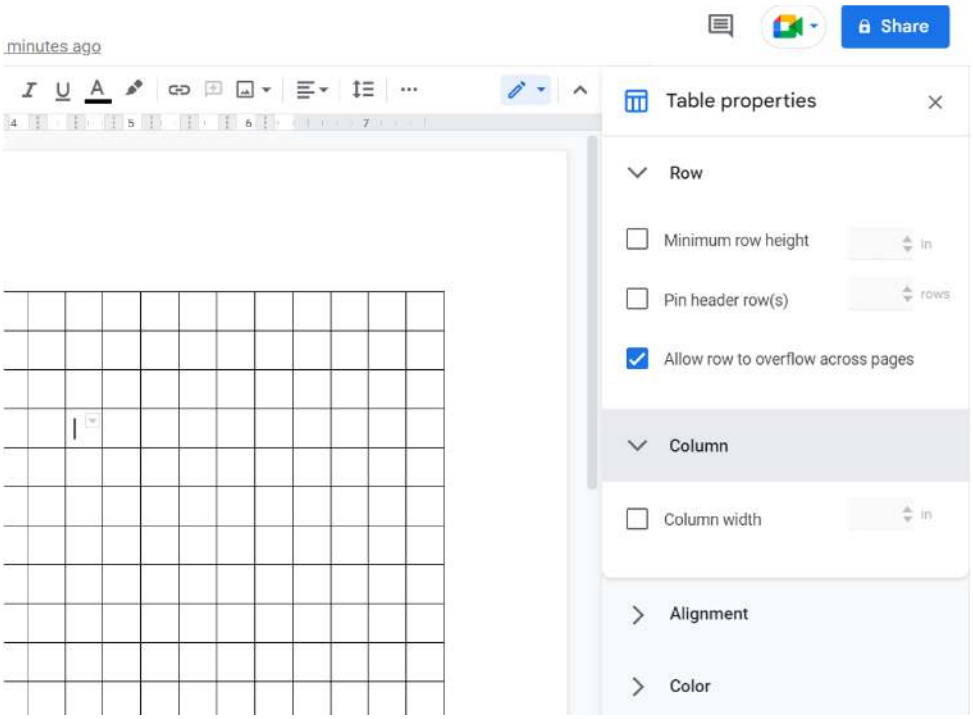


Figure 4.100: Docs offers limited options for table formatting. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 4.5: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.6: Managing Long Documents in Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Utilize Paint format to apply formatting in a long document
- Insert and modify a table of contents
- Use linked bookmarks and hyperlinks

Google Docs has tools that can help users construct and navigate through long documents. The market trends report will have multiple sections containing information that is best presented in varied ways. There are three tools in Docs that this section will cover that are especially helpful: Paint format, Table of contents, and Hyperlinks.

Paint Format

The Paint format command in Docs is the equivalent of the Format Painter in Microsoft Word. You use it in the same way: selecting a format you want to copy from the original source, choosing the Paint format icon from the action bar (it looks like a small paint roller), and using the cursor to apply it on the target text.

In Docs, you can even copy and apply the same original source format multiple times. Once you make your selection, you are able to apply it many times in different areas of the document. To do this, you need to double-click the Paint format icon, after which it will stay locked, as shown in Figure 4.101. (Word's Format Painter behaves the same way.) After you are done formatting all the text you need, you can unlock it by clicking once on the icon again; then, the mouse pointer will return to normal.

It is not advised to use the Paint format tool to apply a style to an entire document with multiple different features, such as tables and multilevel lists. The Paint format tool may not apply the style in exactly the way you want with these kinds of special formatting. Additionally, note that in Docs, you can use the Paint format tool with one open document only.

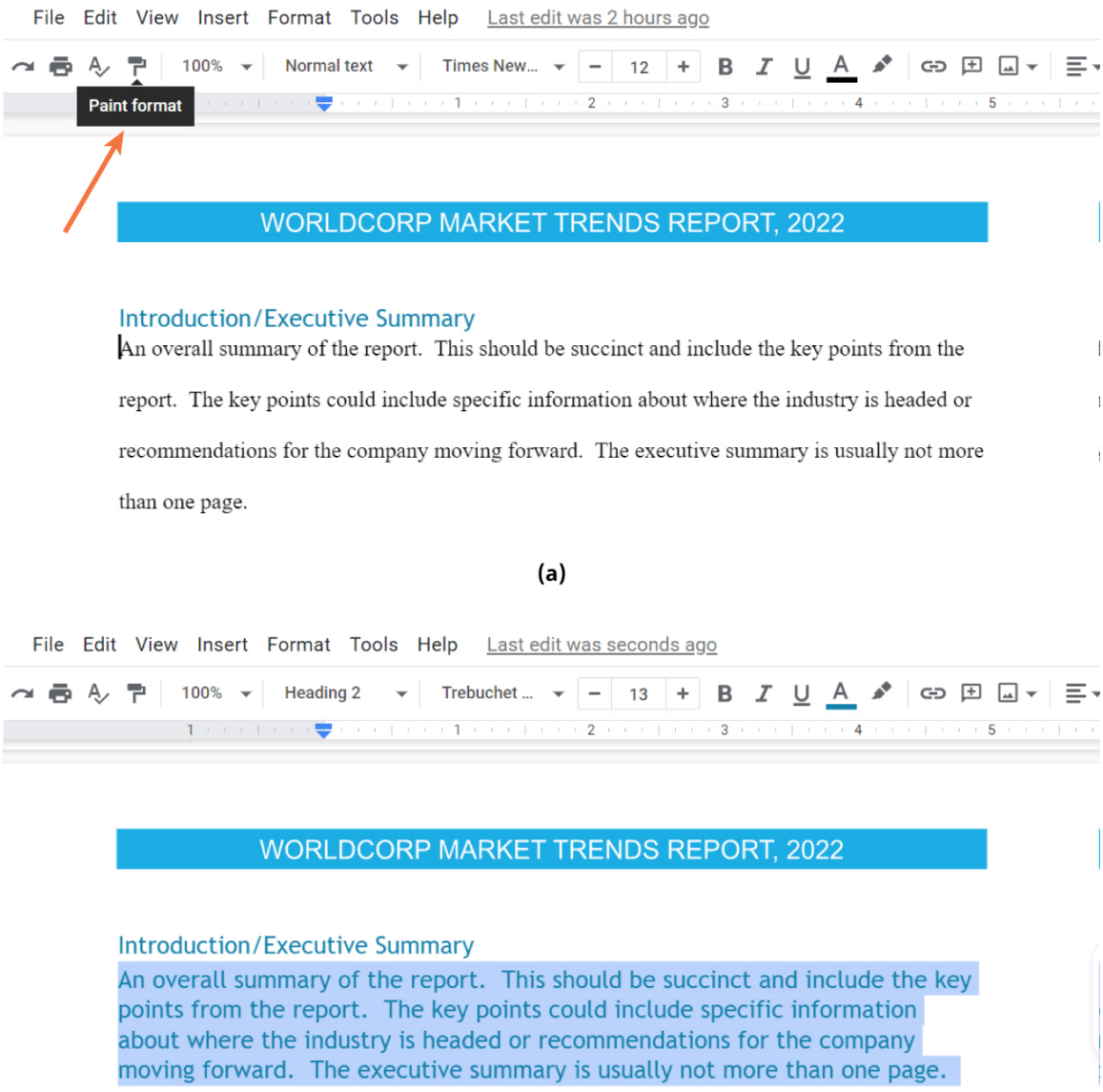


Figure 4.101: (a) First, select the text with the formatting you want to copy, then click on the Paint format tool. (b) Use the tool to highlight all the text to apply the new formatting to. As you can see, the body text now has the same format as the header text. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Table of Contents

As in Word, a table of contents in Docs requires that you have your headings properly styled, your section breaks in place, and page numbers.

Headings for Tables of Contents

What Word calls Styles is called Paragraph Styles in Docs. We previously touched on the importance of these styles in Docs in the Creating and Working in Documents chapter when we discussed the use of the View menu to activate or hide the document outline. Moreover, we carefully went over headings and their significance for the document when we described the font formatting, and how it can be accelerated with the use of styles. Here, we will discuss how the use of styles helps you manage long documents by helping to structure your table of contents.

Docs will automatically read your styles and headings and autogenerate the table of contents from that. For instance, you may have an H1 (Heading 1) for a chapter title, and H2 and H3 headings for subsections. You can see Google's default heading styles in

Figure 4.102. We can add the table of contents to our WorldCorp market trends report because we have already formatted the various sections of the report with headings.

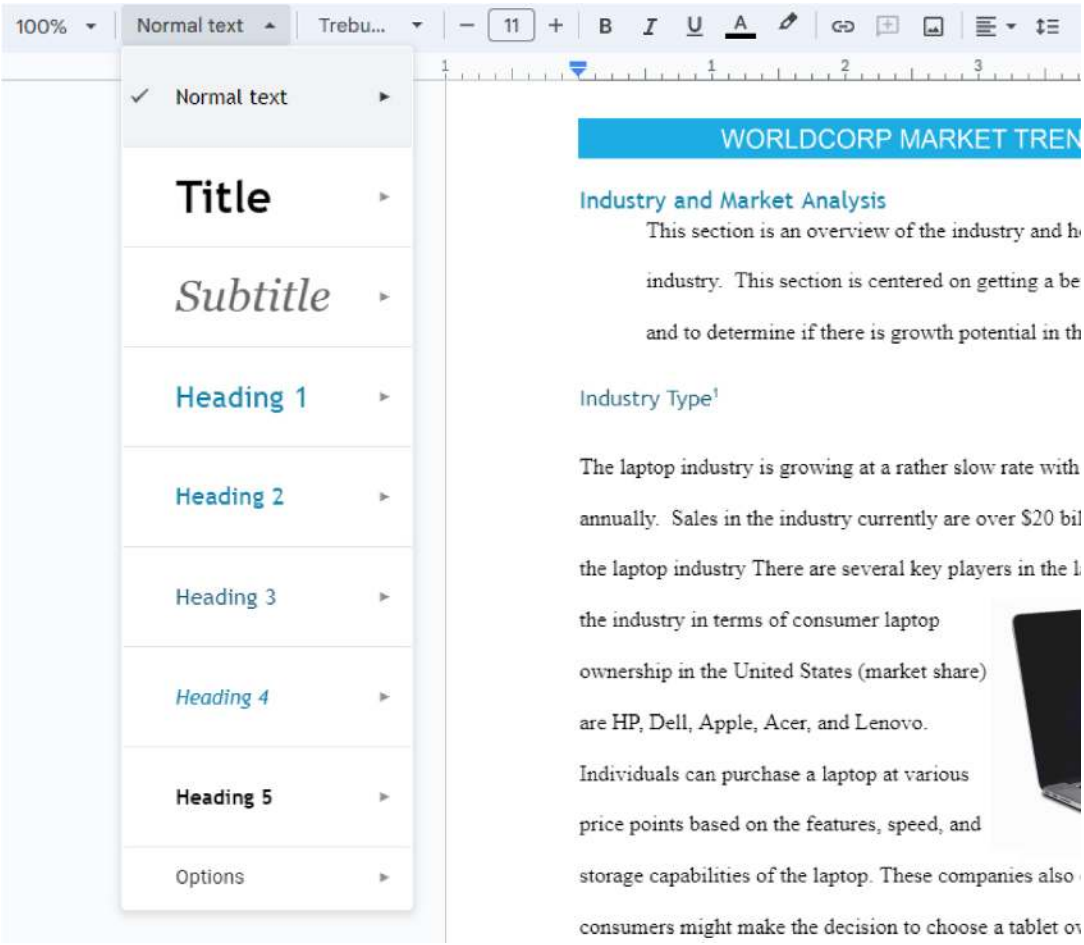


Figure 4.102: Docs comes with a few default styles, but you can customize them all to suit your needs. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

All of these styles can be modified using the Options menu. You can modify any of the heading styles, or even the Normal style. If you like these styles and will use them frequently, select Save as my default styles. These will be the default styles for every new document you create.

Changing your styles can be useful when working with long documents. Say that you want to change the font type of all the document's Normal style text. The first thing to do is to change a particular paragraph by selecting it, and then changing its font type to your desired font. While the text is still selected, go to Styles and hover over Normal text. Then, click Update 'Normal text' to match, as Figure 4.103 shows. That will change all the document's Normal paragraphs to have the new font type. Labeling the text Normal every time gives the user the power to automatize the font formatting.

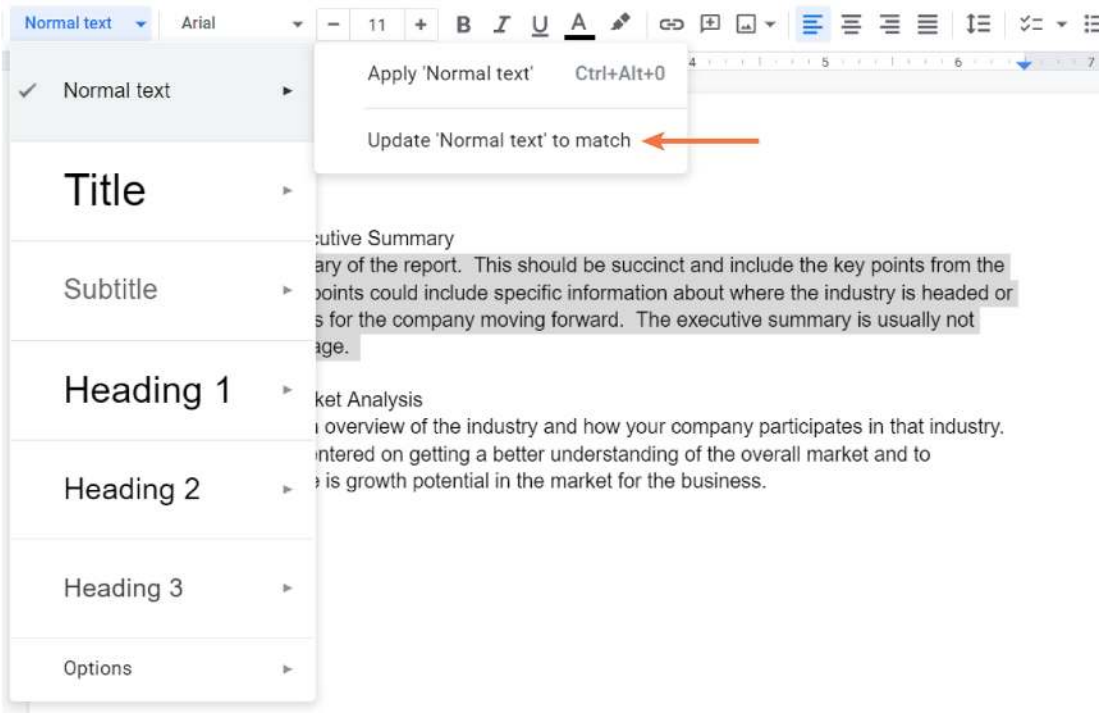


Figure 4.103: Updating your styles can make automating font changes throughout a long document simpler. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Once you have labeled your headings and styled your document properly, the headings will appear in the document outline. This is a good place to check that your headings are correct before you create a table of contents. You can preview all the headings and should be able to quickly catch if something is styled incorrectly. If you see a mistake, simply select that heading and Docs will take you there. From there, you can select the incorrectly styled text and make it the correct heading style.

Inserting Section Breaks for Tables of Contents

We stressed the importance of section breaks in the chapter Creating and Working in Documents. Section breaks are necessary when creating a table of contents if you want to have different page numbering in different sections. If your page numbering is continuous throughout the entire document, you would not need section breaks to create a table of contents. You only need the section titles to be formatted as a Heading Style. However, if you want the page numbering to restart with each section of the document, you would need to also include a break at the end of each section.

Once you have applied correct formatting to all of your headings and placed your section breaks, inserting your table of contents is easy. Go to the Insert menu and choose Table of contents. There are two types: one with page numbers and one with blue links and no page numbers. The option with page numbers is a good choice for either print or digital publishing. If you plan on printing out your report, you want your readers to be able to use the table of contents effectively and be able to flip to the correct page. Digital readers can still click on the page number and be taken there automatically. The option with only blue links and no page numbers is a good choice if your document will only be used by digital readers.

Let's now add the table of contents to the WorldCorp report in Docs. First, go to Insert, then go to the bottom of the menu and choose Table of contents (see Figure 4.104). Select a type, and the table of contents will be inserted at the location of your cursor (Figure 4.105).

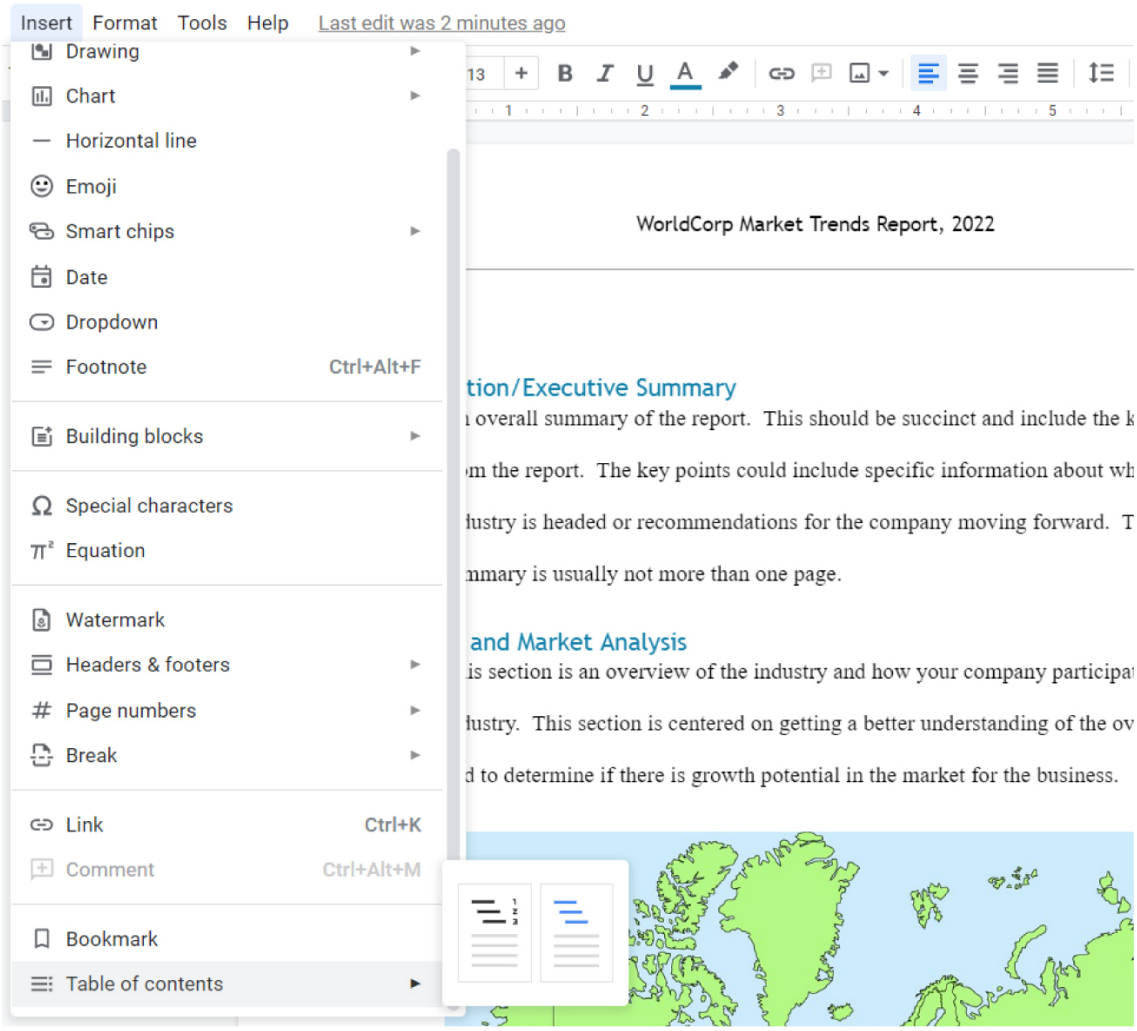


Figure 4.104: Docs shows the two different options for tables of contents in the Insert drop-down menu. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

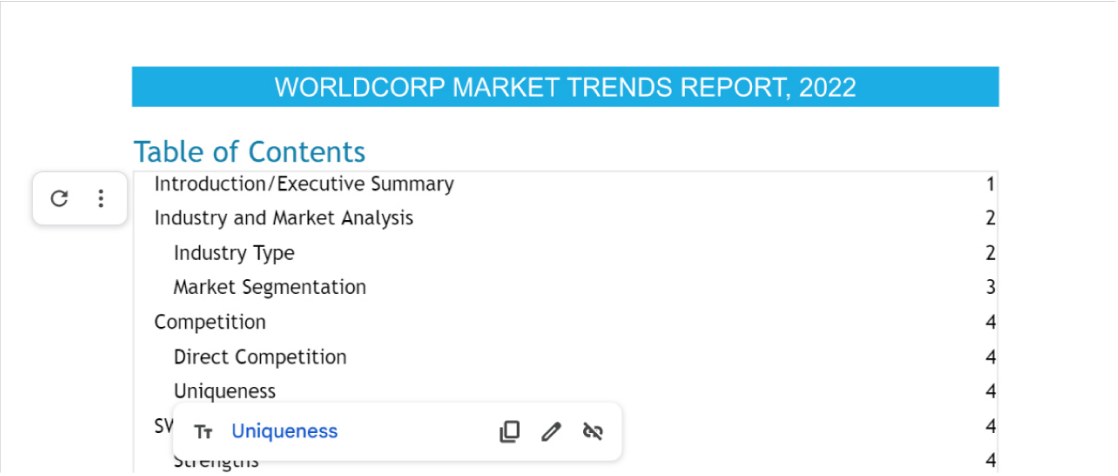


Figure 4.105: The table of contents is automatically generated if you have established the section headings with the appropriate formatting from the Styles menu. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Normally, business report writers add the table of contents when they are finished with the report. But in Docs, it is easy to add the table of contents at the beginning and update it as you go along. For example, each collaborator might add new headings to the document as they write or revise, which you would want to see reflected in the table of contents. Once their work is complete, you would simply select the refresh button ("Update table of contents") or right-click to "Update table of contents," to update the table

of contents (Figure 4.106). This will tell Docs to recheck the document, and reread for new, modified, or deleted headings. The table of contents will automatically update with the new document structure.

If you want to change the table of content's appearance, just select it, and then use the action bar to apply formatting changes as you would to normal text. You can change the font type, change the size of the font, or choose to bold or italicize the font.

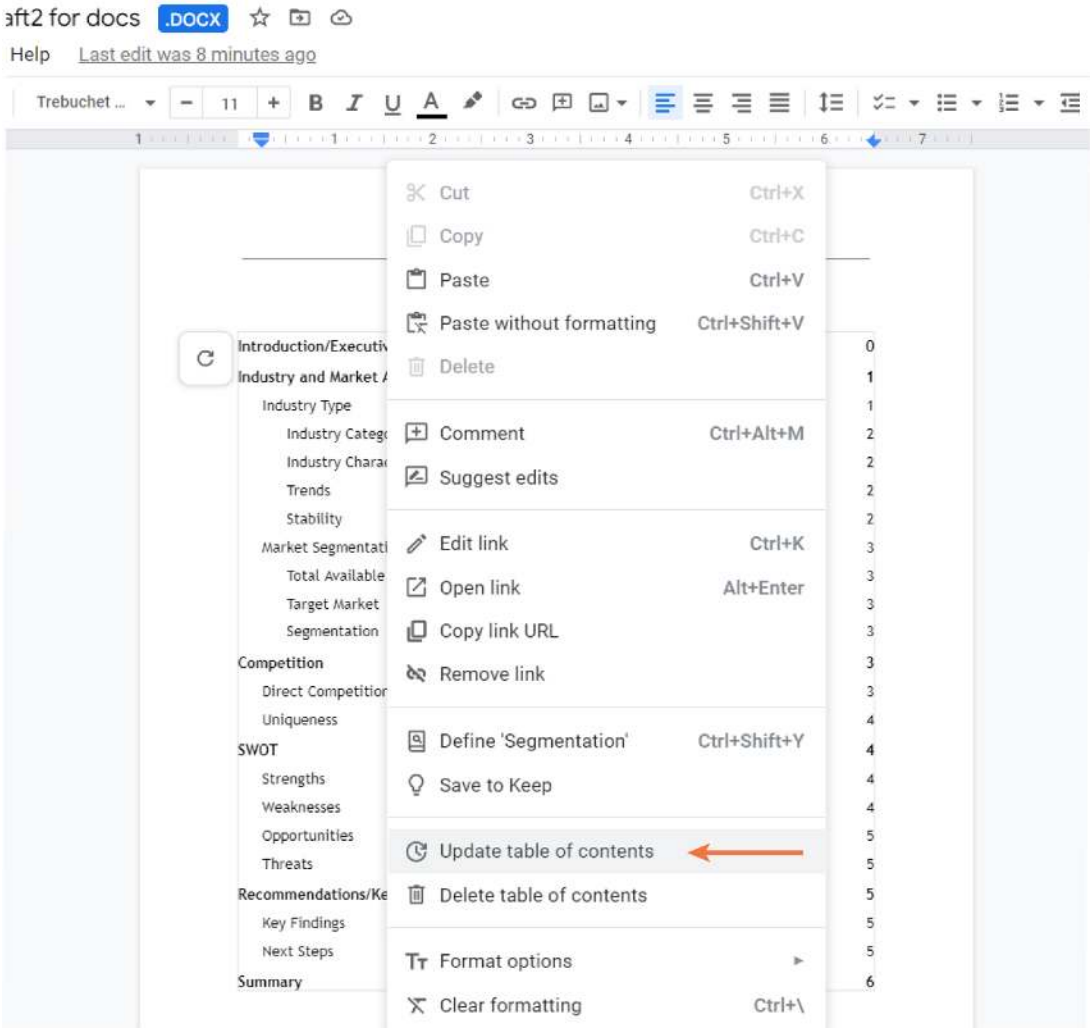
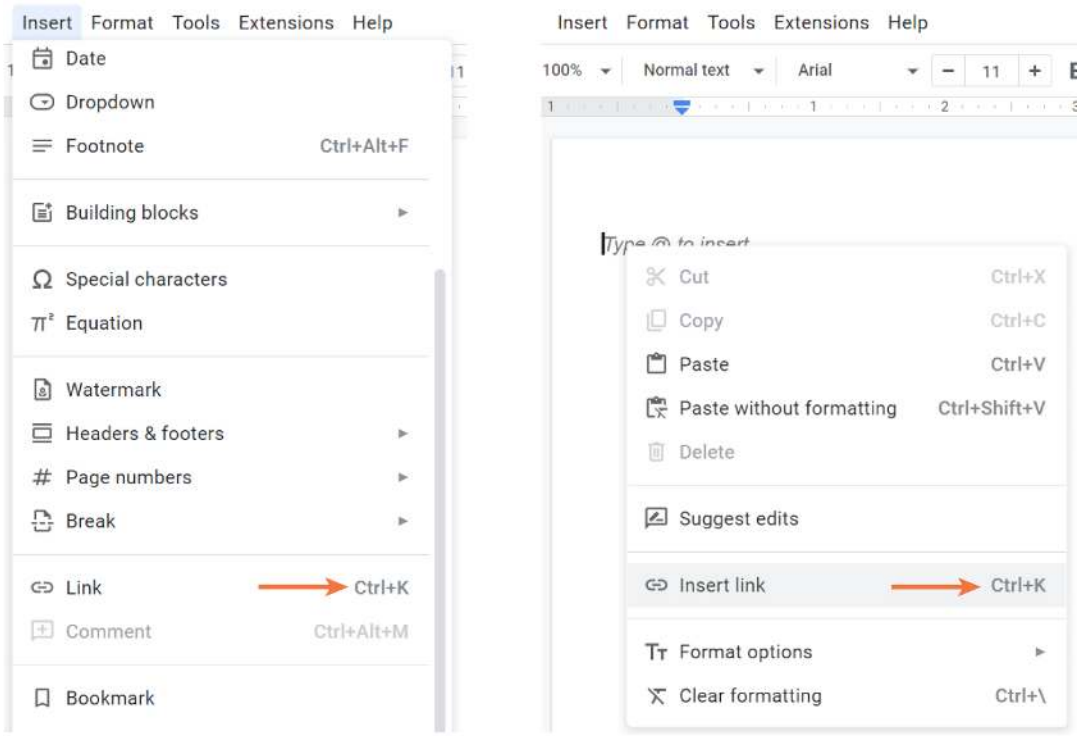


Figure 4.106: The table of contents can be updated as collaborators contribute to the document. But they will need to make sure they format section headings appropriately. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Hyperlinks, Bookmarks, and Links to Other Files

Hyperlinks can be input in various ways in Docs. As in Word, these help with citations and navigation in long documents. First, you need to select the text you want to make into a link, then you can choose to use the menus or the right-click context menu to create the link. You can see both methods in Figure 4.107. They both lead to a dialog box that asks for the web address, which you input, and then click Apply.



(a) (b)

Figure 4.107: You can make a link (a) using the menu method or (b) right-click method. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you want to add a link to another part of the same document, you can create a link to a specific heading. Use the Headings and bookmarks option that comes up in the Link dialog box. Select the text that will be the link, then right-click to Link, and you will see all the titles that the user styled to be headings, as Figure 4.108 displays. You will choose the part of the document that you want to link to.

You may also link to a certain part of the document that is not a heading. This requires first creating a bookmark. For example, suppose you want to reference a table or figure in your document. You must first add a bookmark next to the table or figure, then you can link to that bookmark. To add the bookmark, place your cursor next to the table or figure you want to link to, then go to the Insert menu and click Bookmark (Figure 4.109). Then, when you want to link to that bookmark later on in the document, you do the same steps you did for creating a link to a heading: Select the text you want to turn into a link and right-click to Link. The dialog box will show the Headings and the bookmarks option. You can choose the pertaining bookmark, as Figure 4.110 shows. (To undo the bookmark you just made, click on it to select it, and then click Remove.)

For linking to another document, you need to already have the document in Google Drive. Go to Drive's file options to make a public shareable link. The linked document will not be accessible to someone unless they have access to the document, meaning that the document has been shared with them. Copy this link address. Next, open the document where the link will be placed, and select the text to be linked, then right-click to Link. In the dialog box, paste the public shareable address of the other document, and click Apply. Or, skip the pasting method, and select one that has been shared already in the link dialog box, as in Figure 4.111.

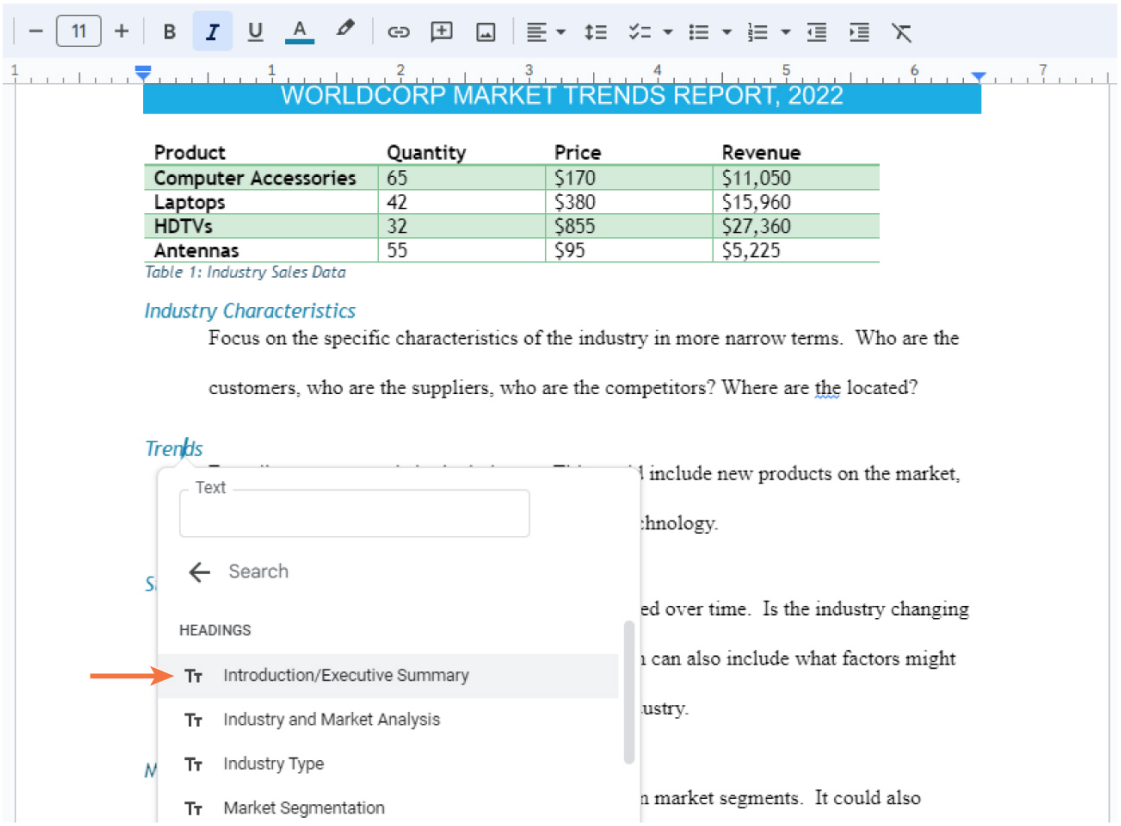


Figure 4.108: Having your headings already styled can be helpful when creating links and bookmarks to them. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

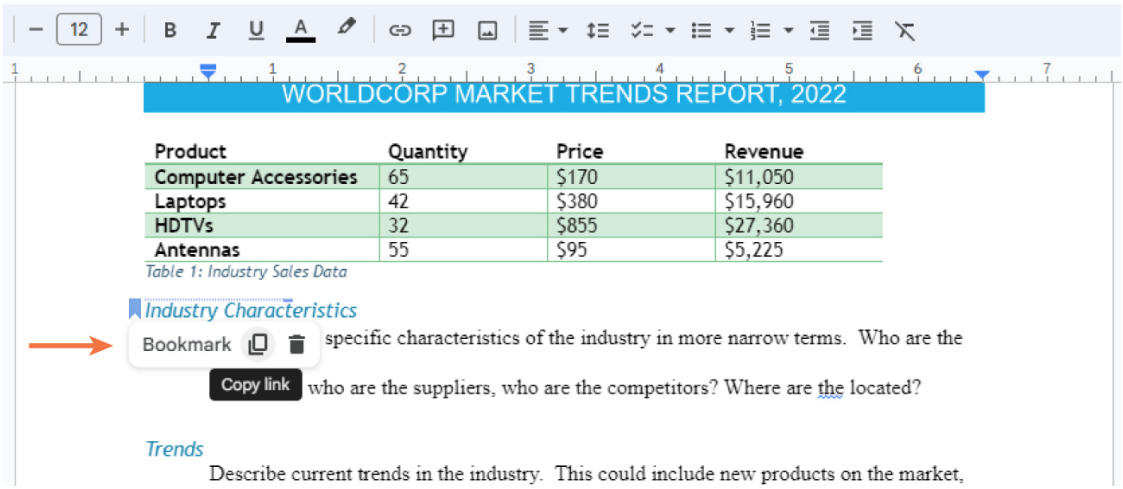


Figure 4.109: Right-clicking allows you to link directly to the selected text. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

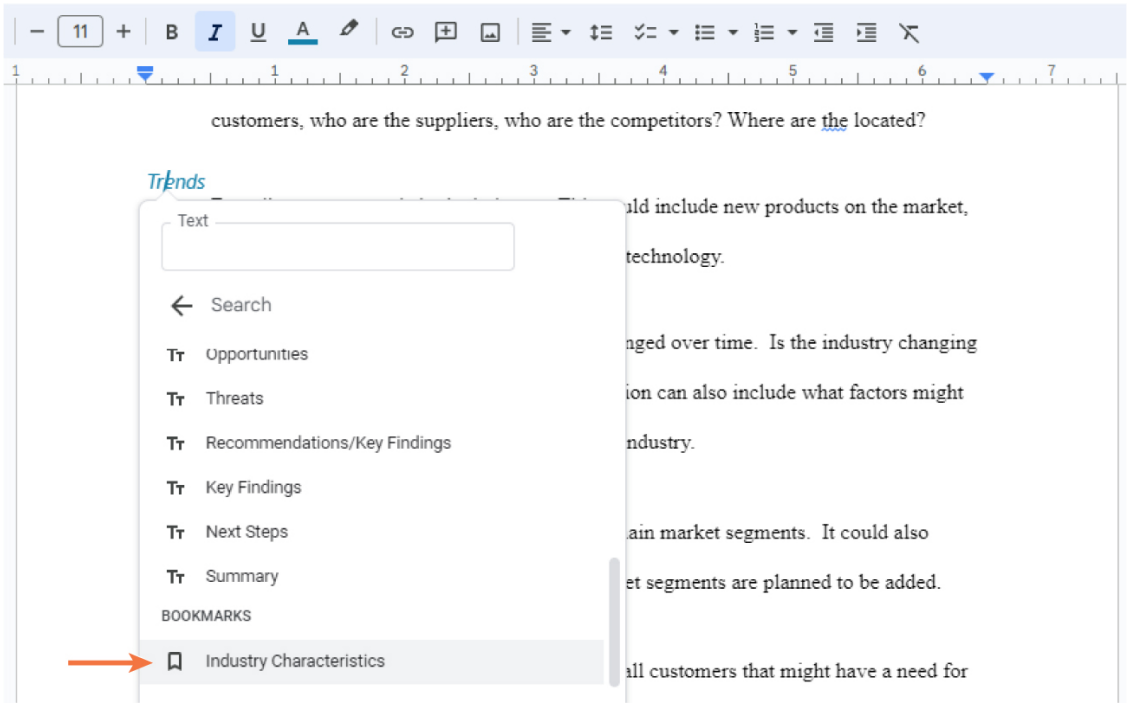


Figure 4.110: Creating bookmarks can help digital readers of your document navigate to different parts of the document without having to scroll through many pages. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

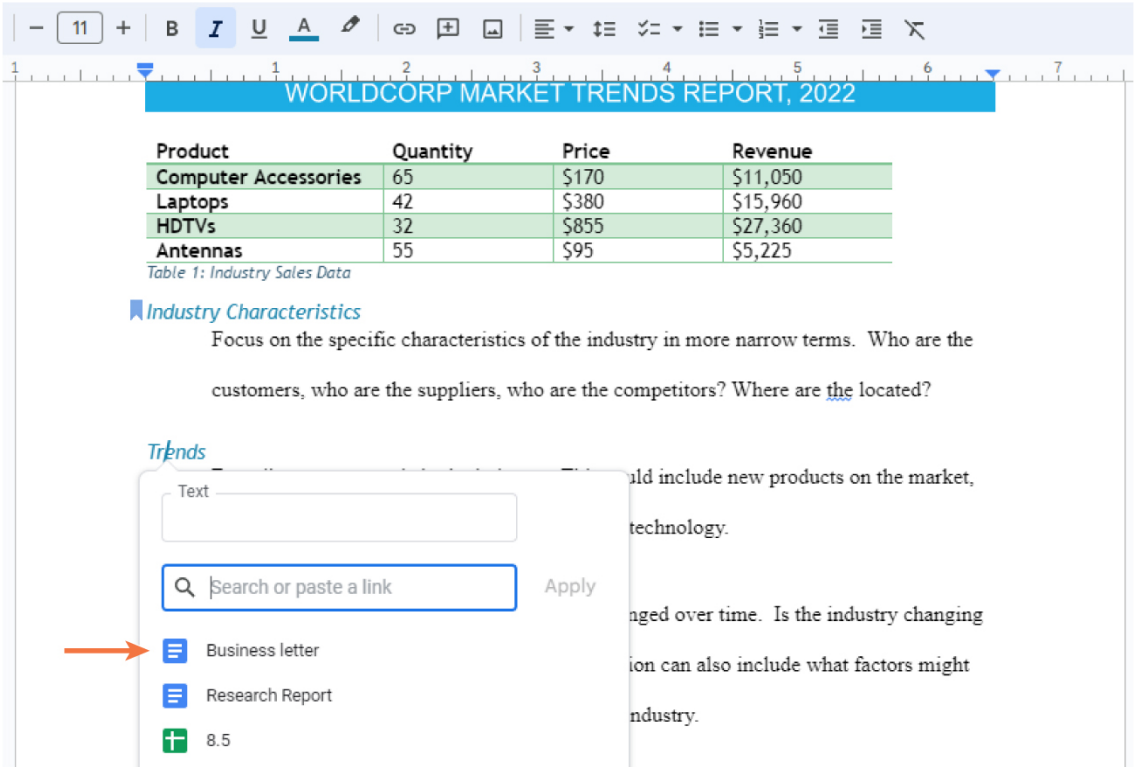


Figure 4.111: Linking isn't only for within documents but to other documents as well. In this case, the business letter has already been shared. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 4.6: Managing Long Documents in Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

Automatic substitution
feature in Docs that allows the user to type a word and have it automatically replaced with a predetermined symbol or special character

bookmark
tool that lets the user connect different parts of the document using links

checklist
type of bulleted list that adds a checkbox to the beginning of each line

drop cap
when the first letter of the first sentence in a paragraph is in a large, stylized font

endnote
note or citation at the end of the document

footer
bottom part of the page within the bottom margin, which you can see and configure in Print Layout viewing mode

footnote
note or citation at the bottom of the page

Format Painter
tool in Word that lets you copy the formatting of one area of a document to another area of the same or other file

formatting marks
symbols Word uses to tell the user where a space, line, or the like are in the document; these are usually hidden unless the user chooses to see them

header
top part of the page within the top margin, which you can see and configure in Print Layout viewing mode

hierarchy chart
type of chart that visualizes the chain of command or supervision at an organization

multilevel list
type of list that has hierarchical levels with different bullet styles for each level

page numbering
ability of Word to number your pages in documents; they can be in the header or in the footer

Paragraph Styles
Google formatting tool similar to Word's Styles; used to create headings and apply document-wide formatting so that you can generate a table of contents (and document outline)

process chart
way to represent a multistep process in a document; it shows the steps in the process, the order in which to do them, and the dependencies for an outcome

reference

method of giving credit to the texts and other sources you used to furnish your document with information or data

SmartArt
tool in Word that lets you design organizational charts or flowcharts

symbol
special character not found on the keyboard such as currency symbols or Greek letters

table of figures
list of graphs, tables, or images that are in the document

title page
cover page of a document

Trust Center
part of Word's configurable options, which lets you personalize your privacy settings

WordArt
tool in Word that lets you create artistic text

This page titled 4.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.8: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

4.1 Microsoft Word: Advanced Formatting Features

- Word includes some advanced configuration settings, such as the Word Options dialog box. This dialog box is full of different categories of settings, including General settings, Display settings, Proofing customizations, and the Advanced tab, which lets you configure a vast array of settings of different categories.
- Page numbers in Word are easy to add and highly configurable. They have preformatted graphical designs, styles, and numbering systems.
- Headers and footers can be inserted into Word documents using the tools on the Insert tab. As with page numbers, headers and footers can be customized to meet your needs.
- Types of lists include numbered, lettered, or bulleted. Each type of list has multilevel capabilities.

4.2 Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Microsoft Word

- Tables can be inserted into the document to summarize information into rows and columns. The tables can be customized with a wide variety of styles, colors, and fonts.
- You may insert images, shapes, SmartArt, charts, and screen captures into Word using the tools in the Illustrations command group. SmartArt is a tool that lets you design different types of organizational charts, such as process and hierarchy charts.
- The Text command group contains commands that let you insert autogenerated fields into your document, like Quick Parts, Signature Line, and Date & Time. It also has text-designing tools like Drop Cap, WordArt, and Text Box.
- Word also has a large collection of symbols and equations that can be inserted in the document.

4.3 Managing Long Documents in Microsoft Word

- The Pages command group has the Page Break, Blank Page, and Cover Page commands. These tools are used for adding and managing pages in your document.
- The Format Painter is a useful tool that lets users copy the exact formatting from one section of text and apply it to another place in the document.
- The References tab contains many useful tools for navigating long documents. From this tab, you can generate a table of contents, a table of figures, and add footnotes and endnotes.
- Adding bookmarks helps readers easily navigate within a long document.

4.4 Google Docs: Enhanced Formatting Features

- Docs gives the user a few ways to customize page numbers in the document.
- Headers and footers can be added to the Doc and formatted using the tools in the action bar.
- Making multilevel lists in Docs is similar to the same process in Word. But Docs also has checklists, which are unique to Docs and are a form of bulleted list.

4.5 Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Google Docs

- Docs interactive character map allows you to search for symbols and special characters using text, Unicode references, or by drawing it.
- With the Drawings tool, the user can easily create a custom shape and insert it into their Doc.
- Drawings has some SmartArt capabilities, but they are not as robust as Word's.
- Tables are formed in almost exactly the same way as in Word: by having a drop-down menu with an interactive row and column designer.

4.6 Managing Long Documents in Google Docs

- The Paint format command in Docs is the same as Format Painter in Word. It can copy text formatting to apply it to another area of the document.
- Section breaks and headings are important for producing tables of contents automatically.
- Hyperlinks and bookmarks can be used the same way in Docs as in Word; they help the user navigate the document.

This page titled 4.8: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
How do you add a level to a multilevel list?

a. Go to the Insert tab and choose bulleted list.
b. Use the Tab key or use the Increase Indent tool.
c. Highlight the text and choose multilevel lists from the Layout tab.
d. Insert a numbered list from the Home tab and press Enter after each line.

2 .
In the Word Options dialog box, where can you add paragraph marks?

a. the General tab
b. the Proofing tab
c. the Advanced tab
d. the Display tab

3 .
Where would you go to remove your personal information when sending a file to someone else?

a. the General tab in Options
b. the Accessibility tab
c. The Trust Center tab in Options
d. the Display tab

4 .
How would you quickly insert a special character to indicate something is copyrighted (©)?

a. using SmartArt
b. using symbols
c. changing the font
d. inserting a header

5 .
What is the main purpose of SmartArt?

a. to create flow and process charts
b. to create a column chart of data
c. to add visual interest to text with shading and shadows
d. to add a screenshot to a Word file

6 .
Where would you go to insert a signature line?

a. the Symbols command group
b. the Tables command group
c. the Text command group
d. the Illustrations command group

7 .
How can Format Painter be used in long documents?

a. to add section breaks to the document
b. to set up the headings for the table of contents
c. to quickly copy formats from one section of a document to other sections
d. to add bookmarks, hyperlinks, and captions

8 .
What do you need to do before you can insert a table of contents?

a. Add page breaks, section breaks, and cross-references.

b. Add section breaks and headings.
c. Add headings, page breaks, and page numbers.
d. Add bookmarks, hyperlinks, and captions.

9 .
What is the function of the Caption tool?

a. It inserts autogenerated text to footnotes.
b. It labels all figures, which then can be used to build a table of figures.
c. It labels headings, which can then be used to build a table of contents.
d. It inserts a reference for the image or table.

10 .
What are the two ways to create sublevels in a multilevel list?

a. the Tab key and the Increase indent command in the action bar
b. the Enter key and the Increase indent command in the action bar
c. the Alt key and the Decrease indent command in the action bar
d. the Ctrl key and the Decrease indent command in the action bar

11 .
Where do you find headers in Docs?

a. on the Insert menu
b. on the action bar
c. on the Tools menu
d. on the Edit menu

12 .
What are the two default page number styles in Docs?

a. bottom left and top right
b. bottom left and top left
c. bottom center and top center
d. bottom right and top right

13 .
What is one way to insert a drawing into a Doc?

a. You can upload the drawing directly from your desktop.
b. You can drag-and-drop a drawing from your desktop.
c. You can upload or link to an existing file in Drive.
d. You can create a new one from a vector-graphics tool within Docs.

14 .
How would you insert the copyright symbol (©) into a Doc?

a. Go to the Insert menu and choose Special characters.
b. Find the copyright symbol online and copy and paste it into the document.
c. Insert it as a drawing.
d. Go the Insert menu and chose Image.

15 .
Which menu do you need to access to add a table of contents to a Doc?

a. the Insert menu
b. the Format menu
c. the Tools menu
d. the action bar

16 .
How do you link to a table in another part of a Doc?

a. Use the Link tool on the Insert menu and copy the link.

b. Create a bookmark to the table and copy the link.
c. Choose the Link Objects option from the Insert menu.
d. Add a heading to the table, and then link to the heading.

This page titled 4.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

17 .
Find and read a business article or report of at least 4,000 words. As you are reading it, make a detailed multilevel outline of the contents. The outline should be at least one full page long. Apply headers and page numbers. Use single-space and a 12-point font.
18 .
Using the skills learned in this section, customize the Quick Access Toolbar to include the following commands: New document, Print, Copy, and Paste. Describe the steps you took to accomplish this.
19 .
Using SmartArt, create a detailed flowchart of the processes involved in a typical household task, such as making a sandwich or doing laundry. Choose an appropriate graphic to show the flow of the task to be completed.
20 .
Using the tools in the Text command group, compose an offer letter for a job opportunity. The letter should include today's date, a signature line, and company information. You can create a company name and address or use an actual company and its information.
21 .

Go to Papers & reports templates and download a report template. Using the template, insert both a footnote and an endnote into the document. Add some text to each and modify the text using the skills used in this section.

22 .
Go to Papers & reports templates and download a report template that has section headings already formatted. Using the template, insert a table of contents into the document.
23 .
Go to Papers & reports templates and download a report template that has a table of contents already formatted. Using the template, insert a bookmark several pages into the document that will take you back to the table of contents in the report.
24 .
Create a multilevel to-do list for your weekly tasks. You can decide the level of detail needed in the list and you can combine both home activities, recreational items, and school-related work in the list. Add and center the page numbers, and add a relevant header.
25 .
Find a report template from the template gallery in Docs. Use the template to insert page numbers (or change the location if the template already contains page numbers) and insert a multilevel outline into the report.
26 .
Search the internet and find a picture of an organizational chart for a company. Using that as a guide, create the chart in a new Doc using the techniques covered in this section.
27 .
Create a table using the list of weekly tasks you created a checklist for in Google Docs: Enhanced Formatting Features. Use the tools and skills you learned in this section to create an easy-to-read table that outlines at least two different categories of tasks (e.g., Work Tasks, Recreational Tasks). Your table should have at least one merged cell and at least two different fill colors.
28 .
Using a longer business article with headings, add section breaks as appropriate. Format the headings to use in the table of contents. Add page numbers with the finished section breaks. Then, on the first page, insert a table of contents.

This page titled 4.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

29 .
What are a few advantages of adding headers to a document?
30 .
Describe the process of adding page numbers to a document. What things should you consider as you are adding page numbers?
31 .
How can you format a table without manually changing the borders and colors?
32 .
How would you insert a special character into a document? Also, if you use this special character frequently, what might make the process faster in the future?
33 .
What is the difference between a table of figures and a table of contents?
34 .
Why would you use a page break or insert a blank page in a business report?
35 .
Explain how the Format Painter can be used in long documents.
36 .
How can you change the position of the page numbers in Docs?
37 .
Why is a checklist useful?
38 .
How does Google’s automatic substitution feature work, and how do you use it?
39 .
How does Docs’s process for inserting an image offer more options for personalization than Word?
40 .
Why would you change the Normal font type in a document? Why would this be helpful when working with a large document?
41 .
What are some of the advantages of using section breaks in a table of contents?

This page titled 4.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

4.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

42 .

Cleveland-Cliffs is the largest steel producer in the United States. Their management team released their brand guidelines manual.

The Cleveland-Cliffs Brand Identity Standards manual includes guidelines for their logo, letterhead, allowed font types, and so on. They also have more guidelines for specific documents like brochures (p. 27), posters (p. 29), flyers (p. 32), print ads (p. 34), and more. We will revisit these Brand Identity Standards throughout the chapter, and use our applied skills and knowledge to create a newsletter. See page 30 of the Brand Identity Standards for Cleveland-Cliffs's guidelines for creating a newsletter.

A.
Start with a blank document. With what you have learned from Creating and Working in Documents, insert two columns. (We will show you how to insert the sidebar text boxes later in this chapter.)
B.
Insert headers with WorldCorp's information.
C.
Insert page numbers in the header using a professional style that incorporates some color. WorldCorp uses blue in their logos and marketing materials, so consider a blue color when styling and formatting the page numbers.
43 .

Let's continue building our newsletter using the Cleveland-Cliffs Brand Identity Standards.

A.
Design a SmartArt hierarchy chart. You can assume that the screen panel division is headed by a divisional manager, who supervises the sales, finance, human resources, purchasing, manufacturing, and R&D departments.
B.
Create a table containing information on different TV technologies (use this CNET article on the best TVs as a reference) and explain the differences. Design the complexity and formatting of the table by yourself.
C.
Insert a banded text box to one side. This side text box will take the place of the "Inside This Issue" and "Did you know?" text boxes in the sample in the Brand Identity Guidelines. You can use your new banded text box for adding quotes and highlights to your newsletter. For now, do not include a table of contents (we will add that when we learn more about tables of contents in Managing Long Documents in Microsoft Word).
44 .
Let's continue building our newsletter using the Cleveland-Cliffs Brand Identity Standards. Take the newsletter that you started on in Word and upload it to Drive. Open it in Docs.
A.
Insert headings into the newsletter. You can choose to make different areas of the document H1, H2, or H3. Use the Paint format tool to apply the headings, instead of applying the styles manually.
B.
Insert bookmarks next to important images in the newsletter. Add at least one link to one of these bookmarks somewhere in the newsletter.
C.
Lastly, insert a table of contents at the top of the newsletter.

This page titled 4.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

5: Advanced Document Preparation

5.0: Chapter Scenario
5.1: Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word
5.2: Mail Merge in Microsoft Word
5.3: Creating Forms in Microsoft Word
5.4: Creating Different Document Types in Google Docs
5.5: Creating Forms in Google Docs
5.6: Advanced Collaboration in Google Docs
5.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
5.8: Chapter Review - Summary
5.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
5.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
5.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
5.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 5: Advanced Document Preparation is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.0: Chapter Scenario

Microsoft Word includes some specialized features that can be used in a variety of ways, for both business and personal use. These features are designed to save you time. For your WorldCorp market trends report, you can use these features to gather information from employees in different departments, communicate with vendors and customers, and even create forms to be used for human resources purposes.



Figure 5.1: Advanced word processing features allow you to create complex documents such as invoices, custom envelopes, business cards, and much more. (credit: modification of “Please pay this amount” by miguelb/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

The chapters on Creating and Working in Documents and Document Preparation focused on the basic functions of constructing effective documents in Microsoft Word and Google Docs. In this chapter, you will learn enhanced capabilities in Word and Docs that go beyond simply creating a document. You will also spend some time reviewing additional types of documents you might encounter in business, such as invoices and cover letters.

This page titled 5.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.1: Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create a template
- Create a business memo
- Create a letterhead and an envelope
- Create a business card
- Create a brochure and a flyer
- Create an invoice
- Create a business plan
- Create a résumé and a cover letter

Having different document types ready to go can be useful, in both everyday life and your professional life. When it comes to something like applying to jobs or schools—a task that requires writing a similar document, multiple times—you don't want to waste time by starting from scratch for each application. You can do this by using a template, which we learned about in Creating and Working in Documents. This section will show you how to create your own template for a few different document types, including memos, letters, envelopes, business cards, brochures, flyers, and invoices.

Templates

In Creating and Working in Documents, we defined what templates are and where to find them in Microsoft Word. There are also a number of templates available on the internet. Word has web search capability so that you can look for additional templates on templates.office.com, as you can see in Figure 5.2. On the Office template website, there are thousands of templates that can help entrepreneurs and small businesses start making their business more systematic. You can find Word templates for email advertisements, calendars, brochures, memos, business cards, invoices, business plans, warehouse receipts, and more. Once you download the template, you can populate it with data and further modify its appearance.

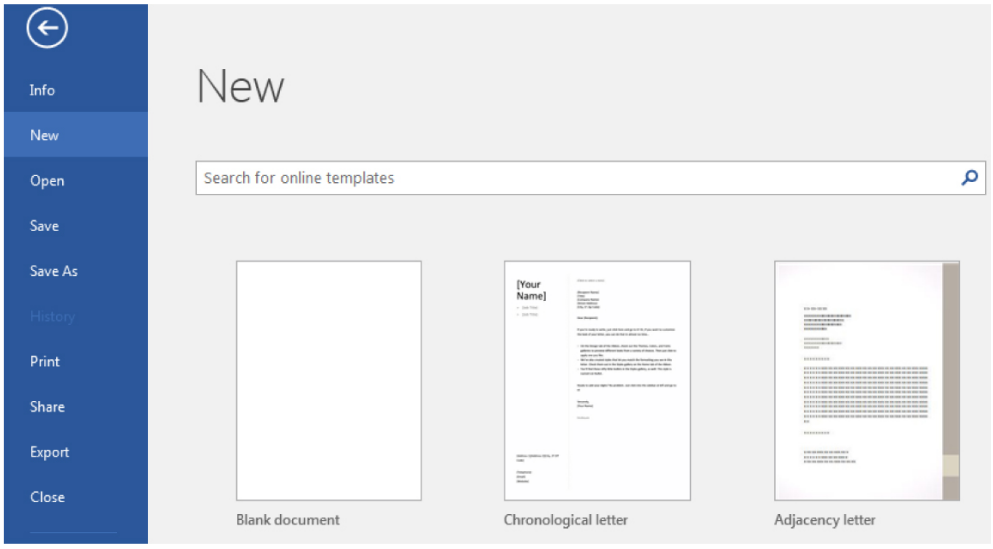


Figure 5.2: You can search for templates using the desktop version of Word, or you can go to your web browser and download the templates. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using prebuilt templates can be incredibly useful, but sometimes you might use a custom document type often enough that you want to save it as your own template. To do this, go to the File tab and use the Save As command to save the document with the .dotx extension. That will save the document as a template. This means that every time you open this .dotx file, a new file will be created, with all your formatting already in place. Once you make your edits to the new document, use the Save As command again to save the template file (.dotx) as a standard Word document file (.docx), making sure to choose the .docx extension to keep the

changes. This will ensure that your edits are saved to a new document not to the template file. The .docx files are standard Word documents used for editing and sharing, while .dotx files are Word templates used for creating new documents with a consistent format and style. These same steps need to be followed when building a template for any kind of file, whether it is a memo, envelope, brochure, flyer, or invoice.

Link to Learning

While Word comes with many fantastic templates installed, there are many more available online that are free and can be used with Word. A Google search will garner thousands of available templates. You will likely come across Canva in your search. Canva does provide access to some free templates; however, these files must be edited in that service and are saved and downloaded in file types that are not necessarily fully compatible in Word. When searching for templates, be sure to verify they are indeed compatible with Word and come from a verified and trusted source.

Business Memos

Word has templates for memos and newsletters. These are similar forms of communication in that they both inform a large group of new changes or trends in a company and may call for action. Yet there are some differences. Memos are used internally, while newsletters are for external audiences. Memos also usually have a standardized format. Newsletters have more freedom of form and may incorporate a lot of graphics. Like brochures and flyers, both have been digitized in the form of emails.

Despite the widespread use of email, printed business memos are still commonly used to communicate important information within a company. Memos typically follow a specific format, which formal company email transmittals may also do today. One common structure is to include an opening thesis statement, the main issue, and a closing statement. The opening is an introduction, and it may recall some relevant past activities, or current activity. The main issue should include the changes that are being announced to the company. The closing is a reminder of the current project general objectives. It may also include a complimentary closing, such as, “Thank you for your kind attention,” or something similar. Last comes the signature, which is the sender’s name, job title, and email address.



Figure 5.3: Today’s emails have copied the classic style of a business memo. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Like an email, a memo should always include fields for To (the employees), From (typically management), and CC, which stands for “carbon copy.” In the 1980s, before personal computers, letters were typewritten, and a piece of carbon paper was inserted

between two sheets to make a copy of the letter. The copy created by the carbon paper was the “carbon copy,” or “CC.” CC’ing others is a process still used in emails today, although of course there is no physical hard copy involved.

Memos should also include fields for the Date and a Subject. You can see a memo template that was downloaded from Microsoft’s template page in Figure 5.3.

Newsletters can follow a similar format but consider that your audience will be different. You may want to use different language, incorporate graphics, or include more details. Newsletters may not only communicate information and updates to an external audience but are often used as advertising. Microsoft’s newsletter templates are a good place to get started if you are not sure how to format your newsletter.

Link to Learning

Newsletters are the most popular email advertisement form. Read this step-by-step guide to writing a newsletter at Readz.com. You can find advice on newsletter creation, the audience, the types of newsletter formats, idea prompts, and more.

Letterhead and Envelopes

A letterhead is a type of heading that contains company contact information and a logo. It can be used in many scenarios, both personal and professional. Figure 5.4 shows an example of a professional letterhead for a business. The logo and company contact information will go at the top right of the document. The information in the template is generic so that you can customize the template with your specific company information.

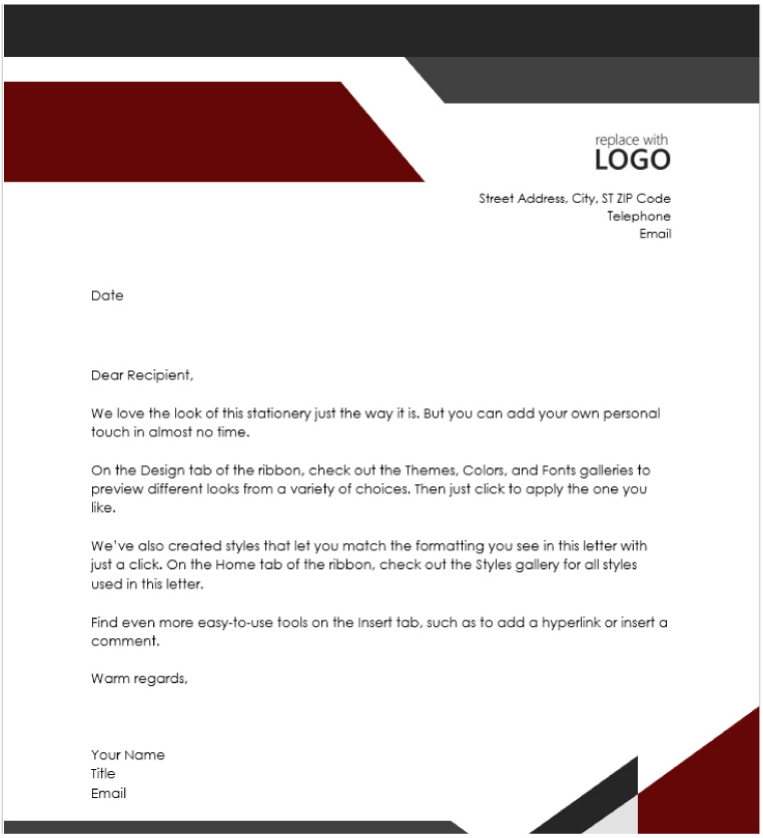


Figure 5.4: Using the letterhead templates can make creating a brand/image for your company easier by providing prebuilt designs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Business letterheads are also used in conjunction with company envelopes. You may have preprinted company envelopes with the company logo on them. If not, you can create one using templates. When corresponding by mail, it is much more professional to have a printed envelope with the recipient’s information, rather than have handwritten details. While we will cover creating envelopes for larger mailings in the next section, here we are focused on printing one or two envelopes.

Word has templates and other customizable capabilities to create printed, custom envelopes. You just need to fill in your address with your name in the left corner, and fill the recipient's data in the middle. To print the envelope, you will need to load the envelope in the correct orientation in the printer. Then, you will go to the File tab and select Print. Printers can vary by brand, so consult the owner's manual for your printer or search online for the proper way to print an envelope.

Using the Envelopes command is another solution, and it allows for more customization. You first need to make sure that your address is saved into Word's settings. This is done through the Options command, located on the File tab. Selecting the Options command will open a window, and inside that window you will see a tab called Advanced. This is where you can set your address, as Figure 5.5 shows.

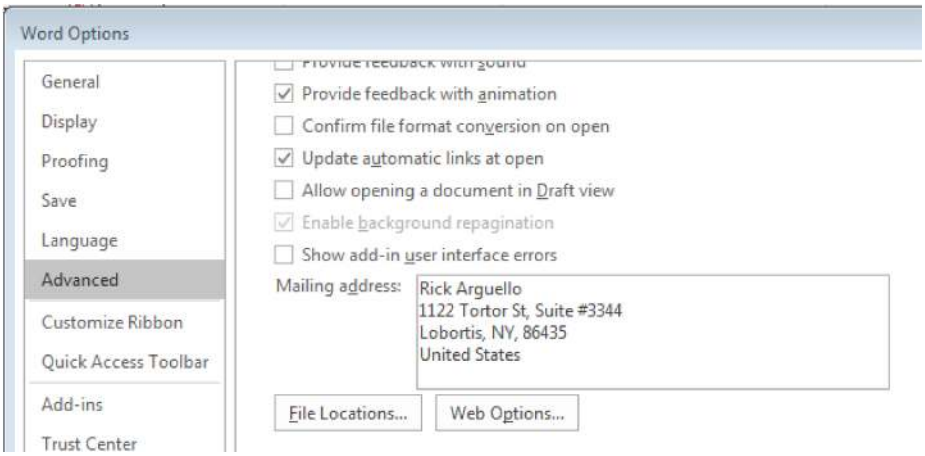


Figure 5.5: The Advanced tab of the Word Options window is where you can make sure your address is saved. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

From the Tools menu, click on Envelopes. You can make formatting changes here. Also, in the Tools menu, there is an option for Labels, which has a similar functionality for preparing mailing labels.

Next, go to the Mailings tab and select Envelopes. In Figure 5.6, you can see the dialog box that will appear. The blank address is the recipient's address, and on the bottom is your autogenerated mailing address. If you want to change the envelope size, choose Options, and you will see a combo box with the standard sizes (Figure 5.7). When you finish typing the recipient's address, click on Add to document.

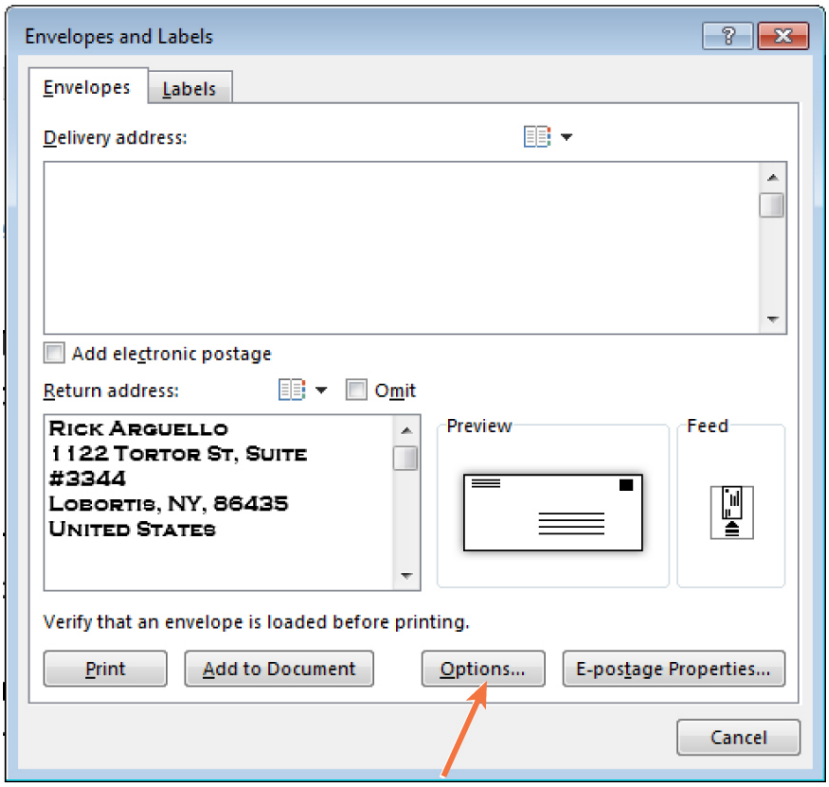


Figure 5.6: The Envelopes and Labels dialog box shows you a simple preview of what your customized envelope will look like. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

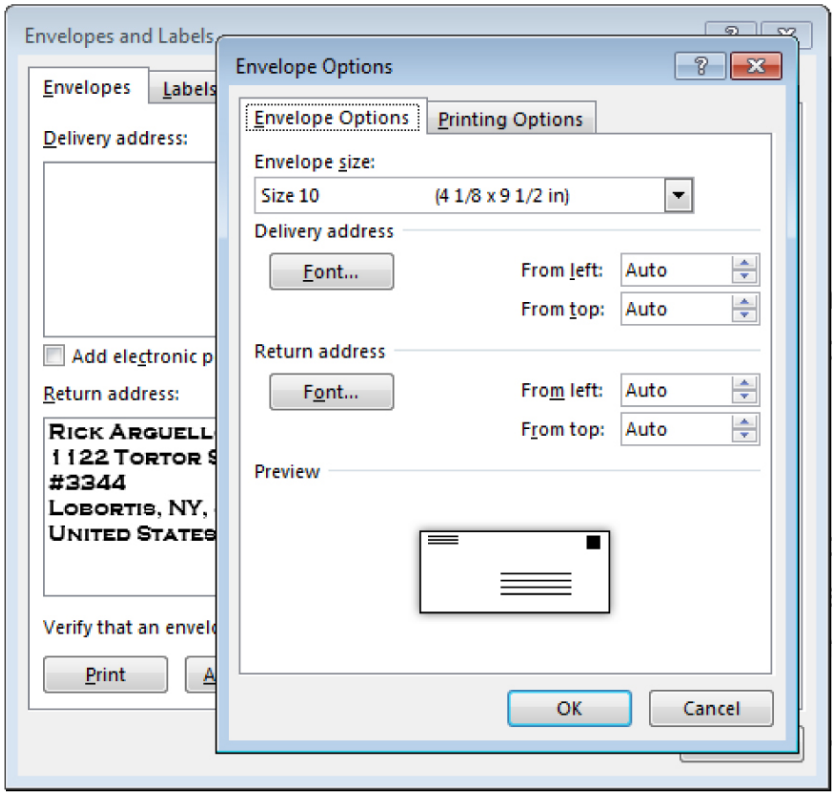


Figure 5.7: The Envelope Options dialog box allows you to customize the placement of addresses, as well as set custom printer settings. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As Figure 5.8 shows, the envelope is inserted as the first page of the document, and along it, there is a section break. If you want to repeat the styling and envelope size again, it would be a good idea to create the envelope in a new blank document, and then save it

as a .dotx.



Figure 5.8: This is what the Envelope command will ultimately generate. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Business Cards

A business card is a small, typically wallet-sized card that contains your contact and company information. It is usually given to clients or potential clients when you meet them, so that they have your contact information easily available. Business cards may be provided to you by your company, or, if you are self-employed, you may make them yourself. They usually contain basic contact information, like your name, your position (title) with the company, your phone number, and your email address, in addition to some eye-catching design elements, like a logo or image. Business cards are usually printed on thick, sturdy paper called cardstock. Many companies will order business cards for their employees using approved company designs and layout; at WorldCorp, the marketing department is responsible for providing business cards to employees. However, if you are a small business owner or freelancer, you might have a need to create your own business card.

You can easily design a business card in Word and send it out for printing at a business card printing shop, where you will likely have a few different cardstock options (lighter or heavier weight, glossy or matte finish). You could also purchase the cardstock and print the business cards on your own. This paper is generally perforated and some major paper companies that produce this type of paper have templates for their products in Word. Some of these printing companies may want your design in .pdf format. As we discussed in Creating and Working in Documents, having a document in .pdf format means that the design elements will not change at all, no matter who opens the file. If you send the printing company a design in .docx format, some elements might move when they open the file depending on which program they are using to open and print the file.

In Figure 5.9, you can see most of a business card template that we downloaded from Microsoft. The page has ten business cards per page. Simply fill out the information in the fields provided. Once you fill in one area of the first card, it will auto-populate the same area in all the remaining cards.

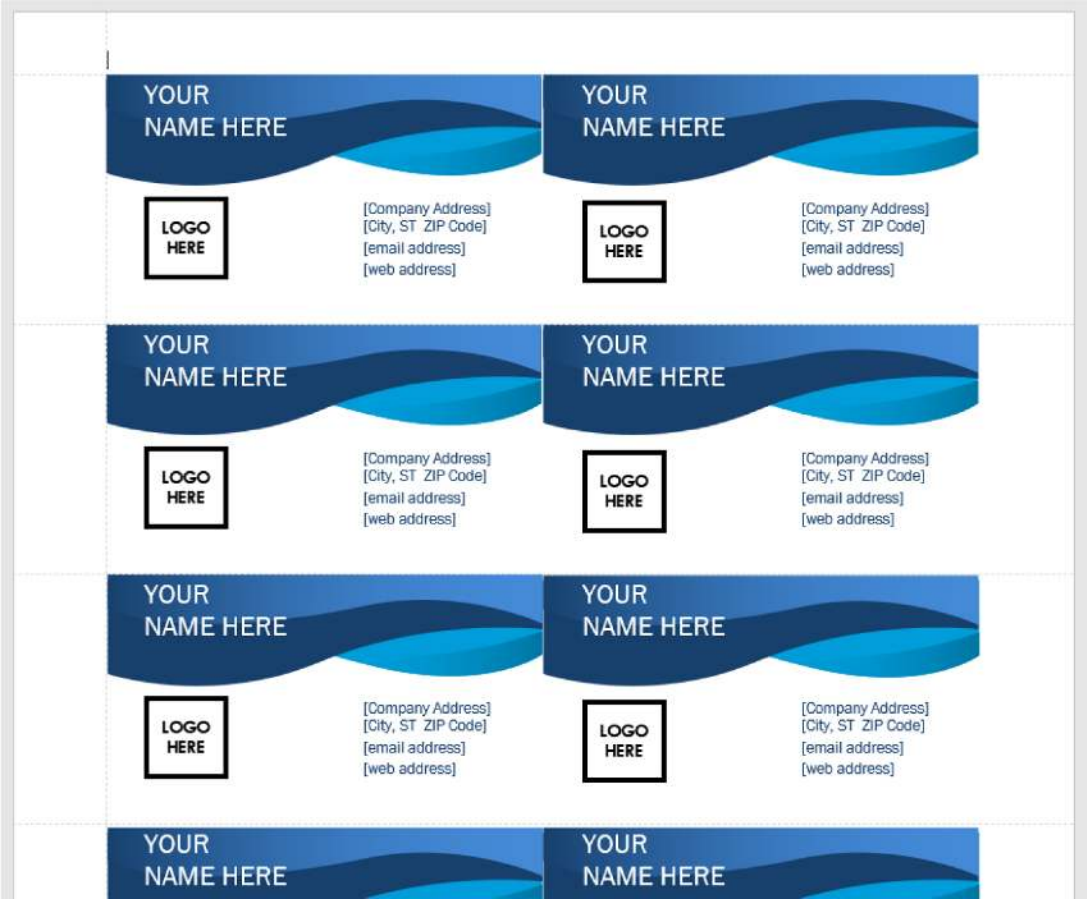


Figure 5.9: Using a business card template can make designing your cards easy. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Brochures and Flyers

Both large and small businesses use advertisements to display what the company offers and detail the specifications of the offer. Brochures and flyers are a printed form of advertisement. Although many advertisements are found on the internet these days, printed ads are still popular. Flyers tend to be graphic-oriented, contain minimal text, and often advertise an event or temporary promotion. Brochures can be an introduction for a company or specific product and may be used for a longer duration than a flyer.

As with many documents discussed so far, the best way to create a brochure or flyer is to download a template from Microsoft, and then fill in the information. Because brochures and flyers can be image-heavy and can have complicated layouts, using a template is the fastest and easiest way to create them. With a template, you can establish a base layout, and then easily change the images and the color scheme.

In Figure 5.10 and Figure 5.11, notice the default design of a brochure from Microsoft's template page called Business Brochure. The brochure is two pages, as it is designed for double-sided printing. The brochure is also set in a three-column layout that is meant to be a trifold design. The layout is there, and all you need to do is change images, the color scheme (if desired), and the text.

At WorldCorp, the marketing department plans a holiday toy drive each year. Your boss has asked you to create a brochure with the details for the drive to be distributed to all employees. You can use this template to create the brochure for the event. We will walk through the steps to create this brochure in the following sections.



Figure 5.10: This template is a trifold design. When folded, the panel on the right is the cover and the panel in the middle is the last page. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

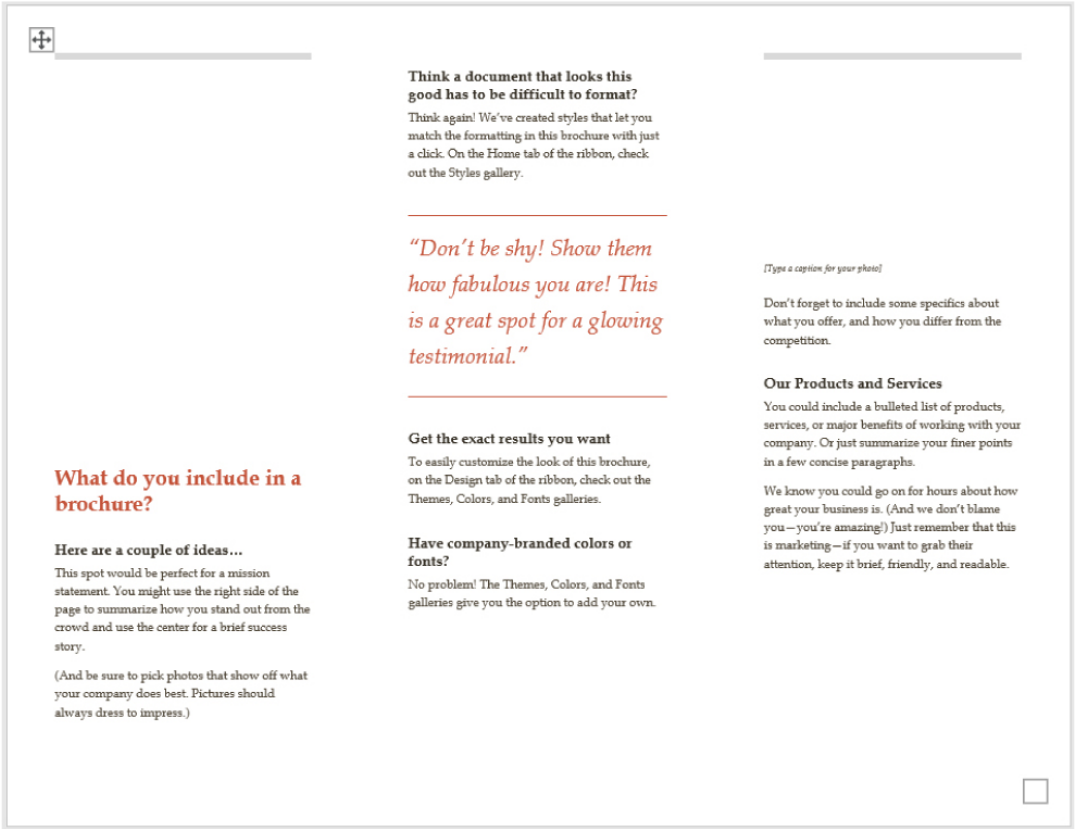


Figure 5.11: Designing the brochure from an existing template saves time. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To change the two images, right-click on one of them and select Change Picture, as shown in Figure 5.12, then browse to the folder where the image is and select Insert.

Mac Tip

On a Mac, the command is Control+right-click.

If the new image is too wide, use the command Crop from the Picture Tools Format tab. To change the color scheme for the whole brochure, go to the Design tab and click on the Color drop-down menu, as in Figure 5.13. Changing the colors this way will change the color palette for the whole brochure. Finally, to change the actual text, put your cursor on any of the panels of the brochure and change it manually. In this example, you changed the pictures and the text on the first page of the brochure to include details of the toy drive at WorldCorp.

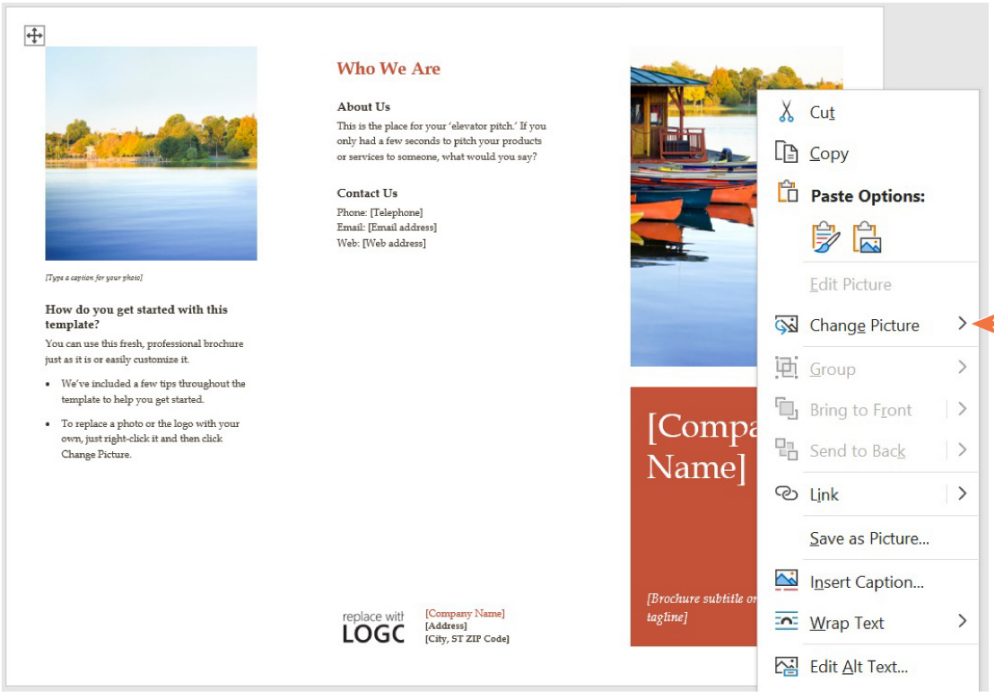


Figure 5.12: The pictures can be customized to your needs either from stock photos, photos on your computer, or photos you find online. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

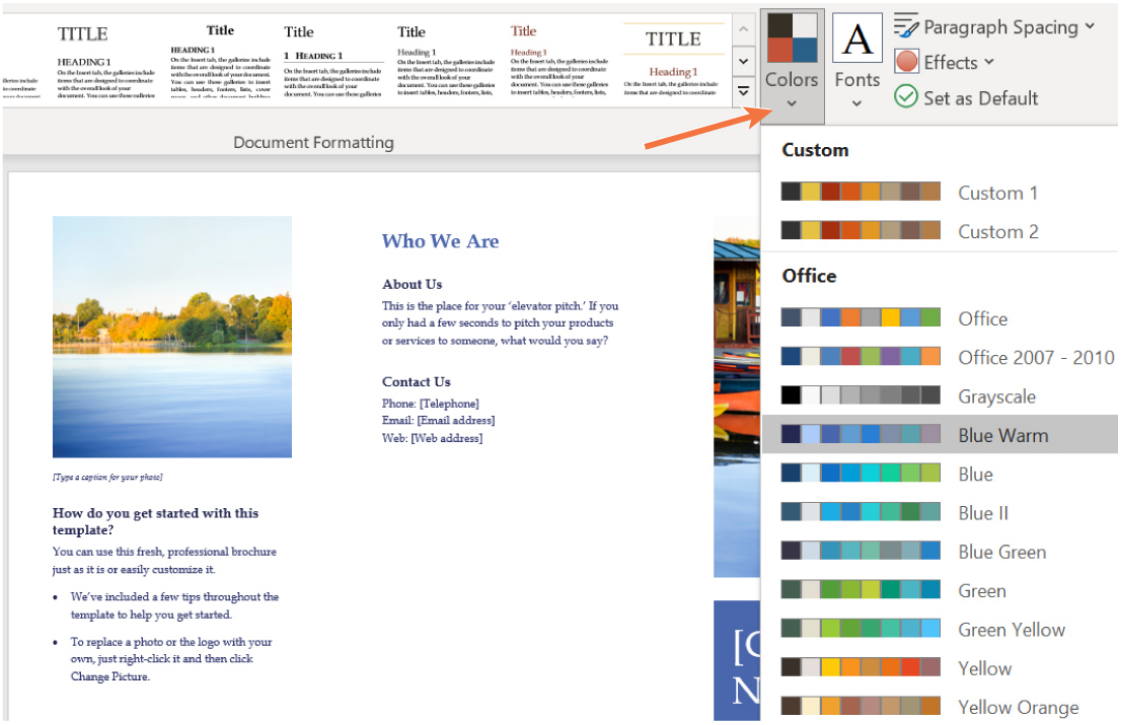


Figure 5.13: The color scheme can be changed using the Design tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To create a flyer, choose a flyer template from Microsoft's templates, and follow the same steps as for creating a brochure. As you can see in Figure 5.14, flyer templates are just one, single page, meant to be printed single-sided on one sheet of paper.

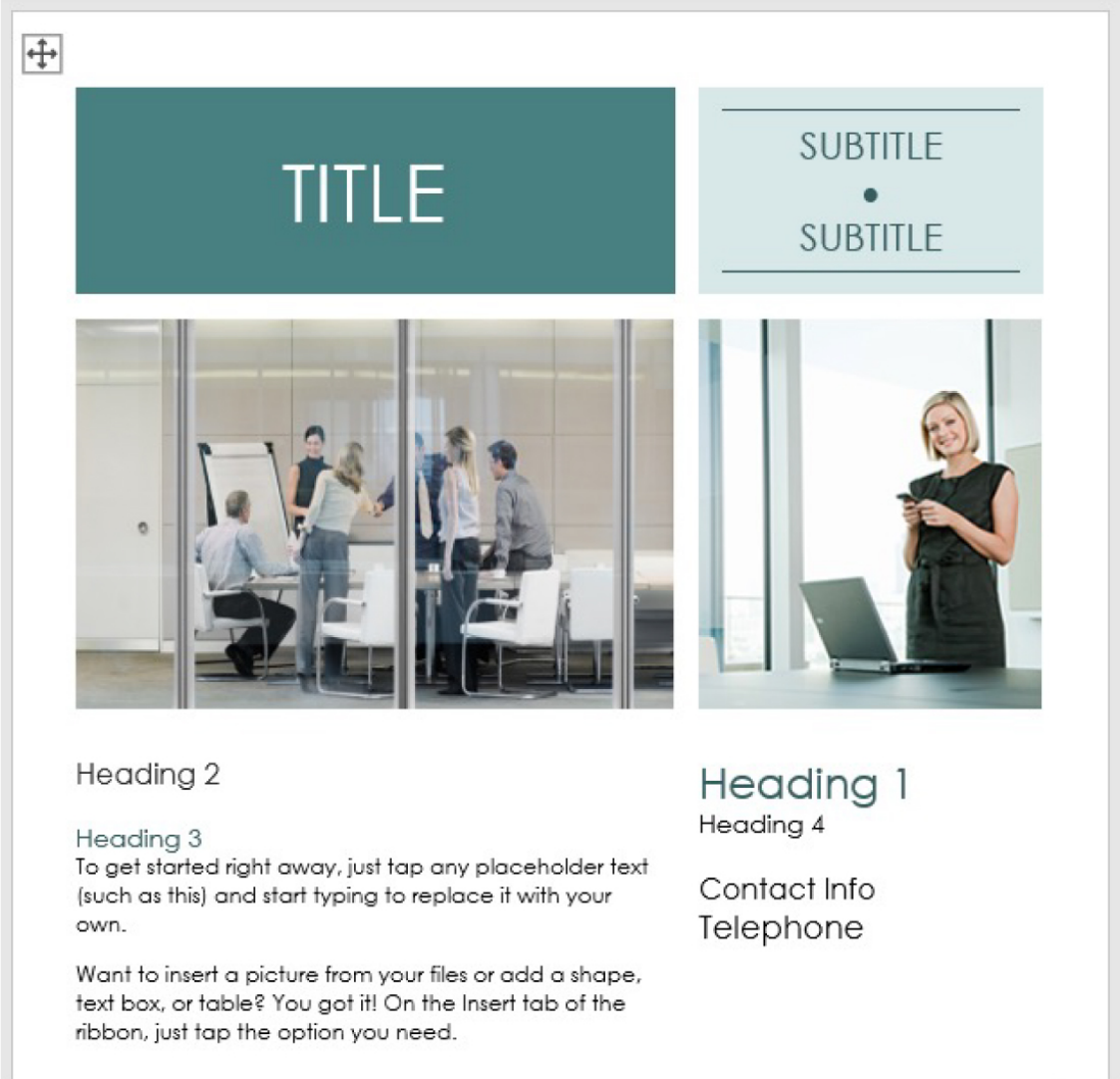


Figure 5.14: A flyer is similar to a brochure, but it is printed on one single-sided page. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Invoices

An invoice is an important document. It is essentially a bill given to a customer for a product or service provided by a company. You may encounter invoices either as a recipient or the sender. If you are the one purchasing a good or service, you will receive an invoice. The invoice tells you how much you need to pay. If you are the one selling the goods or services, you will need to create the invoice yourself, then send it to the company or person making the purchase. In both cases, an invoice should always explain what was provided, sold, and what is owed.

There are many kinds of invoices for many kinds of businesses, but all invoices should have a date, invoice number, description of the goods sold or services performed, the quantity, the price per item, the total, and the payment due date. The Microsoft 365 collection of templates has many designs and types of invoices by industry. Using a template to design your invoice can be helpful because invoices often include complex table formatting that can be difficult to design. The invoices can vary based on whether you are providing a service, such as maintenance (for which you might charge an hourly rate), or providing an actual product, like WorldCorp's laptops and TVs (for which you might charge a per-price fee or flat rate).

You can create an invoice by following the same steps outlined above for brochures and flyers: by creating a new document and selecting an invoice template. Just as you would with the other document types, click in the text boxes to make the necessary adjustments to the information in the invoice. Figure 5.15 shows some of the different invoice templates available.

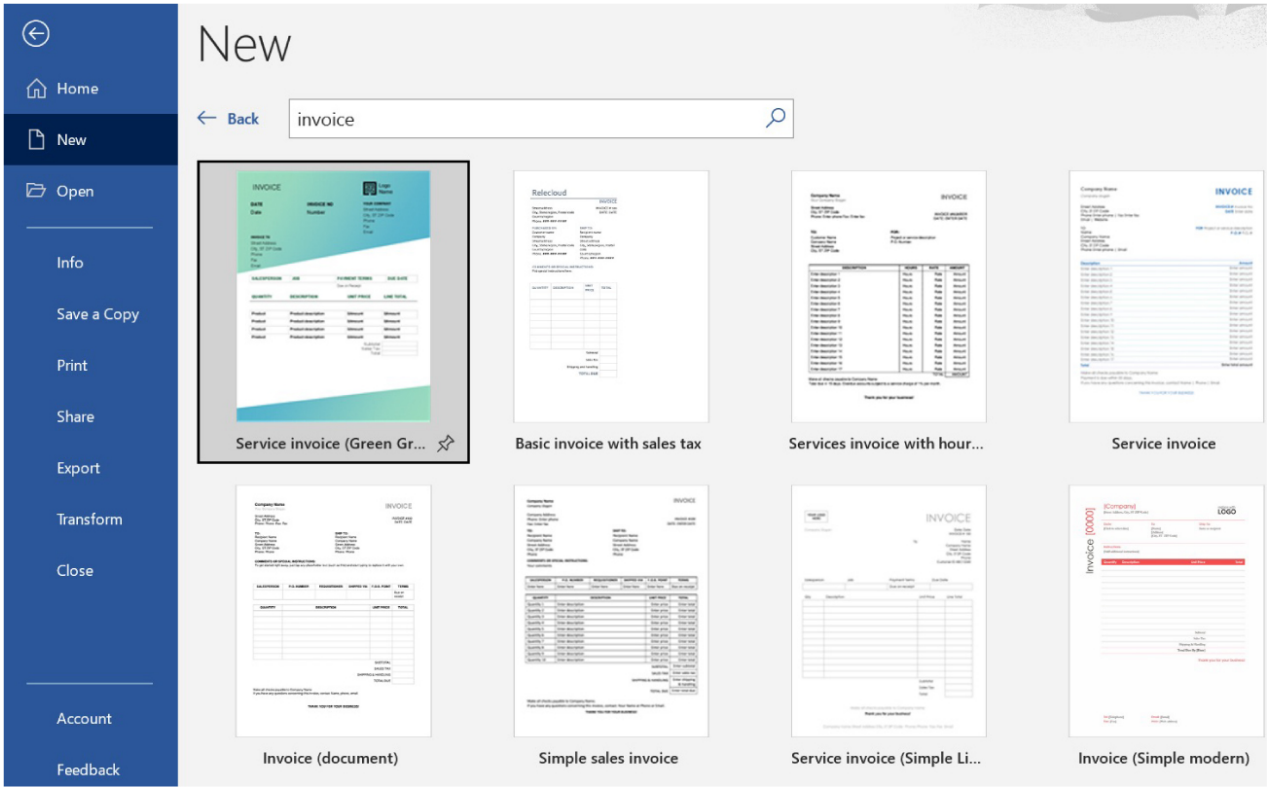


Figure 5.15: Invoices can be customized to include the company logo and include custom fields, such as sales tax or discounts. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Business Plans

A business plan is a document that describes a company's plan for growth and profitability. Business plans may have different uses and applications depending on the type of business and stage of growth that the business is experiencing. For instance, some start-up business plans are used to seek funding for a venture. They may describe a detailed short-term plan for the company's first few months of activity, then a broader long-term plan for future growth. There are also business plans for established companies, such as capacity-building business plans. These types of plans are used to explain why a company needs funding to buy a new capital asset, such as a manufacturing plant, or to refurbish an existing one. The business plan templates you will find in the Microsoft Office database will give you a head start on designing and formatting your business plan, but keep in mind that these templates will not give any advice on what to include or what kind of language to use in your business plan. For that, you can get some examples of an already-made business plan online. Figure 5.16 shows an example of the first couple of pages of a business plan template in Word.

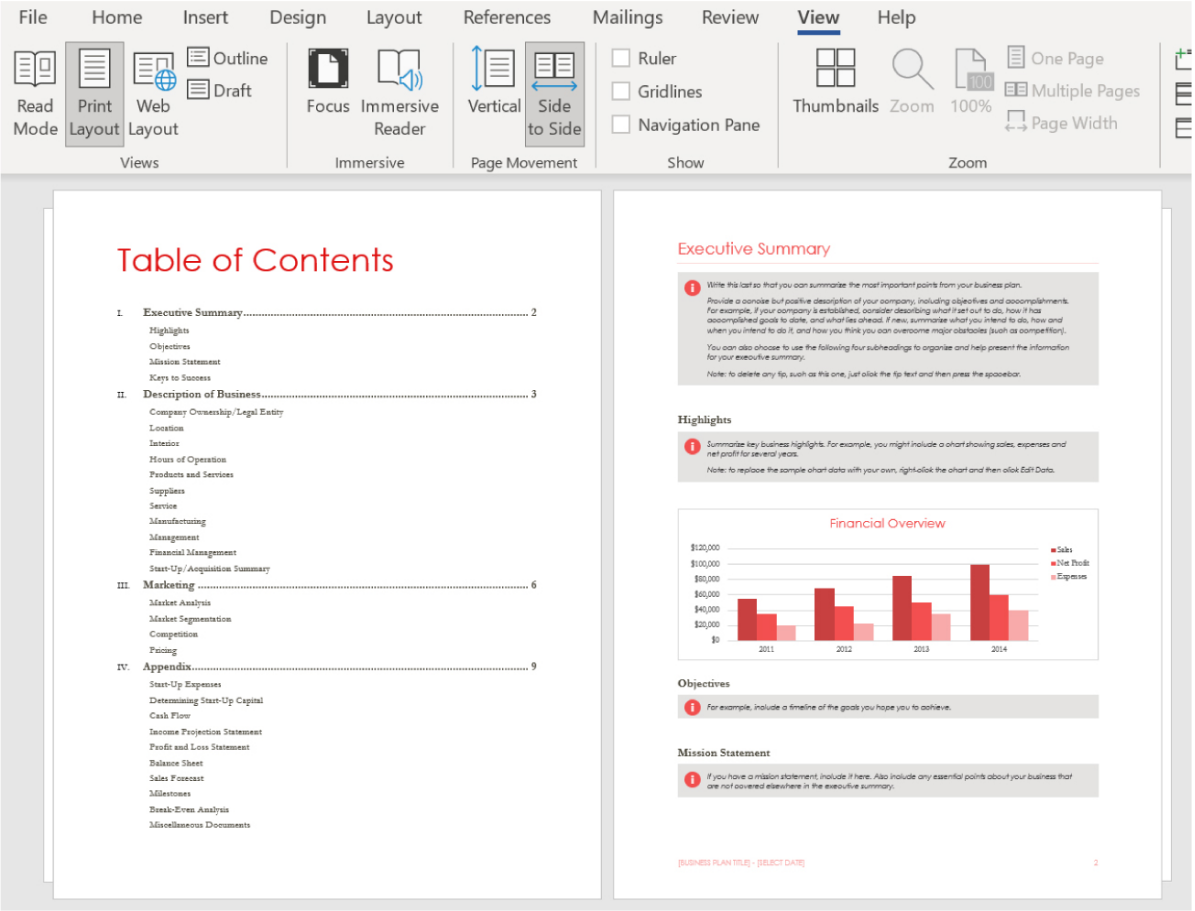


Figure 5.16: The purpose of a business plan is to discuss the road map for opening or expanding a business. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Résumés and Cover Letters

As you start your career and begin your job search, you will want to present yourself as a serious candidate, ready to take on challenges. One way to put yourself on the right track toward professionalism is by having a résumé. A résumé displays your work experience, academic degrees, and overall skills. Some résumé experts say that you should limit your résumé to one or two pages, but depending on the position, you may want to describe your studies and experience in more detail.

Like business cards, résumés can be simple or more imaginative. While a visual, graphics-heavy résumé may be eye-catching, a plain text document may be more practical. When you apply for a position, you will often be directed to an area of the company's website where you are prompted to upload your résumé to their system. Then, using computer software, they scan the document for critical information such as keywords, years of experience, and skills, and then filter the résumés that meet the desired job requirements. These computer programs do not read drawings and designs well, so a creative or graphics-heavy résumé may not be interpreted well by this technology.

If you need to print your résumé, it is appropriate to add your personal letterhead to the top of the document. While letterheads are often used to present company information, as we learned earlier in the chapter, you can also create a personal letterhead. This type of letterhead is essentially a professional branding of your personal data, displaying your name, position (if applicable), mailing address, email address, and telephone number. It might have a simple graphic design, like a solid color bar, or a more intricate design or logo. Using a consistent letterhead across all your communications will add a look of professionalism and could help increase your job prospects. That consistency confirms to the potential employer your ability to see "the bigger picture" and your ability to visualize the tied-together documents.

Another way to use your personal letterhead is on a cover letter. Cover letters always have a distinct purpose: to present you as a person, and your skills and relevant experience, in a brief manner. Writing a letter on your own personal letterhead shows professionalism, as well as gives the recipient an opportunity to write back or respond. Like a business memo, there is a specific

way to structure a cover letter. It should always include the date, your letterhead, the recipient's address, salutation, complimentary closing, and signature. The body of the cover letter should address these aspects in different paragraphs, usually in this order:

- The introduction: discussion of the job position that is being offered, and your interest in applying.
- The second paragraph: your work history summary. You need to be brief and cover the main points of your career. Also include the relevant skills you possess for the job. If you are applying for a management position, include your management responsibilities in past jobs, for example.
- The third paragraph: description of how you fit the job offered. You might also want to add your overall career objectives here, and explain how this job furthers these.
- The conclusion: a closing paragraph that includes your willingness to be right for the job, and your motivation for applying to this company.

Normally, cover letters are one page, and at most, two pages. You may adjust the mentioned format by adding new paragraphs to add more detail on your work experience and skills.

The templates covered in this section can help you develop your personal letterhead and cover letter. There are several options for résumé and cover letter templates in Word. Figure 5.17 shows a sample cover letter, and Figure 5.18 shows just a few of the options available through Microsoft. As with the other templates, simply replace the generic text in the template with your specific information.



March 28, 2023

City Administrator
1645 Davids Drive
Wilmington, OH 45177

Dear Mr. Breckel,

Please find attached my résumé for consideration for the part-time position open in your office as a billing clerk. I am a seasoned professional with the skills needed for the position. I have previous office experience at various points in my career. I am very involved in the local community serving on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations with leadership positions as President and Treasurer. I am proficient in all Office products and have a strong attention to detail. I am very experienced in QuickBooks so I am confident I can learn the billing system used by the City Administrator's office.

I am looking for a position that allows me to contribute more to the community in a challenging environment. I am a team player with a commitment to excellence. I enjoy working with the community promoting the success of organizations in which I am involved.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss my qualifications further. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Griffin
griffin_sa@gmail.com
513-333-7654

Figure 5.17: A cover letter is a complement to your résumé and specifically outlines how you are a good fit for the position to which you are applying. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

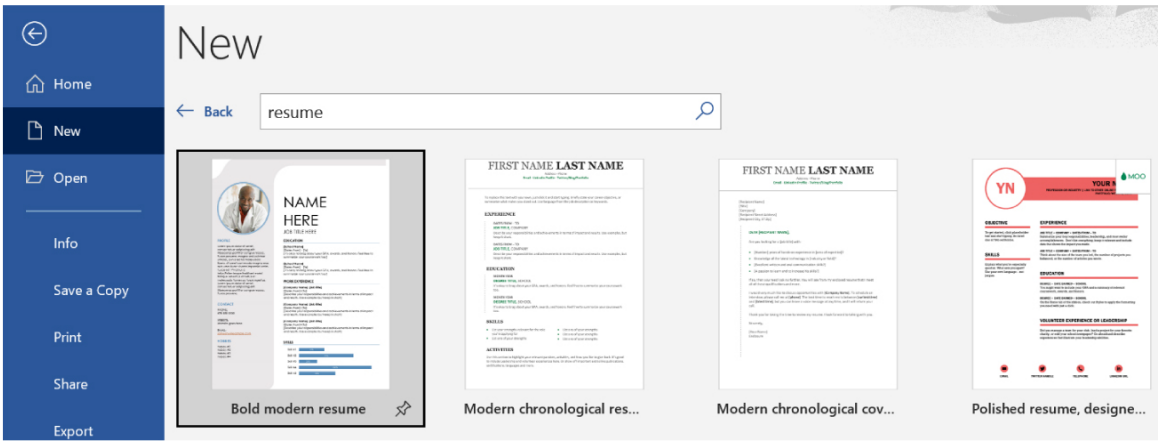


Figure 5.18: Choose a résumé template that not only matches your personality, but also coincides with the type of job you are applying for. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application - Creating Brand "You"

As you grow in your own profession, you might want to consider developing your own brand. This will include how you present yourself on social media, as well as all media and supporting documents you might use to advertise yourself and your "product"—you. Corporations often use brand guidelines to ensure consistency across all brand items, such as business cards, letterhead, envelopes, and logos. Here are logo guidelines from Mitsubishi Motors for example. These guidelines give specific details on how to use, and not use, the company logo in different circumstances.

When developing your own personal brand, consider using the following steps:

1. First, investigate personal brands. Canva offers a guide to personal branding that can help. Seek out individuals who do this well. What elements are they using and why is their strategy effective?
2. Next, design your business card. You might also want to consider developing your own logo; however, there are many free, online resources available that can help you with this. Once you have a business card, design your other stationery.
3. Finally, develop a memo and invoice design from scratch. These will be important as your personal business grows, and you have regular business communication and contracts to support your business.

This page titled 5.1: Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.2: Mail Merge in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Understand the purpose and function of mail merge
- Set up a main document for mail merge
- Set up a source document for mail merge
- Complete a mail merge

As companies grow, they may need to scale up their production methods. This can be a complicated process. An increase in size usually means an increase in revenue, but this comes at the cost of an increase in units produced or services rendered. As a result, companies need to find ways to make their everyday business process more efficient and automated.

One form of automation is the streamlining of communication with customers. With an increase in volume, the sales team needs to handle hundreds or thousands of clients every day. This can be made easier through the use of form letters, which are a kind of template for communication. In form letters, the content of the letter is the same for all recipients, but certain information may be personalized or customized. The mail merge tool in Word is one way to create these autogenerated letters. Although there are third-party companies that offer these large mailing type services, the mail merge features in Word are free and simple to learn.

What Is Mail Merge?

Many businesses stay in touch with their clients and customers using some form of communication. Some of these communications may be printed ads; some may be email newsletters. These communications are sometimes personalized with the name of the recipient. How do businesses automate this personalized process? One way to do this is by using mail merge. Mail merge is a tool in Word that lets the user write a form letter or advertisement, while leaving some areas of the document blank. These blanks are fields that can be programmed to contain personalized information: the recipient's given name, phone number, address, or any other type of customized field.

The mail merge tool makes sending letters or emails to hundreds or thousands of people relatively easy. The process typically begins with the composition of the communication that you want to send to the recipients; this is referred to as the main document. The main document will have blank spaces, or fields, where personalized information will go. Then, you need to create your source document, a separate document that has all the required information that will go into the blank customizable fields, such as postal addresses or email addresses. The source document can be a document that already exists, such as a list in Microsoft Excel or Access (we will talk about these programs later in the text). Or, you can create a new list of names and addresses. A business may already have this document in Excel or Access, as some businesses keep a running contact list. Finally, information in the source document and the information in the main document are combined to create the merged document. This merged document will show the personalized customer information in the designated blank fields on the main document, then multiply this form by the number of recipients. For example, if the form letter is one page and you have fifty clients, Word will create a merged document of fifty letters that can be printed.

Let's walk through an example of how to use the mail merge tool to send out a set of personalized letters to customers. You will learn how to build a main document, your source document, insert merged fields, and merge to finalize your letter.

The Main Document

The first step of the mail merge is to compose your main document. The main document could be an existing document, a template (.dotx) document, or a brand-new document. In this example, let's use a business letter template as the main document. You can type it up yourself based on the example in Figure 5.19, or use the text provided in the downloadable Mail Merge document. This letter will be sent to WorldCorp customers, informing them of the upcoming holiday hours for the warehouses so that they can plan for delayed shipments.

Figure 5.19 shows a form letter to inform the customers of the holiday closures. The template used is called Business Letter (simple design) to create the letter. We also added a simple WorldCorp logo at the top of the letter. We have highlighted in green where we

want the mail merge tool to create the personalized fields. These are not the actual fields, yet; this highlighting is simply to help us mark those locations for when we do add them. In this letter, we will insert the customer's address and the greeting line with their name. You can certainly use more fields than these. But for this example, keep it simple so you can learn the process.

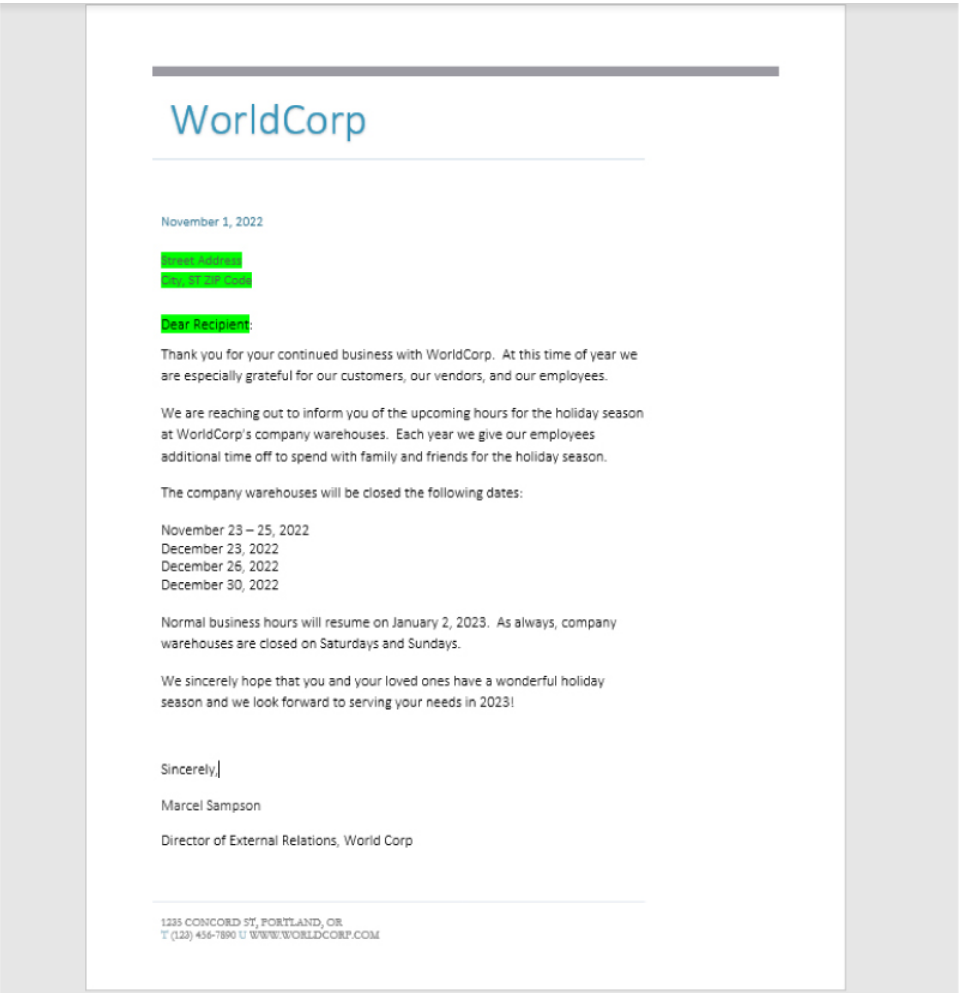


Figure 5.19: Templates can be used to create the main document for mail merge. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Source Document

The source document needs to be a listing created in Excel or Access. But this walk-through will build a new list rather than using an existing list. You will build the new list with just a few customers so you can see how mail merge works. But remember, mail merge can be used with many customers and is virtually limitless. The capacity of the mail merge is limited by the capacity of your computer.

The source document is built with the intended recipients. To begin, go to the Mailings tab, Select Recipients, and choose Type a New List from the menu (Figure 5.20).

Mac Tip

Under the Mailings tab, click on Select Recipients, and choose Create a New List.

Notice there are two other choices: Use an Existing List and Choose from Outlook Contacts. When you have finished entering in the information for the customers, click OK.

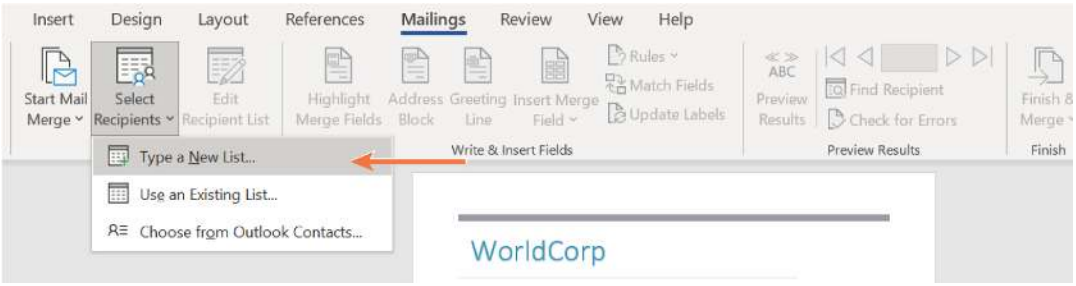


Figure 5.20: Although you can create a new recipient list, if you have a long list, it is better to work from an existing file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you choose to create a new list, a dialog box will open so that you can build your list of recipients. Here, you type in the relevant information for the mail merge, as shown in Figure 5.21. By choosing Customize Columns at the bottom of the dialog box, you can add or remove the fields that you are not using. Make sure you add all the information you think you will need for your custom fields. When you do the final mail merge, you will only be able to choose from the defined information you provided in the source document. For this example, we need the customer name and address.

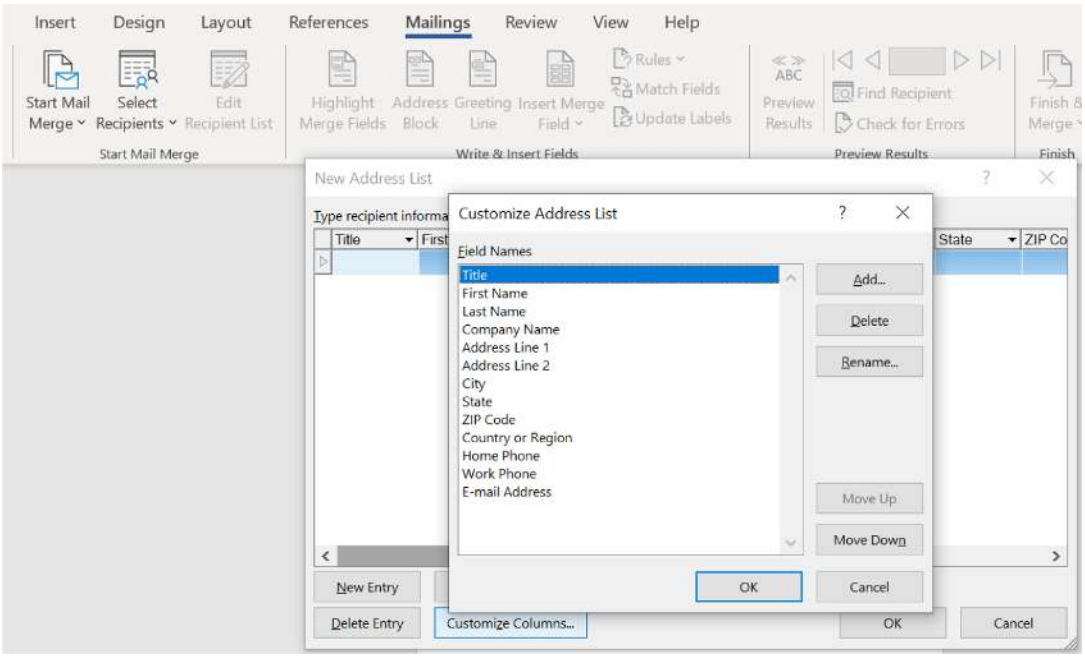


Figure 5.21: You can customize the fields used in the list. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you finish selecting the fields needed for the mail merge, you will be prompted to save the list as a new file for use as the source document in the mail merge (see Figure 5.22). The default location for the file is in a folder called “My Data Sources” (Figure 5.23). You might consider a descriptive name to tell you that this file contains data used in a mail merge.

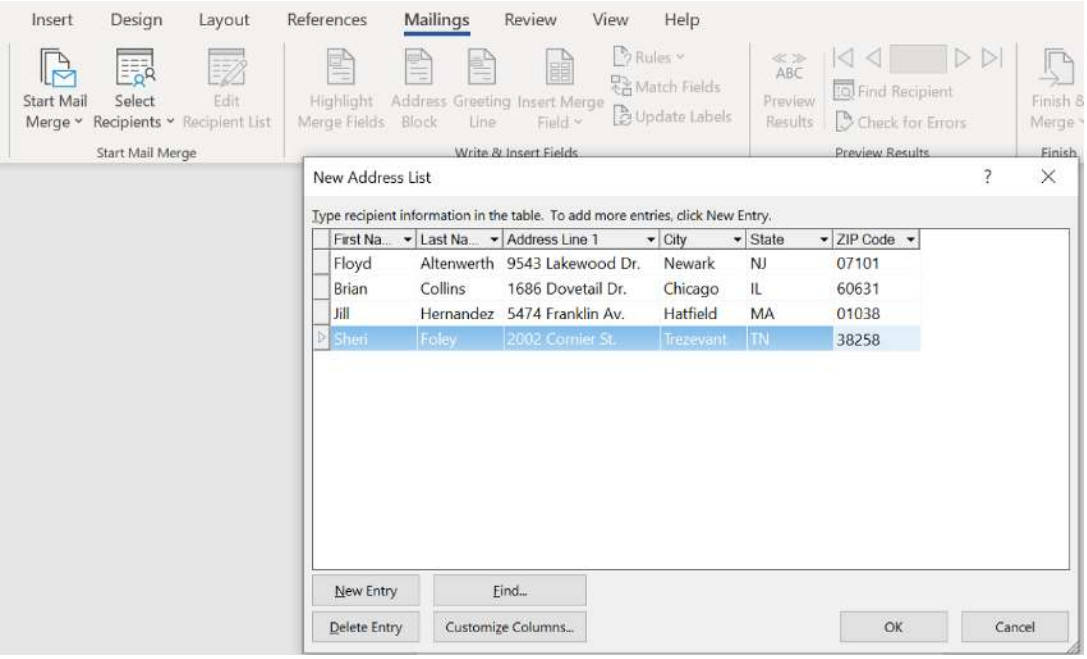


Figure 5.22: When you finish entering the information, click OK to save the file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

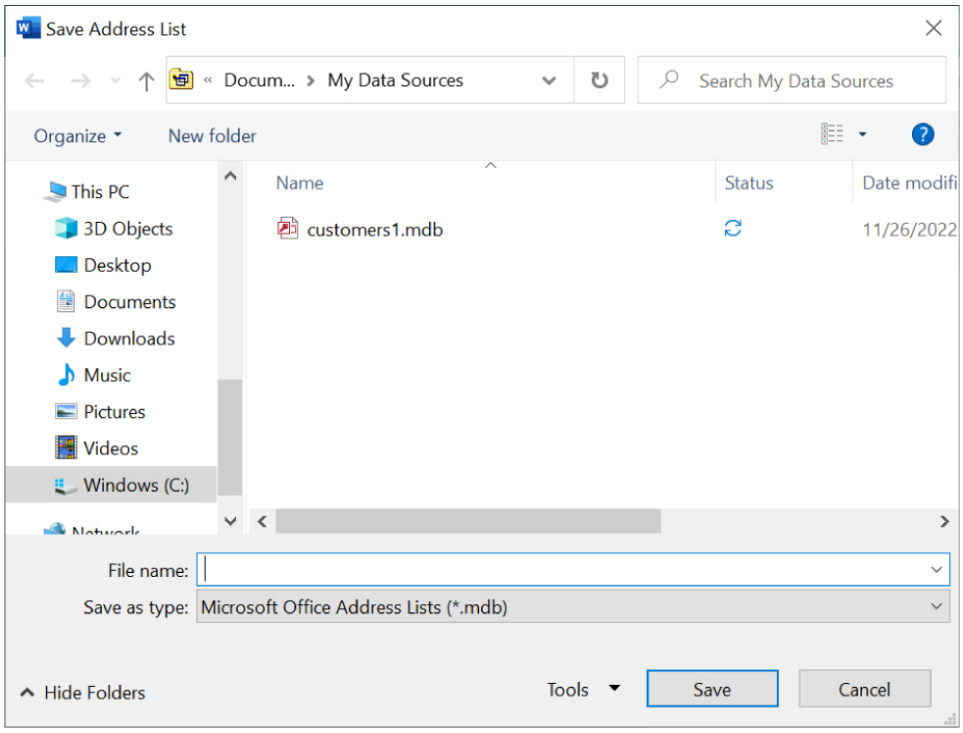


Figure 5.23: The list will be saved as a file with a special extension so that Word knows the list is the source document for mail merge. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Merge Fields

Now that you have created the main document, and created and saved the source document, you now need to insert the merge fields into the main document. First, insert the blank fields on the letter so that Word can automatically fill them with personalized information: First name, Last name, Address, City, State, and Zip. In Figure 5.24, you can see the icons in the Write & Insert Fields command group on the Mailings tab. These give us some common merge fields: Address Block, Greeting Line, and Insert Merge Field. For this example, use Insert Merge Field. When you select the option, you will notice that the fields available in the drop-down list are the fields from your source document. Therefore, make sure the fields in your document are descriptive and as

separated as you would like them to be, for example, if you are sending a mailing out to voters, consider whether you should include all the members of the household in one mailer, or if you should address them separately (in which case, you should list each of their names individually).

To insert the field, put your cursor where you want the field inserted into the letter. For our example, we want “Address_Line_1” to replace our highlighted green street address placeholder (see Figure 5.25). Simply click on the field from the list and it will be inserted at the cursor location. Repeat this process for the other fields. Notice the fields are denoted by “« »”. This notation tells Word to get the relevant information from the source document to put into that line in the document.

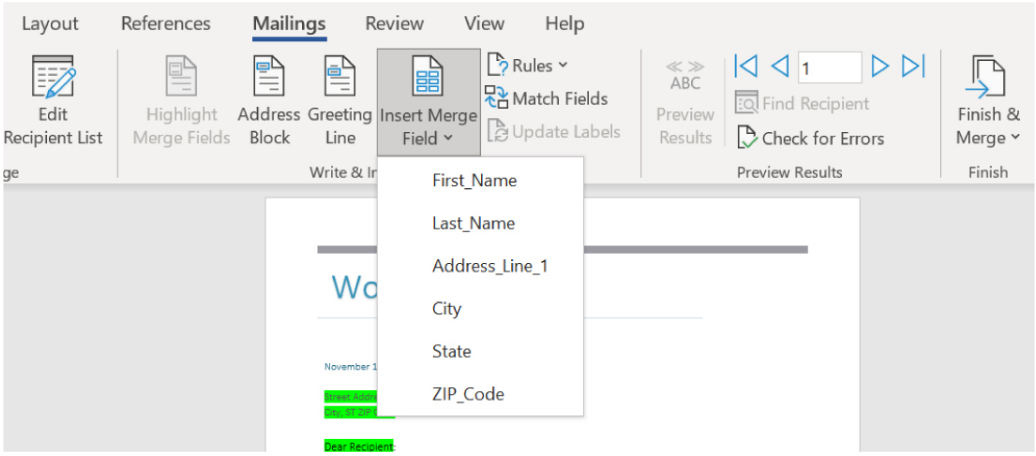


Figure 5.24: The fields in your source document are in the Insert Merge Field drop-down menu. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

November 1, 2022

«Address_Line_1»
«City», «State» «ZIP_Code»

Dear «First_Name» «Last_Name»:

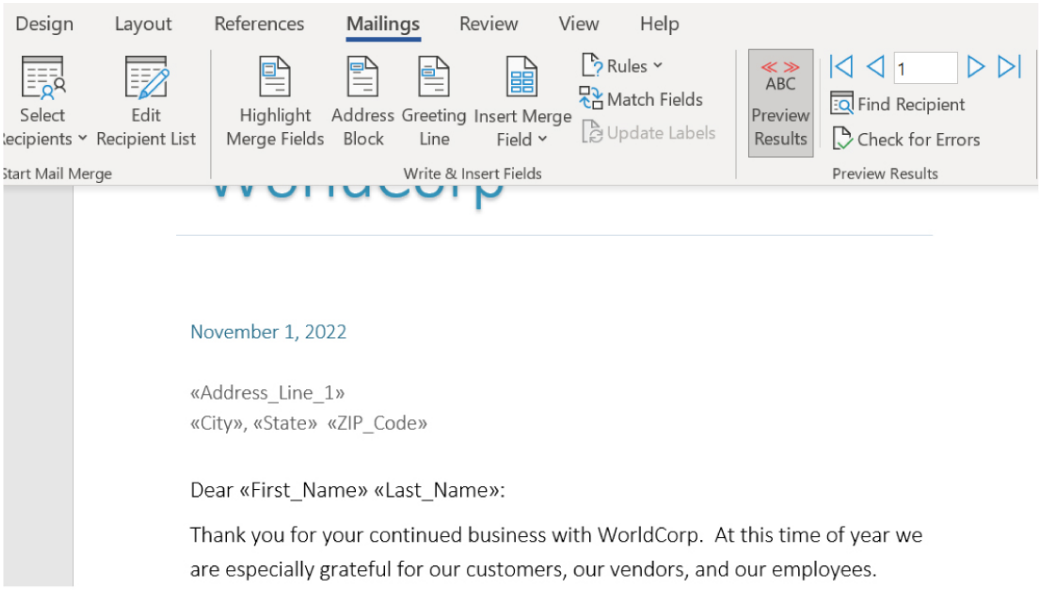
Thank you for your continued business with WorldCorp. At this time of year we are especially grateful for our customers, our vendors, and our employees.

We are reaching out to inform you of the upcoming hours for the holiday season at WorldCorp’s company warehouses. Each year we give our employees additional time off to spend with family and friends for the holiday season.

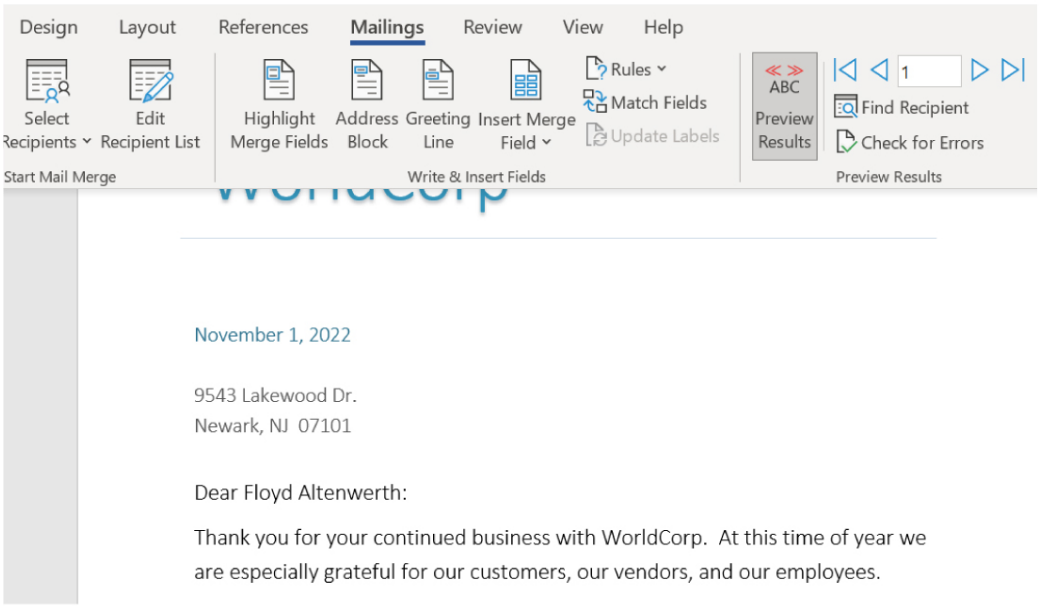
The company warehouses will be closed the following dates:

Figure 5.25: Be sure to remove the green highlighting in the document as we just used this to show where we wanted to insert the merge fields. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that we have our source document with all of the customer information saved, and we have inserted the custom fields into the main document, we can complete the mail merge process. First, you should always preview the document to make sure it looks as it is supposed to. Go to the Mailings tab and select Preview Results, as shown in Figure 5.26a. This allows you to see all of the letters with the actual, personalized information in place, as in Figure 5.26b. All the merge fields you designated in the main document will be substituted by the actual information. You can use the left and right arrows at the top-right area of the ribbon to toggle between recipients.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5.26: (a) Before you complete the merge, preview the results so that everything looks as it should. (b) Notice the fields have been replaced with the first name in our recipient list. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If everything looks okay, then you can complete the mail merge. Go to the last icon on the Mailings tab, Finish & Merge. The drop-down menu gives you options to edit, print, or send emails with the merged documents. In this case, we are going to mail the letters to the customers, so we will choose Print documents from the list. If there were any issues when you previewed the letters, you could select Edit Individual Documents to make the necessary changes. When you choose to print, you are given the option to select which ones you want to print. We will choose "All" for our example. The Print dialog box will open with the default printer displayed. You can choose to send the letters directly to the printer now by selecting OK, or you can choose to print the file to a .pdf file so that it will be saved. This .pdf file will have four pages, one for each of the four recipients in the source document list.

What you have just walked through is a mail merge from scratch. There is also a "Step-by-Step Mail Merge Wizard" that guides you through the same steps. You can use mail merge for a wide variety of applications, such as creating name tags for an event;

making labels for mailing packages/letters; creating envelopes, business cards, or postcards; or sending emails to a large group. Even though the tool is called mail merge, its capabilities go beyond simply creating a mailing.

Link to Learning

Visit Microsoft's detailed support page on doing a mail merge to learn more.

Further support can be found on Red Tail Technology's sample mail merge templates page, which has some examples of downloadable form letters.

This page titled 5.2: Mail Merge in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.3: Creating Forms in Microsoft Word

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Understand the Developer tab and its usage
- Use the tools in the Controls command group
- Create a fillable form in Microsoft Word

This section reviews how to build a fillable form in Word. Fillable forms can be very useful in businesses. These forms can be emailed to recipients as attachments and the recipients can fill in required information into the form quite easily. The fillable form creates fields that can be filled in by typing directly into the Word document. You can also insert checkbox fields, drop-down menus, and long text fields into the form. Fillable forms have many applications in business, such as gathering information on new hires that you might later want to put into a database, or obtaining company information from vendors for billing purposes. The primary purpose of the fillable form is to facilitate electronic completion while keeping the integrity and formatting of the document. Individuals can only input information into the fields you have identified. The rest of the document is locked from editing or deleting.

Figure 5.28 shows a simple example of how a fillable form can be a useful tool. If you wanted to gather information on a new vendor, for example, you could create a simple document, email it to the vendor, and have the vendor send the completed document back to us. However, as Figure 5.27 shows, if you just create the form as a typical, printable Word document, it is difficult for the vendor to input their information. They would need to edit the form itself in order to fill it out, which is not ideal. With a fillable form, the vendor simply inserts their information into the provided fields and the rest of the document is protected from editing. The fillable form can also be enhanced with decorative features, such as the company logo.

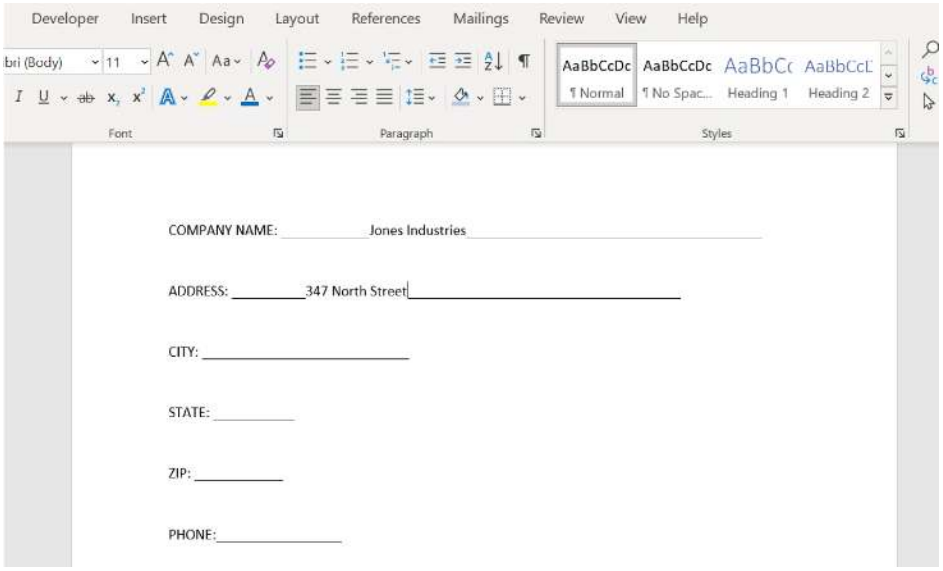


Figure 5.27: As information is entered into the form, the underline is replaced with the text. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

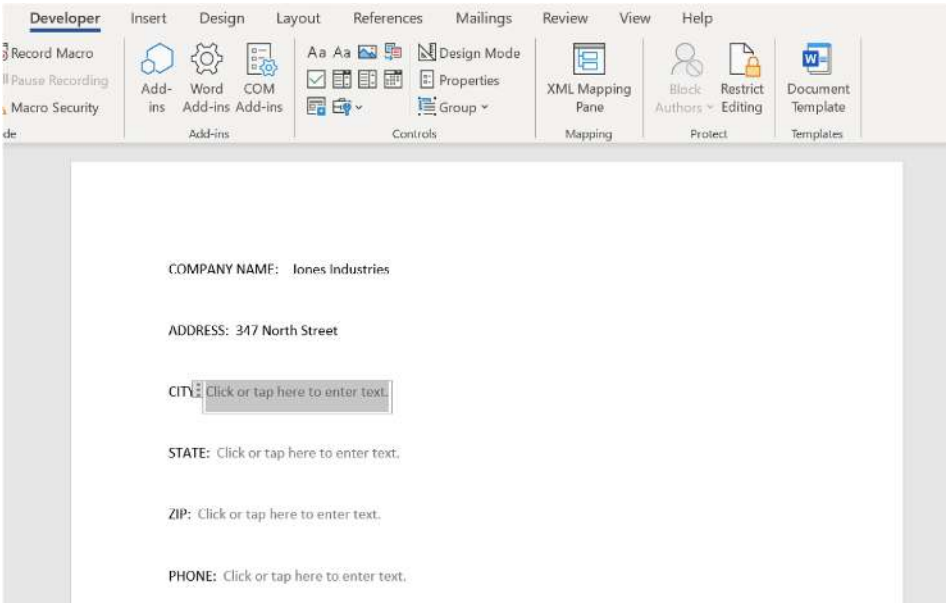


Figure 5.28: A fillable form gives a more professional appearance and can be customized with the company logo or letterhead. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Developer Tab

To create surveys in Word, you need to enable the Developer tab. This is typically not one of the default tabs in Word, so you need to manually add it. Go to the Options command on the File tab, then on the Customize Ribbon tab, then enable the Developer tab.

Mac Tip

To add the Developer toolbar on a Mac, you will need to go to Word, then select Preferences, then go to Ribbon & Toolbar. In the Search box, type "Developer." Select the Developer tab from Suggestions. In the dialog box under the ribbon header, select the box that says Show Developer Tab.

The Developer tab serves several purposes, as Figure 5.29 shows. In addition to containing the tools needed to design fillable forms, it also contains the tools to create computer programs (macros) in Word, to protect and restrict access to your document, and other advanced tasks.

The majority of the features on the Developer tab are for more advanced uses of Word and are outside the scope of this text. This section focuses on the Controls and Protect command groups, which contain the tools we need to create and secure our fillable form.

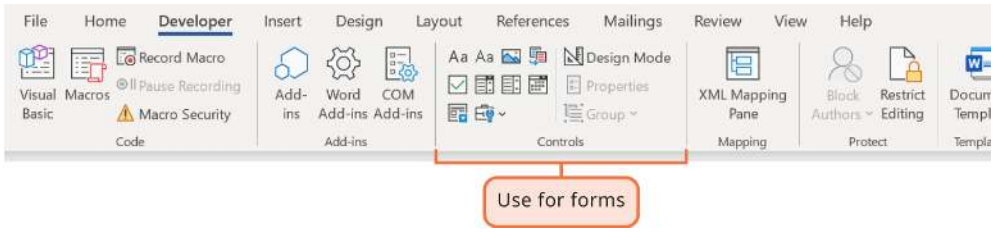


Figure 5.29: Making a form in Word uses these control commands. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Controls Command Group

The Controls command group includes several different icons to represent the fields you can use in your form. Figure 5.30 identifies the icons you will be using to create the form. The remaining icons in the command group are used for building sophisticated templates in Word. The controls we are using in this example are called content control fields. These fields give people a space to type in, add a date or image, or choose their response from a list. In other words, they are interactive fields that

can be specially programmed to receive input from recipients. The content control fields create a user interface that seeks input from the respondent.

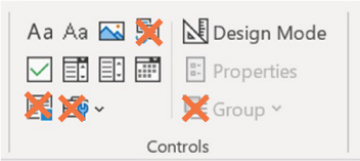


Figure 5.30: The controls you see with the "X" are not used when creating fillable forms. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The top-level commands are for inserting text or images into your form. The inputted answer will use either rich text or plain text. Rich text allows the user to use bold, italic, and underlined font, different font types, and so forth, whereas plain text does not allow these types of font formatting. This distinction is important if you plan to print the form and want the text to appear with specific formatting. In general, the plain text response will suffice, as most respondents will not need to add formatting to their answers. The Insert Picture command (the landscape icon) is for letting the respondent add an image to their answer; this command may be used to ask the user to upload their profile picture, for instance.

The middle-level commands are for asking multiple-choice-type questions and for setting the date. The first (leftmost) in this row is the checkbox. This handy option reduces the amount of information that needs to be typed into the form. For example, the form could have a list of all departments at the company, and the respondent could simply check the box of the department that they work in, rather than type in the response manually. You could also have multiple-select questions that ask the survey taker to "check all boxes that apply."

The combo box and the drop-down list also ask the respondent to select from a set of preset choices. The main difference between the two is that the combo box lets the individual type a message after their selected answer, whereas the drop-down list forces them to choose between the options. The last (rightmost) command is the Date Picker, which allows the individual to select a date when they are completing the form. The respondent can choose any date with the Date Picker, such as their birthday or their date of hire.

The Design Mode tool is used to customize the prompts that appear as the survey taker fills out the form. You can use this to customize the prompt to the respondent; this can be more helpful to the survey taker than the generic default text (e.g., "Click or tap to enter text").

The last item you may use in the command group is the Properties tool. This tool allows you to modify the lists associated with the combo box and the drop-down list. It becomes active once you have added a combo box or drop-down list to your form.

Creating a Form

Before adding the fields, you should first develop the plan of the form. One way to do this is to type out the information or questions that you will ask into a blank document. Creating the form using a table is one option for presenting a professional appearance; this format helps keep everything organized and neatly aligned. The table should have two columns, and as many rows as you will have questions. Using only two columns allows you to put the questions in one column and the answer fields in the other. The column on the left will have your questions, and the column on the right will have the fields for the respondent's answers. You should change the table borders (in Table Properties) so that they are transparent, making it so that the respondent cannot see them. This way, the questions and answers remain aligned, but they will not appear to be in a table format to those viewing the form. Alternatively, you could choose to not use a table to create your form. In this case, the questions and answer fields would need to each be manually aligned.

For this example, let's use a table to create a fillable form. In your role at WorldCorp, you have been asked to collect information from all department office managers regarding their need for preprinted company office supplies. Your department (marketing) is responsible for all office supplies that include the WorldCorp logo. A large order is placed each quarter for items such as letterhead paper, envelopes, notepads and pens with the logo, and business cards. To help facilitate the process, your supervisor has asked you to create a fillable form that can be emailed to each department's office manager to gather information on items that will need to be ordered.

Creating Questions and Control Fields

To begin, start with a blank document and insert a two-column table. Type all your questions in the left column: information on the department, whether they need items ordered, and the quantity and type of items are needed. Figure 5.31 shows how the information will be gathered from the various departments. Because this is just the draft form, we have noted in parentheses the type of control that will be used for that question. You can go back and remove that information after you have inserted the fields. Notice that the table lines are still visible in this initial draft version. To remove the lines from the table, use the Borders tool in the Paragraph command group on the Home tab.

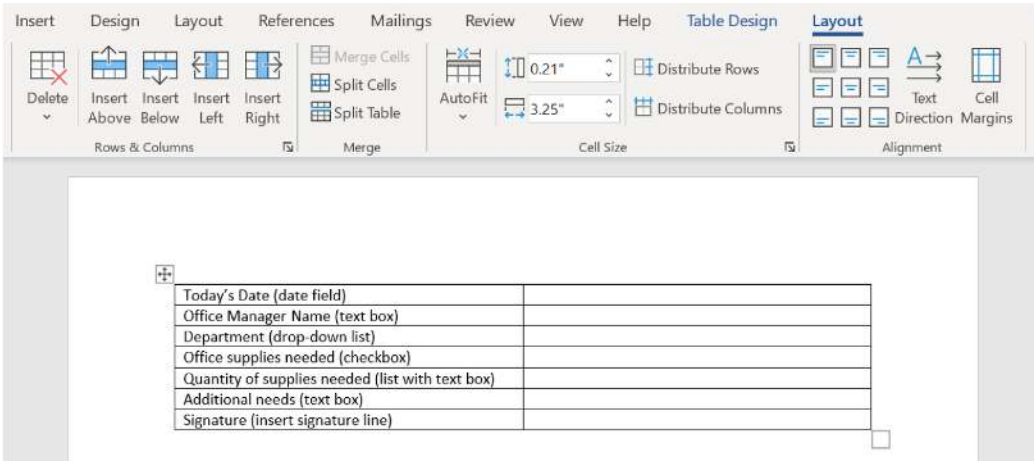


Figure 5.31: Your form should have a tidy and professional appearance. This could mean removing the lines around the table and inserting the company logo. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Then, insert the control fields—where the respondent will put their answers—in the right column. First, insert the Date Picker control field, as Figure 5.32 shows. Notice the text says, "Click or tap to enter a date." This is not very descriptive. You can change this in Design Mode to be more descriptive. Design Mode lets you change the preset instruction text. To turn on Design Mode, simply click it in the Controls command group. You are now able to change the default text to be more specific such as "Enter Today's Date" (Figure 5.33).

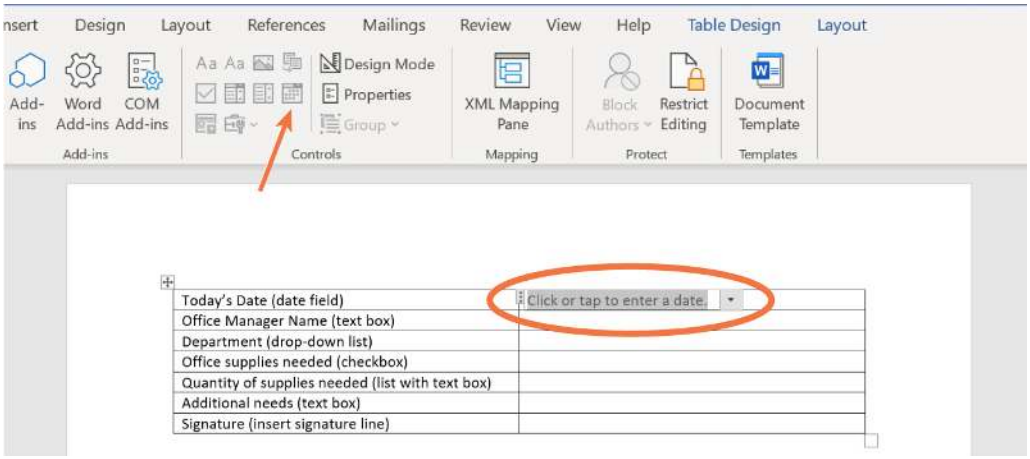


Figure 5.32: The default text inserted with the control fields is not very descriptive, so you may want to replace it with your own, more detailed text. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

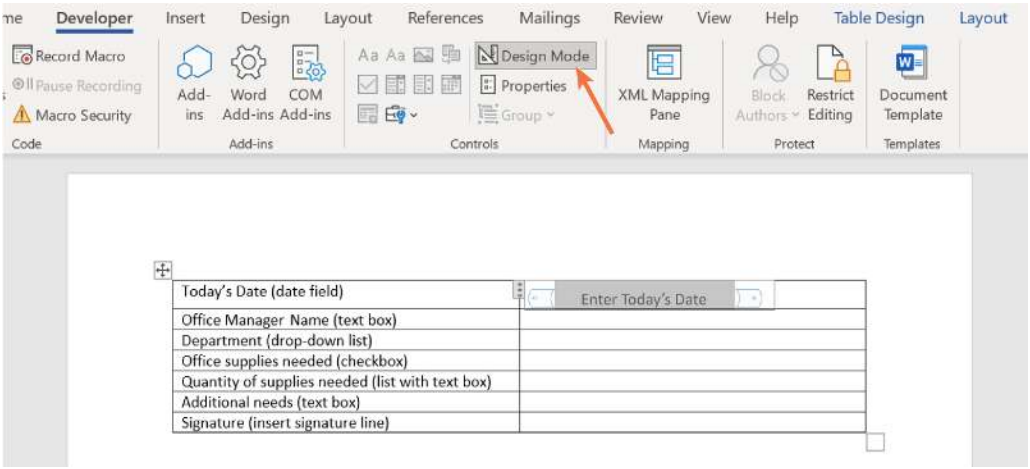


Figure 5.33: Your custom text should be descriptive enough so that the user knows exactly what they need to put in the field. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Continue with the remaining questions and enter the field and specific prompter text for each question. Figure 5.34 shows how the form should look at this point. Now, go back to each question and examine the properties to determine if changes need to be made. Notice that a bulleted list and the insert signature tool were used in the right column. (You learned these skills in the Creating and Working in Documents and Document Preparation chapters.) Note that the notes in parentheses were also removed.

Today's Date	Enter Today's Date
Office Manager Name	Enter First and Last Name
Department	Choose Your Department
Office supplies needed	☐
Quantity of supplies needed	• Letter head Enter qty needed • Envelopes Enter qty needed • Notepads Enter qty needed • Pens Enter qty needed • Business Cards Enter employee name for cards
Additional needs	Any additional items needed from Marketing ?
Signature	X _____

Figure 5.34: Changes to the line spacing in the table now make the form more visually appealing. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that you have the form constructed and the control fields inserted, you can customize each control field if necessary. To do that, you need to select the control field, and then choose the Properties command. A dialog box will appear for that control, as shown in Figure 5.35 for the first field, "Today's Date." Here, you can change the format of the date to be entered. There are only a few options for the text boxes. You can change the font and the fill color. You can also choose to have the control locked so that it cannot be deleted. For this example, use the default settings.

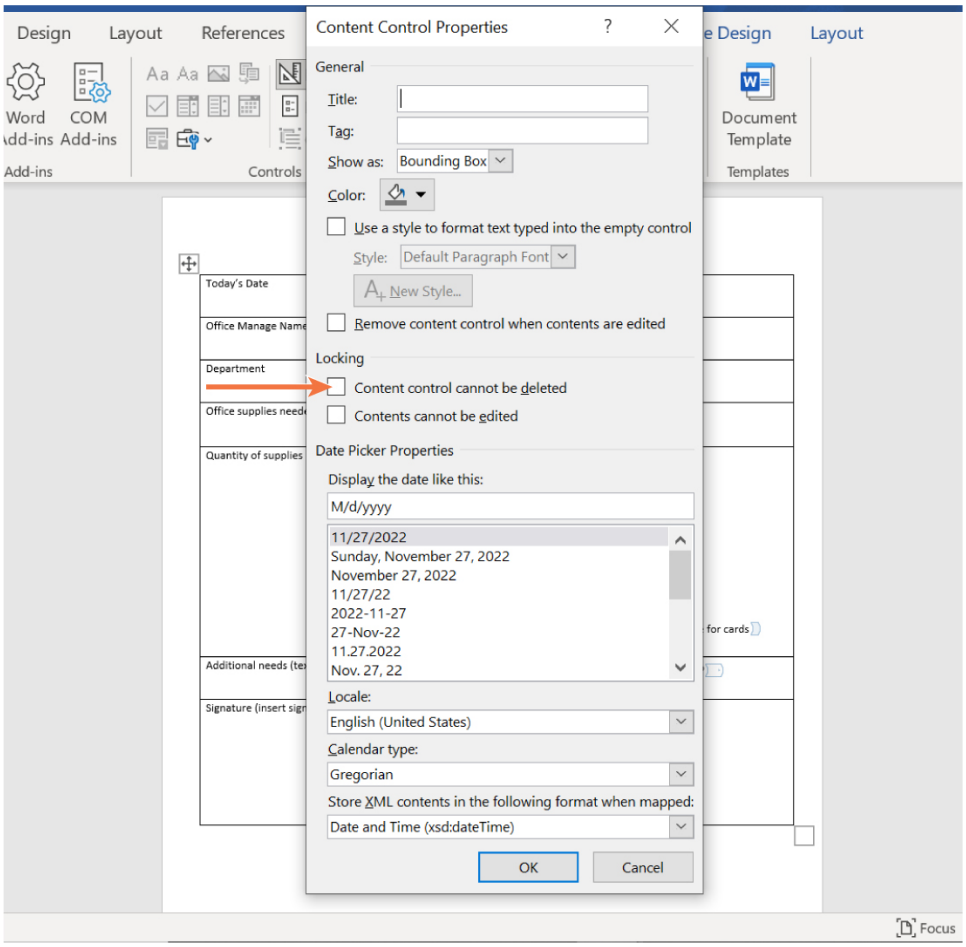


Figure 5.35: By checking the "Content control cannot be deleted" box, you can protect the field. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For the multiple-choice questions, the drop-down lists, and the combo boxes, the setting up takes a little bit longer. You need to manually add the choices to the list for each question type. In your form, you need to write out the departments so that the office manager can choose the appropriate department. To do this, go to the Properties for the drop-down list (see Figure 5.36). At the bottom of the dialog box, locate the drop-down list properties. Here is where you will add the various departments. By default, the only option is Choose an Item. We need to remove this item and add the departments. Click on Choose an Item and select Remove from the options on the right. Now, choose Add to add each department.

Notice that the Display Name and Value Name are the same. There is really no need to change this, but you can change it if you want the respondent-facing choice to look different from what is actually logged as their response. For example, you could have the Display Name (i.e., what the respondent sees in the drop-down list) to say Accounting, but the actual Value that is displayed when they choose Accounting is "Acct."

Continue in this same manner to add all the departments as shown. If desired, you can change the order of the options in the list by choosing Move Up or Move Down (Figure 5.36). For a more professional look, consider placing the items in alphabetical order.

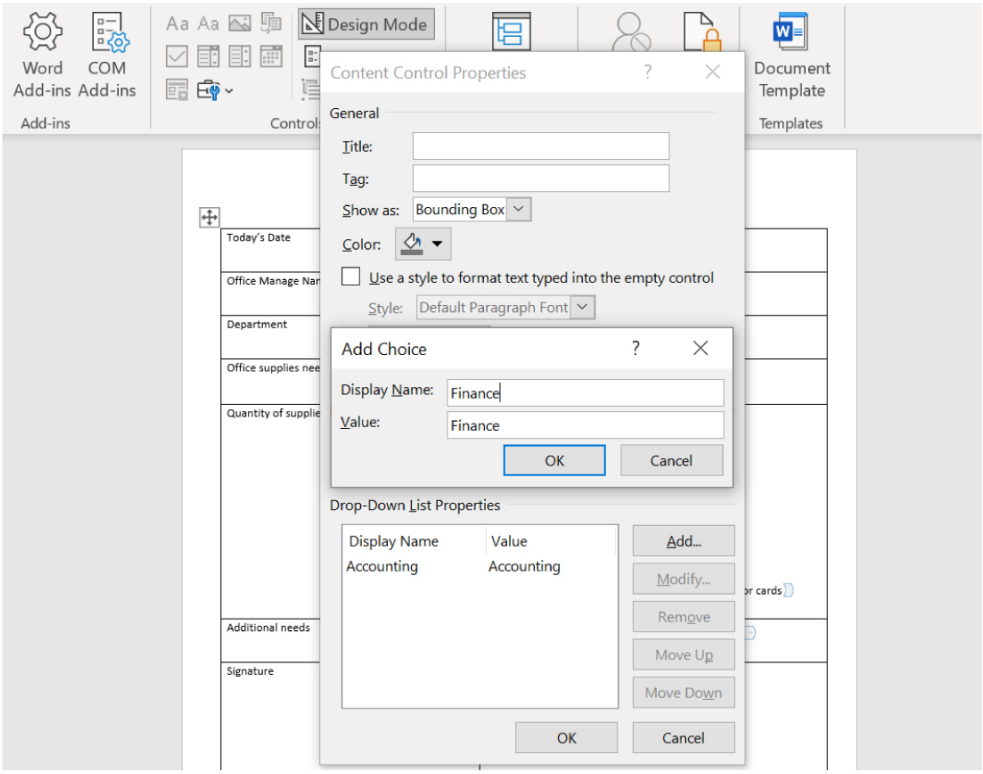


Figure 5.36: With a drop-down list, use Properties to define each of the categories in the list. Generally, the display name and the value should be the same. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Finally, you need to format the checkbox field. As with the other control fields, you can change the font and style (see Figure 5.37). But with the checkbox, you can also change what type of symbol is used in the box. For example, you can choose a heart instead of an X for the form. To do this, choose Change next to Checked Symbol. Choose what type of symbol you want for the checked box (see Figure 5.38).

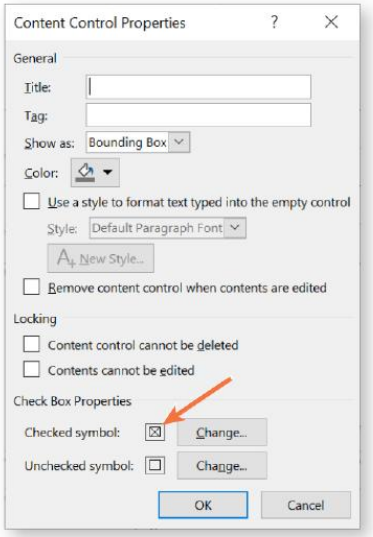


Figure 5.37: The default symbol for the checked box is an X. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

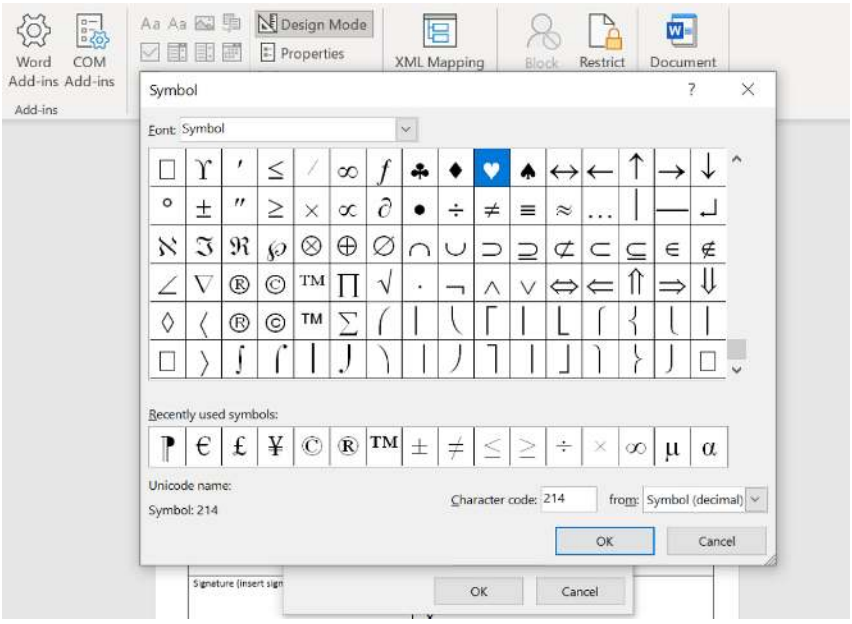


Figure 5.38: Choose Symbols from the drop-down menu in the Font field to find the heart. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You could adjust the properties of each control field as you enter them into the document. However, it is often easier to add the fields first and then go back and make the needed customizations to each field with the Properties tool.

When you have finished formatting all the control fields, make sure you have saved the document. You can now turn off Design Mode by clicking the tool in the command group. Now is also a good time to add some visual elements to the form, such as the company logo or other elements to make the form more visually appealing. You should also remove the borders around the table. Figure 5.39 shows what the finished product might look like.

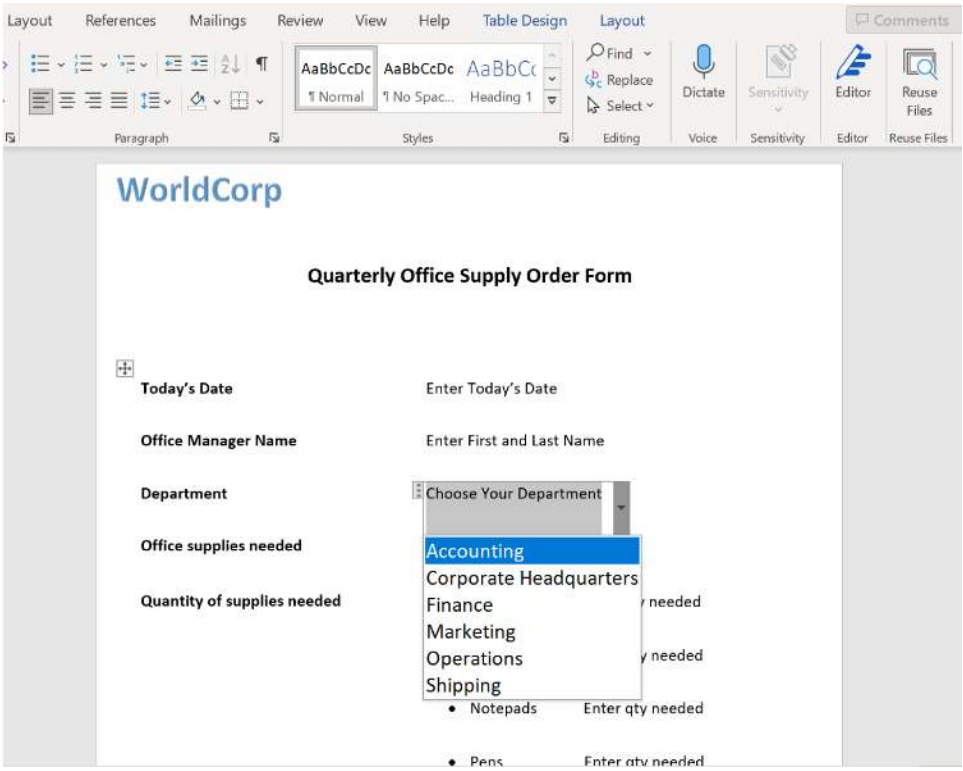


Figure 5.39: Notice that when the drop-down list is selected, the various departments show up. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Protecting the Form

When you are finished with the form, you need to protect the file before sending it to the various office managers. This will ensure that they cannot edit the questions and controls—that they can only provide responses. The way to protect the document is similar to the process described in the Creating and Working in Documents chapter. To protect the document, select the Restrict Editing command from the Developer tab and a sidebar will appear. You can also access the Restrict Editing command from the Review tab. This sidebar will give you options for preventing editing from happening on the file, as shown in Figure 5.40.

When you send the file to others, be sure to send the file as an attachment to the email rather than sharing the document link. If you have saved this file in your OneDrive and share the document as a link, your original file will be changed. You should instruct them to save the file under a different name and to send the file back as an attachment.

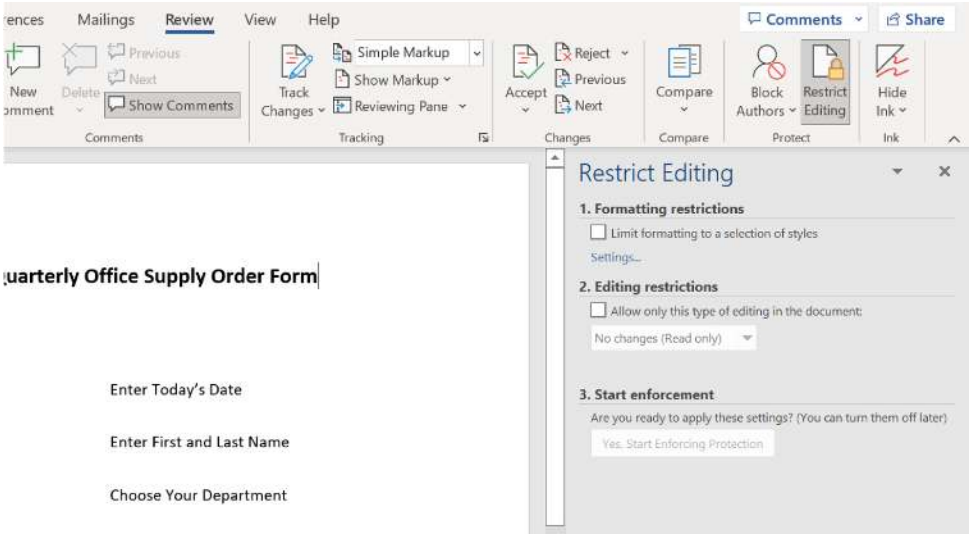


Figure 5.40: Before sending the survey form, you need to prevent clients from editing the document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

There are a lot of detailed privacy considerations when conducting surveys. A considerable number of laws are in place to protect consumers when participating in corporate surveys. Visit the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario's Best Practices for Protecting Individual Privacy in Conducting Survey Research site to learn more.

This page titled 5.3: Creating Forms in Microsoft Word is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.4: Creating Different Document Types in Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create and share a template
- Create a business memo
- Create a letter and associated letter for mailing
- Create a business card
- Create a brochure and a flyer
- Create an invoice

Like Microsoft, Google has ready-made templates for many types of documents. This section will walk through how to make different types of documents using these templates, as well as how to upload other templates and create documents from scratch. In contrast to Word, Google gives users the power to share their documents with the public or internally, simply by uploading them to Google Drive and granting permissions to download them. Using a simple URL, anyone can find and use publicly available, user-generated templates.

Google also has its own default Template Gallery, which contains a few different types of templates for workplace documents such as project proposals, meeting notes, newsletters, and contracts. However, the document types we will cover in this section—that is, many of the same ones we covered in Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word—do not have existing templates in the Google default Template Gallery. We will walk through how to approach creating these documents using a few different methods.

Templates

All the documents covered in this section can be saved as your own template. If you want to publish a template so that everyone can use it (i.e., to all Google users worldwide), you may do so. When you are finished formatting your document, you can go to Google's template gallery and select Submit a template at the top. Note that not all Google accounts can submit templates. This feature is available only with the paid Business and Education programs in Google.

After you submit a template, Google will ask you to browse for the file in your Google Drive, then you can enter a description so that people who search for a certain kind of document (for example, an invoice, memo, business card, or cover letter) will be able to find it. Next, select the category the document fits in, and the language of the written text. Finally, click on Submit template to finish the process.

Another way to publish a template is to share it with others in a shared location so that your collaborators or coworkers can access it. (The chapter Creating and Working in Documents covered how to share documents with others.) Then, you can send the template to your coworkers by email, by sharing the link. The only caveat with sharing templates is that shared templates should not be directly edited because this would alter the template itself. You can set this shared template to "View only" if you are concerned about this happening. Otherwise, explain to the collaborators that when accessing the document, they should not edit it. Instead, they should use the Make a copy command.

If you would like to access a Google template (not the user-generated templates) in Docs, go to File, New, and choose From template gallery. This will give you the listing of the templates available. Notice they are categorized by usage (business, education, and so on).

Business Memos

We reviewed the business memo's goals and overall form in Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word. These basic understandings remain true when you are creating a memo in Docs. The only difference between Docs and Word is how you access the template to create one.

There is no default business memo template in Docs. Google's Template Gallery has plenty of templates, including ones for cover letters and project proposals. This means that you have to search the internet for one, upload one from Microsoft, or create it from

scratch.

One way to find a user-generated business memo template is to go to Google's search engine and type "memo template site https://docs.google.com" into the search bar (see Figure 5.41). This will search for all public templates with the description "memo template." However, this will get you a wide range of templates, so you should evaluate them carefully to find a memo format that you like and that looks professional.

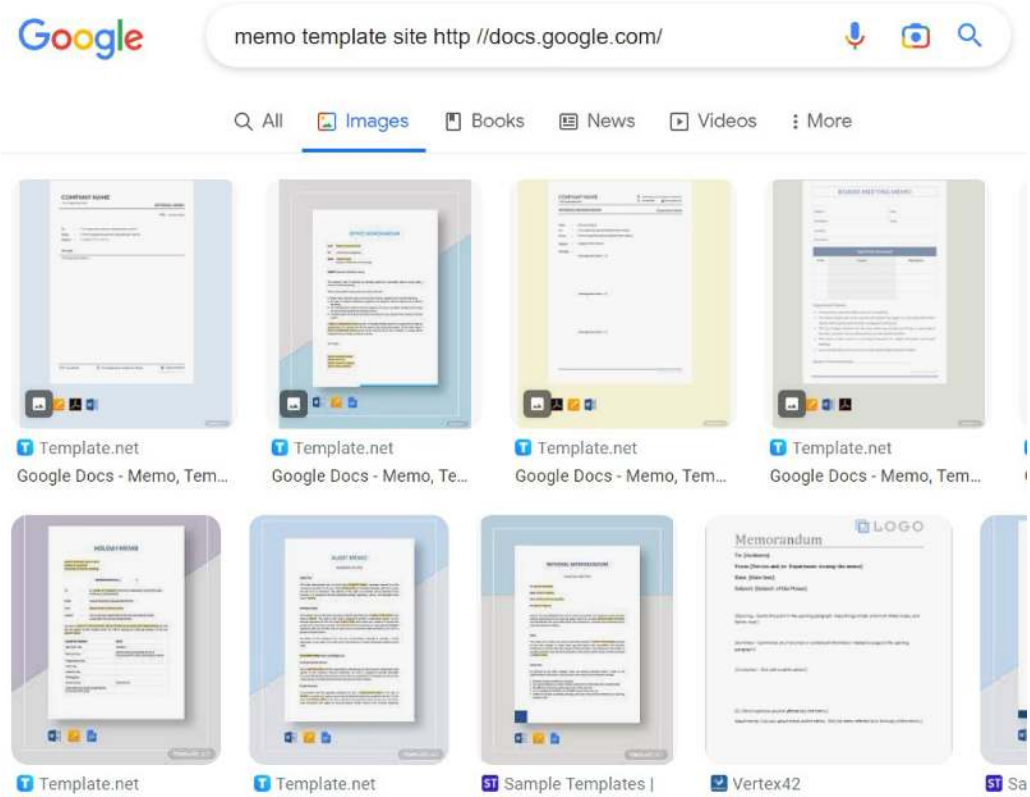


Figure 5.41: There are a lot of user-generated templates available on docs.google.com. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You could also use a template from Microsoft and convert it to a Google Doc. We chose to use a template from Microsoft's productivity template page here. Use the same template we used in Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word Figure 5.42. Save it as a .docx file, then upload it to Google Drive. While you have the uploaded template open in the Docs window, choose Make a copy, to keep the original file as a template. Then, you can fill in the required memo fields with your own information.

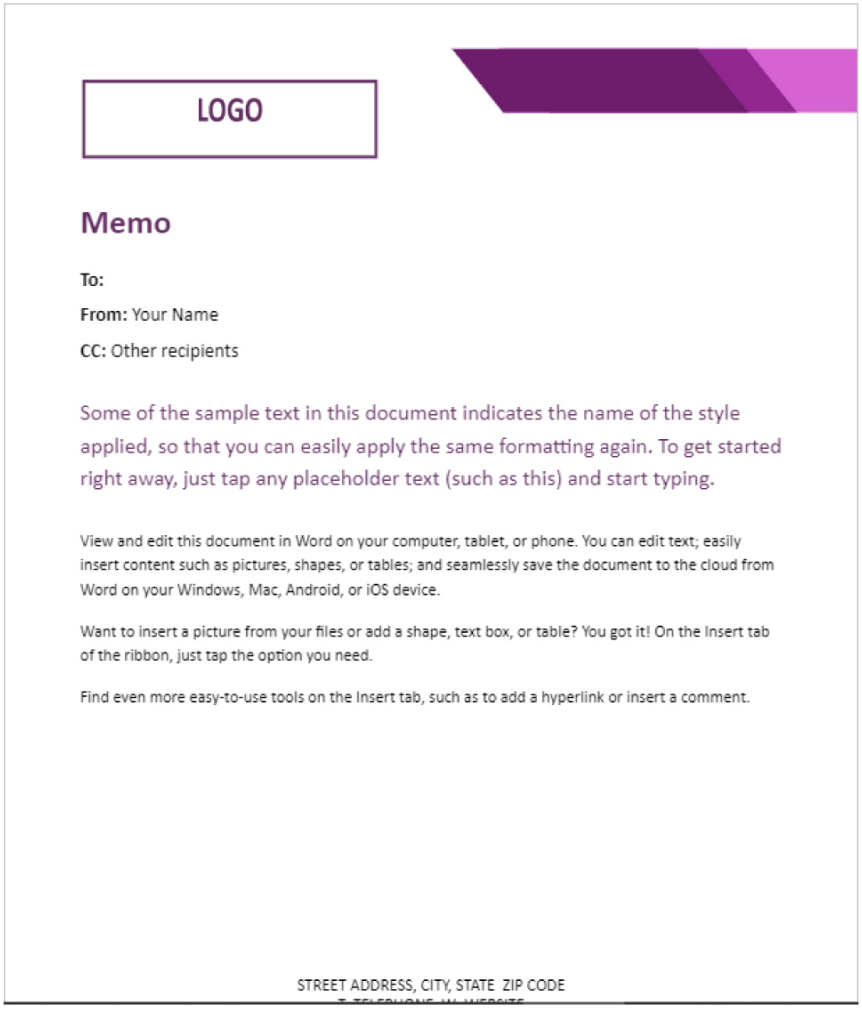


Figure 5.42: Uploading and editing a template from Microsoft is easy. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Letterhead, Letters, and Envelopes

The process and requirements for making a letterhead are the same in Docs as they are in Word. You fill it out with the same components—name, address, other contact information—which are placed in the same location on your documents (at the top). You can use a letterhead for any kind of business or personal correspondence, but this example will use a cover letter. Although Docs does not have a specific template called Cover Letter in its default Template Gallery, it does have a few that are simply called Letter.

First, start at the welcome screen, which is the first screen you see when you navigate to docs.google.com. Select Template Gallery at the top right. If you are using a business account, you will see a tab with your business name at the top left, and a tab that says General. If your company has its own templates, you will see them in the first tab. But look at Google's default templates first and choose General. Scroll down until you see templates for Letters. Some of the templates would work as a letterhead template (Figure 5.43). Select the template you like, and Google will automatically open a new document for you. Simply replace the template text with your information on the letterhead (name, address, phone, email address), then add today's date, the recipient's name and address, and the body text, as Figure 5.44 shows.

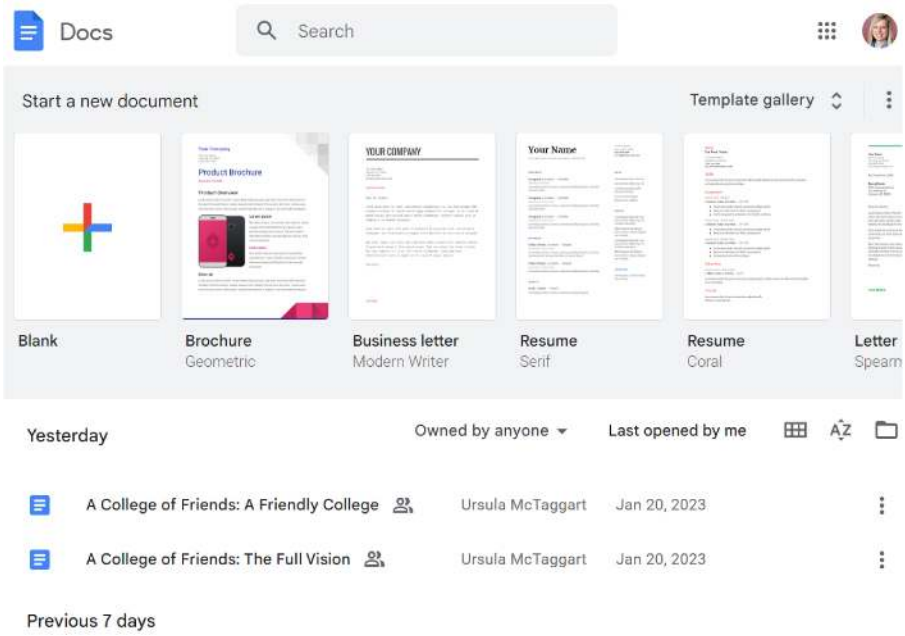


Figure 5.43: Access the Template Gallery when you create a new Doc in the upper-right corner. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

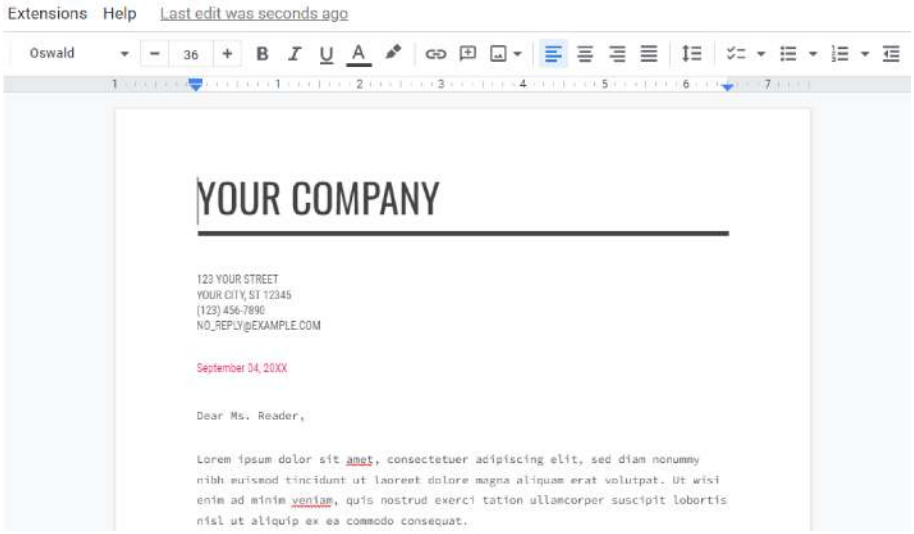


Figure 5.44: Google's letter template has some classic formatting and tasteful colors. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To print and mail the letter, take the professional step of having a custom-printed envelope. To create and modify an envelope in Docs, you have two options: get a user-generated template or template from Microsoft, or install an add-on. Unfortunately, there are no default envelope templates in the Template Gallery, so you have to get creative.

To use the first option, you must do a manual search in your browser's search bar. (This is the same process we used to find a business memo template.) Type in "envelope template site docs.google.com," and you will see a number of user-generated envelope templates. You can select one of these and add the information of the addressor and the addressee. These templates could be modified.

The other option involves installing an add-on. There are several recommended add-ons from Docs' users in forums. An add-on is an addition to the base software program. Add-ons can be very specialized, such as specific add-ons for graphic design, or they can be more general, such as the one we can use to make printed envelopes. To search for an add-on, go to the search bar at the top right side of the screen, as shown in Figure 5.45. Here, you can search for a mail merge add-on, which will give you the tools to print envelopes. A tip is to find an add-on that many users have downloaded and installed, so you know that it is effective. You can also filter the results to show which will work with specific programs and by price. There are many free add-ons for general usage.

The more specialized add-ons might require you to pay a fee. You can see the add-on's name, rating, and number of users at the bottom of each result listed. To access the add-on, click on it in the Extensions menu (see Figure 5.46).

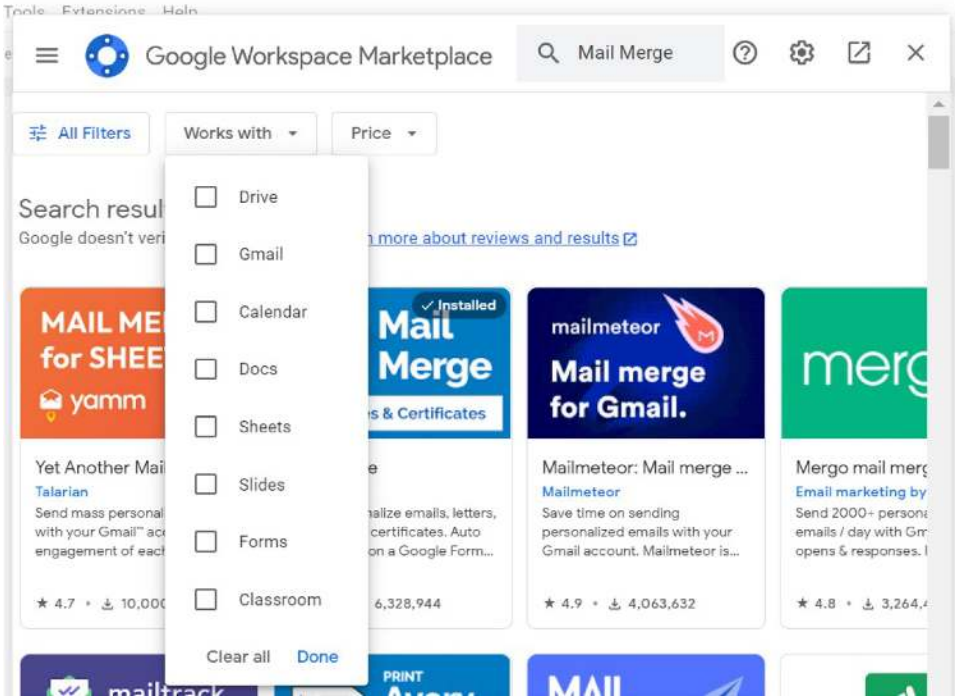


Figure 5.45: Add-ons can increase the functionality of Docs for more specialized tasks. You can install an add-on to print envelopes and other mailing options using mail merge. (Google Workspace is a trademark of Google LLC.)

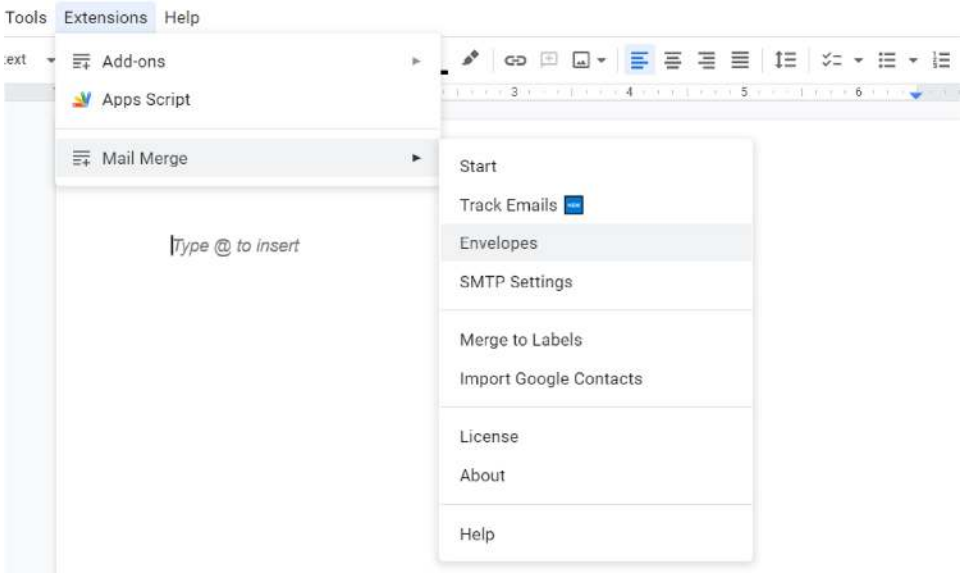


Figure 5.46: The new add-on will be in the Extensions menu. Click on add-on to access its tools and features. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Link to Learning

There are many add-ons that increase the capabilities of Docs. As you have read throughout this book, Word typically offers more features than Docs. Yet, if you install many specialized add-ons, this gap becomes smaller. Read this article on popular add-ons for Docs to learn more.

Business Cards

As with other document types discussed so far, Google does not have a default template for business cards. You have a few choices on how to move forward: upload a Microsoft template to your Drive, find a user-generated template, or install an add-on.

To use a Microsoft template, go to Microsoft's template page and choose the same business card template you used in Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word. You will be making some changes to it in Docs. You can use a letter-size paper to print the cards, but remember that business cards should be on cardstock, and may need to be professionally printed.

You can also look for a user-generated template on docs.google.com. As with the other template types, type “business card template site https://docs.google.com” into your browser’s search bar or search engine to look. Once you find a template, you can add your information and company logo as usual. You may also change the design of the template by adding shapes and lines from Google Drawings (see the chapter on Document Preparation.)

Brochures and Flyers

Docs has some default templates for brochures and flyers. But the brochures are not formatted in the traditional trifold way. In fact, the brochure templates are very similar to the flyer templates in Google.

Figure 5.47 shows a two-page brochure template. Note that it is a trifold format, like we saw in Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word. To create a trifold brochure, you can use a Word template and open it in Docs. You might have to adjust some of the spacing when using a Word template in Docs, but it gives you a good framework to start designing your brochure.

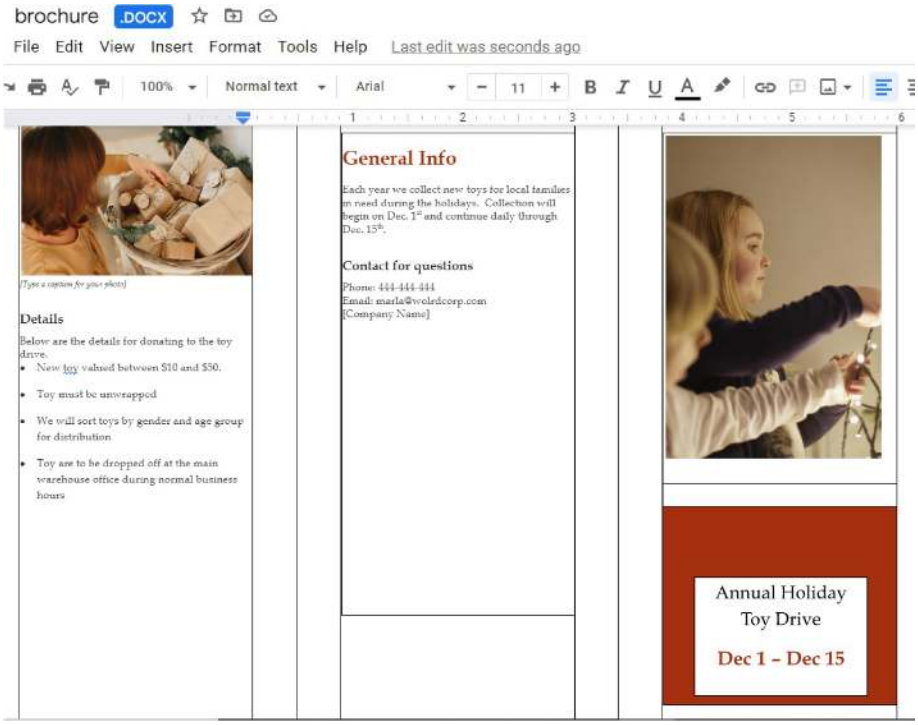


Figure 5.47: Brochures in Docs look a little different than traditional brochures. Using a Word template can get you started on a trifold brochure, but you might have to make some adjustments to the formatting and borders. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Spotlight on Ethics

Image Usage and Restrictions

The internet has put any number of resources at our fingertips. As we create documents, we may want to include images or graphics to augment the visual appeal of the document or to highlight certain information. Of course, many of us do not have the skill to create these on our own. Here, the internet can be very useful—you can conduct an image search on just about any topic and find relevant images, and then copy and paste, or save and insert, these images. But, first, you need to determine

whether the creator has given permission to do so; otherwise, you are taking a work that isn't yours and using it in a way that the creator didn't intend.

Most images you find will have an associated license or require attribution, as they are created by someone else, usually for someone else. Normally, a large company like WorldCorp would have a paid subscription to a site such as AP Newsroom for a repository of licensed stock images.

However, you can also find many open-source images that are available freely and without cost. Wikimedia Commons is one popular open-source image repository. But, even here, you must carefully read the different licenses associated with the image in question. While some images on Wikimedia Commons may be public domain—that is, without any copyright restrictions at all—others may have varying types of Creative Commons licenses, which may come with restrictions on usage and attribution.

The most permissive type of Creative Commons license is a CC BY license. According to Creative Commons "This license allows reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator. The license allows for commercial use."

The least permissive type of license is a CC BY-NC-ND. First, the creator must be given attribution. Second, it allows for use and distribution in any format but can't be altered and can't be used for commercial purposes.

There are varying degrees of Creative Commons licenses between these two types.

Invoices

As with the other document types, there is no default template in the Template Gallery for invoices. Luckily, we can still search through the huge number of user-generated templates by searching for "invoice template site https://docs.google.com." This internet search will return all public templates that people have added to their own Google Drives. After you find the invoice template of your choice, you can save it by going to the File menu, and selecting the Make a copy command, as Figure 5.48 shows.

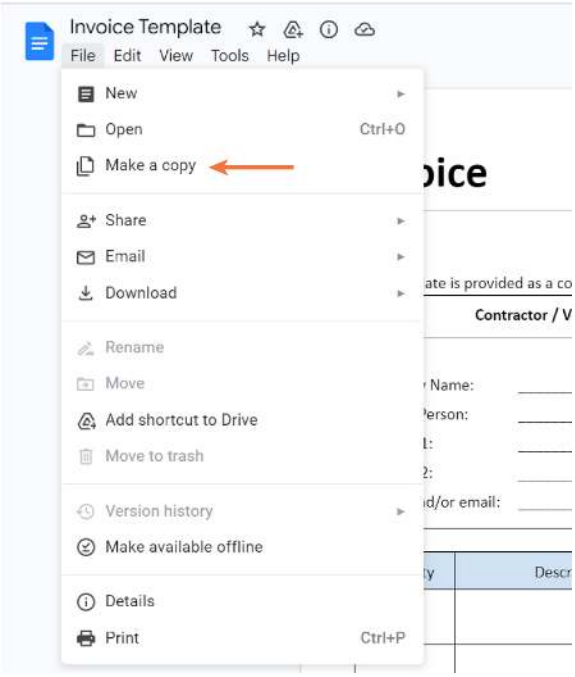


Figure 5.48: When you find a desirable Docs template from a user, you can get it by clicking on Make a copy. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Again, you can always import a Microsoft template and modify it in Google. For example, try using the same template you chose in Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word. As you start to work on the invoice, you can update it with company-specific information and logos. To save it as your own template, go to the File menu, and select Make a copy. Then, go to your Drive and rename it to "invoice template" or something similar.

As with any other template, you may want to restrict editing permissions so the template itself cannot be changed, as the chapter on Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word explains. By setting the permissions to “View only,” every time you open the template for a new invoice, you would have to use the Make a copy command in order to create an editable version. Then, from your new editable version, you may proceed to change the data and save it under a different name.

This page titled 5.4: Creating Different Document Types in Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.5: Creating Forms in Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create a fillable form using a template
- Create a fillable form from scratch
- Distribute the form and view responses

Google released Google Forms in 2008 as a feature of Google Sheets. It became a stand-alone product in 2016 and became its own program, which enabled Google to add more features to it. Forms helps you create an online form that tabulates responses and analyzes information gathered from the form. This is the main advantage of using Forms over creating a fillable form in Word. Forms not only collects the responses, but can also summarize the responses for you. You just need to plan the questionnaire, write and design the questions, and email the form link to respondents. It has an easy-to-use interface, like other Google products, and includes additional features to help you sort through and understand the form responses. Because you are collecting the responses electronically through the Forms app rather than having the responses saved in a document file, you have many more options for how to view and summarize your responses. In the Forms app, you have options to view individual responses, download the responses to Sheets, and view graphs that summarize all of the responses collected.

In the marketing department at WorldCorp, there are many uses for Forms. Forms might be more useful to the marketing department at WorldCorp because it is much easier to create a form and collect information in Google as compared with creating the form in Word. The process to create a form in Google is much more direct and Forms also summarizes the information collected right in the application. As the Google programs are web-based, we will use the web browser to construct the questionnaire, and the clients will receive an email with a link. After respondents answer the questions, Forms can automatically create graphs to summarize the responses, which you can import into other documents or programs if needed.

Form Templates

Creating a Form is like creating any other Google file. Begin in your Google Drive, select the New drop-down menu, and find Google Forms, as seen in Figure 5.49. From here, you have the choice of creating a survey from a Blank form or From a template. For this walk-through, we will choose From a template, but we will review how to create one from scratch in Creating a New Form. The advantage to using a template is that you can choose a form that is already similar to the one you might have in mind. Using a template from the Template Gallery (Figure 5.50) will help save you time, as all you will need to do is modify the questions and answers, and then add some new questions as needed.

Some of the templates in the Template Gallery are designed with specific purposes in mind: event invitations, contact information requests, order forms, work requests, and customer feedback surveys. As Figure 5.51 shows, most templates just have a few questions, and are meant to be modified and added to.

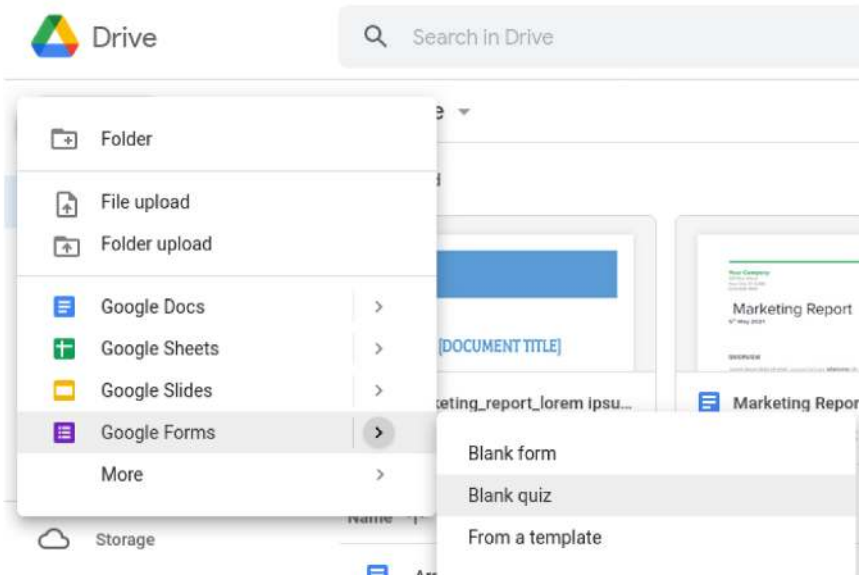


Figure 5.49: To begin creating a form in Google, you can either start from scratch (blank form or quiz) or use a template. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

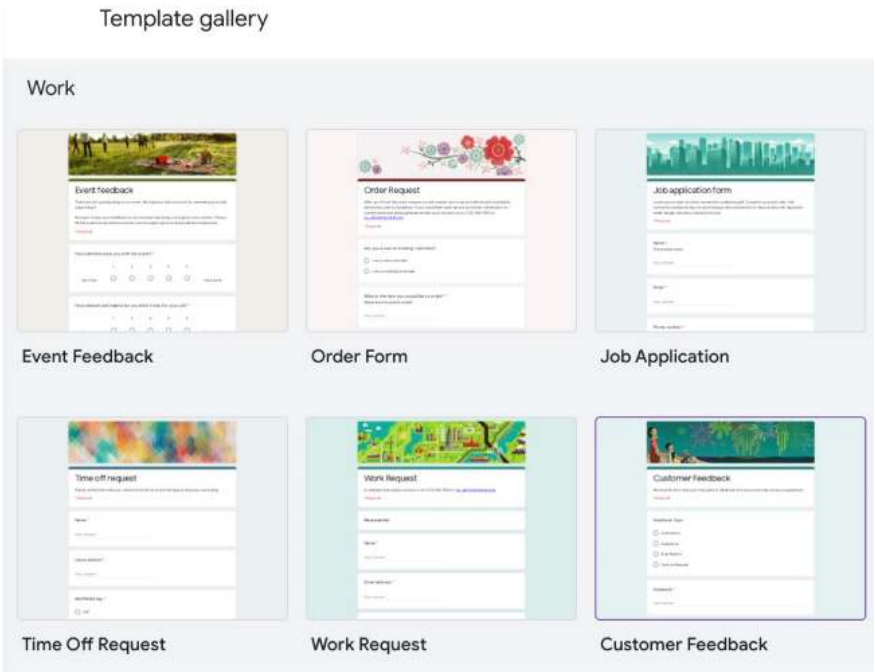


Figure 5.50: When creating a form from a template, choose a category that is close to what you want to create. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

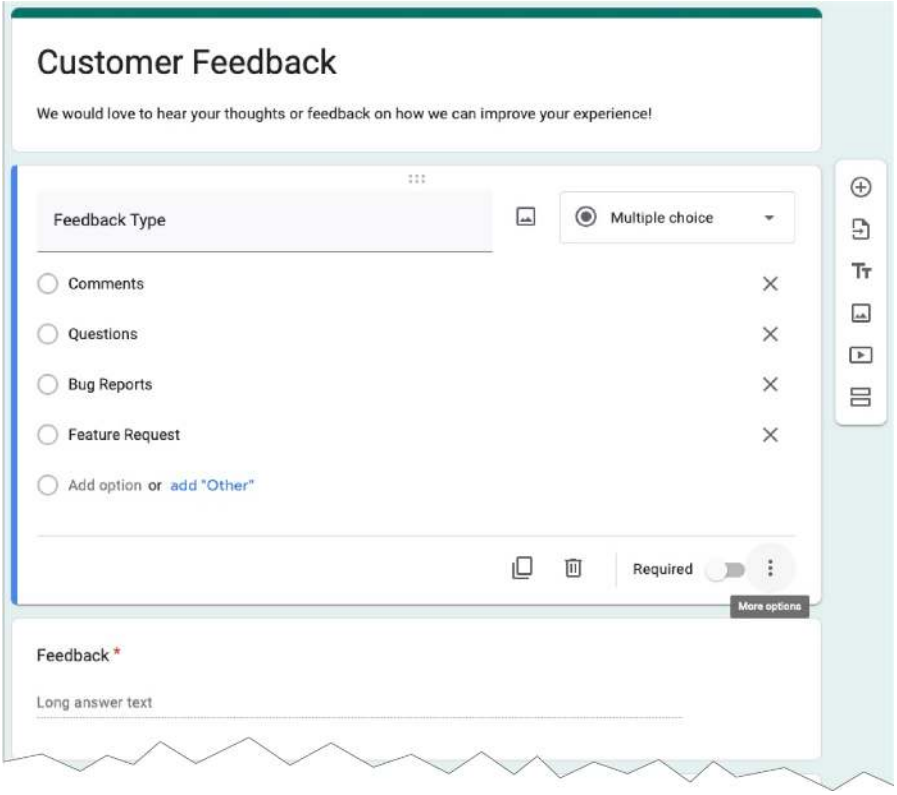


Figure 5.51: Most form templates have only a few sample questions to get you started. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Creating a New Form

If you want to create a form from scratch, select Blank form from the drop-down menu. The form will start with a blank document that says "Untitled form." As in Docs, rename this file by clicking on the title bar to type the new name of the form. All new forms also have a blank space for a description, just below the form's title. The respondent will see the description, so it needs to be informative to them, as Figure 5.52 shows. It is important to name the form; otherwise, you are not going to be able to find it easily in your Drive later.

Now, you can begin typing the questionnaire. Use the first sample item in the blank form—a multiple-choice item—or choose a different type of question using the drop-down menu on the right. There are eleven types of questions, as Figure 5.53 shows. Table 5.1 explains each type of question and what it is used for.

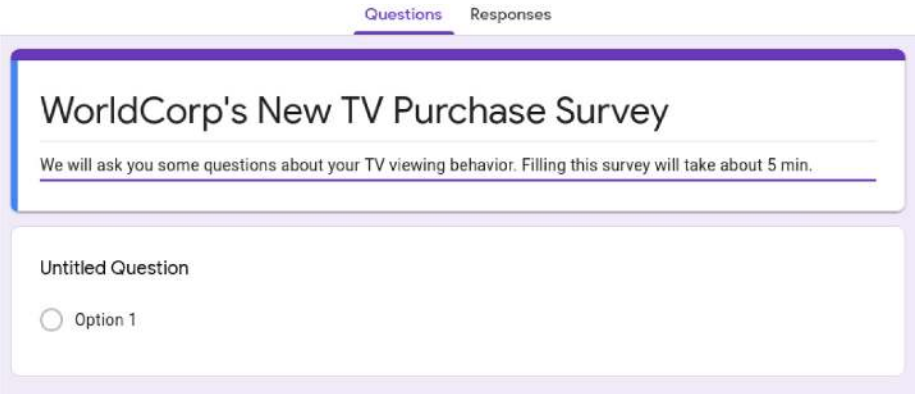


Figure 5.52: Add your first question to the form by choosing the type of question from the menu. Be sure to customize the form with a title and short description. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

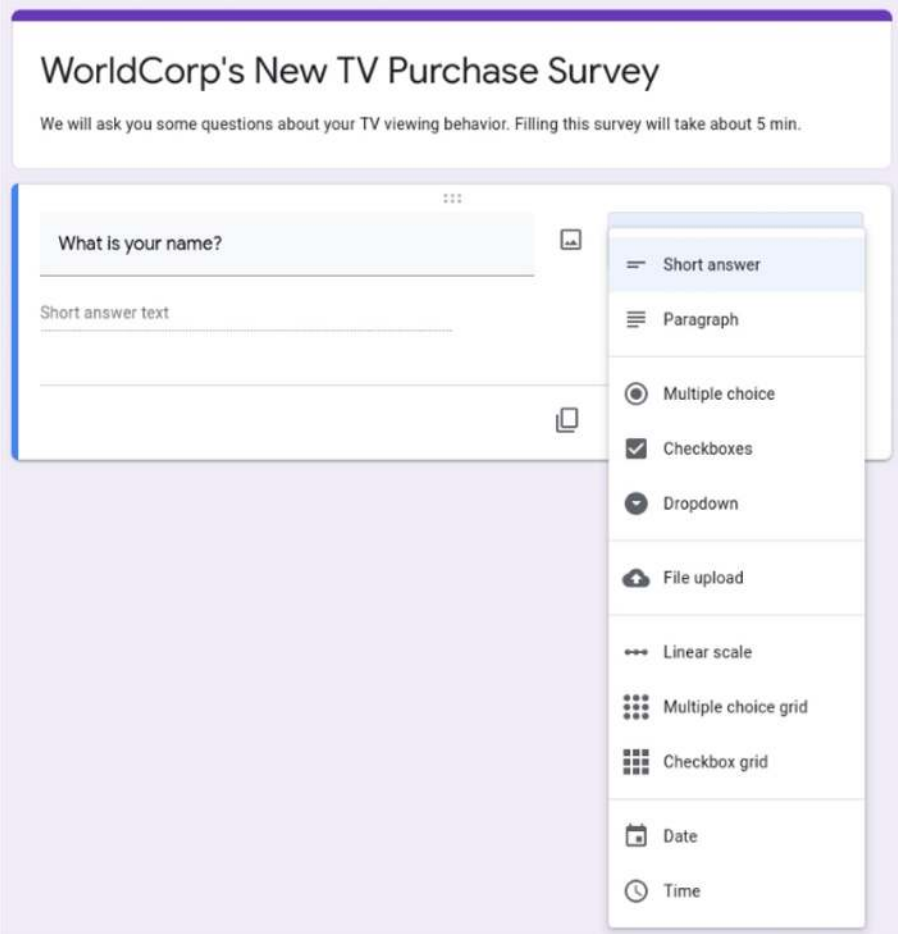


Figure 5.53: Forms has similar question types compared with Word's form controls. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Table 5.1: Types of Form Questions Choose the question type that will give you the information you need. You have eleven question types to choose from.

Type	Description
Short Answer	These are open questions (the answer can be anything). Similar to the “plain text” controls in Word.
Paragraph	These are open questions. Similar to the “plain text” controls, but you can answer with a lot of text and paragraphs. There is no Rich Text Format control in Forms.
Multiple Choice	The multiple choice question is like the “combo box” in Word. You can include an “Other” option. The “Other” option can be typed.
Checkboxes	The checkboxes are the same as in Word controls, but in Forms, you can have an “Other” open answer as well.
Drop-down	The drop-down is like the “drop-down list” control in Word. The survey taker has to choose one option. There is no “Other” option.
File Upload	The survey taker can upload a document or a picture file (or any other file extension).
Linear Scale	It is a scaling question that can be configured to start from “0” and end at “10.”
Multiple-Choice Grid	This is a kind of multiple choice, which the survey taker has to choose one per row or column. There are many rows/columns. Can be used for Likert scales.
Tick Box Grid	This is a kind of checkbox, which the survey taker has to choose one per row or column. There are many rows/columns. Can be used for Likert scales.
Date	This makes the user choose a date, like the “date picker” control.
Time	This makes the user choose a time. It can be 24h or AM/PM format.

You should learn the various question types, as there are many interesting options for how to set up your form. There is a sidebar that lets you add a new question, as well as several additional commands, as seen in Figure 5.54. The additional commands on that sidebar are importing a list, adding a text description (similar to the Design Mode instructive text in Word), and inserting an image or video for the question. Lastly, there is a command for making different section breaks; this can be used as a way to divide up the form, which can be useful if the form is chunked into different topics or if it is several pages long. For example, the demographic questions could all be in one section, and the TV viewing questions could be in another.

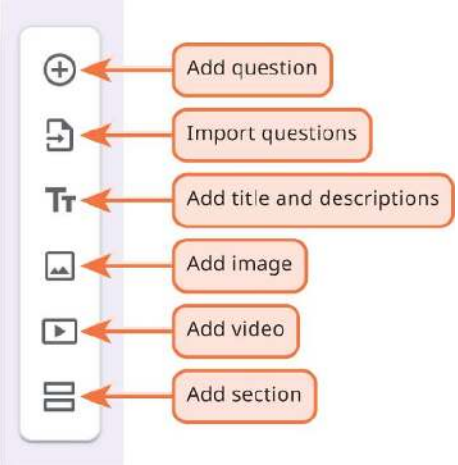


Figure 5.54: The sidebar lets you add new questions or import older ones from previous forms. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

There are two toolbars in Forms. The top toolbar is used for themes. The bottom toolbar (Figure 5.55) gives the writer more question-level configuration options. It contains the Duplicate question command, the Delete command (the trash icon), and the Required toggle. If you select the Duplicate icon, Forms will repeat the previous question, so that all you need to do is edit the question instead of writing it again from scratch. The Delete command is for removing the question from the list. The Required toggle allows the form creator to make the question mandatory; in other words, the respondent must provide an answer for this question before sending their final responses. In the form, the mandatory question will be followed by a red "*" to indicate that the question is required. The last item is the three-dots menu drop-down menu that contains a few more question-level settings, like letting you add a description to the question, manage the list of questions, and change the order of the questions.

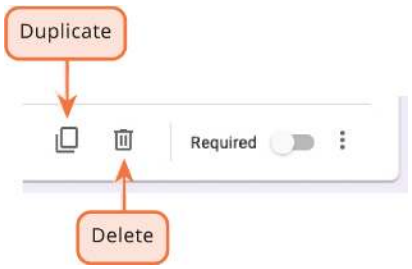


Figure 5.55: The bottom toolbar has tools too, like toggling a requirement of the question. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Importing Questions

Importing questions means adding questions from another form or form template to your current form. You can do this by choosing the Import button on the sidebar (as seen in Figure 5.56). This will take you to the gallery of form templates (Forms) or your archive of saved forms (Recent) that you have created. Select any one of these, and you will be taken to that form, where you will see the questions on a sidebar, as Figure 5.57 shows. In this example, we selected the Customer Feedback Form Template. Select the questions you want to import by ticking the checkboxes. When you are finished making your selections, select Import questions from the bottom of the sidebar. If you want to add questions from multiple forms, you will have to do the same steps over again for each form.

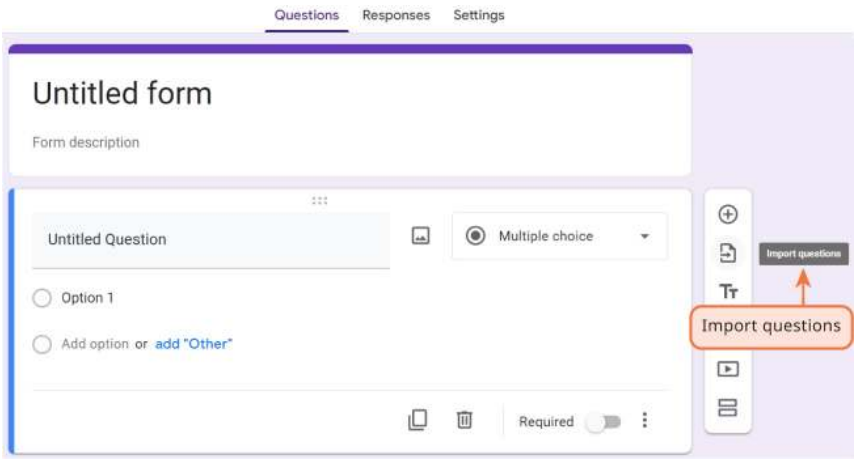


Figure 5.56: You make creating a form easier by importing questions from templates or from previous forms you have created. You can select Recent to access the files in your Drive to search for the form you want to use for importing questions. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

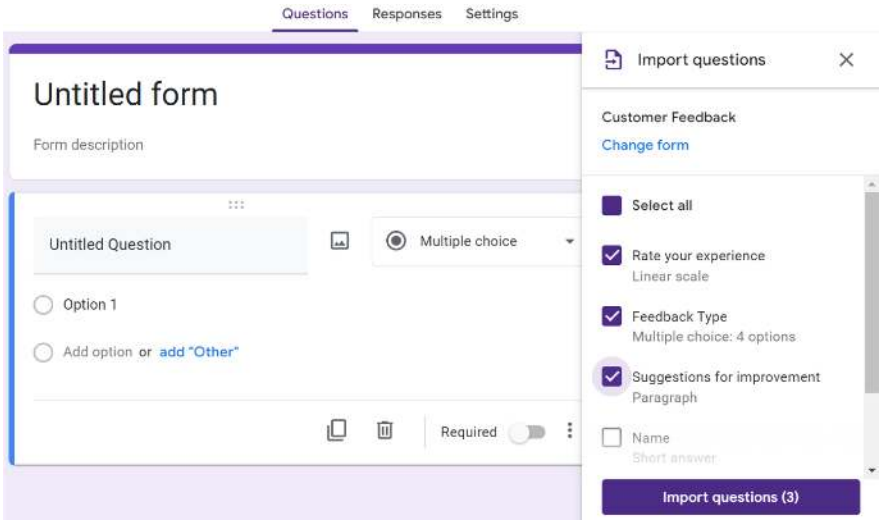


Figure 5.57: You can choose to import all the questions in a form into the current form. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you want to import questions from a form that you wrote in Word, the easiest route is to create a new question using the type you need, then copy and paste the text from the other file. This is the most direct approach. Forms will not automatically recognize the type of question you want (such as drop-down list or checkbox), but if you create the question first, then you can paste the specific text into that question. There are add-ons that you can download to help facilitate importing questions from other file types, but using a copy/paste method can be a simple, easy way to get the information from one file into Forms because it involves fewer steps and is often less complicated than using an add-on.

Let's use the fillable form that we created in Word and copy the information from a couple of the questions into Forms using this approach. First, create a blank form in Docs and open the fillable form you created in Word. Recall that the first line on the office supply order form is "Date." In the blank form, you can set the first question to use the date question format type. We can then copy and paste the text from the Word fillable form into the question we just created. This approach is not necessarily importing the questions from the Word fillable form, but it provides a simple way to get the information from one file type into Forms.

Customizing the Form Settings and Theme

Although you cannot change the font or text formatting within the form questions, you can change the form theme, which applies some formatting changes globally throughout the form. In the top toolbar in Forms, you will find commands for document formatting and applying themes, as Figure 5.58 shows.

The first command, the painter's palette icon, is for changing the overall survey form theme. When you select this, a sidebar, Theme options, will appear, with theme and background color configurations (see Figure 5.59). From here, you can choose an image for the header, such as a custom design or a company logo, as well as change the color scheme of the document or change the font type of the whole document. There are only four font types available.

The second command, the eye icon, is for previewing, and it displays the survey how the survey taker would see it. This can be a handy tool for previewing the form before it is sent to the survey takers.

The third command, the gear icon, is the Form Settings. When you access the Form Settings, you will see three tabs. The General tab gives you configurations for the survey takers, such as letting you collect the emails of survey takers, sending the survey takers an email receipt, limiting the takers to only do one survey response, and other configurations, as shown in Figure 5.60. In the Presentation tab, you can change some of the appearance options for your survey, such as the confirmation message, the order of questions (e.g., shuffled or in the same order each time), and other options. The third tab is Quizzes, which contains configuration settings for survey types and is used more commonly in the education industry.

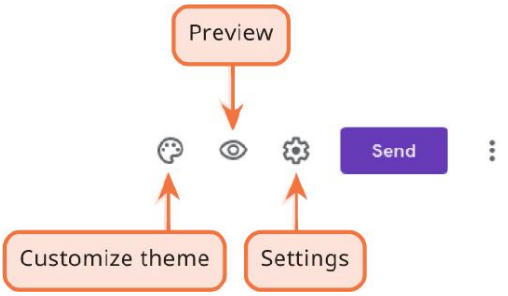


Figure 5.58: The top toolbar is for previewing the form or for settings. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

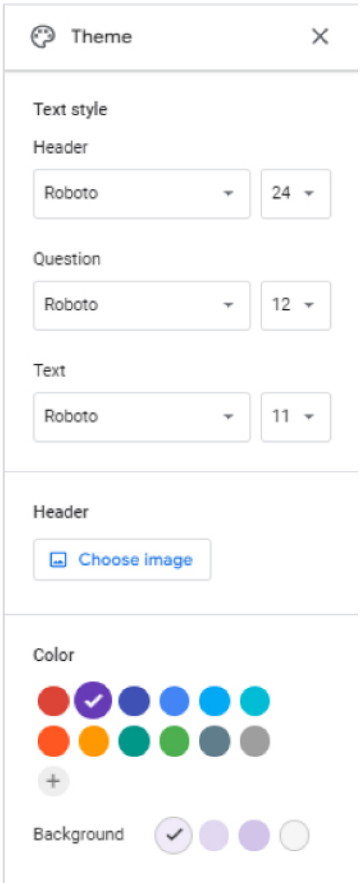


Figure 5.59: The colors can be adjusted to reflect your company's brand. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

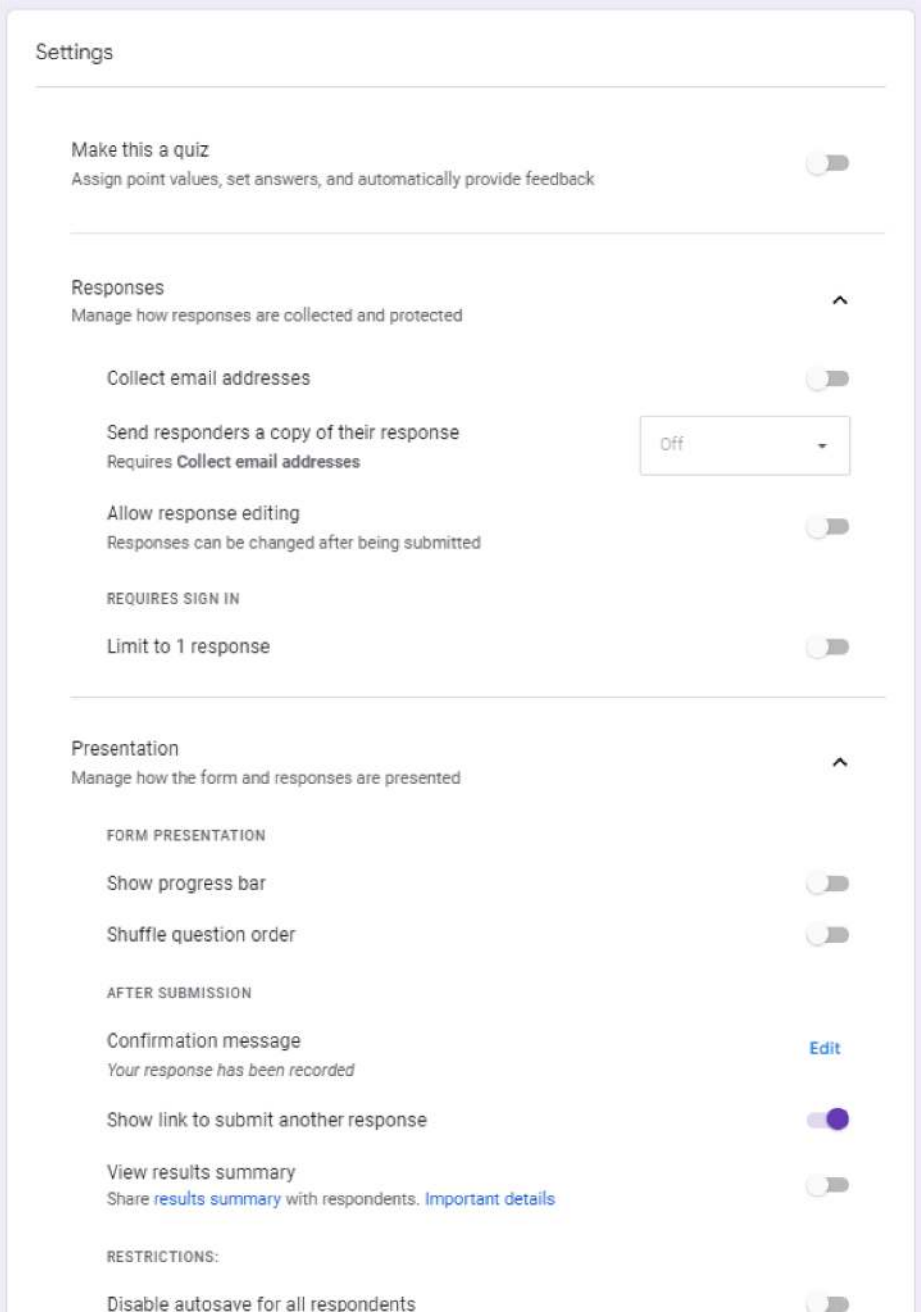


Figure 5.60: You can add your company's logo on the theme options. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Now, go back to your Office Supply Order Form. Build out the rest of the questions from the form that we created in Word. We can use some of the tools now to customize the theme to make it more visually appealing and professional in appearance. Figure 5.61 shows an example of some customizations that you might choose to include in the form.

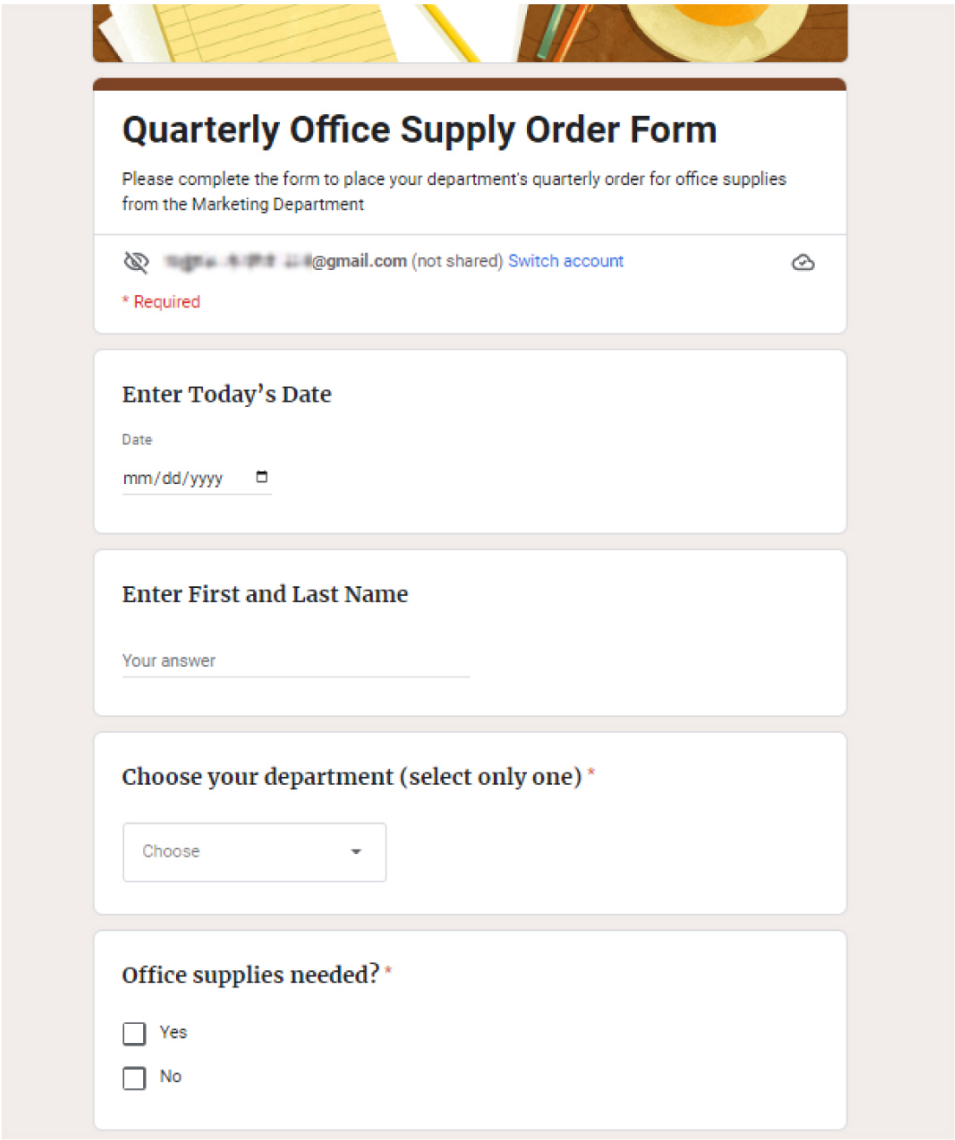


Figure 5.61: Notice the asterisk following the questions that are required. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Distributing the Form

The last command of the top toolbar is the Send button, which lets you start the actual surveying process. After you press Send, you'll have four options of how to distribute the survey: you can type your clients' email addresses and send it to them directly; get a public link, which you can paste into an email; embed the survey into a website; or post the survey to a social media account (Figure 5.62).

If you choose to send it by email, you will need to copy and paste or manually type in all of the recipients' email addresses. You'll be able to write the body and subject of the message, but there are limitations to the length and style of the message. You cannot do any text formatting or add graphics in this interface like you would if you constructed the email in your email program and included the form link. Note that the recipients will not see the other recipients' email addresses in the list. Also, there is no way to use the email addresses in your Google Contacts or other contact list. This approach is best for a small number of recipients. If you expect to send the form to a large number of people, it is better to use your email program to send the form with the link.

The second option is to send the form via a public link. You can copy this link and paste it anywhere. For example, you can save it for later use, and send it to clients after a business activity has passed (e.g., after a successful purchase). You could also paste it into an email and send it to your recipients that way.

The third option is embedding, which will give you the .html code so that you can insert the form link on the company website. When you choose this option, the HTML code will be displayed. You can then copy that code and use it to embed the form on a website. This option can be used when you want the responders to go to your company's website to answer the questions.

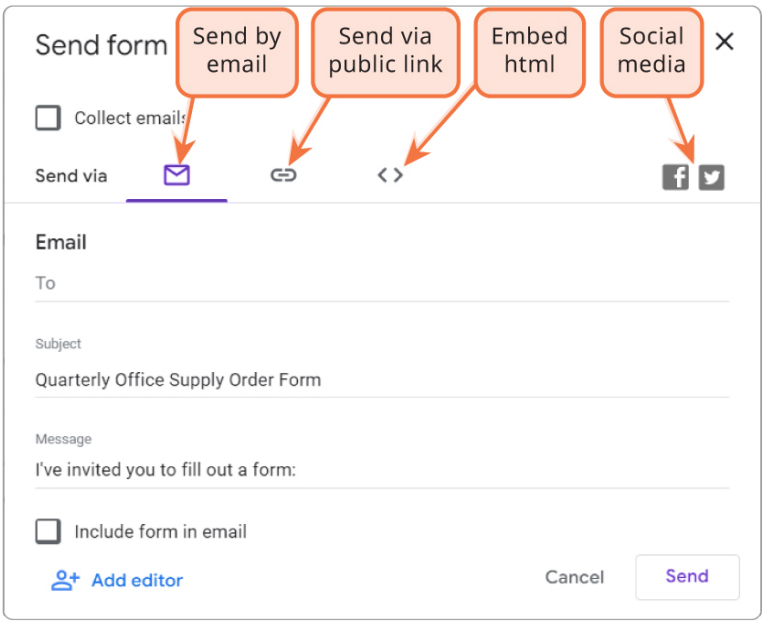


Figure 5.62: There are four ways to share the survey to the clients. Choose the link option to send the form through your email program. The form can also be embedded into a website using the html option. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Lastly, you can send the form via social media. Forms has Facebook and Twitter (now X) icons on the right side of the Send form dialog box. Selecting one of these will allow you to embed the form directly onto your social media page or feed for others to access.

Viewing Responses

Once you send the survey, you may want to wait a few days for individuals to respond. You can consult the response statistics by going to your form and looking at the top of the form screen. By default, you are viewing the Questions tab, as seen in Figure 5.63.

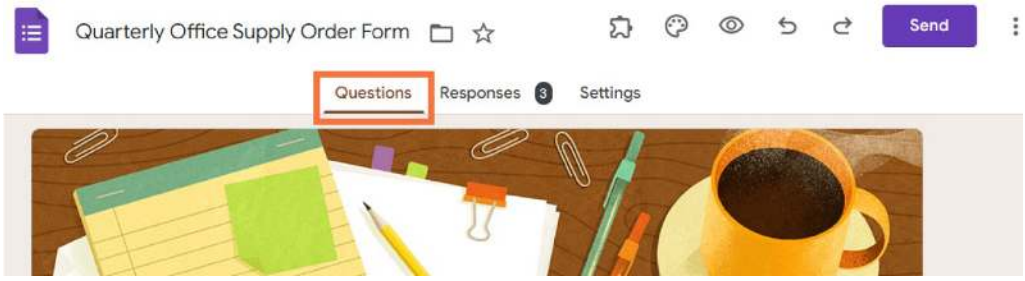


Figure 5.63: Even before the survey is complete, you can check the response statistics. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you choose the Responses tab, you'll be taken to the responses report page, as shown in Figure 5.64. At the top of the Responses report, there is a Google Sheets icon command; if you choose this, all the report output will be exported to your Sheets app, and from there you can download the file as an Excel file or CSV. Forms provides some basic visualizations for the response. If you want more in-depth analysis, you might use other programs more suited for statistical analysis.

When you want to close the form to new responses, you can toggle the Accepting responses lever on the right side of Responses tab. This means that no one can submit any more responses to your form.

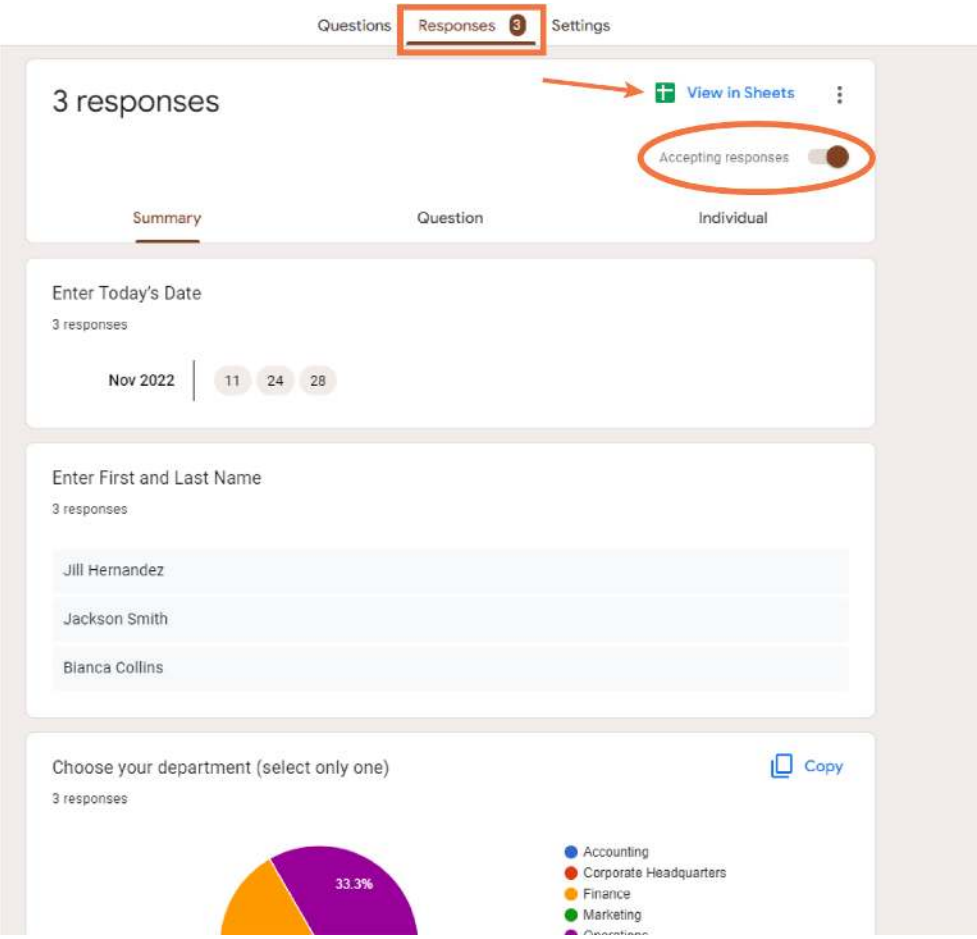


Figure 5.64: When you are finished accepting responses, you can get the results in Sheets. (Google Forms is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Link to Learning

Forms is not just used to create surveys. Read this article on creative ways to use Google Forms in the workplace to learn more. Forms can also be used in your personal life. Read this article on some very unique uses of Forms to learn more.

This page titled 5.5: Creating Forms in Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.6: Advanced Collaboration in Google Docs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use advanced sharing settings in Google Docs
- Use advanced editing level and access settings in Google Docs
- Use advanced settings to view comments and suggested edits

The WorldCorp market trends report needs to advance fast, and the best way to do that is by multiuser collaboration. By using Google's cloud service, Google Drive, you can have multiple users work on their portion of the report simultaneously. As you work in the document, you may see these collaborators typing all at the same time, as they have their own cursor with their username. This kind of online, synchronous collaboration will speed up the review and revision process.

Advanced Sharing Settings

The chapter on Creating and Working in Documents discussed basic sharing capabilities of Google Docs. But understanding the more advanced settings in Docs can maximize your work in the app and help you get the most out of collaborating in it.

Docs allows up to one hundred persons working on the document at the same time. This can be useful when many people need to view a file at once, such as real-time meeting notes or a report being discussed on a conference call. But keep in mind that some of the same limitations exist in Docs as they do in Word Online: having many people working and editing the document at the same time can cause problems. When several individuals are working on the same file at the same time, you might see text shifting around, people making changes in areas you just changed, or conflicting information added by different collaborators.

Fortunately, you can see how many people are accessing the document, and who they are, as seen in Figure 5.65. You can communicate with them using the Google chat software called Google Meet, as Figure 5.66 shows. Collaborators can also chat directly in the document by adding comments as they make edits and revisions. You can also see where your document collaborators are typing by choosing their icon in the title bar. Docs will jump down to where their cursor is in the document. The collaborator's cursor uses another color, and it moves as the collaborator types.

You can check who has access to this document (at all times, not just when they are online and active) when you click the Share button at the top right of the document. This will reveal a dialog box displaying all the people who have been granted permission to view, edit, or comment on the document, as you can see in Figure 5.67. As you are collaborating on documents with colleagues at WorldCorp, it is helpful to be able to restrict editing to certain individuals, while receiving comments from others. With Docs, you have the ability to see where changes are made and by whom.

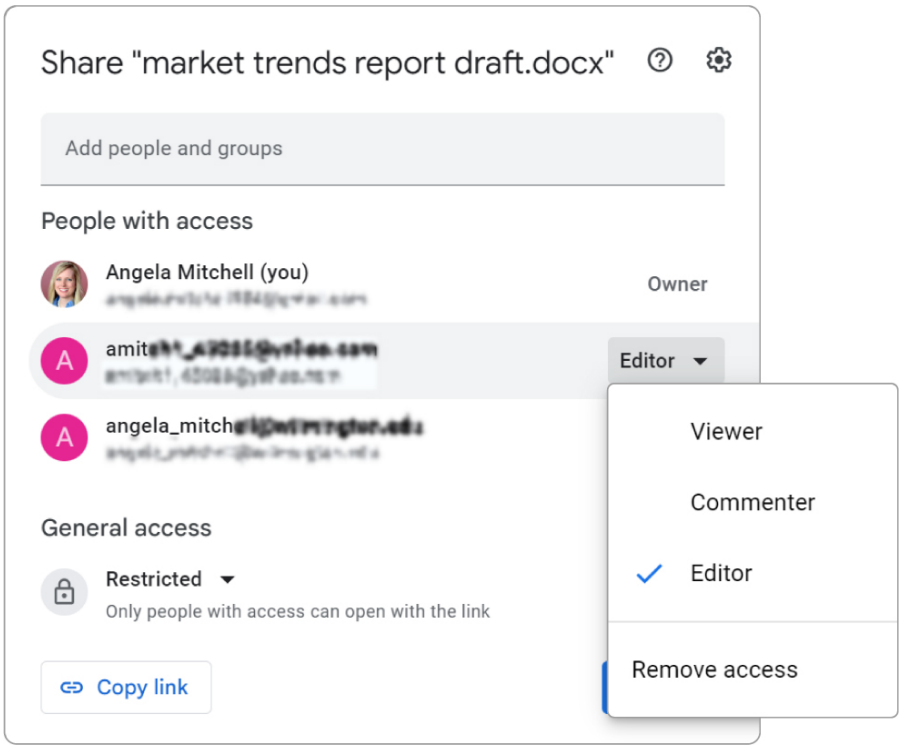


Figure 5.65: When sharing the document, you can determine how they can or cannot change the file. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

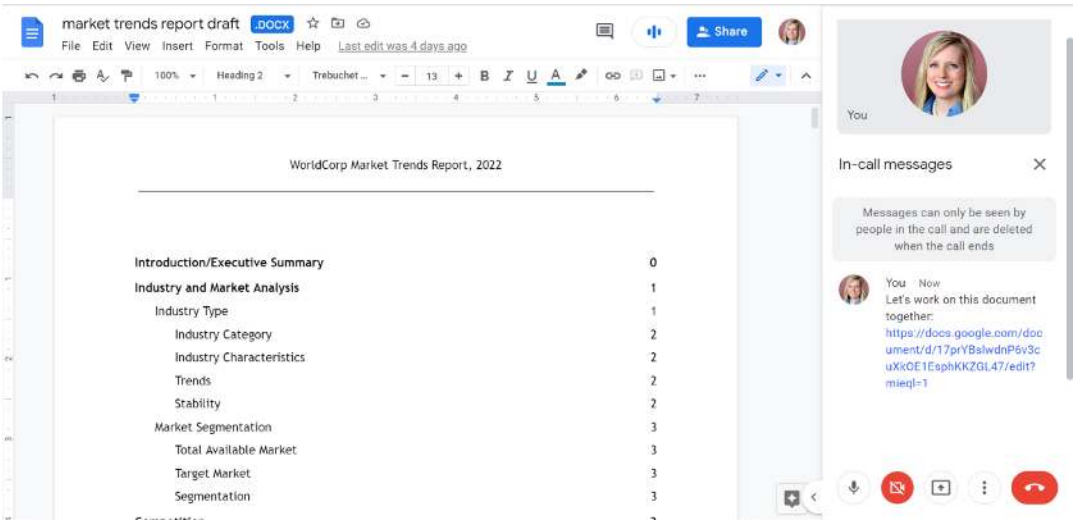


Figure 5.66: Docs allows for a lot of interactivity and communication. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

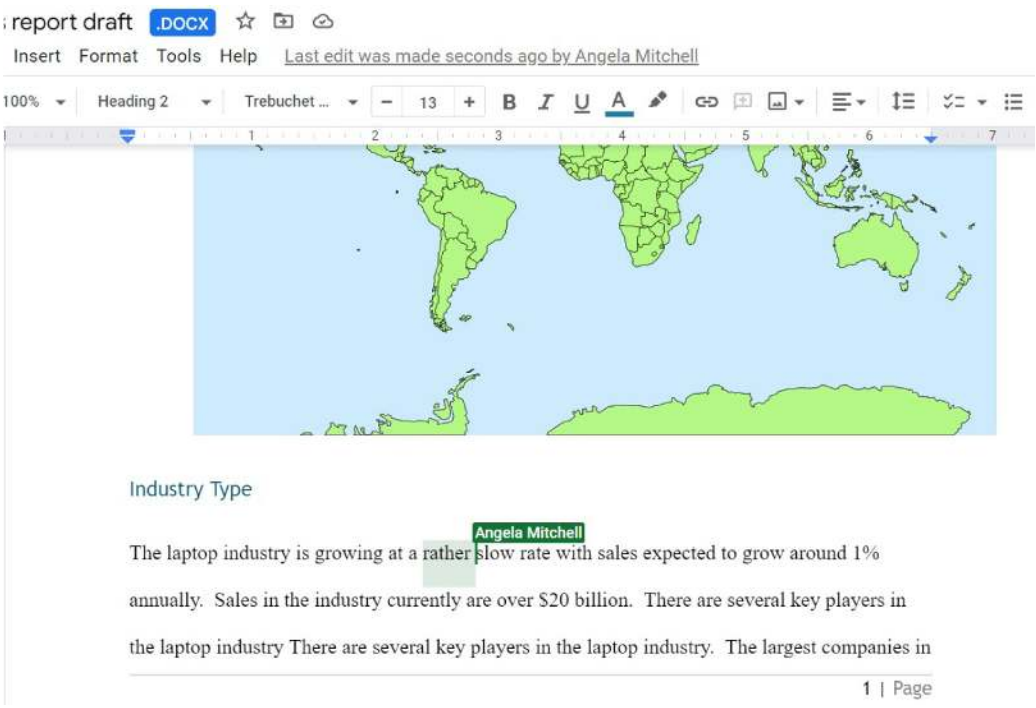


Figure 5.67: Changes are highlighted with the name of the editor who made the change. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Sharing Without Adding Collaborators

There may be times when you want certain people to have access to a Doc, but they do not have a Google account. Or, you may not want to add them as a formal collaborator to the document, but rather just give them access to review the document instead of making edits. Luckily, there are ways to do this in Google.

To share the document with people who do not have a Google account, you should generate a shareable link, and choose Anyone with the link. This is accessed through the Share option in the upper-right corner of the screen. You can then choose the access level (Viewer, Commenter, or Editor), generate the shareable link, and copy it into an email or elsewhere for everyone to access, as shown in Figure 5.68. These contributors with no Google account will be able to open and edit the document with an Anonymous user name.

You may also want to share your document with a third party, without adding them to your group of collaborators. This can be done using the command Email this file found in the File menu, as Figure 5.69 shows. This command sends the file as a .docx or .pdf to their email.

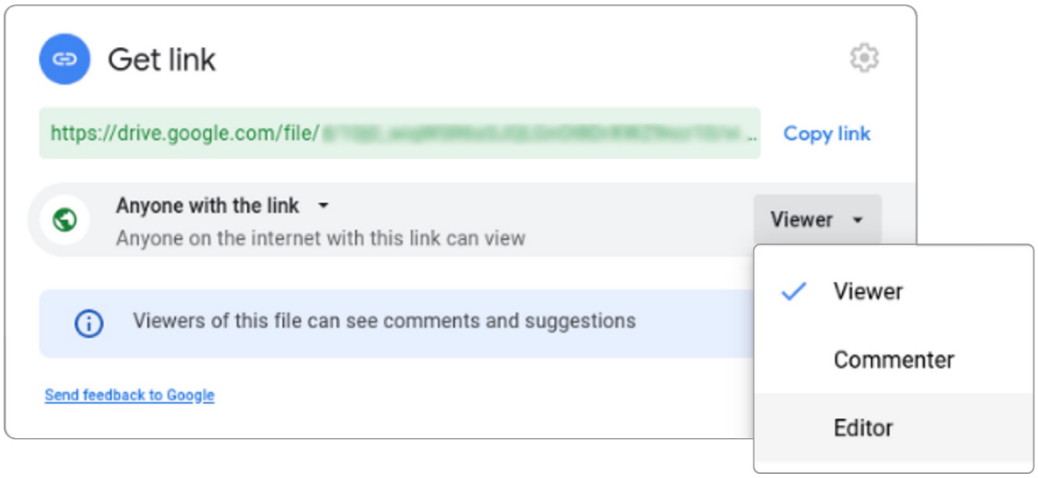


Figure 5.68: Non-Google account editors can enter and contribute using an anonymous username. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

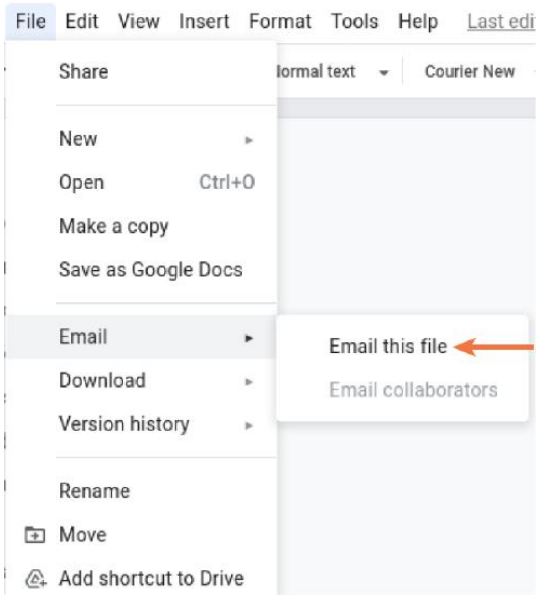


Figure 5.69: The Email in this file command allows you to share your document with a third party without adding them to the list of contributors. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You may also convert the document into an embedded document so that it is published on a web page. The command Publish to the web, located in the File menu, will open a dialog box (Figure 5.70). Here, you have two options: either to provide a Link to the file or create the .html code to embed the information directly on the web page. Using either method will make the information available to anyone on the internet, so use caution when choosing to publish information from a Google file to the web. Check the box Automatically republish when changes are made if you want the embedded object on the web page to be updated when you change the document. If you do not choose this option, you will need to update the embedding when changes to the document are made. Then, click on Start publishing and the .html code will be generated, as shown in Figure 5.71. Copy and paste these codes onto your web page.

The other option of Publish to the web is to get a public link, as shown in Figure 5.72, which can be shared via social media or in an email. This public link is different from the Anyone with the link shareable links, because the public link is searchable in search engines.

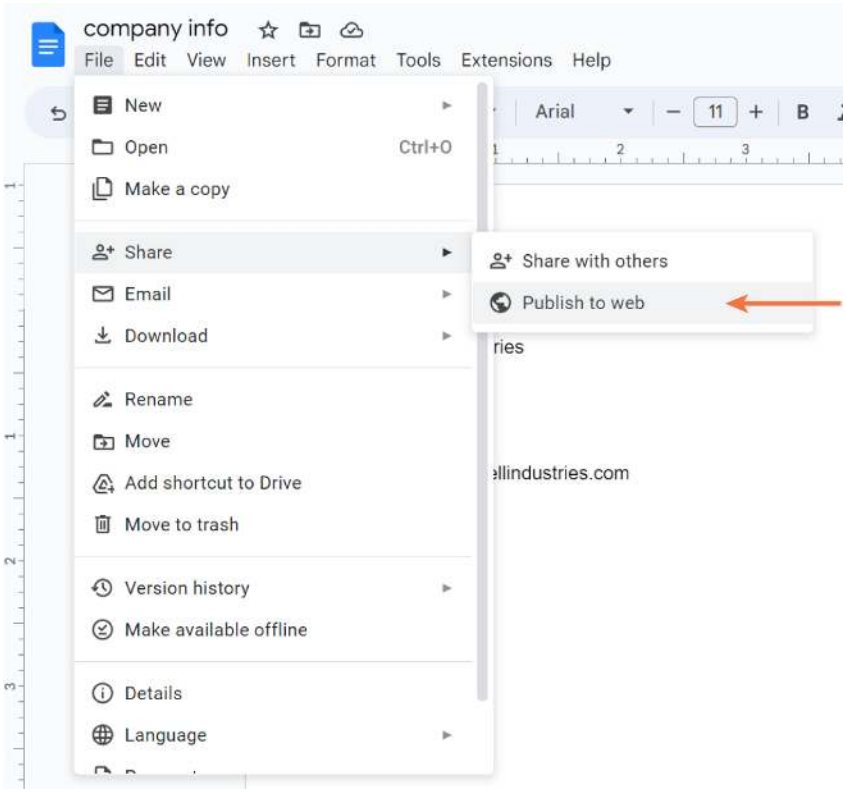


Figure 5.70: Publishing to the web makes the document available on the internet and is searchable on the web. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

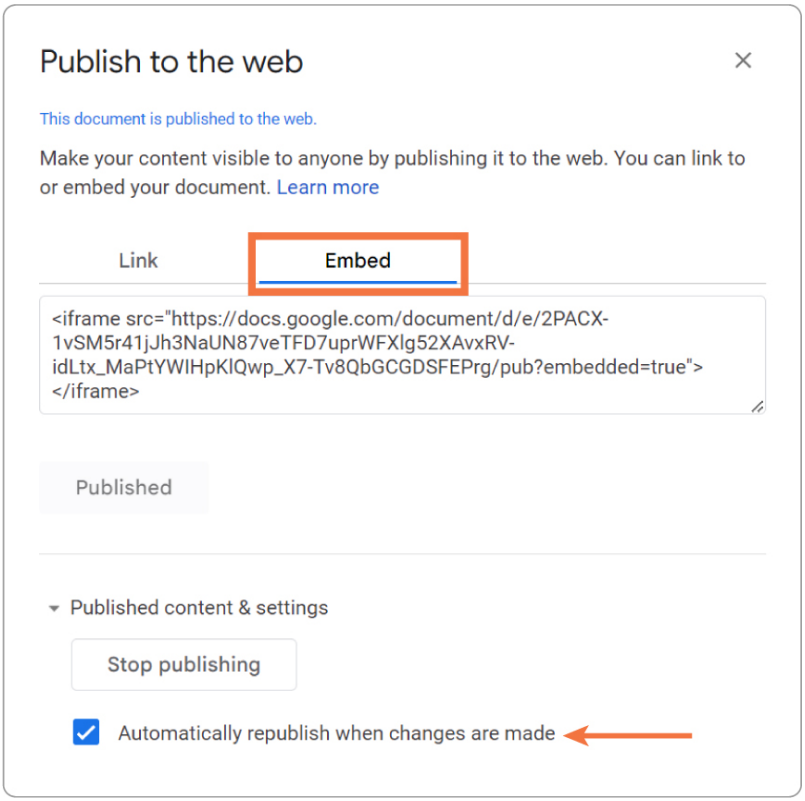


Figure 5.71: Be sure to check the box to automatically update the information published if changes are made in the source document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

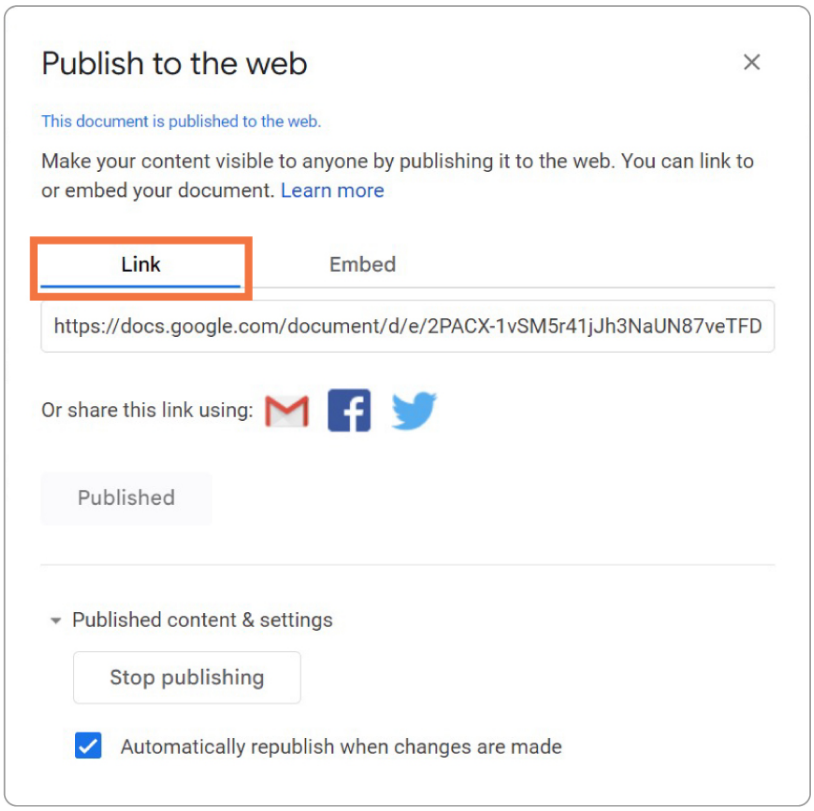


Figure 5.72: The public link can be shared now either through email or your website. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Advanced Editing Access Settings

The chapter on Creating and Working in Documents discussed the different levels of access you can grant your collaborators. Granting someone Editing access to your Doc means that they can make any changes they want to the document. They do not have to track changes, or work in Suggesting mode, if they do not want to. This is the most open of all sharing settings.

One way to give someone editing access to a Doc is via a shareable link. The user that opens a shareable link can be restricted in different ways. You can set up the settings to restrict the opener of the file by selecting Anyone on the internet with this link can edit. As we've learned, non-Google users can access shareable links that have the designation of either Anyone with the link or Public link (Figure 5.68). The other option, Restricted, allows sharing and collaborating, but with some limitations. If you check this option, the editor, commenter, or viewer combo box disappears, as seen in Figure 5.73. This means that the link will only open for people who are listed as collaborators. Figure 5.74 summarizes the kinds of restrictions on shareable links.



Figure 5.73: With the restricted link, only people who were shared at in the past can see the document. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Restrictions of Shareable Links		
Publish to the web	Anyone with the link	Restricted
If you use a search engine, you can find the document.	Only people with the link can access the document. It is not on the search engine results.	Only people you sent the link in the past are allowed to access the document.

Figure 5.74: These are the kinds of shareable links available.

For all types of shareable links, there are the three standard types of readers of the document, as seen in Figure 5.75. Again, there is also a Share with people settings options at the top-right corner of the Share dialog box. If you uncheck Editors can change permissions and share, it will prevent editors from changing access and adding new people. This allows editor recipients to edit, comment, or read, but doesn't allow them to share the document. The other option, if unchecked, is directed at commenters and viewers, as they cannot download, copy, or print the document.

Restrictions of Shareable Links/Email Recipients		
Editor	Commenter	Reader
Any person who has the link can edit, comment, and read. Can use the suggestion mode and type while on it. Can share with others too.	Any person who has the link cannot edit but can comment and read. The user can use suggestion mode but cannot type on the document. The user may not share the document with others.	Any person who has the link cannot edit or comment but can read. This user cannot use the suggestion mode either.

Figure 5.75: These are the kinds of collaborators available.

Advanced Settings for Viewing Comments and Suggested Edits

Once you are ready to view comments in a Doc, navigate to the top-right area of your document and click on the Comment history icon (shown in callout 1 in Figure 5.76). Then, click on the bell icon to view and customize notification settings (shown in callout 2). As shown in Figure 5.77, if you choose Only yours, the email notifications of changes on the document will be sent to you only if you are being mentioned by an @ operator, or if someone edits some passage you wrote. If you choose None, you will not be notified by email, even if the changes and comments (and mentions) are related to your written passages.

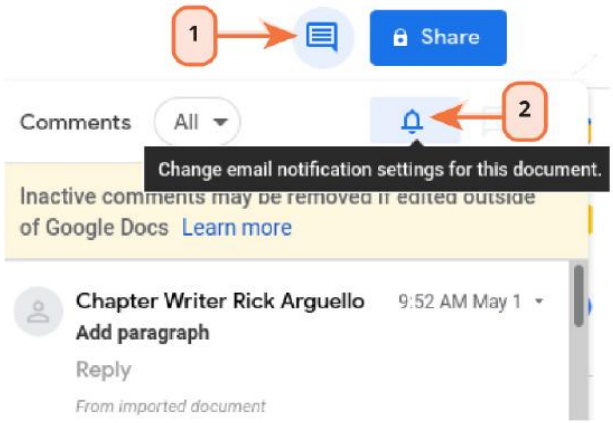


Figure 5.76: You can view the comments made on a document by choosing the comments tool. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

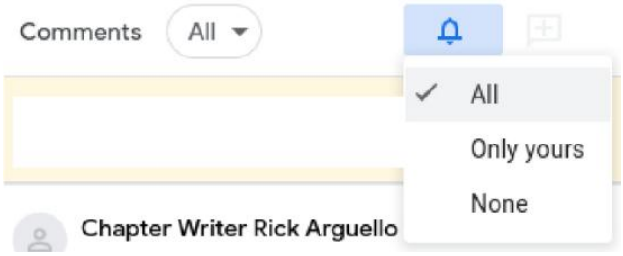


Figure 5.77: Adjust the notifications for the document so you will know when comments or changes are made. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Once you have chosen your notification settings, return to the Comment history icon. In Figure 5.78, you can see the sidebar that appears when you click on the icon, showing the comment history. You can view all comments together in this sidebar. Without the sidebar, you would have to scroll down the screen slowly, to see all the comments on the document. (The sidebar is similar to the Review pane in Word.) If you want to filter the comments on the sidebar, you can click on the Comments drop-down command, and filter by For you, Open, and Resolved (Figure 5.79).

Filtering by For you gives you all comments that are directed to you directly with the @ symbol. Filtering by Open gives you all comments that are marked as open, regardless of who the comments are directed toward. And, finally, filtering by Resolved shows all the comments that have been marked resolved and are no longer active comments to address.

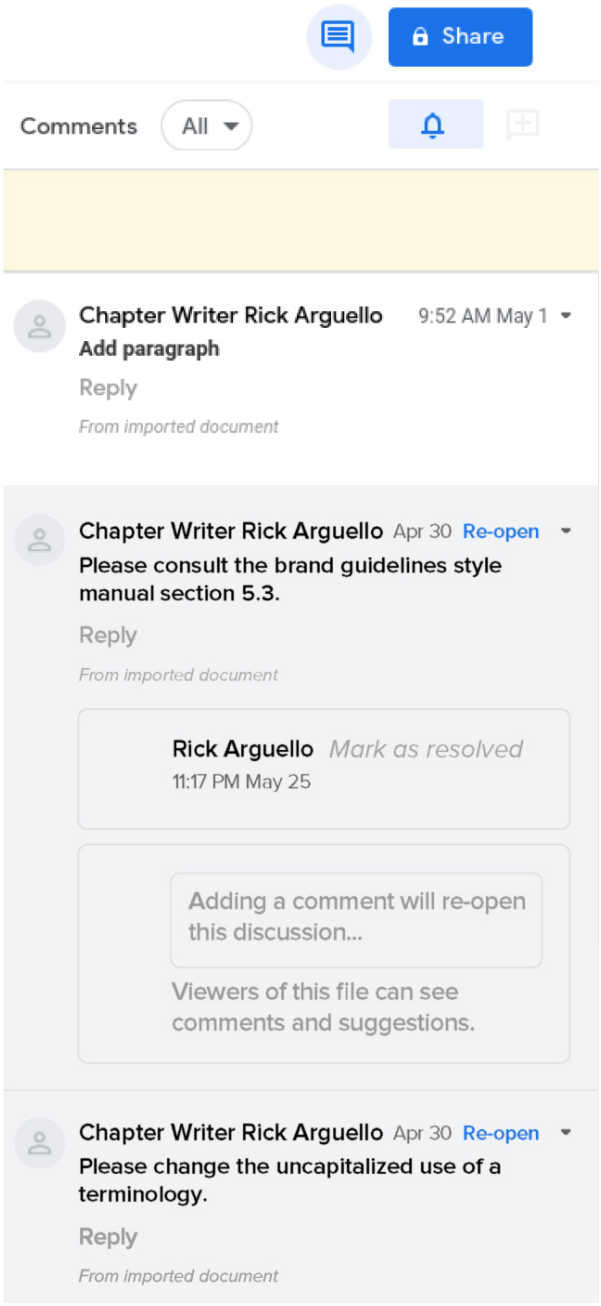


Figure 5.78: The comment history sidebar shows all of the comments made in a document, and includes information like usernames, timestamps, and comment status. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

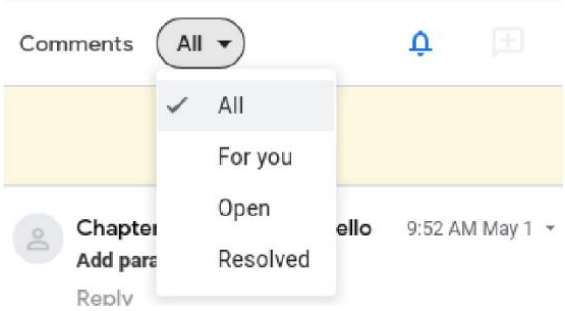


Figure 5.79: You can easily see all comments on a long document all together using the comment history. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 5.6: Advanced Collaboration in Google Docs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

add-on
third-party application that can be added to Google, which extends the basic functionality of a program with features that are not already included

Anyone with the link
accessibility limit in Docs's shareable links, in which the Doc can be accessed by anybody with the link, even if they do not have a Google account

business plan
document that describes a company's plan for growth and profitability

cardstock
sturdy kind of paper material, typically used for business cards

Comment history
feature in Docs that places all comments on a sidebar for easy viewing

content control fields
placeholders for the type of questions that the respondent will use to respond

Design Mode
tool that lets the form composer type a description of the question that instructs the survey taker how to answer

Developer tab
tab that is used for forms, macros, and managing add-ons or templates; it is not one of Word's default tabs

form
document type that has blanks for the recipient to add their information

invoice
bill that indicates what goods or services one party has sold to another; it usually displays the quantity, price per unit, and total

letterhead
contact information and name of a person that is placed on top of letters

mail merge
tool in Word that lets you auto-populate certain field types, such as name and address

main document
document that will have merge fields added to it; it will be auto-populated with the information from the source document when mail merged

merge fields
blank fields that get auto-populated with the information imported from the source document

merged document
completed mail merged document, with all information auto-populated

Publish to the web

most public way to share a Doc; publishes the document so that it is searchable by internet search engines

Restricted

accessibility limit in Docs's shareable links, which only allows users who have already been shared on the document to access it

résumé

document that displays a job seeker's work experience and academic degrees, along with their skill set

source document

spreadsheet or other document that serves as the source file for the information that will go in the merge fields in your main document

Submit a template

feature in Docs that lets the user submit a saved template for use in the public Template Gallery

---

This page titled 5.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.8: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

5.1 Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word

- Being able to create different types of documents in Word is an important skill. You can either use a template or create them from scratch.
- Although many people use email, printed business memos are still common, and the way they are composed is important to know.
- It is also important to know how to create and format documents on letterhead and printed envelopes. Letterheads display your name and contact information, while printed envelopes help add a look of professionalism to your communication.
- Business cards can be designed in Word and printed by yourself, or by a printing company using cardstock paper. They display your contact information.
- Brochures and flyers are forms of print advertising that can also be used digitally.
- Invoices always contain what you or your company is billing a client for. Microsoft has a large number of templates you can create an invoice from.
- A business plan usually has a standard layout, which a template can help you with. But it can be helpful to look at samples of business plans online so you can understand what kind of language to use in the plan.
- When looking for a job, it is important to have a polished résumé and cover letter. The professional look and feel of your documents can go a long way in helping you start your career.

5.2 Mail Merge in Microsoft Word

- Mail merge is a tool in Word that can personalize dozens or hundreds of form letters. It allows the user to designate merge fields for any type of customized client data, such as names, addresses, or other details.
- To do a mail merge, you first need to create your main document, or the document that contains the letter or information going to your recipients. You can temporarily designate where the custom fields will be by highlighting them.
- Next, you need to create or access a source document. A source document is the place where you have all of your recipients' information. The information you include here will go into the custom fields in the main document.
- You complete a mail merge by combining the main document and the source document. The resulting item will be the merged document. Word will create one letter for each recipient you designated in a single document.

5.3 Creating Forms in Microsoft Word

- The Developer tab is part of Word's set of command groups, but it does not appear by default, and needs to be manually activated. It is used for making forms, macros, handling add-ons/templates, and other advanced processes.
- Fillable forms are built using the tools in the Controls command group of the Developer tab. This command group contains options for content control fields, which are used for creating different types of questions for forms. The respondent uses the content control fields to answer the questions in the form.
- Creating a fillable form in Word is a multistep process. You should first create your questions, then choose the question types, add in the content control fields, then finally edit the properties for each question.

5.4 Creating Different Document Types in Google Docs

- Docs lets you create and publish your own templates. It does not have as many templates as Word in its default Template Gallery, but it does allow users to search through user-generated templates on the internet.
- There are no default templates in the Template Gallery for business memos, envelopes, business cards, flyers, brochures, or invoices, but these can all be made from scratch in Google Docs.

5.5 Creating Forms in Google Docs

- Forms is part of the Google workspace of software programs that allows the writer to send a form electronically, and automatically tabulates their answers. Google provides some templates that users can base their forms on.
- Forms also allows for creating forms from scratch. Users can choose from a wide array of question types, add multimedia questions, and apply different themes.

- The results from responses collected through a form can easily be downloaded into Sheets for data analysis.

5.6 Advanced Collaboration in Google Docs

- You can share a document using an email or a shareable link. There are three types of shareable links: public links, anyone with the link, and restricted.
- Docs allows many users to edit and type in a document concurrently. This can be done with layers of permissions, from editor, to commenter, to reader.
- Comment history collects all comments into a sidebar. This can save time for the user because this way, they do not have to scroll through the entire document.

This page titled 5.8: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
What are the key components of a business memo?

a. the business logo, the memo sign, the heading, the body text
b. the letterhead, the addressor’s address, the addressee’s address, the body text
c. the business logo, the name, the job position, the contact details
d. the cover, the back cover, the inside flap, the inside center

2 .
Why might you want to design your own letterhead?

a. It shows professionalism.
b. It demonstrates mastery of a complicated skill.
c. It helps define your career.
d. It keeps your information private.

3 .
Which document is given to a customer for a product or service provided by a company?

a. Cardstock
b. Letterhead
c. Memo
d. Invoice

4 .
What is the overall purpose of a business plan?

a. A business plan is optional with today’s technology.
b. A business plan is a document that describes a company’s plan for growth and profitability.
c. A business plan should include details about company invoices.
d. A business plan should summarize a company’s interest and motivation for applying for funding.

5 .
What is the source document in mail merge?

a. the file where the field information is located
b. the list of fields you will be using in the mail merge
c. the Word document where the fields are located
d. the file where the fields are inserted

6 .
Merge fields in a document are identified using what denotation?

a. Parentheses ()
b. Double brackets [[ ]]
c. Double angle brackets << >>
d. All caps

7 .
What is the objective of Design Mode?

a. to customize the preset text labels of each form control
b. to add images to the fillable form
c. to change the preset logo of your company
d. to format the appearance of the form questions

8 .
Which tab is used for creating forms in the Windows version of Word?

a. Design

b. References
c. Developer
d. Layout

9 .
What Word tool is used as a placeholder for the types of questions you will have in the form?

a. Design Mode
b. comment
c. merge Field
d. content control field

10 .
_____ are used to enhance Google Docs's functionality to do more specialized tasks.

a. Templates
b. Extensions
c. Add-ons
d. Forms

11 .
How do you navigate to the templates in Docs?

a. Go to the File menu, then New.
b. Go to the Insert menu, then Drawing.
c. Go to the Extensions menu, then Add-ons.
d. Go to the View menu, then Mode.

12 .
What is one quick way to create business cards in Docs?

a. Use a business card template from the Template Gallery.
b. Create a new document from scratch.
c. Go to the Tools menu.
d. Use a Microsoft template.

13 .
What is one advantage to using a template to create a new form?

a. The template already has a few questions to get you started.
b. The template has all the built-in questions you need.
c. Templates have preset themes that cannot be changed.
d. The template you choose comes with responses.

14 .
What is the first thing you should do when creating a form from scratch?

a. Find a template to start.
b. Rename the form.
c. Add your first question.
d. Customize the theme.

15 .
What does embedding the form on a website do?

a. displays the form directly on the home page of the website so that respondents can enter in their answers
b. ensures that you reach the greatest number of respondents to fill out your form
c. gives you the .html code so that you are able to insert the form link on the company website
d. links the company website in the title of the form

16 .
How do you check to see who has access and what kind of access to a Google file?

a. Select the comment button at the top-right corner of your document.

b. Go to the View menu.
c. Examine the file's version history.
d. Choose the Share button.

17 .
How do you open the comment history sidebar?

a. Select the comment button at the top-right corner of your document.
b. Go to Google Drive and right-click your document to see its version history.
c. Navigate to your document's File menu and then toggle Suggesting mode.
d. Go to the Insert menu and then choose the Comment command.

18 .
What does the command Publish to the web do?

a. creates a link for you to email to respondents through the internet
b. allows you to link or embed the document as a web page
c. publishes the document information to social media sites
d. sends the file to Google Docs templates online

This page titled 5.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

19 .
Design an invoice for the sales of screen panels using a Microsoft template. The client wants 25 LEDs with 64” screens, 99 LCDs with 55” screens, and 15 QLEDs with 75” screens. Use the following information:
Client: Doe’s Electronics
Client Address: 123 Doe Street, Doe City, Virginia, 12345
Use today’s date to date the invoice. Search for the unit price of these TVs on the internet.
20 .
At this point in your life, you might have a résumé of your own. Let’s look at it critically and revise it. Choose a template as described in the chapter, then copy and paste your information into the résumé you are updating for yourself.
21 .
Write a business memo for your department at WorldCorp using one of the Microsoft memo templates. The memo should announce to WorldCorp employees that there is a new set of company brand guidelines, and that all employees at WorldCorp need to upgrade their logos and design in their letterheads, envelopes, and business cards.
22 .
Use mail merge to create envelopes using the names/addresses we used in the example in the chapter. Use a fictional WorldCorp address found on the main document as the return address.
23 .
WorldCorp is sending a letter to its clients thanking them for their participation in a survey. Write the “thank you form letter” for the main document from scratch, or use one of these templates. Adjust the merge fields as needed to include the company name. Add five company names, street addresses, city, state, and zip code by creating a new list as outlined in the chapter. These five names and addresses can be made up, or you can use the data in the downloadable List Names worksheet. Perform the mail merge of the “thank you form letter,” and use the Edit Individual Documents command for the final mail merge.
24 .
Design a new form for your WorldCorp coworkers. You are holding training sessions on the new company-wide computer system, and you need to know when your coworkers can come. Attendance is mandatory, but the coworkers can choose their own time slot and date. Make a form with the necessary information (name, position, department, time, date).
25 .
Create a form that could be used when contacting a new business client for cell phone/tablets for employees. You will want to gather enough information about their needs to provide them an accurate quote for monthly costs. Information that you will collect could be decision maker’s contact information, number of employees, estimated usage of phones/data, how many phones/tablets might be needed, and other related information. Be creative in selecting the correct question type for the correct form controls.
26 .
Go to the Extensions menu in Docs. Find a free add-on for business cards. Install the add-on and create business cards using your own information.
27 .
Find an invoice template from the Google user-generated templates and create a generic invoice. Find an image, such as your college logo, to add to the invoice.
28 .
Use Forms to create a party invitation from scratch. You want to collect names and see how many people plan on attending a party you are hosting. You might consider what type of party you are planning (e.g., a graduation party) and other relevant information in order to generate appropriate questions. Consider adding questions about food allergies or preferences when creating the invitation.
29 .
Find a template for a customer feedback survey. Modify the template with a different theme and font style. Change a couple of the questions to different question types and reorder the questions.
30 .
Write a sample business memo to your WorldCorp coworkers, describing the upcoming market trends report. Create the memo in Docs. Using the Publish to web option, publish the document to the web using the two methods: link and embed.
31 .
Create a Doc detailing a plan for completing an assignment for one of your classes. You could create the plan based on when the assignment is due and include items such as the date on which you will begin work on it, what you will need to complete the task, and other related items. Share the Doc with a friend using the skills in the section. Change the permissions so that the friend can add comments and edit the Doc.

This page titled 5.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

32 .
How could templates help your professional presence as a business consultant? Explain.
33 .
What is the objective and general form of a business card? Explain.
34 .
What are the similarities and differences between a brochure and a flyer?
35 .
What are some advantages of using mail merge?
36 .
Describe the process of inserting fields into the main document.
37 .
Describe the various content control fields used in creating fillable forms.
38 .
Explain the purpose of the combo box control.
39 .
Describe the process of submitting a template to Google. Why do you think Google allows only certain users to publish templates for others to use?
40 .
How do you use a Word template in Docs?
41 .
What are the advantages of Forms over the .dotx surveys you can produce in Word?
42 .
What is the objective of a public link?
43 .
What are the main differences between a Public link and an Anyone with the link shareable links?
44 .
How is Editing access different from Commenting access in a Doc?
45 .
Explain a potential concern you might have using a public link for collaboration on document.

This page titled 5.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

5.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

46 .

Campaignmonitor.com is a company that helps entrepreneurs set up a user-friendly email advertisement campaign. It has lengthy guidelines on how to design a professional email ad and lots of infographics and screen captures of excellent examples.

A.

Now that you are more knowledgeable on email ads, design your own brief “flyer”-type email. Go to Microsoft’s template page and find a flyer template that you like. Try to implement the lessons from campaignmonitor.com when you design your own.

B.

The flyer can be about a product or organization you are familiar with, such as a school group or the brand of cell phone you use. Include a description of the product or organization and the overall features that are appealing.

47 .

Use the form that you just completed for the Practice Exercise about new customer leads. Using the skills you learned in Mail Merge in Microsoft Word, create a mail merge to send this form via email to the five recipients we used in that section. You will need to create fictional email addresses. You can use the format first initial + last name@company.com for this exercise. Include yourself (use your real email address) so that you can see how mail merge for emails works. (Note: When you complete the mail merge, you will get undeliverable email error messages because you used fictional email addresses.)

48 .

You have been hired to your “dream job.” How could you use the Google Survey feature in your chosen profession?

This page titled 5.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

6: Preparing Presentations

6.0: Chapter Scenario
6.1: Presentation and Design Essentials
6.2: Designing a Presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint
6.3: Formatting Microsoft PowerPoint Slides- Layout and Design Principles
6.4: Adding Visuals and Features to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides
6.5: Designing a Presentation in Google Slides
6.6: Creating Google Slides- Layout and Text
6.7: Adding Visuals and Features to Google Slides
6.8: Chapter Review - Key Terms
6.9: Chapter Review - Summary
6.10: Chapter Review - Review Questions
6.11: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
6.12: Chapter Review - Written Questions
6.13: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 6: Preparing Presentations is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.0: Chapter Scenario

The ability to communicate your vision and ideas effectively will be critical to your growth and success at WorldCorp. As a new hire, the company's human resources department will ask you to make a presentation introducing yourself to other employees. This assignment has two purposes. First, it allows the company to get to know you better. Second, it trains you in the two most popular presentation software programs: Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Slides. (There are other presentation software programs available, such as Prezi, Keynote, or Canva, but PowerPoint and Slides are used more often.) This chapter explores the basics of these two programs.



Figure 6.1: Working on a slide presentation can be done individually or collaboratively, depending on the tools you are using. (credit: modification of "A group of people having a meeting" by Darlene Alderson/Pexels, Public Domain)

PowerPoint launched in 1990 and has grown in complexity with each new iteration of Microsoft Office. It's hard to imagine, but many of the features that users rely on in PowerPoint today were available when it was first released on Windows 3.1. Examples include importing pictures to make them editable, adding transitions between slides in slideshows, incorporating sound and video into slides, and adding/changing fonts throughout the presentation. Over the years, the options have expanded. Image and sound quality have become a premium in today's world. PowerPoint has been able to keep up with the ability to process high-definition images and sound. It now includes a design editor that helps users hone their graphic design skills. While PowerPoint provides tools for designing visually appealing presentations, it is not a dedicated graphic design program like Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator.

Slides, which debuted in 2006, offers many features similar to those of other presentation programs. Like other Google products, Slides relies on an internet connection. It integrates well with Google Docs and Google Sheets and offers advanced collaboration tools. Slides has continued to advance and adapt to multiple screen types and user needs.

Your first WorldCorp presentation is already scheduled: You will need to present *My Life in a Snapshot*. This presentation is slated to last for five minutes in front of your entire 25-person marketing team. It is designed as a formal introduction in which all new team members participate.

This page titled 6.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.1: Presentation and Design Essentials

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Understand why and when presentations are used in business
- Understand the importance of knowing your audience and defining your presentation goals
- Describe two essential qualities of good digital presentation design
- Create an appropriate plan for a presentation

Whether we are in front of an audience or in an online meeting, today's workers should know how to create digital presentations to help communicate their ideas to diverse and different types of audiences. Our starting point is learning how to create a digital presentation, or slideshow. Each slide can contain text, pictures, videos, bullet item lists, WordArt—just about anything.

WorldCorp uses presentations for sales, training, internal communication programs, and external communication within its ever-growing community. This is accomplished by using the power of words and imagery to engage audiences. Always keep in mind that the person who delivers a presentation is front and center to their audience. Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Slides are tools to help facilitate the presentation for the presenter—not a distraction that takes away from the presentation. This chapter will help you understand both elements (the person and the program) as you construct your first presentation at WorldCorp called *My Life in a Snapshot*.

Why and When Presentations Are Used in Business

WorldCorp is a large, expansive corporation with a vast community of stakeholders. Business presentations in numerous operational settings share information with internal stakeholders such as employees, managers, and executives. They also are used to communicate with external stakeholders, such as customers, vendors, shareholders, and the local community. The marketing team and public relations (PR) professionals are typically the ones responsible for communicating messages to external stakeholders. But whatever your title within an organization, you may be expected to know how to build and give presentations.

For example, an employee in the human resources (HR) department may be expected to design and present on topics, such as business ethics or sexual harassment training, that are mandatory for all employees. These presentations could be used multiple times to help educate the entire team by using multiple presenters. Or a presentation may show something fun, such as the end-of-the-year awards celebration. A presentation can have any number of purposes, uses, and audiences. Your first presentation as a member of the marketing team will help you make a strong first impression with your coworkers.

Presentations typically fall into one of several categories: to educate or train, to sell an idea, or simply to convey information to others. The size of your audience doesn't matter—even a one-on-one meeting may still necessitate the creation of a presentation. The location doesn't matter, either. Technology has provided ever-growing opportunities for communicating effectively and efficiently. Often, a Zoom call, sharing a laptop screen, or screen casting to a TV may be the perfect option to conduct a presentation.

Keep in mind that a business presentation could be the audience's first introduction to the topic. Audience members will expect the presentation to give them some information they can use to start their decision-making process.

As a new hire at WorldCorp, you need to craft a presentation to introduce yourself to the leadership in the marketing department as part of your training program. The *My Life in a Snapshot*, presentation poses a typical workplace presentation challenge: You have a limited amount of time to effectively express a complex topic. *My Life in a Snapshot* may feel like it takes longer than five minutes to fully explain. How can decades of information be condensed into such a narrow window of time? To achieve this, considering your audience's requests and their needs becomes front and center.

Understanding Your Audience and Purpose

When you are conducting a presentation, your purpose should not be what you want to do; instead, it is what you want your audience to do as a result of listening to what you expressed. Your audience will consist of twenty-five WorldCorp employees. Ask

yourself: What am I trying to convey? What is the best way to convey it to my audience? How will my presentation affect them? These are the questions you need to ask when developing a sense of purpose in a presentation.

You should also know how long your presentation should be. The recommended length will vary depending on the purpose and content of the presentation. In many cases, the length of your presentation is predefined. In that case, it will be up to you to maximize your use of limited time to cover everything you need to address. Planning, crafting, and practicing your presentation are all critical in ensuring the audience gets the most out of the available time.

Essentials of Good Digital Presentation Design

By following the best practices and helpful tips outlined here, you will be better able to craft effective digital presentations. Two important concepts to keep in mind are consistency and coherence. Consistency refers to the presentation having a uniform look and feel. You can achieve this by having a unified color scheme or a defined layout for each slide in the presentation. Coherence—how all the elements work together to communicate the intended purpose of the presentation—includes the slides and the presenters themselves. The purpose or key message of the presentation should be the focal point when creating a presentation. Keeping the purpose at the forefront will help with both consistency and coherence. Consistency and coherence work hand in hand when creating an effective presentation. These two concepts will be explained in more detail in the following sections.

Consistency as an Essential Design Quality

WorldCorp has developed a corporate-wide PowerPoint design template that makes it easy for team members to maintain consistent brand messaging. Most companies will have established templates and style guides for creating presentations. Consistency is the quality of always behaving or performing in a similar way, or of something always appearing or occurring in a similar way. Font styles, background color themes, and company logos are built into the brand to maintain consistent messaging. WorldCorp's corporate color is blue, as we saw in the previous chapters on creating document files. To be consistent with WorldCorp's brand image, we want the presentation template to follow that same color scheme. All the slides in the template will have a similar layout that includes the slide title and some visual elements with the blue WorldCorp branding. A consistently designed presentation would not use a different color scheme and layout for each slide. This would appear chaotic and unprofessional. Likewise, you would expect a consistently designed presentation to use similar font types and size on each slide. Figure 6.2 shows an example.

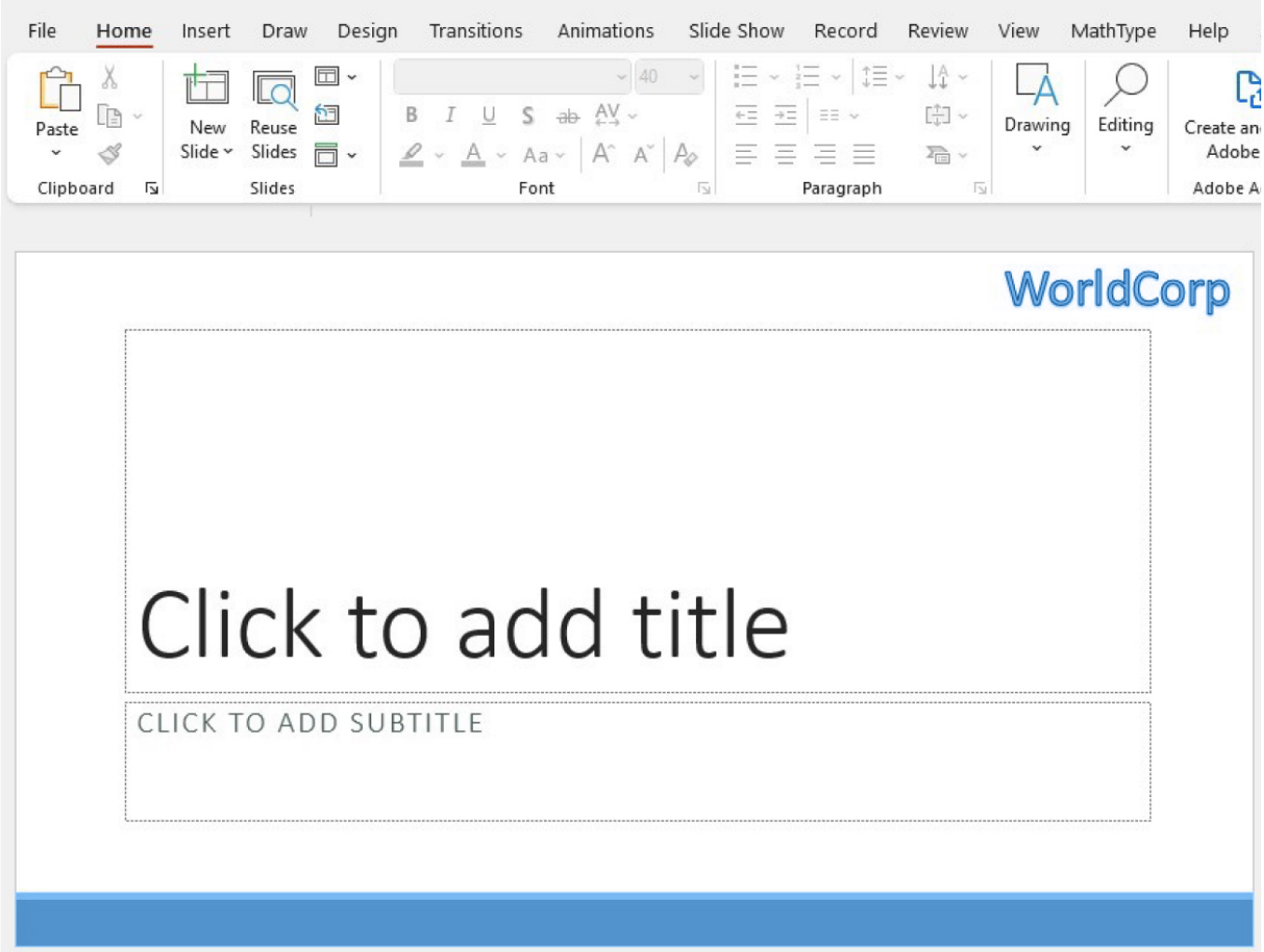


Figure 6.2: Presentations designed with consistency in mind align with the company's corporate brand, such as using the company logo and color scheme. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Coherence as an Essential Design Quality

In addition to slides needing to be consistent in design, the presentation must also be coherent. Each slide should have a logical reason for being a part of the entire slideshow and should connect to the overall purpose of the presentation. Good digital presentation design will enhance both the presenter and whom they represent. As you advance in creating digital presentations at WorldCorp, design will become part of your own messaging and branding of ideas. In designing a digital presentation, coherency refers to the smooth and logical flow of the slideshow while connecting to the overall message you want to convey. A coherent presentation includes elements and text that are connected to each other logically. For example, if a WorldCorp employee is presenting a quarterly sales recap for their team, a coherent presentation will be centered on sales data, include visuals and text related to sales goals, and maintain an overall professional and businesslike appearance.

The presenter should also be dressed in business attire, to match the goals of the presentation. See Figure 6.3 for a sample agenda slide for a coherent sales presentation.

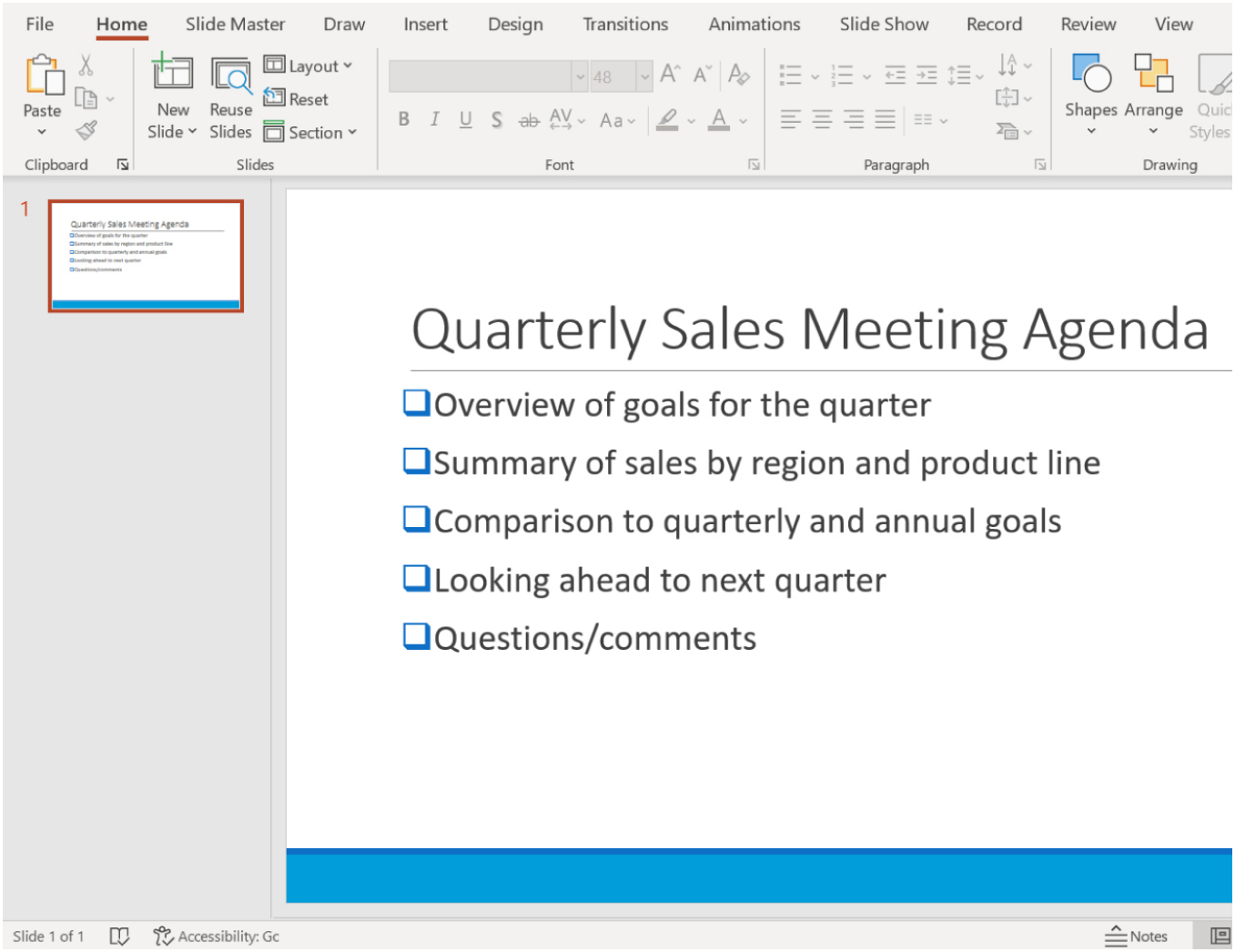


Figure 6.3: A coherent presentation will have a unified message that is focused on the purpose of the presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Create a Plan Before Getting Started

To create an effective presentation, you will need to become a storyteller. Start by thinking about how you want the presentation to unfold. As with dividing an essay into paragraphs, you will need to find an easy way to separate out the distinct topics in your presentation while also building a cohesive storyline that connects them. When you choose the ideas that you want to emphasize and the order in which you want to present them, you are building a plan. This plan will help much like developing an outline for a paper.

Before you begin designing the storyboard for *My Life in a Snapshot*, you will want to sketch out (either digitally or by hand) a general plan for the content of each topic. A plan can allow you to organize the content of your presentation in a visual and logical manner. It breaks down the presentation into individual slides and shows the flow and progression of information. This can help ensure that the presentation is clear and easy to follow and that all the important points are covered.

Link to Learning

One of the tools that can aid the process of developing stories with imagery is a storyboard. A storyboard divides the elements of a story into impactful moments, each with its own setting, characters, and storyline. Writers, directors, cartoonists—all sorts of creators use—storyboards.

Crafting a workplace presentation shares many of these storytelling best practices. Watch this video to view an example of storyboard creation and storytelling to see how storyboarding can aid in presentation design.

For this project, your outline will cover five topics. Each topic should be unique, with each section of your presentation clearly distinguished from the next. Let's revisit the example of the quarterly sales goals presentation that we discussed in this chapter's section on Coherence as an Essential Design Quality. The presenter wants the presentation to be informative about WorldCorp's sales performance last quarter, as well as help set the stage for next quarter's goals. One way to approach this is to remind the audience of the sales goals first. Then, present the sales results from this quarter. Next, talk about how the results connect to the overall company goals for the quarter or year. And then, finally, discuss how this quarter's performance can be used to set goals for the next quarter.

This linear method can be easily sketched out using the bulleted list tool in Microsoft Word or Google Docs that you learned about in previous chapters. You can then use this outline to create the slides for the presentation. Figure 6.4 shows an example of a presentation plan using a bulleted list.

You could create a similar outline for your *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation to help you plan out the slides and flow of the presentation.

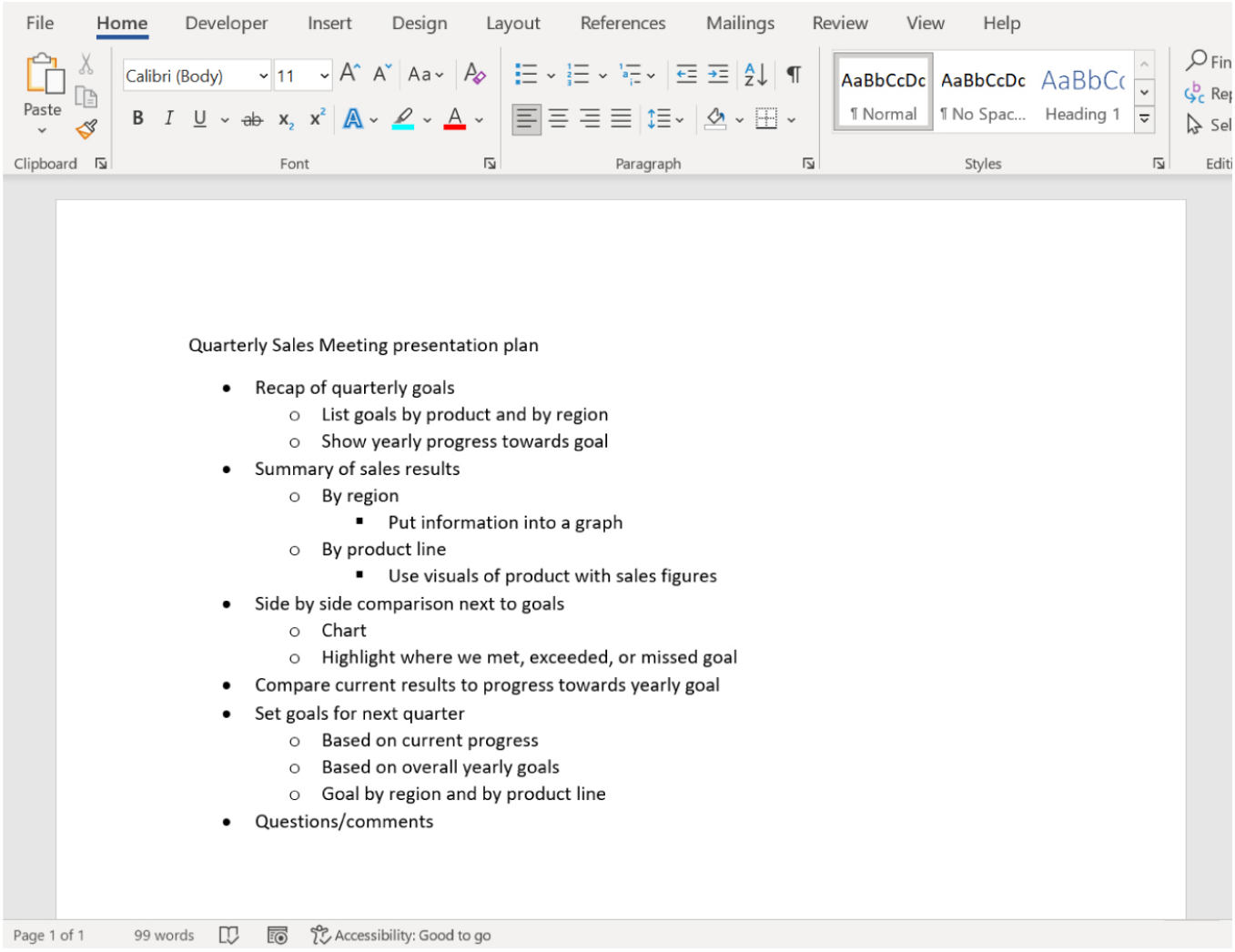


Figure 6.4: A good starting point for a presentation is to put together an outline of the key information you want to share. Each top-level bullet point could be its own slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Once you have your presentation planned out, you will need to revisit its length and whether your plan can be achieved within the amount of time that you have. Rather than rewriting the entire presentation, you can look at your presentation in terms of topics, and see which topics can be lengthened or shortened. For example, if you think your presentation will take twenty minutes but you have only ten minutes, start by considering whether you've devoted too much time to the introduction. You could also consider which details, examples, or other potentially extraneous information to remove to shorten other sections. Remember, you don't

need to cut an entire topic out of your presentation if you can shorten it instead. With time and practice, you will learn how to make fine adjustments to the different topics in your presentation.

This page titled 6.1: Presentation and Design Essentials is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.2: Designing a Presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create a new slideshow from a blank presentation
- Create a presentation from a theme or template
- Understand the functions of the Home tab
- Understand the functions of the Design tab
- Understand the functions of the View tab

At WorldCorp, Microsoft PowerPoint presentations are used company-wide for a variety of purposes, such as presenting quarterly sales data or providing training for new sales personnel. As part of the Microsoft 365 suite, PowerPoint has characteristics similar to those of other programs such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. PowerPoint is divided into various tabs, which appear across a ribbon that helps you organize your actions.

In general, creating a storyboard or outline of a presentation, as outlined in the previous section, is a great starting point, and this is the approach we will use to build *My Life in a Snapshot*. To get started, this section provides an overview of the PowerPoint program, with a review of several tabs within the ribbon that you will use to develop your first slideshow from scratch. As we start using the primary elements of PowerPoint, you will begin to develop an understanding of how the program works with examples to provide context.

The vast capabilities of PowerPoint enable WorldCorp employees to present complex ideas, facts, and figures in the form of easily digestible visuals. Allowing users to create visual representations of information on the blank canvas slides can allow viewers to interpret, engage with, and expound on what they're seeing.

Let's begin by using the blank canvas approach to crafting a presentation.

Getting Started

Open PowerPoint and choose a blank presentation (the first option). You should see a screen that looks like Figure 6.5, with an arrow highlighting the desired choice. If you want to open an existing presentation, select Open from the left sidebar and search for the file. Another option is to start with a PowerPoint template—a predesigned set of slides that you can use as a starting point for creating a new PowerPoint presentation. Templates include a defined layout and color scheme, and they often include sample text and images that you can replace with your own content. Using templates is a way to save time and ensure consistency in the design of your presentation. Like many organizations, WorldCorp has a preset template that is often used for external communications, such as presentations for clients. However, for the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation, you are not restricted to using the template, as this is an internal presentation and is more informal.

In this example, you will start with a blank presentation. After opening this blank document (by double-clicking on Blank Presentation), you should save it to your computer or to the cloud using a file name that is identifiable to the content of the presentation. As seen in Figure 6.5, select the Blank Presentation option on the Home screen indicated by the arrow.

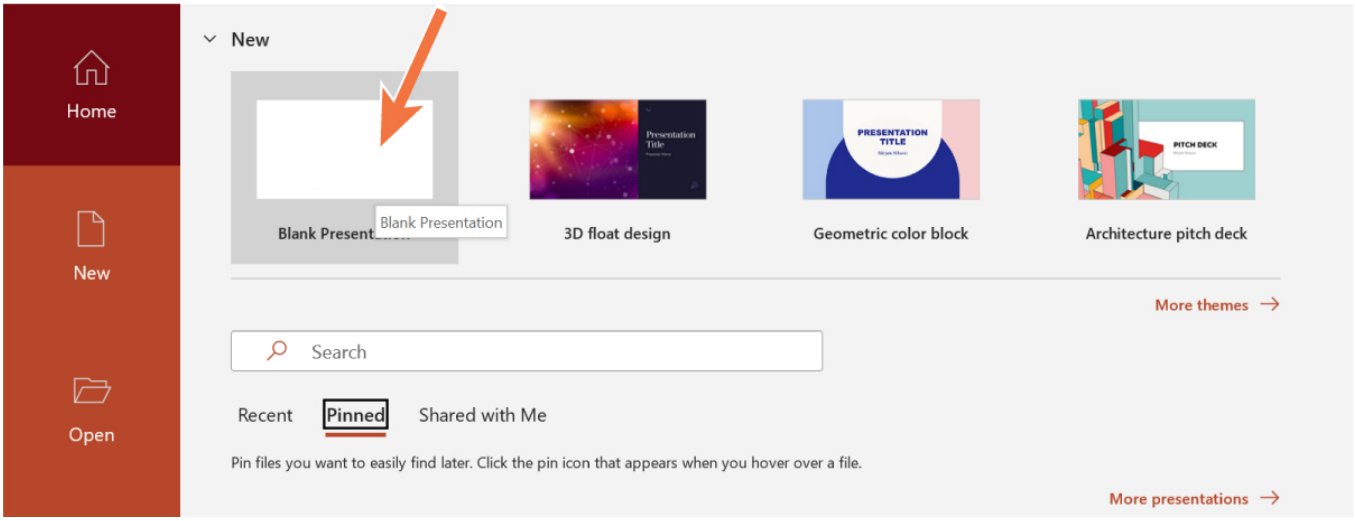


Figure 6.5: Choosing Blank Presentation in PowerPoint means you will start your presentation from scratch. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In a blank presentation, the initial slide PowerPoint provides is blank except for two placeholders: one for the title and one for the subtitle. When you choose a blank presentation, none of the design elements are defined in advance. The Title Slide layout that is provided by PowerPoint can quickly be altered. Most presentations should have a title. Additionally, the program opens to the Home tab found within the ribbon, as seen in Figure 6.6. Now, the blank canvas is ready for you to craft *My Life in a Snapshot* for your team at WorldCorp.

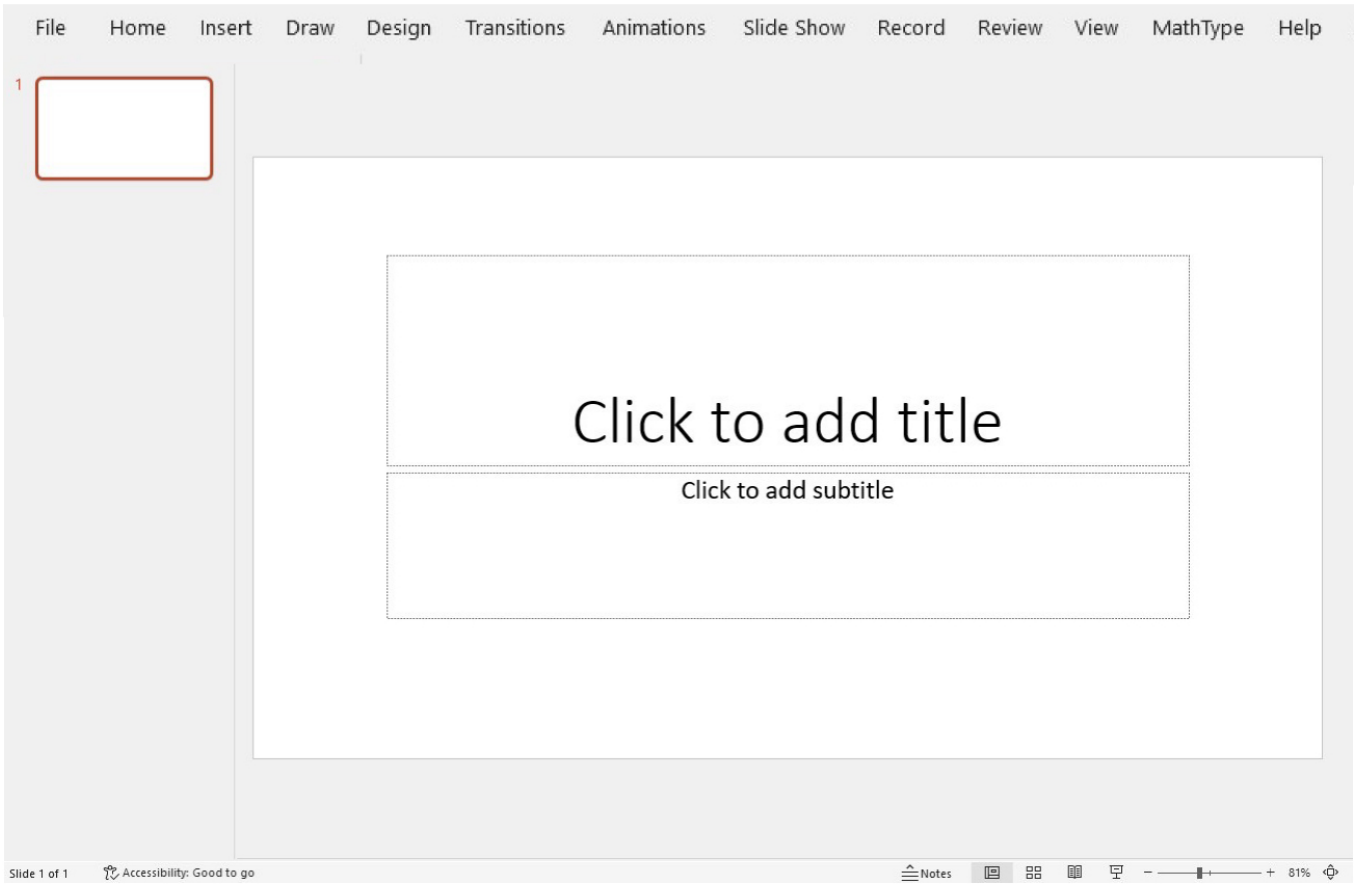


Figure 6.6: After selecting Blank Presentation, PowerPoint provides loose guidance on where to place a title and subtitle. You can delete these boxes if desired. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Creating a Presentation with Themes and Templates

Many companies tend to already have a theme developed for use with company presentations. A presentation's theme refers to the overall design and layout of the slides, including elements such as color scheme, font choices, and graphic elements. Themes are useful because they give you an easy way to create a consistent presentation by using preset fonts and color schemes. If you had chosen a theme instead of a blank presentation, the initial slide would show the same elements, but with the design features of the theme applied. A theme can also include predesigned slide layouts, which can be used to create a cohesive and consistent look throughout the presentation.

Within the New tab, as seen in Figure 6.7, selecting a theme allows the designer to set the tone and style of the presentation, which can help to engage the audience and convey the message more effectively. Themes can be either built-in or custom-made, depending on the software you are using. PowerPoint offers numerous themes that you can apply and search for in the search window.

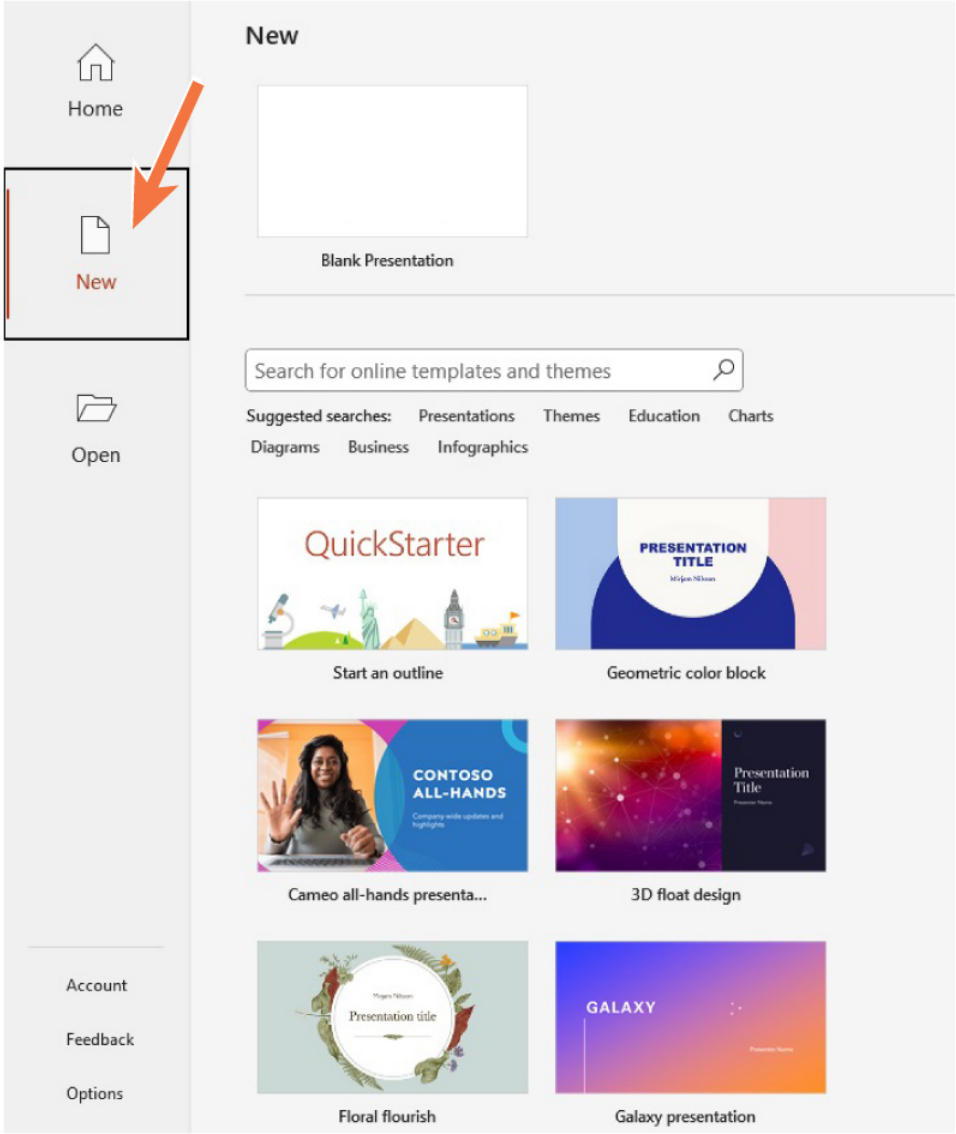


Figure 6.7: PowerPoint shows thumbnails of the different themes, allowing the user to get an idea of the style and color palette of each one before selecting the one they want. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another option that users have is to select a template instead of just a theme. Unlike a theme, a template is a blueprint of a group of slides that can help meet the topic of a presentation. Templates can contain layouts, fonts, colors, and background styles much like a theme. Much like a résumé template in Word, for instance, a template in PowerPoint prompts the user, suggesting sections and topics to include. As an example, a classic conference presentation might have a specific cadence and style. Slides will be arranged

to meet the needs of a conference with suggested slides and topics to include. Theme and template options are worth considering and searching for, especially if a theme matches the overall type of presentation you plan to create.

There are benefits to creating a PowerPoint presentation from a theme. First, this approach provides consistency. The program will offer multiple slides with various concepts, all using the same color pattern, style, and texture. A theme allows users to focus on the presentation message without distraction from differing designs, although it does not necessarily guarantee that they will understand the message. Additionally, starting with a theme ensures that all the slides in the presentation will have a professional aesthetic design and layout, making it look polished. Aesthetics is the study of how things look and how we perceive and respond to them. It can also refer to the overall look and feel of something—for example, the aesthetics of a website or a building.

PowerPoint themes often include a multitude of predesigned slide layouts, which can save time and effort in creating your presentation. You can click into the various text boxes or image boxes to provide the required content, copying the desired layouts that work best for you and deleting those that don't.

Real-World Application - Marketing Toolkits

Most companies now offer their internal stakeholders Marketing Toolkits to use. Marketing Toolkits provide users with the logos, color schemes, outlines, photo depositories, and ideas on what the company is looking for when designing marketing materials. Digital presentation information is almost always included in the toolkit.

With advances in cell phone technology and social media's growing presence in our lives, companies can now maximize their marketing reach by enlisting their entire workforce into marketing. By providing accessible content for creators and guidelines, any employee can now be a part of promoting their employer.

Not all employees will embrace a Marketing Toolkit. It is only as effective as leadership and the culture of the company allow. See if any companies you know have a Marketing Toolkit online. Does the company toolkit offer guidelines for PowerPoint presentations? Presentations to external stakeholders can be a valuable marketing opportunity.

The themes that PowerPoint provides can be customized to reinforce your company's image and message by matching the company's branding and style. The visual design and layout of themes can be chosen to convey the message or tone of the presentation in a more effective way, which can make it more engaging for the audience. These themes can also be easily modified to include different colors, fonts, and graphics, allowing you to personalize the presentation while still maintaining a consistent design.

Home Tab

Themes are helpful, but to learn PowerPoint more deeply, you will also need to learn how to create a presentation from scratch. Start by getting to know the Home tab. The tools found on the Home tab are used to create the general structure of the slideshow, as seen in Figure 6.8. As an introduction to this group of tools, we will review five key commands, which are circled in the figure: New Slide, Layout tab, the tools in the Font command group, the tools in the Paragraph command group, and Design Ideas.

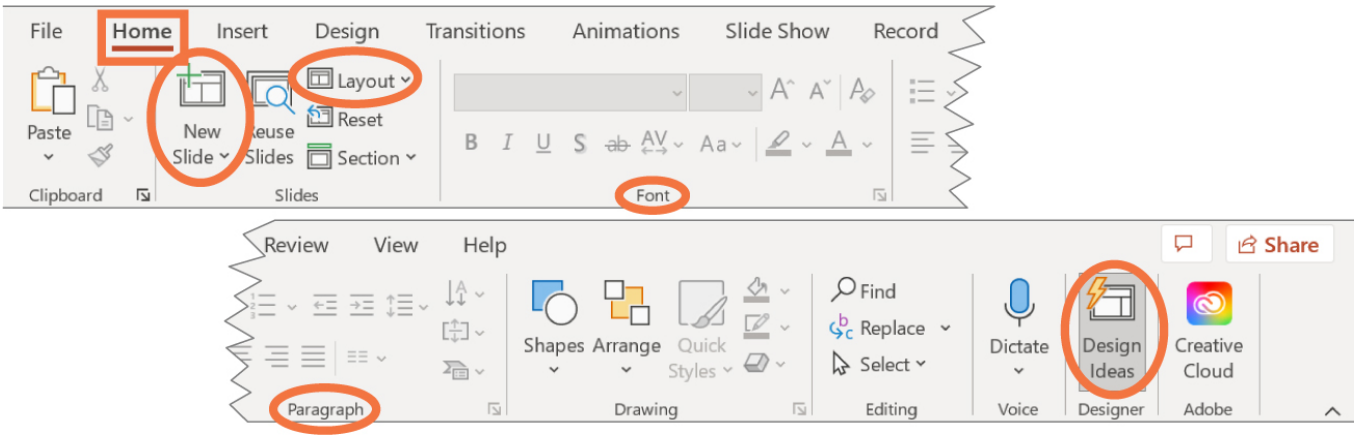


Figure 6.8: The Home tab houses five foundational commands in PowerPoint: New Slide, Layout, Font, Paragraph, and Design Ideas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using the outline laid out in Figure 6.9, you can create a slideshow from a blank document to present to the team. From here, you can see how a well-planned presentation of ideas can be created in the form of a PowerPoint slideshow.

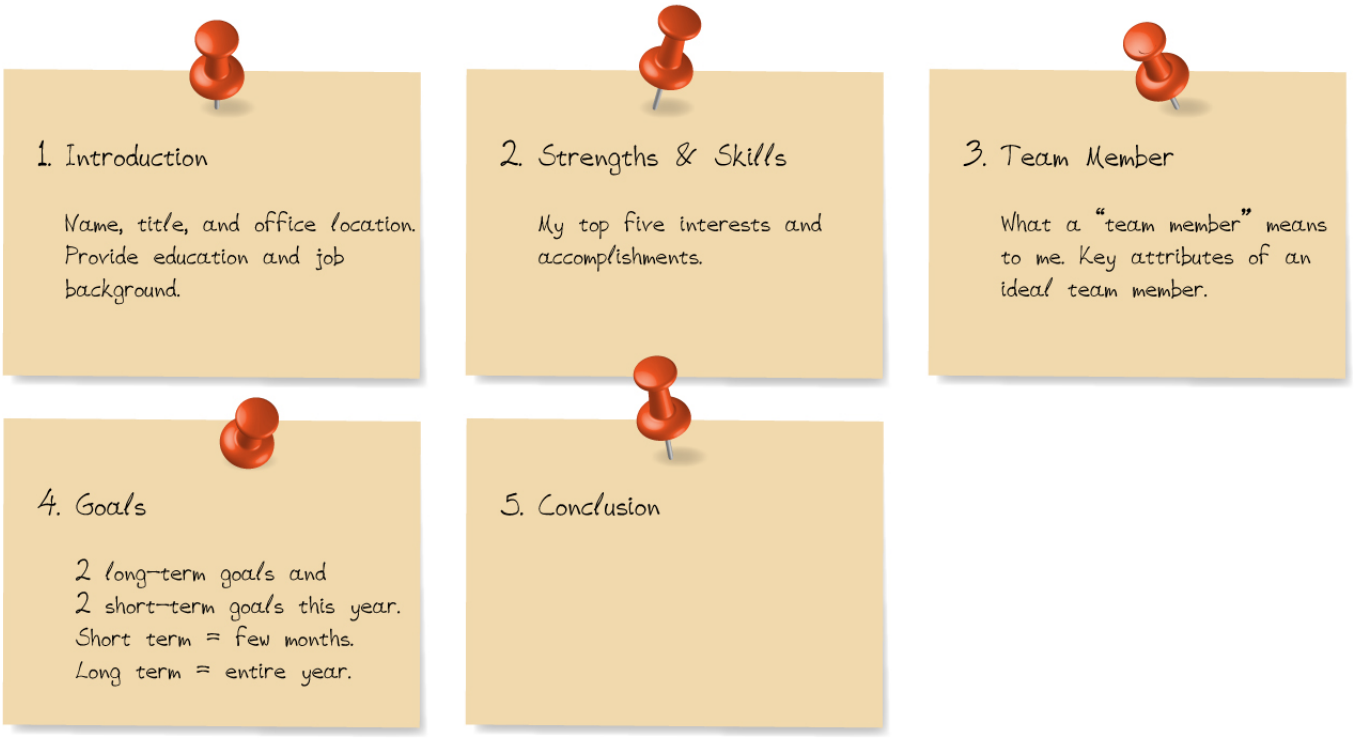


Figure 6.9: A storyboard works well to help plan out your presentation before you start designing the slides.

New Slide

Following the outline in Figure 6.9, the presentation requires five distinct groups of information arranged in numerical order with subtopics. In PowerPoint, you will want to add five slides, each of which will represent one of these groups. To do this, go to the New Slide command group and, with your mouse, select the green button on New Slide four times. (Reminder: PowerPoint provides the first slide by default.) Note that you can change the layout at any time after creating a slide. For this exercise, any layout will do to get started. The default layout provided is fine.

Once complete, there should be five slides listed in the thumbnail pane on the left side of the screen. (Figure 6.10 shows the first two of five.) You can then use the thumbnail feature to click in and out of individual slides as we develop and edit content that meets the storyboard criteria.

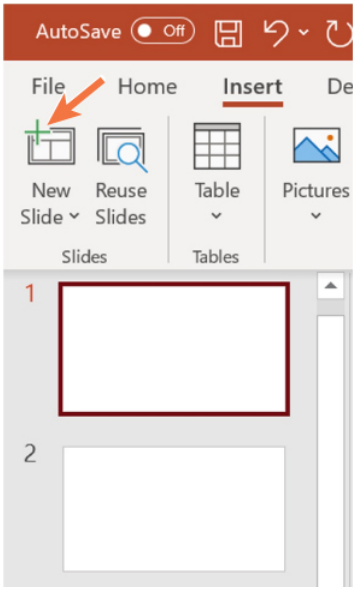


Figure 6.10: Your presentation screen should show five slides going down the left side. (The figure shows the first two.) (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that you have created five new slides, you can edit and format them. It's a good idea to use the same steps to edit and format each. For example, you might create a step called "adding text," ensuring that every slide that needs text will receive text. The first slide, which is similar to a cover page for the presentation, requires a standard title and subtitle, and these are provided by default.

Layout

The next command in the Home tab (see Figure 6.8) is Layout tab. When you open the drop-down menu in Layout, you will see that PowerPoint offers nine basic layout options, which are designed to provide variety, balance, and consistency to each presentation design. (One of the options is "blank." This layout gives you a blank, white canvas to build from, enabling you to design an infinite number of layouts.) For your WorldCorp presentation example, use the default layout Title Slide for the first slide. A title slide is a slide layout that provides space for a title and a subtitle. (Note that you are not using a template here.)

To add your content, click into each text box provided (it says "Click to add title" and "Click to add subtitle"). Start by typing "My Life in a Snapshot" in the first text box. In the second text box, type your name, followed by your title at WorldCorp and your geographic location, as seen in Figure 6.11.

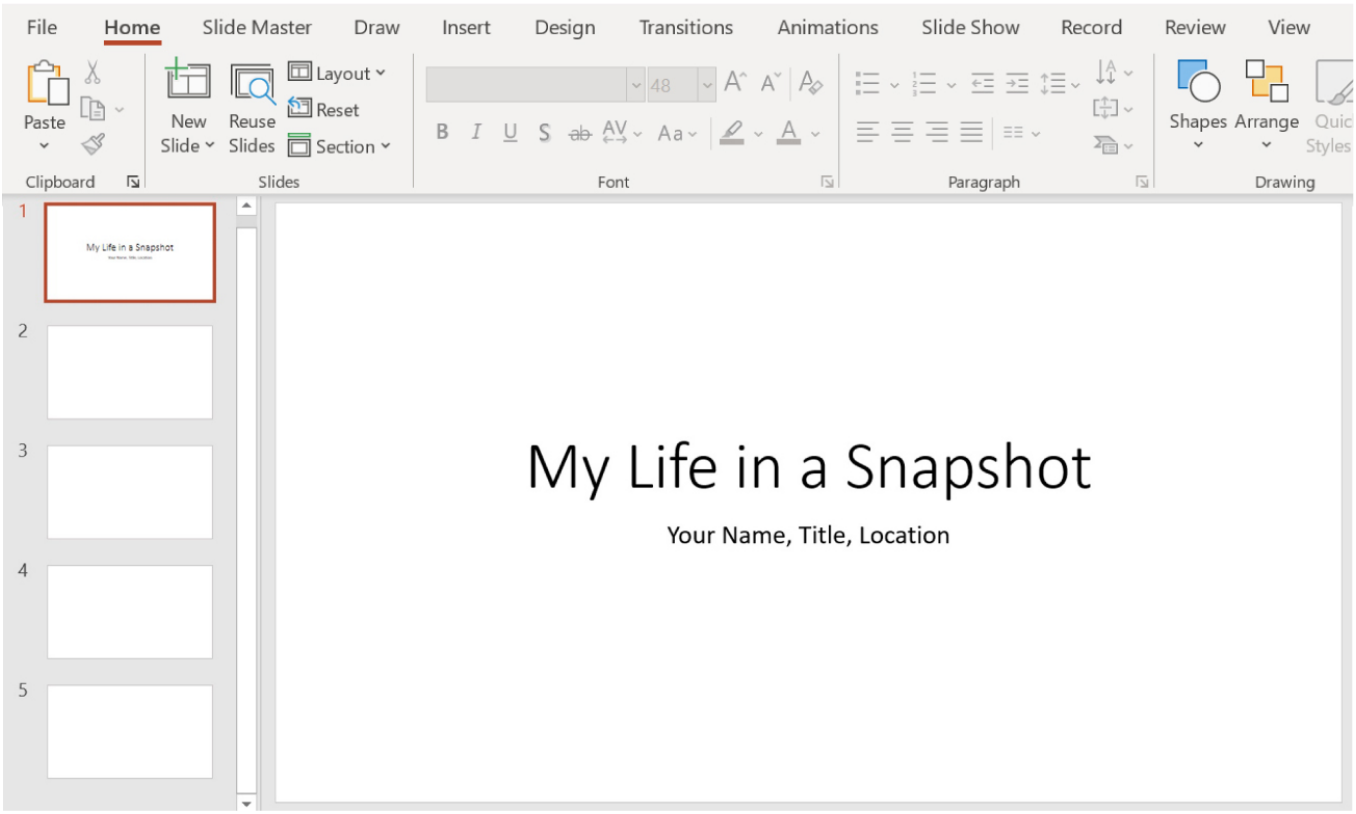


Figure 6.11: Slide number one is a title slide, with two lines for you to fill out. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next, in the thumbnail panel, select each slide and change the layout for the rest of the slides. Depending on the content of your presentation, it can be helpful to have different layouts on different slides. This presentation will use three different layouts to accommodate different types of information. Follow along by selecting each slide from the thumbnails, then selecting the Home tab, followed by selecting the layout option from the ribbon. You can choose to have information on the slide presented in a different way by changing the slide layout. For example, you could have two groupings of text side by side, as is shown in Figure 6.12, or have the content on the slide grouped all in one area. Make sure to change the layout setting so it accurately reflects the recommendations found in Figure 6.12.

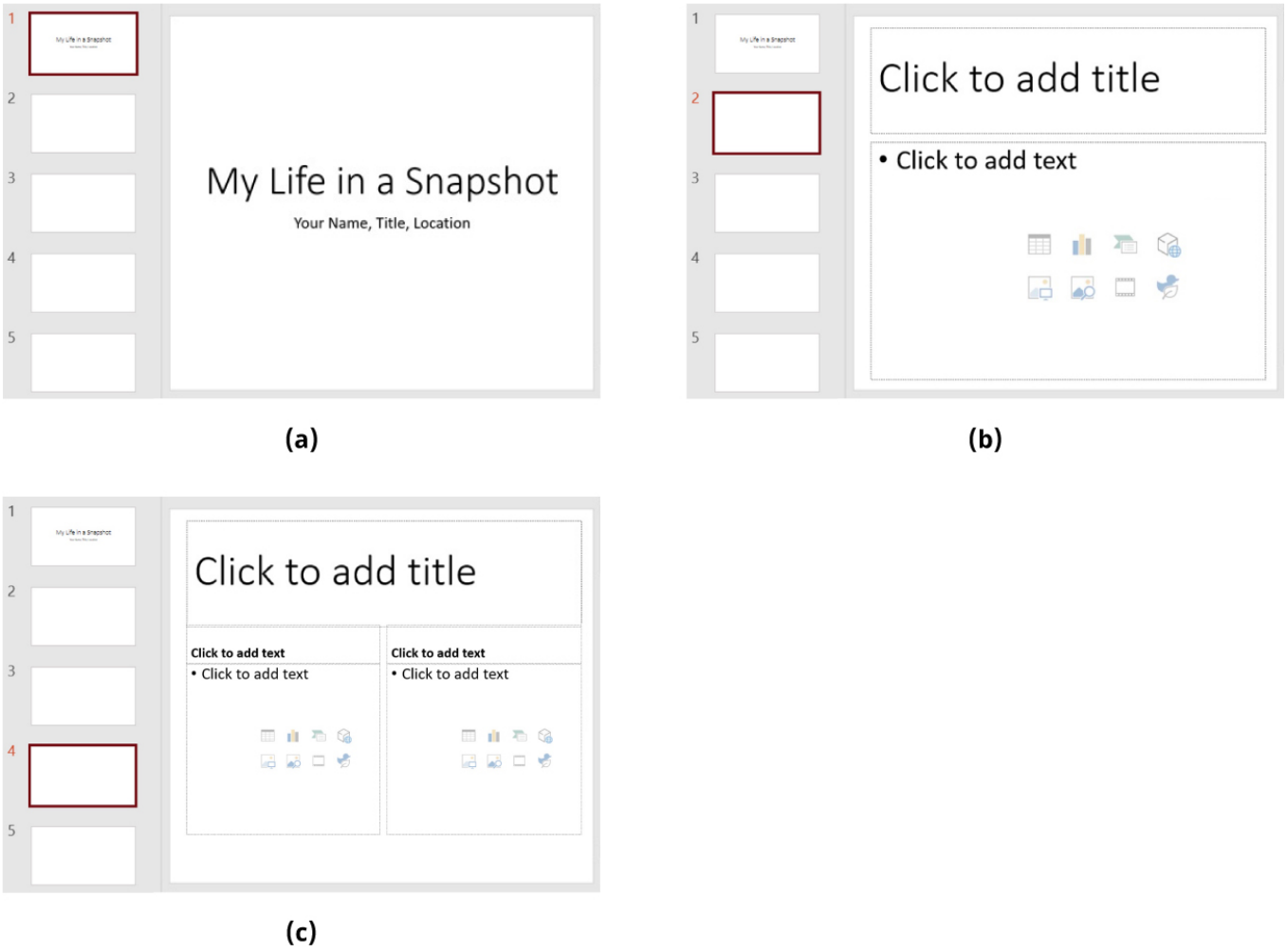


Figure 6.12: (a) The Title Slide layout has large text to display the title of your presentation. (b) One layout option is to have a title for the slide with one grouping of text under related to the title. (c) Yet another layout option is to put two groupings of text on the slide displayed side by side. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Font

Font choice plays a big role in PowerPoint presentations. Each letter, number, or symbol on a slide can be adjusted to a specific design. Using these options allows you to make your text more visually appealing. The process for selecting or changing a font is similar to the way you change a font's details in Word. In PowerPoint, however, you will often have much less text to manipulate than in a Word file, and the text is usually much larger so an audience can easily view the information from a distance.

When you change font characteristics, be sure to choose what will best meet the audience's needs. There are a few easy rules of thumb to follow when you create text for a presentation to a large audience. One of them is what's known as the seven-seven rule—that each slide should have no more than seven lines of text and each line of text should have no more than seven words. This will help prevent you from relying on punctuation or sentence structure to convey your message. When it's necessary to communicate via paragraphs of text, Word may be a better tool to distribute those types of communication either as handouts along with the presentation or in lieu of the presentation altogether. But, remember, this is only a rule of thumb. It is acceptable to deviate by a few words or lines based on the message and content of the presentation. The point is to keep the slides clear and simple and not to distract from the presenters themselves. Best practices can be a great help in keeping the audience front and center in your mind and staying focused on the purpose of your presentation.

Fill in the required text as displayed in Figure 6.13. As with changing the layouts, click on each thumbnail, select the required text box, change the font to meet your needs (including the type and color of the font), and adjust the font size as needed. Type the required information (this will be your chance to start explaining who you are to your team), and then make sure to review your

work for any errors. Take your time. Word choice can be a challenging task. Make sure that every slide is accounted for. Then, you're ready to move on to the next step of designing *My Life in a Snapshot*.

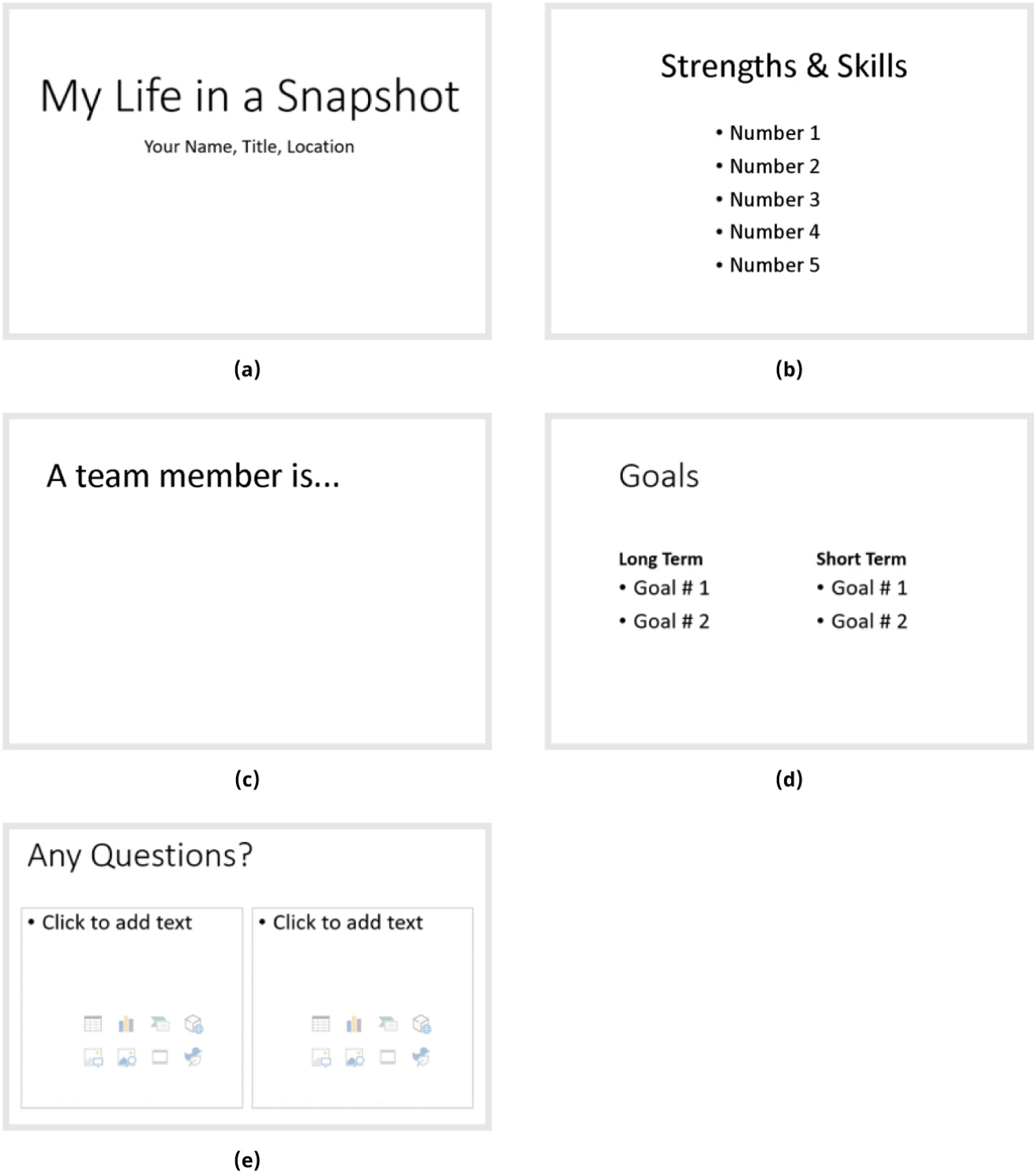


Figure 6.13: It can be helpful to choose a font style and size at the planning stage, even before your slides are final. Filling in the information in slides (a) through (e) will help you better visualize the presentation content from the audience's perspective. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

A variety of presentation styles are available, so be sure to take note of the things you like and dislike in the presentations you attend as you develop your own style preferences. Consider the contrast between the text and the background. How easy is it to

read the text while listening to a presenter? Does the text work both compressed on a laptop screen (as in a Zoom call) and displayed on a 176-inch projector screen designed for a room full of people? You will notice that the font size and choice are large and easy to read in this project. Later, as you explore the many available options, you are likely to find that the text font needs to match the theme of the presentation.

Next, consider the text. Is this the appropriate content to display? As an example, in Figure 6.14, you can compare the options for our closing slide choice. Is the use of a graphic image of a question mark the best option, or would a written question, as in the center image, be more effective? In some cases, a combination of pictures and text may work best. There is no perfect answer—PowerPoint gives you many options. But at some point, you will need to make decisions. No matter how creative the formatting of the text, a combination of content may be a better option when deciding what layout and kinds of content to use.

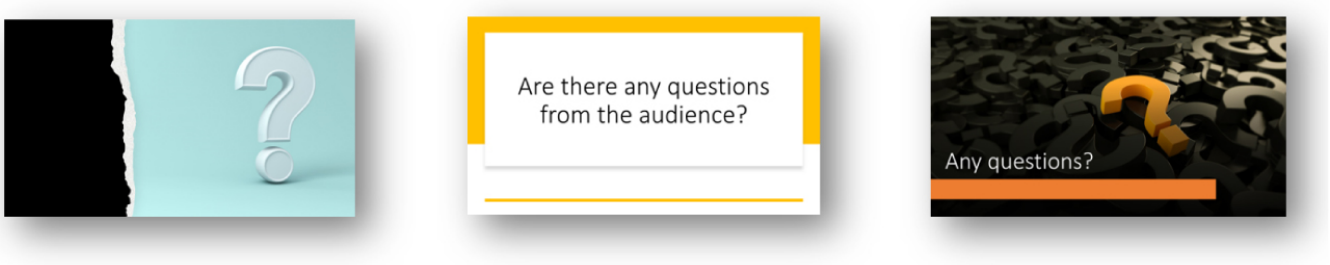


Figure 6.14: Different types of content on a slide—picture only, text only, or a combination of text and picture—can convey different messages to your audience. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Paragraph

Both the font and the paragraph options have functionality only when a text box has been selected. As with the paragraph options, Office offers a helpful array of choices for line spacing, adding bullets, numbering, aligning text, and adding or removing columns. If the default bullet points or line spacing options provided in the text box layouts are incorrect or missing, this can be a place to add or change the required element. You can make changes within a text box either by selecting the entire text box or by selecting only the location you want to change.

Design Ideas/Designer

The latest option group Microsoft has built into the newest PowerPoint versions is the Design Ideas tab (also called the Designer tab in different versions of PowerPoint). (Refer again to Figure 6.8.) This is an on/off button that provides advanced slide layouts and "smart" options when turned on. The Design Ideas feature increases the options available to you as the content creator of *My Life in a Snapshot*—or any presentation you may be called on to create.

Select the first slide in your presentation, which is typically the title slide, and type in the title of the presentation. As the title is added, you can see how quickly a few words can shape an entire slide. Turn on the Design Ideas option in the Home tab. You will notice several options to the right of the screen. These options are often unique to the words and layout you provide. In this step, select an option that fits your personality, and the transformation will occur. An example is provided in the comparison Figure 6.15 from an employee who started not too long ago in WorldCorp's South Asian Marketing division. The image on the left was the general text the WorldCorp team member typed into the default Title Slide layout. The image on the right is the option they chose that best matched their personality, which was created and offered by the designer in PowerPoint. Keep in mind that the Design Ideas option is available for only one slide at a time.

Because the Design Ideas option was turned on, it reviewed the text within the text boxes and considered several complete design options that could apply. Starting with a very limited bit of information, the Design Ideas option could add multimedia content (3D models, pictures, background themes); alter the text alignment, color, size, and formatting; change the layout; and create an entire theme representing the keywords on the page. It could even add simple animations, such as a snowflake background with snowflakes gently falling. Having these action components is like having an entire production team on call to quickly merge your ideas with existing collaborative content to make exquisite slides.

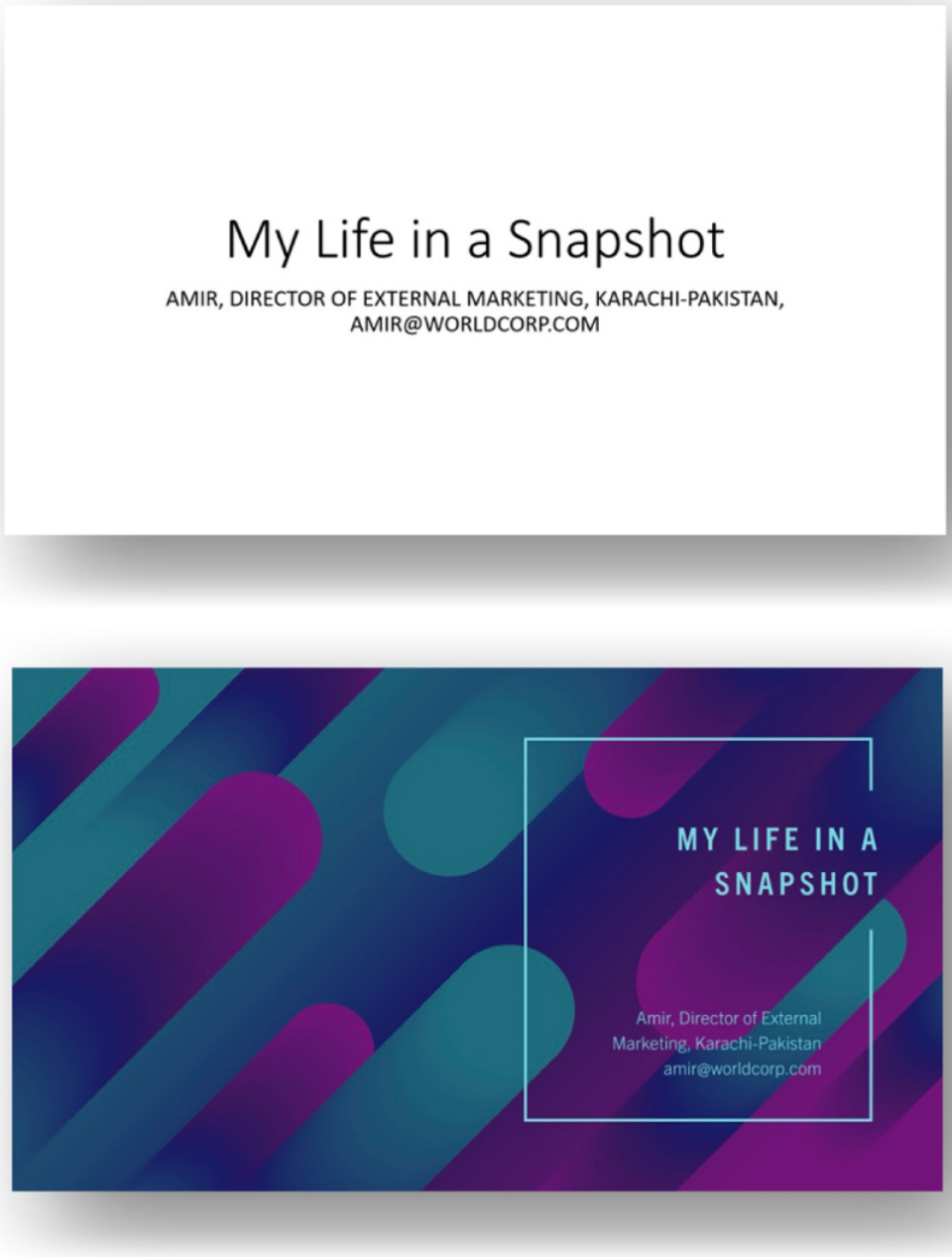


Figure 6.15: The Design Ideas feature can create themes and layout combinations based on your specific presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Design Tab

Instead of using the Design Ideas feature, you may want to design your PowerPoint yourself. The wide range of design options in PowerPoint allows you to change the overall look and feel of your presentation, quickly and easily. By using the built-in templates, color schemes, and slide layouts, you can transform the roughed-out text that you added earlier to polished, professional-looking presentation slides without spending much time and effort on design. (You will learn more about this process in the chapter on Giving Presentations). Rather than using the Design Ideas feature, which only formats a single slide at a time, the Design tab provides a collection of tools for altering color schemes and layout designs for all of the slides at once. For example, you could change your entire color palette with just a few clicks of the mouse, applying the design to all the slides according to their predefined layout. Additionally, the option to change the slide layout makes it easy to organize the information in a way that is easy for the audience to follow and understand.

In summary, the Design tab in PowerPoint will help to make the process of creating a presentation faster, easier, and more professional-looking, by allowing you to communicate your message in the best possible way for your audience. Building new content for presentations is like building anything else: To do a professional job, you need professional tools, and you need to know how to use them.

Now it's time to select the design and variation recommended in Figure 6.16. The first command group on the Design tab focuses on themes. Each theme is unique and modifiable. We have a particular theme we want you to use for the remainder of your slides. Hold down the Control key on your keyboard (Ctrl). With your mouse, select slides 2, 3, 4, and 5 from the thumbnails. Go to the top of the screen and choose the theme circled in Figure 6.16. The theme will be applied to only the slides you selected. Your uniquely designed title slide will remain. Remember to save your work. You will quickly notice how themes and variations can elevate your design.

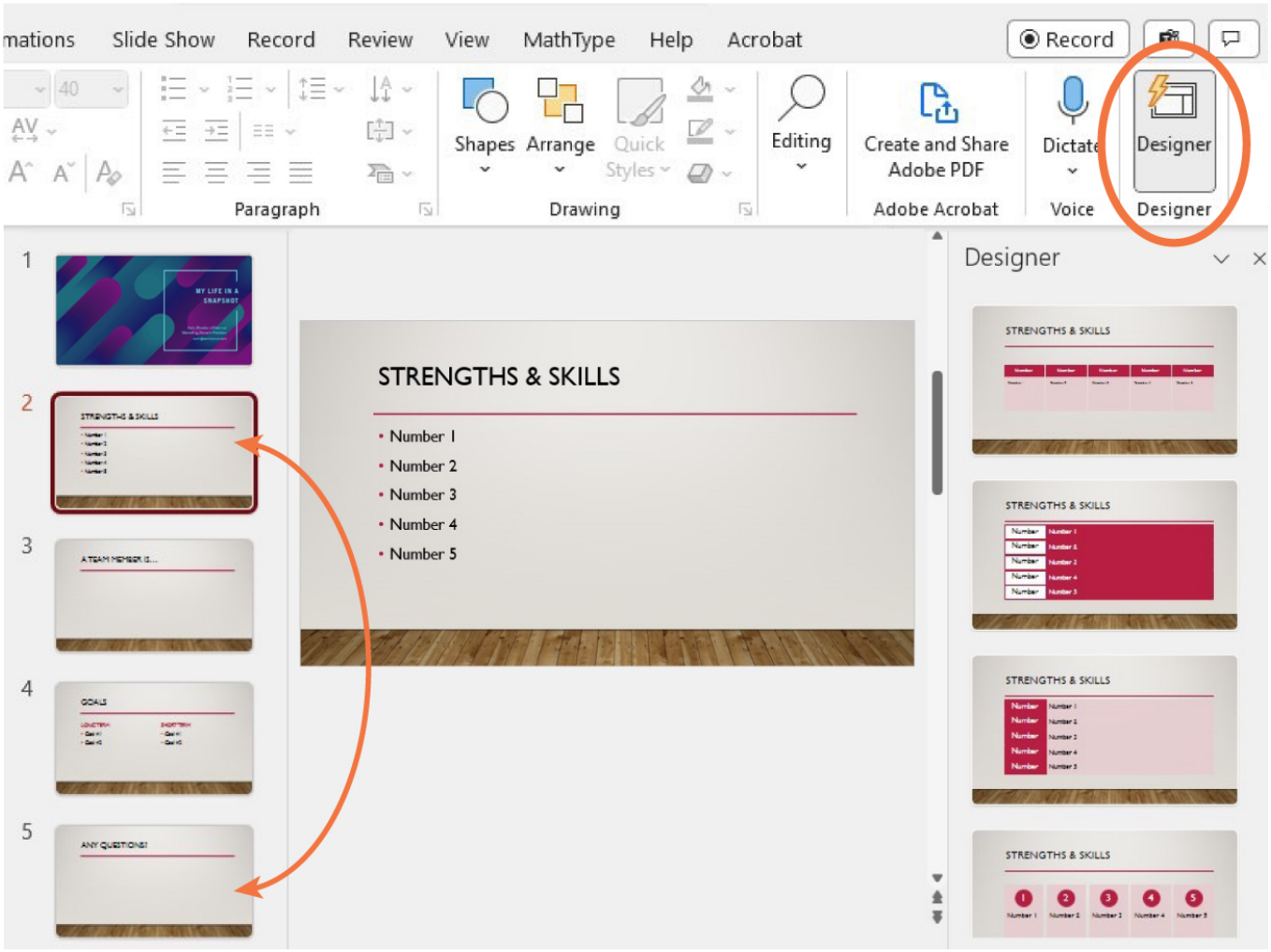


Figure 6.16: Selecting the Design tab and changing the theme and variation of the slides that were selected (slides 2–5) allows the title slide to be different but brings consistency to the remaining slides. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For more ideas, you can turn to the Design Ideas pane at the right of the slide area, as shown in Figure 6.16. (Note that in this figure, the Design Ideas option is called Designer.) For even more ideas, click on See More Design Ideas at the bottom of the pane. This can be accomplished by selecting a particular slide. On the ribbon on the Design tab, the Designer/Design Ideas option will illuminate on the far-right side. Click on the icon and then scroll down, and you can click again on See More Design Ideas. If you have Microsoft 365, your app will be updated as designers add new themes.

The next command group on the Design tab is titled Variants. Variants are essentially modifications you can make within a single theme. These provide a way to add a different overall look. This group initially displays four different color schemes to use with your theme. It lets you change the color combinations, font, or background, or add special effects. For every theme you choose, you

can alter the color scheme and font combination (title and regular text). Make sure in your slideshow for *My Life in a Snapshot* that you have selected both the theme and the corresponding variation of the theme.

Figure 6.17 displays other variant settings that you can customize, including fonts, effects, and background styles. These options can be accessed in the Design tab, within the Variants ribbon, using the down arrow option. Colors, Fonts, Effects, and Background Styles all become options with a multitude of choices.

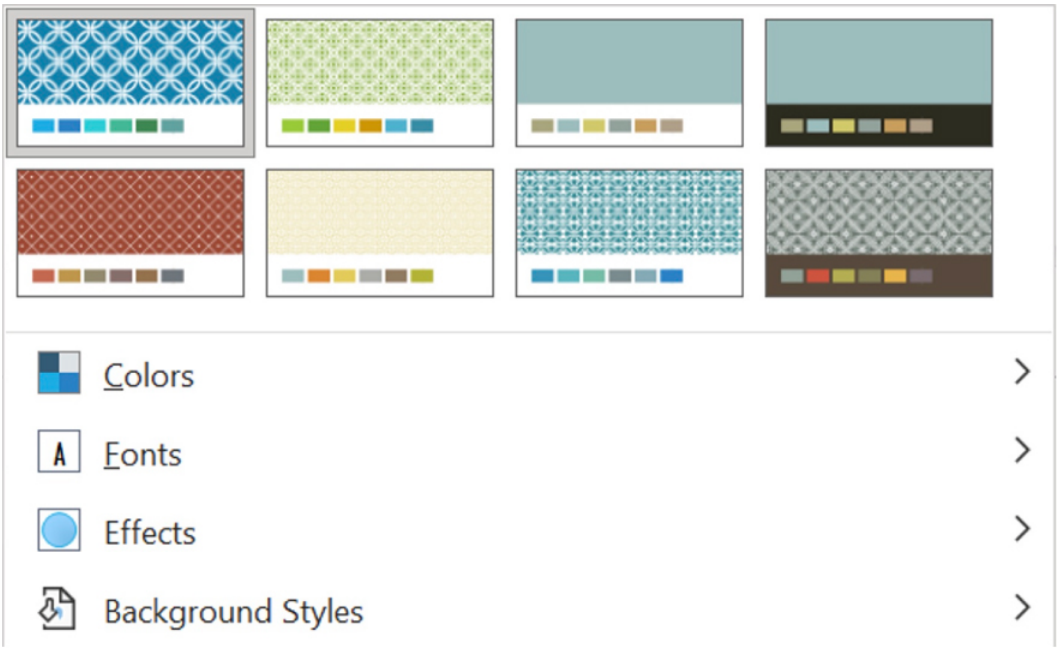


Figure 6.17: These are the options offered in the Variants command group. Think of them as "variations on a theme," or a deeper level of control over your design. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Selecting the arrow to the right for Colors extends a drop-down list that displays many preset color scheme possibilities, plus a Customize Colors option that allows you to change all of the colors in a scheme. The Font variant lets you pick different fonts for title text and body text. The Effects variant, or Artistic Effects, applies a graphic effect or filter to your slides, such as making them look like a sketch or a painting. Effects can be applied to a single slide or to all slides within the presentation.

The last command group on the Design tab is Customize, which gives options to change the slide size and format the background appearance. You won't need to use this option for your first presentation, but it is a helpful tool to learn for your future presentations. The slide size command offers two principal choices of aspect ratio, which is the relationship of the slide's width to its height: standard (compatible with older screen sizes), with an aspect ratio of 4:3, and widescreen (for today's HD environment), with an aspect ratio of 16:9 (Figure 6.18).

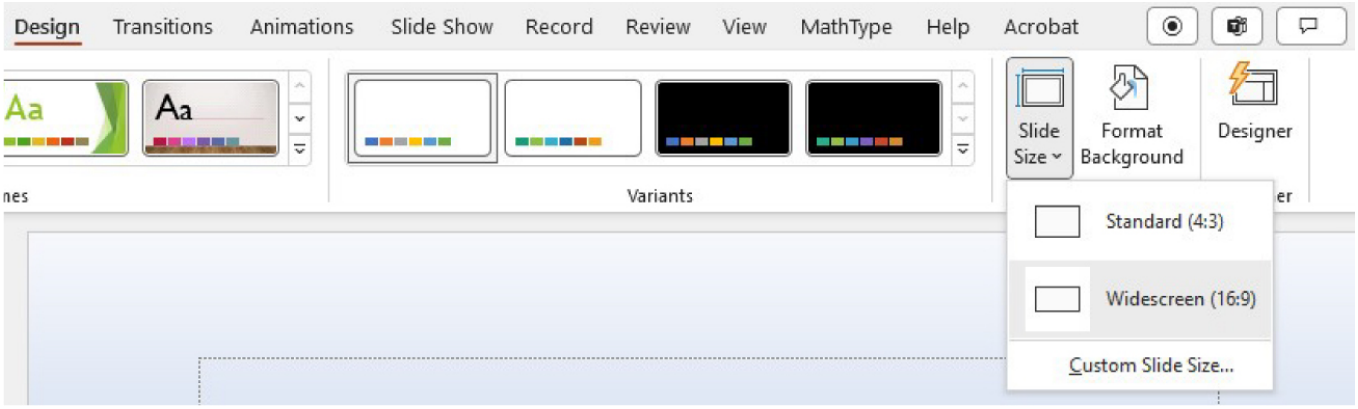


Figure 6.18: Changing the aspect ratio will apply to your whole presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Also found in the Customize group of commands is the Format Background command. Click on it and you will see the menu as shown in Figure 6.19. This command lets you change the background of a slide by changing the fill to a solid color, gradient fill,

pattern fill, and so on. Select fill and then hover over each of the circles to see the available color and background options.

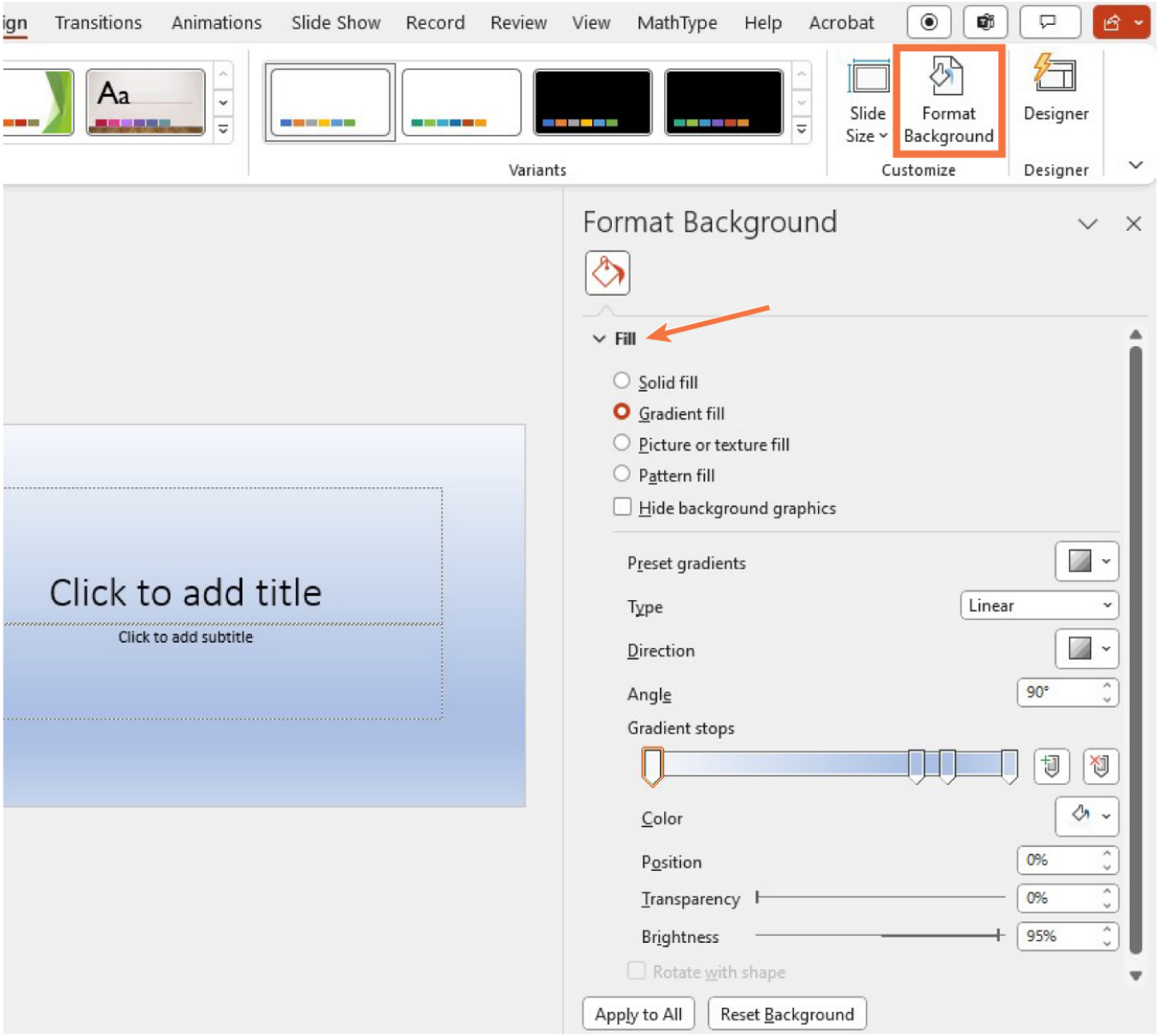


Figure 6.19: This customized background makes use of a gradient fill. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Format Background contains all the options for changing the background: Solid fill, Gradient fill, Picture or texture fill, and Pattern fill. Each option has its own set of elements to adjust. Solid fill is just that—choose a solid color for your background. Gradient fill lets you choose the way the color is spread across the slide, the intensity or transparency of the color, and the shape the background effect follows as it moves across the slide. Finally, you can fill the background with a pattern or a photo.

There are many ways to customize a theme to meet your specific needs. Different color combinations, fonts, effects, and background styles are all elements you can use to customize your presentation. Even small changes may be transformative.

View Tab

The next tab to review is the View tab. To have a basic understanding of PowerPoint, you will need to know the general purpose of several view options. Within the View ribbon, there are seven command groups. The first three are circled in Figure 6.20, starting with Presentation Views.

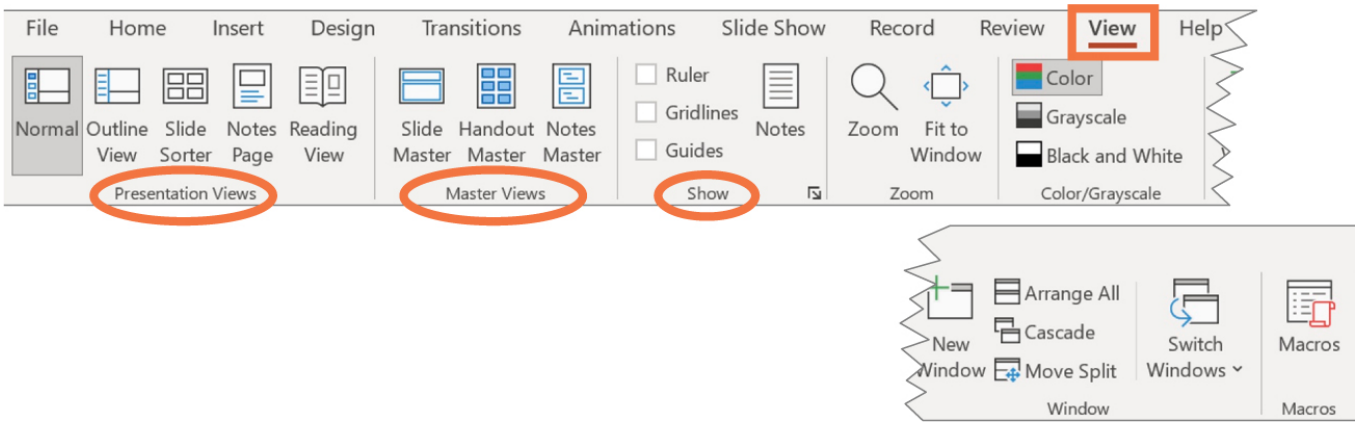


Figure 6.20: PowerPoint has many different options for viewing your presentation, from both viewer and behind-the-scenes perspectives. You can zoom in on areas, enlarge the screen entirely, view the elements in different colors, and arrange the windows so you can click through them more easily. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When creating slides, you will typically work with the Normal View, the default view that PowerPoint opens within a new presentation (Figure 6.21). The large window shows the current slide, and the other slides are shown as thumbnails down the left side of the window. The large window gives you plenty of room to focus on developing content and layout for each slide while you can also jump in and out of each slide through the thumbnails.

Outline View shows a list of the slides on the left, highlighting the text rather than the actual slides as pictures. In Outline View, you can scroll through the text of each slide rather than having to jump in and out of individual slides. This can be a great aid when reviewing or organizing text, as seen in Figure 6.22. (You may have noticed that we changed our title slide to match the theme of the rest of the slides. Now the presentation has a more consistent design.)

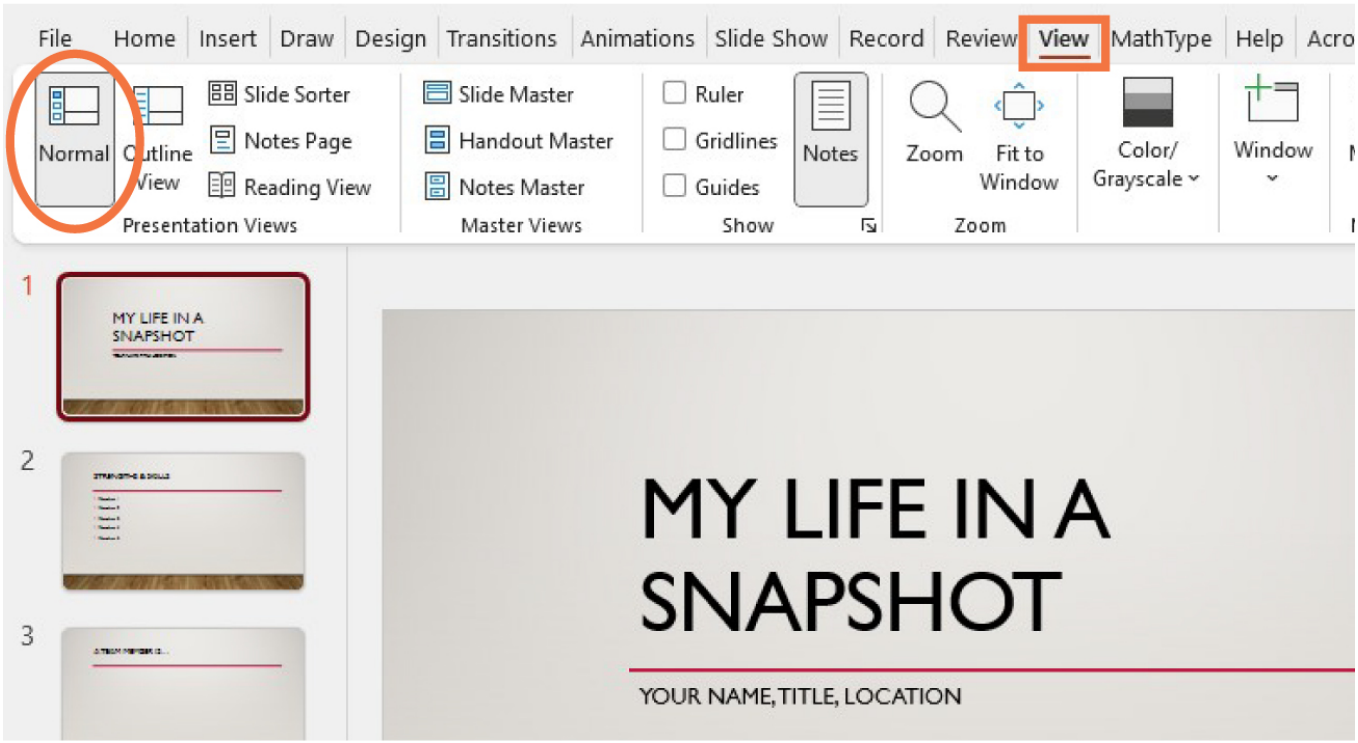


Figure 6.21: In Normal view, you can see thumbnails of your presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

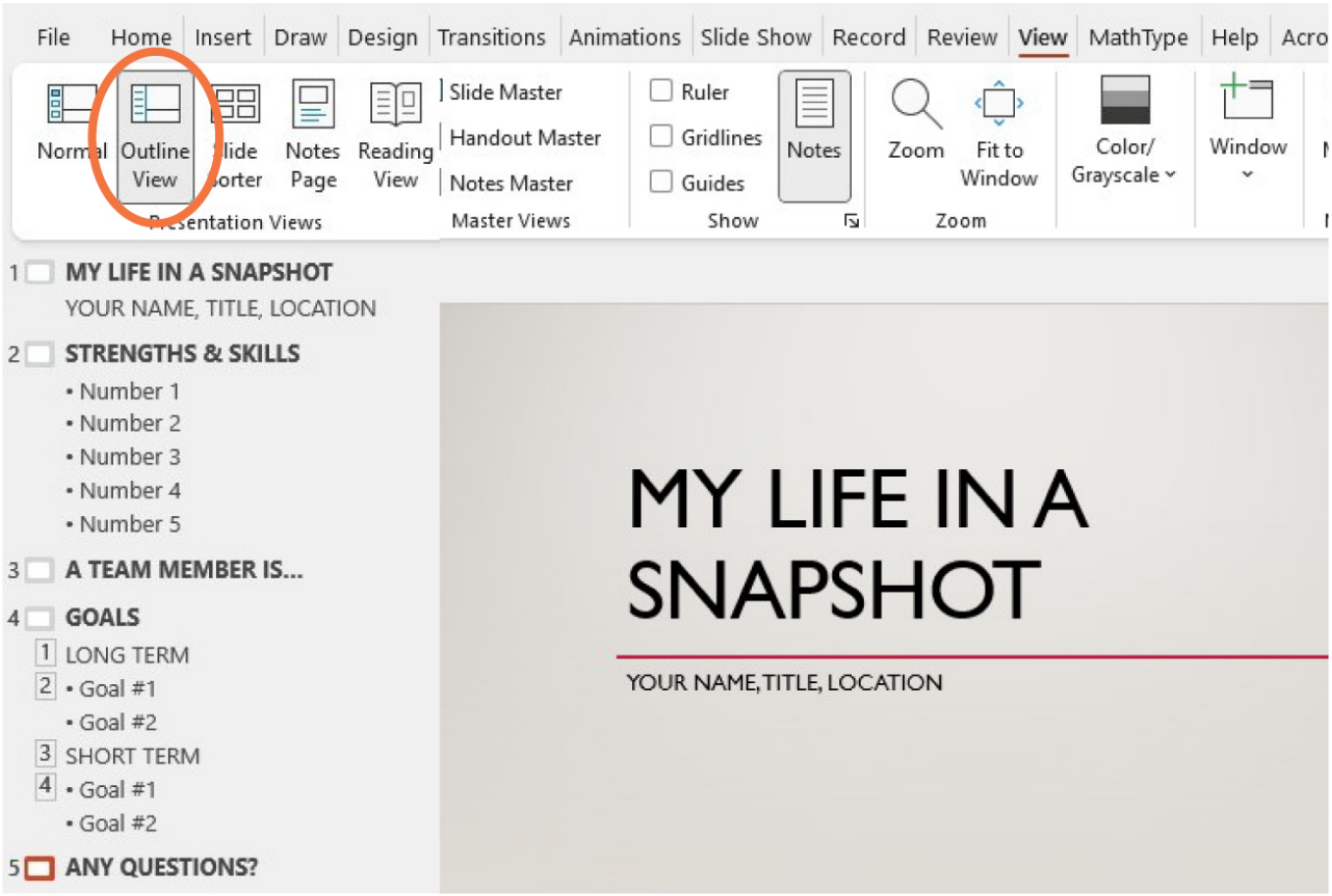


Figure 6.22: In contrast, Outline View only shows an outline of the text on the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Slide Sorter is an option that lays out slides in order, allowing you to move them around with a drag-and-drop of the mouse. This view is useful when you want to add or delete a slide or change their order.

For example, suppose a team member creates a photo album to introduce themselves, with each slide consisting of a single photo. If they select thirty photos, creating an album with thirty slides, Slide Sorter View can help them edit the album by adding or deleting a photo and by arranging the photos in the desired order. In *My Life in a Snapshot*, with only five slides to edit, this view would be overkill. But with a larger presentation with many more slides, a Slide Sorter View can be a helpful option.

Notes view (or Notes Page) displays a single slide with the notes below the text or image. These notes are typically designed for the speaker. They may be reminders, citations, or any various notes that the presenter wants to have at their fingertips. This can be handy when a user wants to add or edit a large amount of text. If, for example, they have a lot of text on a slide but are not sure yet which words might be best to highlight for the audience, this area of notes can provide a collection place for content.

The Reading View displays slides one at a time, as they would appear in a slideshow. Utilizing the View option allows you to take any one of the five slides and adjust the size of text boxes and change alignments—all while seeing most of the screen.

The Master Views option group may be a bit advanced for this introductory review, but we will provide a brief example. Within this group, the Slide Master is simply a template of the slide, breaking apart the individual components of the slide layout. This is a time-saving method for creating professional and consistent presentations. You can start with one of the PowerPoint themes or a blank slide, add or change the colors, add borders, change the font, and change or create a layout of your own. You can insert text boxes and object placeholders. When you do this on a master slide, you create a template that unifies the slides in a slideshow. When you have completed a slide that you want to keep as a master slide, select File, Save As, choose a location, and, in file type, choose PowerPoint Template. This is now a Master Slide template that you can use repeatedly.

Handouts Master and Notes Master are specialized viewing modes for specific tasks. The Handouts Master options allow developers to create a template for the PowerPoint printed handout for audience members. Slides can be arranged; titles, dates, and

notes can be laid out. Within the Notes Master option group, the view of the slides and printable notes can be arranged as you desire.

This page titled 6.2: Designing a Presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.3: Formatting Microsoft PowerPoint Slides- Layout and Design Principles

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Format the layout of each slide
- Understand best practices in design principles

It's time to transform the five slides from *My Life in a Snapshot* by manipulating the layout and adding options. Formatting the layout of each slide in Microsoft PowerPoint is the process of adding, subtracting, and/or adjusting the arrangement of elements such as text, images, and shapes on a slide. You may want to format the layout of a slide in PowerPoint to make it more visually appealing and effective for your audience. PowerPoint includes many options for altering the layout of the slide. The slide layout can be changed by using the tool on the Home tab in the Slides command group. From the Home tab, select Layout tab from the Slides command group. Here, you will see a listing and image of the layout options.

We have used three types of layouts in *My Life in a Snapshot*. Here are some commonly used slide layouts:

- Title Slide: This layout includes a title and subtitle and is typically used for the first slide of a presentation.
- Title and Content: This layout includes a title, subtitle, and one or two content boxes that you can use for text or media. This layout is typically used to give an overview of the presentation and the main topics to be covered.
- Comparison: This layout includes two content boxes, which can be used to present different types of information, such as text and images, or to compare and contrast two pieces of information.
- Section Header: This layout is used to create a slide that can be used as a header for a section of a presentation. It typically includes a title and subtitle, with a distinctive design.
- Content with Caption: This layout includes a content box and a caption box, which can be used to present a single image or other media and provide additional information about it.

These common PowerPoint slide layouts can help you create a clear and effective presentation structure. You can add, remove, or customize placeholders as you need, as well as use combinations of these layouts to create a unique, personalized presentation. PowerPoint also offers a variety of built-in slide layouts that you can use to create different types of slides.

Formatting Layout

When you design your slide layouts, arranging text boxes and other objects becomes key in making sure they are positioned in an effective manner. In this section, we will review the Alignment Guides option within the View tab and discuss the numerous built-in layout designs that PowerPoint can offer.

Alignment Guides

As stated previously, getting things to look exactly how you want them to appear next to each other is crucial to maximizing the design power of PowerPoint. But it can be difficult to align objects with other objects on a single slide, or objects with text, using only your mouse. Under the View tab, you will find a helpful alignment tool that you can access by checking the Guides box. When this box is checked, there will be two dashed lines on the presentation slide, one centered vertically and the other centered horizontally.

When you hover your mouse over one of these lines while holding down the Ctrl key, the cursor turns into a double line with arrows. Drag the line to where you want one guideline to be and let go of the mouse. When you do this, another line is created.

Mac Tip

Hold down the Option key, not the Ctrl key, to turn your cursor into a double line with arrows.

You can continue to add guidelines anywhere on your slide to insert and align objects, text boxes, photos, and so forth. (In the section on Adding Visuals and Features to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides, we will cover inserting objects and images.) See Figure

6.23 for a visual example of what the guides look like after adding them to a slide. (If you see that the Guides box is checked but no lines are apparent, just uncheck it and check it again. That will usually bring the guides back into view.)

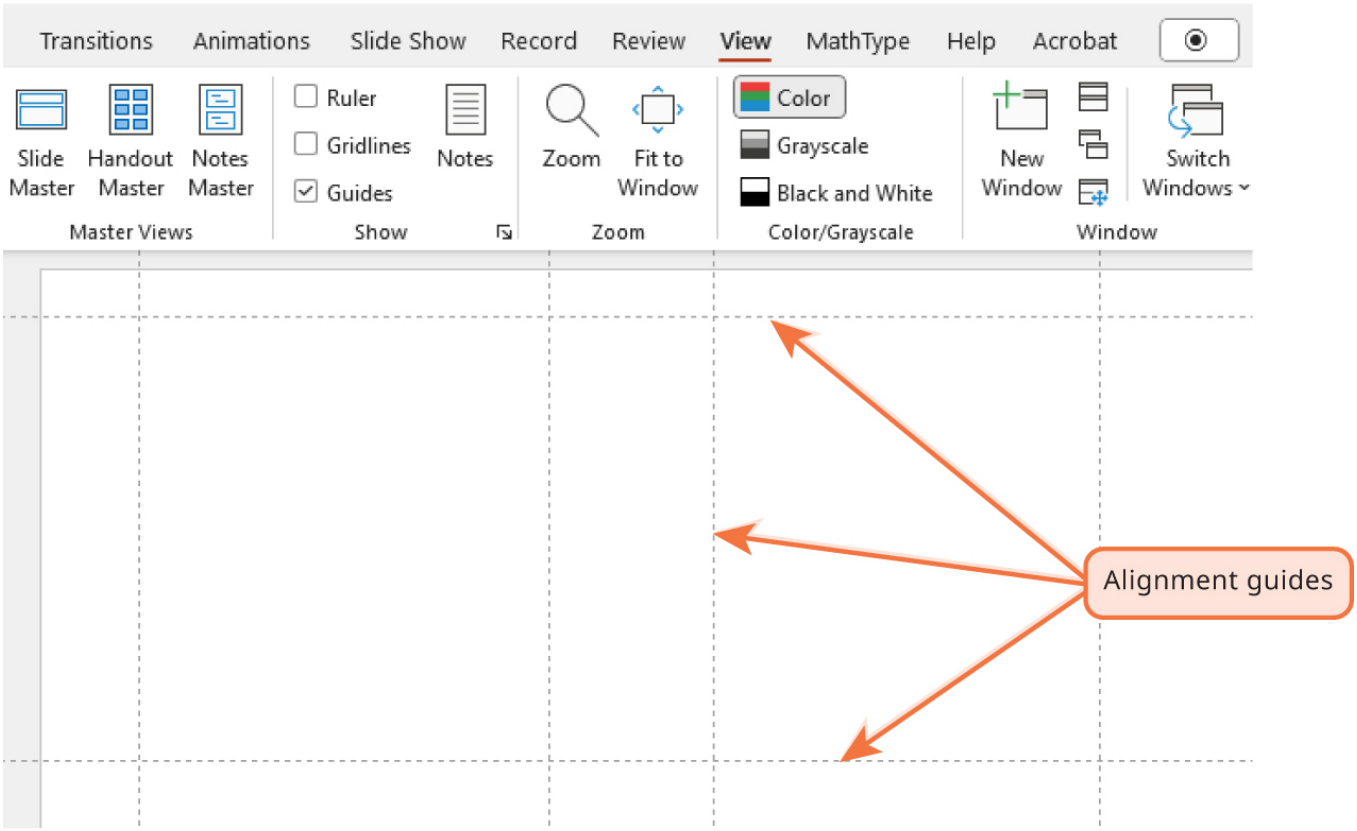


Figure 6.23: The lightly colored dashed lines set off a narrow margin around the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Not every presentation has to be delivered by a person. There are many reasons why creating a self-running presentation is valuable. Many companies will design a presentation that can be left unattended in a booth or kiosk, at a trade show or convention, or saved as a video and sent to a client list. A self-running presentation can also help address time-related constraints. Read Microsoft's steps for creating a self-running slideshow in PowerPoint to learn more.

Design Principles

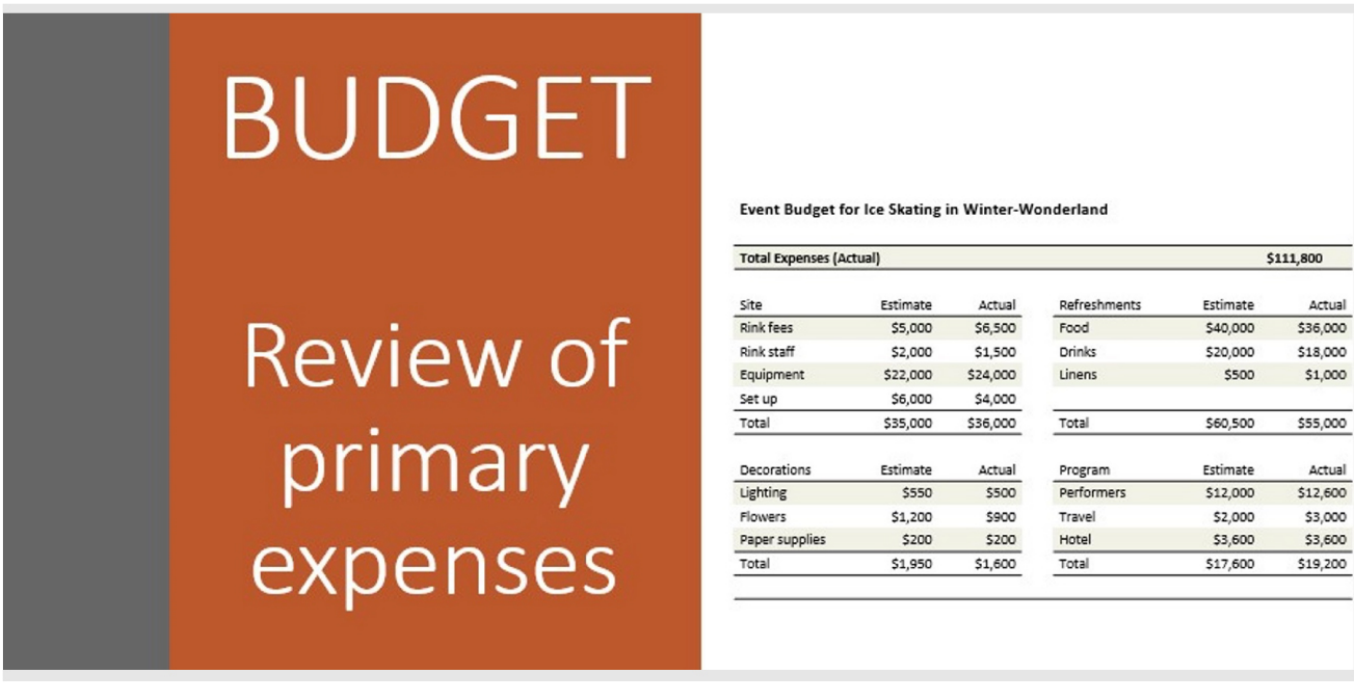
In this section, you will learn about some basic design principles that are best practices for designing your own slides or choosing a theme for your presentation. You'll find out how to use proximity, alignment, repetition, contrast, and white space to make your design elements stand out.

Proximity

In photography, proximity refers to *nearness*—the distance between the camera and the subject being photographed. In the context of PowerPoint, it refers to the distance between the audience and the subject matter being presented. You can control the relative proximity within a PowerPoint slide. In photography, proximity can affect the composition of the photograph by changing the relative sizes of the elements in the frame. For example, if the camera is positioned close to a small subject, the subject may appear larger in the frame; if the camera is positioned farther away, the subject may appear smaller. The proximity of the camera to the subject can also influence the overall look of the photograph. A photograph taken from a close distance may have a more intimate or detailed appearance, while one taken from farther away may have a more distant or expansive look.

Proximity is an important consideration in designing PowerPoint layouts because it can affect the composition, perspective, and overall look of each slide. In Figure 6.24, you can see two different sizes of the budget sheet. The first one is effective for an

overall view of what the document looks like. The second one is more effective if you want the audience to be able to read it. If so, it's preferable to zoom in as close as possible to that content.



(a)



(b)

Figure 6.24: These slides show two examples of proximity as it relates to how information is displayed to the audience: (a) displays a chart with a distant proximity to the subject matter and (b) displays the same information, but with the audience in closer proximity. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Alignment

Aligning objects or text on a page adds organization and creates a sense of cohesion, making your content in general more usable. When alignment exists on a slide, the human eye knows where to focus, and the slide is more comfortable to view. In PowerPoint, alignment is the way that text, images, and other elements are positioned on a slide. Proper alignment is important because it helps to create a cohesive, professional-looking presentation. When elements on a slide are aligned, they are more visually balanced, which can make the slide look more organized and appealing to the audience. Properly aligned elements can help guide the viewer's eye and create a natural flow from one element to the next, making the presentation easier to follow and understand. In addition to the Guides checkbox that we reviewed in the section on Formatting Layout, there are also checkboxes for Rulers and Gridlines. Ticking these boxes will show additional lines on the slide that will help you align your slide elements.

Repetition

Repetition is the use of similar or identical elements, such as colors, fonts, or design elements, across multiple slides in a presentation. In a slideshow, repetition—especially when similar elements are repeated across multiple slides—can make the presentation feel more polished and professional and make it easy for the audience to follow and understand. Repetition also promotes a consistent look and feel for the presentation. Repetition of important elements such as headings or key points can establish a visual hierarchy that guides the viewer's eye and makes your presentation easier to follow.

Repetition of visual elements is a good way of reinforcing the key points you want to establish with the audience because they know where to look. In this way, repetition makes the main message of your presentation more memorable and connected for the audience.

Contrast

In presentations, contrast refers to the use of different elements, such as colors, fonts, and other design elements, to focus attention and create visual interest. You may want to use contrasting colors, such as complementary colors or light and dark shades, or contrasting fonts, such as a bold or decorative font for headings and a simple font for body text. Using contrast helps create a hierarchy and makes your presentation easier to follow.

Using contrasting design elements, such as different shapes or patterns, can help to add visual interest and break up the slide into distinct sections. Overall, contrast is a useful tool in presentations because it can help to draw attention, create visual interest, and make the presentation more effective and engaging for the audience. Notice how in the new title slide of *My Life in a Snapshot* (Figure 6.21), the title is in large font, the subtitle is in small font, and the colors used are off-white, red, and black. The different font sizes and colors contrast with one another and create an engaging, yet professional, appearance.

White Space

The last design element to consider within this section is white space. White space, also known as negative space, is the unoccupied areas of a slide that are not filled with text or other content. By leaving enough white space around text and other elements, you can make the content easier to read and understand. White space can be used to create visual interest by creating balance and separating different elements on the slide. By surrounding a key point or element with white space, you can draw attention to it and make it stand out. Additionally, using white space consistently throughout a presentation can help to create a cohesive look and feel. It is an important element of slide design and can be used in a variety of ways to enhance the readability, visual appeal, and effectiveness of a presentation. Filling your slides with text or images will make them look too busy and hard for your audience to read. Using the Designer tool to suggest different layouts can help add white space and sustain interest throughout the presentation with aesthetically pleasing slides.

Another principle that underlies all the design principles reviewed in this section is known as the rule of thirds. This is a basic principle of photography and design that suggests that an image can be divided into nine equal parts by two equally spaced horizontal lines and two equally spaced vertical lines. It is essentially a tic-tac-toe game board!

Real-World Application - Applying the Rule of Thirds

The rule of thirds theory suggests that if you place the important elements of the image along these lines, or at their intersections, your photo or design will be more balanced and will have more visual interest. By placing the main subject of your photo or design along one of the lines or at an intersection, you can create a sense of tension and dynamism that draws the

viewer's eye into the image. Additionally, using the rule of thirds can help you avoid placing the subject of your image dead center every time, which can make for a static and uninteresting composition.

Although the rule of thirds is not a hard-and-fast rule, it is a useful guideline that can help you create more visually appealing and dynamic compositions in your slide creations and layouts. Figure 6.25 provides an example of a grid created according to the rule of thirds.

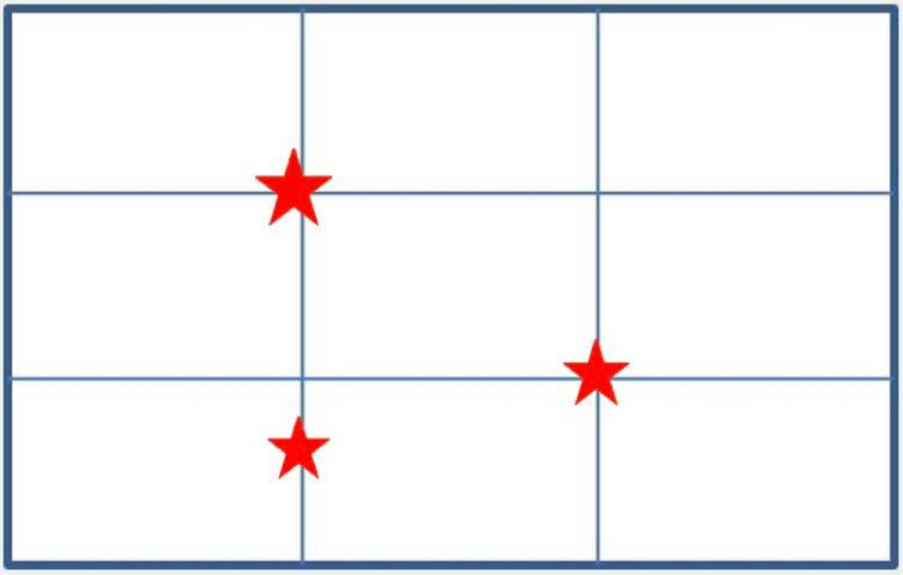


Figure 6.25: This is an example of how you might set up alignment guides using the rule of thirds. The red stars show some of the ideal positions to place either text or images. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

There are other composition models you can use, as well. The point is that in design, composition is the basis of it all. You want a well-composed layout and placement of text and images, aligned so that the eye moves easily about the slide.

This page titled 6.3: Formatting Microsoft PowerPoint Slides- Layout and Design Principles is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.4: Adding Visuals and Features to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Add tables to slides to organize and present data in a grid format
- Insert images into slides
- Add written information to slides
- Use symbols to enhance visual appeal
- Include equations to represent complex mathematical concepts
- Utilize WordArt to maximize the impact of text
- Use the tools in the Illustrations command group to increase the design appeal of slides

Adding visuals and features to Microsoft PowerPoint slides makes your presentation more engaging and interesting for the audience. It's best to do this after the text has been formatted and the general layout established. Visuals such as images, charts, and videos can help to break up text and make the presentation more visually appealing, keeping the audience engaged and making it easier for the audience to understand and remember the information. Additionally, using relevant, high-quality images will help make your presentation look more professional.

Adding Tables

A table in PowerPoint is a structure for organizing and presenting data in a grid format. It is similar to the Table feature in Microsoft Word. In Figure 6.26, the Table option has been selected within the Insert tab. You will not need to include a table in your *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation, but tables are regularly included in professional presentations.

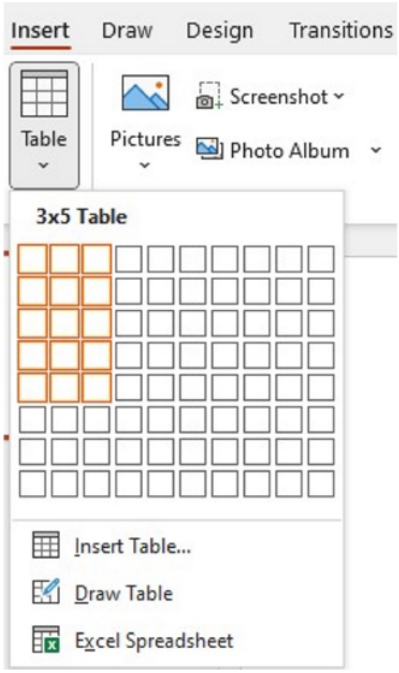


Figure 6.26: The Insert Table option on the Insert tab of PowerPoint is identical to inserting a table in Word. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

There is a grid located directly under the Table option, followed by Insert Table. Using the mouse, click and hold to select the desired number of cells you want to include. In the figure, a 3 x 5 table has been highlighted—specifically, three cells horizontally and five cells vertically. A 10 x 8 grid is provided, but if this size is too limiting, the Insert Table option enables you to build a grid all the way up to 75 x 75. Keep in mind that the facts and figures contained in your table need to be visible and easy for your audience to understand.

The Draw Table option allows you to create a table by literally drawing it on your slide. As you select the option, the cursor becomes a pencil. You can first draw the table border and then sketch out cells that meet your needs. This option is especially useful when you're not looking for a perfectly symmetrical grid. If you prefer to create tables within Microsoft Excel, you may prefer the last option within the table group, Microsoft Excel, which opens an Excel worksheet inside the slide. You will have to save the Excel sheet as its own document, but it will be stored within the PowerPoint slide.

Adding Images

The Images command group, located to the right of the Insert Table option, gives you the following options: Pictures, Screenshot, and Photo Album. In general, an image is a visual representation of a scene, object, or information, often captured or created through digital means. In today's technological world, your cell phone is also a professional camera with advanced formatting options, enabling you to share photos instantly on social media and in texts and emails. Adding photos and screenshots in PowerPoint can be just as effective. Those saved files can be at your fingertips to add to your presentation.

One good option is to use the Pictures feature to add an image to your PowerPoint presentation, either from your device or from the internet. You can also add a stock image—a preexisting photograph or illustration that you can purchase for use in websites, brochures, presentations, advertisements, and other forms of media. Stock images are created by professional photographers and illustrators and are usually sold through online stock image agencies. These images can be used by anyone who buys the rights to use them, rather than having to commission a photo or illustration specifically for their project. Stock images can be used to supplement or enhance a presentation, brochure, or website by adding relevant and interesting visual elements. They can also be used to illustrate a point or idea, by providing an image that represents a concept or feeling. Stock images can save time and money, avoiding the need to create new images specifically for your project.

Stock photos are often fairly generic and not specific to a location or brand. For example, you can use a stock photo of a team working in an office environment to illustrate teamwork in the workplace. Many stock photos are considered to be available in the public domain and therefore are free to use, although this is not true of all stock photos. Be sure you keep copyright issues and licensing requirements in mind when using stock photos in your presentation. You can find websites of stock photos such as Vecteezy or Shutterstock. Some companies may have licenses or accounts with these websites. Some stock photo websites are starting to specialize in specific styles and types of stock photography, such as more diverse stock photos and more realistic, natural stock imagery.

To personalize *My Life in a Snapshot*, add two photos from your personal collection to the last slide. To add a photo from your computer to a PowerPoint slide, follow these steps:

1. Open PowerPoint and select the slide on which you want to add the photo.
2. Click on the Insert tab in the ribbon at the top of the screen (Figure 6.27). In the Images command group, click on Picture, then select This Device. (This means that you will be inserting a picture from your computer.) If you want to add a picture from your phone, you can email the photo to yourself and download it to your computer. If you want to use a picture from the internet, again, download the picture and save it to your computer. A window will appear, allowing you to browse your computer for the photo you want to add. Navigate to the folder where the photo is located, select it, and then click the Insert button (Figure 6.28).
3. The photo will be inserted onto the slide. You can then move it around by clicking and dragging it to the desired position. You can also resize the photo by clicking and dragging the handles (small squares) around the edges of the photo (Figure 6.29).

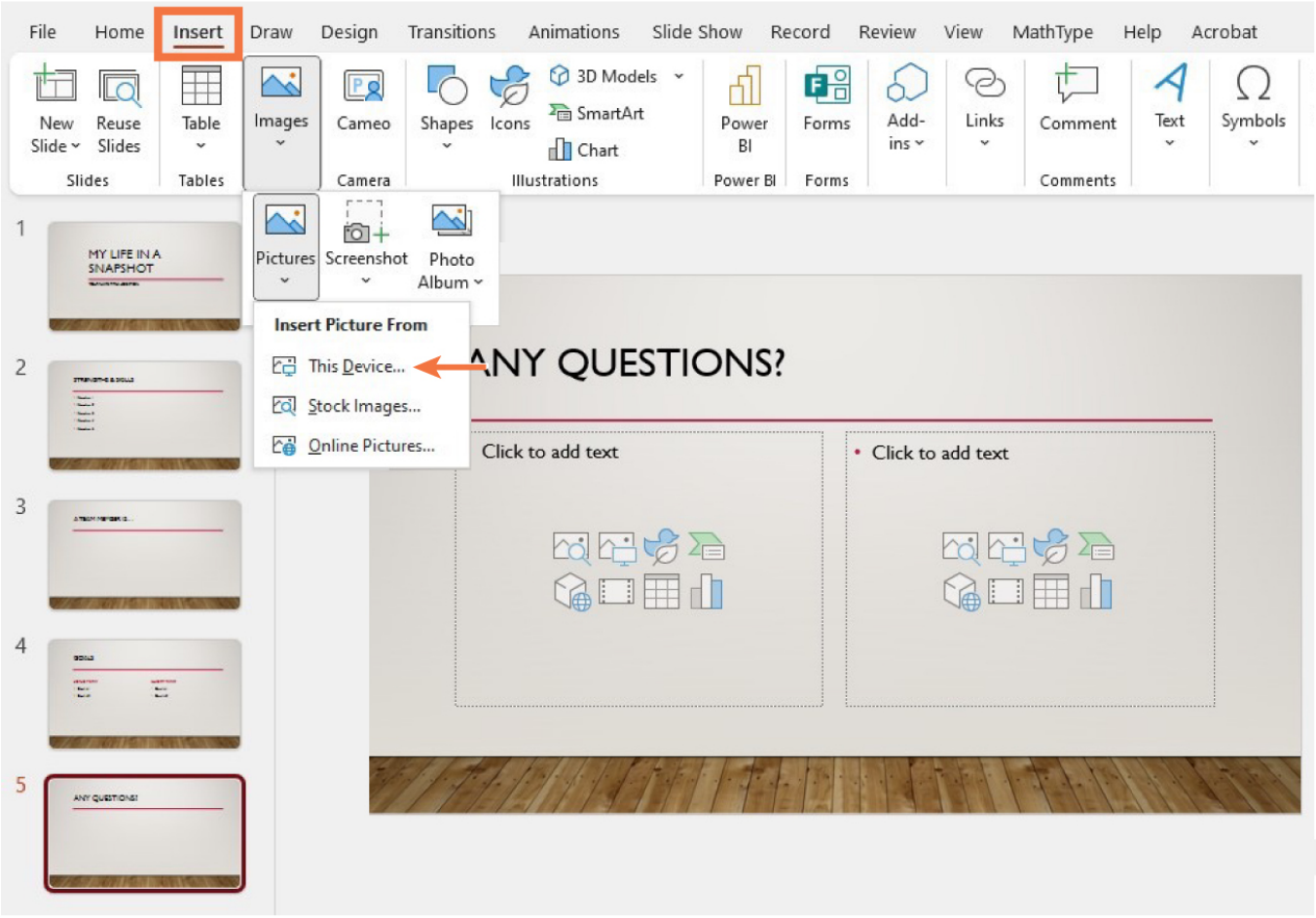


Figure 6.27: PowerPoint also gives users the option to access stock photos or online pictures directly from the Insert Picture menu. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

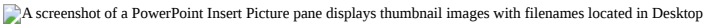


Figure 6.28: After you locate the image file on your device, choose Insert to place the image on the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

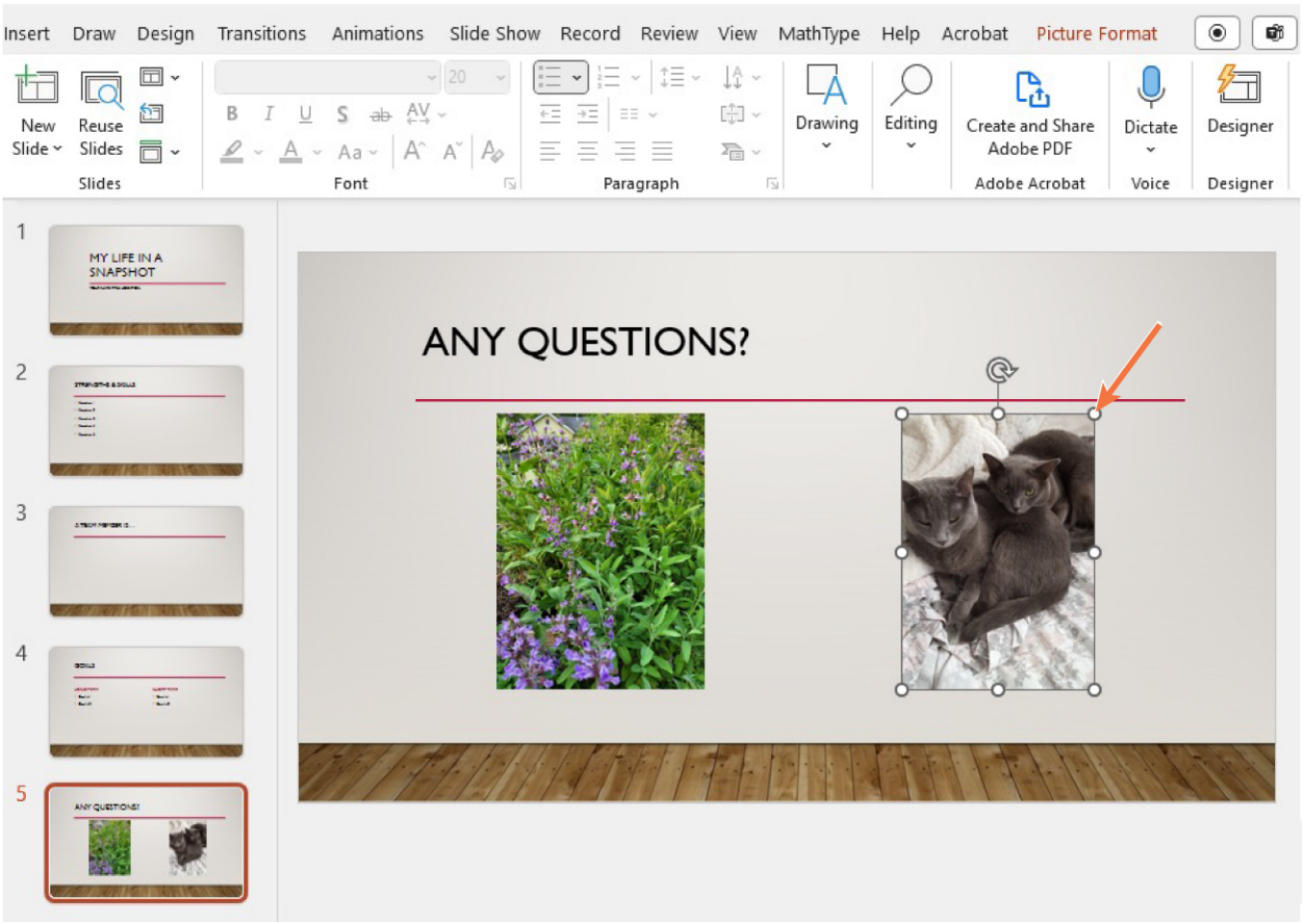


Figure 6.29: Once you have placed the image, you can resize it and move it on the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To format the picture, first select it with your cursor and then use the options under the Picture Format tab, such as cropping, adjusting brightness and contrast, and adding a border. The Picture Format tab only shows up if the picture is selected. When you are finished, save your presentation by clicking on the File menu and selecting Save. By following these steps, you can add photos from your history that will be shared with WorldCorp's team.

The Picture option supports all picture formats. Notice that when any of the three pictures are highlighted/selected, the Picture Format tab opens, as shown in Figure 6.30. This new ribbon tab will appear all the way on the right end of the ribbon. The first command group, Adjust, lets you adjust and add corrections to the actual picture, such as its color, brightness, and transparency. The last command group in this ribbon, Size, is helpful to know. The Size group within the Picture Format ribbon contains a feature called Crop, which is available in most Microsoft Office programs.

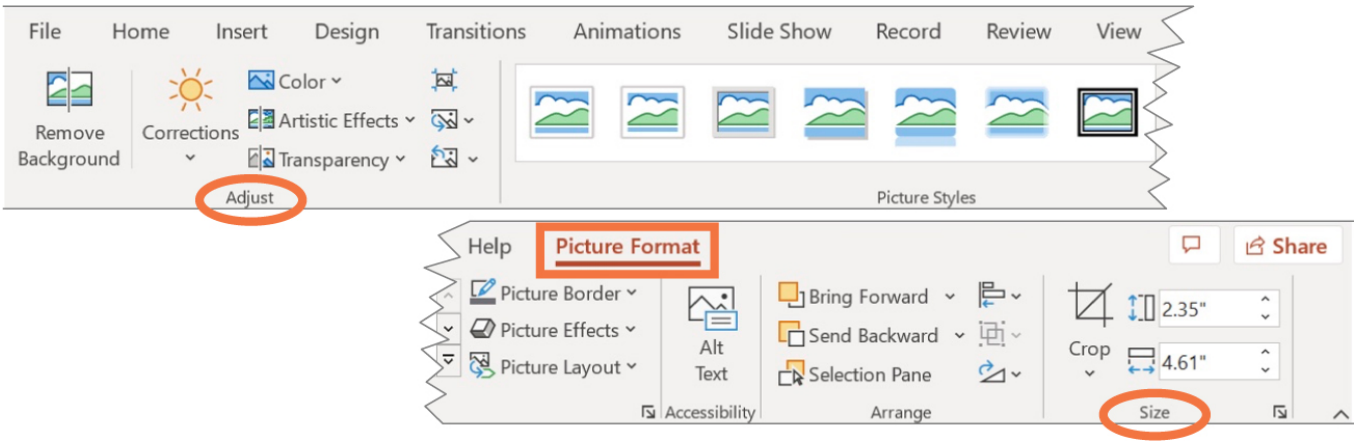
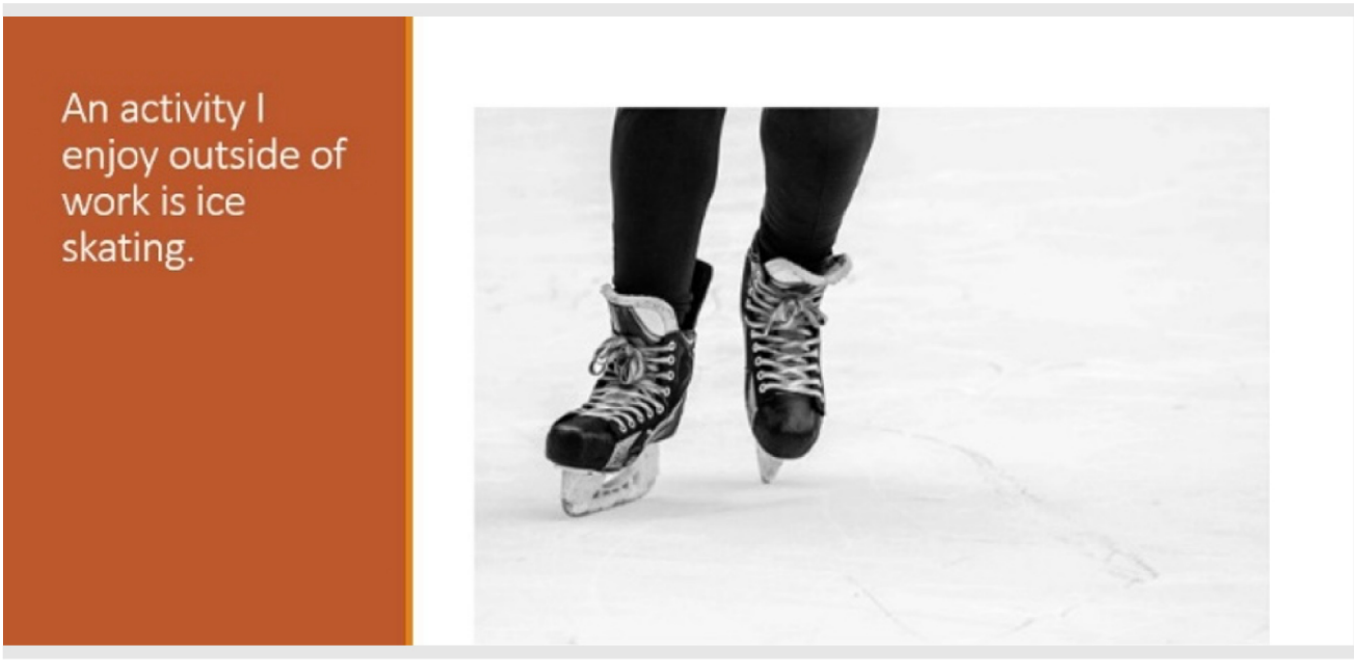
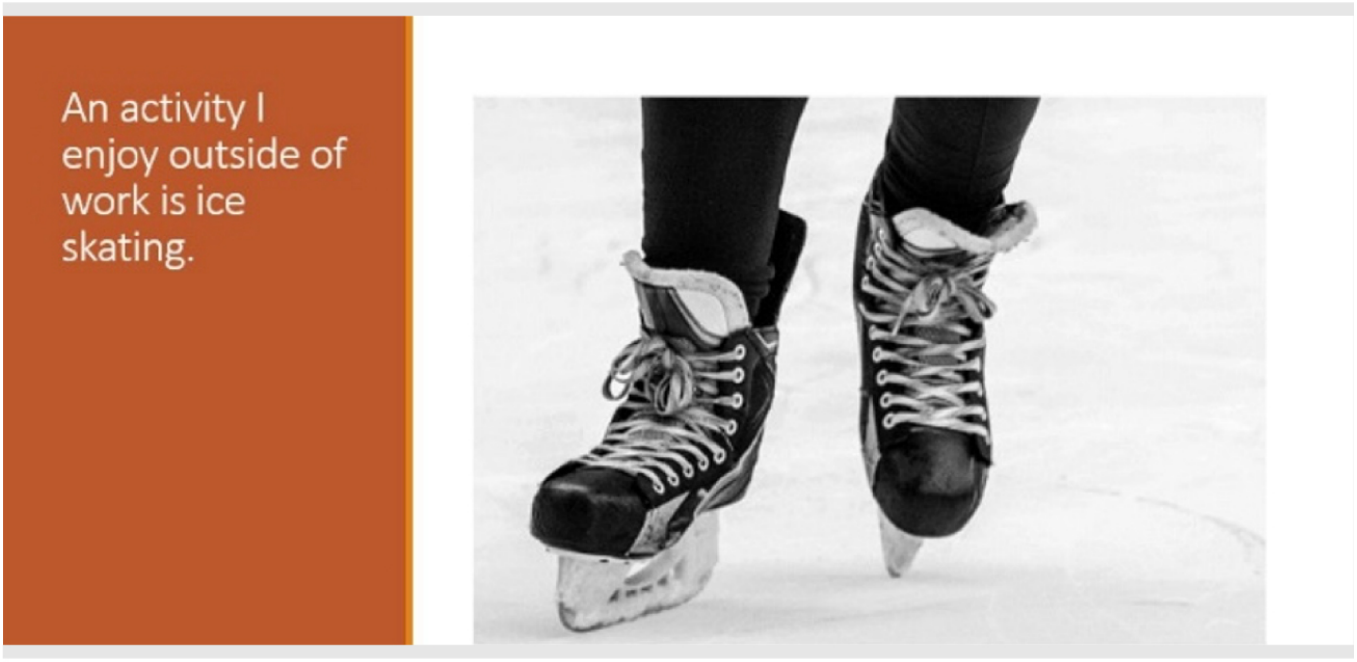


Figure 6.30: The Picture Format ribbon opens automatically when you select any kind of image. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Having the ability to crop a picture to a preferred size can be a time-saver. You no longer need to find a perfect image, but only a piece of the image that is perfect for your needs. Notice in Figure 6.31a how much ice is in the picture. The ice skates appear small in relation to the entire slide. By cropping some of the ice out of the picture, then enlarging the image to fit the space (Figure 6.31b), you can emphasize what you want your audience to see.



(a)



(b)

Figure 6.31: Parts (a) and (b) show a before-and-after example of how a picture can be cropped to expand the focal point. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Text

A great way to add a well-placed description of an image is to insert a text box. Let's add a text box to your *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation, as shown in Figure 6.32.

To add a text box, open the PowerPoint presentation to the slide where you want to insert the text box. Click on the Insert tab in the top menu. In the Text section, click the Text Box button. Click and drag on the slide to create the text box. Type or paste your text into the text box that describes each photo that you selected to share with the WorldCorp team.

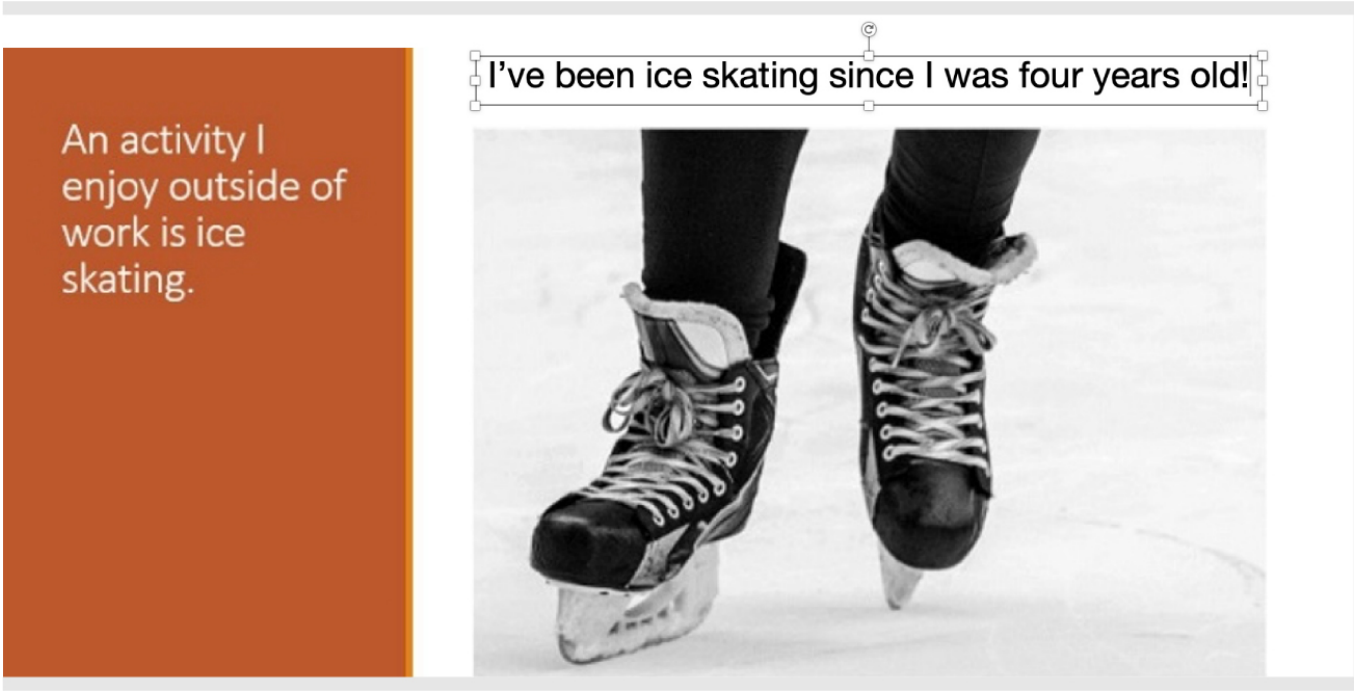


Figure 6.32: By default, text boxes will not have visible borders unless you choose to add them. This gives a seamless look when placed next to or on top of an image. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can use the Shape Format tab to customize the text box, such as changing the font, color, or size of the text, just as you did when adding text to existing text boxes provided by PowerPoint in the various defined layouts. Once finished, you can move the text box around by clicking and dragging it, much like any other object or image within the slide.

Adding Symbols

You can add symbols to a PowerPoint slide to enhance the visual appeal of your presentation and to make it more engaging. Symbols can include anything from emojis to arrows to creative shapes, like hearts. You can use symbols to represent different ideas or concepts, to emphasize certain points, or to create a visual hierarchy, arranging the elements of your design according to their level of importance. The purpose of visual hierarchy is to guide the viewer's eye to the most important information or elements first, then to less important information. It's a good idea to use symbols sparingly, and only when they add value to your presentation, so they don't become distracting. This first presentation doesn't require the addition of a symbol, but the steps for adding one to a slide are as follows:

1. Open the PowerPoint slide where you want to add the symbol.
2. Click on the Insert tab in the top menu.
3. In the Illustrations command group, click the Symbol button. A menu will appear with a selection of symbols. Choose the symbol you want to use and click on it to add it to the slide. (Note that these steps may vary slightly depending on the version of PowerPoint you are using. In some versions, Symbols is its own command group on the ribbon.)

You can also use the Format tab to customize the symbol by changing its size, color, or shape.

It is helpful to know the most common types of symbols that you can use in a PowerPoint presentation:

- Icons: simple, graphic symbols that you can use to represent concepts or ideas, such as an icon of a light bulb to represent an idea or an icon of a person to represent a customer
- Arrows: used to direct attention, to show cause and effect, or to indicate a process
- Emojis: used to add a personal touch or to create an emotional impact
- Shapes: can include simple symbols such as check marks, stars, and hearts; they can be used to emphasize a point or to indicate a positive or negative aspect

Always note that the symbols you use in your PowerPoint presentation should be appropriate for the context, audience, and purpose of the presentation.

Adding Equations

Another feature to consider inserting in PowerPoint slides are designed equations. An equation is a mathematical statement that shows the relationship between two or more quantities, using mathematical symbols and operators. Equations are used to describe a wide range of physical, biological, and economic phenomena, and are central to many areas of science and engineering. Simply click on the option on the Insert tab and select from a list of drop-down options. (Note that the Equation option will be grayed out unless your cursor is active on the slide canvas.) A new tab, Equations, will appear on the ribbon, revealing many options for inserting and editing equations.

Adding an equation to a slide in PowerPoint can enable you to represent complex mathematical concepts in a clear and concise manner, making it easier for your audience to follow your presentation. Equations can convey a level of technical expertise and professionalism, which can be especially important in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). They can be used to emphasize certain points in your presentation, such as key formulas or important calculations. Using equations to support your arguments can increase the credibility of your presentation and give your audience more confidence in your claims. Additionally, you can use PowerPoint to create interactive equations that allow the audience to manipulate variables—a useful option in fields like education and training.

You will not be asked to add an equation to *My Life in a Snapshot*. However, it is important to remember that when adding anything, even equations, to your PowerPoint slides, they should be formatted correctly and should be used in a way that supports the overall message of your presentation. The process for inserting and editing equations is covered in more detail in the chapter on Document Preparation.

Adding WordArt

In PowerPoint, WordArt can add visual interest to a slide by using different font styles, colors, and effects that are prebuilt and designed for maximum impact. This can make your presentation more engaging and memorable for your audience.

WordArt can be used to emphasize important points or quotes in your presentation, making them stand out from the rest of the text and allowing for more creative expression than a simple text box. For example, you can create shapes, bend text, and add different effects to make your text more appealing than what is offered in a simple text box.

WordArt can be used to give your presentation a consistent look and feel, which can be especially important when creating presentations for work or business purposes as the exaggerated font is easy to duplicate across different slides. Additionally, WordArt can be used to create a visual hierarchy, making it easier for people with visual impairments to read your slide.

Now, let's put this tool into action. As seen in Figure 6.33, start by selecting the fourth slide, Goals, to work on. This slide tells the audience about your short-term and long-term goals within the coming year at WorldCorp. To clearly separate the goals, we will use WordArt to change the headings for each.

1. Start by highlighting the heading "Long Term."
2. Select Insert, WordArt, and then choose a style.
3. Once selected, WordArt will appear in the center of the slide. Delete the original text box.
4. Select and drag over the WordArt text in replace of the original heading.
5. Repeat these steps for "Short Term" using a contrasting style choice (Figure 6.34).

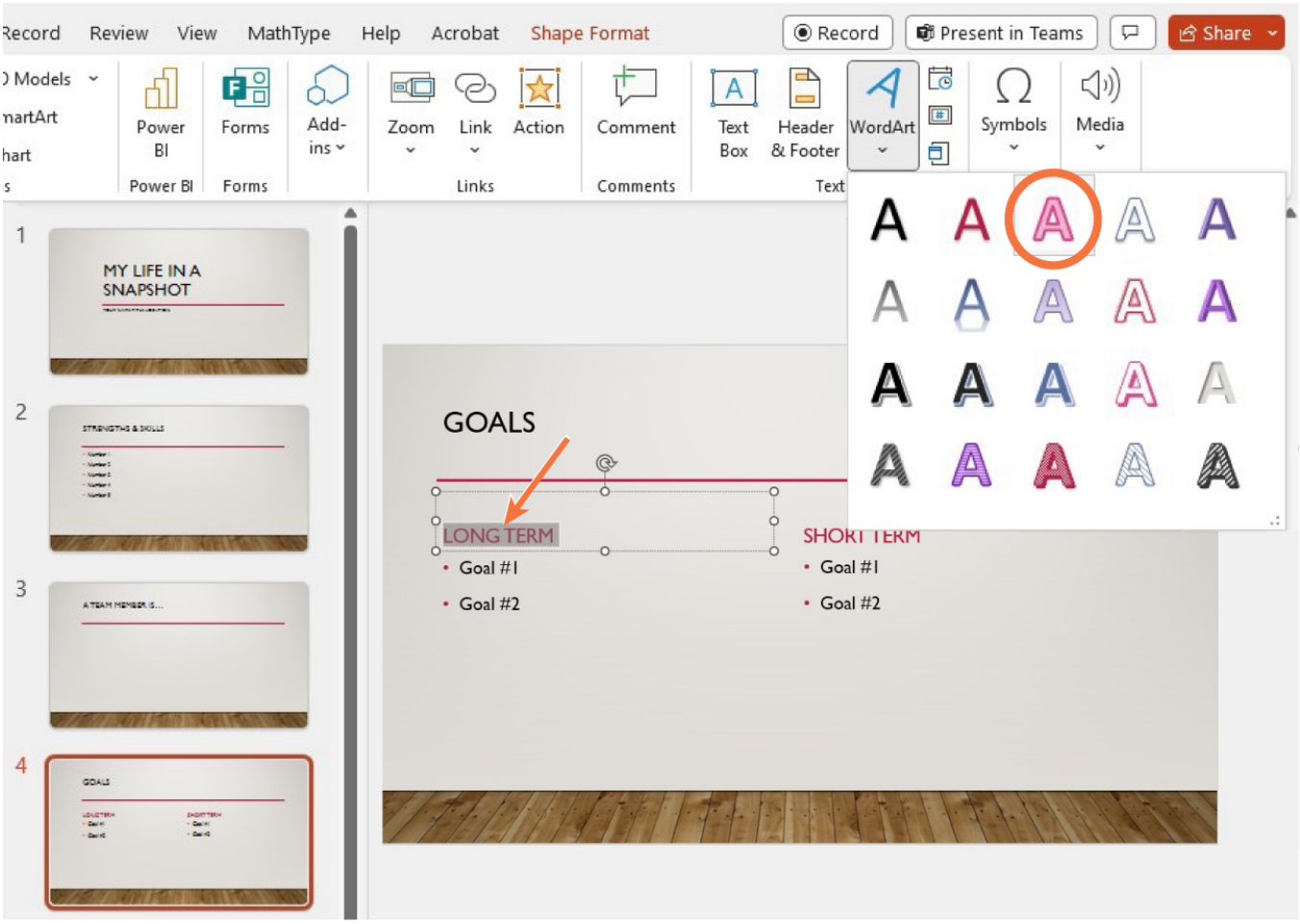


Figure 6.33: WordArt can enhance your text beyond simple formatting, adding elements such as gradients, fills, and shadows. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

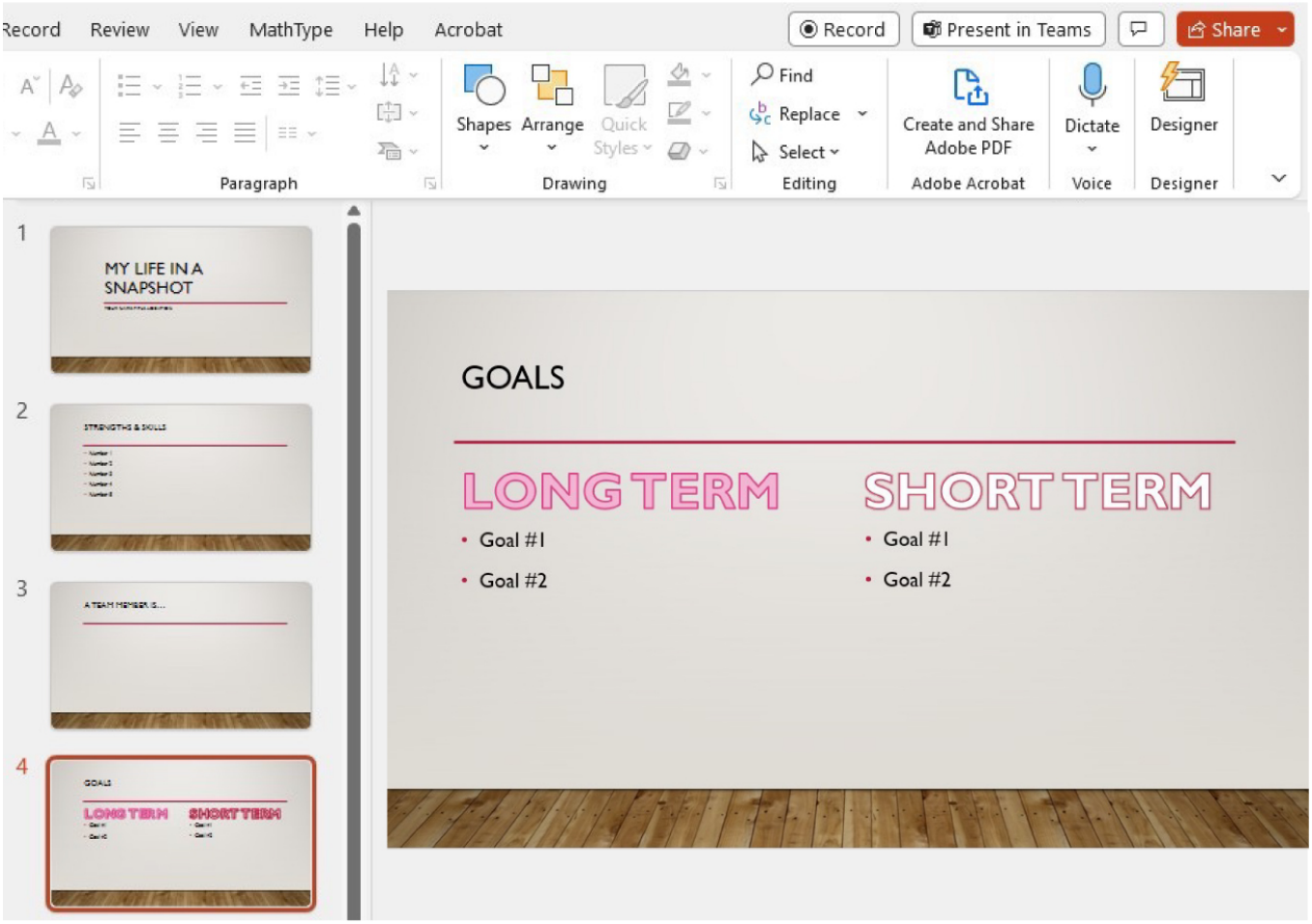


Figure 6.34: Giving slightly different styles to “Long Term” and “Short Term” helps differentiate the lists. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

WordArt should be used sparingly, and only when it adds value to your presentation. It’s also important to make sure that the WordArt doesn’t distract from the main message of your slide. Always consider if a text box is more appropriate due to the length or positioning of the statement. In addition, consider if the provided text needs to be formatted.

Shape Format Tab

You can easily create and change WordArt within the Shape Format tab. To format WordArt in PowerPoint, open the PowerPoint slide where you want to format the WordArt. Click on the WordArt that you want to format. Click on the Shape Format tab in the top menu. Use the options in the Text Effects and WordArt Styles sections to change the font, color, and effects of the WordArt. Additionally, you can use the Text Fill and Text Outline to change the fill and outline color of the WordArt. There are numerous options to explore and evaluate on what may work best.

Use the Text Box to change the size and shape of the text box that contains the WordArt. Use Arrange to change the position of the WordArt in the slide and use 3D Rotation to rotate the WordArt, as seen in Figure 6.35. As with all additions and changes, use WordArt sparingly, only when it enhances the overall look and feel of your presentation and adds emphasis to certain points—but not every point!

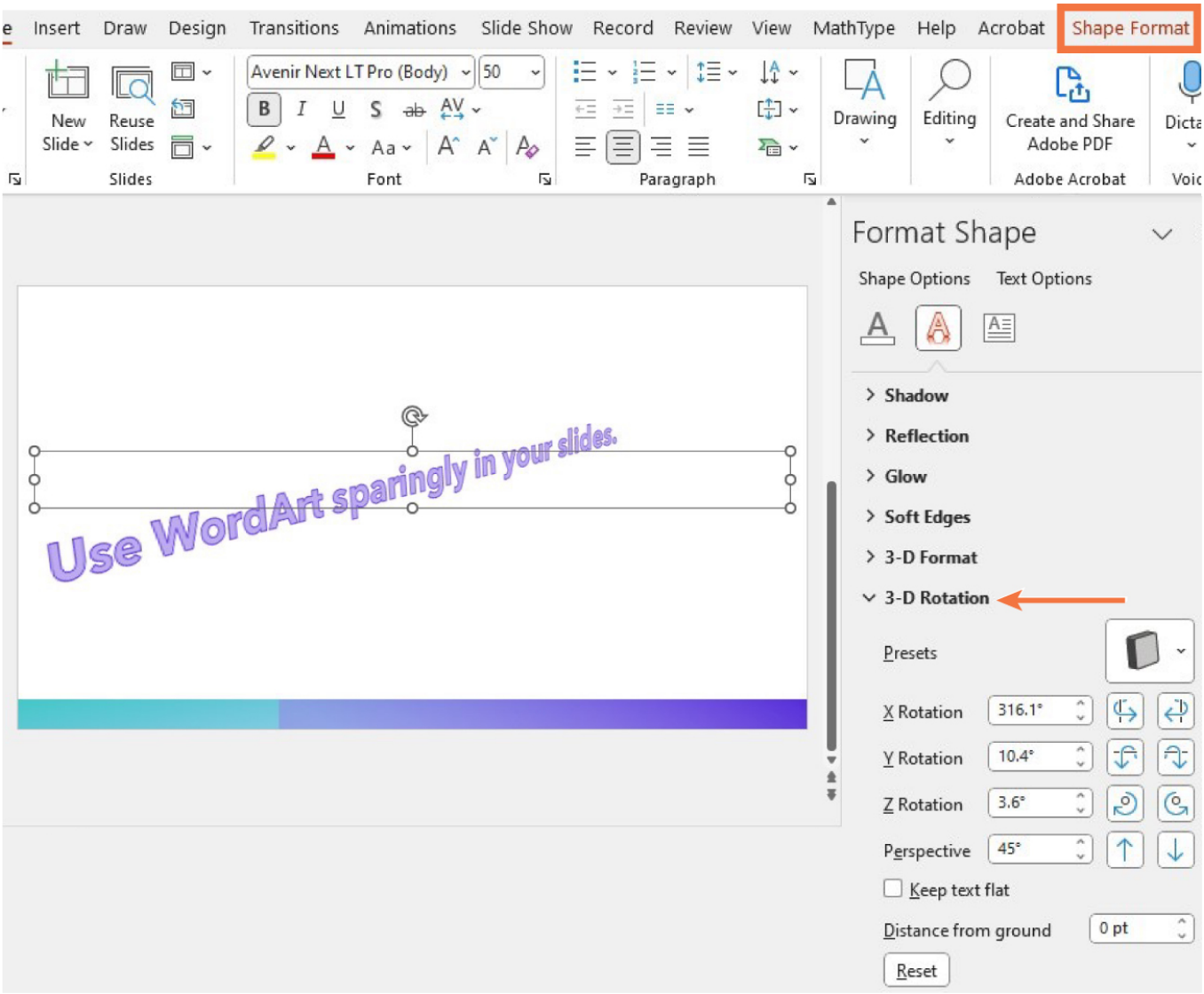


Figure 6.35: Rotating your WordArt-formatted text gives a dramatic appearance. Use caution when employing this feature, as it can sometimes be too informal for business presentations. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Illustrations

Much like adding images, illustrations can have a lasting impact in a presentation. An illustration is an image that's "handmade," so to speak, using either tangible elements such as pens and pencils or digital elements such as media. In this case, please take note of understanding the copyrights of the original work before selecting illustrations. In this section, we will walk through how to add a star to your presentation along with exploring some of the various illustration options. There are several types of illustrations that can be inserted in PowerPoint, including:

- Shapes: basic shapes such as rectangles, circles, and arrows, as well as more complex shapes like flowchart symbols and callout shapes
- Icons: simple, symbolic images that can be used to represent concepts or ideas
- Charts: bar charts, line charts, and pie charts that can be used to present data in a visual way
- SmartArt: predesigned graphics that can be used to create diagrams, lists, and other types of illustrations
- 3D models: models that allow you to rotate and zoom in on an object to show it from different angles

These types of illustrations can be used to make slides more engaging and memorable and to effectively convey the intended message. Now, we will take a closer look at shapes, icons, and the use of charts.

Shapes

To add a shape to a slide in PowerPoint, first click on the Insert tab in the ribbon at the top of the PowerPoint window. Click the Shapes button in the Illustrations command group. Select the desired shape from the drop-down menu; in the next step of your project, you will be looking for the shape of a star (Figure 6.36). Click and drag on the slide to create the shape. Shapes can be resized and positioned to enhance text and images on slides.

Now, it's your turn to add a shape to *My Life in a Snapshot*. When selecting the area to draw the shape, consider that it can be formatted later on to fit more exactly. It may take several attempts and practice to get the hang of working with these digital drawing tools. Simply select the corners of the shape and position the shape according to the location in Figure 6.37.

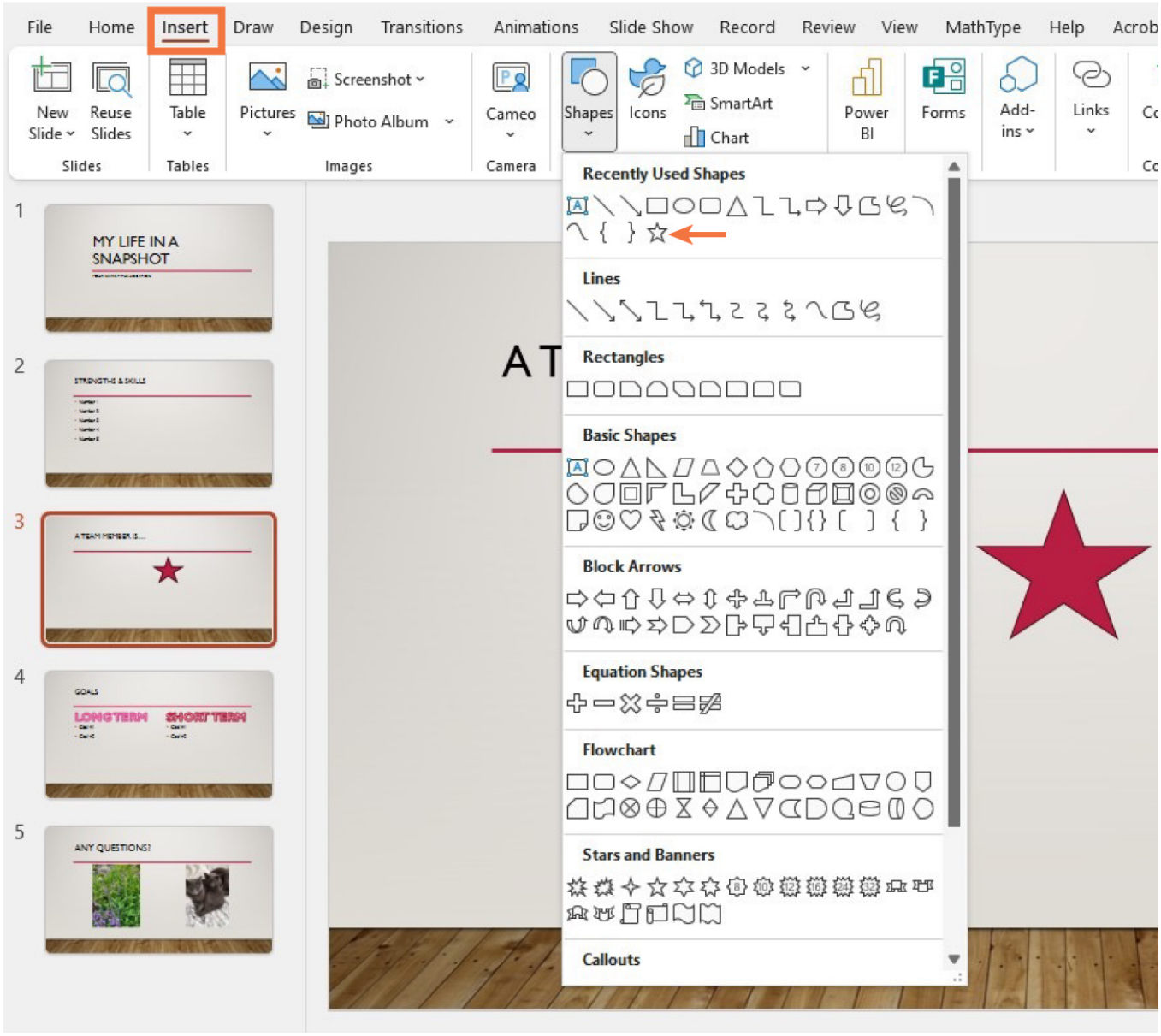


Figure 6.36: PowerPoint includes a large inventory of shapes that can be used to enhance your slides' visual appeal. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

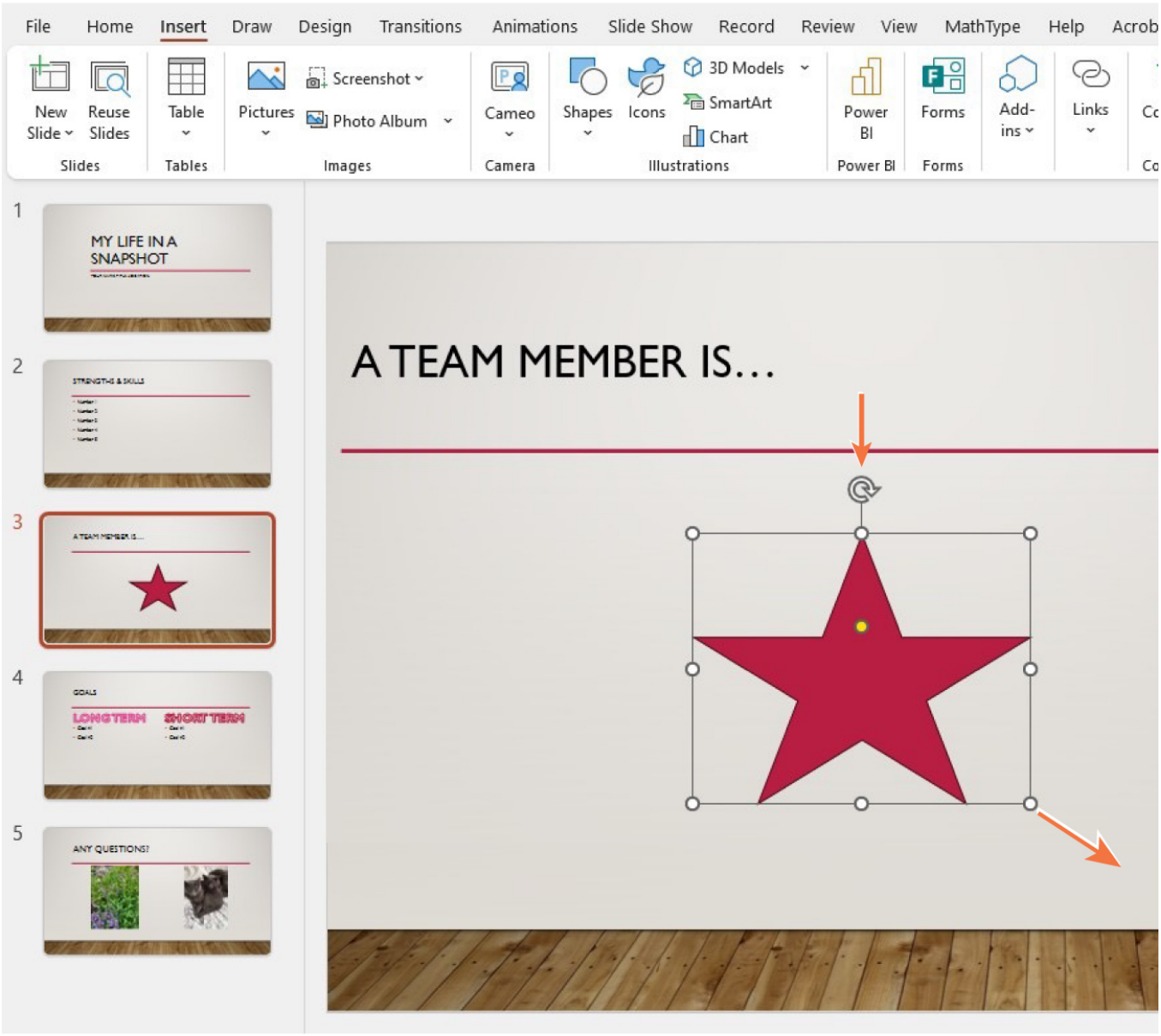


Figure 6.37: Dragging any of the dots will allow you to resize your shape. Select and hold the curved arrow to rotate your shape. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Icons

Icons can be used in PowerPoint slides to enhance the visual appeal and convey information in a more exact manner. An icon is a small graphic symbol that represents a specific function, feature, or tool. Icons can be added much like Shapes by selecting the icon you want and then drawing it on the slide. These, too, can be resized and formatted after being placed on the slide.

Icons are slightly different from shapes in that they are intended to be universal messaging tools used to illustrate a point or concept for your audience. You might use a compass icon to indicate “direction” or a heart icon to indicate “emotion.” You can also use icons as bullet points to make your slides more visually interesting and easier to read, or you can add them to diagrams and flowcharts to help clarify the meaning of different elements instead of using text. You can use premade icons from the PowerPoint library or from the internet, or you can also create your own icons by combining different shapes and formatting them as you want, using different colors, sizes, and other options to convey your message effectively.

Charts

PowerPoint provides various types of charts, including column, bar, line, pie, and scatter charts. To add charts to your slides, go to the Insert tab, Illustrations command group (Figure 6.38). You can customize your charts with formatting options such as color, labels, and legends. Additionally, you can import data from external sources, such as Excel and Microsoft Access, to create your chart in PowerPoint. This is another element you won't need to use in your *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation, but it will be a useful tool when presenting data.

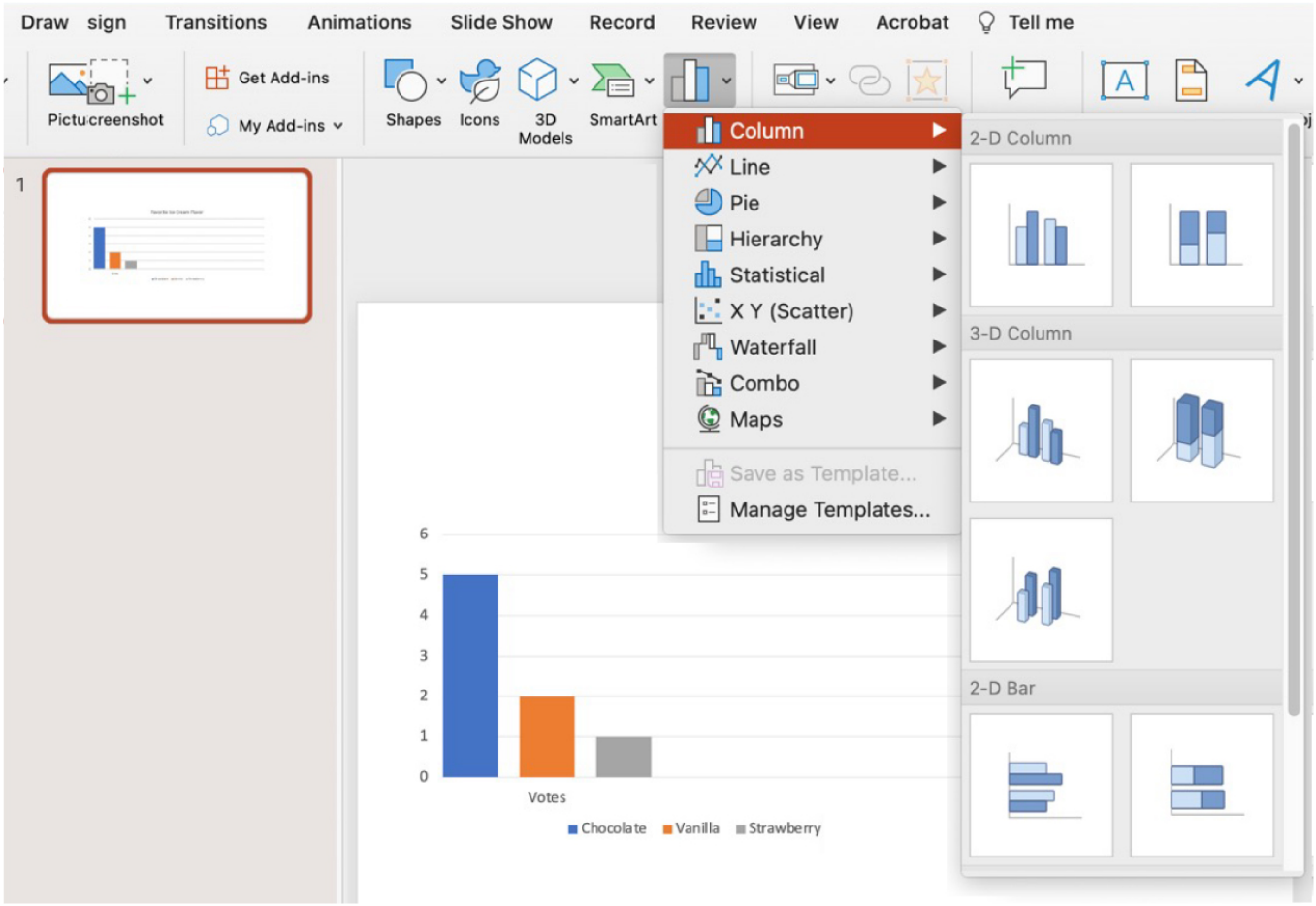


Figure 6.38: Inserting a chart allows you to provide a visual representation of numbers and data in your presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Depending on your settings, inserting a chart may automatically open Excel so that you can input data to create your chart. Experiment with this process so that you can better understand how to create your data, series labels, and categories.

SmartArt

SmartArt can be effectively used in a PowerPoint slide to visually represent information or ideas. It can be used to create diagrams, flowcharts, organizational charts, and other types of graphic organizers. To use SmartArt in a PowerPoint slide, you can select the Insert tab, then click the SmartArt button. This will open a menu of different SmartArt options to choose from, as seen in Figure 6.39.

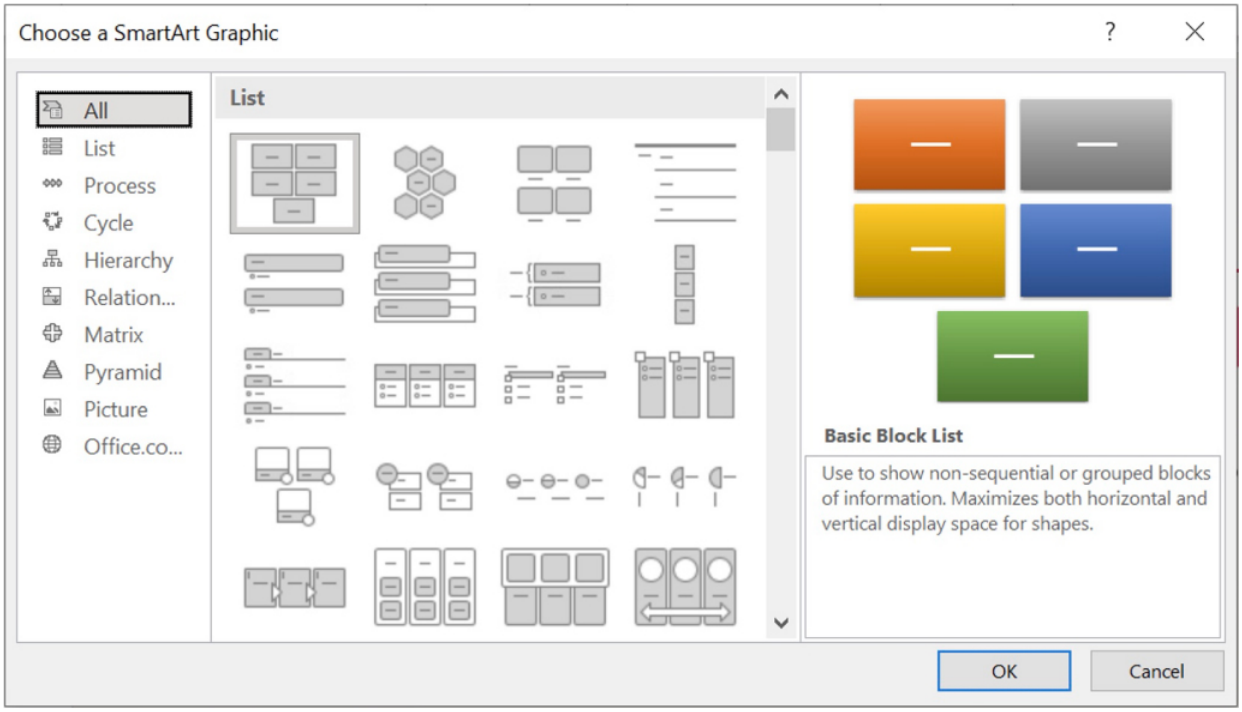


Figure 6.39: SmartArt offers a list of options to select from with a preview screen on the right side. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Once you have selected the desired SmartArt option, you can enter the text or information that you want to include in the graphic, as you would in a text box. You can also customize the appearance of the SmartArt by changing the typical colors, shapes, and layouts. Each option is designed toward a particular function, such as showing a linear process (like a flowchart) or relationships in a company (like an organizational chart). Take your time looking through these options to ensure that the intent matches the design.

3D Models

One of the newest options that PowerPoint is offering is adding 3D models to a slide. A 3D model in PowerPoint is a digital representation of a three-dimensional object that can be inserted into a presentation and manipulated to show different views and perspectives. 3D models can be effectively used in a PowerPoint slide to add visual interest and help convey complex information. They can be used to demonstrate products, architecture, or other real-world objects in a more engaging and interactive way.

To use a 3D model in a PowerPoint slide, you can select the Insert tab, then click the 3D Models button, as seen in Figure 6.40. This will open a menu of different 3D models to choose from, or you can also import your own 3D models. Once you have inserted a 3D model into your slide, you can rotate, pan, and zoom the model to show different angles and perspectives. Additionally, you can customize the lighting, shadow, and material of the model to suit your needs. A 3D model can help the audience to better understand the product or the object you're showcasing by capturing the exact angle or motion that is called on.

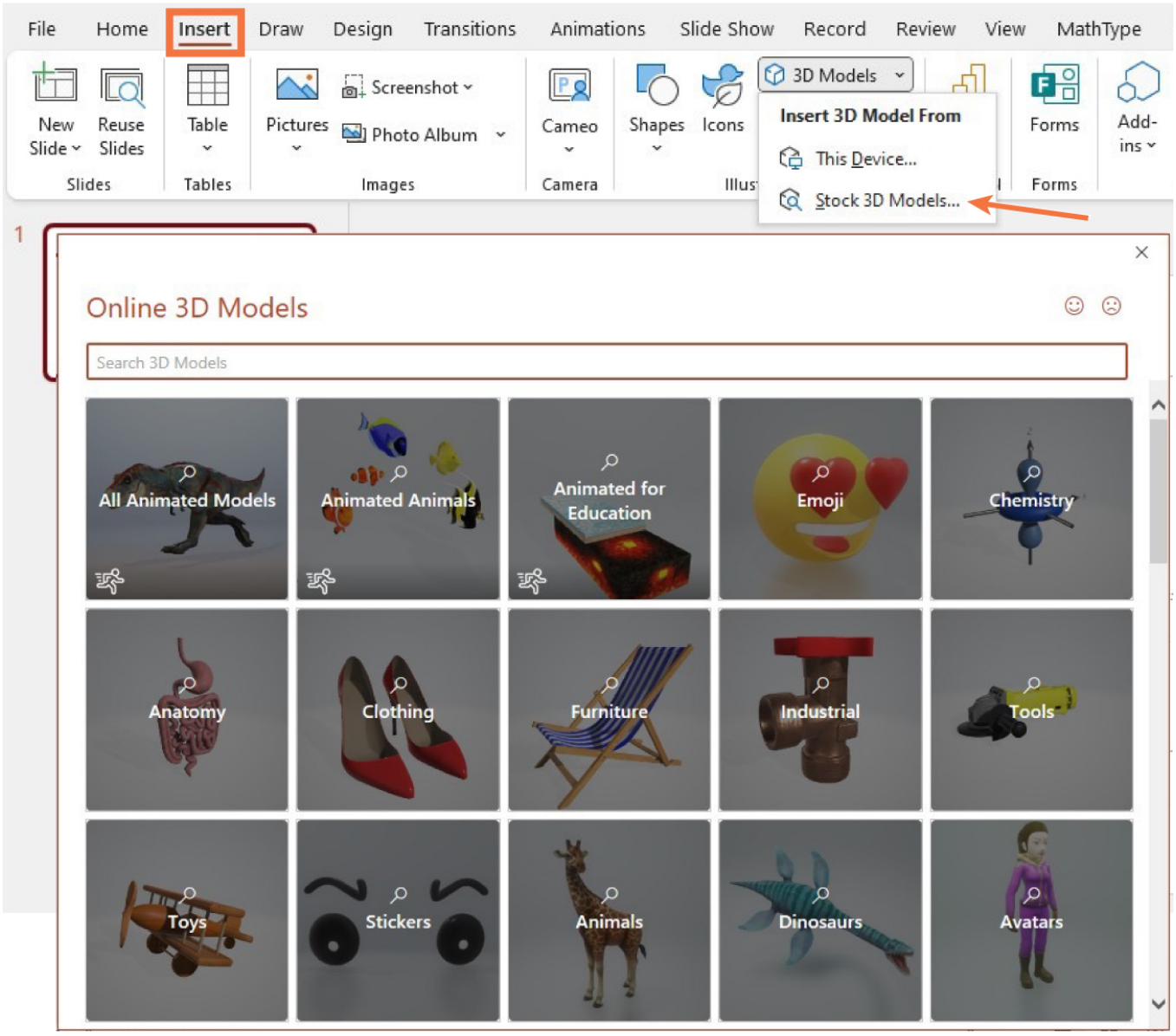


Figure 6.40: By selecting one of the categories, a unique list of options can be reviewed and considered for use. Many of the graphics show animation and movement. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

A good thing to note when deciding to work with 3D models: you will need to have a version of PowerPoint that supports 3D models, such as PowerPoint 2019 or later.

This page titled 6.4: Adding Visuals and Features to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.5: Designing a Presentation in Google Slides

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Discuss similarities between Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint
- Review differences between Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint
- Explain the roles Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint play in a workplace

My Life in a Snapshot was intended to be a solo presentation, so you had no need to assemble a team. But what if you need to design a presentation on a different topic that does require a team? What if, for example, the presentation was a proposal for a new marketing campaign that you and four others have been working on? Is Microsoft PowerPoint still the best option? This section will introduce Google Slides as another tool you can use to create and build presentations.

Slides is the presentation application offered in the Google suite of products, which is a cloud-based system. To better understand the tool and its importance, let's get started with the similarities it holds with PowerPoint.

Similarities between Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint

PowerPoint and Slides are both software programs that allow you to create and edit slideshows for presentations. When you begin to create a presentation with Slides, you will be presented with several themes and templates suitable for various applications in business, school projects, and general use. These designed templates can be customized with color, text, and style. Figure 6.41 shows Slides when first opening the program and selecting a new presentation; the default, a blank presentation, is circled. Next to the blank presentation option are the different themes and templates.

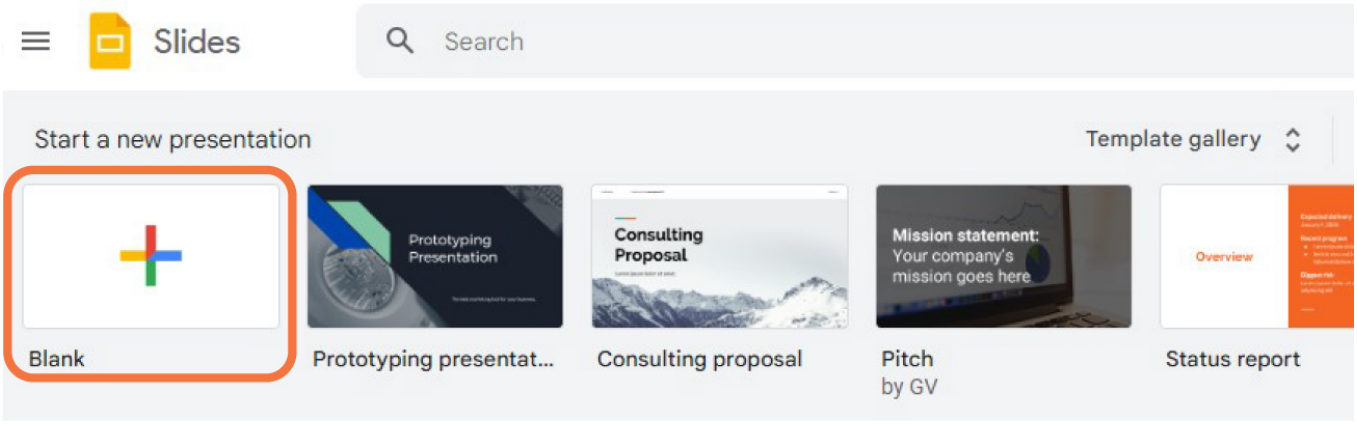


Figure 6.41: The different templates and themes have descriptive titles, such as "Status report," to help users choose an appropriate one. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

As in PowerPoint, once a presentation is either opened or begun in Slides, you will see a ribbon with tabs and options that are comparable with those in PowerPoint. In some cases, the programs even use identical word choices, such as the File, View, and Insert menus. It is a good idea to review the tabs in Slides before beginning a project. Look for the numerous overlaps in terminology and the familiar icons Slides shares with PowerPoint. However, one distinct feature of Slides is that it offers drop-down boxes from each tab, rather than a changing ribbon, as in PowerPoint.

There are other similarities between Slides and PowerPoint. For example, the thumbnails of the slides run down the left side with the highlighted slide in the center of the frame, and tabs across the top of the sidebar for navigation purposes. Both programs offer options for adding new slides, changing layouts, selecting design elements, and inserting text/images.

Both programs can create professional, high-quality electronic presentations. As technology continues to evolve, both programs adapt and continue to offer user-friendly tools. In general, both tools allow users to:

- add text, images, videos, charts, graphs, and links to any slide
- pick a custom font while selecting and using premade themes

- use basic transitions between slides and print to PDF
- collaborate with team members to greater or lesser degrees

Differences between Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint

Understanding some of the key differences between Slides and PowerPoint will help you decide which tool to use and when it can be most helpful while working at WorldCorp. To start, PowerPoint is a stand-alone software program that users can purchase or access through a provider such as a school, a company, or an organization to which they belong. Stand-alone software programs are typically installed on a computer's hard drive and can be launched by double-clicking an icon on the desktop or by selecting the program from the list of installed programs in the operating system. Stand-alone software programs are self-contained and do not rely on external resources, such as a connection to the internet or services to function. They are referred to as "offline capable." The application, or app, is just a click away for the user to begin their work, regardless of their internet connection. As the program has advanced and added new features, it has expanded to include online collaboration. PowerPoint now offers users online experiences through the combination of Microsoft OneDrive and Microsoft 365.

Slides, by contrast, is a web-based software application that is part of the Google suite of productivity tools. As covered in the chapter on Essentials of Software Applications for Business, web-based software programs are hosted on a remote server and accessed over the internet using a web browser, rather than being installed on a computer's hard drive. This makes it possible for users to access the software from any device with an internet connection, as the software and data are stored remotely and not on the user's local machine. This helps ensure that there are no delays or negative experiences such as slowing down a user's internet connection. They are often designed to be more lightweight, with fewer features compared with their desktop counterparts.

As a cloud-based application, Slides offers a unique advantage to offline applications when collaborating in a team. As with other Google programs, users can work on the same file in real time across multiple computers. This facilitates collaboration and eliminates the need to pass files back and forth between team members.

However, Google does offer an offline option for users as well. When using Google's web browser, Chrome, users can install a browser extension that allows its online Google programs, such as Slides and Docs, to download the applications to their local computer, allowing users to work on their projects even without access to the internet. Additionally, Chrome operating systems typically come with other Google offline programs preloaded. Google offline functionality is available for some mobile devices and most desktop operating systems. It's possible to use Google offline for some mobile devices and most desktop operating systems.

The most prominent difference between Slides and PowerPoint lies in their origins as a cloud-based application versus a desktop application, respectively. Slides has a minimal appearance and relatively fewer features, keeping things simple across their programs for ultimate user ease. Its goal is accessibility and collaboration in an online environment. In contrast, PowerPoint offers more robust features with more capabilities. In this respect, Slides works better than PowerPoint on mobile application devices.

However, it is still optimal to use a computer when creating a presentation in either program. Using a cell phone or a tablet poses challenges for users who want to harness the full potential of PowerPoint. To maximize the user experience, PowerPoint is recommended for use on a laptop or desktop computer due to its overall capability and processing needs. Having a larger screen with a more robust computer processor can make it easier to see subtle editorial changes or to handle large file size changes to a high-resolution image.

How Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Slides Function in a Workplace

Several features of Slides make it a unique and intriguing piece of software to have alongside PowerPoint. Both programs are commonly used in workplace settings, but may be used with different goals and audiences in mind. At WorldCorp, different teams use different tools in ways that work best for them; often, team members find that a project requires a combination of both programs.

A best practice for a collaborative presentation would be for a team to start working in Slides. Team members can work offline if they choose, or they can work together online constructing slides. Once the rough outline of the presentation has been accomplished and agreed upon through online collaboration, the Slides presentation can be saved as a PowerPoint file. Conveniently, Slides offers a way to quickly export presentations as PowerPoint files. A member of the team who is well-versed in

PowerPoint and digital presentation development can then edit the slides if needed. They can work offline to unify and format each slide into a cohesive slideshow.

Conversely, you can also open a PowerPoint file in Slides. However, note that because Slides is less feature-rich than PowerPoint, you may not be able to preserve your slideshow exactly. Let's look at converting the saved PowerPoint presentation that you have been working on, *My Life in a Snapshot*, to Slides. First, upload your PowerPoint presentation to your Google Drive. Then, open Slides; the PowerPoint most likely will be listed as a recently saved file on the opening screen. Select the file and begin. Figure 6.42 shows the warning that Slides wants to issue before you start editing: "Some PowerPoint features can't be displayed and will be dropped if you make any changes" appears in a dialog box after selecting the saved file. There are fewer design options with Slides, and Google does not include all of the features that PowerPoint does, such as WordArt. This means that anything that was formatted as WordArt in PowerPoint will not appear correctly in the Google Slides version, or may even be deleted entirely. For this project, please go ahead and dismiss the warning to begin.

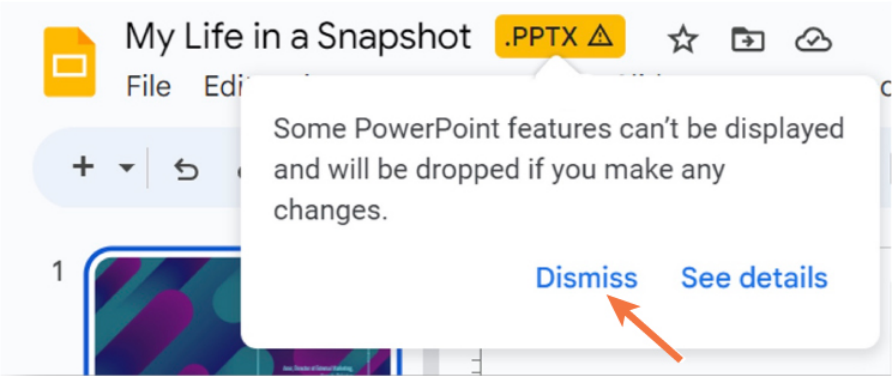


Figure 6.42: When opening a saved PowerPoint presentation, Slides warns users of the potential loss in functionality. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You may want to do this conversion process if you want to open your PowerPoint file for online collaboration, for instance. If your PowerPoint does not contain too many complex features, converting the file to Slides is usually an easy process that results in a Slides presentation that looks extremely similar to your original PowerPoint.

Sometimes, your choice of which program to use is determined by the software ecosystem that your company is part of. Workplaces will often choose one type of program—Google, Microsoft, or another large brand—to use at all levels of their company to streamline usage and file types. Preference and ecosystem requirements will typically be the key drivers in determining which tool to use for your presentation, but once you have learned one of the applications, you will have a faster learning curve when it comes to learning the other. Because Microsoft has traditionally dominated the office workplace, applications like Word and PowerPoint are more common in business settings. However, with schools and small businesses looking to offer free and affordable options for newer users (for example, Chromebooks are required in some classrooms), Slides continues to expand its reach. Its ease of use can attract those new to working with digital presentations or collaborating with teams on a project. Knowing and being confident in both programs removes the walls of an ecosystem, particularly if it is easy to change files from one type to the other. As we work in ever-diverse workgroups, the ability to move from one program to another becomes increasingly important.

This page titled 6.5: Designing a Presentation in Google Slides is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.6: Creating Google Slides- Layout and Text

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Modify font
- Change spacing options
- Modify borders and lines
- Understand how editing layouts works

Google Slides is a successful program that continues to grow in popularity, particularly with the rise of mobile technology, the use of digital tools in the classroom, and an increase in remote workplaces. At WorldCorp, you will need to know how to use both Microsoft PowerPoint and Slides, and understand the strengths and weaknesses of both programs. To become familiar with Slides, we will spend some time working with the tools and options on your existing project, *My Life in a Snapshot*.

How to Modify and Edit Text

As with any document, different fonts can convey different emotions and styles. Using a bold or italic font can help to emphasize certain words or phrases, while a different font can be used to create a specific style or theme for the presentation. If your presentation is for a business or organization, it may be important to use a specific font that aligns with the company's branding guidelines. WorldCorp prefers the Oswald font for external documents. If text boxes are being used, be sure to modify each text box to the company standard. Although this choice may feel limiting, this approach drives the consistency of brand messaging for WorldCorp team members.

You may recall that converting a PowerPoint file to a Slides file may result in some changes. Take a look at slide number 4, "Goals," in Figure 6.43 and Figure 6.44. You will notice in Figure 6.44 that the WordArt formatting used for "Short Term" and "Long Term" has been removed, because WordArt is not a feature of Slides.

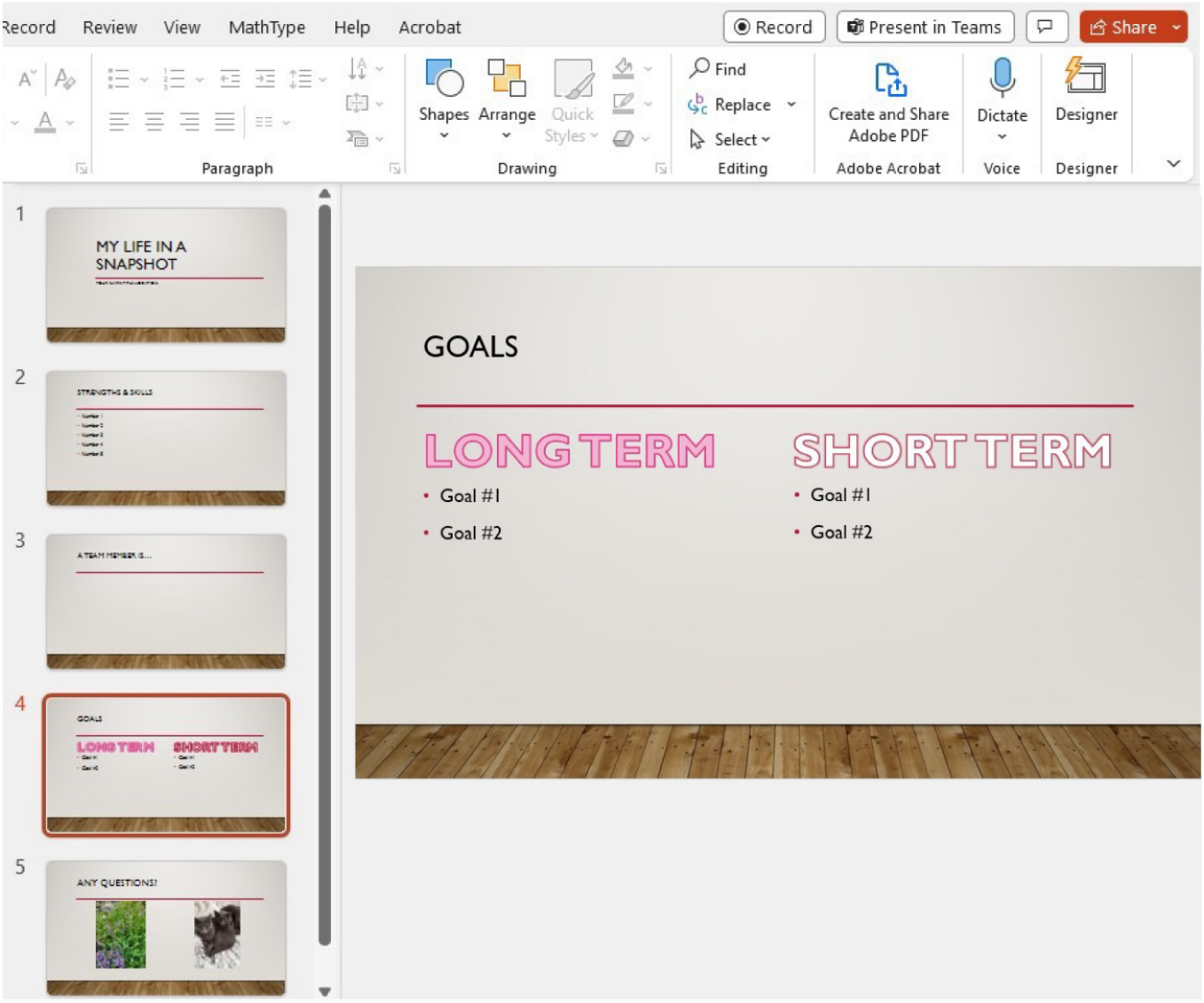


Figure 6.43: In PowerPoint, the WordArt feature allows users to add formatting to text as shown in the headers on this slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

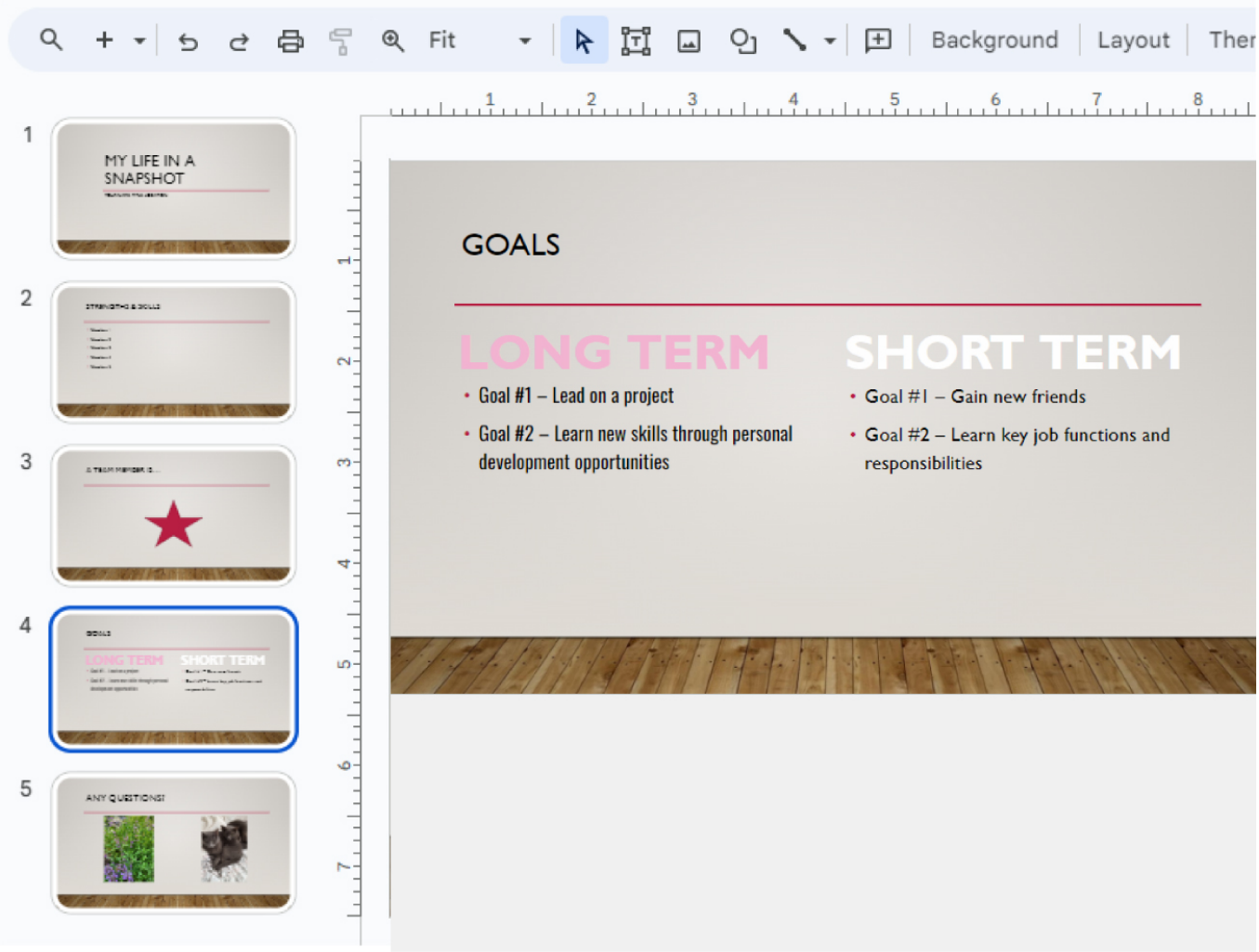


Figure 6.44: When converting PowerPoint slides to Google Slides, some formatting like WordArt is not supported and will be removed. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The headings on the Slides version are rather light-colored and hard to read against the gray background. We can revisit the option of changing those to a new font color in the future. However, rather than modify the headings again now, we will walk through how to modify the text below each heading to the company's preferred Oswald font. Please follow the four-step directions and refer to Figure 6.45.

1. Highlight the text within the text box.
2. Select the drop-down menu. Find Oswald in the list of fonts.
3. Select the Oswald font (this should alter the highlighted text).
4. Repeat for the text listed under Short Term.

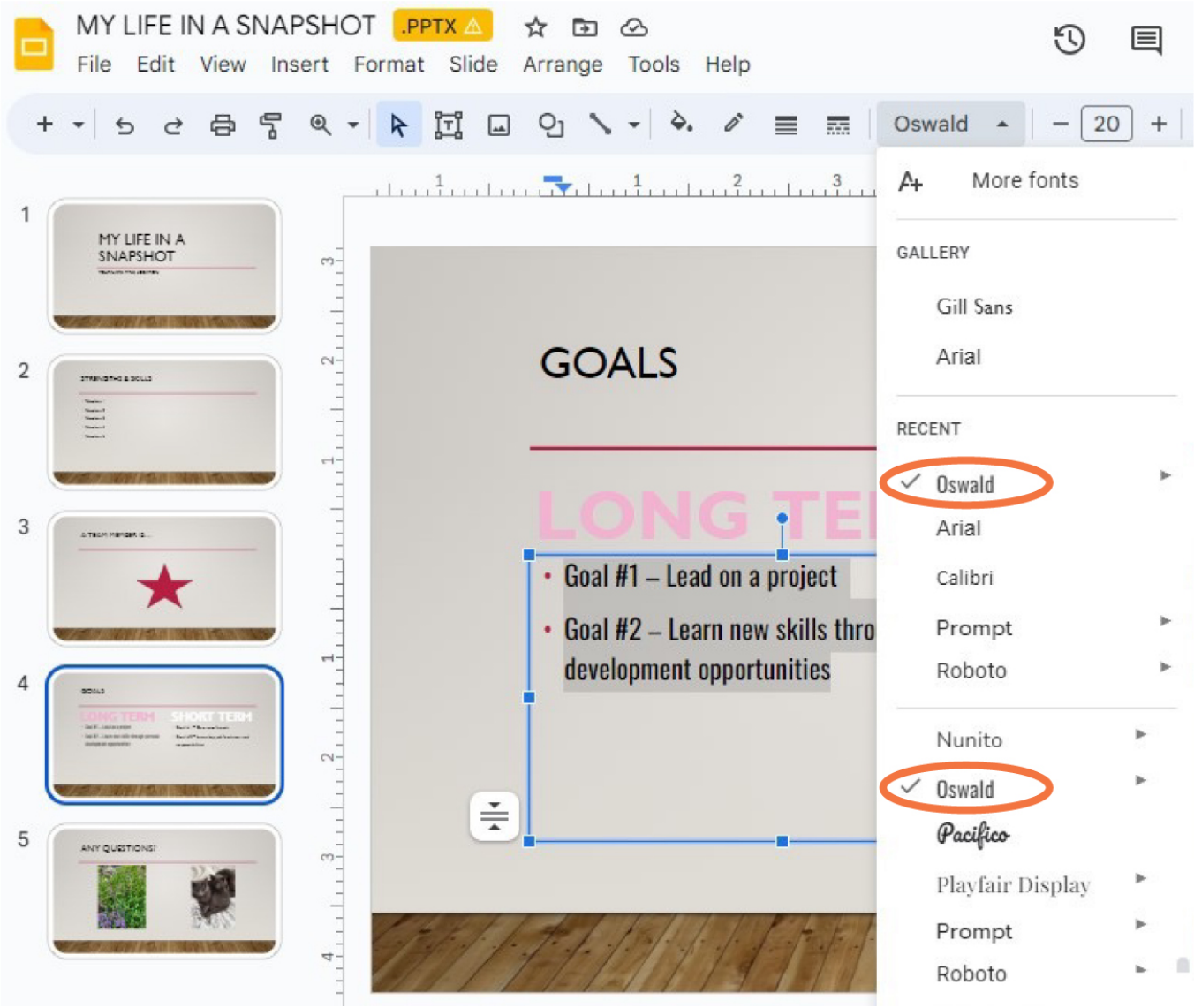


Figure 6.45: When you select a font from Google's drop-down list, that font will also appear at the top of your Recent fonts list. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Modifying the font can help to ensure consistency throughout the presentation and make it look more professional. Some fonts may not be compatible with all devices or may not be accessible for people with visual impairments. Modifying the font can help to ensure that the presentation is accessible to all viewers and can be viewed correctly on different devices. However, note that the list of font options is drastically limited as compared with PowerPoint.

How to Modify Line Spacing

To modify the spacing of the font in a Slides presentation, select the slide where you want to modify the font spacing. In *My Life in a Snapshot*, there's no need to modify spacing, but this option may come in handy when working with large font sizes and unique font styles.

To get started, select the text box or shape that contains the text you want to modify. Click the Format option in the top menu bar. In the Format menu, select Line & paragraph spacing. You can then choose the spacing you want, such as single, double, or custom (which allows you to enter a specific value). Make sure that Paragraph Spacing is set to 0. If not, spacing may continue to look off. Once the selection is made with the desired changes, click the OK button to apply them to the selected text.

How to Modify Borders and Lines

An additional tool that can come in handy is the ability to format borders and lines. In general, format refers to the way something is arranged or structured, usually in terms of its appearance, organization, or presentation. This term is used in a variety of contexts and can refer to various aspects of a document, file, or image, such as its layout, font, color scheme, page margins, and overall design. When formatting a border, you may want to consider the color, weight, type, dashes, and decorations.

To do this, open the slide where you want to modify the border of a text box. Select the text box, it will appear highlighted in blue. Click on the Format tab at the top of the screen. In the drop-down menu, select Borders & Lines. You can then choose the type of border you want, such as solid, dotted, or dashed. You can also choose the color weight and transparency of the border. Once the selection has been made with the desired changes applied, click the OK button to save the changes.

How to Modify the Layout of a Slide

As in PowerPoint, each time text or images are added to a particular slide, the size and positioning of objects may need to be adjusted or changed. One option in Slides is to change the overall layout of the slide in the Slide menu. The Slide tab is a drop-down menu that allows users to create, edit, and organize slides within your presentation. Figure 6.46 shows the list of options from the drop-down menu.

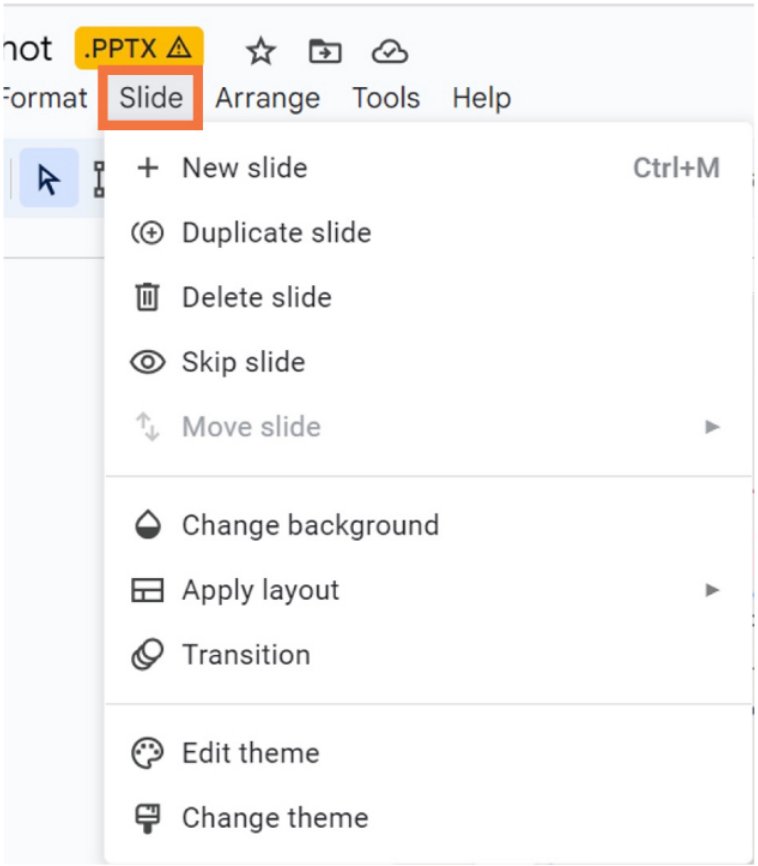


Figure 6.46: The Slide menu gives you tools to customize your slides with themes, transitions, and background modifications. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Notice again the similarities between PowerPoint and Slides. PowerPoint's Home tab contains many of the same features that are available in the drop-down menu of the Slide tab in Slides. The Slide menu gives users a wide range of tools and options for creating and organizing slides in a presentation, so you can create engaging and effective presentations that can be easily shared and viewed by others.

The Slide menu also contains an interesting feature, Apply layout. This tool provides a default layout to the key elements on your slide.

In addition to using the tools and features in the Slide menu, you can also simply select an object (image, text box, or border), click and hold to move, then drag the object around the screen. Every object also comes with positioning points around the edges of the object to resize and adjust the shape, or to rotate and spin the object to the desired positioning. Take your time with these features. A special option for text box objects is that they will offer a helpful shrink to fit option for overflow text when selected.

You can also use the Arrange menu to change the layout of your slides. This menu offers options for bringing objects forward and back, centering and aligning, and rotating objects.

As with many of its features, Slides has more limited options for formatting, particularly text boxes. While PowerPoint will provide adjustment lines to help position the size and placement of similar objects next to one another, Slides does not offer these tools. However, Slides has many advantages over PowerPoint when it comes to ease of use, accessibility, and collaboration. Both tools are useful in different contexts.

This page titled 6.6: Creating Google Slides- Layout and Text is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.7: Adding Visuals and Features to Google Slides

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Insert images and offer tips on best practices
- Insert and format a shape in a slide
- Insert a table into a slide
- Insert a chart into a slide
- Discuss why a diagram can be helpful to a slide presentation
- Add special characters
- Discuss how and why a link should be added to a slide presentation
- Explain the process of adding video to a slideshow

Adding visuals and features to Google Slides can enhance the overall presentation and make it more engaging for your audience. Much like Microsoft PowerPoint, there are numerous reasons why it's important to focus on the visual aspect of a presentation that your audience will experience. To start, visuals can help convey information more effectively such as images, charts, and diagrams conveying complex information in a way that is easy to understand, making the presentation more effective. This also addresses a variety of learning styles, as some individuals are more visual than audio learners. Adding these features to a Slides presentation is fundamentally similar to how they are added in PowerPoint.

Let's revise the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation a little further. Because Slides does not have the same designs and themes that we find in PowerPoint, let's choose a theme that presents a professional appearance. As we reviewed in the section on Similarities between Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint, choosing a theme in Slides is quite straightforward. Let's choose the Swiss theme (see Figure 6.47). Now that we've chosen the theme we want to use, let's move to inserting images and adjusting the rest of the presentation in Slides.

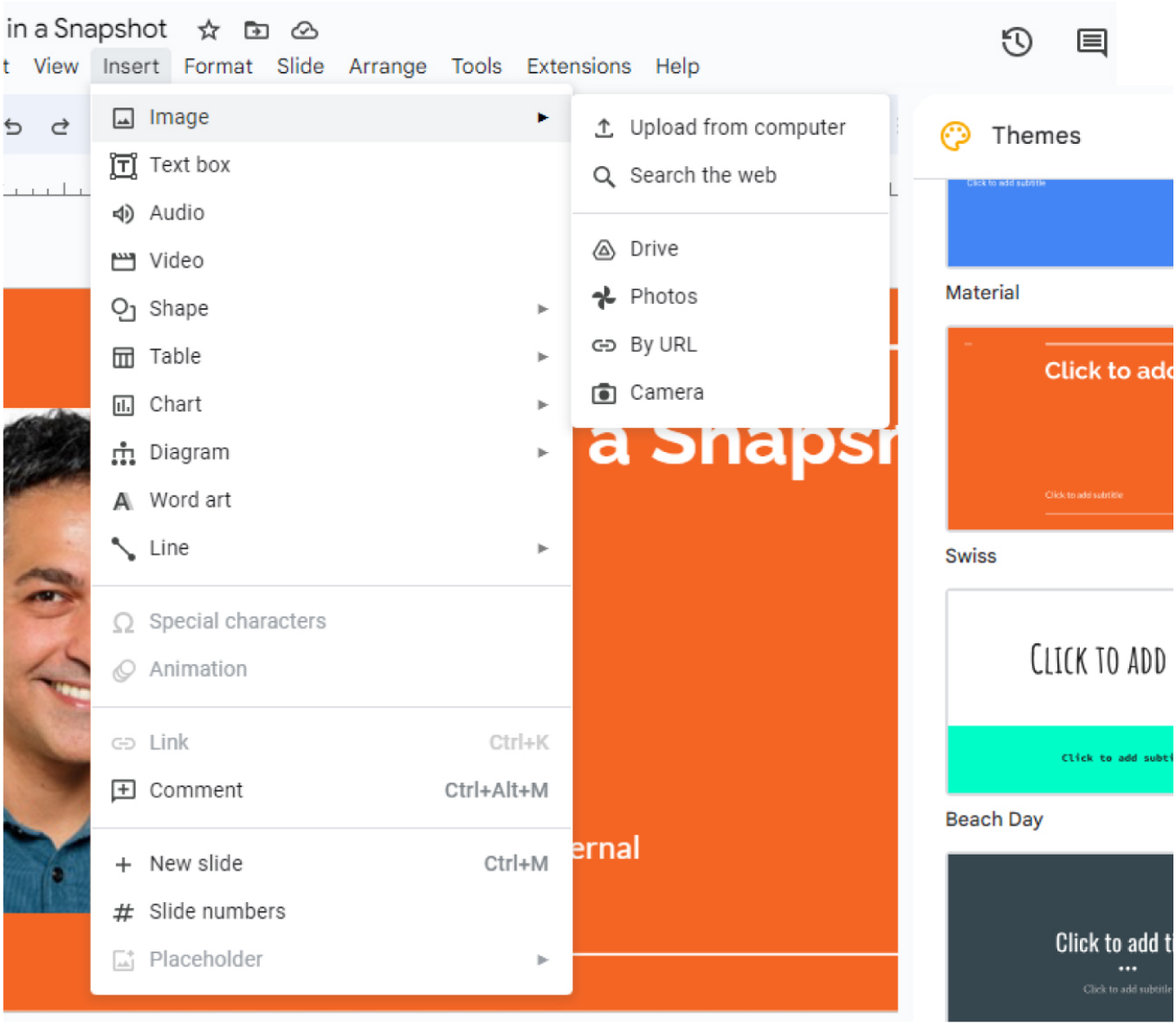


Figure 6.47: This theme has a completely different background and layout from our theme in PowerPoint. Slides automatically adjusted the image and text to fit. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Inserting an Image

Our presentation already includes an image of Amir, but if you want to update or change the picture, you can do so through Google Drive. Once your image is saved to Drive, we can easily insert the photo into the presentation. Slides's streamlined approach makes it simple to add imagery to slides. To add your new picture to the first slide, start by making sure that you have the first slide selected in your Slides presentation. Click on the Insert menu at the top of the screen. Select Image from the drop-down menu. You can then choose to upload an image from your computer, or search for it in Drive, or select a photo from Google Photos. Select Drive and select the recent profile picture you took on your smartphone. You can then move and resize the image as needed.

Keep in mind that copyrighted and trademarked images are not to be used in professional presentations. Take time to review the laws that apply and make sure that a basic understanding of where the images are derived from is taken into consideration when adding images to a presentation.

Spotlight on Ethics - Why Is Education Using Copyrighted Material?

Speaking in general terms, using copyrighted images for teaching and education is considered fair use. Fair use is not always clear and must be decided on a case-by-case basis using the four factors presented in U.S. Code, Title 17, Chapter 1, Section 107:

1. Purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes
2. Nature of the copyrighted work
3. Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
4. Effect of the use on the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work

In general, it is considered fair use to use a copyrighted work in an educational setting, such as a college classroom or during a group tutoring session. But does this fair use extend to the workplace? It depends. An internal training session is a different scenario from a client-facing business presentation. Consider the preceding guidelines each time you want to use a copyrighted image and see which ones, if any, apply to you. To be safe, remember that it is always permissible to use a public domain image.

Inserting a Shape

You can choose from a variety of shapes, such as rectangles, circles, arrows, and more to add to any slide in a slideshow. These design elements are useful and easy to adjust within Slides. Once you have selected a shape from the Insert tab (see the options in Figure 6.48), click and drag on the side to create the desired size (Figure 6.49). You can then move, resize, and customize the shape as desired.

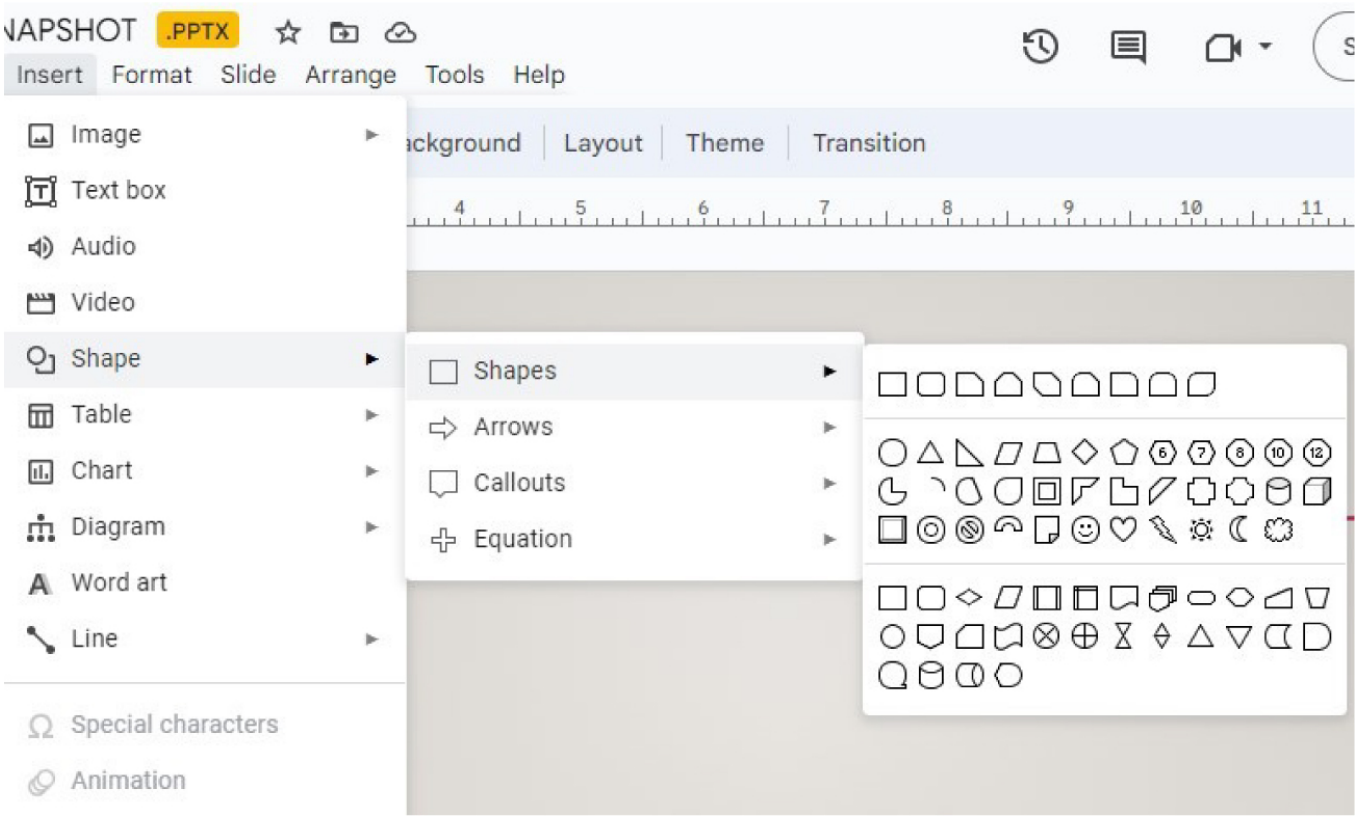


Figure 6.48: The drop-down window of the Insert tab in Slides has the option shapes listed. On further selection of shapes, a large variety of useful options appears. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

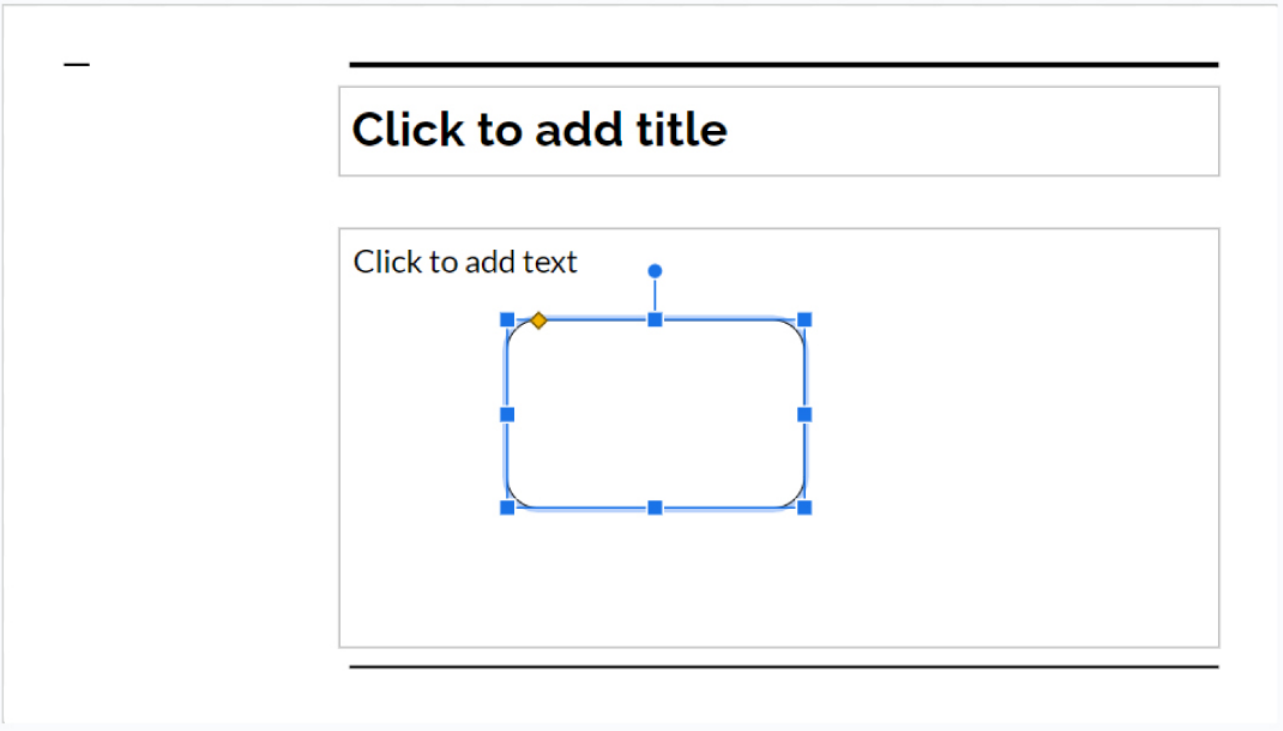


Figure 6.49: When you select the desired shape, you can resize it by dragging the outline of the shape. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

One way to effectively use a shape in Slides is to create a flowchart to illustrate a process or workflow. Using shapes also offers more customization than simply inserting a diagram. Once you have added the initial shape, you can then add a connector, such as an arrow. Then, you can use the formatting options to customize its appearance, such as changing its color or adding a border, as seen in Figure 6.50. You can also insert a text box inside each of the rectangular or square shapes in your flowchart. In Slides, text boxes do not automatically come with a border, but borders can be added. Shapes can be used to create any number of diagrams, illustrations, and other types of visual aids to support your presentations. In the section on Inserting a Diagram, we will learn more about using the preset diagrams in Slides.

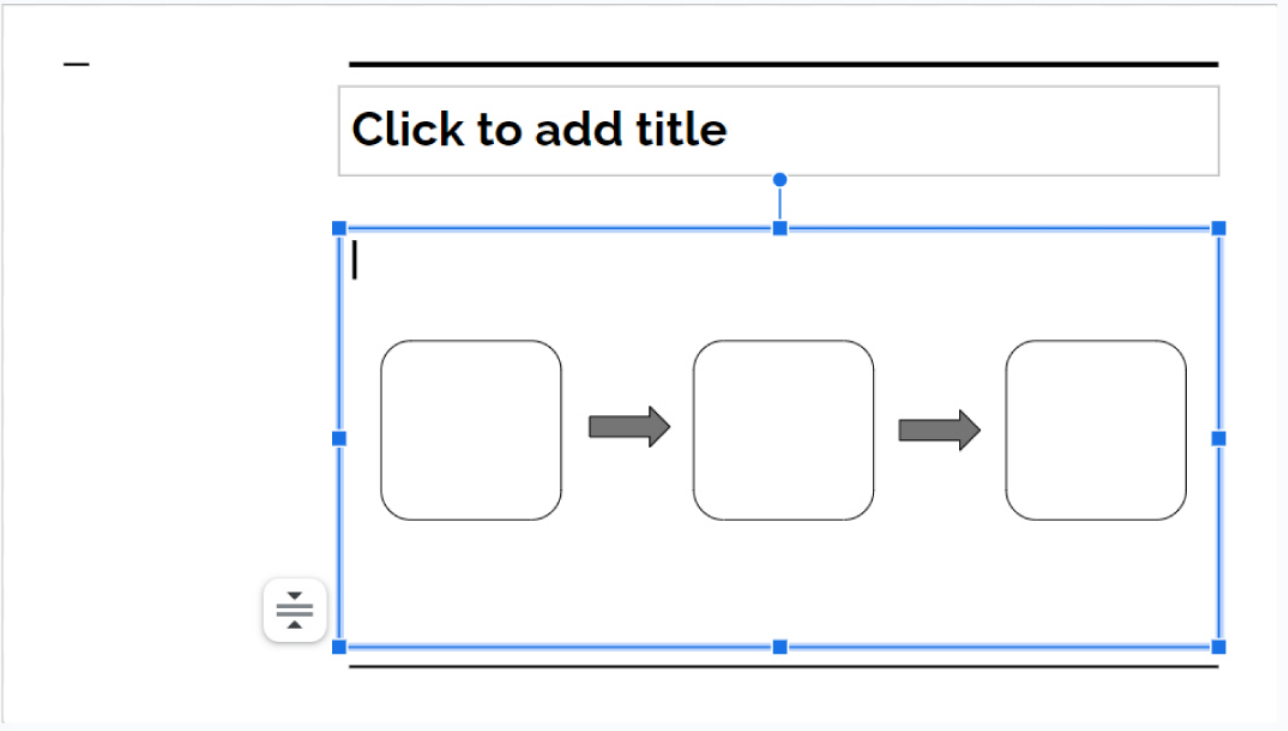


Figure 6.50: These shapes show a simple example of a flowchart. But you could arrange the shapes in different ways or add extra branches to the chart to represent your custom workflow. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Inserting a Table

Tables are an important tool for displaying information because they organize and present data in a clear and concise manner to an audience. They are useful for displaying large amounts of data in a compact format, making it easy for the viewer to compare and contrast different values, as well as show how different variables are related to one another. For a slideshow, it may be best to use tables to showcase summary statistics, such as means, medians, and standard deviations, which provide a quick overview of most datasets. You do not want to overwhelm your audience with an overly detailed table with too many numbers. In general, tables are an effective tool for displaying information because they provide the ability to display and understand complex data sets in a concise way. They are widely used in fields such as finance, statistics, business, and scientific research to communicate data and results.

To add a table to a Slides presentation, select the slide where you want to add it. Click on the Insert menu at the top of the screen. Select Table from the drop-down menu and choose the number of rows and columns you want for your table. Once you have selected the number of rows and columns, the table will be created and added to the slide. You may adjust or move the table as needed within the slide.

Use the options in the toolbar to format the table, like changing the color, size, or merge cells when required. Make sure the data is clear to view; try not to compress too much data into a single table by making the font too small to read and easily take in.

Inserting a Chart

Data is important in decision making because it provides a basis for understanding the current state of a problem or situation, and can be used to identify patterns, trends, and relationships that can inform the decision-making process. Your audience may expect to see data in a slideshow, particularly if it concerns finance or business, as data plays a crucial role in decision making by providing the information needed to make informed and well-informed decisions. Charts can be a perfect vessel to display this information to audiences.

The following will walk through the basic steps of adding a chart. Although your *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation doesn't require the support of data, knowing how to create one will be helpful for future business presentations.

Follow these steps to add a chart to a Slides presentation:

1. Open your Slides presentation and select the slide where you want to add the chart.
2. Click on the Insert menu at the top of the screen. Select Chart from the drop-down menu. Choose the type of chart you want to add, such as a bar chart, line chart, pie chart, and so on.
3. Once you have selected the type of chart, you will be prompted to enter the data for the chart. You can also select data from a Google Sheets document.

Once the data has been entered, the chart will be added. Customizing the chart through options can be accomplished in the toolbar of Slides. Such custom changes could be altering the colors, adding a title, and editing data. Like most objects, you can also move and resize the chart as needed.

Inserting a Diagram

You may have noticed after attending numerous presentations how helpful diagrams can be for the audience. A diagram is a graphical representation of information or data. Diagrams can be used to visually communicate complex information, ideas, or concepts in a simple and intuitive way. A diagram can help all types of audiences understand a concept by visually representing complex information in a simple and easy-to-understand proven format. Diagrams can help to clarify relationships and connections between different components or elements of a concept and can make it easier to identify patterns/trends. Additionally, diagrams can be used to highlight important information and make it more prominent, making it easier for the audience to retain and recall the information later. This drives the purpose home in your presentations.

We already learned about how to use shapes to create a custom diagram, like a flowchart. But Slides offers many preset diagrams that can show relationships and processes in different ways. These can be easier to use than shapes because the diagrams are already created for you. To add a diagram to a Slides presentation, click on the Insert menu at the top of the screen. Select Diagram from the drop-down menu and choose the type of diagram you want to add, such as a Grid, Hierarchy, Timeline, Process, Relationship, or Cycle. Each broad option offers several individual options to choose from, all with varying color themes and styles.

Once you have selected the desired type of diagram, Slides makes it intuitively easy to complete the diagram by adding content. Take your time to get maximum impact and experiment with different diagrams. With diagrams, you may find that a “less is more” approach works best when adding to a slide.

Inserting Special Characters

Much like PowerPoint, special characters have a useful effect when added. A special character in Slides is a character or symbol that is not typically found on a keyboard, but can be inserted into a presentation to add visual interest or convey specific meaning. Examples of special characters in Slides include arrows, currency symbols, mathematical symbols, emojis, and various types of punctuation marks.

Open any project and select the slide where you want to add a specific special character. Click on the text box or shape where the special character offers the most impact. Then, click on the Insert menu at the top of the screen and select Special Characters from the drop-down menu. A dialog box will appear with a list of special characters, such as currency symbols, mathematical symbols, and more.

Inserting a Link

For your *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation, you may not need to provide your audience members with any links, but you might want to include your email address. You can make this appear as a link so that when it is clicked on, it brings the user directly to their email client, like Outlook. This can be useful if a team member has a quick follow-up question after the presentation, or if they just want to send you a welcome message. Remember that the link will only work for them if the presentation has been distributed to them electronically. You can do this by emailing a link to the Slides presentation to your audience, or by sharing it as an email attachment.

To add a link to your Slides presentation, first type in your email address as normal text. (In Figure 6.51, we’ve added Amir’s email address on the title slide, below his information.) Then, select the Insert tab that provides the Link option near the bottom of the drop-down menu. Slides will recognize that it is an email address and add the appropriate hyperlink necessary to launch the email address.

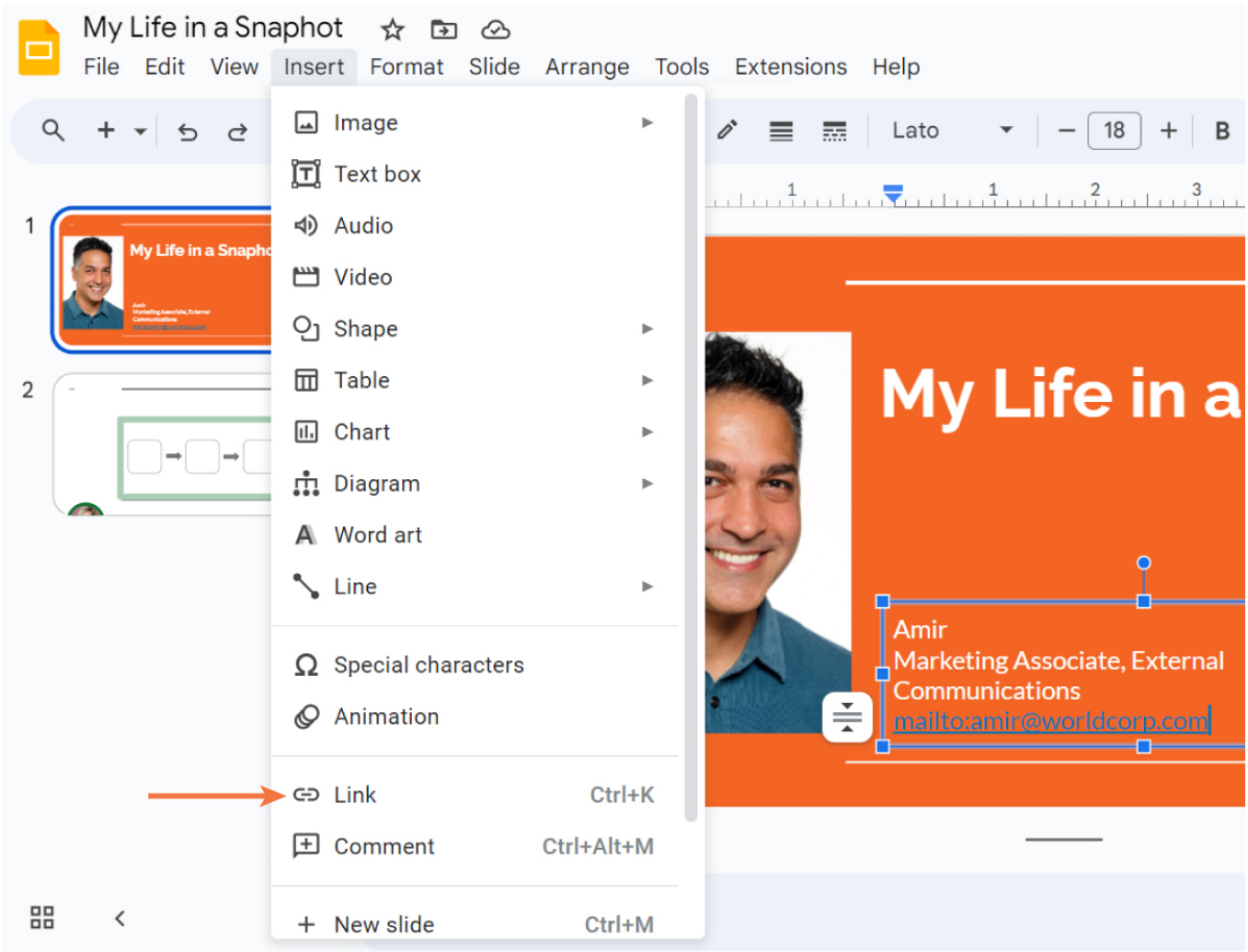


Figure 6.51: When a link is "live," it will turn bright blue and appear underlined. This lets you know you can click on it. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You may also want to provide clickable links within your presentation for your own demonstration purposes. For example, you may want to show your audience a new website or a new cloud-based tool. Instead of placing screenshots in your presentation to show these things, you could simply put a link to the content, and then click on the link yourself during your presentation. Doing this should open up the link in a new browser window or tab.

Inserting a Video

With video sharing and recording platforms like Zoom and YouTube easily accessible, creating and playing videos has never been easier. Adding a short video clip to your presentation can pack a huge punch, and is easy to do. Sharing video content may be exactly what you need to emphasize a message in a presentation, perhaps preferable to showing an image or a chart. Be careful not to use a copyrighted video in professional presentations. Review the rules and laws on what constitutes a copyrighted video before adding one to your next presentation.

To add a video to a Slides presentation, open your Slides presentation and select the slide where you want to add the video. Click on the Insert menu at the top of the screen. Select Video from the drop-down menu. You can then choose to upload a video from your computer or search for a video on the internet using the Search option. Once you have selected the video, it will be added to your slide. You can then move and resize the video as needed. (You can also add a video by pasting a video link from a supported video hosting website such as YouTube, Vimeo, etc., and it will automatically embed the video on the slide.)

As we move into the chapter on Advanced Presentation Skills, we will focus on more advanced aspects of both PowerPoint and Slides. You will learn more key skills for becoming an effective presenter in the next chapter, as well as learn more about the

advanced features of PowerPoint and Slides, such as customizing themes, creating templates, and enhancing images. We will finalize Amir's *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation in both PowerPoint and in Slides.

This page titled 6.7: Adding Visuals and Features to Google Slides is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.8: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

3D model
digital representation of a three-dimensional object that can be inserted into a presentation and manipulated to show different views and perspectives

aesthetics
study of how things look and how we perceive and respond to them; the overall look and feel of something

aspect ratio
relationship of a slide's width to its height

coherency
smooth and logical flow of the slideshow or slide deck within a presentation

consistency
quality of always behaving or performing in a similar way, or of something always appearing or occurring in a similar way

contrast
use of different elements, such as colors, fonts, or design elements, to draw attention and create visual interest

diagram
graphical representation of information or data; diagrams can be used to visually communicate complex information, ideas, or concepts in a simple and intuitive way

ecosystem
brand of software that an organization primarily uses, particularly across programs

equation
mathematical statement that shows the relationship between two or more quantities; equations are used to describe a wide range of physical, biological, and economic phenomena, and are central to many areas of science and engineering

icon
small graphic symbol that represents a specific function, feature, or tool; icons are used in PowerPoint to provide visual cues and to make it easier to navigate the software

PowerPoint template
predesigned set of slides and slide elements that can be used as a starting point for creating a presentation

presentation
spoken or visual information delivered to an audience

proximity
distance between the audience and the subject matter being presented in a slide

repetition
use of similar or identical elements, such as colors, fonts, or design elements, across multiple slides in a presentation

rule of thirds
basic principle of photography and design that suggests that an image can be divided into nine equal parts by two equally spaced horizontal lines and two equally spaced vertical lines; the theory is that if you place the important elements of the image

along these lines, or at the intersections of them, your photo or design will be more balanced and will have more visual interest

seven-seven rule
guideline for creating content for slides so that each slide in a presentation should contain no more than seven lines of text and that each line of text should have no more than seven words

Slide Master
template of the slide that shows each part of the slide

special character
character or symbol that is not typically found on a keyboard but can be inserted into a Slides presentation to add visual interest or convey specific meaning

stock image
generic image created or licensed by a stock photography company, often used in professional publications; may be copyrighted or only available through paid services

storyboard
visual plan that separates topics out into different scenes or sections

table
structure for organizing and presenting data in a grid format

title slide
usually the first slide in presentation that includes the title of the slide as well as a subtitle such as your name or the date of the presentation

variants
design elements such as colors, fonts, and backgrounds that you can change in a theme

visual hierarchy
arrangement of elements in a design according to their level of importance or emphasis; the purpose of visual hierarchy is to guide the viewer's eye to the most important elements first, and then to less important information

white space
unoccupied areas of a slide that are not filled with text or other content

---

This page titled 6.8: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.9: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

6.1 Presentation and Design Essentials

- Presentations are used in business to communicate information to both internal and external stakeholders. They are typically used to educate or train, sell an idea, or simply convey information to others.
- Understanding your audience should drive the purpose behind the presentation. This is to ensure the presentation is geared toward the audience.
- Consistency and coherency are essential for creating a professional, finished presentation. Consistency means ensuring that the presentation has a unified look and feel. Coherency means that the presentation is logically unified and applies to both the slides and the presenter.
- It is important to create a plan or storyboard of the presentation, in the same way that it is important to outline an essay. A visual plan can ensure all key topics are covered and laid out in an effective manner.

6.2 Designing a Presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint

- The default upon opening a new PowerPoint presentation starts with a blank slide. You can also open an existing document or start from a template.
- Themes and templates can help create dynamic slides and slideshows. They can also help you save time by applying color palettes and layouts to an entire presentation.
- The Home tab enables users to create new slides, add text, choose layouts, and customize paragraphs.
- The Design tab enables users to select a common theme for slides and apply variants to each style.
- The View tab helps users to better understand how different view options can be used to build and review presentation content.

6.3 Formatting Microsoft PowerPoint Slides: Layout and Design Principles

- Adjusting the layout of the elements on a slide is an important skill. Formatting the layout includes arranging the text, graphics, and other objects on a slide.
- Design principles provide guidelines and rules of thumb to consider as users start to change and manipulate themes and layouts on slides.

6.4 Adding Visuals and Features to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides

- When including data on slides or related text elements, tables can be used to neatly organize the information in a presentation. The Table tool is similar to inserting tables in Word.
- An impactful presentation includes visual elements such as images rather than just text. You can use images from your computer, images provided by PowerPoint, or images you find online.
- The written (textual) information on a slide can be used to convey important details. However, keeping text to a minimum on each slide makes for a more effective presentation design.
- Symbols and equations can be easily inserted into slides when mathematical content is needed.
- You can use the WordArt tool to enhance basic textual information by adding borders, shading effects, and other elements.
- Slides that include several visual elements are often more appealing. Using the tools in the Illustrations command group, you can insert shapes, pictures, and SmartArt into your slides.

6.5 Designing a Presentation in Google Slides

- Both Slides and PowerPoint have similar functionality when creating presentations. In some respects, Slides is considered more user friendly, with enhanced collaboration tools.
- Slides is a web-based program, which has both advantages and disadvantages. One advantage is that you can access your Slides files anywhere as long as you have internet access and access to your Google account.
- Slides can be exported to a PowerPoint file format, and vice versa. This is useful when working in a workplace environment where one program is preferred over the other.

6.6 Creating Google Slides: Layout and Text

- You can modify text in Slides either by using the action bar or using the Format menu.
- You can adjust the spacing of text on a slide in Google with the Align & Indent tool or the Line spacing tool found in the Format menu.
- Borders and lines can be used to enhance the look of slide elements such as a list of information or images. You can add borders using the Format menu.
- The Arrange and Slide menus can be very helpful when finalizing your slides for a professional appearance. The tools in these menus help with lining up elements on the slide such as text boxes or images.

6.7 Adding Visuals and Features to Google Slides

- Images add visual interest to a presentation and enhance the audience's understanding of the content.
- Shapes can be used to create diagrams, highlight information, or add visual interest to a slide. They can also be used to create custom graphics or diagrams, or to illustrate a concept.
- Tables can be used to organize and present data in a clear, concise manner.
- Charts can be used to visualize data in a clear and meaningful way. Slides makes it simple to insert one into a presentation.
- Diagrams can be used to represent complex ideas, processes, or relationships in a visual and understandable format.
- Special characters can be used to add symbols, accents, or foreign characters to a slide.
- Links allow you to quickly navigate to other pages or websites from within your presentation. They can also be used to provide additional information or resources, or to allow the audience to access additional content related to the presentation.
- Adding video to your presentation can be a good way to add visual interest or provide a more immersive experience for the audience.

This page titled 6.9: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.10: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
How does having a clear purpose for your presentation help you connect to your audience?

a. It helps ensure that your presentation is coherent.
b. It helps ensure that your presentation is consistent.
c. It helps ensure that your presentation is relevant.
d. It helps ensure that your presentation has an appropriate outline.

2 .
A consistent color scheme should have _____.

a. elements that work together
b. a uniform look and feel
c. a focal point
d. a key message

3 .
To determine the appropriate number of slides for your presentation, you should consider _____.

a. whether the presentation will be delivered in person or via technology such as Zoom
b. the needs of your audience
c. the software you use to create the presentation
d. the category of the presentation

4 .
To create an effective plan for your presentation, you should _____.

a. focus on consistent design quality
b. ensure the slideshow has a coherent design quality
c. make sure that you tell a story throughout the presentation
d. define the layout of your slides

5 .
The _____ in a presentation refers to the overall design and layout of the slides.

a. title slide
b. variants
c. theme
d. Slide Master

6 .
If you wanted to change the overall color style of a theme you are using, which option would be best?

a. Go to the Design tab, then Variants.
b. Go to the Home tab, then Slides.
c. Go to the Insert tab, then Text.
d. Go to the View tab, Outline View.

7 .
On the Home tab, the _____ command enables you to work with elements in your presentation such as adding bullets and aligning text.

a. Layout
b. Font
c. Paragraph
d. Design Ideas

8 .
What is the advantage of the Design tab over the Design Ideas feature?

a. The Design tab has an on/off button that provides advanced slide layouts.
b. The Design tab enables you to adjust elements of your presentation such as line spacing and columns.
c. The Design tab offers the option of using a blank, white canvas to build your presentation.
d. The Design tab provides a collection of tools that enable you to change layout designs for all of your slides at once.

9 .
To add a slide to your presentation, which option on the View tab should you select?

a. Notes View
b. Slide Sorter View
c. Reading View
d. Outline View

10 .
What type of slide layout offers the best way to present two or more different types of information in a presentation?

a. Content with Caption
b. Section Header
c. Comparison
d. Title and Content

11 .
_____ refers to the use of similar or identical elements, such as colors, fonts, or design elements, across multiple slides in a presentation.

a. Repetition
b. Contrast
c. Alignment
d. Proximity

12 .
A table in PowerPoint is used to _____.

a. add special effects to text
b. create charts and graphs
c. present information in an organized format
d. add images and videos

13 .
You need a picture of a squirrel for your presentation, but you have been unable to take one with your cell phone. What could you do instead?

a. Use the WordArt tool.
b. Use 3D models.
c. Use SmartArt.
d. Use a stock image.

14 .
WordArt in PowerPoint is used to _____.

a. add special effects to text
b. create charts and graphs
c. add images and videos
d. organize slides into sections

15 .
Why would you use a visual hierarchy in your presentation?

a. to emphasize certain points
b. to make the presentation more engaging
c. to minimize distractions in the presentation
d. to guide a viewer’s eyes to the most important information

16 .

As part of your presentation, you need to present data to your audience. To do this, which type of illustration should you select?

a. SmartArt
b. icons
c. charts
d. 3D models

17 .
What is a distinct feature of Slides that is not present in PowerPoint?

a. changing ribbon
b. drop-down boxes from each tab
c. File, View, and Insert menus
d. thumbnails on the left side

18 .
What is a primary difference between Slides and PowerPoint?

a. Slides is a web-based software application, while PowerPoint is a stand-alone software program.
b. PowerPoint is recommended for online collaboration, while Slides is best for self-contained work.
c. Slides can only be used offline, while PowerPoint is ideal for mobile application devices.
d. PowerPoint can only be used through cloud-based applications, while Slides is a desktop application.

19 .
If your workplace uses only Microsoft products, which program would be a better choice for creating a slideshow, and why?

a. PowerPoint, because it is more feature-rich than Slides
b. PowerPoint, because it is advantageous to remain within your workplace’s software ecosystem
c. Slides, because it is more user-friendly than PowerPoint
d. Slides, because it is better for online collaboration

20 .
When you convert your presentation from PowerPoint to Slides, some of the font effects are missing. Why does this happen?

a. Slides is a desktop application.
b. Slides does not include Illustrations tools.
c. Slides is a web-based software application.
d. Slides does not always convert WordArt consistently.

21 .
Which drop-down menu in Slides is best to access line spacing options for text?

a. Insert
b. Slide
c. Arrange
d. Format

22 .
To add a border to a text box in Slides, you must first do what?

a. Copy the text.
b. Select the text box,
c. Go to the Format menu.
d. A border cannot be added to a text box in Slides.

23 .
Which tool in Slides helps you change the layout of your slides?

a. Slide menu
b. Apply Layout
c. Change Background
d. Edit Theme

24 .

When adding images to your Slides presentation, what should you remember?

a. Only copyrighted and trademarked images should be used.
b. Before you insert the images into your presentation, they must be the correct size.
c. You should use the Format menu to insert images.
d. The images can come from any source, including pictures on your smartphone.

25 .
What is the advantage of using diagrams in a Slides presentation?

a. Slides automatically designs any diagram that you select.
b. You can copy and paste diagrams from other sources without making any modifications.
c. You can present complex information in a simple and intuitive way.
d. Diagrams make it easier to quickly create a presentation.

26 .
To present numerical data to your audience during a presentation using Slides, what tool(s) should you use?

a. shapes and/or diagrams
b. text boxes
c. tables and/or charts
d. images

27 .
Why are special characters useful in presentations?

a. They add effects to text and make it more prominent.
b. They add visual interest or convey specific meanings.
c. They enable you to add images to a presentation.
d. They are the most appropriate tools for presenting numerical data.

28 .
When using links in your presentation, what should you remember?

a. Links are important tools and should be used extensively in presentations.
b. Links can be used to make a presentation more visually appealing.
c. Links can be distributed to your audience electronically for their personal access.
d. Links should not be used if you have screenshots of the information you want to present.

This page titled 6.10: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.11: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

29 .
Develop a storyboard that is both educational and persuasive, presenting the steps to making the best possible sandwich (in your opinion). Create a plan for this presentation. Divide the presentation into seven sections. Make sure that your storyboard includes information on each of these topics and why it is a needed section of the plan for making the best sandwich.

30 .
After developing your presentation, you decide to add pictures to slides #4 and #7, along with a simple animation to slide #12. You do not want to make any changes to other slides in the presentation. Explain the best way to make these changes without affecting the overall presentation.

31 .
Your presentation is ready to go, but at the last minute, your supervisor asks you to create two additional slides to provide updated information in the middle of the presentation. To accommodate this update, you also need to move slide #11 and make it the fifth slide in the presentation. How will you make these changes?

32 .
Use the elements about alignment to arrange six different objects into a slide. Choose images and text. Choose a group of items such as cars, animals, or national parks. Start by sketching the design on a piece of paper, then building the design into PowerPoint.

33 .
Choose a topic of interest such as your favorite vacation or your top three academic goals this year. Select the appropriate layouts for a new presentation and create a short presentation about the chosen topic. After the title slide, you need a slide that provides an overview of your presentation, followed by three slides that you will use to present pictures with captions. Your presentation should be approximately five slides long.

34 .
Tables are frequently used in professional presentations. Using what you've learned, insert a 5 x 5 table into a presentation.

35 .
Using WordArt, demonstrate ways to emphasize an important point. You can either create a new presentation or add it to your *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation.

36 .
Your team includes several people who have never worked with a digital presentation. To make your project easier for them to complete, you need to convert a PowerPoint presentation to Slides. Create a memo with a simple set of instructions to achieve this.

37 .
Open a new Slides file. Add a text box and include a list of items such as a shopping list or a packing list for a trip. Using the skills you learned in this section, add a border to a text box. Format the rest of the slide in a professional manner adding a background and color.

38 .
Create a new Slides file. Choose a theme such as landscape images or animals. Insert several images (at least five) onto the slide. Use the tools in the Arrange menu to format the slide in an organized manner. You might need to adjust the size of the images to make them all fit on the slide. Change the layout of the slide to include a title.

39 .
Practice what you've learned by adding a diagram to your presentation. Select the appropriate type of diagram, choose a color theme and style, and add content.

40 .
Practice what you've learned by adding a video to your presentation. Follow the appropriate steps to insert a video from a platform such as YouTube or from your own collection of videos.

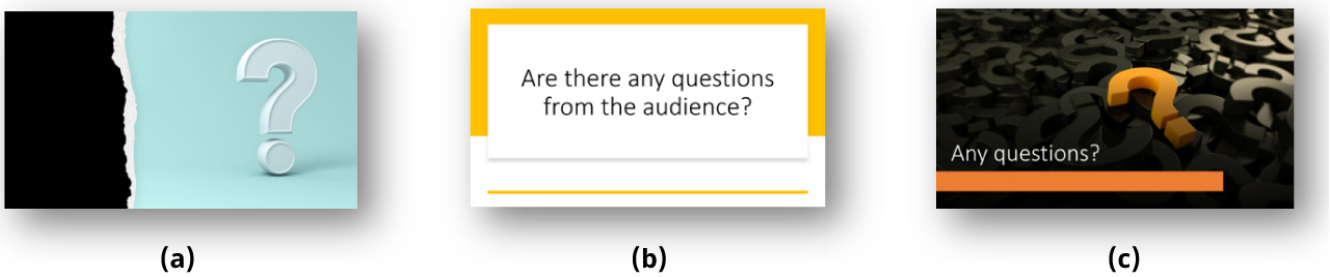
This page titled 6.11: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.12: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

41 .
What is the key difference between PowerPoint and Slides?
42 .
What are the key questions to ask when developing a sense of purpose in a presentation? Why are these questions important?
43 .
Describe the main features and tools available on the Home tab in PowerPoint.
44 .
How is the Themes and Variants feature on the Design tab used?
45 .
How can you use white space effectively in PowerPoint to create visually appealing slides and improve the overall design of your presentation?
46 .
Why are layouts important in PowerPoint presentations? As part of your answer, discuss three commonly used slide layouts and explain how they can help create a professional presentation.
47 .

Reviewing the figure, make an argument for which of the three options works best. There are no right or wrong answers, but you should make a clear choice and defend that choice in the response.



48 .
While mathematical statements, or equations, can be complicated, they can also be useful tools in presentations. Describe at least two situations where you could consider adding equations to your presentations.
49 .
Describe the difference between stand-alone and web-based software programs.
50 .
Why would you need to adjust the layout of content in a Slides presentation?
51 .
How can you effectively add links to a Slides presentation to enhance interactivity and provide additional resources for your audience?

This page titled 6.12: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

6.13: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

52 .

The Design tab in PowerPoint helps you quickly and easily change the overall look and feel of your presentation with built-in templates, color schemes, and slide layouts. Demonstrate how to use the Design tab options to transform roughed-out text into a professional presentation.

This page titled 6.13: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

7: Advanced Presentation Skills

7.0: Chapter Scenario
7.1: Effective Presentation Skills
7.2: Finalizing a Slide Collection
7.3: Preparing a Microsoft PowerPoint Collection for Presentation
7.4: Preparing a Google Slides Collection for Presentation
7.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms
7.6: Chapter Review - Summary
7.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions
7.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
7.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions
7.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 7: Advanced Presentation Skills is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.0: Chapter Scenario

In Preparing Presentations, you were shown how to put together a basic presentation. You designed a professional presentation and are sure that it contains all relevant content and all the necessary elements.



Figure 7.1: Developing the right skills to give a presentation is just as important as knowing how to create one. (credit: modification of “Man in Black Suit and Blue Denim Pants Standing beside Projector Screen” by Pavel Danilyuk/Pexels, CC0)

Now the nerves start to set in, and the reality that you have to present this to an audience hits you. This chapter focuses on that next step of presentation readiness and provides the knowledge and tools to give you the confidence to present with ease. You will not only deepen your presenting skills by learning more advanced functions of Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Slides, but you will also learn the equally important skills of collaborating and presenting in a professional setting. Even if your slides are outstanding, you will still need to practice your presentation and consider your audience. All of these skills will help you take your presentation and your presenting skills to the next level, setting you up to be well prepared to give the presentation in front of your WorldCorp colleagues.

This page titled 7.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.1: Effective Presentation Skills

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Ensure the slideshow meets the needs of the presentation
- Craft a strong presentation hook
- Identify the key skills for presenting in front of an audience
- Describe the importance of a strong closing

A well-crafted set of slides is essential for an effective presentation. Equally essential are presentation skills. In this first section, we discuss some best practices in presenting. Some people may be apprehensive about presenting in front of a group; others may welcome the challenge. At this point in your academic career, you may have also taken a course in public speaking. Regardless of your prior experience and your feelings about presenting in front of others, some practice and attention to developing your skills as a presenter will be worthwhile. We can all benefit from fine-tuning our public speaking and presenting abilities, even if we are regularly in front of a group. These skills are relevant in all types of meetings, whether in person or virtual.

One of the best ways to improve your presenting is to practice. This can help you work through all of the technological hiccups, as well as set your mind at ease. You should practice in the same space and with the same technology, if possible, as well as practice what you are going to say and your demeanor during the presentation. The importance of this prep work cannot be overemphasized. Consider recording yourself as you are practicing to give you a firsthand look at your presentation skills. This strategy is helpful even if you are presenting fully in person.

Ensuring the Final Presentation Meets Its Goals

In general, to create an effective presentation, you first need to understand the goal or intent of the presentation. Your supervisor may provide those goals, or you may determine them yourself. Regardless, setting your goals first will help you ensure that the look of your slides matches those goals. Presentations can fall into one of the following categories, as outlined in Table 7.1: persuasive, instructional, informational, or inspirational. Knowing the goal of your presentation helps you set the stage for developing the slides and constructing your narrative.

For example, if you want to create a lively, inspirational presentation to encourage the audience to donate to a nonprofit cause, a gray-tone slide presentation dominated by text will not be effective in meeting your goals.

Table 7.1: Types of Presentations The goal of the presentation should guide all aspects of slide development, from color choices to the graphics included on the slides to the overall tone of the presentation.

Type	Main Goal	Example
Persuasive	To prompt the audience to act. Provide enough information and support to move the audience in the desired direction.	Encourage participation in a local community cleanup effort.
Instructional	To educate the audience. Typical of training presentations.	New-hire training by the human resources department.
Informational	To report on company performance or other metrics. Include charts and visuals.	Quarterly sales reports for each region in a company.
Inspirational	To energize the audience to evaluate and change a belief, or to motivate the audience to act on that changed belief.	Solicit donations for a nonprofit.

Opening a Presentation

There are many ways to start a presentation to engage your audience. What you do not want to do is jump right into the content or start by simply introducing yourself. You want your audience to be interested and engaged right away and to want to know more about what you are presenting.

To get your audience interested and engaged in the presentation from the get-go, consider developing a strong opener, or hook. A hook is a statement, story, or question designed to get participants' attention and pique their interest.

For example, if you are presenting WorldCorp's sales goals, you could begin with a personal anecdote about how you once set a goal and achieved it. Alternatively, you could ask the audience to think about a time when they faced a lofty goal and found a way to overcome the challenges. Be creative—think about a time when you were in a meeting or presentation and found yourself engaged from the beginning. What did that speaker do to get your attention? Did the presentation include compelling statistics? Maybe a short video or bit of humor got your attention. The hook helps set the tone of the entire presentation and can establish rapport with the group. It is your way to connect with the audience from the initial stages of the presentation.

Also, think about your goals and how they are relevant to the type of presentation you are giving. Do you want to inspire the group and leave them with a call to action? Perhaps your presentation is a training session where you will be assessing the participant's learning at the end. Keeping the type of presentation in mind can help you craft an impactful hook. After you have delivered the hook, transition into the introduction of the slideshow, drawing the connection between the hook and the goal of the slideshow.

Spotlight on Ethics - Inclusivity and Presentations

When delivering presentations, consider the needs of all audience members and ensure accessibility for all individuals, including those with disabilities. Presentations should be designed and delivered in a way that accommodates individuals with visual, hearing, or other impairments, to ensure equal access to information and an inclusive experience. Here is an example:

Imagine WorldCorp is conducting a large-scale conference at which it provides handouts of presentation slides to attendees. In this case, it would be important to consider whether the handouts are available in alternative formats, such as braille or accessible electronic formats. This ensures that individuals with visual impairments can access the same information as everyone else.

Additionally, in the context of delivering presentations, presenters should consider incorporating accessible features in their slides and delivery style. Some key considerations include the following:

- Clear and readable text: Use legible fonts, appropriate font sizes, and high contrast between text and background colors to ensure readability for individuals with visual impairments.
- Alt text for visuals: Provide alternative text descriptions for images, graphs, and charts. This allows individuals with visual impairments who use screen readers to understand the content presented visually.
- Captioning and transcripts: If the presentation involves audio or video elements, provide closed captions or transcripts. This helps individuals with hearing impairments or those who may have difficulty understanding the spoken language.
- Verbal descriptions: When demonstrating visual elements, ensure that the presenter provides verbal descriptions of what is being shown on the screen. This assists individuals who are visually impaired and cannot see the visuals.
- Inclusive language and tone: Use inclusive language, and avoid making assumptions or generalizations that could marginalize or exclude certain groups of individuals.

By considering these guidelines, presenters can create a more inclusive and accessible environment, ensuring that their presentations are accessible to a broader range of individuals.

Key Presentation Skills

Specific skills can vary by the type of presentation. For example, if you are giving a persuasive presentation, you might use more humor than you would in an informational presentation. There is no single standard set of skills that all presenters should possess, and what defines a good presenter versus a bad presenter can be quite subjective. However, there are some skills that pertain in all situations. A good presenter is one who is prepared, professional, and able to communicate effectively with the audience.

First, consider what you are going to wear to the presentation. You should choose attire that is professional and appropriate for the type of presentation you are giving. Make sure you feel comfortable too. Do not wear clothing that you think you will be fidgeting with or accessories that you might handle if you are feeling nervous, such as coins or keys in your pocket. If your hair falls on your face often, you may want to pull it back for the presentation. The fewer distractions there are, the better. Consider the type of footwear you will wear. If you will be moving around the room during the presentation, choose comfortable shoes that you are confident walking in. The type of flooring in the room is also something to consider. Carpet is typically much quieter when walking during the presentation. Certain shoes on tile floors can be quite loud and distracting.

Also, think about the temperature in the room. When you are presenting, you may warm up quickly because of nerves and because you are active. Choose attire that will not show signs of sweat and will not let you become overheated. You might also want to consider what fragrances you typically wear. In a smaller or warm room, strong fragrances can quickly become overwhelming and distracting.

But first and foremost, be on time for your presentation. In fact, you should plan to arrive early. Arriving early will help set your mind at ease and leave time for you to work out any issues that may arise. A good rule of thumb is to arrive at least thirty minutes before your presentation is scheduled to start. Get the slideshow set up before any participants arrive, and get prepared to begin. Remember, you will start with your hook. Be sure to use your slides as a supplement to what you are saying. The slides should not be the centerpiece; they are secondary and complementary to what you want to convey. Reference the content on the slides as necessary to keep the audience engaged.

During the presentation, be aware of your body language. You want to appear confident and prepared. Make eye contact with the audience, making sure you look at all sides of the room. Also, you should display body language that shows the audience you are engaged and excited about the presentation. This means good posture, using hand gestures as appropriate, and pausing to make sure the audience is following. There is nothing worse than sitting through a presentation where the speaker appears disengaged and bored. Try not to rely on the slides or your notes too much, and avoid turning your back to the audience. It is acceptable to walk out into the room a bit and not stay in the front of the room or behind a computer desk or podium. However, too much moving around can be distracting to the audience and make you appear nervous and unprepared.

Think about how your voice is coming across to the audience. Have good voice projection without yelling. Maintain a conversational style of speaking, rather than sounding monotone and memorized. Avoid swearing and inappropriate jokes. Be sensitive to audience members and aware of words or phrases that may reflect any bias or discrimination. Use pauses and voice inflection when you want to draw attention to certain parts of the presentation. Throughout the presentation, you can also repeat or rephrase important points for emphasis. Speak slowly and clearly. Keep a bottle of water close in case you need it, especially if you will be speaking for an extended period. If you lose your train of thought or are searching for the next phrase, avoid using filler words such as “uh” and “um.” Instead, try silently counting to yourself for a few moments; this is one strategy that can help you avoid using words to fill pauses. Sometimes a little silence is okay. You do not need to fill every spare moment with speaking.

Again, consider recording yourself presenting to see where you can improve. Use the available technological tools such as the Rehearse with Coach feature in PowerPoint. Your skills and comfort level will improve with practice and preparation. The more you practice and present in front of others, the better you will get at it.

Real-World Application - TED Talks

One way to hone your presentation skills is to watch other presenters. TED Talks are an excellent source. One TED Talk that is often recommended for its exceptional presentation skills and storytelling is “The power of vulnerability” by Brené Brown. In this talk, Brown, a renowned research professor and author, explores the topic of vulnerability and its connection to human connection and personal growth.

Brown’s talk stands out for several reasons:

- Engaging storytelling: Brown captivates the audience with personal anecdotes, humor, and relatable stories that make the topic accessible and relatable to a wide range of people. She uses storytelling as a powerful tool to connect with the audience emotionally.

- Authenticity and vulnerability: As she discusses vulnerability, Brown displays a genuine and vulnerable presence on stage. She shares personal experiences and openly acknowledges her own struggles and fears. This authenticity creates a strong connection with the audience, making her talk even more impactful.
- Research-based content: Brown supports her talk with research findings, which adds credibility and depth to her message. She presents her research in a way that is easily understandable and relatable, helping the audience grasp complex concepts.
- Humor and wit: Brown infuses her talk with humor and wit, using well-timed jokes and lighthearted moments. This keeps the audience engaged and creates a pleasant atmosphere during the presentation.

"The power of vulnerability" has millions of views and has resonated with people worldwide. It serves as an excellent example of how effective storytelling, authenticity, and research-based content can create a powerful and memorable presentation.

Closing a Presentation

Just as you need a strong hook to start off a presentation, you also need a strong closing statement. It should be more than simply a summary of what you discussed in the presentation. Your closing statement should be a few words that leave a lasting, positive impression and that convey the essence of the slideshow. You want your audience to remember the presentation, especially your key points. This is your last chance to bring it all together for the audience.

To prepare your closing statement, start by making a list of the top three to five items you hope the audience will walk away with after listening to your presentation. For Amir's presentation at WorldCorp, he may want the audience to remember his leadership skills, his teamwork ability, and a few items about his background. In your closing, you can reemphasize these items in a creative way rather than simply listing them one by one. For example, your closing slide might include a collage of pictures that visually represent your main points. If you are giving a persuasive or inspirational presentation, you may want to close with a call to action—what you hope the participants will be motivated to do after hearing your presentation.

For example, if you are giving a presentation to encourage people to donate to a nonprofit organization, in the closing you can specifically ask about how to donate. Another option is to end the presentation with a story or joke that sums up the main points. If you started with a story as your opening hook, you can come back to that story and add more to it. Finally, you may want to use a quote from a famous historical or contemporary figure that encapsulates what you hope the audience will take away from your presentation.

As you can see, there are many ways to close a presentation that go beyond simply ending with a "Thank You" or "Questions" slide. Your main goal should be to get the audience to remember the presentation and the message you set out to convey.

Link to Learning

One technique to engage the audience during a presentation is to tell a story rather than give a speech. People are intrigued by stories. Using this approach encourages your listeners to create mental images. See this blog on storytelling techniques used by the TED presenters for some tips on using storytelling in presentations.

This page titled 7.1: Effective Presentation Skills is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.2: Finalizing a Slide Collection

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Choose an appropriate and engaging color scheme
- Modify a theme of a presentation
- Utilize design ideas options to change the look of individual slides
- Enhance images used in slides

At some point in your career, you might need to present an analysis of data to an audience of peers or management. Your information must appear clear and professional and will likely include graphs and charts of your analysis. In Preparing Presentations, we learned the basics of putting together a presentation and including tables and images. However, when finalizing your presentation, you may want to adjust the colors, slide layout, and other aspects to take your presentation to the next level. The theme and color choices of these elements can be critical to developing a professional presentation that will impress the audience and effectively communicate your intended message. In this section, the focus is on PowerPoint. The use of these skills in Slides is covered in a later section.

Color Schemes

Through the use of color and other design elements, you can visually highlight key points. Your color choices can also engage the audience by evoking emotions. If you are not careful, though, the color scheme can be distracting and take away from your message. You will also want to keep text to a minimum on each slide, focusing on key words or ideas, and using the notes section to capture your speaking notes and detail.

Link to Learning

When preparing the colors for your presentations and charts, there are a few guiding principles you can follow that will help make your presentation look professional. Some of these tips include the following:

- Keep the color scheme simple by using no more than three colors: one main color, a secondary color, and an accent color. The main color should represent about 60 percent of the color in your presentation, the secondary color should be about 30 percent, and the accent color should make up the remaining 10 percent.
- Keep the colors in balance with tint and hue. For example, do not pair a rich royal blue with a pale, pastel yellow. Choose high-contrast colors for the most impact.
- Spread the content out over several slides; do not put all the data or charts on a single slide.

Visit this web page on choosing the best colors for your presentations for more details on how to use color to create an effective presentation.

Choosing your own color scheme can be a fun way to create your own style for your presentation. However, you may want to go with a preset color scheme to ensure that all the chosen colors go together in a harmonious way. PowerPoint makes this process easy by providing themes, which provide a cohesive and unified design scheme across the whole presentation, allowing you to maintain consistency across slides, even if they have different content. When you apply a theme, PowerPoint automatically updates the color palette, font styles, background designs, and other visual attributes of the presentation. This helps to save time and effort by eliminating the need to manually adjust the appearance and colors of each slide individually.

Modifying a Theme

PowerPoint offers a variety of built-in themes to choose from, each with its own unique combination of colors, fonts, and effects. Additionally, you can customize and create your own themes by modifying the visual elements according to your preferences. Themes keep the look and feel of slides consistent. The theme is applied to all slides you select and is designed with preset colors, fonts, and background styles.

Here we go more in depth about the changes you can make to the theme selected for a presentation. Let's practice by modifying the existing theme selected for the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation that you created in Preparing Presentations. You have decided that, after learning more about color theory and how colors can evoke emotions in others, you want to change the theme and enhance some color elements. Figure 7.2 shows the original theme selected for the presentation as well as a starting slide that you created in Preparing Presentations. Recall that themes are accessed through the Design tab in PowerPoint. The theme includes more muted, brown tones, and you want to add more color to the presentation to make it more engaging.

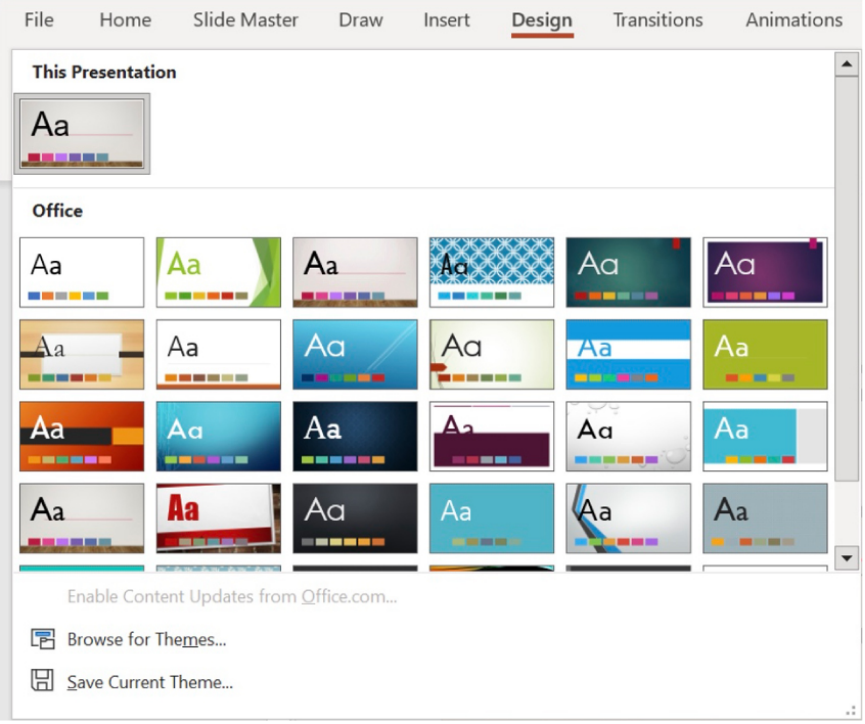


Figure 7.2: Each thumbnail displays the main font that theme will use (as shown by the Aa) as well as the color palette, shown in the form of the small rectangles at the bottom of each thumbnail. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You decide to go with warm colors, as they convey energy and optimism. Let's first look at how you can change the elements and colors of the current theme. From the Design tab, choose the command group Variants to make adjustments to the theme. Variants are changes to a theme such as colors or slide layouts—essentially, variations to your selected theme. You can also find these options in the Slide Master tab. Figure 7.3 shows the options you have for changing parts of the theme: Colors, Fonts, Effects, and Background Styles. Choose a vibrant color scheme that includes orange and yellow colors. When you select a new color scheme, it will be applied to all slides in the presentation. If you choose, you can also customize colors if you do not like the preset color schemes.

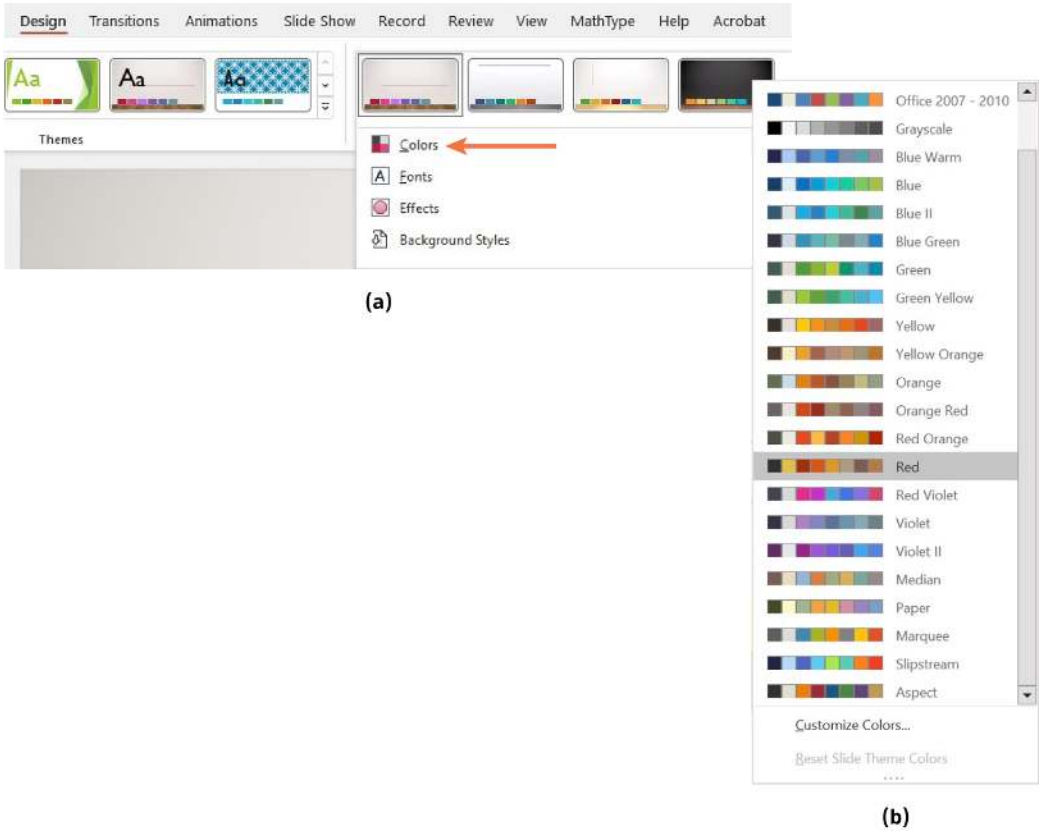


Figure 7.3: (a) In addition to colors, you can change other aspects of the theme, including fonts and backgrounds. (b) When you choose an option under Colors, you will see the change to your slides immediately on the screen. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Color theory focuses on the way colors mix together. Knowing a little bit about color theory and the color wheel can go a long way toward helping you select a color scheme, or theme, for your presentation. Watch this video on the basics of the color wheel and how to apply it to PowerPoint to learn more.

To create a customized color scheme, click on the Design tab located in the PowerPoint ribbon at the top of the screen. In the Variants section of the ribbon, click on the Colors drop-down button. This will display a list of built-in color schemes and options. At the bottom of the Colors drop-down, select Customize Colors. A new window titled Create New Theme Colors will appear. In the Create New Theme Colors window, you will see several categories of colors, such as Text/Background, Accent 1, Accent 2, and so forth. To create a custom color, click on the color square next to the category you want to customize.

For example, click on Text/Background to customize the color used for text and slide backgrounds. In the color picker window, you have several options to create a custom color. You can use the sliders or input fields to adjust the RGB (red, green, blue) values of the color. Alternatively, you can enter the hexadecimal value (or “hex code”) of the desired color in the “#FFFFFF” format. You can also choose a color from the Standard or Custom color palettes. Choose Customize Colors at the bottom of the colors menu. To create a custom color by selecting a color from your slide, click on the Eyedropper tool, and then click on the desired color within your slide. Once you have set the desired color, click the OK button to save it. Repeat for other color categories if you want to customize them as well. After customizing all the desired color categories, click the Save button in the Create New Theme Colors window. In the Save dialog box, enter a name for your custom color scheme and click Save (Figure 7.4). Naming the color scheme will save it for future use.

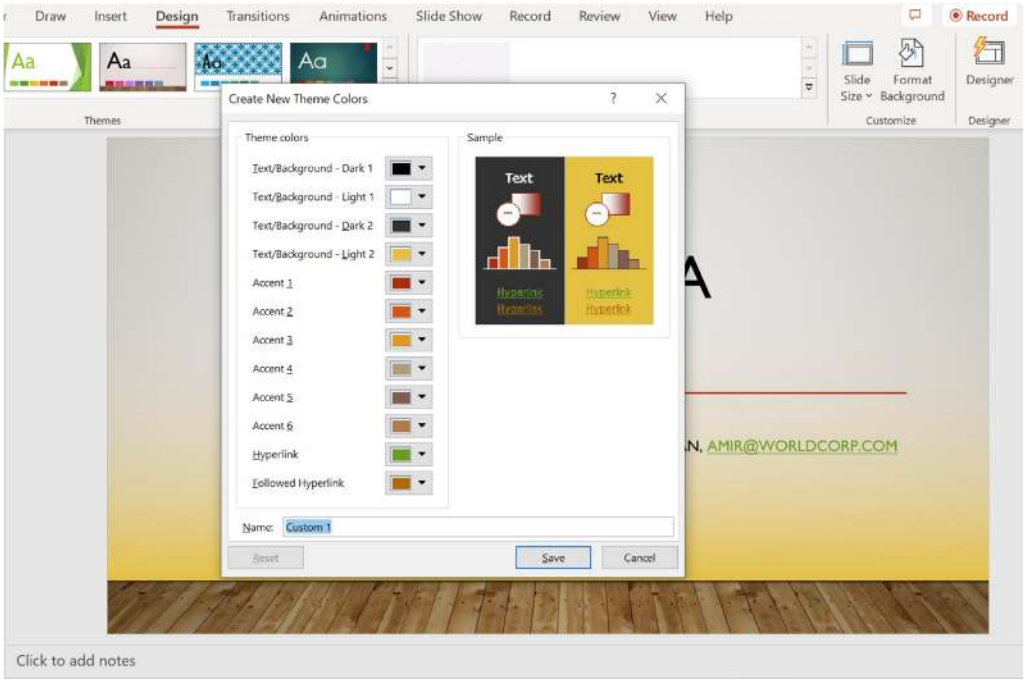


Figure 7.4: You can create a customized color scheme for your presentation and save it to use in future presentations. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now adjust the color of the first text option to be a dark red color, as shown in Figure 7.5. Notice that the thumbnails of all the slides have changed to reflect the new color scheme.

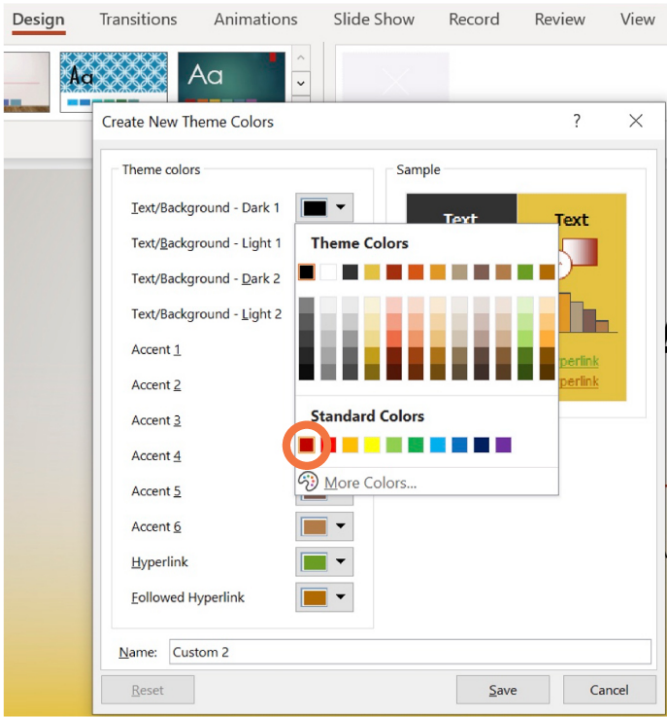


Figure 7.5: The new dark red font color is used throughout the existing slides and any new slides created in the presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Other options in Variants include changing the font for the theme and effects. To change the font, simply select a new font, and it will be applied to all slides in the current presentation and any additional slides that you might add. The Effects options change how images and other graphic elements are added to the slide. By adjusting effects, you can change the shadowing, lines, and fill elements in a graphic added to a slide.

For example, let's insert a list as a SmartArt graphic. (SmartArt was introduced in Preparing Presentations.) Choose an option from the List section of SmartArt and modify it to include shadows to see how the effects can change. Remember, when you change an item in Variants, whether it is a font, a color, or an effect, it will apply to all slides in the presentation.

First, navigate to the Strengths & Skills slide in the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation. You can either choose the list from the slide view on the left panel or use the page down key on the keyboard to get to the slide. Then go to the Insert tab to insert a SmartArt graphic that is appropriate for lists, such as the Basic Block List option. When the graphic is inserted, choose a SmartArt style that has shadows (Figure 7.6).

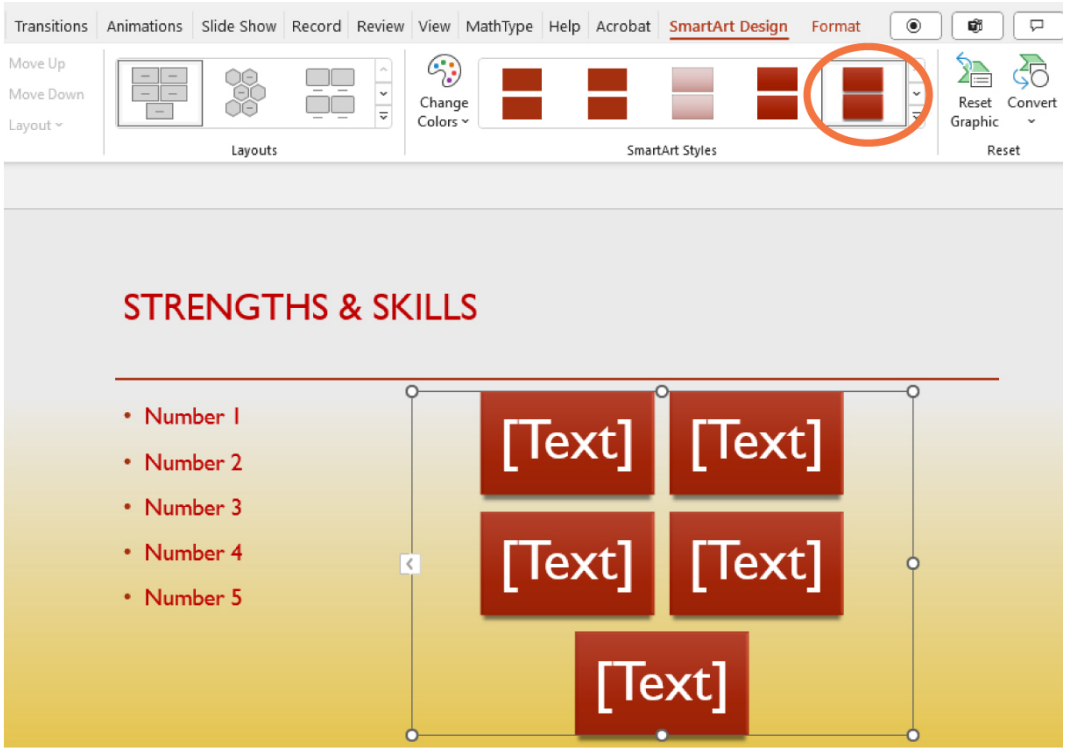


Figure 7.6: Effects changes the fill effects, lines, and shadows of inserted graphics. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you have selected the style, go back to the Design tab to adjust the Effects from the Variants command group. Choose a new Effect to see how the elements of the SmartArt graphic are modified. For this example, the Grunge Texture Effect was selected. You will see the change in the graphic as you hover over the various effect modifications (see Figure 7.7).

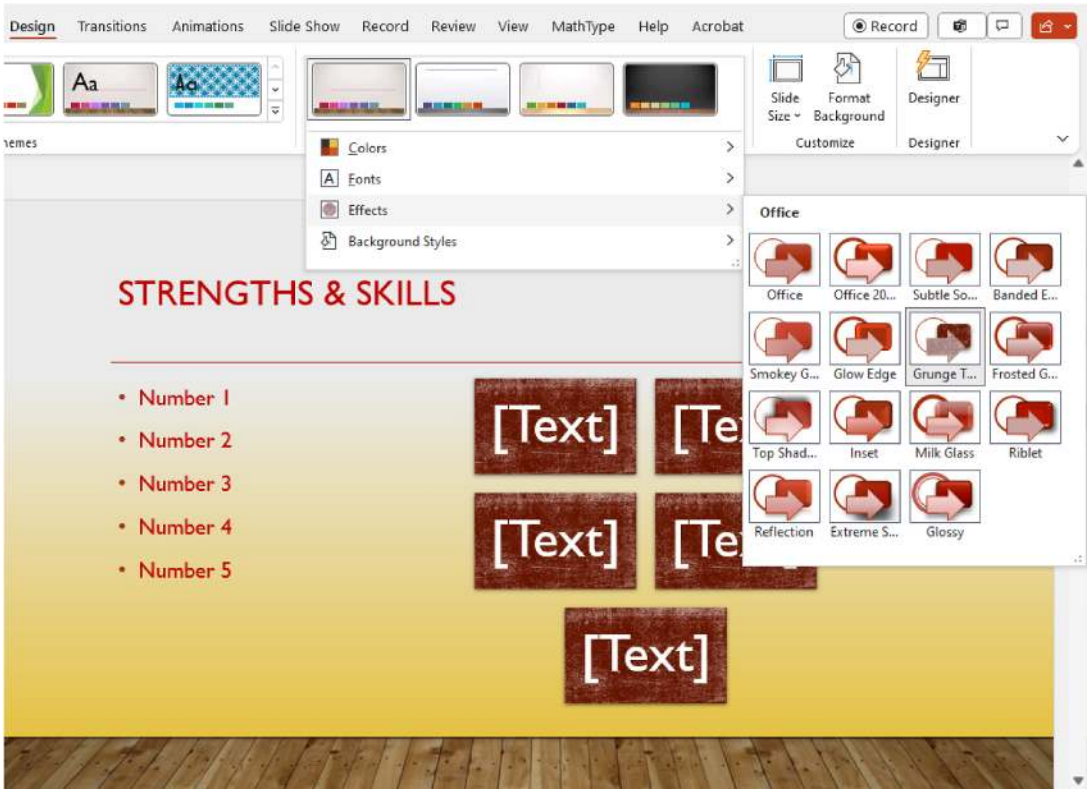


Figure 7.7: The new effect chosen, Grunge Texture Effect, will now apply to all graphics that are currently in or added to the slides in a presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The last section of the Variants command group is the Background Style. This option allows you to change not only the color but also the fill and texture of the background of the slides. As with the other selections, you access this through the Design tab. Initially, you are given choices to change the color of the background. Note that these colors are preselected for you based on the color scheme that you chose for the theme. As with the other changes, you will see a preview of the change to the background color as you hover over the options (Figure 7.8). Not all colors will work with your chosen font colors or other elements that you have included in the presentation. For example, choosing a dark red background color with the dark red font will make the font unreadable. The chosen color will be applied to all slides in the presentation and any new slides that you add, so consider the entire presentation when selecting the background color.

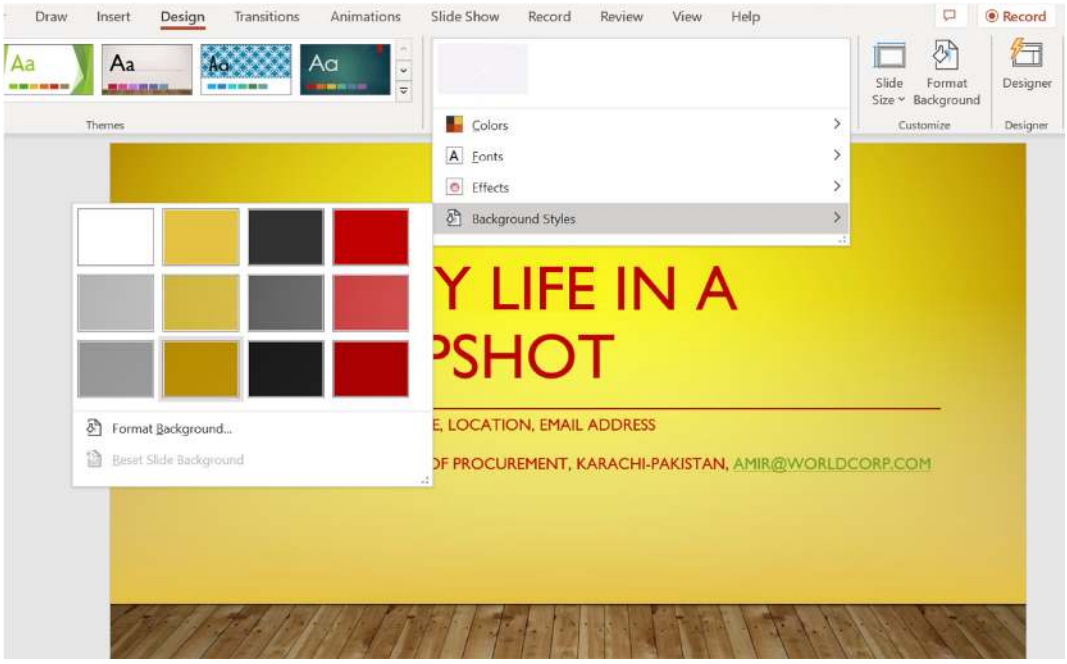
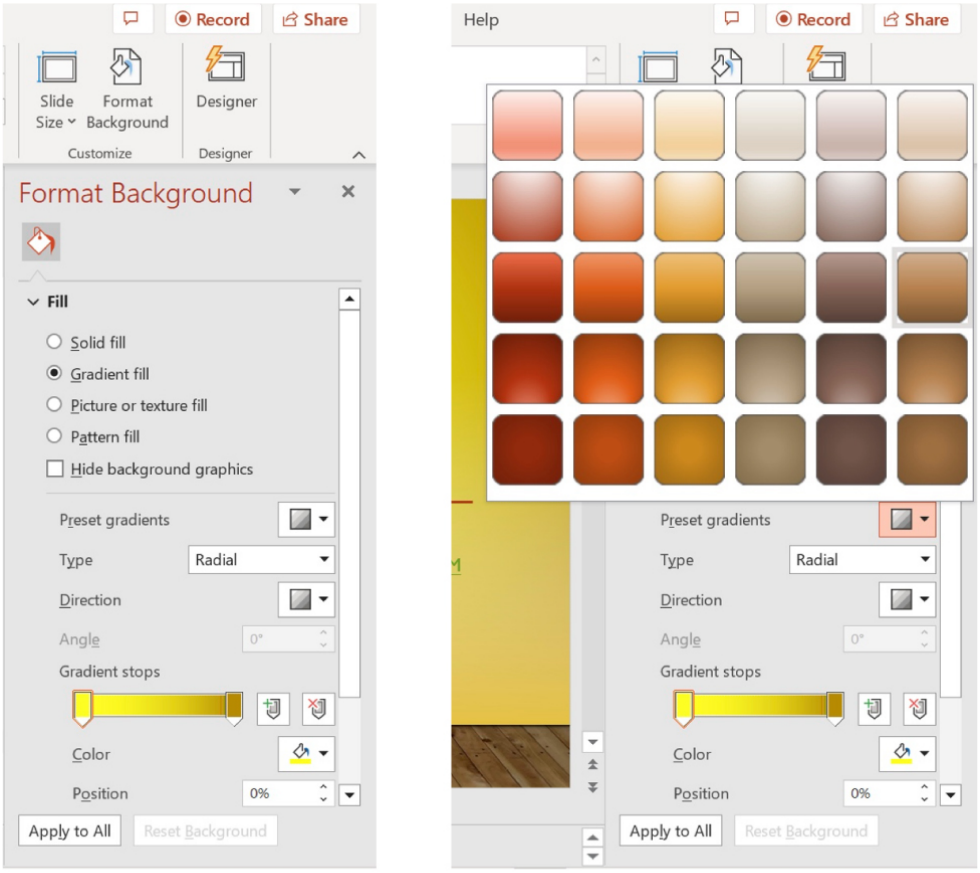


Figure 7.8: Keep in mind the color of the fonts as you choose a new background color. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Format Background option gives you the tools to change the gradient, transparency, and fill pattern of the background. A gradient is when one color fades into another. For example, for a slide background, you could add a gradient effect to a slide where the color blends and transitions from green to blue. When you select Format Background, a panel will open on the right, giving options to change various aspects of the background. There are preset gradient options that will also change the color of the background beyond the few options that you originally have available in background styles, as Figure 7.9 shows. Or you can choose to adjust the current option. In this example, we are using the Radial gradient. But that can be adjusted through the Format Background options.



(a) **(b)**

Figure 7.9: (a) By changing the settings in the Format Background options, you can customize the look of your slides. (b) Preset gradients offer many more color choices for the background colors. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Designer

The latest version of PowerPoint includes a feature called Designer. This feature helps you create professional-looking presentations and enables you to change the layout of slides automatically. You can use it to format a slide using various preset formats and to add additional design elements to the slides. It gives you a nice way to vary the layout and enhance the visual appeal of slides in a presentation. When a new slide design is applied, it affects only the current slide, not the entire presentation.

Let's try inserting a slide into the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation after the title slide to include information such as hometown, education, and a fun fact about yourself. Using the skills acquired from Preparing Presentations, insert a slide that will include this information. Start filling in the slide content with the title "Background." Include the other items for the slide. Then select the Designer option on the Home tab to access the assorted designs for this slide (Figure 7.10). The Designer tool can also be accessed through the Design tab. Note that the Designer tool might not have any "ideas"; when this happens, you will receive a message: "Sorry, no design ideas." You might also receive suggestions that are not appropriate or helpful.

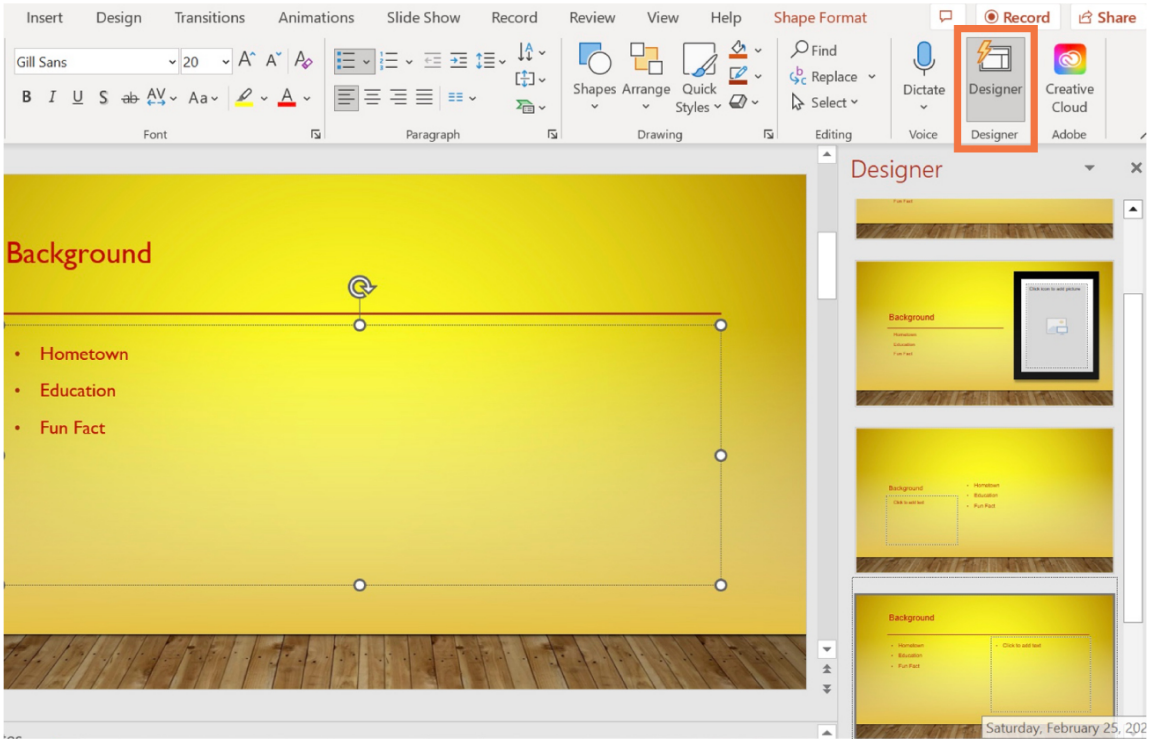


Figure 7.10: Designer gives you various options for layout and design based on the information contained on the slide. Select one of the designs from the list to apply to the current slide only. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can also apply a new design to an existing slide by first selecting the slide and then once again going to Designer from the Home tab. The available slide design ideas vary by chosen theme. Some have more choices than others. Figure 7.11 shows the options available when you change the theme of the presentation.

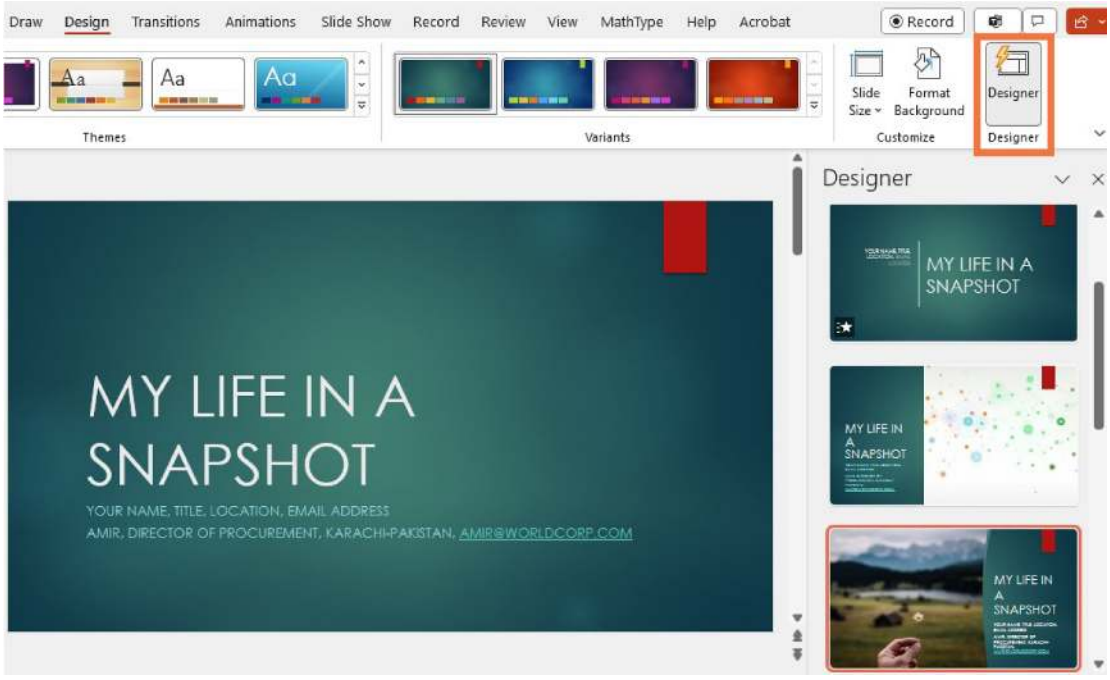


Figure 7.11: The Designer tool can be used to add variety and visual interest to your slides. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Advanced Tools for Image Enhancement

When creating a presentation, you are likely to include visual elements such as pictures, graphics, and tables. You are likely to want to make some adjustments, such as cropping, to the images to make the pictures clearer and more professional in your presentation.

There are several techniques that can help when inserting visual elements into your presentation. These include removing the background of a picture, cropping the picture, and creating an overlay for the image.

Removing the Background of a Picture

When you have a slide that has a colored background, inserting an image with a different background color can be problematic, because the image's background may clash or stand out in an undesirable way. PowerPoint has a great tool to remove the background for images which allows you to select the areas to keep in the image. Go back to the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation. Do you recall the empty space next to the star on slide 3? Let's add a picture of Amir next to the star. However, now that we have our yellow slide background, the image's white background seems a bit out of place (Figure 7.12). Let's try removing it.

When you select the image, you get the Picture Format tab in the ribbon. Select the tab, and the Remove Background tool is on the far left of the tab selections.

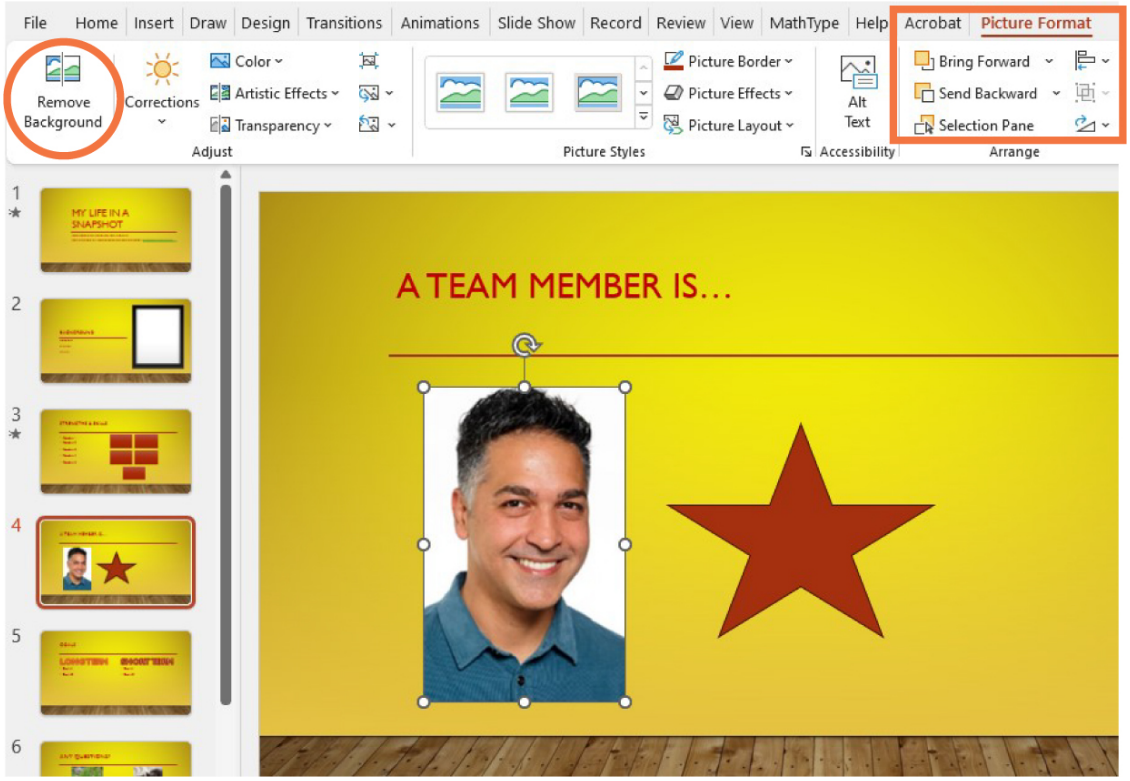


Figure 7.12: The Picture Format tab gives you tools to make changes to the image, including removing the background. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To begin the process for removing the white background from the image of Amir, select Remove Background. PowerPoint will attempt to determine the background that you would like to remove by shading the space a different color—in this example, purple, as shown in Figure 7.13a. Notice that Amir's hair is part of the selection—we do not want to remove his hair! From the tools, select Mark Areas to Keep and click on the hair area of the image. When you select the tool, you will get a pencil icon that you can use to click on the areas that should remain in the image. Repeat this step to keep the rest of his shirt in the image. When you are finished with the selections, click on Keep Changes. The resulting image should have only the areas you selected removed (Figure 7.13b). To select areas to remove in an image, you follow a similar procedure.

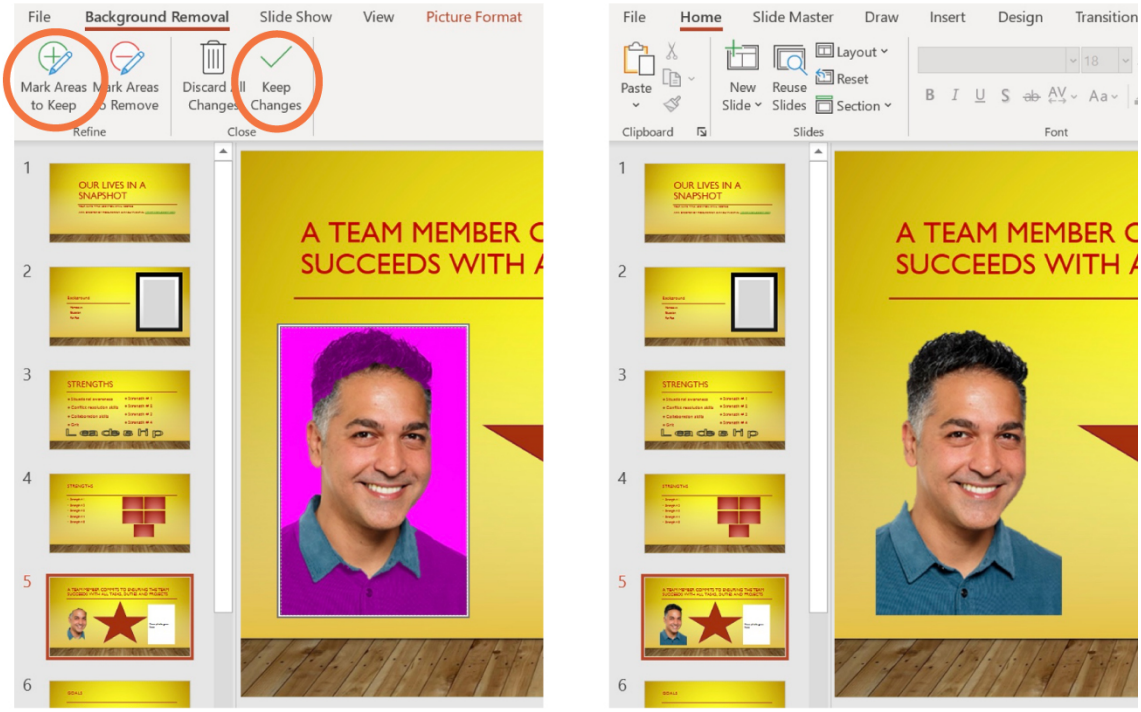


Figure 7.13: (a) The bright purple highlight is a clear and obvious way for PowerPoint to indicate which parts of the image PowerPoint suggests you should remove. (b) Removing the background from the image gives the slide a much cleaner look. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Crop and Fit Images to Shapes

Sometimes you may need to reduce the size of an image or change its shape to fit into a particular space on the slide. To accomplish this, you use the crop tool. To crop means to cut out parts of the image. Images can be cropped to remove items that are visible in the picture but that you do not want to see. For example, let's assume that on the Background slide, we want to showcase that Amir enjoys kayaking. He has a picture of himself and his friend kayaking last summer, but he would like the image to include only himself. He can crop the photo to remove his friend from the picture. To crop an image, select the image and select the crop tool from the Picture Format tab (Figure 7.14). The image can also be cropped to a specific shape, such as a circle. Additionally, the aspect ratio of the image can be changed to adjust the height (vertical) and width (horizontal) of the image with preset values. The aspect ratio sets the ratio between the height and the width of an image. We can also fit the image to a space or to specific dimensions.

For this example, let's first crop the image to only include the top kayak. To do this, select the image and select Crop. Notice that the outline of the image changes with black boundary lines that you can use to cut the image. Click on one of the black lines or corners. In this example, we will crop the image by choosing the bottom center line and pulling it up. To finish cropping the image, click on the slide area outside of the image (Figure 7.15).

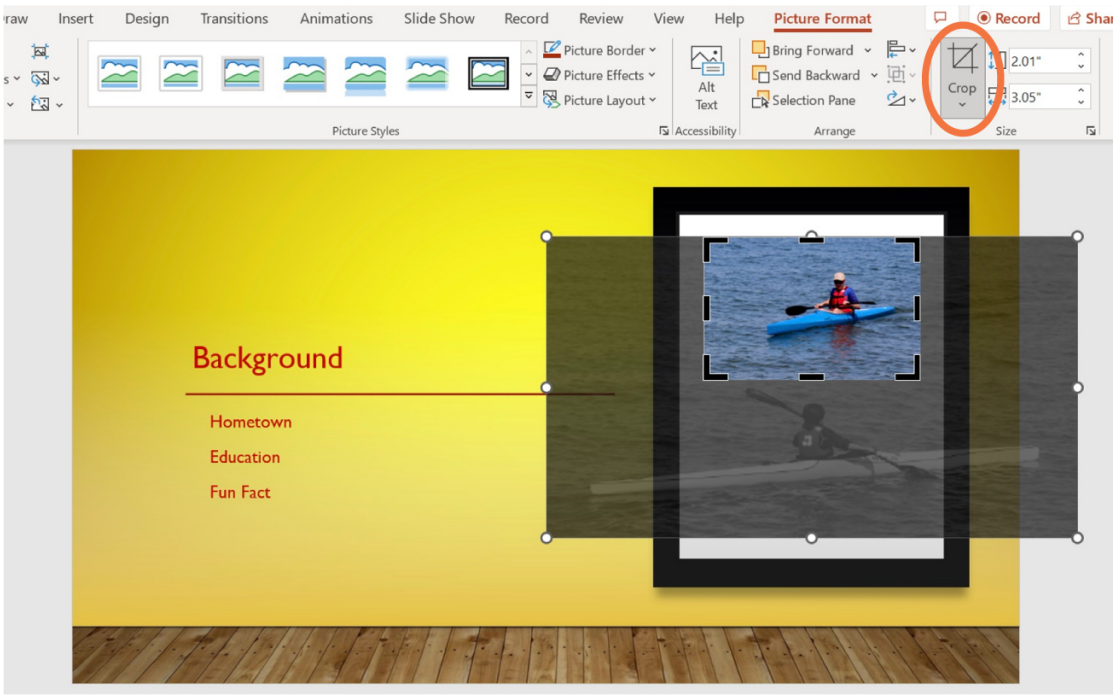


Figure 7.14: By using the Crop tool, you can remove the unwanted parts of an image. You can crop an image from all sides and corners. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

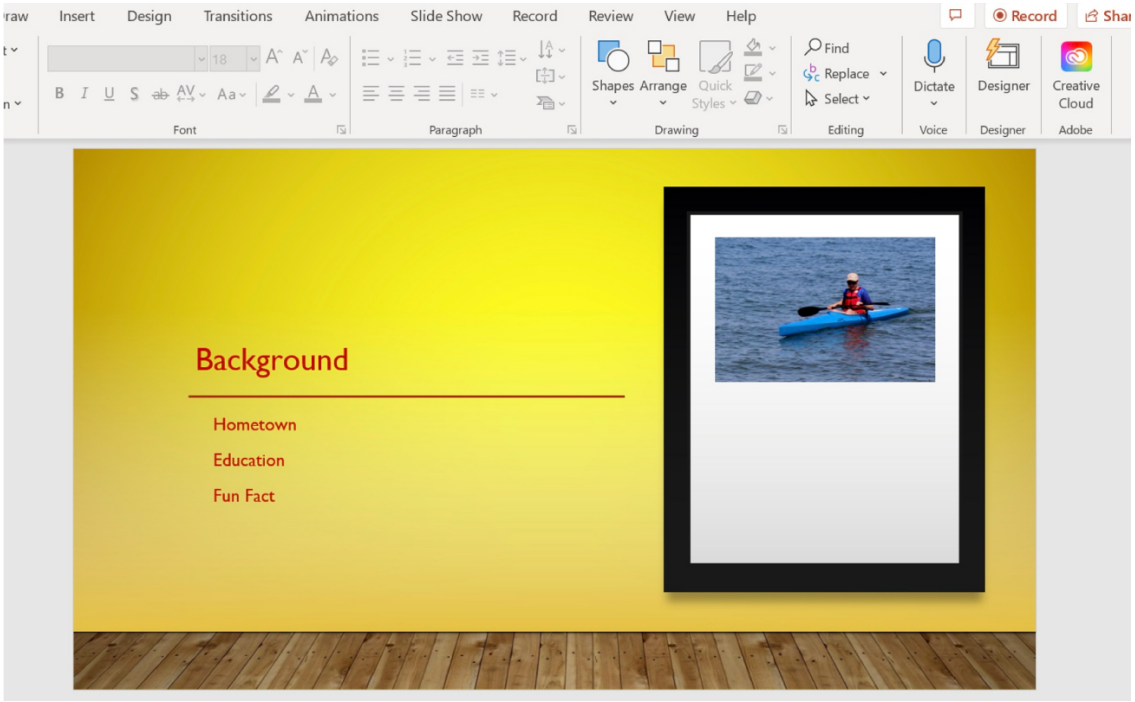


Figure 7.15: After you have finished cropping the image, the black lines around the picture will disappear. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The cropped image needs further adjustment to make it look appropriate in the space for the image. You can take several steps to accomplish this: You can move the image down to center it in the box. You can enlarge the image to fill the space more fully. You can also crop the image to a specific shape to add visual interest (Figure 7.16). Finally, you can add a text box to provide a description of the image for the audience, as we learned in Preparing Presentations.

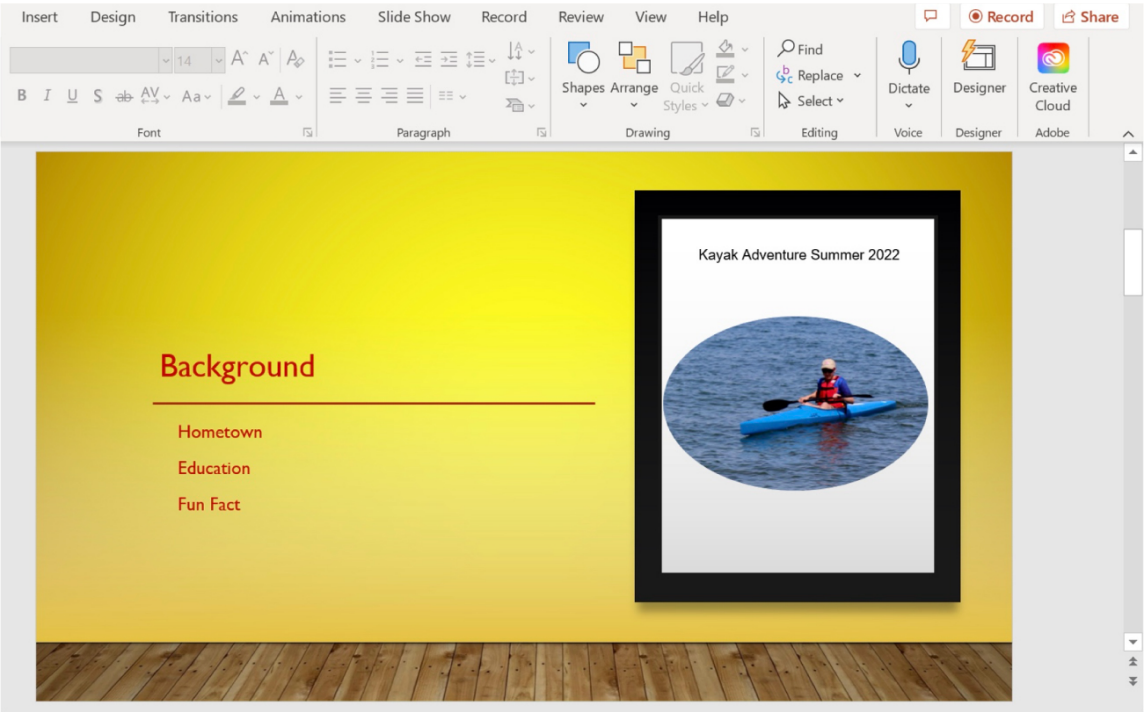


Figure 7.16: The Crop tool gives you many options to fit an image to a specific space on the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Creating Transparent Picture Backgrounds

Suppose you decide that the kayaking picture might have more impact if it were placed in the background of the slide, rather than in the white box off to the right. You can accomplish this by adjusting the transparency of the image. The amount of light that is allowed to pass through an image is called transparency. If an object is totally solid, like the star included on slide 3 of the presentation, it is considered opaque, meaning no light is allowed through the shape. When we adjust the transparency, we are adjusting how opaque or translucent (clear) the image is.

This type of change is easy to make in PowerPoint. First, you will need to change the design of the slide to remove the framed box on the right of the slide. To do this, go to the Slide Master tab. (Recall that the Slide Master tab summarizes all the features contained on a slide.) Choose the Hide Background Graphics box in the Background command group (Figure 7.17). Now you will notice the frame around the picture has been hidden.

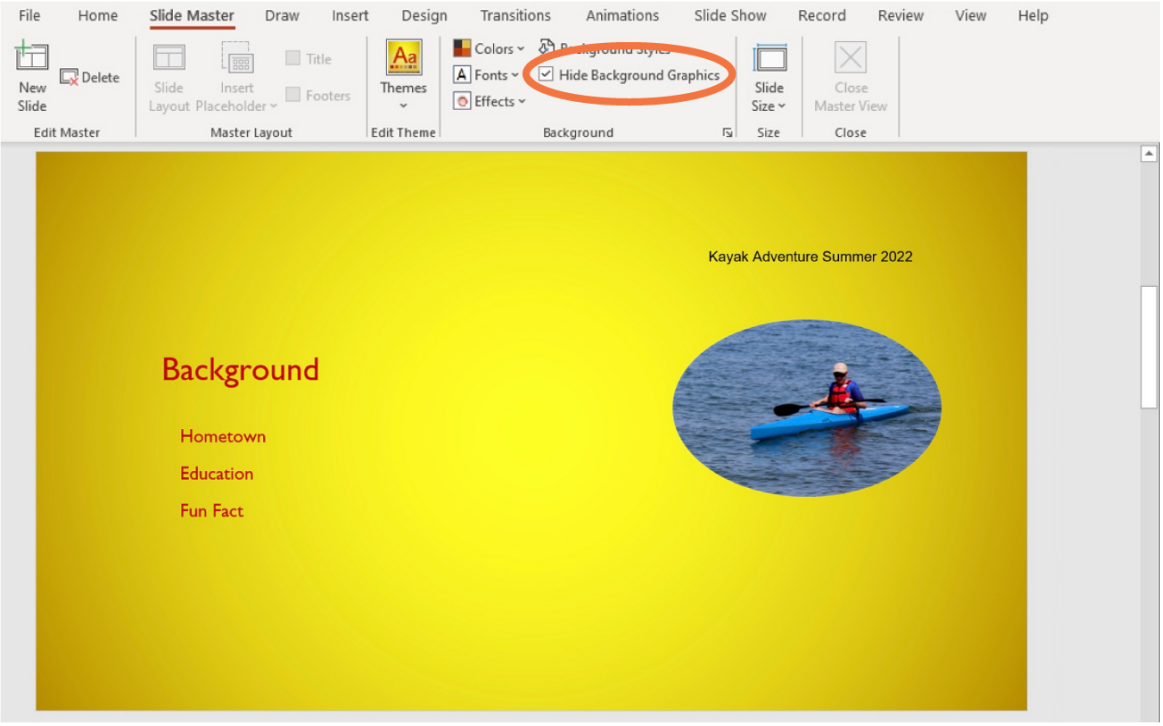


Figure 7.17: The frame around the picture was added when we changed the design of the slide using Designer. We can hide it because it is considered a "Background Graphic" of the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next, click on the picture and access the Picture Format tab to make the picture transparent. The Transparency tool is located in the Adjust command group. Choose the down arrow to see the transparency options for the photo (Figure 7.18). When you have selected an option that works, you will need to resize the photo to take up more of the background of the slide. You can also adjust the cropping of the image from the circle to a different shape, if desired. It may be a good idea to change the font color of the text to make it stand out more from the image background. There are other options in the Adjust command group to change the look of the picture, such as the Artistic effects (Figure 7.19). Explore the options and see how the changes impact the image. If desired, you can also reset the image to its original state.

Keep in mind that as you resize a picture, its quality may be diminished, depending on the original resolution of the image. You may not be able to enlarge all images to fill the entire slide while maintaining the clarity of the photo. In this example, the photo is slightly blurred, but because it is more transparent, the image quality is still acceptable.

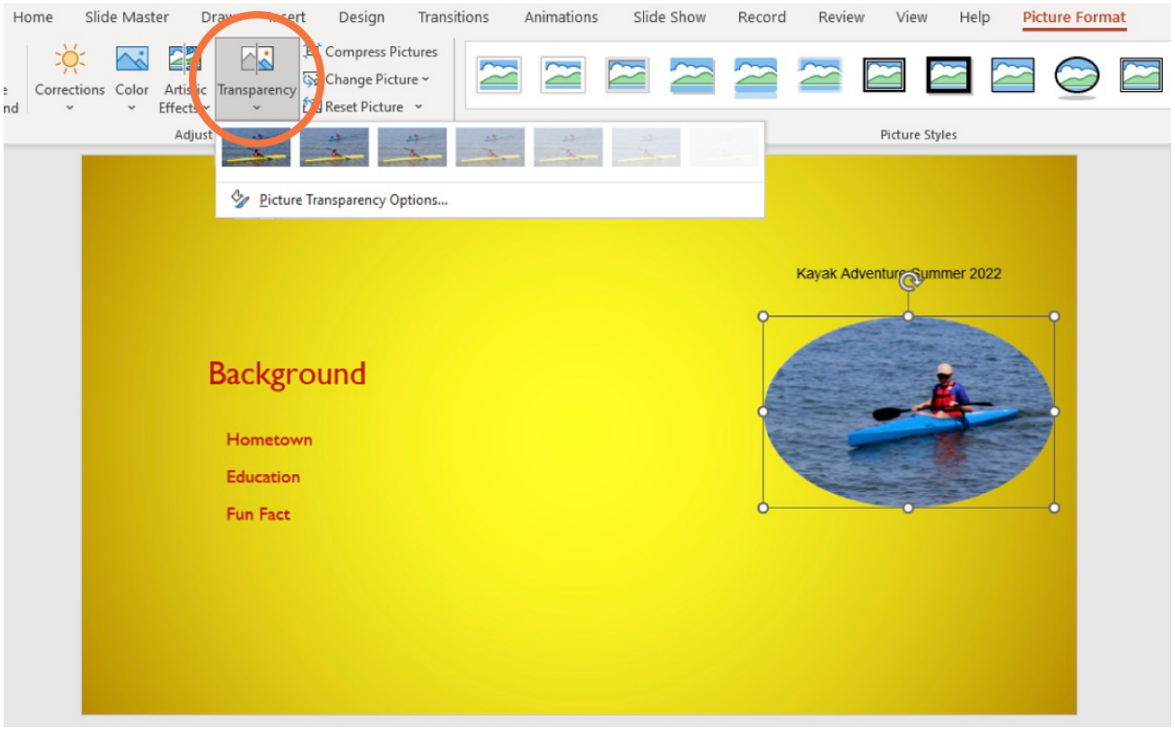


Figure 7.18: You can adjust an image to various levels of transparency. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

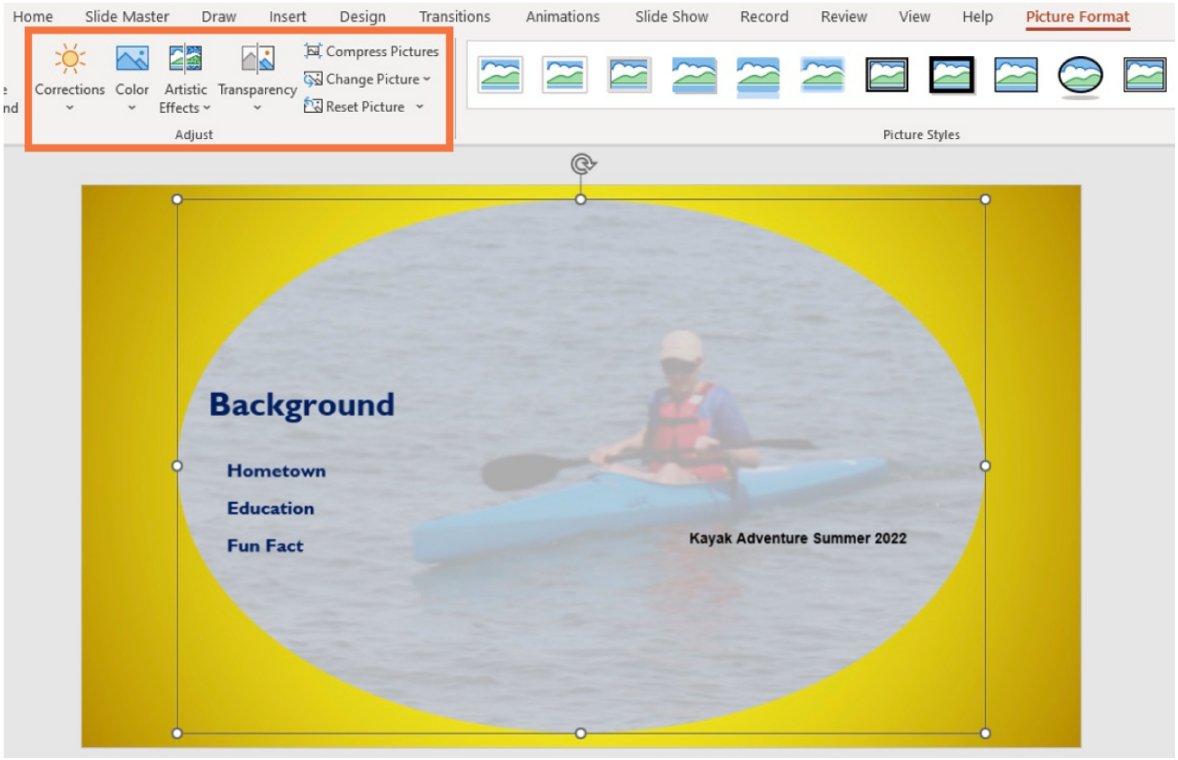


Figure 7.19: There are numerous ways to enhance images using the Adjust command group tools. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 7.2: Finalizing a Slide Collection is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.3: Preparing a Microsoft PowerPoint Collection for Presentation

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Add transitions to a presentation
- Add animations to objects and text boxes
- Use the tools in the Media command group
- Finalize your presentation for viewing
- Understand the hardware components of effective presentations
- Prepare for different types of presentations (in person, virtual, or hybrid)

You learned the basic workings of PowerPoint in Preparing Presentations. Now it's time to learn how to turn those basic slides into a presentation that not only informs but also engages the audience. You want to create a presentation that's seamless and easy to present from. For example, if you are giving an in-person presentation, you don't want to have to stand by the computer and manually advance the slides. Also, since the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation is a presentation about yourself, you want to convey that you are competent with PowerPoint.

Your supervisor told you today that you will need to record the presentation so that it can be shared with others at WorldCorp's international office locations. In this section, you will acquire the skills to virtually automate your presentation while also including the key information you will need to keep you on track as you present in front of an audience.

Finally, you hope to be able to provide printed handouts to the participants in case they need the information later on. Integral to that is learning about other tabs in PowerPoint—namely, the Transitions, Animations, Slide Show, Record, and Review functions.

Transitions

The term transitions refers to the way one slide changes to the next slide. As you can see on the Transitions tab in Figure 7.20, there are many ways to move between slides. The Transition to the Slide command group contains options such as Fade, Split, and Shape. You can use the Timing command group tools to determine the duration of the slide on the screen, or how quickly the slides move (transition) from one to the next. A sound can be used as the slide transitions, or you can simply move to the next slide using a mouse click.

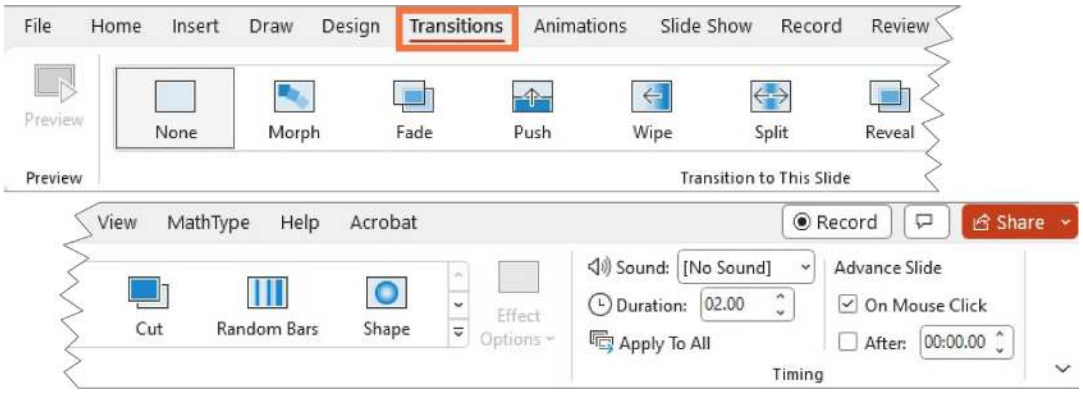


Figure 7.20: Transition effects can apply to a single slide or all slides in the presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

There are many transitions to choose from (Figure 7.21). For example, you can have a slide fade into the next slide or push one slide out of the way for the next one. You can have a slide zoom in from one side when moving to the next slide. But keep in mind that not all the options available are necessary or even professional. Overuse of distracting transitions can take away from the professionalism of a presentation. Choose a transition that works for your content and one that is not going to be too distracting to those viewing the slideshow and that is not irritating to you as the presenter. Look at the available options for slide transitions and see what they do when you advance to the next slide.

Practice with the transitions before you present in front of an audience. If a transition seems to take too much time or seems to stand out more than what you are discussing, you should select a different one. You can always choose to have no transition between the slides. This simply means when you advance the slide it will move fully to the next slide, with no special effects. You must apply the transition to each slide individually. Whatever you choose will not affect the entire presentation. To apply a transition to the current slide, simply click on the desired transition. The Preview command on the far left allows you to see how the transition works on the slide.

Stay focused on the message you are conveying, not on the way one slide transitions to the next. Always remember that just because you can do something does not mean you should. With transitions, follow the principle that less is more if you want to maintain a professional business look.

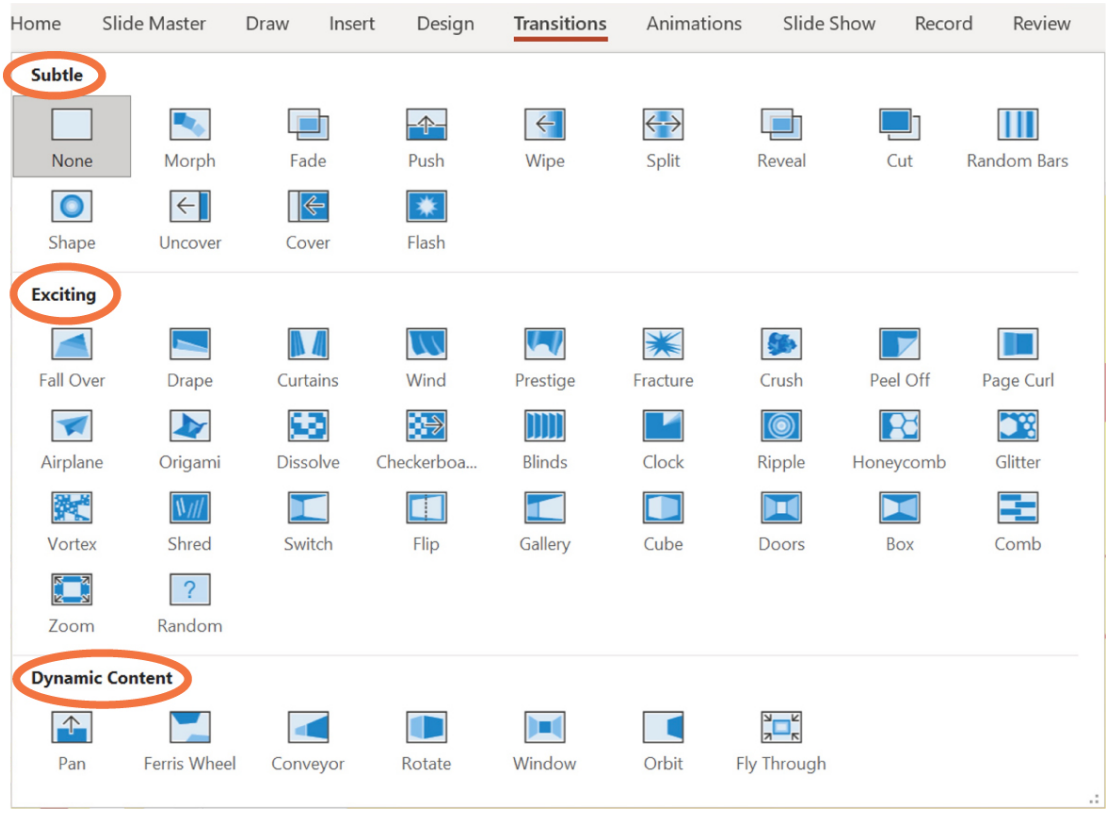


Figure 7.21: The Transitions tab shows the choices you have for moving between slides. Notice the transitions are grouped by theme: Subtle, Exciting, and Dynamic Content. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You will notice that the Transitions pane is organized by transition effect. For instance, the first command group, titled Subtle, contains Morph, Fade, Push, Wipe, Split, Reveal, and Cut. (It contains more options, but these are the most used.) A description of each is in Table 7.2. There are two other transition command groups: Exciting and Dynamic Content. These transitions are more animated and may not be appropriate for all presentations. But for certain types of presentations, such as sports media or sharing family photos in a slideshow, these transitions might work.

Table 7.2: Subtle Transitions

Morph	Apply to a slide and the slide before it will dissolve out and the slide on which Morph is applied dissolves in.
Fade	One slide fades into the next, so both slides appear at the same time for a second.
Push	Pushes one slide up and out of the way, revealing the next slide.
Wipe	Wipes out a slide in a horizontal direction to reveal the next slide.
Split	Makes a cut up the center of the slide; each half is pushed out of the way to reveal the next slide.
Reveal	One slide blends out, and the next slide blends in.
Cut	Creates a sharp end to one slide and a sharp start to the next. Can be a jolting transition experience.

For our title slide in *My Life in a Snapshot*, let's choose the Wipe transition. Notice in Figure 7.22 that when you choose a transition (other than "None"), the Preview tool will be available, as well as an Effect Options menu. Again, Preview allows you to see the transition in action. The Effect Options gives you additional modifications to the transition that you can apply to the slide. Keep in mind, any modifications are only on the current slide. You will need to apply the transition and the modification to all slides if you want it to be consistent throughout the presentation.

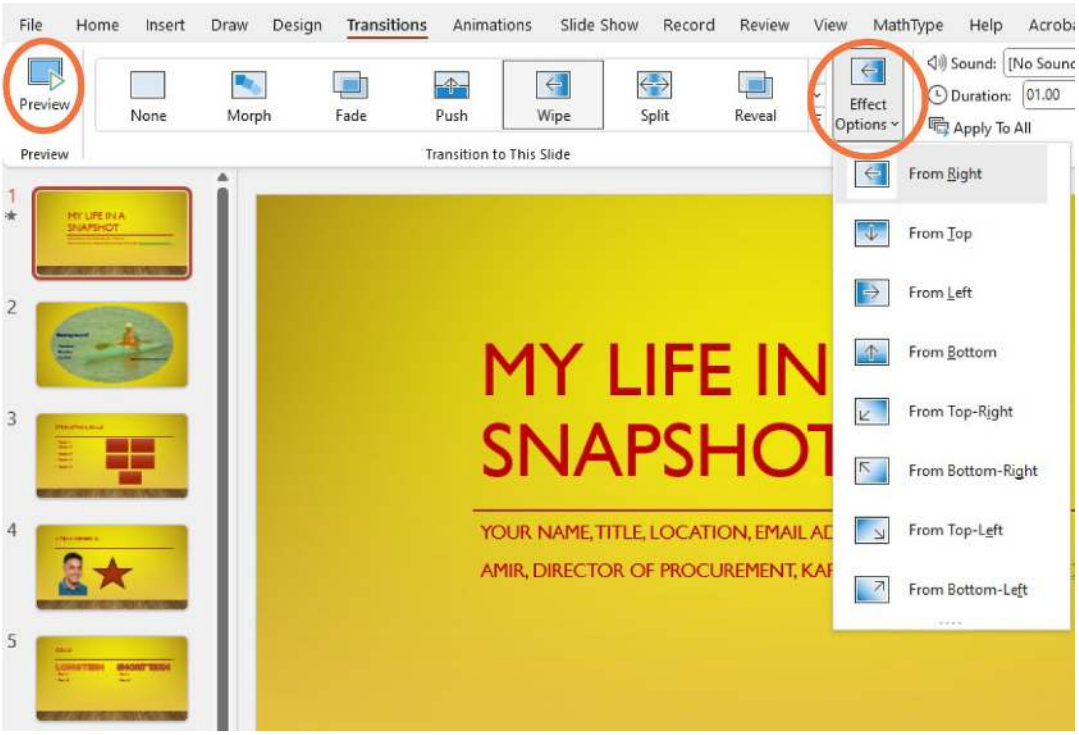


Figure 7.22: You can change the direction of the Wipe transition using Effect Options. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The last command group on the Transitions tab is Timing. Timing is where you can add sound to your slideshow, as well as choose how many seconds to move from one slide to the next. The arrow gives you many choices of prerecorded audio sounds, such as Applause, Explosion, and Wind, or you can choose a sound file from your computer. When selecting a sound, consider the audience, the presentation environment, as well as the intent: Is the sound relevant to the presentation? Does it enhance the presentation, or is it a distraction? You can apply the sound to the whole slide or to an object on the slide. For example, perhaps your slideshow was created to announce the winner of a competition. You can place a picture of the winner on a slide, and as it is revealed, it is accompanied by a round of applause. Again, use this option with caution, as your audience is not expecting to hear

sudden sounds. This command group lets you set the duration of the sound as well. Additionally, you can set the way the slideshow advances, by clicking the mouse or automatically after a set amount of time.

Animations

Slides and presentations as a whole can also be enhanced with the addition of animations. An animation is a special effect added to objects and elements on a slide. They will apply only to that object, shape, or other element, not the entire slide. For example, you could choose to have a picture slowly fade away or come into view during the presentation when you are discussing a current slide. This could be impactful if you want to bring the audience's attention to a particular element on a slide. As with other additions, keep in mind that these special effects should have a purpose and be used to enhance or draw attention to something in a presentation. They should not be overused to the extent of being distracting and taking away from the key message you are trying to convey on a slide.

Let's look at the Animations tab in more detail to see the options you can use for elements on a slide. Figure 7.23 shows the choices available. The first command group is Preview. Click on this and you can see in advance the animations you have implemented. The second command group is Animation. Six choices are shown, including None. Click on the More arrow and thirteen additional movements appear, as well as some emphasis animations.

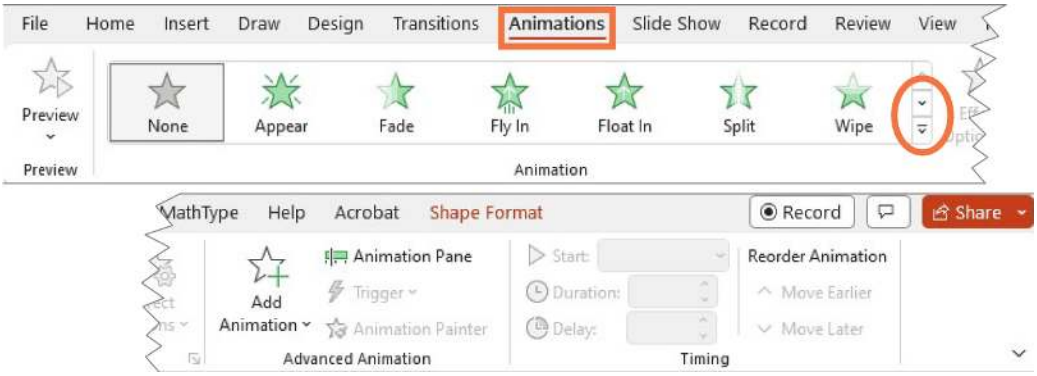


Figure 7.23: The Animations ribbon shows you all the options for animating elements on a slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

By scrolling down, you will also see other animation options, including Exit Effects and Motion Paths (Figure 7.24).

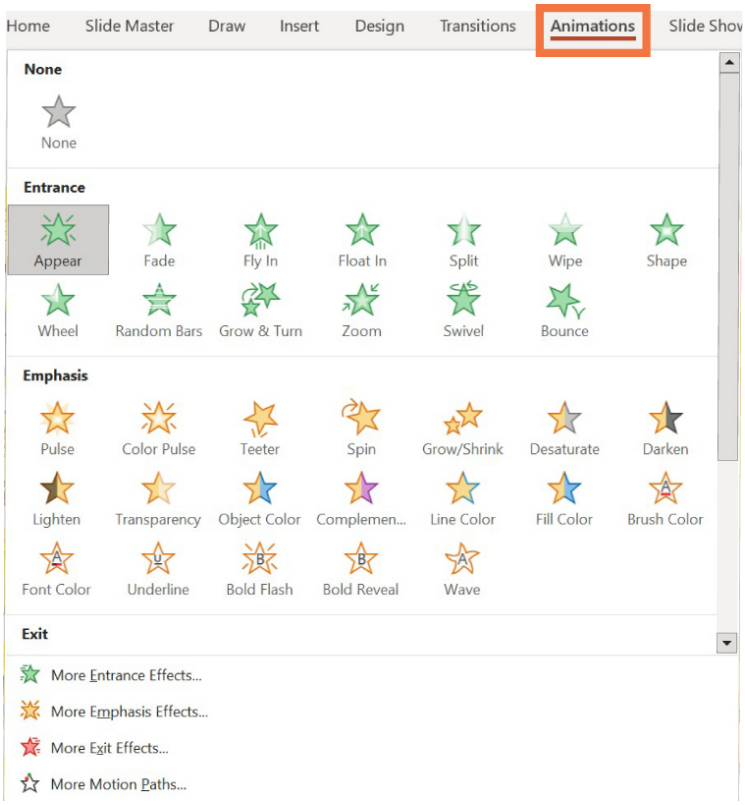


Figure 7.24: Additional animations are available, including some of the Emphasis animations. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To add an animation to your presentation, click on a text box or an object, and then choose an animation from the menu. Next, in the Timing command group, click the drop-down arrow for Start. You can leave it at Start on Click, or you can choose Start With Previous or Start After Previous. You need to choose when the animation will start.

Not all animations need to be dramatic or used for emphasis. For example, you can make a bullet list appear one bullet at a time, as opposed to having the whole list appear at once. You can have the first bullet appear, talk about it, and when you are ready, click the mouse again to have the second bullet appear, and so on. This can help you control the flow of the discussion by limiting what your audience sees on the screen. For consistency, you should use the same animation for each of the bullet points in the list.

We can use this approach to add animations to the bulleted list in our *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation. We used a bulleted list in the Strengths & Skills slide; let's apply an animation there.

To begin, click on the bulleted list to select it. Then go the Animations tab and choose an appropriate animation. For this example, let's choose Appear, so that the bullet will simply appear based on the settings you choose in the Timings command group (see Figure 7.25). Notice when an animation is added to an object or text box, the Preview tool is available on the left of the screen, as is a numbered list to the left of each item in the bulleted list. These numbers allow you to adjust the settings for each of the bullet points in the list. When you add an animation, there are also adjustments that can be made through the Effect Options drop-down list. The list can appear as one object, all at once, or by paragraph.

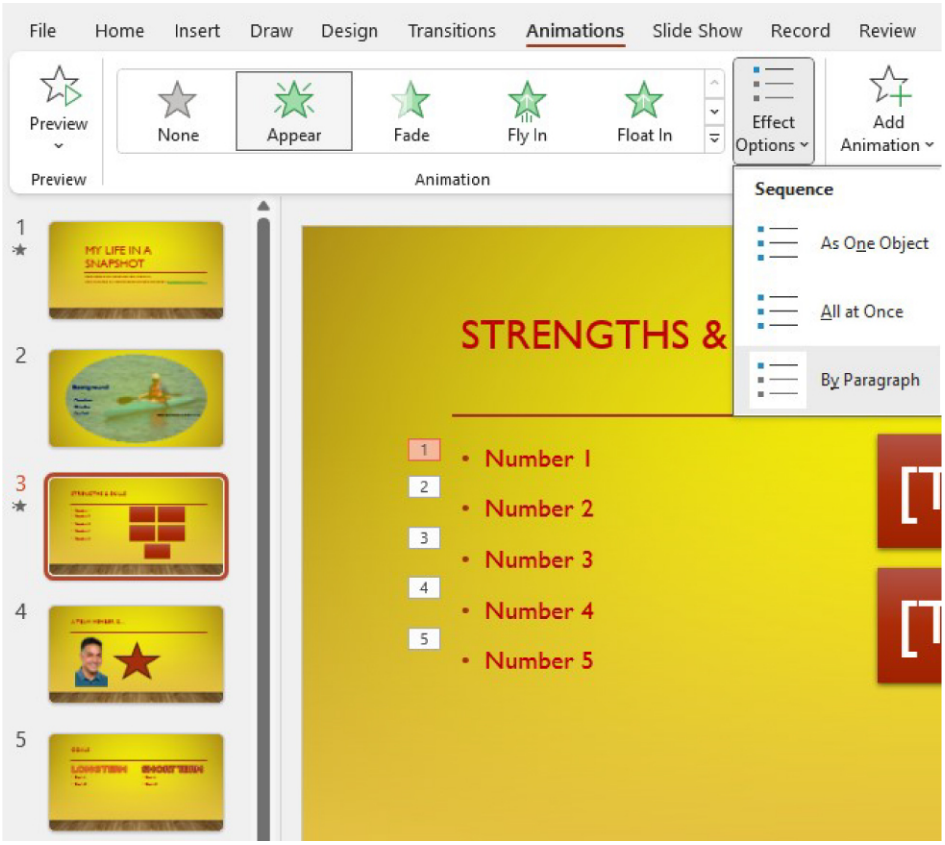


Figure 7.25: You can adjust the settings for each bullet to have a different animation. Here, the By Paragraph sequence is chosen so that each bullet point can be sequentially added one by one when you click. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You need to adjust the settings for each bullet so that one will follow the other. You can choose to have the bullet appear after a certain amount of time or when you click. For now, let's set it up so that the bullet points will appear when you click, because you are not yet sure how long to talk about each one. For the first bullet point, "Situational awareness," the animation will start On Click, which you choose from the drop-down menu in the Timing command group as shown in Figure 7.26. This will be the setting for each bullet. Selecting the small number to the left of the bullet allows you to change the settings for each animation individually.

The other options in the Timing command group allow you to set the timing for the animation and the delay as you move from one animation to the next. For this example, we left those at their default values and will simply use either the mouse or the Enter key to click when we want to have the next bullet appear. Use the Preview tool to make sure the animation is working.



Figure 7.26: Each bullet can have a customized animation setting. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The remaining command groups on the Animations tab are Advanced Animations and Timing (Figure 7.27). In the Advanced Animations command group, you can control the Trigger for when slides transition. It could be a click of the mouse or after a certain amount of time. In a presentation where you might be in a large room and not close to the laptop or computer, having slides automatically advance might be helpful, although you will need to be aware of how much time you have for each slide and make sure that you do not expect interruptions until the end of the presentation. In this case, you will want to ask the audience to hold all questions until you are finished with the presentation. Finally, if you are one presenter of several during a session and you have very strict time requirements, the timing tools can help keep you on track.

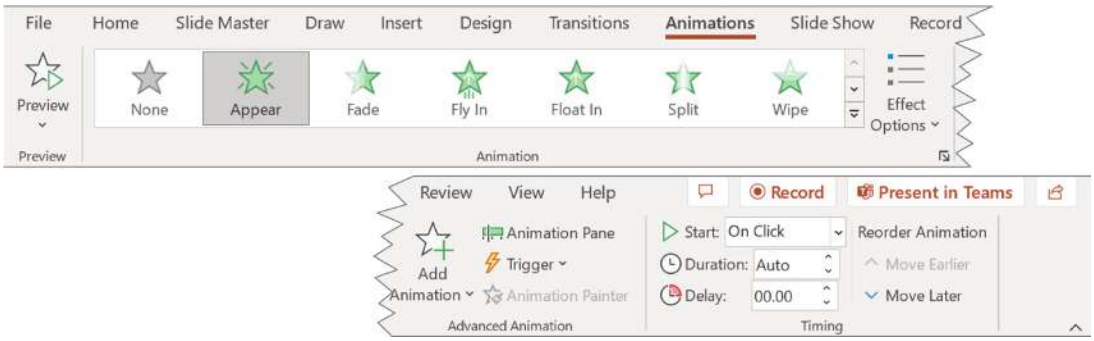


Figure 7.27: The tools in the Advanced options allow you to further customize the chosen animation and to open the Animation Pane to the right of the screen. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Clicking on the first command, Add Animation, opens the same window that you see when you click on More in the Animations group. At the bottom of the animation illustrations is a list. You can click on More Entrance Effects, More Emphasis Effects, More Exit Effects, or More Motion Paths.

Another command in this Advanced group is Animation Pane. When you select this tool, a pane opens on the right side of the screen that lists all the animations on the slide. Here you can play the animations or make changes. The other commands include Trigger and Animation Painter. Trigger governs when an animation begins, while Animation Painter is similar to Format Painter in that it copies an animation to another object.

The timer on the Animations tab refers to the timing options available for animations applied to objects or elements on a slide. The timer allows you to control when and how the animations occur during a slideshow presentation. On the far right of the Animations tab, you will find the Timing group. Select an object or element on a slide and apply an animation to it. Once selected, you can access the timer options to specify the timing and duration of the animation. Table 7.3 summarizes the options.

Table 7.3: Timing Group Options

Start	Determines when the animation starts playing. By default, it is set to On Click, meaning the animation will start when you click the mouse during the slideshow. However, you can choose other options such as With Previous (starts the animation simultaneously with the previous animation on the slide) or After Previous (starts the animation right after the previous animation finishes).
Duration	Sets the length of time the animation will take to complete. You can specify a specific duration in seconds or milliseconds. The default duration varies depending on the animation type but can be adjusted per your preference.
Delay	Introduces a delay before the animation starts. You can specify a delay in seconds or milliseconds. This can be useful to create time gaps between different animations on a slide.
Repeat	Determines if the animation should repeat after it completes. You can choose to repeat the animation a certain number of times or have it repeat indefinitely until the slide advances, or the animation is manually stopped.
Rewind when done playing	When selected, this option causes the animation to reset to its original state when it finishes playing. This is useful for animations that involve movement or transformations.

By adjusting these timer options, you can precisely control the timing and behavior of animations on your slides, ensuring they align with your desired presentation flow and visual effects.

While it may be fun to animate all kinds of things in your presentation, remember that it is your message that matters. Audiences can easily get distracted or fascinated by animations and not pay attention to the substance of the presentation. Therefore, it is important to use animations judiciously and purposefully to enhance, rather than distract from, your content. Animations in PowerPoint can be effective tools for emphasizing key points, guiding the audience's focus, or adding visual interest. However, it is essential to strike a balance between engaging animations and maintaining the clarity and effectiveness of your message. Here are a few best practices to consider:

- Keep it relevant: Only use animations that directly support or enhance the content of your presentation. Avoid using excessive or flashy animations that serve no real purpose, as they can overshadow your message.
- Enhance comprehension: Use animations to aid in the understanding of complex concepts or processes. For example, you can use animations to sequentially reveal steps or demonstrate cause-and-effect relationships.
- Use sparingly: Don't apply animations to every element on every slide. Selectively choose elements that truly benefit from animation to avoid overwhelming the audience or diluting the impact of your message.
- Prioritize readability: Ensure that animated text or objects remain easily readable and don't become distorted or hard to follow. Consider the size, font, and colors used in your animations to maintain legibility.
- Practice timing: Fine-tune the timing of your animations to maintain a smooth flow throughout the presentation. Avoid animations that are too fast or too slow, as they can disrupt the natural pace of your delivery.
- Rehearse and gather feedback: Before delivering your presentation, rehearse with the animations to ensure they enhance your overall delivery. Seek feedback from trusted colleagues or friends to gauge if the animations effectively support your message or if they become distractions.

Remember, the primary goal of your presentation is to convey a clear and impactful message. While animations can be engaging, they should never overshadow or detract from the substance of your content. Strive for a harmonious balance between captivating visuals and a compelling message to create a memorable and effective presentation.

Media Command Group

The Media command group is used to add audio or video media to the presentation. There might be instances where you would want to add a short clip of a video or audio to enhance the presentation of a topic. For example, in your role in the marketing department at WorldCorp, you might want to share a clip of a new radio ad campaign, or a short video showing some concepts for new ads to be placed on the website for a new line of products. You can do this by embedding various media types into a slideshow presentation. The Media command group is located all the way on the right side of the Insert ribbon tab. You have three options to choose from, as shown in Figure 7.28: video, audio, and screen recording. The screen recording option will allow you to record your computer screen and insert it into your presentation.

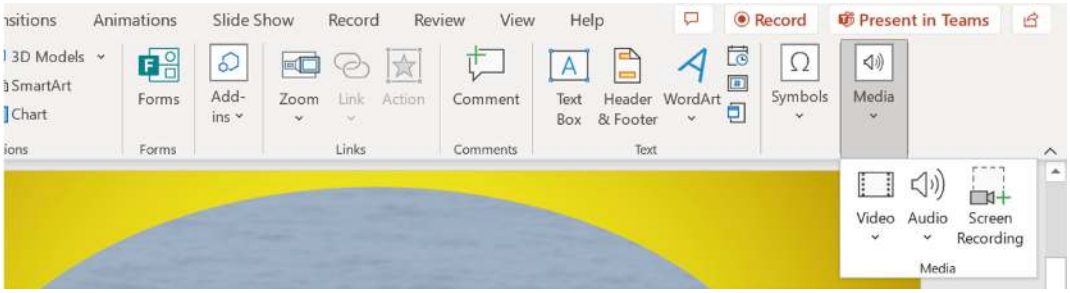


Figure 7.28: The Media menu makes it easy for you to choose which type of media you want to insert. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Let's add a video to our kayaking slide. We have the option of adding a video that we have created ourselves, a stock video that is already available in PowerPoint, or a video that is available online, such as from YouTube. You will want to consider the source of your media, as well as how you will be presenting this material. For instance, is the media file linked to the internet? If so, you will want to ensure you have internet connectivity in order to play the video. For this example, let's search stock videos for a kayaking video to insert into the slide. As a word of caution: do not overuse these tools. Consider only the additions that will enhance the presentation content. Not every slide should include media, and not all presentations are appropriate for media.

To add media to a slide, select the slide for the addition. In this case, insert the video on the Background slide. Go to the Insert tab and click on the Media command group. Select Video, then select Stock Videos from the menu (Figure 7.29). In the search bar, type "kayak" to locate a kayaking video to insert onto the slide. Once the video is on your slide, you have the option to resize it (Figure 7.30).

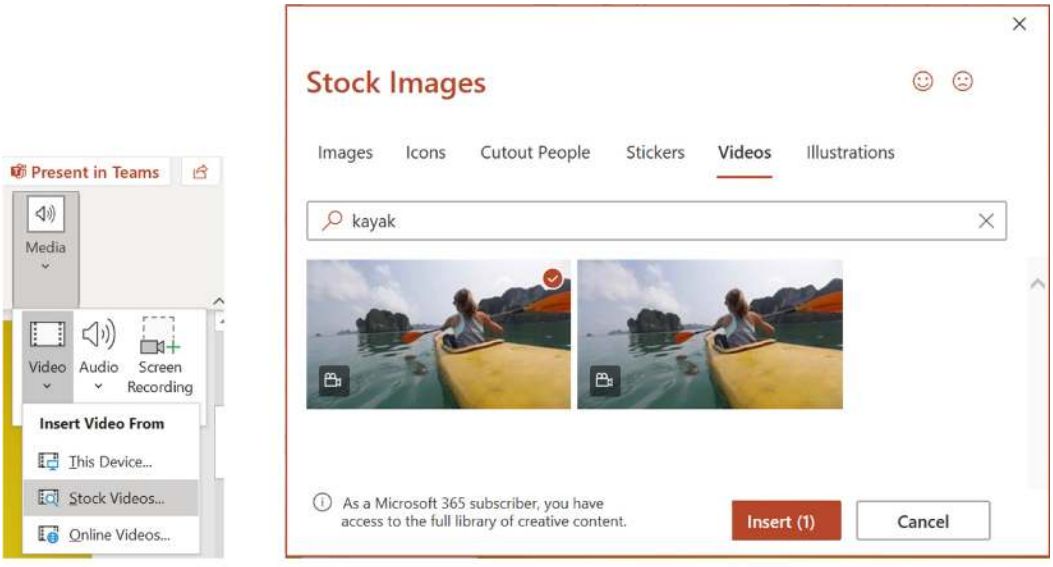
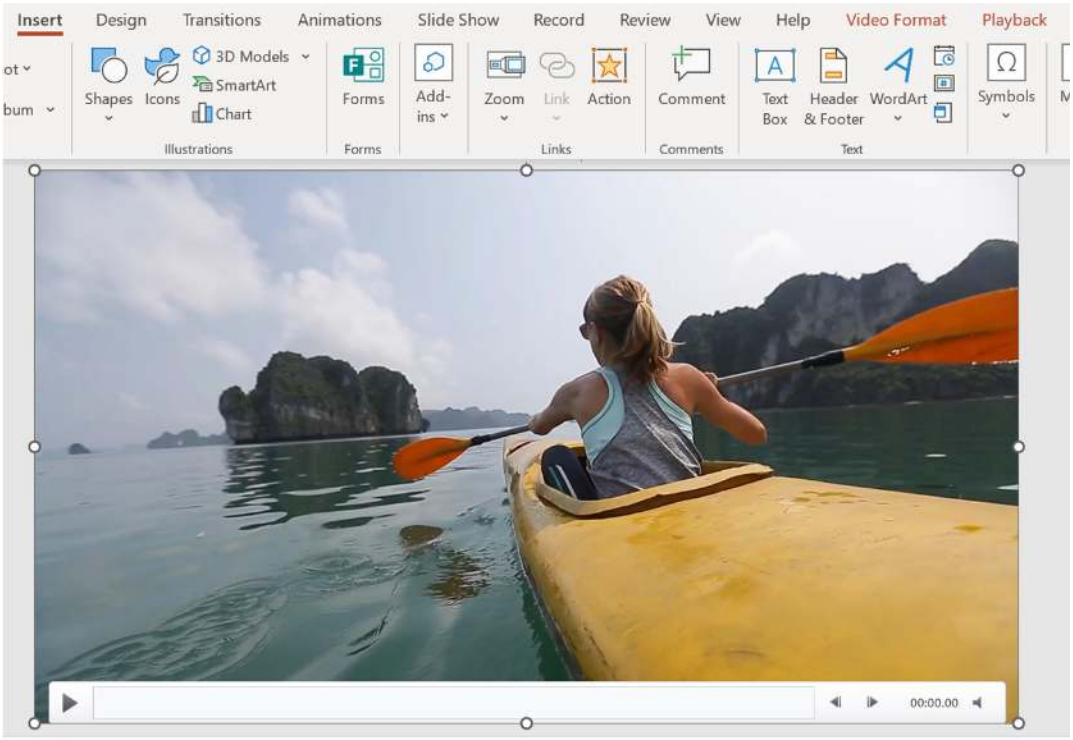
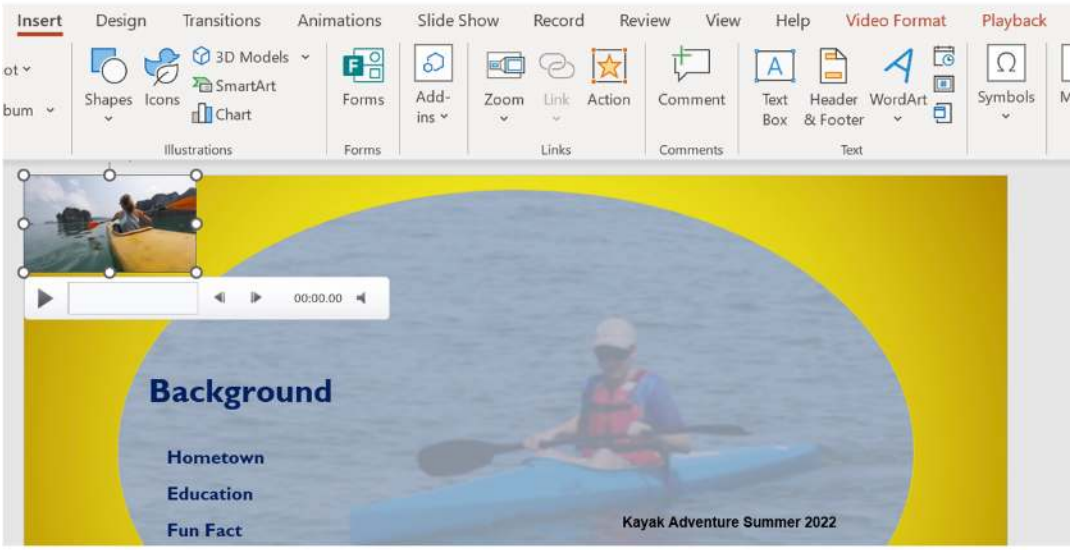


Figure 7.29: (a) You can search online or through available videos in PowerPoint to find one to insert into the slide. (b) Choose Insert to place the video into the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



(a)



(b)

Figure 7.30: (a) The video will insert at a large size. Click on it to resize it to fit on the slide. (b) You can play the video using the control keys under the video insertion. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Once the video is inserted into the slide, it will automatically play when you get to that slide in the presentation. However, you can change this through the Playback tab that becomes available on the ribbon when the video is selected (Figure 7.31). It is important to preview the video before presenting or sending the presentation to others. Previewing the video in your presentation ensures that it meets your expectations, enhances your message, and delivers a seamless viewing experience to your audience. It allows you to proactively address any issues, improve the overall quality, and ensure a successful presentation. Notice there are several options available on the Playback tab. Experiment with the settings to see which ones appeal to you most and give the slides a professional appearance.

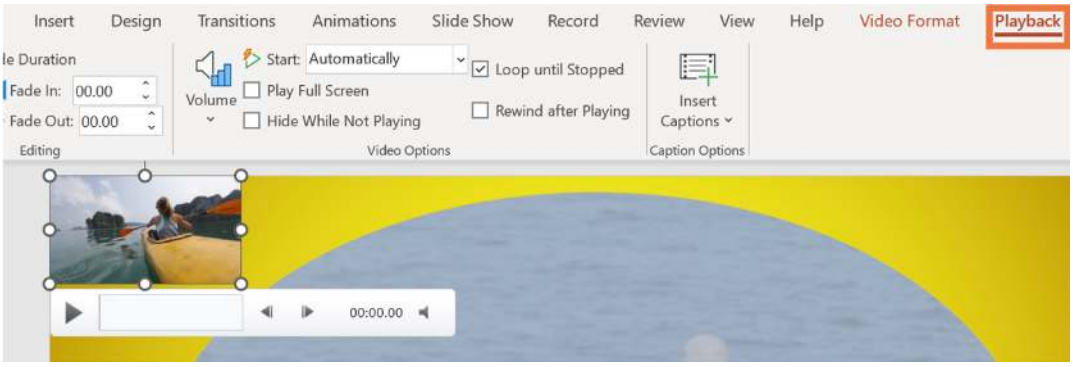


Figure 7.31: Be sure to determine whether you want sound in the video. That can be adjusted with the Playback tab options. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Finalizing Your Slideshow

Before you complete your presentation, you should give it a final review so you can see exactly how it will appear to your audience. It is also important to practice your presentation and consider the other, nondigital elements involved in a presentation, such as monitoring the length of your presentation and interacting with the audience.

By accessing the Slide Show tab, as shown in Figure 7.32, you can view the complete presentation from start to finish. The first command group in this tab is called Start Slide Show, and you can choose From Beginning or From Current Slide, and the presentation will do just that. This is a wonderful way to preview all the transitions and animations you have added, as they will appear to the audience. Next, you can choose the option to Present in Teams, which we covered in Essentials of Software Applications for Business. You need to be logged into your Microsoft account to use this option. The next command is Custom Slide Show, which allows you to choose the slides to use in the show. This is a helpful option should you need to shorten the presentation.

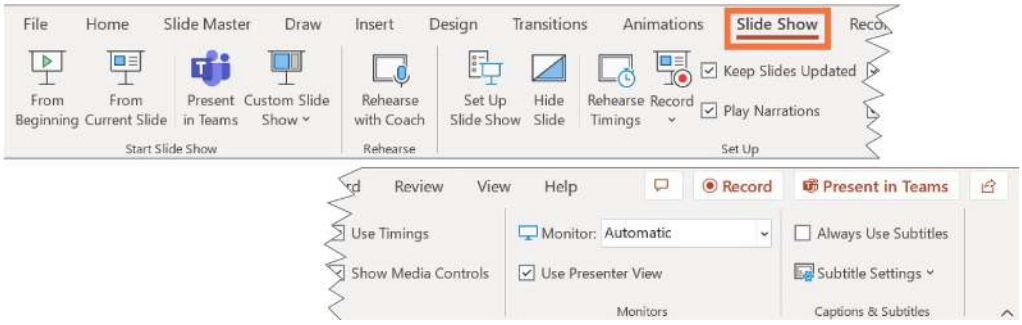


Figure 7.32: This is the ribbon where you can set up, rehearse, and make final adjustments to your presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next you can choose the Rehearse with Coach tool, which allows you to practice the presentation and get feedback in real time. This tool will listen for things such as using “uh” or “um” in the presentation as well as how fast you are speaking. Not only will the tool give you a summary of items related to your speaking skills, but it will also provide you with some strategies for improvement. You will need to have the microphone enabled on your computer to use this feature. This is a helpful tool as you work to develop your skills presenting in front of a group.

The next set of commands is in the Set Up command group. Rehearsing the timing, playing narration, and other options are controlled through the tools in this command group. These tools allow you to fine-tune your presentation options. Clicking on the Set Up Slide Show button, for example, opens a menu with a number of different settings, as shown in Figure 7.33.

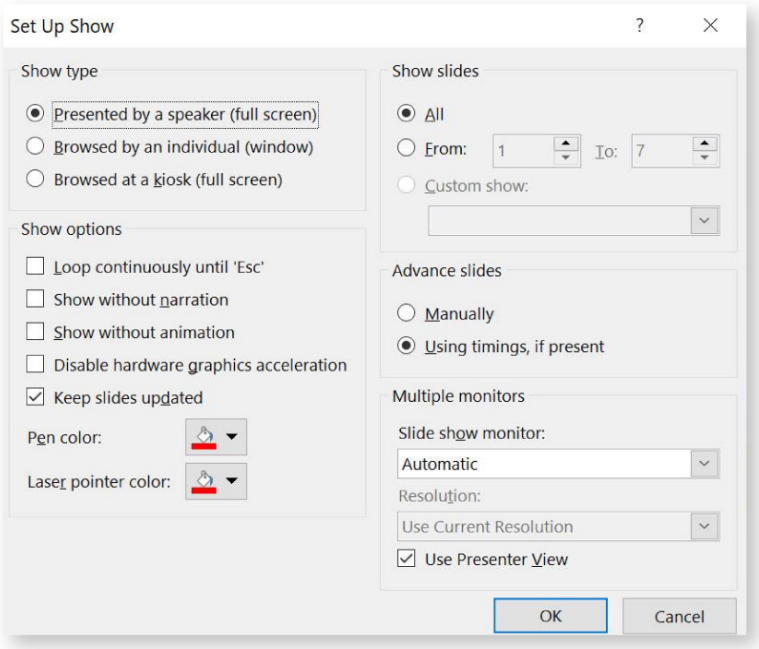


Figure 7.33: The Set Up Show tool allows you to control many different aspects of your presentation, particularly the hardware elements, such as using multiple monitors and how your presentation will be viewed by others (Show type). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As you can see, you can set the Show type as either presented by a speaker in full screen mode, browsed by an individual in window mode, or browsed at a kiosk in full screen mode. The default setting is presenting full screen, where you can click through the slides as you present them. The window mode setting allows you to present with the slides in a resizable window rather than in full screen. Finally, the kiosk setting is used when you want to run the presentation continuously, such as at a company event. For example, suppose you want to have a new marketing campaign available for employees to view at an internal conference. By choosing the kiosk setting, the slideshow could run automatically and continuously until you turn it off.

The Set Up Slide Show tool also gives you the option to Hide a slide, Rehearse the timing, or Record the slideshow. Other options in this window require just checking the appropriate boxes, such as Keep Slides Updated, Play Narration, and so on.

The last command group on the Slide Show tab is Captions & Subtitles. The tools here allow you to turn on and modify the captions and/or subtitles in your slideshow. You can determine where you would like the subtitles to be placed—for example, at the top of the slide.

Mac Tip

When adjusting the caption and subtitle preferences on a Mac, you will be directed to your operating system's Accessibility settings.

Record Tab

If you need to record the presentation to send to others or even for your own viewing, you will find the tools you need in the Record tab (Figure 7.34). This feature in PowerPoint allows you to capture your presentation, either from the beginning or starting from a specific slide, and customize the recording options (Figure 7.35).

In Recording Options, you can choose whether to record the entire presentation from the beginning or start recording from a specific slide. This flexibility is helpful if you want to focus on specific sections or if you have already recorded part of the presentation and want to continue from where you left off. PowerPoint allows you to record audio along with your presentation. You can use a microphone to narrate your slides and explain concepts, making the recording more engaging and informative. This feature is particularly useful for online training sessions, narrated presentations, or self-paced learning materials.

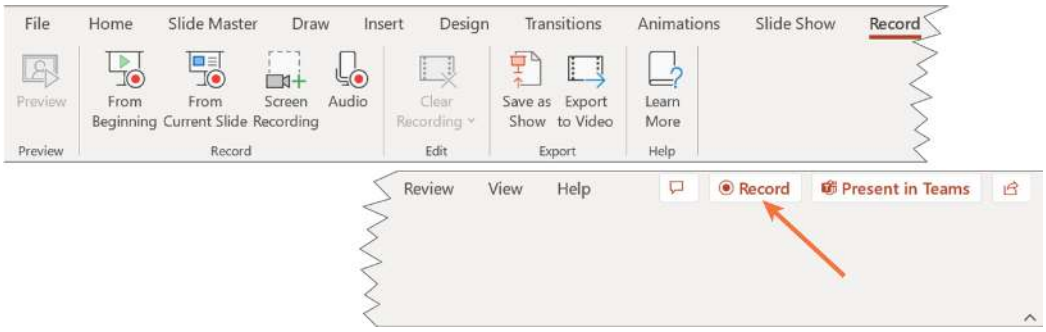


Figure 7.34: Recording the presentation can help you as you rehearse to present in front of others. In the record mode, you will see several tools such as exporting and adding notes to help you when presenting. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

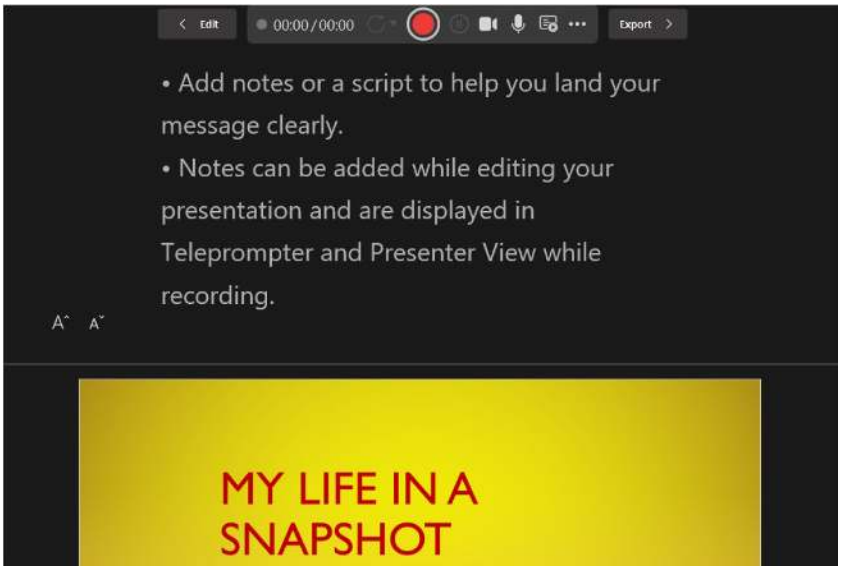


Figure 7.35: This is what your screen will look like after you hit the red Record button in the Record ribbon. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In addition to audio recording, PowerPoint offers screen recording functionality. This enables you to capture actions on your screen, such as demonstrating software usage, showcasing a website, or walking through a step-by-step process. Screen recording can enhance the clarity and understanding of your presentation, especially when visual demonstrations are involved. After you complete the recording, you can export it as a video file. This video can be shared with others, uploaded to video hosting platforms, or embedded in websites or learning management systems. Exporting the recording as a video makes it more accessible and shareable across different devices and platforms. During the recording process, you can add private notes to your slides to help guide you through the presentation. These notes are only visible to you and serve as personal reminders or prompts while delivering the presentation. They are not included in the recorded presentation itself.

Review Tab

The Review tab, as shown in Figure 7.36, is used primarily when you are collaborating on a presentation with someone else or incorporating feedback on your draft slides. However, this tab still offers valuable resources if you are creating your presentation on your own. The first command group in this tab is Proofing. As with any document you produce, it is essential that you proofread everything, including text, figure captions, and any handouts you may have for the participants.

The presentation and handouts should reflect your professionalism and attention to detail. But, you should not rely solely on the spell check tool to find all the errors. Among other things, spell check often does not identify spelling errors in proper names or words that are spelled correctly but used incorrectly. Additionally, errors will be much more noticeable when they are displayed on a large-format screen. It's easy to overlook errors in our own work, so be sure to have a friend or coworker review the slides to look for errors.

All of the proofing options can be set before you begin writing. This is done by choosing File, Options, and then Proofing. These options are similar to what we covered in Essentials of Software Applications for Business.

Link to Learning

Proofreading a presentation can be much different from proofreading a document. This article on the importance of proofreading presentations addresses how to effectively proofread PowerPoint presentations.

The Thesaurus tool is helpful when you write the dialog that will accompany the slideshow, as it will offer alternatives to the words you have used in the presentation. For example, we used the word “hometown” in our background slide. When we click on that word and choose Thesaurus from the Review tab, a pane will open on the right offering alternative words that are similar to “hometown” (Figure 7.36). This tool can come in handy if you find yourself using the same words multiple times in a presentation. You can vary the words used and still convey the same message.

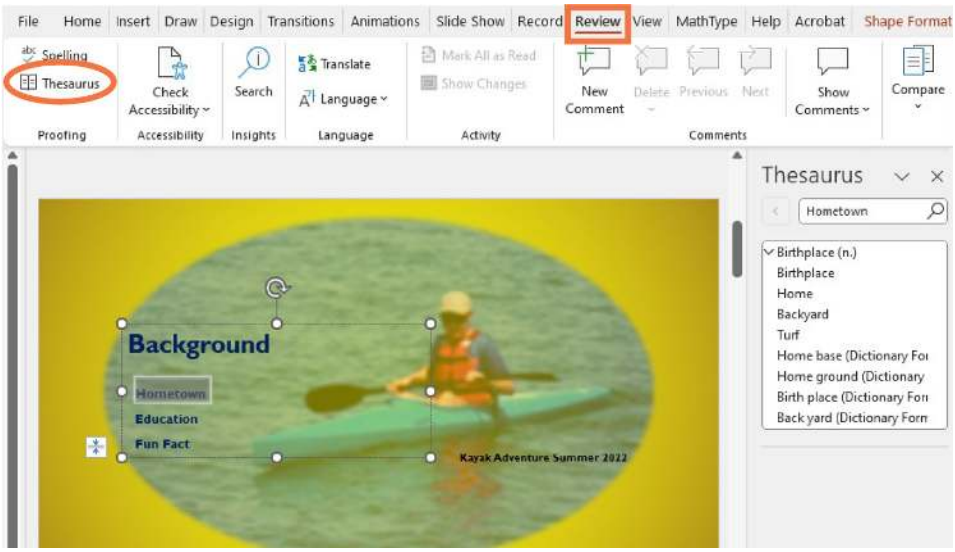


Figure 7.36: The Review tab covers Proofing options, adding comments, and comparing different versions of the show. The Thesaurus will help you enhance the slides by offering synonyms for words, which will appear below the search bar. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

On Mac, this command is found in the PowerPoint menu, then Preferences, then Proofing.

Comments

As in other Microsoft products, the Review tab is also where you can find tools for collaboration and commenting. (PowerPoint does not allow users to track changes.) We discuss a workaround for this in the Compare section. When working with others to produce a presentation, your colleagues have the option of adding comments to it. To do this, open the Review tab, then click on a word in the place where you want the comment to appear, and then click on New Comment. As you can see in the example slide in Figure 7.37, the Comments pane opens to the right. After you type the comment and click Enter, a reply text box becomes available. You, or anyone else with permission to work on the presentation, can enter a reply to the comment here.

Notice that a callout symbol opens in the place where you want the comment to apply. You can move the callout symbol around on the slide without affecting the content of the comment.

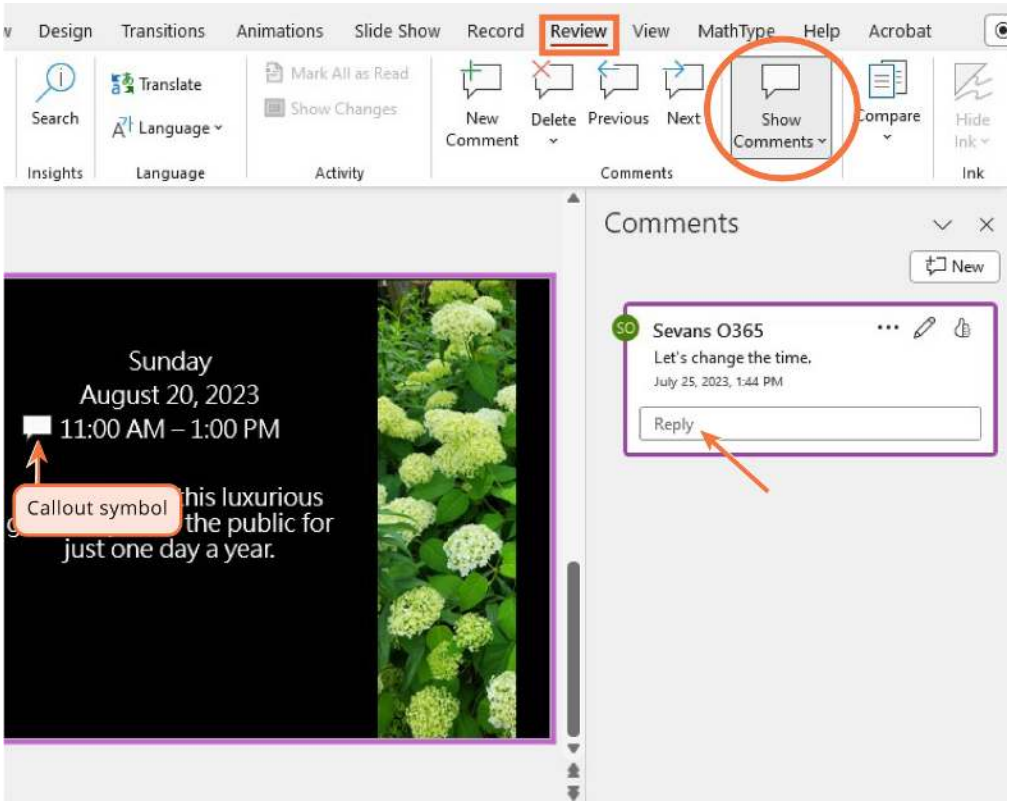


Figure 7.37: A Callout symbol helps you find where the comment is located. This is particularly useful when the commenter uses directional references such as, “Let’s move the title here.” (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Compare

Unlike Word, PowerPoint does not offer a tracking function. However, you can use the Compare command, also found under the Review tab, as a workaround to tracking changes. To use this tool, you will need to have different versions of the presentation saved. The Compare command then will look for differences between the two files, and you can either decide one by one to accept (or reject) each change or accept (or reject) all the changes/differences between the two files.

To see how the Compare command works, let’s use the presentation we created in the previous chapter, along with the updated version we have created thus far in this chapter. Here we have saved the previous chapter presentation as “version 1” and the current presentation as “version 2.” Note that the different versions of the presentations must have different names. To begin, choose the Compare command from the Review tab and find the “version 1” file you are going to use to compare to the current version (Figure 7.38). Then click Open, and you will notice that you now have access to other tools available in the Compare command group on the Review tab. You can use the tools and the pane on the right of the screen to scroll through the differences between the two files and determine if you want to accept or reject the changes. You can choose to accept or reject the changes for each individual slide, or you can accept or reject them for the entire presentation as you move through the comparisons (Figure 7.39).

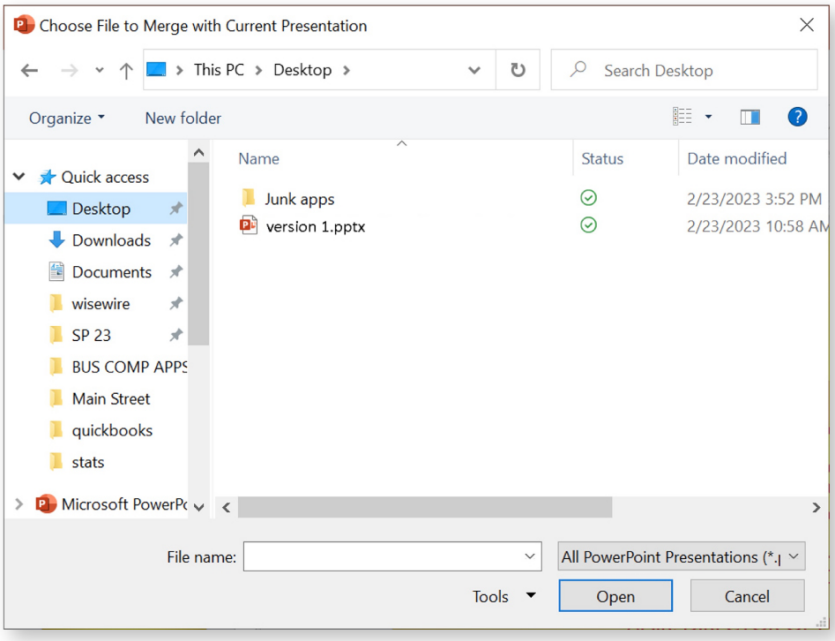


Figure 7.38: Make sure that the file you choose to compare to has a different file name. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

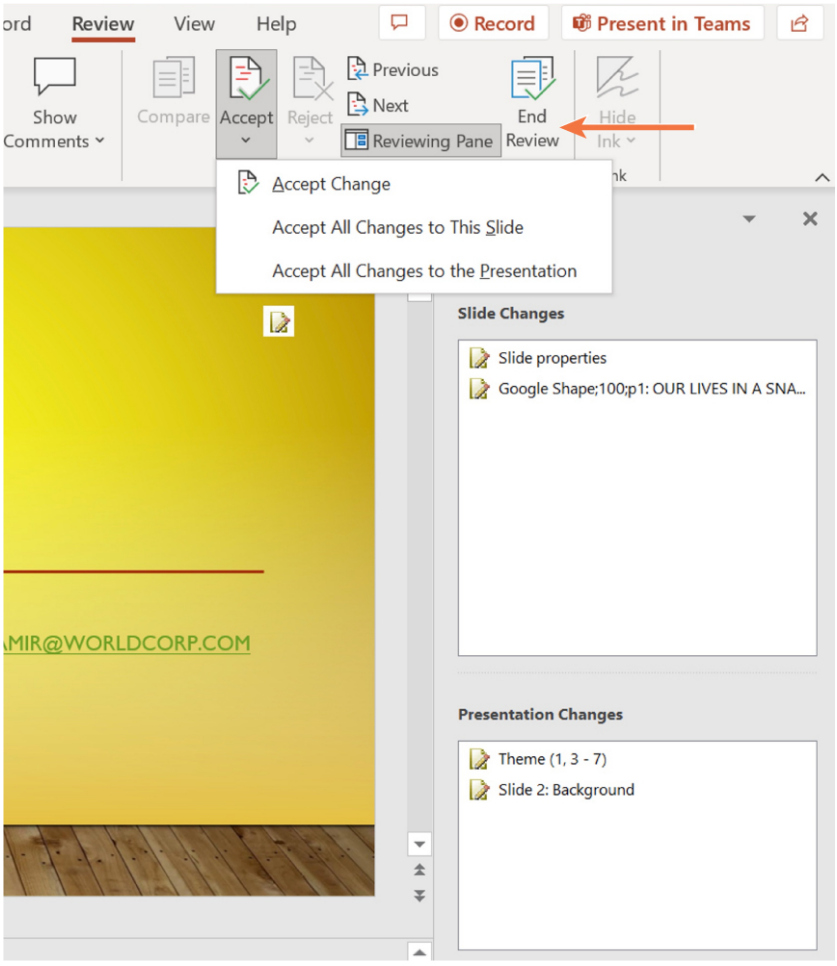
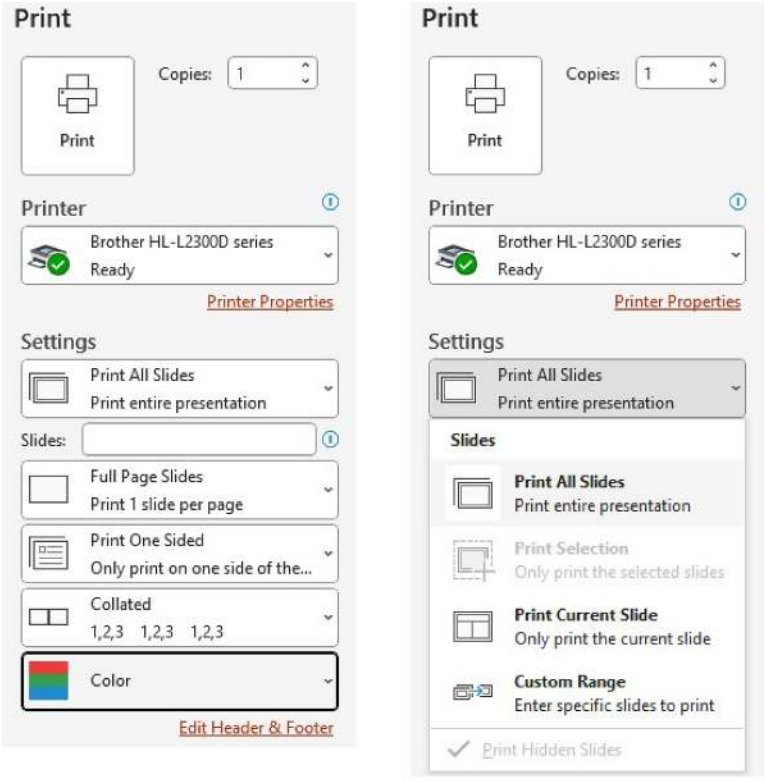


Figure 7.39: Using the Compare tool is not quite the same as tracking changes, but it can be close. It allows you to compare different versions of the same file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Printing a Presentation

Sometimes, as a presenter, you may wish to print your presentation as a handout for the audience. You could provide the slides as a handout prior to the presentation so that the participants can take their own notes on the information, or offer them to participants as they exit the presentation. PowerPoint gives you many options for accomplishing this. On the File menu, click Print, and you will see a familiar pop-up menu, as shown in Figure 7.40 and Figure 7.41.



(a) (b)

Figure 7.40: (a) When printing a presentation, you have several options. Many of these options are similar to what you might find when printing a Microsoft Word document. (b) You can choose to print select slides or just a few slides. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

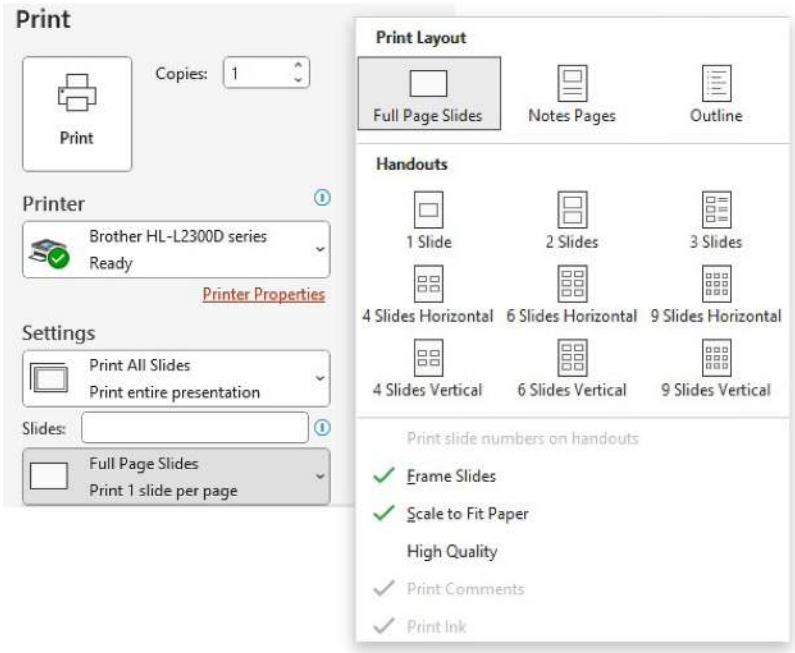


Figure 7.41: When printing the slides, you can choose to have several on one page to save paper. This might be a nice option if you are printing for audience handouts. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Print All Slides option allows you to print the whole presentation, to print just the current slide on the screen, or to selectively print only the slides you want. The Print Full Page Slides option brings up a menu of layouts so you can print anywhere from two to nine slides to a page and can indicate whether you want them to appear in a horizontal or vertical format. You may also choose to print the Notes page and the outline. These can be helpful as you rehearse your presentation.

Other Considerations Before Presenting

In addition to the practical aspects of your slideshow—such as how the slides appear to your audience, what media to include, and how to print your slides—there are other, less tangible things to consider before showing your slide collection to an audience. These include the length of your presentation, audience interaction, notetaking, and accessibility.

Presentation Length

When constructing and preparing for a presentation, you need to know how much time is allotted for the talk. Is your presentation the main component of the meeting, or will several others also be presenting? Knowing how much time you have to present will dictate how much information and, in turn, how many slides you will have in the slideshow. Keep in mind that you should not overuse slides. *You* are the main part of the presentation. The slides are there to enhance and support what you are saying by keeping the audience engaged and conveying the main points you want to get across. They should not contain all the content you are sharing. The optimal number of slides depends on the content you are sharing. For example, if you are sharing complicated data in an informational presentation, you will need more slides to break up the material. If you are giving an inspirational presentation, you may need fewer slides, most of which should be images rather than text.

A good strategy is to use allotted time to determine the number of slides. As a rule of thumb, each slide should be on the screen for about a minute, so a ten-minute presentation would have about ten slides. Of course, this can vary based on the type of information contained on the slides. The audience might need more than a minute to digest and understand data and graphs on a slide, whereas they may need only fifteen or twenty seconds to get the full effect of a slide consisting entirely of pictures. Practice your presentation; you may want to have someone track the time, or you can simply set a timer on your phone. You could use the timer to gauge how long you need to spend on each slide. You may even want to have this timer displayed on your laptop screen close to your speaker's notes so it will be in your line of sight. If you run out of time before you have discussed all of the slides, you will know that you have too many slides. At that point, you can consider either removing some slides altogether or merging information on two or more slides onto a single slide.

Audience Interaction and Questions

When you give a presentation, it is likely that there will be questions from the audience (Figure 7.42). During your preparation phase, brainstorm a list of questions that might be asked or areas where you think more clarification will be needed.



Figure 7.42: It can be helpful to have answers and comments prepared in anticipation of a lot of people having questions. Promising to get back to attendees with questions that you can't answer at the moment is acceptable as well. (credit: "person raising hand" by pxfuel, Public Domain)

Consider creating a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page to distribute to the audience for questions that you feel are likely to be asked. You might even have a friend or family member listen to the presentation and ask you tough questions. This exercise will not only help prepare you to answer tough questions but can also help you maintain your composure if someone challenges you in front of the group. If that happens, you should remain professional and not respond defensively to questions or challenges from participants. You may even want to encourage interaction and questions from the audience. Take a bit of time to plan ahead for how you will interact with the audience and address questions from participants. You can certainly ask the audience to hold all questions until the end of the presentation, but be aware that this often reduces engagement, and you may find that you have no questions at all at the end of the presentation—only silence. If you want to hold questions until the presentation is over, you might ask a colleague or friend to be prepared to ask a question that will get the conversation started. Sometimes participants will be more engaged after the first question, so having a "plant" in the audience to ask the first question can get things moving.

Also consider a strategy where you have audience interaction from the beginning and encourage questions during the presentation. One effective way to set the stage for having a dialog with the audience during the presentation is to start by posing a question to participants. This can be very general—"How is everyone this morning?"—or it can be something specific related to the presentation you are about to give. Amir's introduction presentation for WorldCorp conveys his leadership skills and his passion for kayaking, so he might start by asking who in the audience enjoys water sports or what characteristics make a good leader. All of these ideas will set the stage for a more interactive presentation. Figure 7.43 outlines some other tips and strategies for handling audience questions.

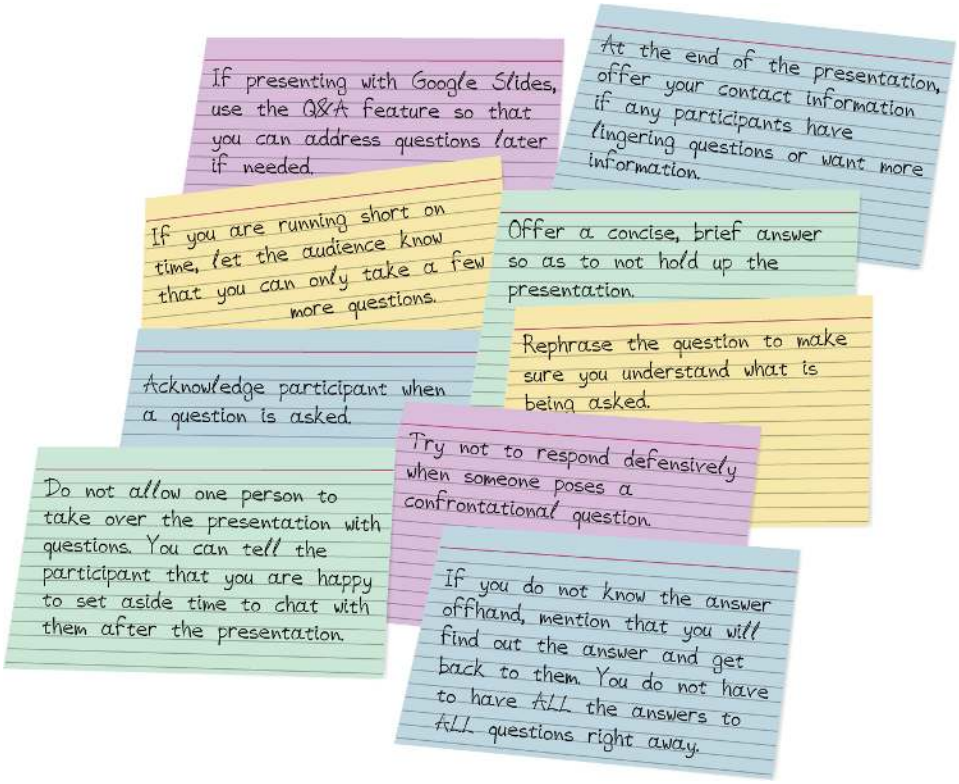


Figure 7.43: Have a strategy planned before the presentation to deal with audience questions.

Speaker's Notes

You can convey a more professional and well-prepared appearance in front of a group if you present without holding note cards or note pages during the presentation. However, it may be helpful for you to have a few notes visible to keep you on track during the presentation or to capture details such as sales figures that you want to be sure to quote exactly. This is where speaker's notes can come into play. In Normal view, you can see the space for notes at the bottom of the slide (Figure 7.44). If you do not see the Notes section at the bottom of the slide, you can click on the Notes button from the View tab. When you add your notes, they will appear as shown below the slide (Figure 7.45). Click to add the details and click Save.

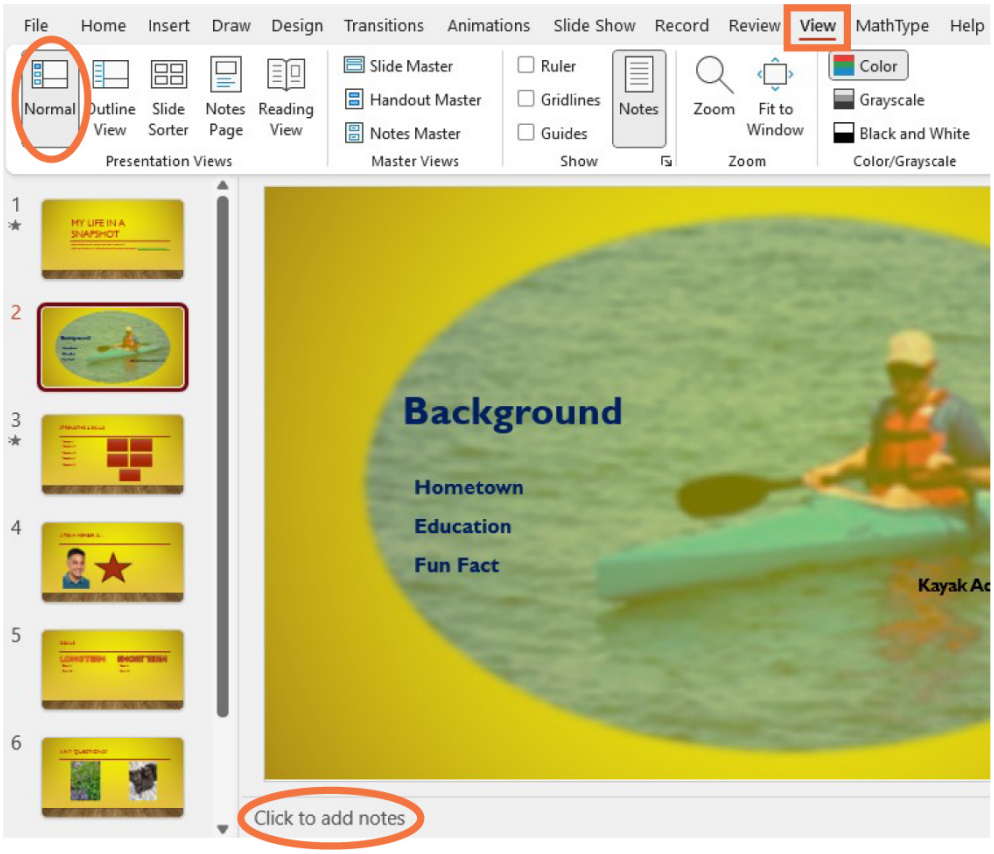


Figure 7.44: Slides do not come with any notes by default. If you want notes to appear with slides, you must add them. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

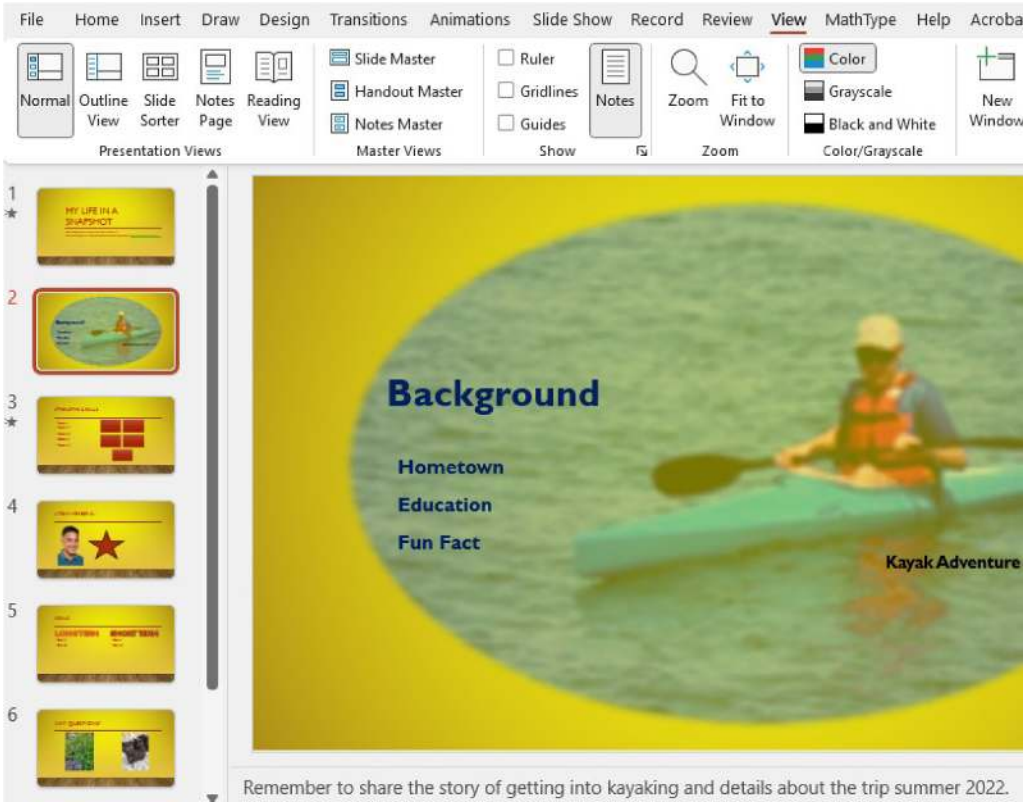


Figure 7.45: Speaker's notes appear directly below the slide. They are only visible to you, the presenter, and will not be shown to the audience during the presentation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

https://workforce.libretexts.org/@go/page/32763

When you present your slideshow, do so using Presenter's View. Make sure you check the box found on the Slide Show ribbon. Your notes will appear on your laptop but not on the projection screen. Your audience will not see your notes.

Accessibility and Languages

An additional consideration when preparing a slide presentation is making sure the information and format of the presentation can be understood by all of your viewers. The Check Accessibility tool in PowerPoint functions in the same way that it does in Word. This feature can be set to continue running while you are creating the presentation. It will look for items that might cause accessibility issues, such as color contrast and font size, and offer suggestions for correcting the issues. For example, the tool might find that there is not enough contrast between the background color and the text color, making the text hard to read. Or it may flag text in a table as being unreadable due to it being too small. The Accessibility tool will also indicate if images have appropriate alt tags associated with them.

You may also have speakers of other languages in your audience. The Translate tool, found in the Review tab, can be helpful if you need to make the material available in a language other than the one you wrote the slideshow in. The Translate tool can be used to translate the entire presentation or just the current slide. (If you speak a language other than English yourself, you can also set the default language to be different from English when typing in content to the slides.) A word of caution for relying solely on the Translate tool: like the spell check tool, it may not be completely accurate and should be reviewed by a person. It would be beneficial to have a proficient speaker of the language review the translation for accuracy before you share the presentation. As WorldCorp operates globally, this tool can be useful when sharing information with the company's international divisions.

Room Setup and Technology

You will likely be presenting with several types of technology, including the laptop on which you created the slideshow, monitors, audio equipment, and others. As part of your preparation process, make sure you understand the environment in which you will be presenting. If you can, visit the physical space in advance and see how the room will be set up. This may mean you will need to make time to come to the room on a day prior to your presentation or to show up early on the same day to familiarize yourself with the room and technology.

When you are there, you should be looking at how the audience will be arranged in relation to you as the speaker, as well as the setup of the technology. You will also want to know what the "speaker space" looks like. Will you have space at the front of the room to walk back and forth a bit, or will you be restricted to standing behind a podium or sitting at a computer terminal? You will also want to test the acoustics in the room. You will want to know if your voice level will be appropriate or if a microphone will be needed. Another item to consider is how you will manage printed handouts for the audience if you have incorporated these into the presentation. Will the room setup give you easy access so you can distribute the handouts, or will you need to have them available as participants enter the space? You may want to consider asking a colleague to be responsible for passing out the materials.

The point is to be prepared and know the space before giving your presentation. This will not only set your mind at ease if you are nervous, but it will convey a level of professionalism during the presentation. Coming unprepared for the layout of the room can add an unnecessary layer of stress and confusion when giving an important presentation.

It is even more advantageous if you can view your slideshow in the space you will be presenting in. Put your slides up on the display screen and go to the back of the room to see how they look. Often, how slides appear on the computer or laptop screen may not be how they show up on a large projector screen or a large monitor. By previewing the slides from the back of the room, you can determine if changes are needed to color schemes or font sizes to make the slides more readable from that distance.

Being prepared for the various technologies you will encounter is also important. Some technologies you can provide yourself, such as a slide clicker. A slide clicker, or presentation remote, is a tool that can pair with your laptop and allow you to click through your slides from a distance. Some remotes also include laser pointers, so you can point to things on your slides from a distance. If the slide clicker has a laser pointer included, make sure you know how to use the pointer and think about how you might incorporate it into your presentation. You may also have several audio options available to you. Using a lapel microphone, or a mic that clips onto your shirt, will allow you to move freely about the room. However, some spaces may only have a microphone at a podium, so you will need to stand in one place to use it. Your approach to the presentation will likely change if you have to click the slides at the computer and be at a podium for the microphone. There is more flexibility to move about the room when giving a presentation if you have a slide clicker and lapel microphone.

It is also a good idea to test each piece of equipment to make sure it is functional and that you know how to use the technology. It can be embarrassing to be in a situation where the technology is not working or you do not know how to use the devices. Many venues and companies will have a person assigned to address technology issues during presentations. This could be someone from the information technology department or someone else who is familiar with the room and the technology. It is a good idea to find out if that person will be in the room during your presentation or available quickly if needed.

Some additional technology considerations include issues of compatibility between your file and the computer available in the room. We see this often when going from a Mac to a Windows environment. Make sure your file is saved in a format that will be universally accessible. Often, saving your file in PDF format ensures it can be accessed on a variety of platforms. (You can review how to do this in Essentials of Software Applications for Business.) It is also a good idea to have your presentation file saved in multiple locations, for example, on the hard drive of your laptop, in One Drive, and on an external storage device such as a flash drive, in case the internet is inaccessible. You may also want to email yourself a copy of the file so that you can access it that way if necessary.

There is no expectation that you are a computer expert, but preparing and having a backup plan in place can help ease your mind and reduce some stress associated with giving a big presentation. Also, if you know you will have challenges with technology, be sure to let the meeting organizer know so they can be prepared to help or have someone who can assist if needed.

Types of Presentations

With the technology available today, it is likely that you will be a part of a meeting that has virtual participants. Many meetings will still be conducted fully in person with all participants in the same room, but it is becoming more common for meetings to be either fully virtual or hybrid, with some in-person participants and some online participants. Your preparation for such a meeting can vary based on the type of presentation you will be giving. Most of our discussion so far has been centered on fully in-person presentations with the speaker and the audience in the same physical space. If you will be part of a meeting where some or all will be participating virtually, there are other items to consider.

Fully Virtual Meetings

Let’s first consider a fully virtual meeting, where you as the speaker as well as the participants are online. Virtual presentations can be even more impactful and beneficial due to various web conferencing tools that can enhance the presentation, like polls and other tools. This could be using a program such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Each participant will join the meeting space via the internet and while being physically in their own space. If you have had online courses, you may have already experienced such a meeting and may have a good idea about some of the potential challenges and benefits. For example, a fully virtual meeting can be accessible for everyone who has the technology needed to attend. In some cases, you can also share more content in a virtual meeting than in an in-person meeting through the chat feature and other document sharing options. The chat feature also allows a bit more audience interaction, as all participants can post questions and comments in the chat. Finally, you may find an online presentation less stressful than an in-person event because you do not have to stand in front of a crowd but can be in a familiar, comfortable space such as your own office.

However, virtual presentations also pose numerous challenges. First, it is much harder to keep the audience engaged, especially if participants do not have their cameras on. You can politely request participants keep their cameras on during the presentation, but that does not automatically mean they are more engaged or that they will comply. And this can be hard to manage as the speaker if there is a large audience. Think about times that you have participated in an online class or meeting. You may be doing other things such as checking email or dealing with issues at home during the meeting/class. One way to combat this in an online meeting is to set up breakout sessions/groups where the participants interact with one another in a small group setting. You can also use the chat feature or conduct a live poll to encourage audience participation. As the speaker, you will need to make an active effort to engage participants. This can start even before the actual presentation begins.

For example, you might send participants a questionnaire beforehand and address those questions during the presentation. Or you can survey participants to identify key topics they would like you to address. Finally, if you ask participants to pre-register, you will have a list of their names if you want to address them individually during the presentation.

Preparing for a virtual presentation is the same in many ways as preparing for a fully in-person talk. For example, preparing your slides is the same, but you may be able to include a bit more text on each slide because participants will have the slides right in

front of them. You will still need to prepare and practice with the technology. Be sure you know how to mute and unmute participants and how to share your screen with the audience so they can see the slides. These settings may be different depending on the software you are using to present, whether it is Zoom, Google Meet, Webex, or another program. You need to make sure your online connectivity is dependable and that you have good sound quality as you are speaking. You will need to test the camera on your computer in the space that you will be in. Look at the lighting in the room and see how it looks on the screen. Keep your camera at eye level and examine how you are spaced in the video screen. You do not want to be either too close to the camera or too far away; either will make it harder to hear what you are saying. To reduce distractions, turn off on-screen notifications for any apps installed on your computer. (For example, make sure that participants won't hear a "ding" every time you get an email.) Make sure your presentation environment is a quiet, professional space, with minimal distractions. You probably do not want unwanted guests, such as your cat or dog, making their appearance during the presentation. Look at the background the audience will see behind you. Many virtual presentation platforms have tools that allow you to blur and change the background for a more professional appearance. Make sure you are focused on the camera and the presentation. You do not want to give the impression that you too are distracted and not engaged, especially when you are the speaker.

Additionally, consider setting expectations for the audience at the very beginning of the presentation. Do you want participants to put their questions in the chat, or would you like them to use features such as the "raise hand" icon to indicate they have a question? Will you have breakout sessions during the talk? Ask participants to turn on their cameras and mute themselves, and then let them know if the session is being recorded. Addressing these items at the beginning of the presentation will help avoid distractions later.

Finally, decide how you are going to monitor the chat during the presentation. Will you be answering questions and comments while you are speaking? It may be a better idea to ask a colleague to be responsible for monitoring the chat and the participants for relevant questions and comments. That way, you can focus on presenting without the added stress of keeping track of the chat.

Hybrid Presentations

Hybrid presentations, where some participants are in-person and others are virtual, pose additional challenges. As much as possible, try to set the stage so that all participants have a similar experience and walk away with the same information. However, you cannot control all the nuances of a hybrid presentation, starting with the risk that online participants will feel left out of the conversation. Extra care will be needed to make sure the virtual participants are fully engaged. At the beginning of the session, acknowledge and welcome those who are online. When you are speaking to a hybrid group of participants, it is important to make eye contact with both groups. Make sure to focus attention on the virtual participants on the screen as much as those who are in the room. Again, asking participants to keep their cameras on will help keep them engaged in the meeting. Remind yourself (or a helper) to check regularly for raised hands and chat comments during the presentation. When a comment is posed in the chat by a virtual participant, read the comment aloud for the in-person audience. If you are using breakout rooms during the session, include virtual participants in the activity and combine groups so there is interaction between both in-person and virtual participants. Consider displaying the virtual participants on a large screen so the in-person audience can see them.

It is impossible to anticipate all the hiccups that can happen during a presentation. With careful planning beforehand, however, you can be prepared for many of the likely issues and feel less anxiety when speaking in front of a group, whether in person or virtual.

Link to Learning

Creating a real-time poll during your presentation can help increase engagement during a virtual or hybrid presentation. Instructions on how to create a poll in Zoom are given on the Zoom platform.

This page titled 7.3: Preparing a Microsoft PowerPoint Collection for Presentation is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.4: Preparing a Google Slides Collection for Presentation

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Add slide transitions into a slide presentation
- Understand the commands in the Tools tab
- Add audio and video to a Slides presentation
- Know how to use the collaboration tools in Slides

Now that you have mastered creating an engaging presentation in PowerPoint, we will look at similar features in Google Slides. Slides offers collaboration tools similar to those we saw with Docs. You can do much of the same design work in Slides that you can in PowerPoint, albeit with some limitations and differences. Slides offers many templates to get you started, but it also includes all the tools you need to create a presentation from scratch. Here we are going to focus on adding the finishing touches to the Slides presentation you created in Preparing Presentations.

Add Transitions

When presenting, strive to strike a balance between the information that the slideshow conveys and the way it conveys that information. Your goal is to hold the audience's attention, while not adding so many special effects that you end up distracting them. Transitions are key to achieving this balance.

As with PowerPoint, transitions are the "how"—the way the slides move from one to the next. Transitions must be applied to one slide at a time unless you click on Apply to all slides. When you click on Transitions, found on the right side of the action bar, a sidebar will open up, where you will see a menu of different available transitions (Figure 7.46).

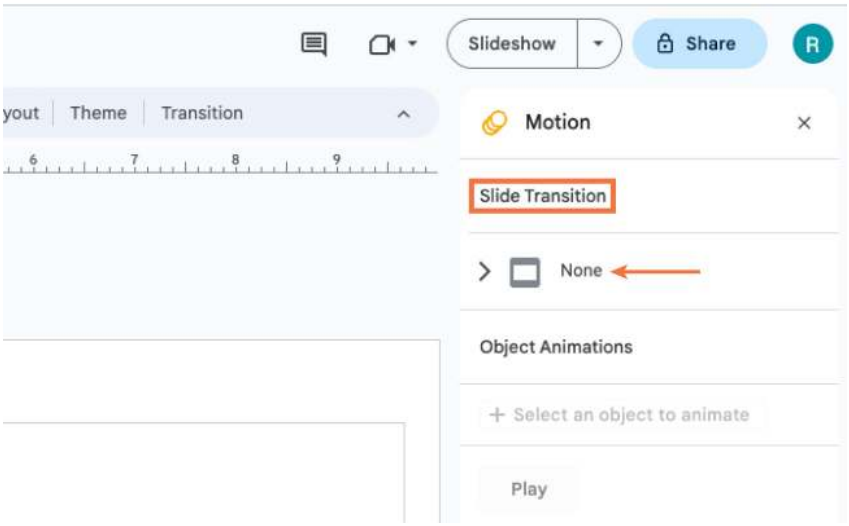


Figure 7.46: The default is to have no transition between the slides, which means the next slide will appear with no special effects. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

There are several choices to consider when adding transitions to your slides. Not all transitions will provide a professional appearance, and some may be more distracting than impactful. The same principles apply as PowerPoint: always consider the audience's perspective. As the speaker, could a transition be a helpful tool to help you slow down a bit between slides or topics, or to give you a moment to gather your thoughts as you move to the next slide? As you rehearse your presentation, keep these items in mind. Remember, if you find a transition more bothersome than helpful, it will also be distracting to your audience.

Now, using the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation, add a few slide transitions to engage the audience. Open the presentation you created in Slides in Preparing Presentations. You may need to refer to the material in Essentials of Software Applications for Business to remember how to open a file in Google.

Begin by adding a transition to the first slide. First select the slide, then go to Transition on the action bar. Then, from the sidebar on the right, click the down arrow next to None to reveal what transitions are currently applied to the slide. Then click on None in the drop-down menu to reveal the different transition options (Figure 7.47).

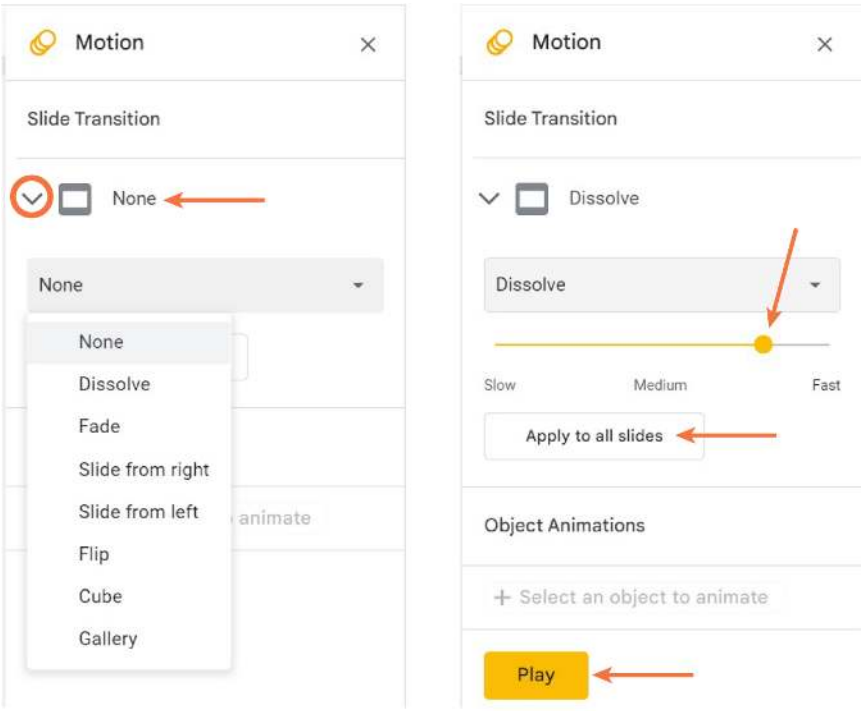


Figure 7.47: (a) This drop-down menu shows that there are currently no transitions applied to the slide. (b) You can choose to apply a transition to all slides or to the current slide only. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Try a few options to see which you find most appropriate. To preview the transition, click the Play button at the bottom of the pane. Notice that you can also change the speed of the transition by moving the slider between slow and fast. After you have added the desired transition, adjusted the speed if needed, and looked at the result, click the X in the upper-right-hand corner of the pane to close it out.

Tools Menu

The Tools menu in Slides includes many features for fine-tuning your slides. Here you will find tools for proofing, accessibility, linking objects, and much more (Figure 7.48).

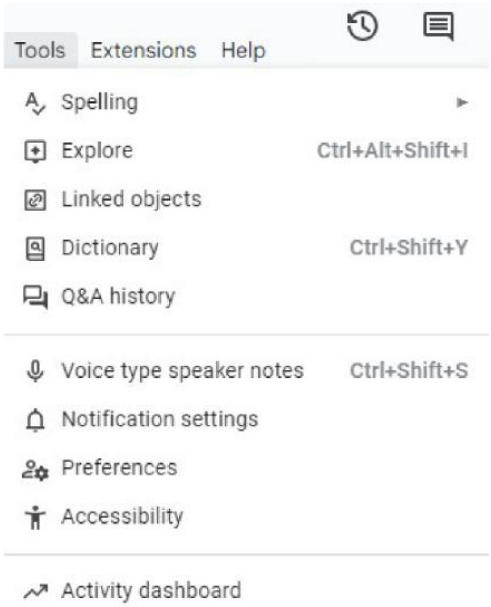


Figure 7.48: The Tools menu contains some standard features, such as spell check, as well as features unique to Google, like the Q&A history tool. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Spelling

The first command in the Tools menu is Spelling. Clicking on Spelling opens a menu with three choices: Spell check, Show spelling suggestions, and Personal dictionary. These are all standard proofing tools that behave just like the ones you have already encountered in Docs (Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs). The Personal dictionary is especially useful if you use several terms that may be unique to your business, including variations on the name of the business. For example, you could keep a list of employees' names in your Personal dictionary, which will save you time when you need to issue different documents to employees and will prevent you from being stopped by spell check.

Linked Objects

Linked objects is also found in the Tools menu. Clicking on Linked objects brings up a viewing pane on the right and lists anything in your presentation that contains a link to another file. For example, suppose you are presenting WorldCorp quarterly sales data and notice an error in a table that was created in Docs and linked on a slide. Using Linked objects, you can choose that Doc file from the list and make the needed revisions. This would not only update the table in your slide but will also revise the original Docs file where the table was created. This function is especially helpful when your presentation contains graphs and charts created in another Google program, like Docs or Sheets. (You will learn more about Sheets in Working with Spreadsheets.) Rather than going into the original data file, editing the material, then copying and pasting the chart or graph back into your Slides presentation, you can simply make the edits in the original file and your slide will automatically be updated.

Q&A

Q&A is a unique feature of Slides. It allows collaboration that goes beyond simply sharing the file with other users. Using the Q&A tool, you can collaborate and interact directly with the audience during the presentation, and audience members can interact with each other. You need to activate this tool before you can use it. To do this, navigate to the top right corner of your screen and click on the down triangle next to Slideshow. (This is next to the Share button.) See Figure 7.49. You are offered two options: Presenter View and Start from Beginning. Click on Presenter View.

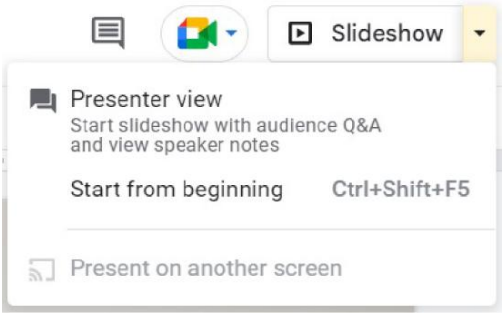


Figure 7.49: The Presenter View will not only activate the Q&A tool but will also show you the speaker notes. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This brings up a new window that looks like Figure 7.50. This is what you will see when you are ready to accept questions from the audience. When you are ready to start a Q&A session, click on Start new.

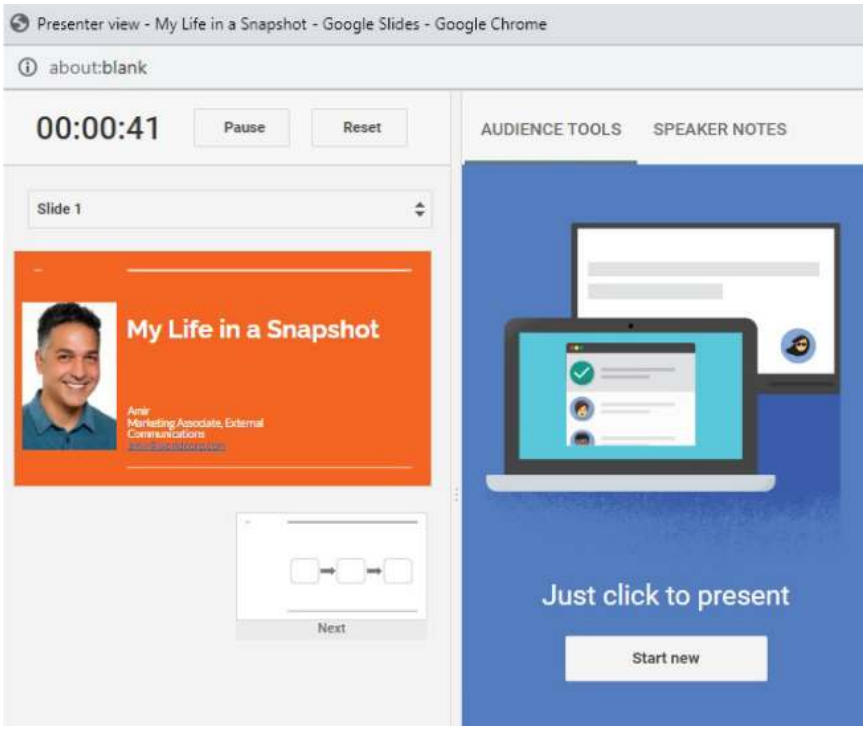


Figure 7.50: Select Audience Tools in the right pane. Then, click on Start new. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You will then be taken to a page with a URL at the top for audience members. The Accepting questions from... toggle will automatically be turned to On, though you can toggle it to Off at any time. When it is turned on, you will see a URL, as shown in Figure 7.51. The audience can go to that URL on their phones or tablets; it will take them directly to the Ask a Question page, where they can type in their question and click Submit (Figure 7.52, Figure 7.53). This is the page where the questions will appear.

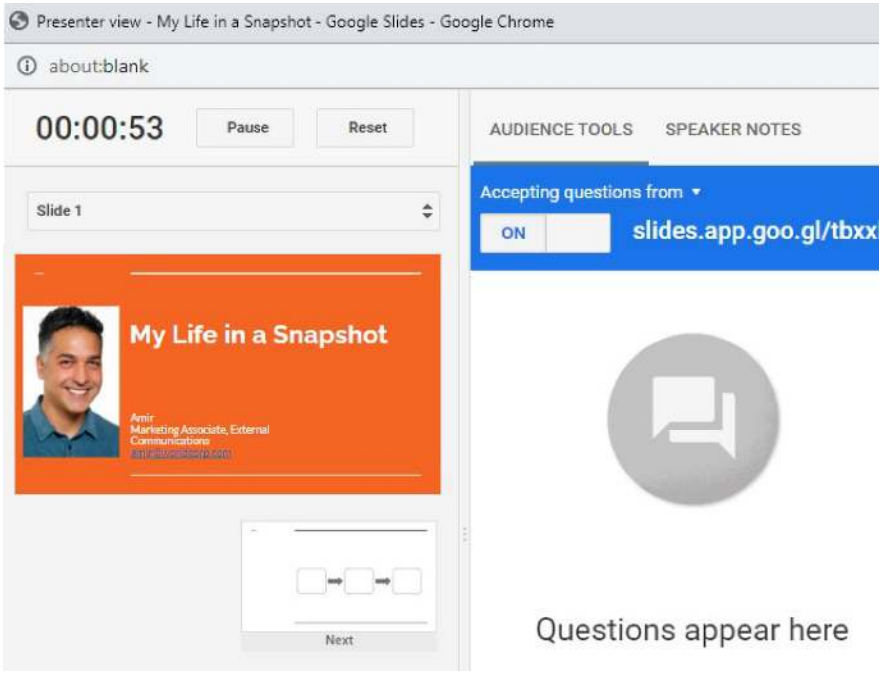


Figure 7.51: The Q&A feature is especially helpful when giving virtual presentations. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)



Figure 7.52: Participants use the URL at the top of the slide to submit a question. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

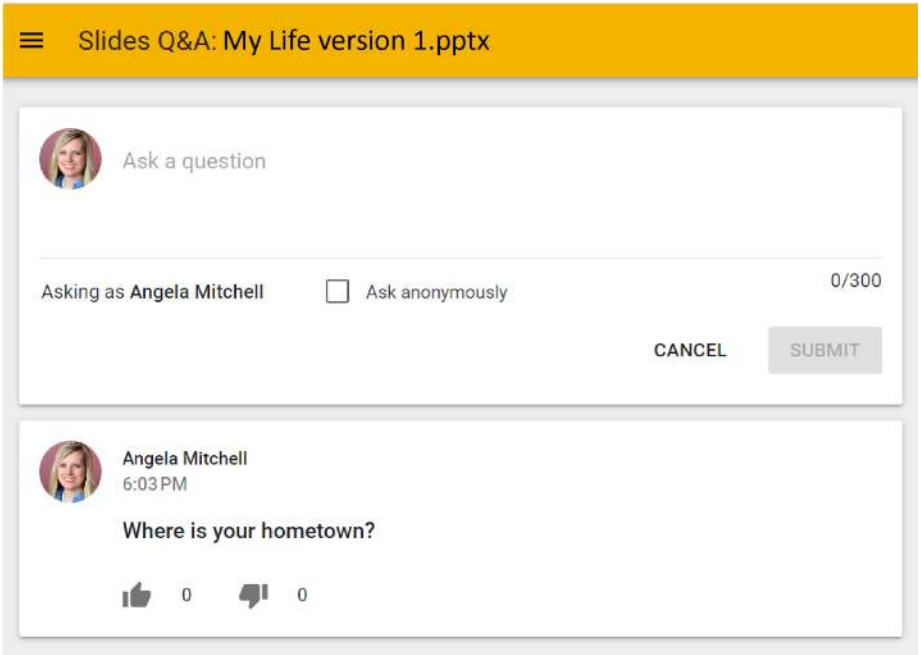


Figure 7.53: If the participant is logged into Google, you will see their name/picture. The form through which participants can enter their questions looks a lot like a Google Form. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The questions will appear to the presenter as they come in, in the order in which they were asked (Figure 7.54). Also, everyone will see the questions that come in from all members of the audience. Participants can also interact with one another in the Q&A screen. They can Like questions or comments and can also reply to one another. To shut down the Q&A, just move the On button at the top of the questions page to Off. The audience will see a message something like this on their devices: "Sorry, this Q&A session is closed." If you decide to take questions from the audience later in your presentation, instead of selecting Start new, you can choose another option: Continue Recent. This will continue the same Q&A session.

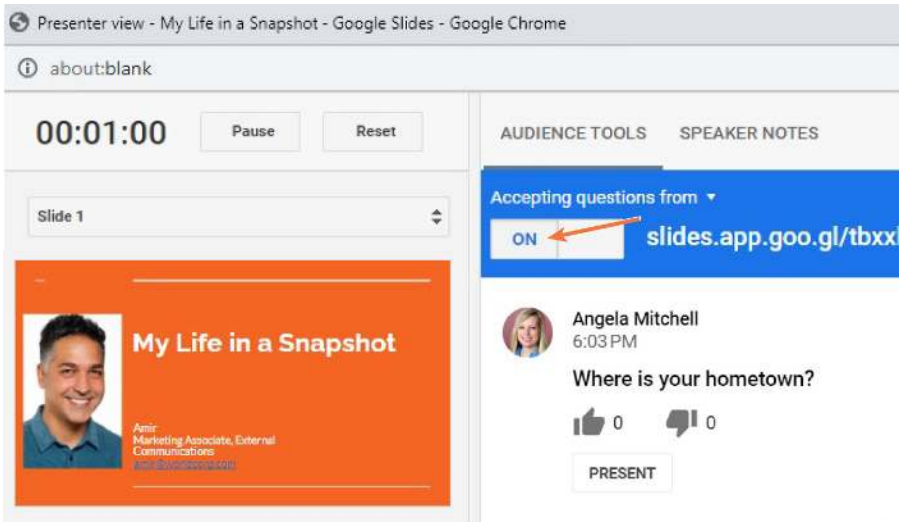


Figure 7.54: In the Presenter view, you will see the questions as they are asked. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Insert Audio and Video

Adding sound to your Slides presentation is another way to engage your audience. You can insert any audio file, as long as they are in MP3 or WAV format. First, navigate to the Insert menu and click on Audio. Google lets you choose where to search for audio files: My Drive, Shared with me, or Recent. When you find the file you want, click on Select. An audio icon will come up with a

play bar, which will show you the position in the track and its length (Figure 7.55). Remember, the icon has to be selected to view the play bar.

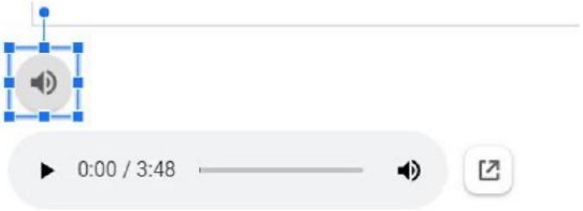


Figure 7.55: This is the Audio icon after audio is inserted on a slide. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To control the volume, hover your mouse over the speaker symbol. The Format Options pane (under the Format tab) has other controls you may need, as shown in Figure 7.56.

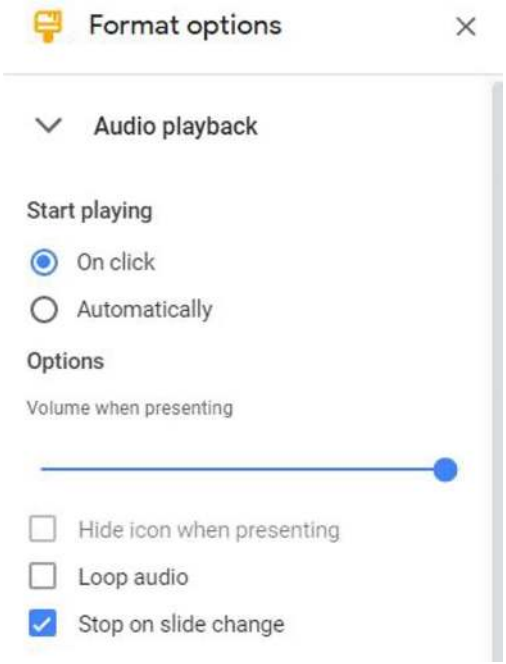


Figure 7.56: The Format options pane gives you a few options to control and modify your audio output. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Use the Audio playback controls to set how the audio will start, either automatically with the slide or on the click of the mouse. You can choose to loop the audio or to stop it with a slide change.

Inserting a video uses much the same process. Navigate to the Insert menu, then click on Video. As with inserting an audio file, you can navigate to where your video file is located (in My Drive, or your hard drive, or in a Shared Drive folder), or you can search YouTube or paste in a URL (Figure 7.57).

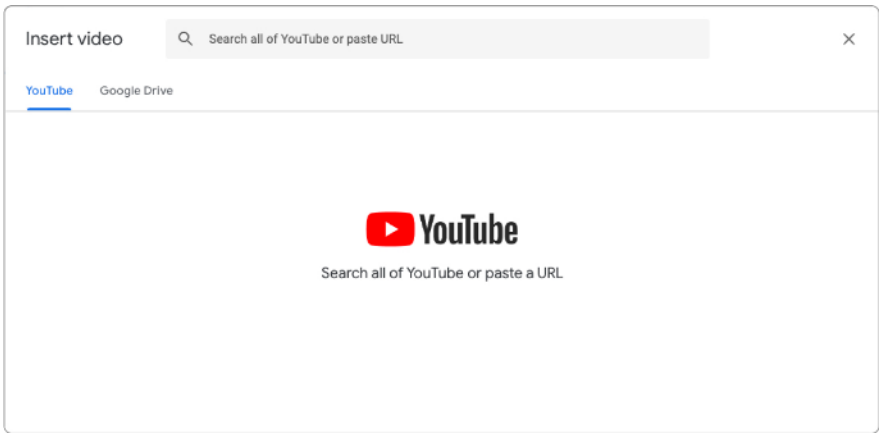


Figure 7.57: Remember your audience when selecting videos. Make sure they are a suitable length and fully vetted of any controversial content. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

As in PowerPoint, the video will initially appear very large on your slide, but you can make it smaller by dragging the corners. A Play button will appear in the center of the video thumbnail. When you have the video thumbnail selected, the Format options pane will appear on the right (Figure 7.58). There are a number of different options and settings you can apply and modify. Try a few different ones to see what their effects are like.

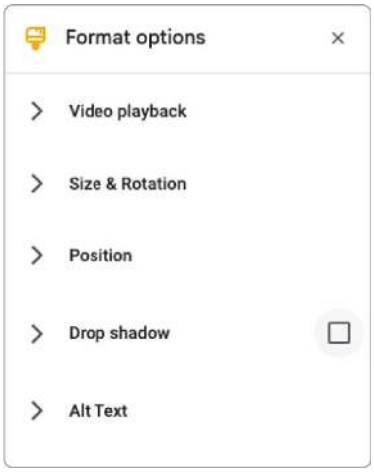


Figure 7.58: Videos take your slideshow to another level. Format options helps you present them on the slide to give them their due. Alt Text, in particular, allows you to describe what's in the video for those who can't see it. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Collaboration Tools

As with any Google product, Slides makes it easy to collaborate with others. At any point when you wish to share your work with others, click on the Share button in the upper right corner. Alternatively, you can click on File and then choose Share, which is the first option in the File menu. Clicking Share first brings up a window asking you for a title. You can enter a title or click on Skip this step. Then you will see a window called Share with People and Groups, where you can add the names of people with whom you wish to share the presentation. This window should look familiar to you, as it is the same sharing window that appears in Docs. You have the usual options available to you: you can email your presentation to other individuals or groups (the first option in the window) or get a link to the presentation that you can also email to others or post online (the second option). You can also restrict or permit the actions of editors and change the options that you allow to viewers and commenters via the settings icon in the top right corner.

Insert Comments

When you are collaborating with others, it is often necessary to add comments and have your comments responded to. To insert comments in Slides, click on the comment icon in the action bar (Figure 7.59). You can also access comments by clicking on Insert and then Comment.

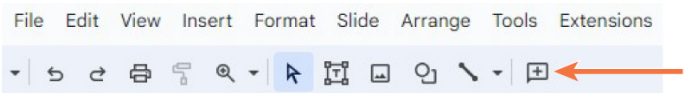


Figure 7.59: Slides makes it easy to comment and collaborate on a presentation.

Click on the comment icon and a little window will pop up with a place for you to write your comment. Next, click on Comment—it's that simple. Communication is practically instantaneous. Now you can send your presentation off to your colleagues or save it to Google Drive. Figure 7.60 shows an example of a comment made on a slide as well as the response.

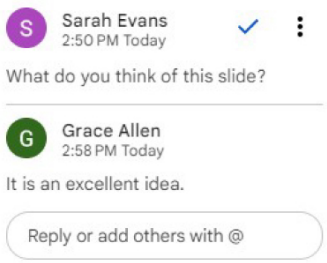


Figure 7.60: The commenting interface is similar to the one in Docs. You can also tag other users so they get notified. (Google Slides is a trademark of Google LLC.)

For every comment you insert, clicking on the three dots in the upper right corner allows you to edit the comment or delete it. Note that you can reply to others' comments but cannot edit them.

This page titled 7.4: Preparing a Google Slides Collection for Presentation is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

animation
a special effect added to objects and elements on a slide

crop
a tool used to remove portions of an image that is inserted onto a slide

Designer
a feature that adds variety and interest to slides

hook
a strong opening statement to engage the audience in the content of a presentation

speaker's notes
notes added by the presenter to the slides that are not intended for display to the audience; intended to help presenters recall important points during their presentation

Timing
the way and order in which transitions and animations can be programmed to appear or occur on the screen

transitions
a feature for determining how one slide moves to the next slide

transparency
the degree of light that is allowed to pass through an image

This page titled 7.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.6: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

7.1 Effective Presentation Skills

- To prepare for a presentation, you should consider the goals of the presentation, how long you have to present, and how you will interact with the audience before, during, and after the presentation.
- A strong opening statement or hook will get the audience engaged and interested in the rest of the presentation.
- Although there is no standard set of skills for being a good presenter, there are some common approaches that, with practice, will help you become a better public speaker.
- Just as a strong opening statement is needed, an impactful closing statement can bring the presentation to a close in a memorable way for the audience.

7.2 Finalizing a Slide Collection

- Color can be used to enhance a presentation and convey emotions.
- There are a variety of ways to modify a theme used in a presentation. You can modify colors, fonts, and placement of elements on the slide.
- The Designer tool gives you options for adding variety and interest to your slides.
- When images are included on slides, you can customize the size and look of an image through various tools, including cropping, removing the background, and changing the transparency of the image.

7.3 Preparing a Microsoft PowerPoint Collection for Presentation

- Transitions and animations, if not overused, can add visual interest to your presentation. Choose animations and transitions that retain the professionalism of the presentation.
- Adding media such as audio or video can enhance a presentation and, in some cases, better convey the information contained on a slide.
- PowerPoint includes many features to help you get your slides “presentation ready.” These include grammar/spell check, checking for accessibility issues, speaker’s notes on slides, and even a rehearsal coach to help you prepare to speak in front of a group.
- Making plans to visit the room and try out the technology is a critical step in preparing for a presentation.
- With the technology available today, you are likely to be presenting to a fully virtual or hybrid group. Through proper preparation, you can help ensure that all participants are engaged and have a meaningful experience during the presentation.

7.4 Preparing a Google Slides Collection for Presentation

- Transitions can be added to slides to give some visual interest to the presentation and to help the speaker slow down between slides and topics.
- The Tools menu contains features to check for spelling, facilitate a Q&A, and adjust speaker notes, among other things.
- Adding audio or video files is easy to do in Slides. An audio file will appear as a speaker icon on the slide. A video will appear as a thumbnail.
- The collaboration tools in Slides include standard sharing settings and commenting.

This page titled 7.6: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
New Employee Orientation training is an example of which type of presentation?

a. persuasive
b. inspirational
c. informational
d. instructional

2 .
A _____ is used to get the attention of the audience at the beginning of a presentation.

a. hook
b. welcome slide
c. call to action
d. long pause

3 .
A(n) _____ tone of speaking is best during a presentation.

a. excited
b. conversational
c. monotone
d. soft

4 .
A _____ is one effective way to end a presentation.

a. thank-you slide
b. questions slide
c. bullet summary list
d. quote or story

5 .
What is the suggested maximum number of colors that should be included when creating a custom template for visual clarity?

a. two
b. three
c. four
d. five

6 .
Which tool is used to change the layout of an individual slide?

a. Crop
b. Designer
c. Picture format
d. Variants

7 .
To modify the shadow or line effects in a shape on a slide, where do you go?

a. the Designer tab
b. the Picture Format tab
c. the Variants command group
d. the Remove Background tool

8 .
The _____ describes the height and width of an image using preset values.

a. cropping tool

b. transparency
c. effect
d. aspect ratio

9 .
A split _____ is one way to move from one slide to the next.

a. animation
b. transition
c. comment
d. Slide Master

10 .
The Rehearse with Coach tool is found on the _____ tab.

a. Review
b. Transitions
c. Slide Show
d. Slide Master

11 .
The _____ tab appears when you insert a video on a slide.

a. Review
b. Transitions
c. Slide Show
d. Playback

12 .
What is one essential thing to do during the room and technology setup before your presentation?

a. Show up just as the presentation starts.
b. Try out all the technology you will be using.
c. Save your presentation to your hard drive.
d. Make sure you always have two monitors.

13 .
What is one strategy that will help keep virtual participants engaged during a presentation?

a. Turn off the cameras of virtual participants.
b. Don’t use the chat feature.
c. Use breakout rooms.
d. Show virtual participants only to the speaker.

14 .
In Google Slides, slide transitions are found on the _____.

a. Tools menu
b. Insert menu
c. action bar
d. Format options pane

15 .
To add comments to a slide, go to the _____.

a. Tools menu
b. Insert menu
c. Slide menu
d. Arrange menu

16 .
Which feature can you use to interact directly with the audience in real time during a presentation?

a. Comments

b. Share
c. Transitions
d. Q&A tool

17 .
How will an inserted video appear on your slide?

a. as a speaker icon
b. as a thumbnail
c. as a text description
d. as a link

This page titled 7.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

18 .
Watch the TED Talk "Mosquitos, malaria, and education" from Bill Gates. What makes the presentation engaging? Create a couple of slides that could have been used during the presentation.

19 .
Review the Section508.gov presentations training videos that provide tips for making presentations accessible to all audiences. Using a slide presentation that you have created or one that you find online, make some suggestions for improving the accessibility of the slides based on the information on the site.

20 .
Dananjaya Hettiarachchi was the 2014 World Champion of Public Speaking. Review Hettiarachchi's full speech on YouTube. As you listen and view, identify three skills from the chapter that were used by the speaker. Explain how the skill was used, and comment on its effectiveness.

21 .
Create a "Background" slide for yourself that includes information such as your hometown, your college, and a couple of fun facts about yourself. Include a picture that is meaningful to you. Choose a theme for the slide, and use the Designer tool to select an engaging design. Crop the image you include into the shape of a star, and adjust the transparency of the image.

22 .
Design a custom color template for a presentation to highlight your company's annual picnic. Include an appropriate picture and remove the background of the image. Explain the use of your color choices in a text box on the slide.

23 .
Design a slide to share three "lessons learned," or takeaways, from this chapter using a SmartArt design of your choice. Find an image that relates to the topic, and make it the slide background, and apply 75 percent transparency.

24 .
Using the Rehearse with Coach tool, rehearse the *My Life in a Snapshot* presentation that you have created over the last two chapters. What information did you get from the tool? Was it helpful?

25 .
Imagine that you are preparing for a presentation at either your work or school. Choose a space to explore for presentation readiness and actually go visit it. Prepare a slide to describe the chosen location, the readiness of the space, the features that support your presentation, and steps to take to ensure optimal preparedness.

26 .
Design a few slides to teach your audience how to complete a simple task of your choice. Find a video that supports it and embed it within the slide. Include a transition to appear after the video ends to pop up a summarized statement.

27 .
Add another transition to your *My Life in a Snapshot* Slides presentation. Which transition did you choose and why? Make sure to apply the transition to at least three slides and adjust the speed if desired.

28 .
Add comments to two slides in your *My Life in a Snapshot* Slides presentation. Verbally add speaker notes to help you during the presentation. Last, run spell check on the presentation. Did you find any errors?

29 .
Add sound to your *My Life in a Snapshot* Slides presentation. First, make or find an audio recording in MP3 or WAV format. Save the file to your computer and remember where you saved it. Play the recording within your presentation by clicking on the audio icon. Did the sound enhance the presentation? Did you modify it to make it better?

This page titled 7.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

7.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

30 .
Describe some key skills for presenting that apply regardless of the type of presentation you are giving.
31 .
Describe one of the ways you can engage your audience in your presentation.
32 .
Describe why it is important to have a strong closing presentation.
33 .
Why would you apply a theme to a presentation, and why might you want to modify it?
34 .
Discuss reasons why the options on the Review tab are useful.
35 .
Discuss how speaker's notes are added to a slide. How can they be used in a presentation? What information would you include in the speaker's notes?
36 .
What are some things you need to address regarding the hardware and environmental components of your presentation?
37 .
When preparing for a virtual/hybrid presentation versus a fully in-person presentation, what are some items to consider?
38 .
Discuss how to add transitions to all slides in a Google Slides file and how to change the timing of the transitions.
39 .
Discuss how to use the Q&A feature in a presentation.
40 .
Explain how to insert audio into a presentation.

This page titled 7.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

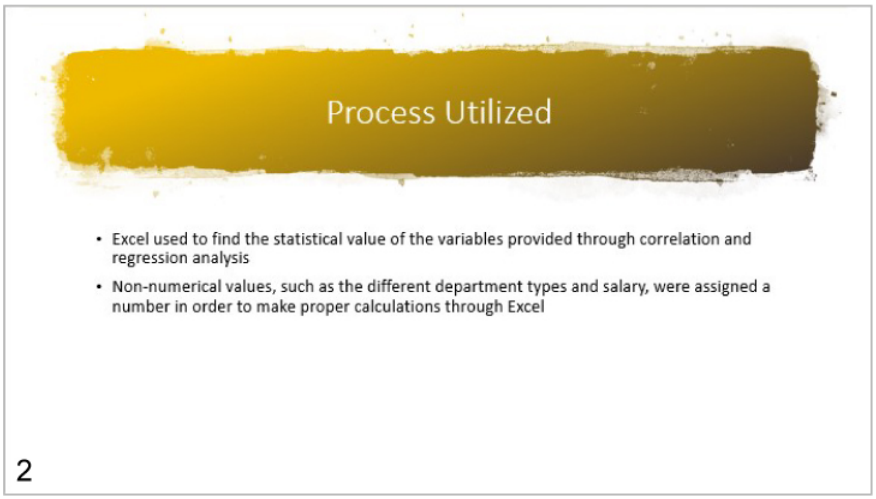
7.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

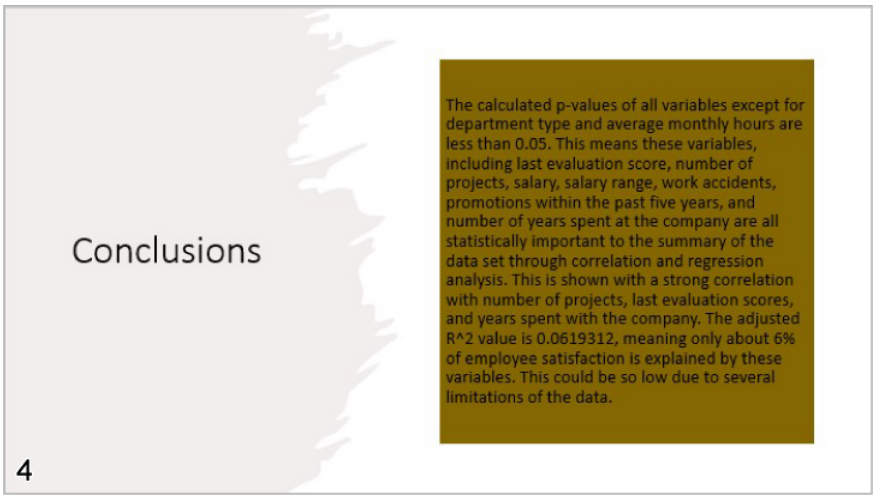
41 .

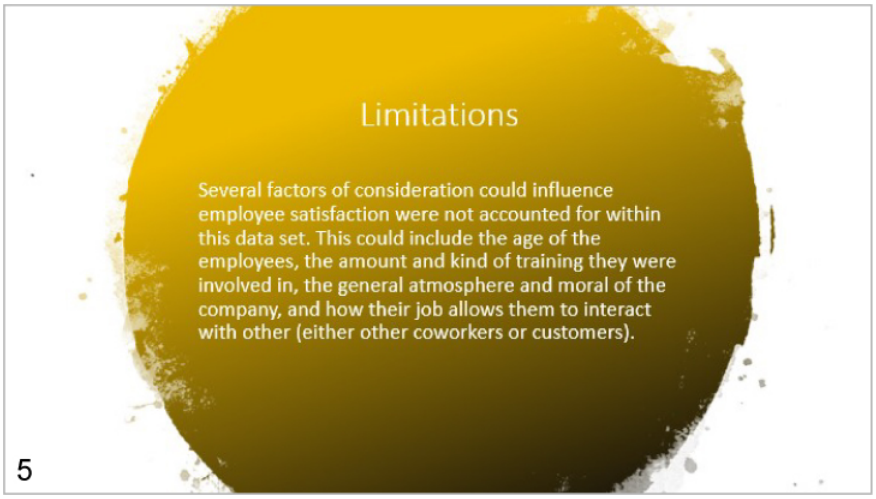
Examine the slides that follow. Based on what you have learned in this section about designing presentations for all audiences, what suggestions can you make to improve the slides?













42 .

You have been tasked with creating a training workshop presentation on effective communication skills. The workshop aims to enhance interpersonal communication, presentation delivery, and active listening abilities. In this exercise, you will focus on utilizing the image and SmartArt tools in PowerPoint to create an engaging and visually appealing presentation. Create a PowerPoint with the following sequence:

1. Slide 1: Title slide

2. Slide 2: Introduction to effective communication. Consider using the SmartArt tool to create a diagram or visual showcasing the different elements of effective communication, such as verbal skills, body language, and active listening.
3. Slide 3: Content slide: illustrate common barriers to effective communication.
4. Slide 4: Content slide: present strategies for active listening.
5. Slide 5: Content slide: showcase the importance of nonverbal communication. Consider using the image tool to insert pictures of individuals engaged in different nonverbal cues, such as eye contact, body posture, and hand gestures.
6. Slide 6: Content slide: demonstrate effective presentation delivery techniques.
7. Slide 7: Conclusion: End the presentation with a call-to-action slide.

Ensure consistent design elements, such as font styles, colors, and slide layouts. Choose high-quality and relevant images that enhance the presentation's visual appeal while aligning with the content and objectives.

43 .

Your supervisor has asked you to prepare a training presentation for new hires, centered on giving effective presentations. This will be divided into two parts: preparation and skills. Design a brief presentation in either PowerPoint or Google Slides that will cover some tips for preparing to give a presentation. Your presentation should contain at least four slides, including a title slide. Make sure to cover items such as the room setup, the purpose of the presentation, how to handle questions, and dealing with technology.

44 .

View this presentation from Kshivets O. Lung Cancer Surgery on Slideshare. What are some issues with the presentation, and how would you correct them?

This page titled 7.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

8: Content Management Systems and Social Media in Business

8.0: Chapter Scenario
8.1: What Are Content Management Systems?
8.2: Common Content Management Systems
8.3: Creating Content with a Content Management System
8.4: Search Engine Optimization
8.5: Social Media in Business
8.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms
8.7: Chapter Review - Summary
8.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions
8.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
8.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions
8.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 8: Content Management Systems and Social Media in Business is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.0: Chapter Scenario

Although you may not be directly involved with content management in your career, it is important to have a broad knowledge of the concept and all it entails. You are likely to encounter or work on a team with someone who is responsible for content management within your company. The information in this chapter will give you the language and basics of how managing online information works in an organization. At this point, you have learned about many software applications that span across departments and functions. You have mastered how to create documents and set up an effective presentation. You have created digital content. And this content, when created within the bounds of your job and the company, becomes something that needs to be managed, organized, and shared internally through content management systems, or externally for an online community or customers.



Figure 8.1: Businesses small and large can make use of a content management system, which tracks customer data and provides useful metrics to business owners. (credit: modification of “Happy florist giving a bouquet of flowers to lady” by Amina Filkins/Pexels, CC0)

Like many large corporations, WorldCorp encourages its employees to volunteer in the community and allows employees to take time during working hours to assist nonprofit organizations. Each year, WorldCorp’s upper management selects a theme for these volunteer efforts. This year’s theme is focused on abandoned pets. In Raleigh, North Carolina, the location of one of WorldCorp’s corporate offices, there is a new pet adoption nonprofit organization, Happy Tails WC. WorldCorp’s marketing department has agreed to develop a website and social media presence for the pet adoption agency. This will involve managing content across several different platforms and tracking the success of various posts or other marketing efforts. Happy Tails needs this assistance to launch its business and to attract the resources it needs, including donations, grants, and potential pet owners.

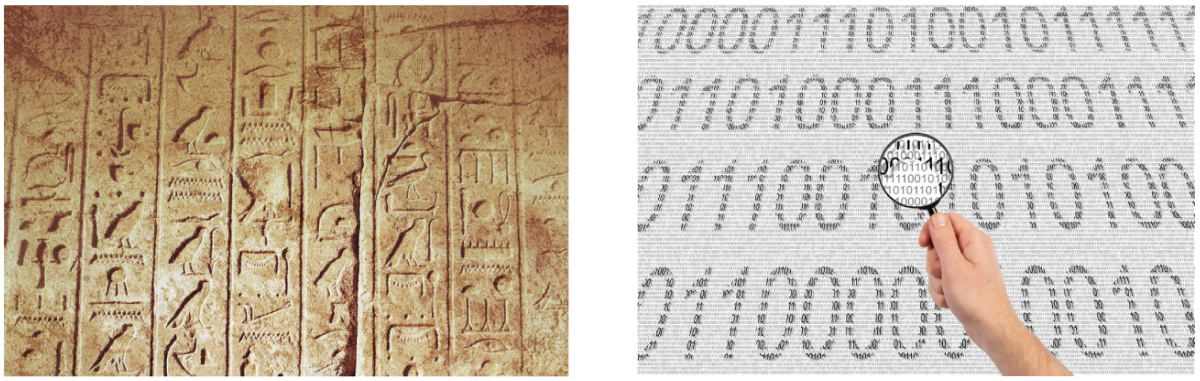
This page titled 8.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.1: What Are Content Management Systems?

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe what a content management system is and what it is used for
- Explain the ways businesses benefit from using content management systems
- Distinguish between different types of content
- Evaluate common features of content management systems



(a) (b)

Figure 8.2: (a) Unlike the English alphabet, hieroglyphics used shapes or characters to represent the information to be conveyed. (b) In today's world, the basis for all information created and shared with computer technology is binary code (only using 0s and 1s). (credit a: modification of "Hiéroglyphes" by iPhone-shoot/Flickr, CC BY 2.0; credit b: modification of "Magnifying glass and binary code" by Marco Verch Professional Photographer/Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

The ancient Egyptians used hieroglyphic writing, a unique form of sharing content, for administrative, business, literary, religious, and scientific purposes. Hieroglyphic writing was typically shape- and picture-oriented. We see similarities with content created today for social media and other platforms using shapes and other visual elements to convey a message. In today's industrialized cultures, humans share content through various platforms, including websites and social media across other various devices. *Content* refers to information in visual or audio form—text, art, numbers, or images—that is intended for an end user. The material presented can be viewed as data, information, or knowledge.

- Data, usually presented in numeric form, is content that can be analyzed, such as facts and figures. For example, a company can use data on the number of customers visiting its website to determine the return on investment (ROI) of its marketing efforts. The term *data* is also used to refer to the characters or symbols used by a system and transmitted into different media.
- Information**,** in the form of text, audio, video, or images, consists of data that is put into context—statements or facts that help users arrive at an answer to a specific question or problem. For example, the managers at Happy Tails WC can use data gathered from the new website, such as the number of views and the location where those viewers come from, to better understand the market for their nonprofit. The data has been put into the context and used to answer a specific question. Happy Tails WC can then use this data to tailor messages to specific locations or to plan events for specific populations who visit the website often.
- Knowledge refers to familiarity with or understanding of skills, facts, or objects, which an individual develops by analyzing or interacting with them—for example, company performance measures.

For the pet adoption agency, these concepts are as relevant as they would be for any business. The agency board would need to gather data on the cost factors related to the adoption of each pet and the associated veterinarian bills. They might also want to keep track of the number of adoption applications by a pet (e.g., dog versus cat) or breed that comes into the agency. Relevant information would include pictures of the adoptable pets, text about the history of the adoption agency, or videos showing the adopted pets in their new homes. Finally, using the data and information, the agency's board members could determine how to strategically grow the agency to accommodate more pets or volunteers. They could also use the facts gathered to seek out specific donations or grant opportunities to help the budget each month.

What Is Content Management?

To understand content and its management, revisit WorldCorp's volunteer work with Happy Tails. Since the adoption agency is newly formed, it needs help developing its brand, or organizational identity, as well as an online presence to publicize both the company and the pets available for adoption. This will require the development, distribution, and updating of a variety of multimedia content, including new branding (images, color schemes, logos, and slogans). There will be some design work involved, and we will cover some principles of design a bit later in the chapter. But for now, your teams will need to think broadly about all the aspects of creating and managing content for this small, startup organization.

You have begun by asking the leaders at Happy Tails WC to answer some questions so you and your team can start building the brand for the organization. Their answers will guide the development of the content for the website and other aspects of the organization, both in print and online. Figure 8.3 shows a few questions to consider when creating content and developing a brand image.

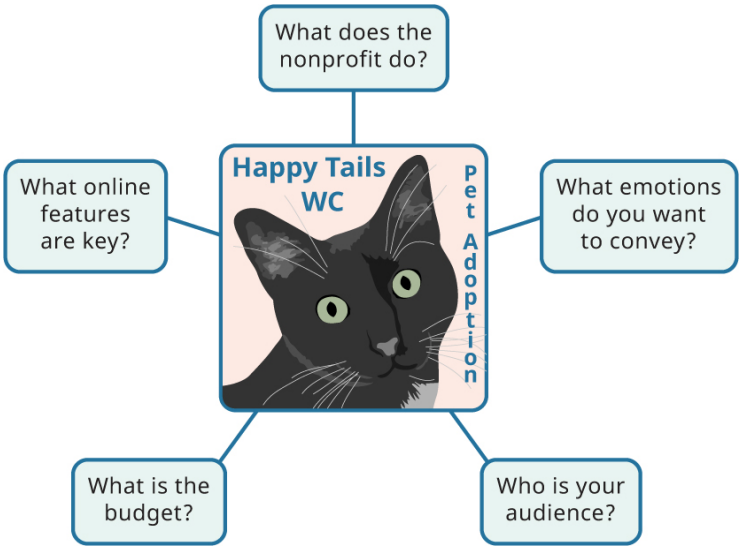


Figure 8.3: When creating a brand for a product or organization, it is important to think broadly about the message you want to convey, whether delivered online or through print materials.

The content management process will vary depending on the size of the organization, particularly in the realm of content creation. In large corporations, there are often entire departments, such as information technology (IT) and marketing, working together on these efforts. Furthermore, within these departments there will be experts on website development, social media marketing, and other similar functions, who will have primary responsibility for a small portion of content management. It would be rare to find a single person handling all content management for the business; rather, this would be a dedicated team effort. Teams need to work cooperatively with nearly all business functions, including sales, accounting, and purchasing, to develop the appropriate content and strategies used to maintain that content to meet their diverse needs.

In some cases, a large corporation might choose to outsource content management to a vendor that specializes in this service. Managing content can take time and expertise. A large company may decide that the time and effort involved in content management might be better spent on the products or services they provide, rather than on building a website and posting to social media sites.

You can also expect that large corporations will have content specific to their internal audience (perhaps a company website for employees only) as well as content for external audiences. You might have some experience with this idea at your school. On the school website, you might see a link or an area specially for students. This might include links for your class schedule or where to order books. You probably also need a password to access that area. The general website then contains information for an external audience: prospective students or community members who want to find out more about the college. These two different audience types require different types of content, and as such, different ways of managing that data and information.

A content management system (CMS) is an application that uses a set of processes to manage web content, social media content, and other information online, which allows multiple contributors to collect, create, edit, and publish content. These processes go

beyond simply creating and maintaining a website. A CMS could also include managing multiple social media platforms as well as internal company sites where information is stored. In a CMS, the content is stored in a database and displayed when accessed. Information stored in a CMS is usually referred to as digital content. A company can update, delete, or add information as needed. The best content management systems offer capabilities that include site design, content authoring, editing, and personalization. The personalization might include items specific to the industry or company, such as online sales capabilities or an event calendar that could be useful for Happy Tails WC employees as they plan fundraising or pet adoption events.

The CMS is integral to delivering rich digital experiences across all digital channels and enables organizations to manage multiple websites, support more than one language, and deliver a consistent customer experience. These experiences could be through social media platforms such as X (formerly well known as Twitter) or TikTok, or even through emails that prompt the customer to click on a link to find out more information.

Real-World Application - Using a CMS at the World Wildlife Fund

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) utilized a CMS to successfully launch its Earth Hour campaign in 2020, demonstrating the advantages of employing a robust content management system. By leveraging a CMS, WWF effectively managed the challenges associated with handling high-volume traffic to its website, ensuring that visitors encountered no impediments in terms of speed, security, or reliability. This seamless user experience was vital for maintaining user engagement and maximizing campaign impact.

By utilizing a CMS, the WWF was able to gain valuable insights into user behavior, preferences, and interactions with its website. This understanding of the customer journey allowed it to make informed decisions to optimize its online presence and tailor its content to better resonate with its target audience with the goal of enhancing engagement, fostering brand loyalty, and driving desired actions from their audience.

An improved customer experience yields a multitude of benefits for businesses. First, it enhances customer satisfaction. Satisfied customers are more likely to continue engaging with a brand, make repeat purchases, and recommend the brand to others. A positive customer experience can significantly impact customer retention rates, reducing customer churn and associated costs.

Furthermore, a better understanding of the customer experience enables businesses to identify pain points, optimize customer journeys, and streamline its processes. This can result in improved operational efficiency, reduced customer support costs, and increased conversion rates. By utilizing a CMS to gather and analyze customer data, businesses can identify patterns, trends, and preferences, enabling them to make data-driven decisions, refine their marketing strategies, and deliver personalized experiences.

To illustrate the power of a CMS-driven campaign, consider the example of WWF's Earth Hour campaign. Its campaign goals included raising awareness about environmental conservation and mobilizing a global movement for a sustainable future. By leveraging a CMS, WWF efficiently created, managed, and analyzed content related to the campaign, ranging from engaging articles, visually captivating images, and impactful videos. The CMS enabled the company to disseminate consistent messaging across various digital channels, effectively reach its target audience, and foster meaningful engagement.

A CMS empowers organizations to seamlessly launch campaigns, gather crucial customer data, and derive actionable insights. Understanding the customer experience is pivotal for businesses as it drives customer satisfaction, loyalty, and advocacy. By utilizing a CMS, organizations can create personalized experiences, optimize customer journeys, and meet specific campaign goals, ultimately propelling their business success.

There are seven stages of the content management lifecycle: (1) organization, (2) creation, (3) storage, (4) workflow, (5) editing/versioning, (6) publishing, and (7) removal/archiving (see Figure 8.4). In the organization stage, the company's goals, processes, and requirements are examined to establish measurable indicators for meeting the company's objectives. The creation stage allows the authoring of original content using editing tools, web forms, and other media tools. At this stage, a company might be concerned with design such as color choices and graphics. At the storage stage, decisions are made about how content will be formatted and stored to facilitate access, delivery, and security based on company use. In the workflow stage, rules are designed to streamline processes, ensuring consistency and adherence to company policies. Editing/versioning involves accountability and

tracking of multiple versions of content, such as updates, edits, retrieval, and deletion of files. The publishing stage releases content to users so it is available to view on the front end (customers) and back end (employees). Finally, in the removal/archiving stage, content that is obsolete or infrequently accessed is either deleted or relocated to an archive. You will probably go back to the editing and removal stages frequently as new content is added or as the business grows.

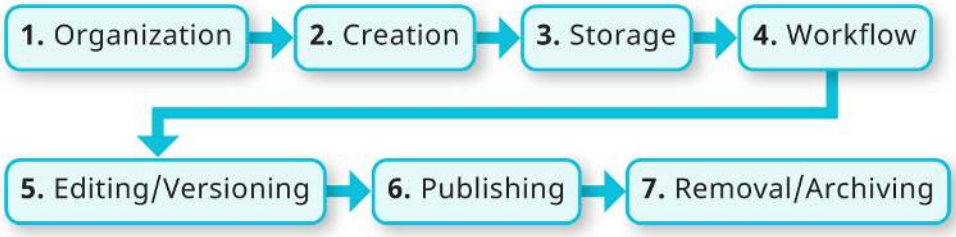


Figure 8.4: The content management lifecycle could include several stages of editing and versioning as the organization sees how users interact with the published content.

A CMS helps an organization work through most stages of the content management lifecycle, starting with creation. Its tools allow a company to design their brand and publish/maintain the content on the internet. Now let's look at how the content management lifecycle applies to Happy Tails.

After gathering answers to the questions you posed to Happy Tails leadership, you have a clearer picture of the image they want to convey and how they want to use their online presence. These answers give you the information you need for the organization stage. For example, you now understand that Happy Tails wants to use their online presence not only for marketing their available pets, but also for fundraising efforts and special events. You also know that they want to highlight not only pets available for adoption, but also success stories from previous placements of pets with families. Happy Tails has indicated they want their brand to be fresh and engaging, and to communicate the benefits of pet ownership.

Next, the creation stage will solidify the brand, logo, and color choices for Happy Tails WC. This stage will take a bit of time as you expect that organizational leadership will want to get feedback from others on the choices. The next two stages, storage and workflow, will involve more in-depth discussions with Happy Tails WC. They will need to decide who will maintain and update the content, who will be responsible for responding to messages from potential adopting families, and how the content will be kept secure and up to date.

Additional tasks related to keeping the content current will occur in the editing/versioning stage. Here, Happy Tails WC might consider developing a calendar of content and sites (social media posts) to use for scheduling updates and posts. There will be more about this later in the chapter. Finally, once the content is ready to be published and made available on the internet, there will need to be a plan in place to archive material as needed, including old posts, past events, and other related material, to ensure that content remains current.

Benefits of Using a Content Management System

There are several advantages to using a CMS in any organization. One advantage is the ability to update the public frequently on organizational news. For example, Happy Tails WC might want to be able to keep blog posts as new pets become available for adoption and to have the blog posts match the social media post for each pet. Figure 8.5 shows an example of a site that uses blogs. (You will often see Latin text on template websites. It's to show that you can put whatever text you want there.) You will see that what may seem like a simple task actually involves many steps that need to be documented and managed. This is where a CMS comes in.

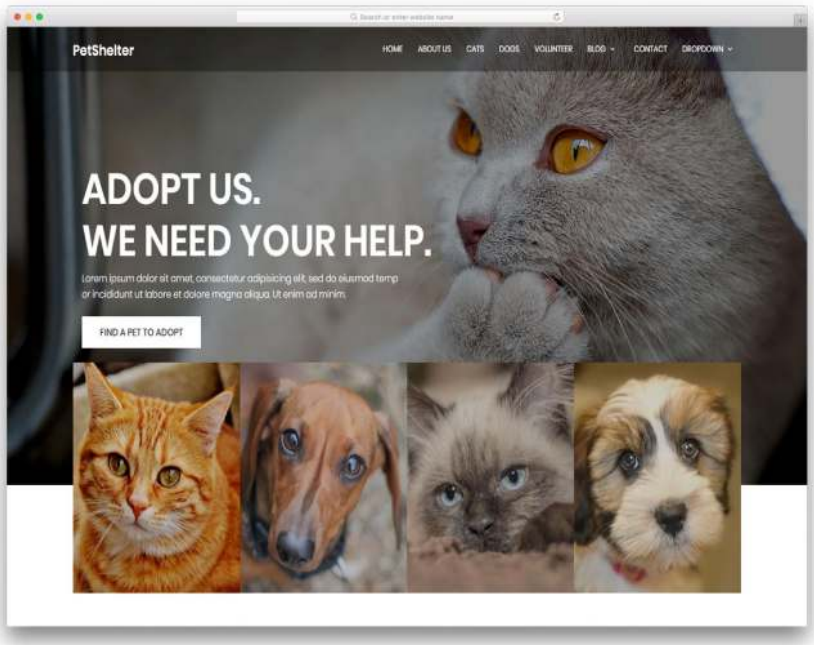


Figure 8.5: A content management system can help you keep your online presence current and engaging. (credit: “Animal Shelter” by Colorlib/Colorlib, CC BY 3.0)

Consider that for each update to the website that is needed, the marketing team needs to reach out to members of the adoption agency who manage the list of adoptable pets. You might start by sending an email to the agency director, Tracy, who updates the document you need and then sends it back for you to update the website with the new information. One day, you discover that Tracy is on leave for a week. This delays the process, as you need to find someone else in the organization who can assist you. You locate Domenic, but he is a volunteer who works another full-time job and may not be available to return your call for a few days. By the time your inquiry is first seen, several days may have passed and you’ve missed the best window of opportunity.

In this scenario, a CMS can help overcome the challenges posed by the back-and-forth transmittal of materials, communication lapses, and scheduling. A CMS can centralize content and information sharing so that documents, images, and other assets are accessible to all users at all times. Content can be edited, organized, stored, and shared through the CMS. This will enable users from across different departments and even different time zones to access the material they need to manage.

There are several benefits to using a CMS to operate your company website and to manage other digital content.

Collaboration

First, a CMS promotes team collaboration by allowing multiple users/authors to access content from almost any location. This increases productivity and helps streamline processes by distributing responsibility for different tasks. For example, imagine you are working to update content and databases that are associated with the company’s email communications. The author of a specific piece of content can give you access to edit, upload, and delete that content, saving you time and allowing you to focus your efforts on quality control.

Quality Control

This leads to another benefit of using a CMS: quality control. The workflow for the new campaign requires different departments to update specific content. For example, the marketing and sales team may be given permission to update the branding and pricing on the site, but not to update any other information. As a volunteer for the pet adoption agency, you may have the ability to update information on adoptable pets but not to change the overall structure of the website. By controlling who is able to access what, a CMS allows content updates to be reviewed by an approver before they go live on the site. Using a CMS also helps to maintain consistency in message and appearance. By using the system to set design standards such as color choices, preferred logos, and pictures, you can ensure that the brand is kept intact and that messages are being constructed in a consistent manner across platforms.

User-Friendly Interface

Another benefit of a CMS is its user-friendly interface, which often does not require knowledge of programming languages to change website content. Design changes are also simplified, involving less effort than traditional methods of designing and adding content to a website. Although some understanding of HTML and CSS (common programming languages for websites) can be helpful, it is not a requirement for managing and editing content in a CMS. Employees may be experts in their content area and have innovative ideas but may lack the coding experience to translate these ideas into web content. Instead of studying a programming language, employees using a CMS can spend their time learning how to use the system to complete their daily tasks, inputting images, audio, video, text, and other multimedia with the click of a button or via a drag-and-drop feature.

Website Optimization

A CMS also automates certain website needs, such as optimizing keywords to help more people find your site or social media accounts. Without a CMS, this function is done manually by assigning keywords to specific pages within your website and by linking keywords and URLs. This functionality is called search engine optimization (SEO). A CMS can enable you to set up your website to get the greatest possible exposure when someone searches on a topic related to your site. For example, Happy Tails WC might use SEO to tag keywords such as “pets,” “animal shelters,” “adopting a dog,” and other related phrases so the website appears near the top of the list in an internet search. Doing this manually could take anywhere from a few minutes to several hours, depending on the number of pages managed. Also, entering each URL individually creates a risk of introducing human error. Using a CMS eliminates the need for you to manually enter a URL for each page on the website. You will learn more about SEO in Search Engine Optimization.

As you can see, a CMS adds value by providing tools for team collaboration, quality control, user-friendly interfaces, and automation of certain functions. Other benefits include content organization, use of templates and themes, and multilingual and multisite support.

Types of Content

Various types of content can be managed through a CMS, including web, mobile, enterprise, and social media, as Figure 8.6 displays. Each plays a different role in creating the overall image of an organization and managing the content that is available online.

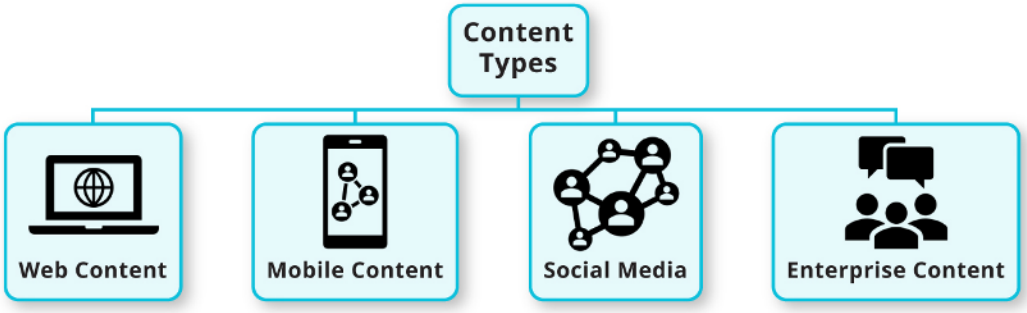


Figure 8.6: Content management systems can be used to manage web content, information on social media sites, and information intended for internal audiences.

Content on a website is managed with a web content management system (WCMS). These systems offer website authoring, collaboration, and administration tools. An advantage of using a WCMS is that employees do not have to understand web programming languages in order to use these systems. Instead, they can manage content within the website, using features that give them the ability to design, organize, and update information. Managers can also control content by viewing and approving material before publishing. As described earlier, employees can be trained to use the features of the platform rather than needing to spend time learning the mechanics of a new programming language.

A CMS can also be used to manage the content contained in social media sites. These sites were developed primarily for connecting with others to create a virtual network of friends and connections. These social media platforms have evolved since their inception and are now a source of marketing and connecting with customers for businesses. Social media content management is the process of creating, scheduling, publishing, and analyzing content for all your media platforms. Platforms like Instagram,

Facebook, Pinterest, X (Twitter), and TikTok have specific audiences and features that require customization when developing original content. Content is tailored to the target audience, and strategies are developed to distribute and manage social media profiles. These strategies include monitoring engagement, collaborating with influencers, building a community, and analyzing reports to ensure you are receiving an adequate ROI. You will learn more about social media engagement in Social Media in Business.

Sometimes it is necessary to make adjustments to websites and content so that it will display on mobile devices properly. Again, a CMS can help make a company's online presence compatible across a wide variety of devices. A mobile content management system (MCMS) hosts a data store in a centralized location and allows content to be managed across multiple platforms. The MCMS may be a mobile app that needs to be managed for different devices (iPhone, iPad) and platforms (iOS, Android) from a single tool. Another type of MCMS consists of a responsive mobile website design that can manage content by displaying information effectively regardless of the size of the screen.

It is generally necessary to maintain digital content for internal company use. This content could include employee-specific information, such as payroll and benefits information; documents that are meant only for certain departments within the organization; or pertinent strategic goals that are not publicly available. This is known as enterprise content management**,** often referred to as document management. It facilitates the life cycle of content within an organization, using strategies and tools designed to increase productivity and provide the information employees need to complete their job duties. The enterprise content management system is company-wide, not just for one department. The system allows processes to be implemented by presenting a timeline for the organization's content—including Microsoft Word documents, Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, PDF files, and scanned images—to be created, approved, and distributed.

For your role in developing the digital content for Happy Tails WC, various types of content must be created and managed by different individuals in the organization, including both paid staff and volunteers. Using a CMS allows for easy development, upload, analysis, and management without the need to receive information via email from another department. At first, you will be doing the majority of the work on uploading content. But the plan is to train Happy Tails WC employees to take over that role as they become more familiar with working in a CMS environment.

Once Happy Tails WC has been trained to use the CMS, they can assign different levels of access and allow various types of content to be distributed. The next challenge is to assign specific types of content to different individuals to optimize the workflow. This could mean that the fundraising director has control over fundraising event information and the donations section of the website, whereas the adoption coordinator or Tracy, the director, maintains the current list of adoptable pets. Also, if an issue or problem needs to be addressed, more than one person can have access to view information and retrieve documents to help reach a resolution in case the primary responsible person is not available.

Primary Features of Content Management Systems

Here, we will identify the primary features of CMS and their uses. These features and uses correspond to different parts of the content management lifecycle discussed earlier in the chapter (see Figure 8.4). A major benefit of many content management systems is that they contain different features that allow their users to control every part of the content management lifecycle.

Content Creation and Editing

The first two stages of the content management lifecycle are centered on organizing and creating content. However, that content will likely need be edited regularly to keep the information fresh and current. Creating and editing content is a critical function of any CMS.

Many content management systems include the use of page templates, which are predesigned and preformatted documents that maximize productivity by offering defined layouts customized for common uses, such as social media, website banners, blogs, letters, and presentations. We have discussed templates in Word and PowerPoint in previous chapters. Templates determine the specific size, structure, or layout that will best meet the needs of the document. The designs and types of documents can be categorized into themes, and an employee can select a theme for a campaign that aligns with the mood or use or customer base. Using page templates also helps maintain quality control.

A content editor allows users to easily review the style and format of the content in a document, which provides optimal design and readability. This editor may also offer drag-and-drop editing, which is a user-friendly function that assists nonprogrammers in

designing, editing, and arranging content. This is especially important for Happy Trails WC since you will be training employees to eventually edit, maintain, and update content for the organization themselves.

A feature that allows anyone in the company to add content to a thread of posts is called blogging capability. Users can upload images, tag keywords, and use an editor to style and format their posts. Additional features include password protection for posts, which is ideal for memberships or communities that want to offer exclusivity. This is where you hope to feature Happy Tails WC adoption success stories. The plan is to have a regular spotlight through the blog to share the story.

Another critical functionality of any CMS is its storage system. Managing assets, like digital images, must be maintained to use those assets in any product. A library of images, like the one in Figure 8.7, or documents can be managed in a CMS, giving you the option of adding an image within your content. Images are stored within a central image library, and the multiple file upload feature allows users to add different files to a site at once. The library feature helps with archiving as well.

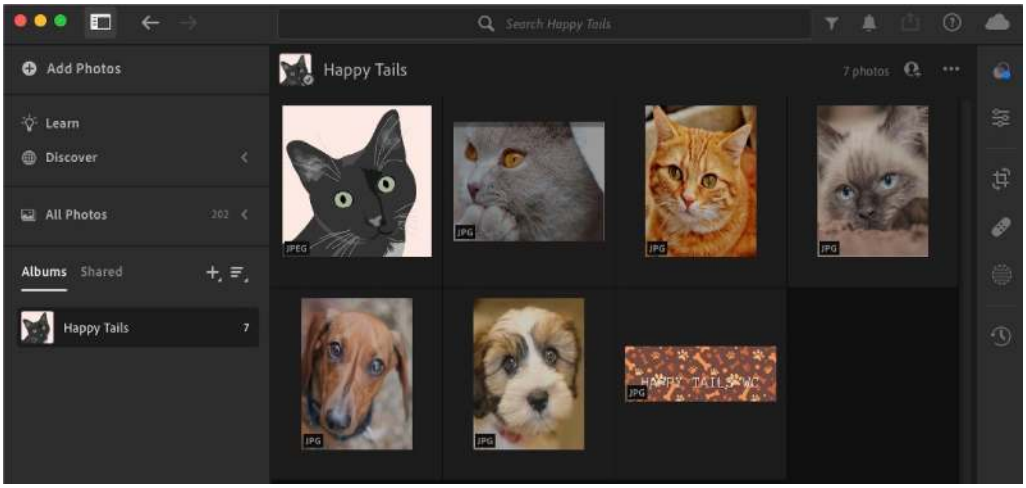


Figure 8.7: Image libraries will often have the option of viewing photos as thumbnails. This makes it easy for the user to select the ones that they want.

Publishing

Workflow and publishing are two key stages in the content management lifecycle as previously covered. Once your content is ready to be public, you want to publish the information online. Using content syndication enables a third party to reuse original content and host it on another website, where it can reach a larger audience. Also, through the calendaring features, users can plan content by scheduling future dates and times to release information. This puts structure to the workflow of content creation. This is especially important for organizations such as Happy Tails WC, where those managing the content have multiple job responsibilities.

As an example, content management is just a small part of what Tracy does for Happy Tails WC. Happy Tails WC can use the calendaring function to schedule reminder posts of upcoming events so that they can focus on the actual tasks in planning the event. In larger organizations such as World Corp, which maintains multiple websites and social media sites, the calendaring function can make uploading current content more efficient as content can be scheduled weeks in advanced and synced across platforms.

Finally, e-commerce features are critical in today's market. Built-in CMS software will enable users to create product description pages; design the layout of the website, including payment information; track shipping; and offer email sales funnels and promotions. This feature offers the ability to provide access to content from several devices, including mobile devices. Happy Tails WC hopes in the future to be able to sell branded products such as dog and owner matching clothing with the Happy Tails WC logo. They also plan to accept online monetary donations through the site, so this will need to be included during the organization and creation stage of the process.

Because Happy Tails WC is a new organization, they are still trying to establish a presence and get their name out to the community. Through analyzing information from their online presence, Happy Tails WC can get an idea of how their marketing efforts are working. A CMS typically provides web analytics—insights or data that can be evaluated against company objectives. For example, you can gain a visual display of how many users visited a post, commented, and shared content. This data can be used to make changes to content, inform decisions about particular initiatives, and help create new content. For example, if you notice

that a fundraising event scheduled for Happy Tails WC is not getting many visits, you can discuss with Tracy new strategies on ways to market the event. Or if the analytics show that most people who visit the Happy Tails WC website go first to the success stories blog, perhaps you make that page more central to your message and overall image.

Security and Management Features

Larger organizations often have an administrator who oversees multiple site licenses, including local and maybe even international sites. In this case, they might need to have one global administrator to manage all sites as well as an individual administrator for each site. You can set permissions for global administrators to manage all of the sites and also set individual permissions for those administrators managing specific sites.

This feature could also be important for Happy Tails WC. To maintain a consistent and clear message, the organization wants to limit access to key personnel in the organization. Tracy, as the director, could be identified as the global administrator, and the fundraising coordinator might also be an administrator, but with more limited permissions. This structure can evolve as the organization grows and as personnel changes occur. As the users at Happy Tails WC become more familiar with the site and with content management in general, they will need to discuss the permissions and who should have certain permissions. This is part of the workflow stage of the content management lifecycle. But it should be revisited regularly to make sure things are working and the permissions are set appropriately.

Using a content management system makes establishing and changing permissions easy. Many content management systems have access controls that allow user groups to be restricted or limited to viewing specific pages within the website. Users who are not registered can be denied access to a page until they can provide the required username and password to access that content. Logging in typically gives users access to features of the website that are unavailable to unregistered users.

Content versioning allows you to keep documentation of any changes made in the organization of content. You can view, restore, or compare any content in the system, including pages, database entries, media files, shares, older and newer versions of content, and deleted and restored files. This is a key part of the removal and archiving stage. You will be able to compare versions of items by viewing a modification log that identifies all content changes. A history of how the content has been managed will provide insight on when changes were made and usually will include keywords such as *edit*, *publish*, and *delete*.

Goals of CMS to the Enterprise

Content management systems simplify the process of creating, organizing, and publishing content, empowering website owners or content creators to manage their digital presence effectively. Through a CMS, content can be managed from start to finish to improve the quality of the output, as well as to avoid duplicating efforts. Digital storage, data collection, and data distribution need to work together in a CMS to promote system functionality. When the system is functioning well, it helps maintain the image of the "brand." For Happy Tails WC, developing a strong brand online is vital, as it is a new organization. It wants to make sure that the mission, logo, location, and other related items are consistently and effectively communicated online through a variety of platforms. A CMS is intentionally designed as a "one-stop shop" for all content. For many organizations, the investment in the program from both a financial and learning standpoint is well worth the benefits in the long run.

Information storage and retrieval involves collecting and cataloging data to be accessed on demand, making use of keywords to search for specific documents. Data collection gathers important information via forms or surveys. A CMS can provide data fields in which users can enter their information, building a profile for future use. Finally, using a CMS for data distribution (including news, updates, policy, and documentation) enables company employees to avoid going through marketing and communication teams to approve content for publishing. Instead, subject matter experts (SMEs) can deliver content directly within the website and reach their target audience, whether the data is original content or is extracted from external sources. Establishing processes to manage data distribution can lead to fewer errors when data is disseminated in several places within the website.

This page titled 8.1: What Are Content Management Systems? is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.2: Common Content Management Systems

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Define Web 2.0
- Distinguish between CMS types

Content management systems (CMS) consist of software that assists in building a website for personal or professional use. In the past, building a website would require individuals to be skilled in using languages such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. A CMS offers templates and extensions in a user-friendly WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) interface, which is a system that allows content to be edited in a form that resembles its appearance when printed or displayed as a finished product (e.g., a printed document, a web page). This means that you do not need to be skilled in using computer languages to build an attractive website.

The evolution of web technologies makes it easy to share information on your website and allow others to be a part of the experience. We no longer simply read information and move on. Rather, we become involved with what we view by reflecting, sharing, and having the ability to offer our own perspectives. The techniques and tools available today make it possible for users not only to be viewers but also to add their value as contributors.

What Is Web 2.0?

The internet has changed over time with advances in technology. The first version of the internet, Web 1.0, included little interactive capability beyond searching, and was used more as a hub of information. Most websites were fairly static, with few graphics (see Figure 8.8). Web 1.0 only allowed users to read the information that was distributed by publishers and webmasters.



Figure 8.8: Websites in the Web 1.0 era, such as this one for the Library of Congress, were text based, with very few visual or interactive components.

We are now in the era of enhanced usage and development of online content on the web, known as Web 2.0, as you can see in Figure 8.9. Web 2.0 enables users to also be designers, with the capability to read and write on the internet.

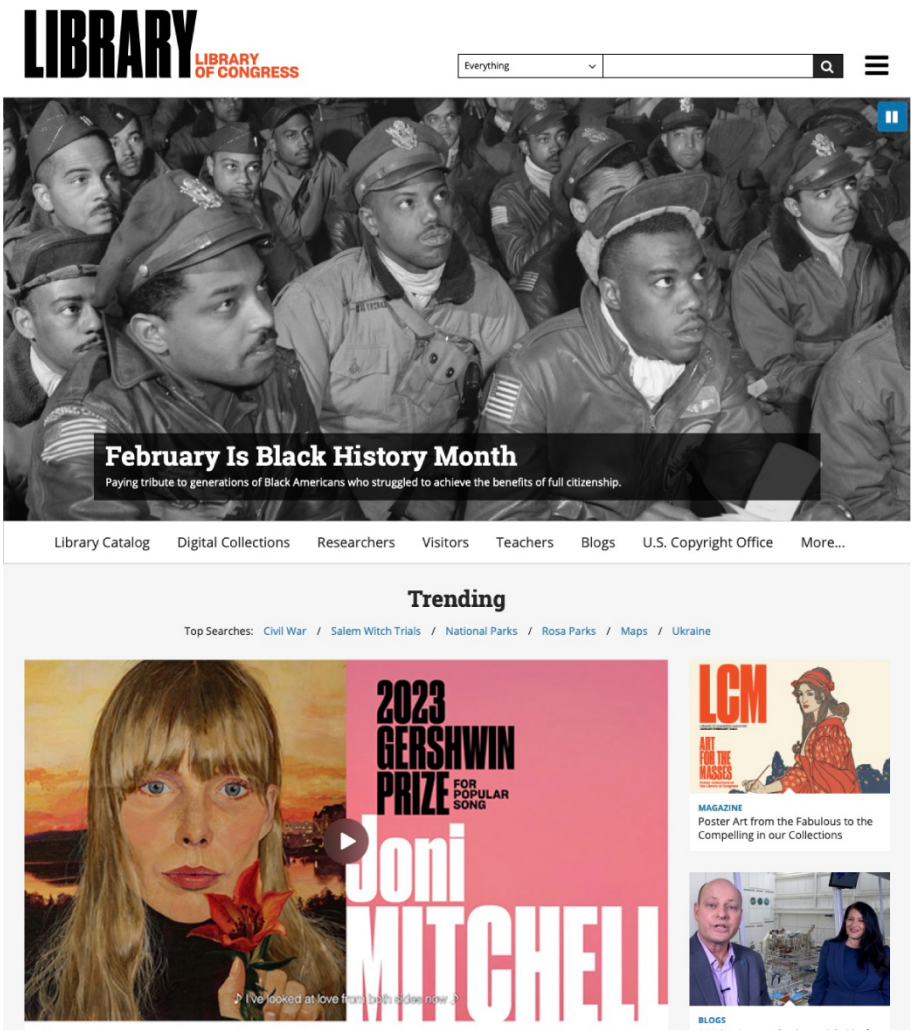


Figure 8.9: Web 2.0 is a more integrated approach to content on the internet, allowing for more interaction between the content and its users. Not only do you see that Joni Mitchell won the 2023 Gershwin Prize, you can hear the song as well by clicking the arrow.

For example, under Web 1.0, a website developed for WorldCorp would have been created and published for the public to view. Visitors would have been able to click on the different pages, watch videos, read articles and blog posts, and find out about local events in their community, but this one-way stream of information would have been all that viewers could experience. With Web 2.0, viewers are transformed into an online community of contributors, who also have a voice. They can not only watch videos, but also comment about what resonates with them, respond to other users' comments about blog posts, and share information. The audience's personal experiences, resources, and opinions provide a valuable addition to the original content published on your website. This information can now be monitored and used to help the company drive its campaign to increase customer engagement and revenue.

Link to Learning

Review this video about the evolution of Web 2.0 and how it changed the internet.

Transforming viewers into contributors on your website can be done by using features, extensions, and a WYSIWYG editor. For example, Photoshop is a WYSIWYG graphics program that displays images on the screen that appear the same way they will look when printed on paper. A WYSIWYG editor makes it easier for someone to act as a web developer without formal training.

Web development involves building a website using plain text, web applications, and other features for the internet or intranet. Creating the client side, or front end—everything that is displayed on the user's end of a web application or device, such as text and images—involves building the layout, design, and interactivity using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript (see Figure 8.10). As you can

see, website code can become very detailed and lengthy. Writing code such as this takes a skilled professional. This is where CMS programs come into play. Anyone can build a website without this specialized training.

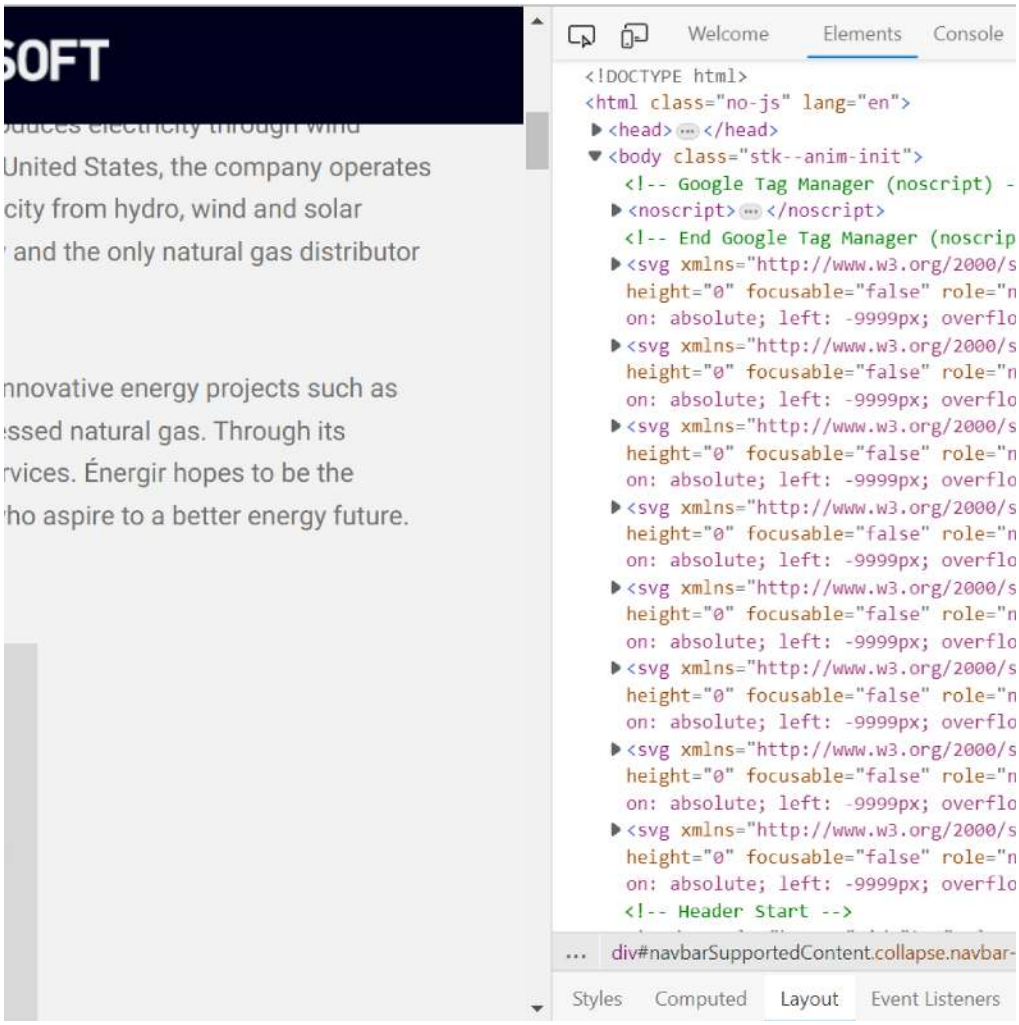


Figure 8.10: Behind the scenes, websites are built using computer programming code.

This code will exist when you and the marketing team at WorldCorp are developing the site for Happy Tails WC. Your responsibilities could include developing everything the client sees when they type the URL into the web browser, such as the design, graphics, layout, and navigation of the website. The code will be established as you build the site through the CMS.

Types of Content Management Systems

There are three main types of CMS: open-source, proprietary, and enterprise (Figure 8.11). An open-source CMS, such as Drupal or WordPress, is maintained by a community of developers, as opposed to a corporation or company. The source code is available to the public and can be modified to meet the needs of the individual or group using the platform. Although the system is open and free to use, there may be fees associated with additional services needed to run the system, such as hosting, support, or added features. Open-source platforms are a good choice for businesses on a tight budget, including start-ups, nonprofits, and companies with only a few employees.

A proprietary CMS, by contrast, is owned by the individual or group that created it. The source code is not available to the public, and often only those who have purchased a special license key may use it. Using a proprietary CMS may provide a quick turnaround and enable you to delegate a lot of work to a vendor. Popular proprietary CMS include Microsoft SharePoint, IBM Enterprise Content Management, Pulse CMS, Sitecore, and Shopify.

For example, Happy Tails WC can use Shopify to host and manage all its content for the adoption agency. The platform offers several add-on features that can be customized to meet the needs of the company and allow them to brand their product/service.

However, because Shopify owns the platform and is providing a space for others to use, it will display its brand on the Happy Tails WC site, like an advertisement. Happy Tails WC would have to pay additional fees to remove Shopify's branding from its website. This type of pay-to-use structure is common among proprietary content management systems.

Finally, an enterprise content management (ECM) system helps companies track and distribute large volumes of content such as documents, images, records, product information, emails, and web pages. Companies use this software for storage and collaboration regarding content creation and special projects. Employees within the organization can access and share information, with different levels of access based on privileges set by an administrator. The benefit of using an ECM for business is the platform's compatibility with different file types; it can accept various documents, images, files, and email files. It has a high level of security and can handle large amounts of content, making it perfect for high productivity.

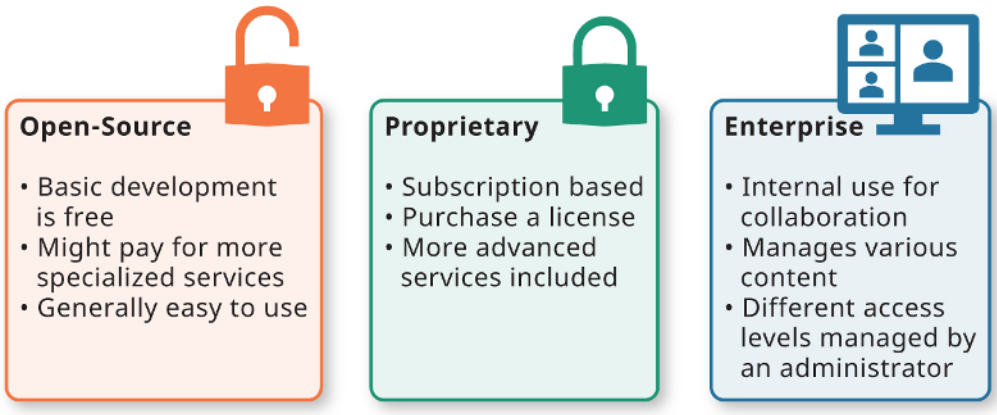


Figure 8.11: A large company might have both a proprietary and an enterprise CMS.

Link to Learning

You can visit this resource on enterprise content management (ECM) by Brandfolder to learn more about ECM and its applications.

By exploring this resource, you can discover how ECM solutions can enhance content management processes, improve collaboration, and optimize workflows in an enterprise setting.

Why Are There So Many Types of CMS?

Different content management systems are designed to meet the needs of many different industries and business structures. Figure 8.12 shows the pros and cons of CMS. Open-source CMS software is easy to use because you can download it at no initial cost, and there are no license or upgrade fees and no contracts. However, you may have to pay for technical support, customizations, compatible templates, add-ons, and other functionality. Additional fees may arise if you need to train staff members or update software.

The benefit of using open-source CMS is its ease of installation, low cost, and easy access. Using an open-source product makes the most sense for Happy Tails WC since it is a new organization and currently has limited resources to purchase a more sophisticated system. Also, some of the advanced features that might be included in a proprietary or enterprise system are not really needed, since Happy Tails WC has a small staff and a limited geographical area.

Proprietary or commercial CMS software is built and managed by a single company and offers more customization features or options. Using this type of CMS generally involves purchasing license fees for the software, monthly or annual fees for updates, technical support, customization, and training. Integrating a proprietary CMS with an existing website may require extensive development work.

Some companies will benefit from working with an enterprise CMS. They will pay more in costs and upgrade fees, and they will not be able to take advantage of free trials or free versions, but the CMS functionality will be customized to meet their specific needs, offering features that may be critical to achieving their objectives. Therefore, companies often use an enterprise CMS to manage electronic content through the life cycle of a document, including creation, distribution, utilization, retention, and disposal.

This system benefits corporations by tracking information, reducing operating costs, saving time, improving customer service, and minimizing risks.

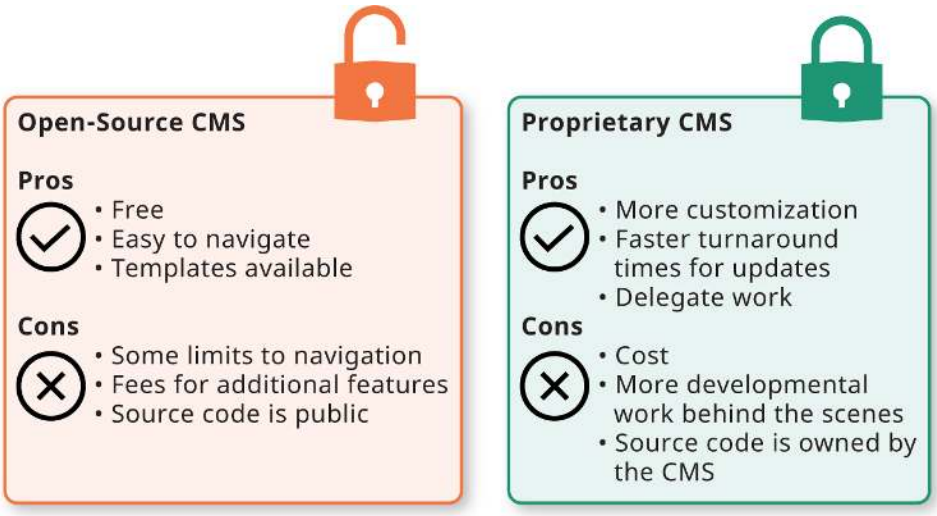


Figure 8.12: Benefits associated with a proprietary CMS include enhanced support and other features that you may not find in an open-source CMS.

Spotlight on Ethics - Storing Private Information

When managing a content management system (CMS), it is crucial to consider various factors regarding the storage of private information and protecting the privacy of individuals. Let's explore these considerations:

- Storage of information: One key aspect to address is how the information will be stored within the CMS. It is essential to implement secure storage protocols, such as encryption and secure servers, to safeguard sensitive data from unauthorized access. By employing robust storage measures, the risk of data breaches can be mitigated.
- Access control: Determining who will have access to the stored information is of utmost importance. Implementing strict access control mechanisms ensures that only authorized individuals can access the private data. By defining user roles and permissions within the CMS, organizations can limit access to sensitive information and maintain accountability.
- Information Protection Policies: Establishing comprehensive policies is vital to prevent the exposure of private information. These policies should outline guidelines for data protection, including password requirements, regular system audits, and employee training on data privacy and security. By having clear policies in place, organizations can create a culture of privacy awareness and mitigate the risk of data breaches.

By addressing these considerations, organizations can effectively manage a CMS while prioritizing ethical practices and protecting the privacy of individuals. Implementing secure storage methods, defining access controls, and establishing robust information protection policies are essential steps to prevent data exposure and uphold ethical standards in data management.

This page titled 8.2: Common Content Management Systems is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.3: Creating Content with a Content Management System

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create and edit content with a WordPress account
- Evaluate WordPress as a tool for businesses

Developing and maintaining content can be tedious and can become overwhelming over time. The more information that is created, curated, shared, or collected, the better equipped you must be to manage all the data. This is where a CMS can make content managers' roles easier. As you read more about tools like WordPress and how to use different features to appeal to your audience and meet company objectives, you will start to understand why this CMS is very popular.

WordPress is an open-source CMS. It can be a platform for small businesses, start-ups, nonprofits, and bloggers. It is critical to begin by identifying your objectives for using WordPress so that you can stay focused and select the WordPress functions that will enhance your business. We will cover WordPress in this text, but it is just one example of an open-source CMS for smaller organizations. WordPress is a larger player in the CMS market, garnering almost 40 percent of the market for website development. It is easy to use and can support integration with Google.

What Is WordPress?

WordPress is an open-source CMS that allows hosting and building for websites. Whether you are looking to build a business, blog, portfolio, or online store, it is a website platform for getting started. Without any knowledge of coding, you can use its features and functions, such as plugins and templates, to customize any website. For example, you can download WordPress e-commerce plug-ins to build an online store on your website. With WordPress, you can create many different types of websites, such as websites for business, portfolios, forums, blogs, events, and more. Once you are set up with a WordPress account, you can manage your website from any location.

Getting Started with WordPress

There are some basics about terminology that are important to know before setting up your website. First, the domain name is your website address. It is what people will use to get to your website. Generally, the domain name is similar to, or the same as, your business or organization's name. However, each website has a unique domain name. It is possible your business name is already in use by another organization. So, you might have to make modifications to the domain name to secure that domain for your organization's use.

To have the information on your site available on the internet, it needs to be hosted by a hosting service. Hosting service providers store your website files and allow you to publish the website for public viewing on the internet. Your website has to have both a domain name (website address) and a hosting service. WordPress is convenient because it guides you through the process of both securing a domain name and hosting your website.

To get started with WordPress, go to get.wp.com and choose Get Started (see Figure 8.13). You will create an account using a valid email address. Next, select a username and password. (Once you sign up, you will be asked to verify the account with the email address used, so you must have immediate access to the email you are connecting to the platform.)

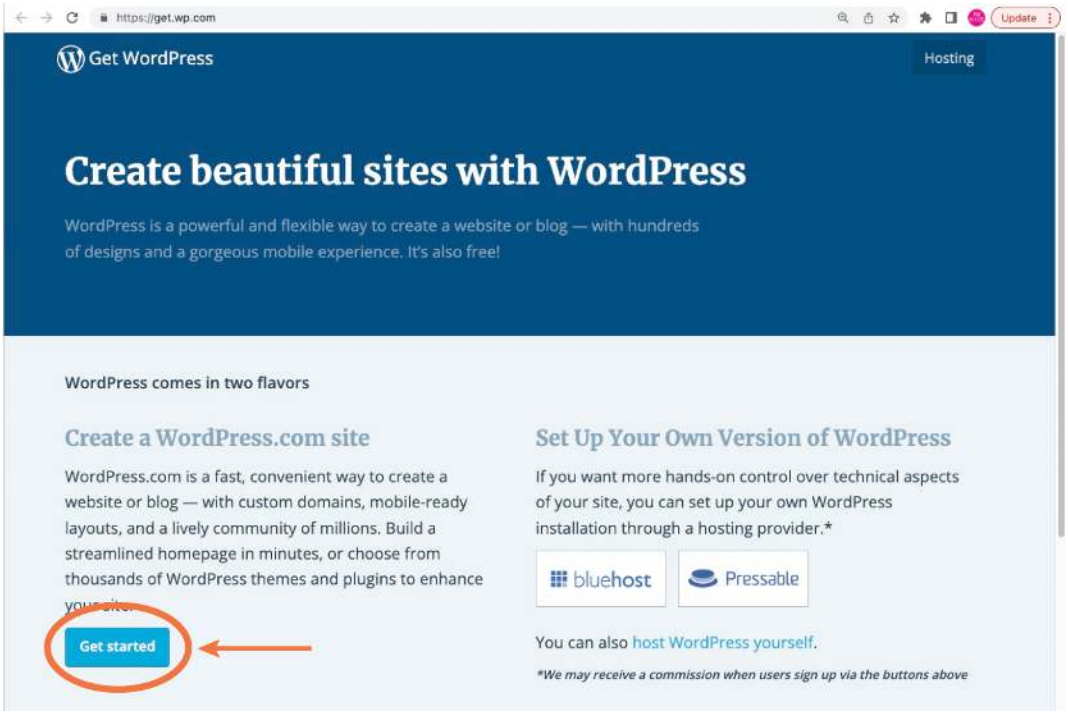


Figure 8.13: You will need to create an account on WordPress to start building a website.

Now that you have created an account, let's revisit the Happy Tails WC organization. First, we need to consider an appropriate name for the domain name (website address). The next step will prompt you to enter a domain name for the site. You will most likely pay to secure your domain name for the website. This usually ranges from $10 to $20 per year depending on which type of domain you choose. WordPress does provide some completely free options for domain names, but the name will have the wordpress.com extension at the end of your website name rather than just having your organization's name.

Start by typing in happytailwc. Notice there are several suggestions when you type in the organization name. You can also create your own website name. Some options might be free for the first year, but you will pay after (i.e., choosing to go with the .com suffix). If you choose a name that uses the wordpress.com extension, it will be free (see Figure 8.14). This example shows the free version. On the next screen, choose "start with a free site" at the top of the page (see Figure 8.15).

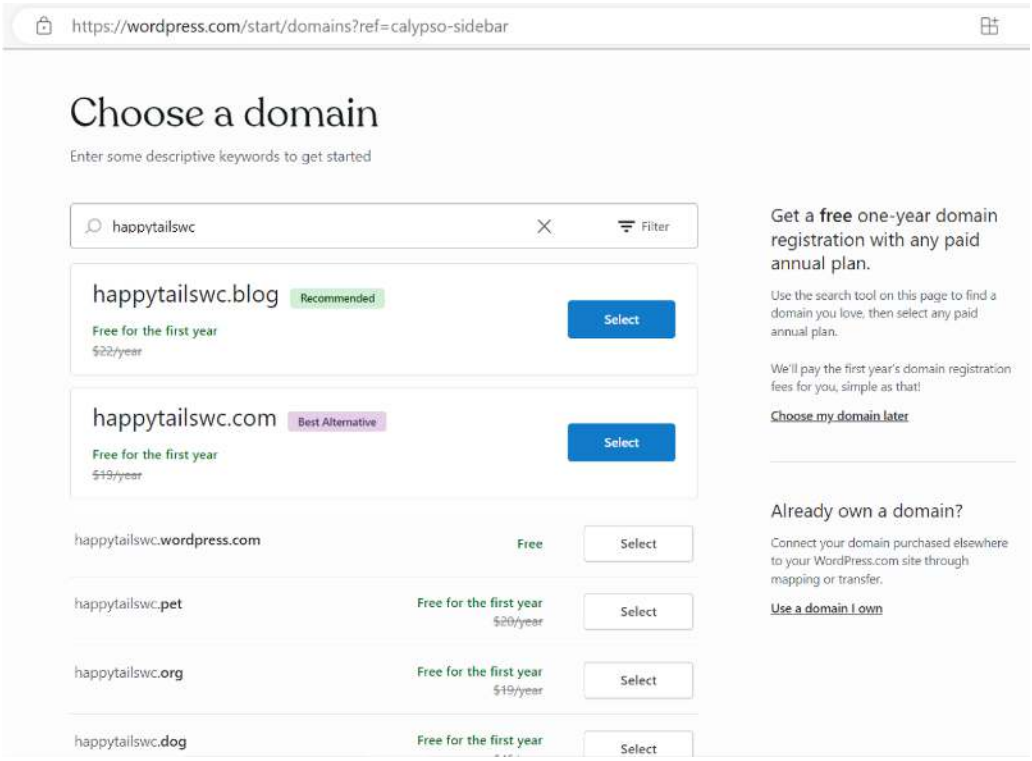


Figure 8.14: (a) Choose a website name that is a good description of your business or organization.

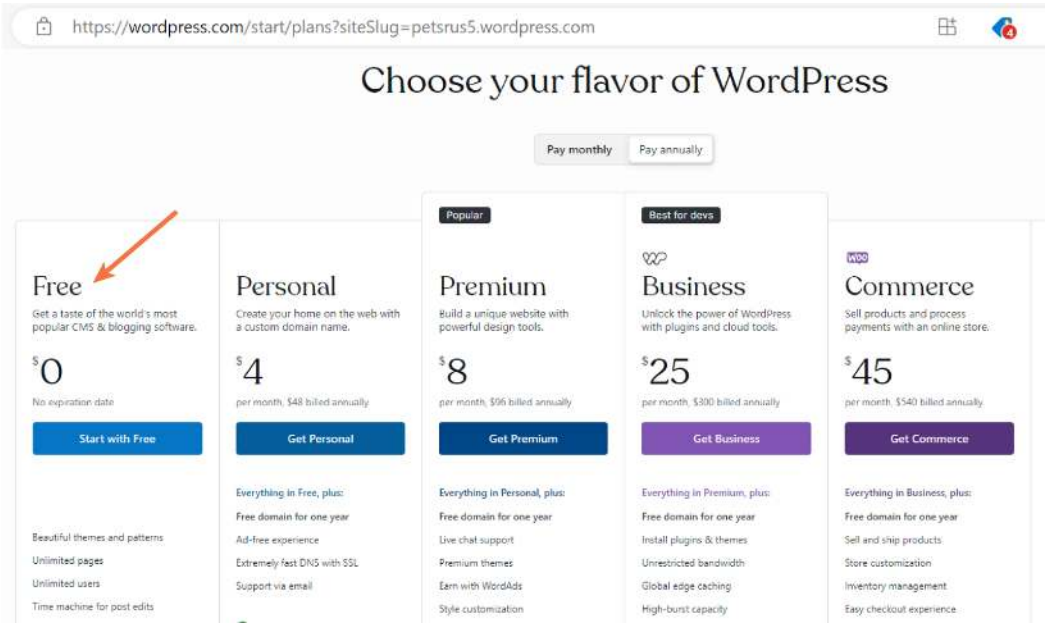


Figure 8.15: You can create the website entirely for free, or choose from a myriad of options depending on your needs.

The next two screens will prompt you to answer questions about the purpose and goals for the website. Then, you will be taken to the database of website designs. Notice that some designs are only available for premium members (i.e., you must pay a fee to use them) while others are free, as shown in Figure 8.16. You also have the option to skip the design selection and create your website from scratch. Let's select "Skip for now" (in the upper-right corner) to see more about what WordPress has to offer for building a site from scratch.

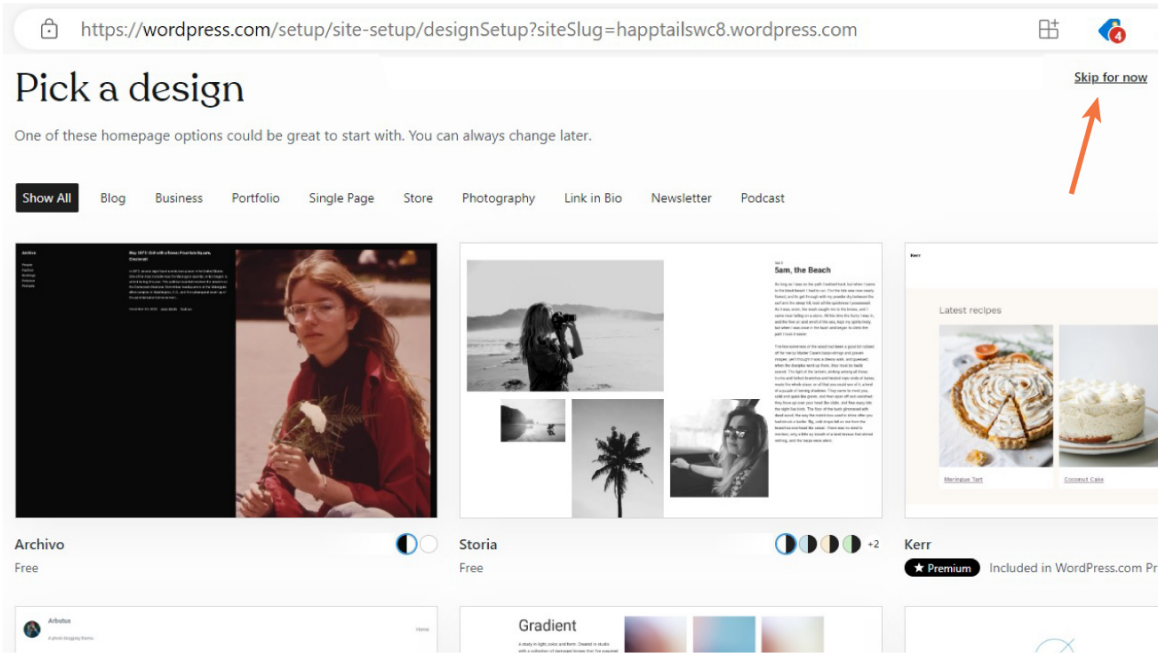
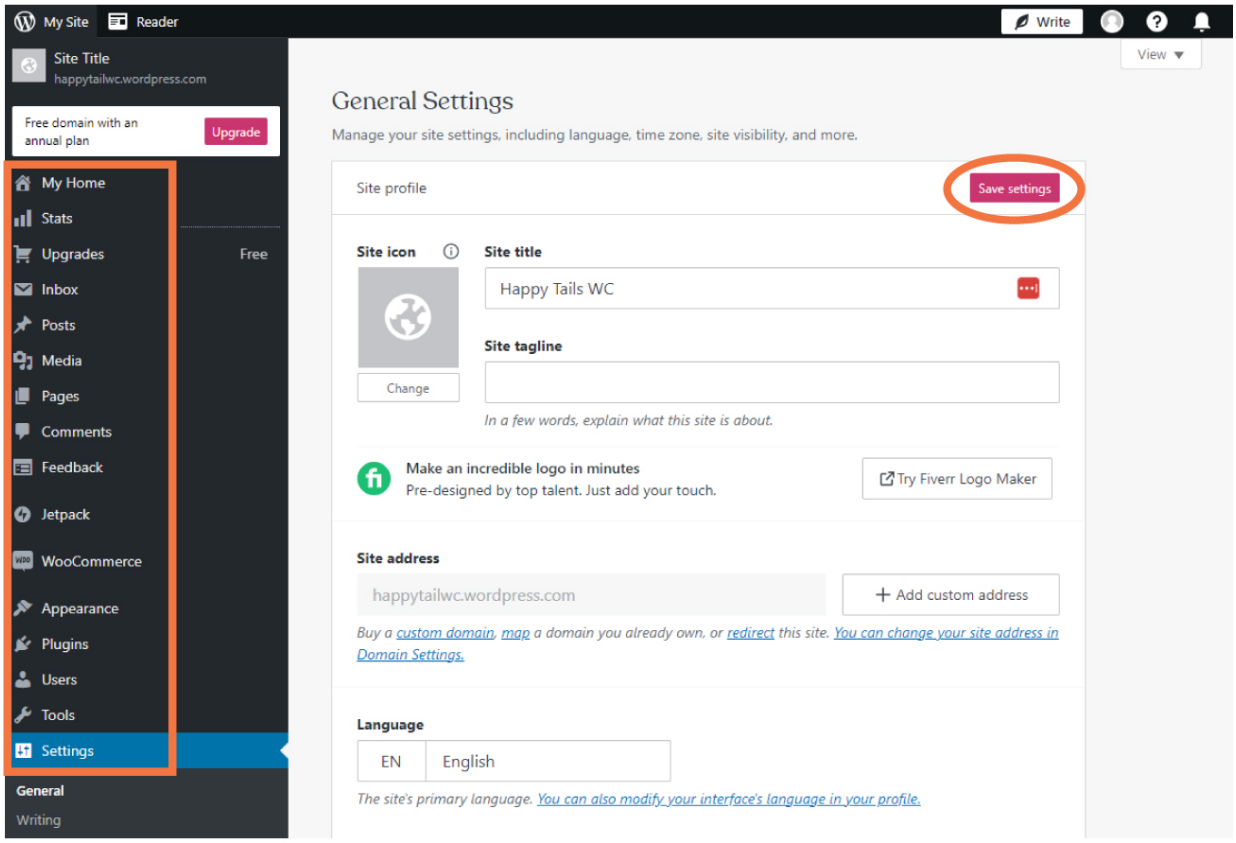
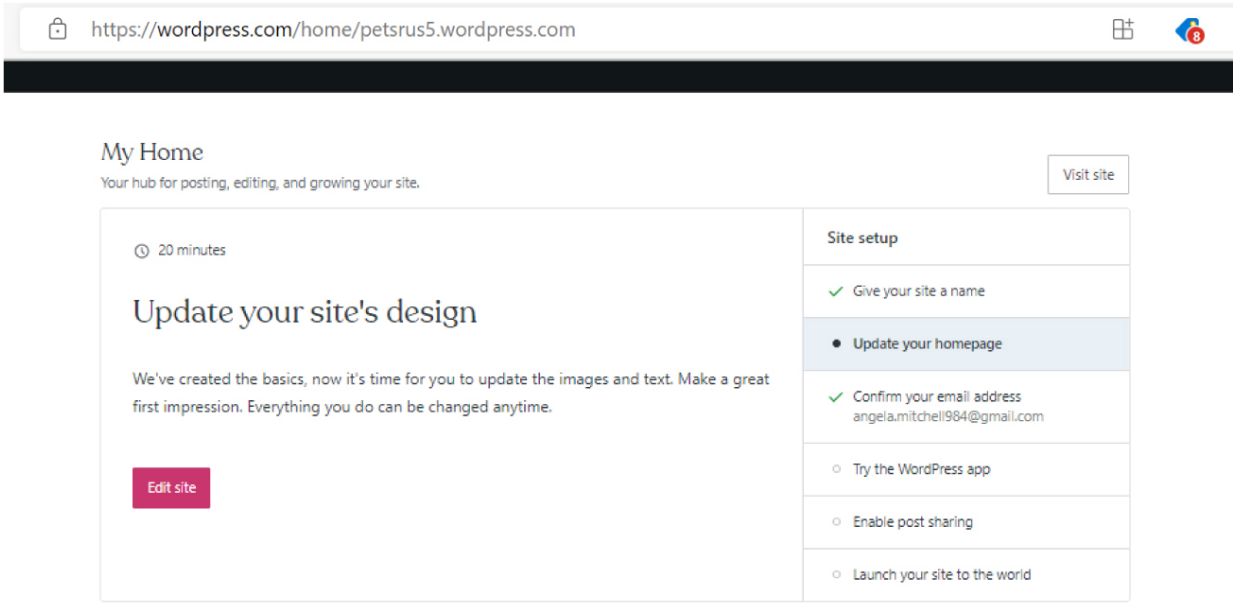


Figure 8.16: If you are unsure of where to begin building your website, choosing a design can help you get started.

Once your site is created, let's explore the interface. The first screen you will see will display the overview of your website. This is called the Wordpress dashboard. Here, you will be prompted to start building the pieces of the website. First, you should give the website a title and tagline, which could vary somewhat from the website address, but for this example, we will simply call it "Happy Tails WC." Notice there is a menu of options on the left to help you change the appearance and add elements to the site (see Figure 8.17). From this menu, you can also establish users for the website and their privileges to edit the site. Once you set the title, you will be prompted to update/edit the site's design. WordPress will walk you through the steps along the way to build your website. Be sure to save your settings as you make changes. WordPress will remind you to save your settings as you move through the elements to build the site. Notice also that there are many links on the dashboard to assist you in developing the layout and content. These links can be very helpful as you are working on the design of the website.



(a)



(b)

Figure 8.17: (a) When you select “Name Your Site,” you will be prompted on the next screen to enter a title and tagline. (b) On the next screen, you will update the design of the site, including color schemes.

Before we design the layout, let’s choose a theme for the site. Choose Appearance and then Theme from the menu on the left of the screen in the dashboard, as seen in Figure 8.18. A theme provides the framework for the site that you can then customize. It is a

good place to start rather than creating the layout and elements from scratch. A new screen will appear listing the current theme and then options to search and choose a new theme (Figure 8.19).

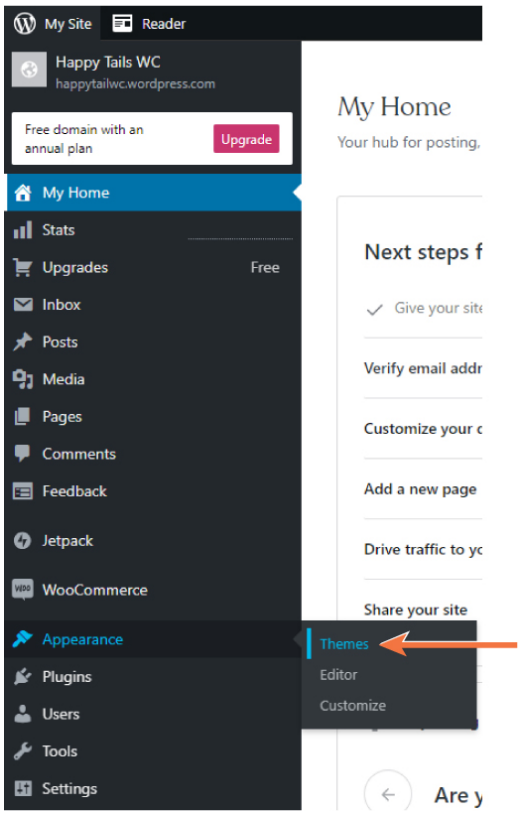


Figure 8.18: (a) You can change the appearance of the site by using a built-in theme or customizing your own theme.

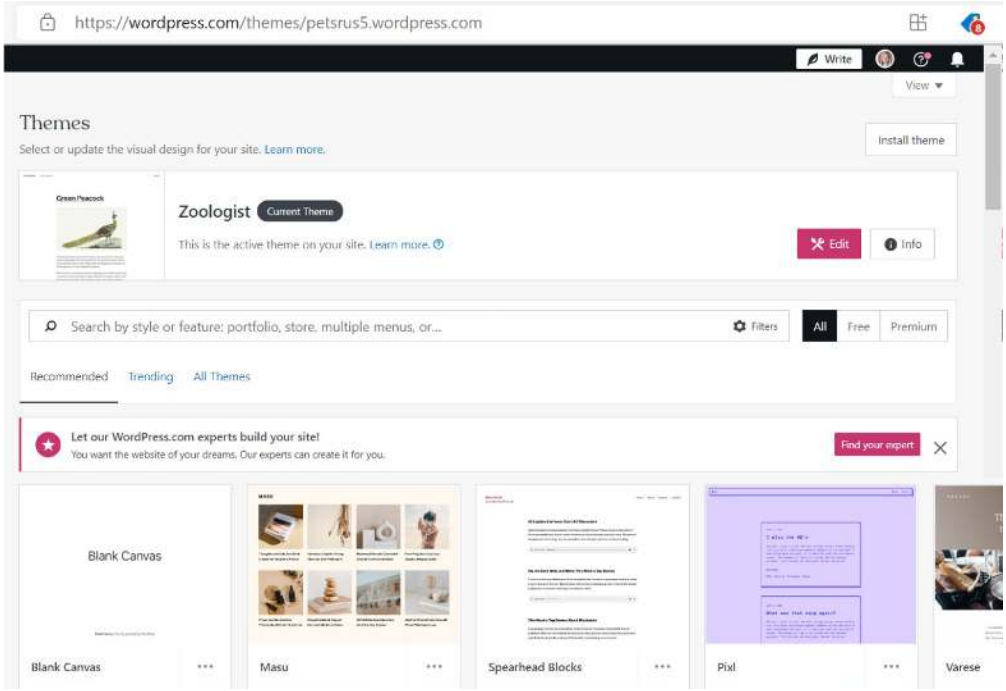


Figure 8.19: WordPress has many theme templates available to use on your site.

For Happy Tails WC, we want to use an engaging theme. Let's choose a theme that contains a good deal of color and one that puts pictures on the home page so that we can pique the interest of individuals who are interested in adopting the available pets. Themes are categorized by style, type of business, or use. For example, one set of themes may be ideal for users who want to build a

website for a personal blog, and another set for a family website. Once you select a theme, you will notice that it comes with complete branding, including fonts, color schemes, page layouts, and other features. After choosing a theme that matches the feel or mood of your business, you can change the images, color scheme, and fonts, all while keeping the same layout.

Choose the theme Snaps. This theme prominently displays pictures in a nice layout, while also being able to accommodate text that would describe each pet available for adoption (see Figure 8.20).

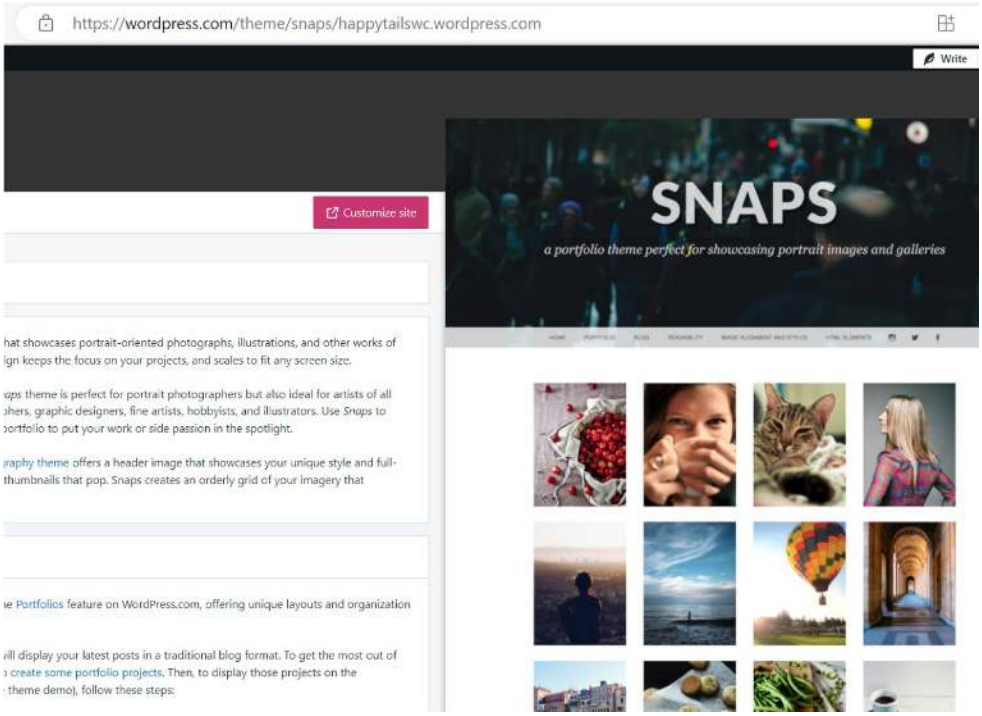


Figure 8.20: Choose Activate this design to apply the theme to the website.

After you have activated the design theme, you can customize the site to fit your needs by changing colors and fonts, adding images, building the website menu, and adding information for a post. You will be working in the website screen as it will appear to users (WYSIWYG), so when you make a change to colors or content, you can see immediately how the result will look to anyone visiting your site online (see Figure 8.21). You can add information and add images in this view. When finished, choose Save Changes at the top left of the screen to go back to the WordPress dashboard. (It will read Saved afterward.) If you need to get back to the customization screen, you can access it from the Appearance menu in the dashboard.

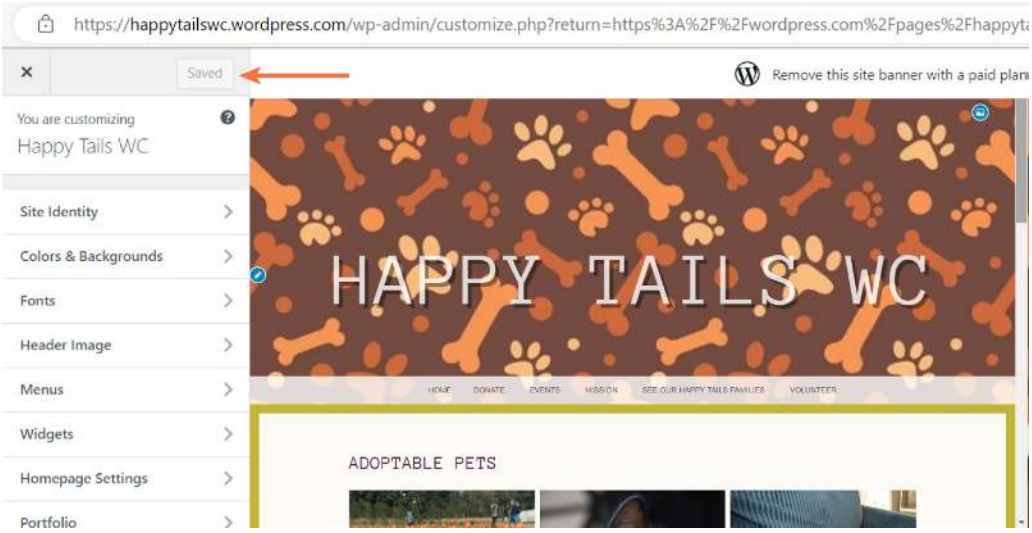


Figure 8.21: You can customize many aspects of the theme, including colors, fonts, and background image.

When you save your changes to the theme, you will go back to the WordPress dashboard. Notice you have several options in the dashboard view, as Figure 8.22 shows. You can add pages to the site, you can modify/add users and set permissions, and you can also draft posts and blogs for the website. Save your changes by clicking “Update” in the upper-right corner. The best way to learn WordPress is to experiment with the options and settings.

At this point, your website is not “live,” meaning it is not yet published on the internet. When you are satisfied with the design of the site and are ready for people to see it, you need to make the site available on the internet. To publish the site, simply choose Launch your site from the menu on the right side of the screen on the dashboard. You will be prompted to select the domain and be asked to pay for hosting (see Figure 8.23).

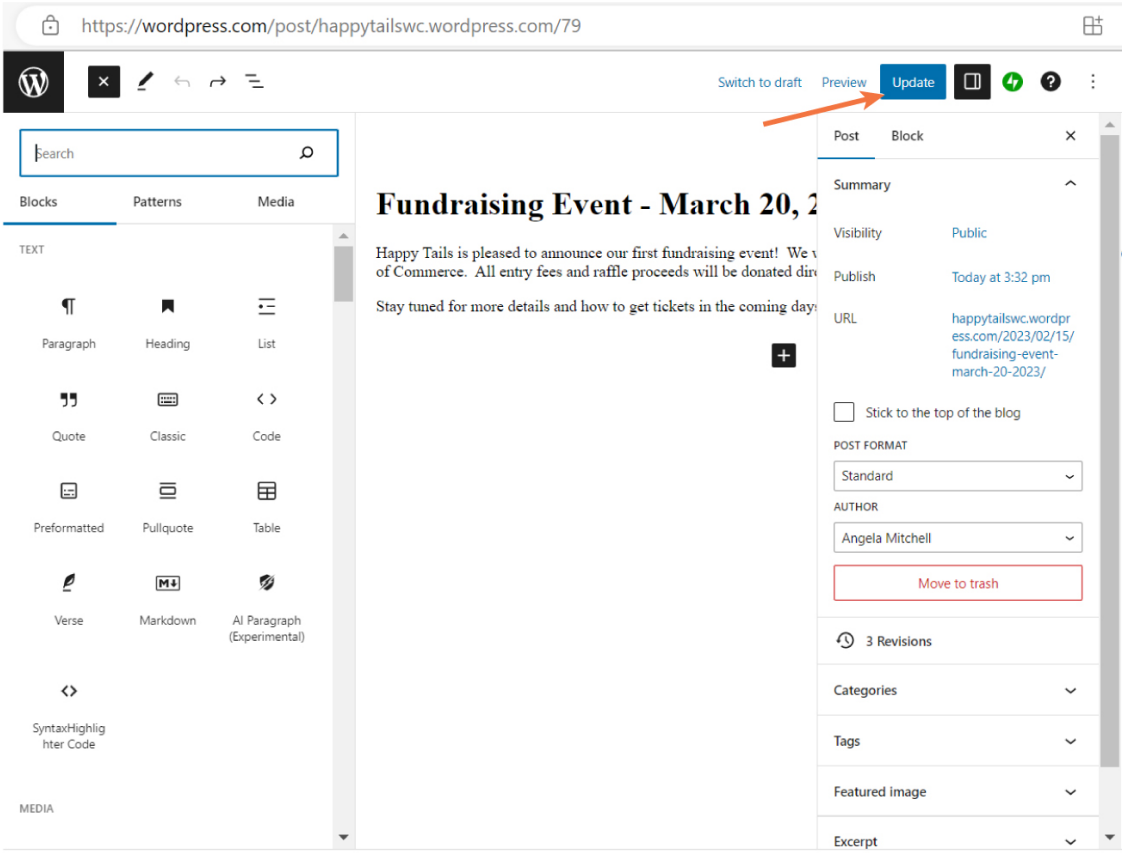


Figure 8.22: You can construct your first post using the blog feature of the site. By choosing “+” button below the text in the middle of the page, you can add elements such as text or images to your website.

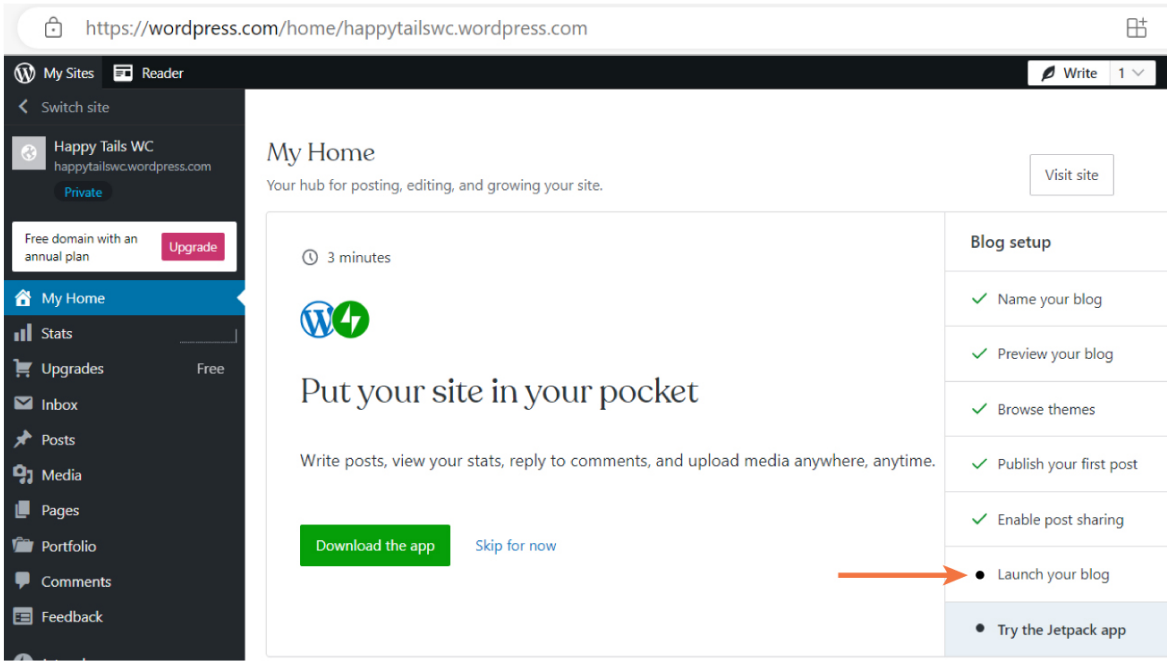


Figure 8.23: To make the website live on the internet, you will need to pay for web hosting.

Take the time to work through the features of interest to you. Here, we have covered some of the basic elements you need to get started, but there are many more things you can do in WordPress. As an editor working in WordPress, you will create, edit, publish, and delete posts, as well as moderate, approve, and delete comments written by others.

Editors may be given permission to change settings, add new users, or install plug-ins by their supervisor or administrator. These abilities can come in handy when designing and editing a website. A plug-in is a software application, similar to a smartphone app, that you can add to a WordPress website to extend its functionality. For example, suppose you want to add a plug-in to track engagement on your blog posts so you can see what content to curate or expand within the blog. Your plug-in might consist of a contact form that you use to collect subscriber data, such as favorite color, shirt size, or hobbies—data you can use to improve the user experience. WordPress currently has over 55,000 plug-ins, a figure that may seem overwhelming at first. You can easily narrow down the options using the search-and-filter system as well as the plug-ins themselves.

Another important customizable feature of a WordPress website is the widget. Widgets are software applications that display information or allow users to interface with a website. They can be difficult for users to understand because they are typically something that developers deal with and require extensive coding. But in WordPress, widgets manage the content in the design of your site without using code. Unlike plug-ins, widgets impact the design of your website. For example, you may want to add a widget to your website that embeds your social media feed, displaying posts, an email subscription form, testimonials, and a list of social media icons.

Your entire website is made up of pages, much like the pages of a book, except that the user can choose to view the web pages in any order they prefer. The pages will be consistent, giving the whole website a cohesive look. Most websites will have a home page (Home), an About or About Us page that describes the organization, and a Contact page, which provides a way to contact the organization. In WordPress, the pages will look very similar to a post, which is a piece of information that can be added to your website and listed in order from oldest to newest. Pages are the skeleton or core of the website and are organized as main pages and subpages of the main pages. The pages of your website set up the framework for organizing the content and how users will navigate your site. Posts, by contrast, are time-oriented and are generally meant for social media. Often, posts are made to highlight certain events or news related to the organization.

Posts can be organized and made searchable to users through the use of tags. A tag is a keyword about specific details in posts that help make the content in posts searchable. There are also categories for posts. Categories are a method of organizing posts on a website so that visitors can sort them easily, similar to the way search engines locate your content. Think of a category as the broad subject of the post and a tag as something more specific in the post details. For example, Happy Tails might have a category entitled “Dogs Available,” whereas a tag in a post could be “German Shepherd puppy.” It is a good idea to establish categories;

otherwise, WordPress will put all posts in a generic “Uncategorized” category. Tags are optional, but they do help users get to the content you want them to see. There is also an option for visitors to sign up for an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed to have posts delivered to them via email. RSS allows posts to be shared quickly and increases the level of traffic to your website.

To add categories or tags to your site, go to Posts on the WordPress dashboard (see Figure 8.24). From there, choose either categories or tags. Let’s add the category “Dogs available” (see Figure 8.25) and the tag “German Shepherd puppy” (see Figure 8.26) to our Happy Tails WC site.

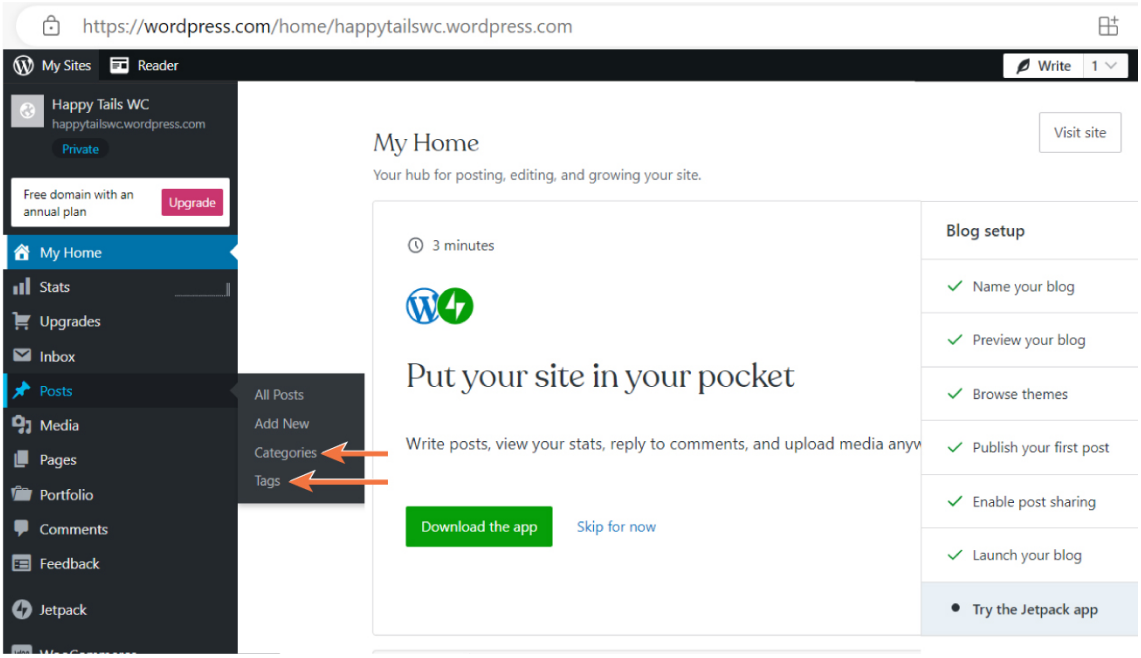


Figure 8.24: Adding categories and tags helps users find specific information on your site.

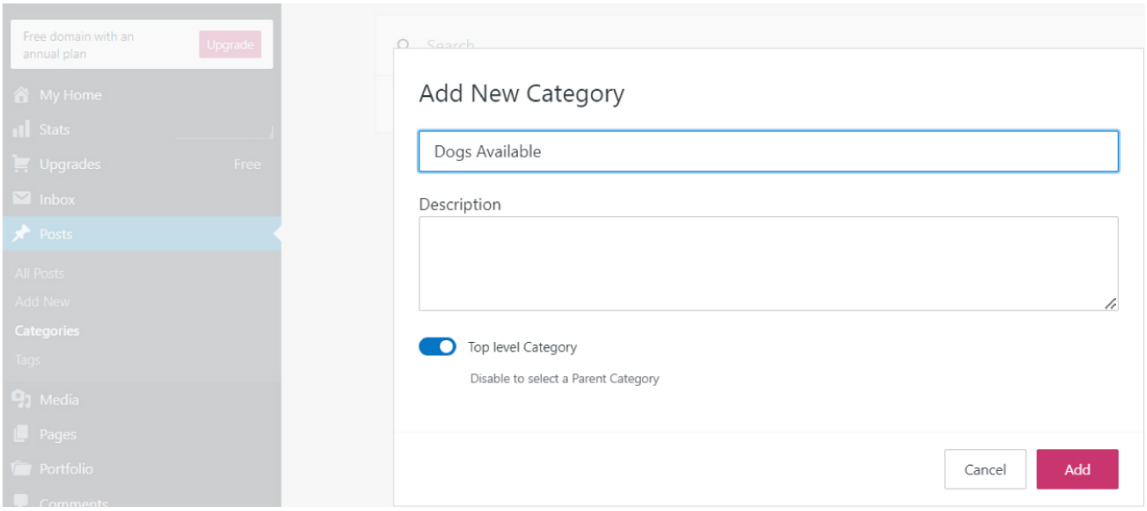


Figure 8.25: Categories are broad descriptors of content on the site.

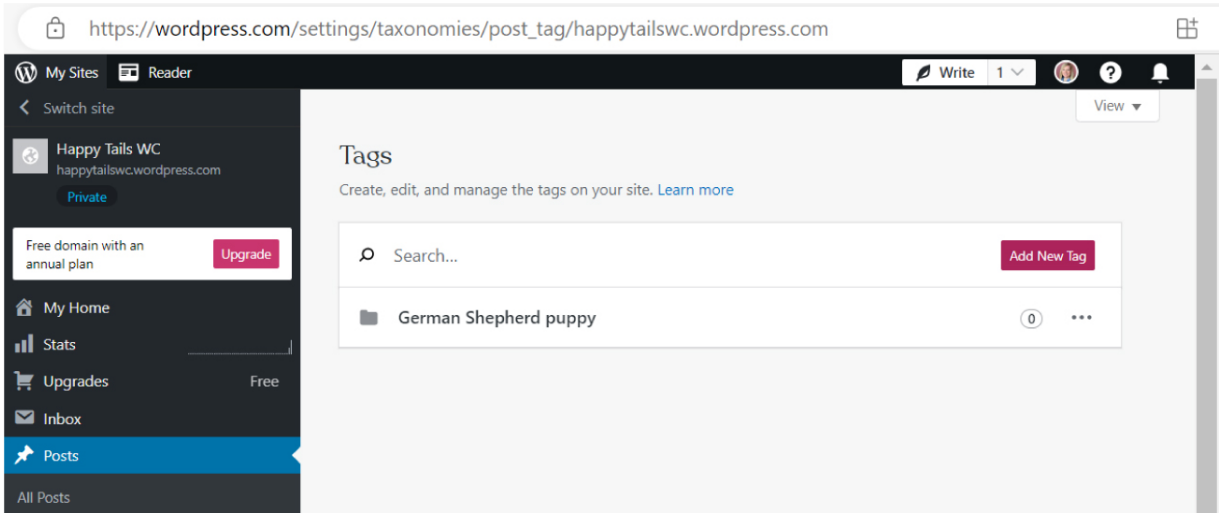


Figure 8.26: Tags are more specific details about content.

Business Site Considerations

About 40 percent of internet websites, including small businesses, are developed using the WordPress platform. WordPress offers features that can accommodate businesses of many different sizes and types, and we have included it here because it is free and easy to use. But regardless of the platform you use to develop a website—even if you hire a firm to do this for you—there are important considerations to examine. First and foremost, how will the website be used? Will the site be used for e-commerce? Is the site used primarily to share information? Is the company counting on the website to increase its market share through interactive elements to build a customer base? The site should be in line with the company image and brand, as well as reflect the company's goals. Having a discussion about how the website will be integrated into the business is a key step in the design process. This process often starts with choosing a unique domain name, like "Happy Tails WC," that expresses what your business is or does.

Link to Learning

If you are considering establishing your own WordPress site, it's essential to have a reliable resource to guide you through the process, especially if you're new to the platform. For beginners, we recommend checking out this comprehensive guide by WPBeginner to learn more.

This guide offers valuable insights, step-by-step instructions, and practical tips to help you navigate the world of WordPress effectively.

Another factor to consider is how you will drive users to your website. This can be facilitated through SEO. Recall that SEO is the process of increasing the visibility of a website to users who are searching for products or services. The most common search engine is Google, with Bing as a very distant second. SEO works by including keywords on each web page that identify titles, descriptions, and images. Adding these keywords will help move your site closer to the top of the list when a user searches for a business similar to yours. Although many search engines use different methods of ranking, including charging for the top spots in the results lists, SEO is essential to get users to your website. We will learn more about SEO in Search Engine Optimization.

Real-World Application - Content Accessibility

Improving the accessibility of your website is crucial to providing a positive user experience for all visitors, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. By incorporating accessibility features, you can make your website more user-friendly and inclusive, ensuring that all visitors can engage with your content and have a positive user experience. Here are some features and considerations to enhance the accessibility of your website:

- Alternative text (alt text): Adding descriptive alt text to images allows screen readers to convey the content to visually impaired users. This ensures that they can understand the context and purpose of the images on your website.

- Text equivalents: Providing text equivalents for non-text content, such as videos or audio files, allows individuals with hearing impairments or those who are unable to access multimedia content to understand the information presented.
- Proper heading structure: Using headings (H1, H2, H3, etc.) to organize your content in a logical and hierarchical manner helps screen readers and users who rely on keyboard navigation to understand the structure and easily navigate through your web pages.
- Color contrast: Ensuring sufficient color contrast between text and background improves readability, particularly for individuals with visual impairments or color blindness. Using tools to check and adjust color contrast can help meet accessibility standards.
- Keyboard accessibility: Designing your website to be navigable using a keyboard alone is vital for individuals who cannot use a mouse or other pointing devices. This includes providing keyboard focus indicators, ensuring all interactive elements are accessible via keyboard, and enabling users to skip repetitive content.
- Captions and transcripts: Adding captions to videos and transcripts for audio content allows individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to access the information presented. It also benefits users who may prefer reading or have difficulty understanding spoken language.
- Researching accessibility plug-ins: There are numerous accessibility plug-ins available that can help enhance your website's accessibility features. These plug-ins can provide additional functionalities such as text resizing options, screen reader compatibility, color adjustments, and more. Research and select plug-ins that align with your specific accessibility needs and requirements.

To explore further examples and important considerations for building accessible online content, visit the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) website provided by W3.org. The website includes wealth of valuable information and practical examples.

The security of your site is also important, so customers will feel safe entering their personal information. A site that doesn't look professional or that doesn't have trusted security icons or safe payment method options can deter customers and reduce sales. Some of the safest payment methods include credit cards with chip technology and payment applications such as Google Pay, Apple Pay, Cash App, and Zelle.

Finally, you will need to use analytics that measure your website's performance—how many visitors are coming to your site, how much time they are spending on each page, how many users are contributing to your site, and so on. These metrics are found in menu on the left side of the WordPress dashboard, which we will learn more about in Search Engine Optimization.

This page titled 8.3: Creating Content with a Content Management System is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.4: Search Engine Optimization

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe how search engines work
- Define and discuss search engine optimization
- Apply search engine optimization techniques

Search engines have been around since the internet was founded in 1990. Yahoo!, founded by Microsoft, was the original search engine. Search engines are designed to help people find websites on the internet. But a search engine is only useful if it delivers relevant results. This is where search engine optimization (SEO) comes in. We have briefly discussed the concept in What Are Content Management Systems? and Creating Content with a Content Management System. Here, we will go into more depth about SEO as it relates to developing your online presence.

What Are Search Engines?

Search engines such as Google, Yahoo!, and Bing are web-based tools that use an algorithm, which is a program used by a search engine to arrange pages in order from the most relevant to the least. Algorithms generate search results based on user inquiries. In effect, a search engine acts as a personal researcher to help the user locate relevant web pages or results based on the word, phrase, or sentence typed into the search bar. Unlike a browser, whose sole purpose is to display a web page, a search engine is a locator tool. Search engines “crawl” or explore the billions of pages that are available on the internet. Using different search engines to search for the same topic or industry could yield different results because they might handle keywords differently or have different ranking algorithms. However, because Google has more than 90 percent of the market share, many websites tend to focus on SEO for Google, ignoring other search engines that are much less widely used.

The goal of SEO is to increase traffic to a website. Higher traffic, or a greater number of visitors, is accomplished by listing a website near the top of the search list when a user searches for a particular website. The higher the site appears on the list, the more likely it is that visitors will click on it. More site visitors can increase your online visibility and increase the potential for more sales, if you are an e-commerce site. Also, sites that have a greater number of visitors tend to have the perception of being of higher quality than those with fewer visits. Because of the sheer size of the internet and the number of websites hosted on the internet, SEO can be a cost-effective way to reach more people. Figure 8.27 is an example of the type of information you would find when measuring the reach of a website.

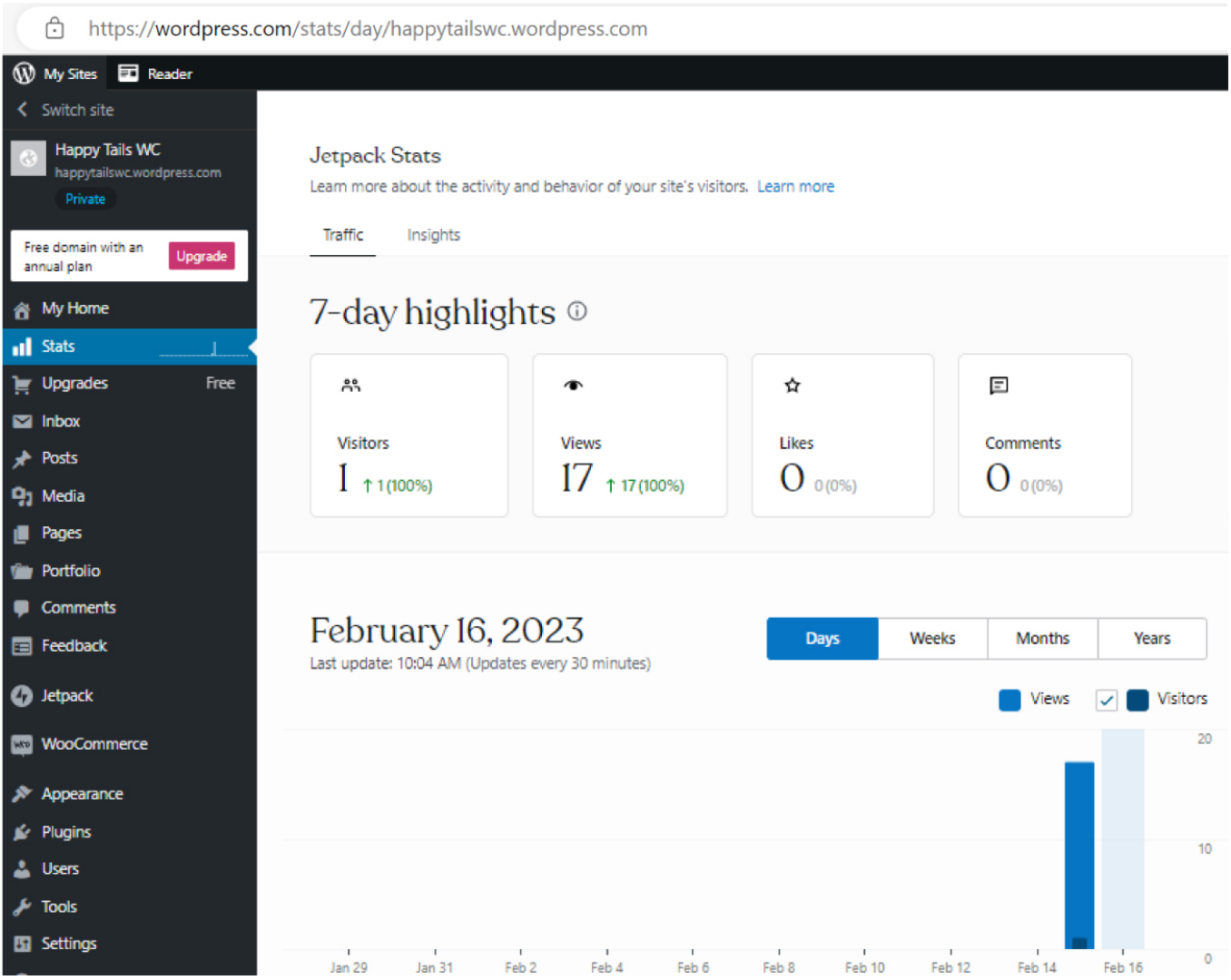


Figure 8.27: Most hosting services provide data to help you see how many people have visited your website.

Mac Tip

Mac users can take advantage of the built-in tools and features available on macOS, such as the Safari Web Inspector. Safari, the default web browser on Mac, comes with a powerful development tool called the Web Inspector. It allows you to analyze and debug web pages, which can be valuable for SEO purposes. To access it, follow these steps:

- Open Safari and navigate to the web page you want to inspect.
- Go to the Safari menu in the menu bar, then click on Preferences.
- In the Preferences window, click on the Advanced tab.
- Enable the option that says Show Develop menu in menu bar.
- Close the Preferences window.

You should now see a Develop menu in the menu bar. Click on it and choose Show Web Inspector. Once the Web Inspector is open, you can use its various panels to analyze the structure of the web page, inspect HTML elements, view and modify CSS styles, monitor network requests, and more. This can be helpful for identifying SEO-related issues, such as missing meta tags, slow-loading resources, or improperly structured content.

How Does Google Work?

Google is a search engine that uses web crawler software to constantly roam the internet. Web crawling means that the computer software scans the internet for certain words, tags, and links based on a particular search term(s). These software programs are

automated and sometimes referred to as “bots.” The bots browse the internet when terms are put in the search bar and operate search engines for the purpose of web indexing. An index on the web is similar to an index at the end of a book—it contains all website addresses that are searchable by the bots. To get your website to be included in the index, the website content needs to be deemed credible and of value to users, easy to navigate, and not to contain duplicate information. Once the site is on the index, when a user puts in a search term that is tied to the information on the website, the website will be returned and ranked. Higher-ranked websites will appear sooner in the search results list. You can improve your website ranking by including keyword tags, categories, and links to other relevant websites. You can also improve your website ranking by using search engine marketing and paying to have your company’s information show up higher in the search results list. Google uses a sophisticated computer algorithm to rank websites that are constantly updated. Most search engines will use similar technology for searching on the internet. The Google search process has three stages:

1. Crawling: Automated programs seek out new or updated pages and organize their addresses in a list that the user can view.
2. Indexing: Based on information from crawling, Google visits pages and analyzes their content, images, videos, and other elements. The goal is to identify the type of page and store the information in an index.
3. Serving: In this stage, the search engine determines the best results based on user language, location, device, and queries. For example, a user searching for a tea shop will have different results if they are in Florida than if they are in India.

Link to Learning

We recommend watching this TED Talk by science writer and journalist Zeynep Tufekci to gain an insightful perspective on the influence of algorithms and the potential dystopian consequences of building a digital world driven by ad clicks.

What Is Search Engine Optimization?

Search engine optimization (SEO) is a digital marketing strategy that business owners or individuals can apply to their websites and web pages to increase the value and volume of traffic from different search engines. Search engines sort results from different websites to show the public relevant information based on keywords. Pages are ranked using an algorithm to help improve search results. A web page with more relevant links will rank at the top of the list. PageRank is an algorithm used to help business owners promote online visibility by increasing the number of internet search results for a website. To optimize search results, business owners should update their information regularly and use relevant keywords within their web pages. Keywords will be based on company products and services they offer. There are companies that will analyze and provide SEO data for your website. Figure 8.28 shows just one example of how the data be summarized.

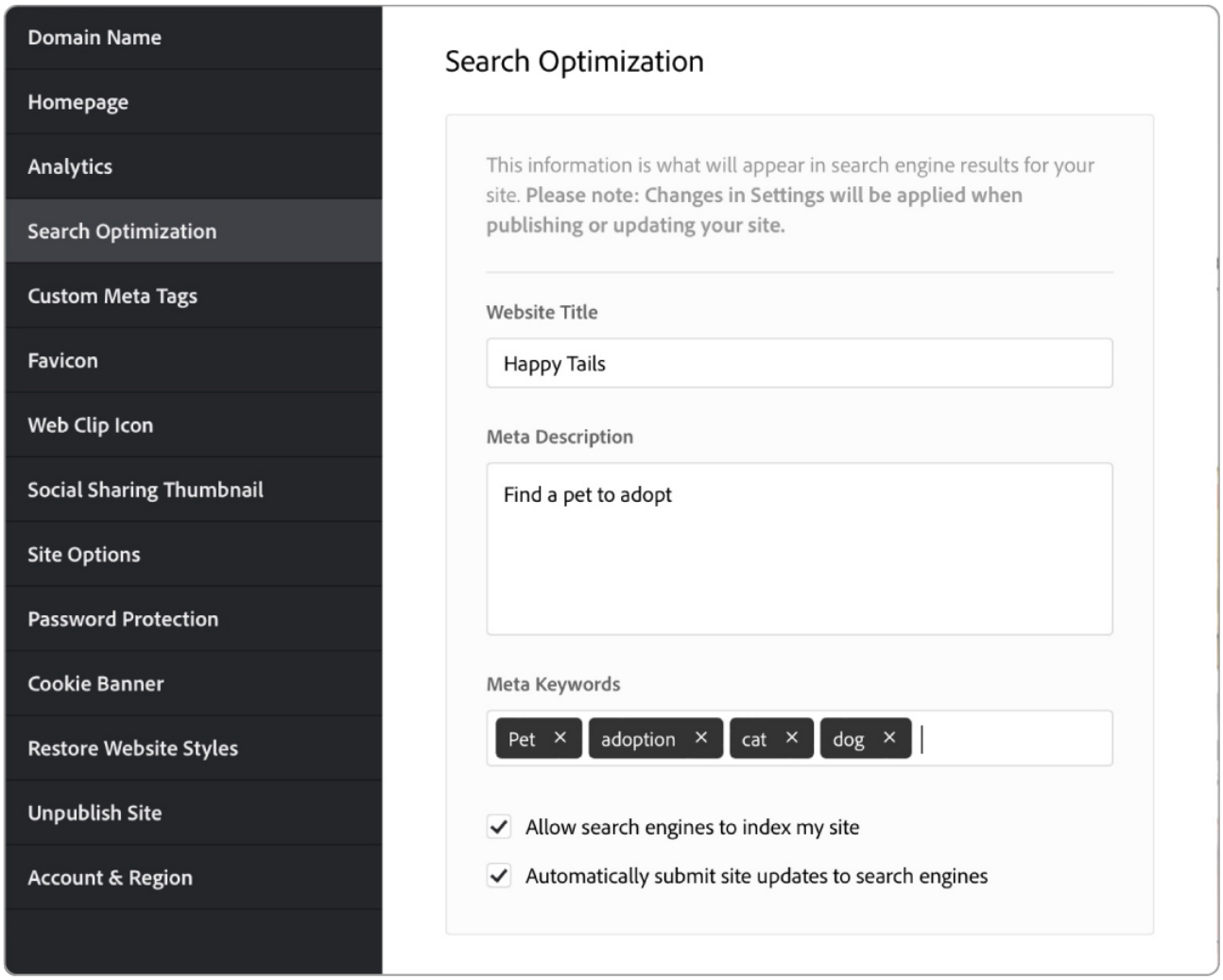


Figure 8.28: Different analytics tools provide a variety of ways to analyze your website, such as keyword tags and SEO settings.

SEO is important for businesses to implement because it boosts the likelihood that their site will be seen before their competition. A website with a higher rank will receive more clicks and visits from viewers. Higher ranks can be obtained by including keywords multiple times and in multiple places on your site. For example, Happy Tails WC might ensure that they get potential pet adopters to their site by using keywords such as “dog,” “cat,” “adoption,” and their specific location multiple times throughout the website.

Companies can also improve their website’s rank by making sure the site loads quickly, can work on multiple platforms such as tablets and phones, and has an easy-to-navigate layout. SEO can even impact the user experience; consumers should be able to locate what they need by inputting specific keywords in a search. The better the SEO is implemented on a site, the easier this process is for the end user. Implementing SEO also adds credibility to a website by increasing exposure to customers.

Optimizing Your Site for Search Engines

Here are some steps you can take to optimize your website for search engines:

- Focus on producing rich content, such as crisp images and high-quality videos.
- Conduct keyword research that aligns with what your customers want.
- Identify your target audience and design your site to meet their needs. If your site is not well-designed, it can be difficult for web crawler software to analyze the content effectively.
- Make sure you have a good hosting site that allows your website to load quickly and allows you to add tags and categories to your website.
- Consider hiring an SEO expert who can analyze your website and help you improve your rank within ethical guidelines.

Optimizing Specific Content

SEO keywords include specific words and phrases in your web content, making it easy for your site to populate within search engines. If your website is optimized properly, the language used in your keywords will be identical or similar to the language used by your visitors. Therefore, it is essential to understand your target market. Keywords help define what your site is about and connect your audience to you. For example, if you have a T-shirt shop but fail to specify the types of T-shirts you sell, you will miss opportunities to reach potential customers. For better results, use keywords that represent your niches, such as “wholesale T-shirts” or “vintage T-shirts.” Make a list of relevant topics surrounding your niche and develop different keywords. It is also a good idea to study your competition and see how they rank or what keywords are driving traffic.

To maximize the benefits of SEO, you need to provide well-organized, meaningful content that encourages visitors to remain on the site longer. Using keywords in your content can help you build trust and establish authority. Be sure to create titles that your target customer will use in a search engine, and use keywords associated with your topic throughout your page, as well as links that connect to other reputable websites. For Happy Tails, you might consider titles such as “adopting cats” or “caring for a new pet.” These titles and descriptions should also be interesting, using catchy words and phrases to attract your audience. Descriptions should be detailed, and neither too short nor too long. Here are some tips for writing titles and descriptions:

- Titles and descriptions should summarize what the page is about.
- Avoid using false narratives or titles to drive traffic to your website. This is considered unethical.
- Be sure your titles and descriptions use the same language your target audience would use, so they can feel a connection. Consider hiring a copywriter that specializes in SEO or web content.

Spotlight on Ethics - SEO Ethics

When it comes to ethical considerations in SEO, ensuring accurate representation is of utmost importance. Engaging in unethical practices, commonly known as Black Hat SEO or spam, can have severe consequences for your online presence. While these practices may not be strictly illegal, they are widely frowned upon in the business community. If search engines uncover your hidden agenda, you risk being penalized with search engine bans or a significant drop in your ranking.

Review cases from HubSpot that highlight some of the biggest SEO blunders to gain a better understanding of the unethical practices to avoid. By exploring these examples, you can learn from the mistakes of others and cultivate an ethical approach to SEO. The cases presented provide valuable insights into the consequences of unethical practices.

Now, let’s examine three cases from HubSpot’s examples of unethical SEO practices, along with an explanation of the specific unethical practice involved in each case:

- Case 1: Inflated Keyword Density: This case involves the excessive and unnatural stuffing of keywords into content in an attempt to manipulate search engine rankings. This practice aims to deceive search engines and artificially boost a website’s visibility. However, such keyword stuffing compromises the quality and readability of the content, making it difficult for users to obtain valuable information. Search engines consider this practice unethical and may penalize websites that engage in keyword stuffing.
- Case 2: Hidden Text and Links: In this scenario, websites use hidden text or links that are not visible to users but are intended to be detected by search engine crawlers. The hidden elements are often stuffed with keywords or include links to unrelated or low-quality websites. By concealing these elements, website owners aim to manipulate search engine rankings. However, this practice is deceptive and violates search engine guidelines, as it misleads both users and search engines about the actual content and purpose of the website.
- Case 3: Link Schemes: This case involves the creation of artificial and manipulative links with the goal of improving search engine rankings. Unethical link schemes may include purchasing or exchanging links, participating in link farms or networks, or using automated tools to generate a large number of low-quality backlinks. Search engines consider such practices as attempts to manipulate their algorithms and devalue the trustworthiness and integrity of search results.

By understanding these unethical practices and their associated consequences, you can make informed decisions to avoid them and uphold ethical standards in your SEO efforts. Remember, the focus should be on providing valuable, relevant, and user-friendly content that aligns with search engine guidelines. By taking an ethical approach to SEO, you can build a strong online presence, gain the trust of your audience, and foster long-term success.

A uniform resource locator (URL) is used to access resources that are published on the internet. Most people are familiar with its format: generally, they begin with “www.” and end with “.com” or similar. A good practice is to design URLs in a way that will benefit users, while also being easy for search engines to understand. Here are a few things you can do to optimize your URLs:

- Limit your URLs to fifty to sixty characters. This will not be sufficient to rank your site, but it is a good practice because it helps make the URL easier for users to copy and paste, share on social media sites, and remember for future use.
- Create SEO-friendly URLs that describe your content and include keywords.
- Use hyphens to separate words and lowercase letters.

Let’s look at some examples of good and not-so-great URLs. Figure 8.29 outlines some good URLs and URLS that could use some work.

Not Good	Better	Reason
www.happytails.com/pets	www.happytails.com/pets/dogs-for-adoption/german-shepherd	Specific key words
www.happytails.com/dogs/fullbred/young/brown/available	www.happytails.com/dogs/full/puppy	Too many keywords
www.happytails.com/dogs/available/ID43435	www.happytails.com/dogs/available/german-shepherd/barney	Generic identifier (number) for the specific pet

Figure 8.29: The URL should be descriptive and include specific keywords for the bots to use in the search.

Headings

Using headings on your website can help both visitors and search engines locate and understand your content. Headings are used to partition content on a page with a good deal of text or other information. The headings can break up the information to make it more readable and visually engaging. When a block of text gets lengthy (generally more than five to eight lines of text), you should consider using headings to organize the content. Headings can also enhance the accessibility of your site. A site with headings is easier to read and can help visitors to the site jump to relevant sections. Headings are also used by many screen reading technologies to aid in site navigation. If there are no headings, the reader can easily be confused and leave the site. To organize your content, try some of these tips:

- Break up text by topic and add a short, descriptive heading for each.
- Include keywords in your header tags for SEO.
- Use headings to describe each section of the website that contains more than five lines of text.
- Make your header tags consistent in font size, color, and writing style, so visitors can recognize the headings quickly.
- Avoid using all caps for headings. Words typed in all caps have accessibility issues as they are often difficult to read.
- Use catchy or relevant words.

Some website headings that might work for Happy Tails WC include “Join our Family” to volunteer for the organization or “Find a New Friend” to see the adoptable pets.

This page titled 8.4: Search Engine Optimization is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.5: Social Media in Business

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain why social media is important to a business
- Evaluate different strategies for maintaining audience engagement
- Analyze the value of using social media for a business

You are probably familiar with at least one social media platform. Businesses have come to see the value in promoting their organization via social media platforms because of the cost-effectiveness and reach of social media across nearly all demographics. For many businesses, building a social media presence is just as important as building a website. But building a brand on social media is challenging because so many different media platforms are available.

Social media is an integral part of content management in an organization. To manage content effectively, organizations need to have a consistent message across platforms. However, the organization can use the various platforms in different ways to get the same message across. For example, a post from a Happy Tails WC social media account might just show a picture of a pet and a short description. But the post itself would direct viewers to the Happy Tails WC website, where they could get more information about adopting that pet. Conversely, some content is better suited for social media than for a regular website—for example, events, which are more easily shared and publicized on social media. Generally, people spend less time on any particular post on social media than they do engaging with a website. Therefore, it is critical to create content that will catch the user's eye as they scroll through their social media feeds. Also, by sharing particular items, such as events or announcements, you can measure the reach of the posts through the social media metrics generated.

For example, when you post a fundraising event for Happy Tails, you can get an idea of how many people will attend the event, expected donations from the event, and even how far individuals will travel to attend the event based on their location in their social media profiles. Engagement with users on social media is often a bit more personalized, and you can create richer connections with your audience that you cannot with those who simply visit a website. Social media gives you more of a relationship-building process than you have with website interactions. These are just a few examples of how the same content can reach users differently across different platforms. Research suggests that brands need to be savvy about their social media presence. They should create engaging content that inspires sharing with followers**,** manage and create content for different social media platforms, and strategically navigate the social landscape.

Why Is Social Media Important to a Business?

Using social media is an essential component of any business marketing strategy. By providing access to customers' feedback and interactions, social media platforms help businesses stay in tune with customers, increase brand awareness, and boost their potential leads. Customers can use social media channels to ask questions about products and services. By listening to customer feedback and analyzing the data provided by social media, companies can improve their customer service and increase revenue.

There are several popular social media platforms, and it is expected that more will be developed in the future. You may be active on one or more social media platforms. You might also engage with a business or organization through these platforms, whether by simply following a company's social media page, by liking and/or interacting with posts from the company, or by sharing information from the company on your personal page. These are all ways that businesses want their target audience to interact. The more interaction with the target group, the more brand recognition and loyalty can be built, contributing to an increase in business for the company.

Not all social media apps are created equal. Some platforms are better suited for sharing photos, while others are better for networking with potential employers. For example, Facebook and SnapChat are more visual, whereas X (Twitter) and LinkedIn are more text based. Each, however, can play a role in your company's overall strategy. Figure 8.30 lists a few of the major social media platforms and their uses. More research will be needed by your organization if they choose to use one of the platforms.

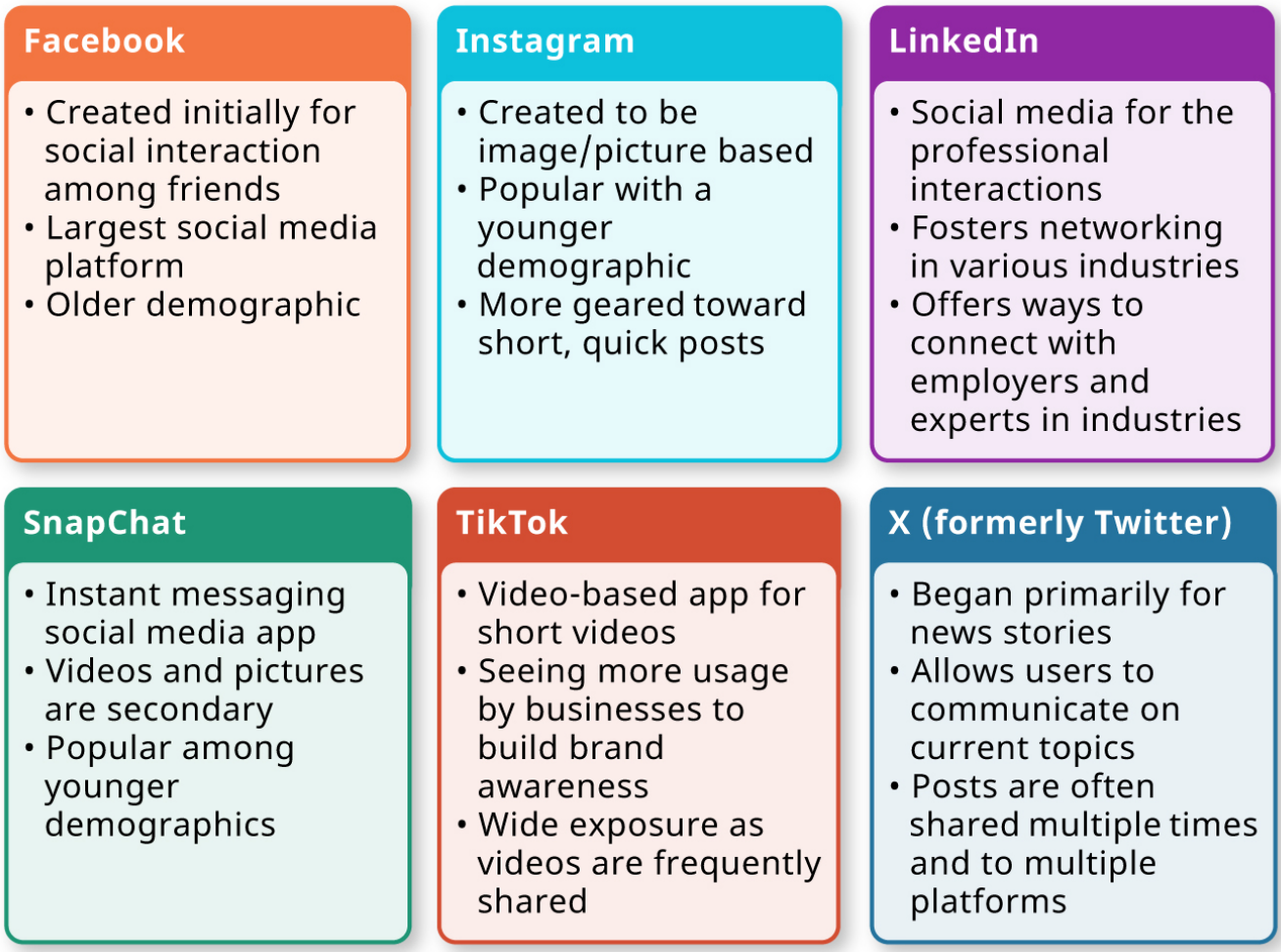


Figure 8.30: You should consider your target audience when selecting the appropriate social media platform.

A social media plan can be part of a business growth strategy, which should include a planned-out content calendar, an arsenal of automation tools to schedule posts across platforms, tools for tracking performance metrics, and more. Each post a company shares should be designed in advance to maximize the company's success on social media. Using the tools and strategies discussed previously, a robust social media marketing plan that fits into the overall strategic goals of the company can be enormously beneficial to a business.

But as with any content management, integrating social media into your business plan can be challenging and requires proper planning. The popular phrase "build it and they will come" is true only when strategies are in place. You might get initial visits to your online content, but if the content is not engaging and meeting customer needs, the visitors probably will not return. Therefore, before you implement the different strategies described here, you should think about the key factor that will keep visitors returning: great content and customer service. To ensure content is fresh and trending, listen to what your audience wants and needs. To drive traffic to your site, you need to know your customers—their demographics, their habits, their likes/dislikes. You should also be sure to have a presence on the social media sites where your target audience spends time.

Growing an audience can be a difficult task for a new business starting with zero customers. This will be particularly important for Happy Tails WC managers to ensure as they are a new nonprofit. They will need to build awareness so that they can secure the volunteers and donations needed to run the organization. They will also need to market to get the pets adopted promptly. Understanding who your target audience is will help you generate a better return on investment (ROI). Your target audience is the group of people who would be most interested in your product or service. For Happy Tails, the target market can be large. They are looking for individuals with a passion for animals. But they also need individuals who are good at fundraising and are skilled in

event planning. Members of this target audience will have a number of things in common, and you can use this information to create content that resonates with them. Once you build a connection, it will be easier to turn them into loyal customers.

One way to understand your business's target audience is to figure out what kinds of things they like, and make connections across those things. One way to do this is to partner with other businesses to tap into a wider audience and spread your brand to other markets. For example, in 2013, Pottery Barn, a furniture company, and Sherwin-Williams, a paint company, partnered to allow customers to select paint colors that would coordinate well with furniture. This led customers to want to purchase Sherwin-Williams paint colors because they were custom-selected to match perfectly with Pottery Barn furniture. Pottery Barn developed a landing page that contained blog posts on ideas and tips for how to paint and decorate.

Another common strategy is to allow users to find and tag relevant information with hashtags. A hashtag is a keyword tag that starts with "#" and can be used on a wide variety of social media sites. For example, you may have seen the hashtag #ootd which stands for "outfit of the day." Happy Tails WC could use hashtags to promote their page such as #potw (pet of the week) or #adoptnotshop to promote the idea of adopting a pet rather than going through a pet store. Hashtags are searchable by users. As a business, you can use hashtags to promote your brand or cause. You can look at competitors' hashtags and use similar ones for your posts. Hashtags can be part of a broader social media campaign to drive traffic to your page and create content for posts to be shared.

Many social media platforms also enable users to promote their posts to specific demographics or geographic locations for a fee. This goes back to really understanding your target audience. Because of the data collected via social media on individual users, there is a good deal of data available to help push posts to specific audiences. In some instances, you can even promote specific posts based on purchasing habits or websites visited. For example, Happy Tails WC can develop a post and pay to have the post promoted to individuals in the communities around the adoption agency or to those who already have pets based on their social media profiles. Each platform will have its own fee structure for promoting posts. For example, with Facebook, you set your budget. You put in how much you are able to spend for promoting a post or an event and Facebook will use that amount to promote the post. The minimum is $1 per day, which could reach up to almost 80 people based on your target audience and location. With $20 per day, that figure could rise to over 1,000 people. It is beyond the scope of this text to go into detail about promoting posts on various social media sites, but you should be aware that this option exists. By searching the "Help" function for an individual social media platform, you should be able to find specific information on paying for promoting posts.

A backlink, also referred to as an inbound or incoming link, is a hyperlink in a web page that takes you to another website or another location on your site. Google's ranking process will rank websites that have backlinks higher than those that do not. When your site includes hyperlinks to other websites, it is viewed as more trustworthy. This is similar to writing a research paper for a class. You will probably be required to cite previous research in your paper to support your ideas and conclusions. Web pages work the same way. Backing up your information with sources (i.e., other websites) can increase your credibility. To be effective, the backlink should be a trusted website itself and relevant to your website.

As a final consideration, you may want to think more deeply about the keywords you choose. In your initial search for a website, you may use very general terms. For example, if you are interested in adopting a pet, you might start with a search for the term "pet adoption." But after further investigation, you may determine that you really want to adopt a certain breed of pet, of a certain sex and a certain age. Your search terms then become more detailed, such as "an adult female dachshund." This is the concept of a long-tail keyword—a more descriptive set of keywords that are specific to your business. Long-tail keywords are often used by individuals who are closer to actually making a purchase or who want a more in-depth interaction with the company. For Happy Tails WC, this might be the point at which an individual submits an application for a specific pet or reaches out to discuss some options with the organization's personnel. You may not generate as many visits to the page with long-tail keywords, but the visits that are made will be higher quality and more likely to generate customers.

Maintaining Audience Engagement

Creating original content for social media is called content creation. In the content management lifecycle covered earlier in this chapter, content creation is part of both the organization and creation stages. In the organization stage, you should determine which content will be on which platforms (e.g., website versus X (Twitter)). Then, in the creation stage, you will create the content specific to that platform, with the understanding that not all content is equally appropriate for all platforms. For example, the way adoptable pets are highlighted on the Happy Tails WC website can differ from how the pets are showcased on Instagram. To create

engaging content, you will need to understand your topic and listen to your audience. If the content is valuable to your audience, they will be more likely to reshare it.

When creating content, think about the "four Es:" (see Figure 8.31). Content should *entertain*, *educate*, *encourage*, and *engage* through a call to action. Also think about the way your content is structured. Through the use of headings, you can avoid posting long paragraphs and instead break the content down into bite-sized pieces for your audience.

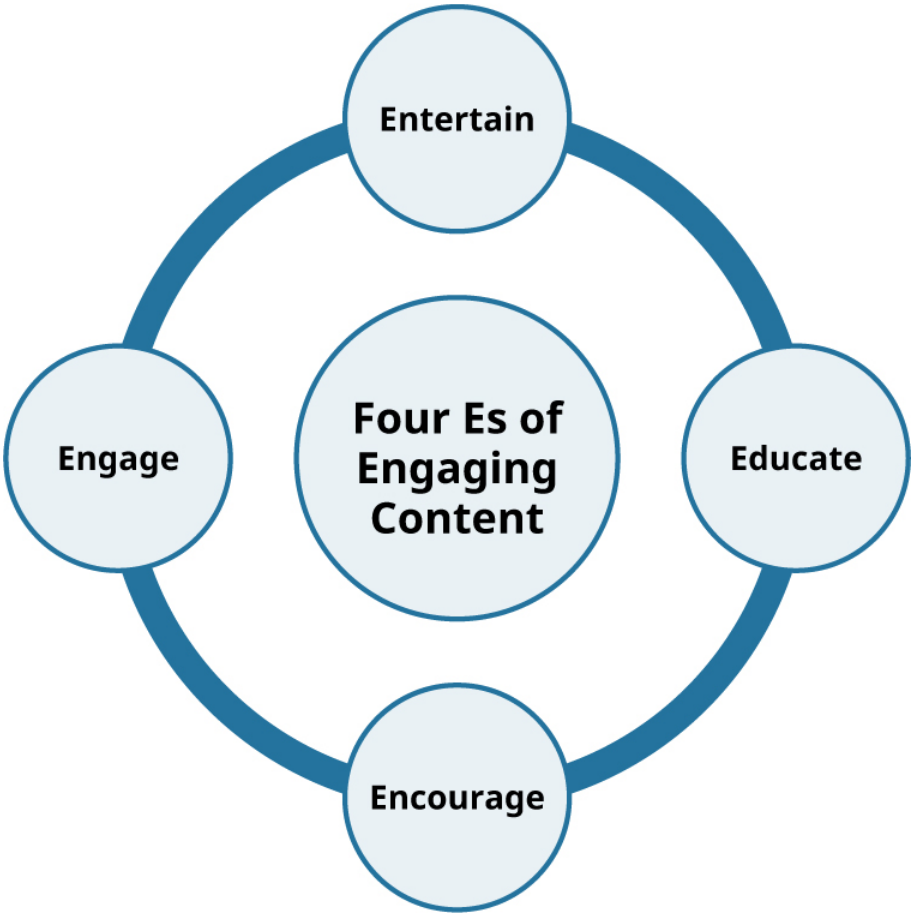


Figure 8.31: Creating engaging content increases the likelihood that your social media posts will be shared with others and thus increase their reach.

Another key to original content creation is writing for your audience. You want to develop an understanding of your target market, and identify their demographic characteristics and pain points (recurring problems with products or services that inconvenience or annoy customers). Use this information when you write content for your business. Because social media platforms are primarily visual, your content should include visuals and infographics as well as text. Tools like Canva (an online design and publishing tool that allows customers to design anything and publish it online) can be used to style your content into posts that fit the specifications of different social media. You can also use some of the tools in Google Slides and Microsoft PowerPoint to design engaging visuals. There are many other tools you can use to create various types of content—for example, YouTube for video, SurveyMonkey for short surveys, Anchor for podcasting, and Spotify for playlists.

Collecting information on a relevant topic and sharing with added value is called content curation. When the content is shared on social media, credit is given to its original owners. Curating content allows you to add value to your site by collecting information and organizing it to appeal to your audience. This is similar in concept to backlinks: The goal is to locate thought-provoking or engaging content to build upon original content and enhance your credibility. As a content manager, you will be a researcher who sorts data online and identifies relevant and purposeful content. Essentially, you will manage and oversee the content for the organization. For example, HubSpot is a company that focuses on creating software solutions for marketing and customer service management. The site creates content regularly to demonstrate to its audience how to use social media for marketing in the form of

blog posts. They pull a variety of content from case studies, social media tools, resources, etc. to provide resources on best practices in marketing that are relevant to their target market.

Strategies for Repeat Visitors

Repeat visitors to a website, social media, or blog are good for businesses that want to develop brand loyalty or build an online community. There are a few strategies that will assist in increasing the traffic to your business (see Figure 8.32).



Figure 8.32: To drive traffic to your social media sites, you can use various methods that have been found to attract and retain customers.

Start with a "call to action." This is a way of encouraging your site visitors to do something. Encourage your visitors to leave a comment, share an image, or enter a contest. Some businesses center their relationship with their customers around product sharing. For example, customers might take an image of themselves with the product and use a special hashtag to be identified and posted. You can also build a loyalty program, encouraging visitors to return by having them subscribe or join a membership rewards program. This will give visitors something to look forward to in your business.

An example of this strategy is having users download an app and earn rewards toward a free purchase. Starbucks, Chick-Fil-A, and Chipotle all have these types of rewards built into their apps. Offer incentives for reposting and sharing your organization's posts on their own personal social media pages. You can create even more engagement by asking them to tag their friends in the repost. Finally, one of the best ways to have repeat visitors is to create a consistent experience with excellent customer service. This is an essential part of making visitors want to stay involved in the process of buying from your business.

Engagement Management

Any interaction between two parties on social media platforms, such as sharing, linking, or commenting, is called engagement. Organizations use engagement management (EM) as a tool that allows them to engage with members or clients anywhere or anytime. It involves a team of client relations (sales and support), project management, delivery, and quality management to satisfy clients. EM operates across multiple projects and ongoing relationships. For example, Hootsuite is a social media management platform that integrates social media networks and helps clients focus on engagement. Companies can curate content, schedule posts across different social media platforms, and manage team members. Hootsuite offers integration for X (Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube, making it easy for clients to measure ROI. There are other similar software programs available to help your organization manage multiple social media platforms.

A key advantage of using one of these programs is that you can schedule your social media posts and incorporate the social media calendar discussed previously. For example, when a post is made on one social media platform, such as X (Twitter), the same post can be made to Facebook automatically. This can facilitate your social media marketing plan to ensure consistency. It can also help keep your posts organized and can save you time if you have limited resources to dedicate to social media.

Social Media Analytics

Businesses should ensure that their marketing efforts are producing measurable results that align with the company's goals and strategies. Businesses can use social media analytics to collect data from different social channels—including information on demographics, behaviors, favorites, and the like—and measure performance and drive business decisions.

For example, a social media management company may monitor your social platforms to see how many people are following and engaging with your accounts. They will view how many times people interacted with your account to share, like, or comment on posts. This data allows you to identify patterns for your customer, which will help with ROI. Some top social media analytic platforms are BuzzSumo, HubSpot, Sprout Social, and TapInfluence. However, within each social media platform, you can find analytics about your posts, as seen in Figure 8.33. You will get summary data showing the reach of your posts, the number of times each post was shared and reshared, how many people liked the post, and other related information.

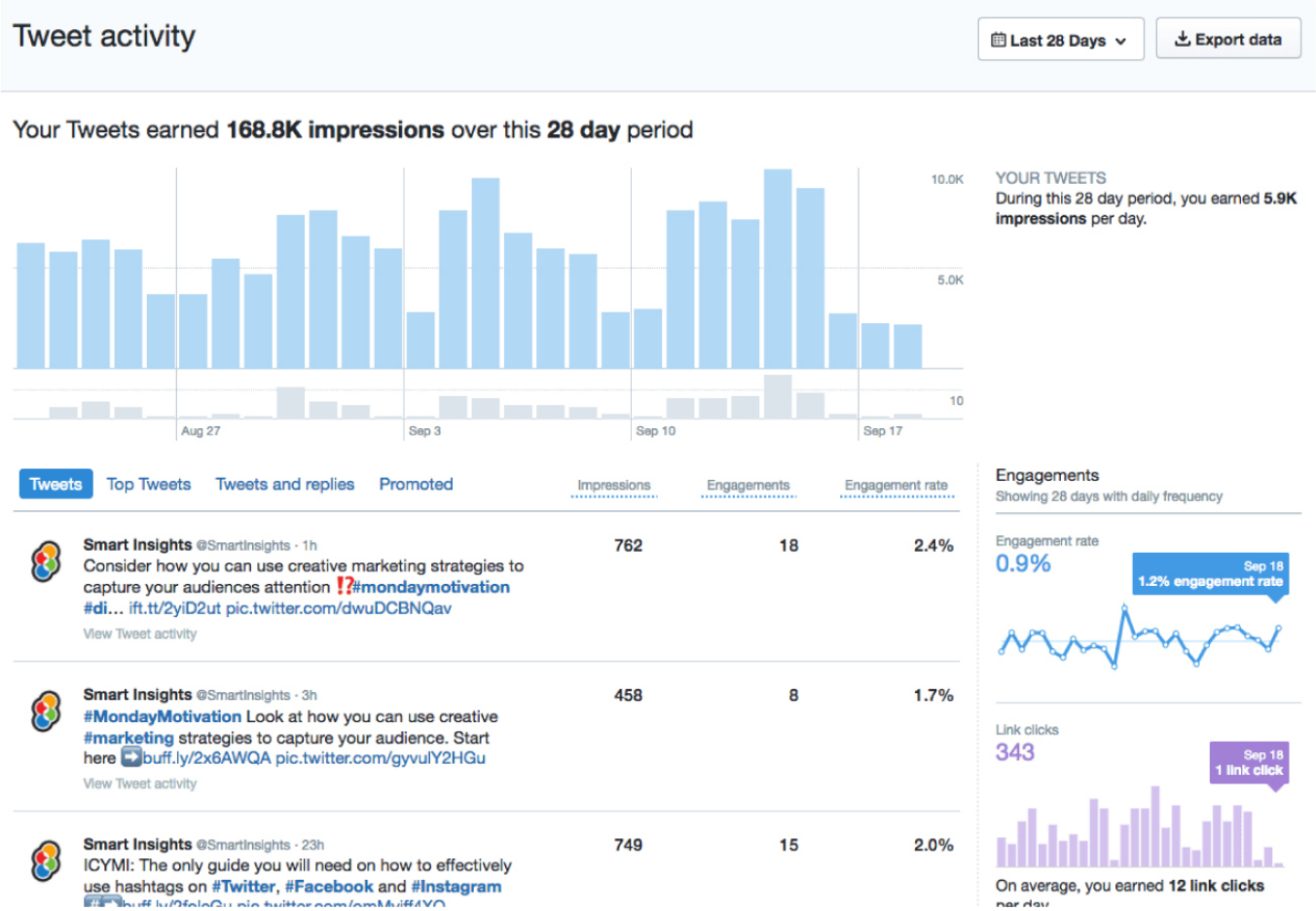
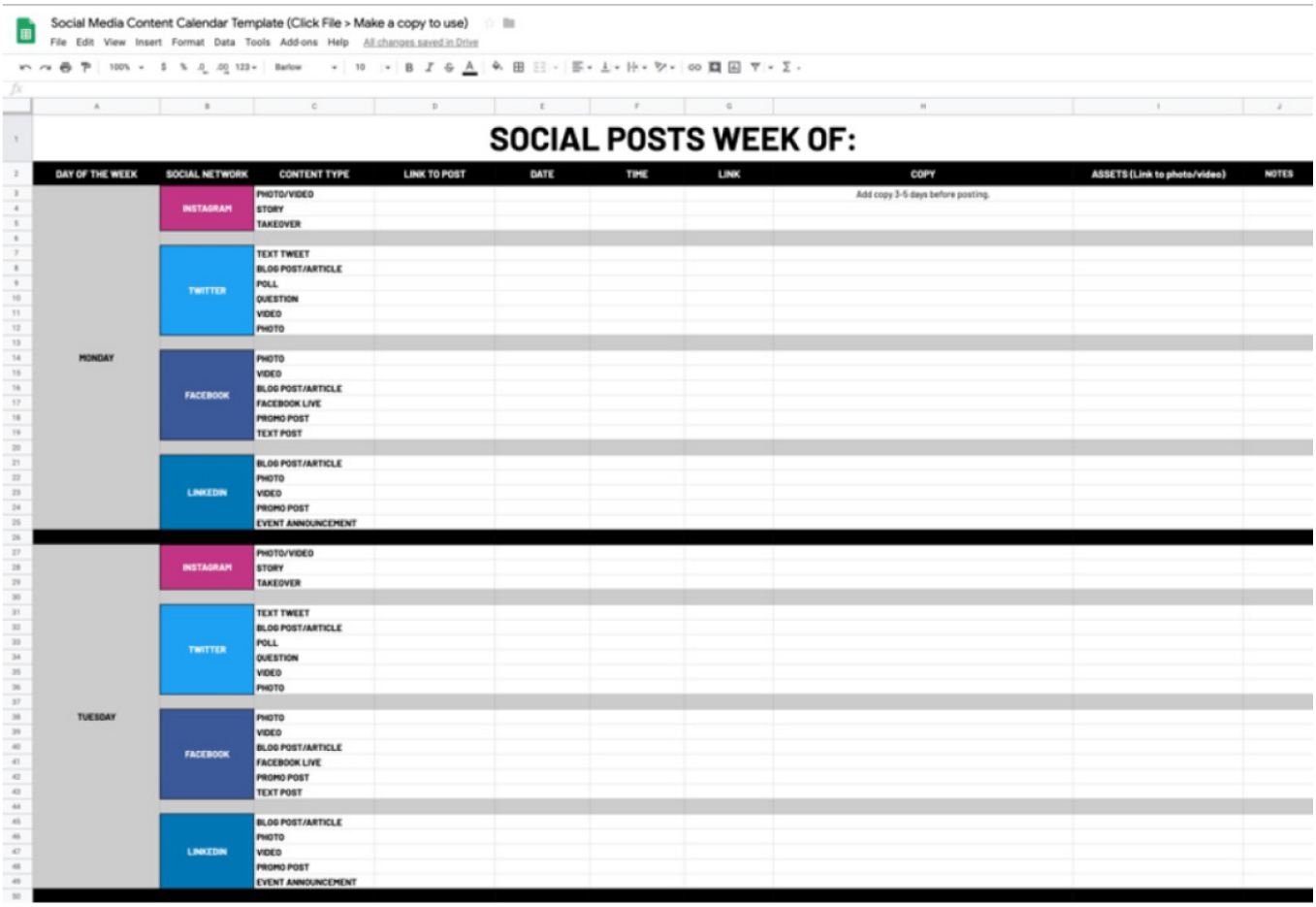


Figure 8.33: By tracking engagement of posts, you can determine which posts resonate more with your audience.

Social Media Calendar

Using a social media calendar allows you to plan your content ahead of time and update as necessary. Social media editorial calendars are spreadsheets or apps used to schedule social posts in advance. They are also used to plan which content will be shared and when, to manage campaigns, and to track deadlines. Your calendar can be a simple one using spreadsheets or a pen and notebook, or it can make use of special software (see Figure 8.34). You could start off by setting up a spreadsheet of your posts across various platforms. You will learn the skills to do this in the chapter on Working with Spreadsheets.



Social Media Content Calendar Template (Click File > Make a copy to use)

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help All changes saved in Drive

SOCIAL POSTS WEEK OF:

DAY OF THE WEEK	SOCIAL NETWORK	CONTENT TYPE	LINK TO POST	DATE	TIME	LINK	COPY	ASSETS (Link to photo/video)	NOTES
MONDAY	INSTAGRAM	PHOTO/VIDEO					Add copy 3-5 days before posting.		
		STORY							
		TAKEOVER							
	TWITTER	TEXT TWEET							
		BLOG POST/ARTICLE							
		POLL							
		QUESTION							
		VIDEO							
		PHOTO							
	FACEBOOK	PHOTO							
		VIDEO							
		BLOG POST/ARTICLE							
		FACEBOOK LIVE							
		PROMO POST							
		TEXT POST							
	LINKEDIN	BLOG POST/ARTICLE							
		PHOTO							
		VIDEO							
		PROMO POST							
		EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT							
TUESDAY	INSTAGRAM	PHOTO/VIDEO							
		STORY							
		TAKEOVER							
	TWITTER	TEXT TWEET							
		BLOG POST/ARTICLE							
		POLL							
		QUESTION							
		VIDEO							
		PHOTO							
	FACEBOOK	PHOTO							
		VIDEO							
		BLOG POST/ARTICLE							
		FACEBOOK LIVE							
		PROMO POST							
		TEXT POST							
	LINKEDIN	BLOG POST/ARTICLE							
		PHOTO							
		VIDEO							
		PROMO POST							
		EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT							

Figure 8.34: Social media calendars can help you keep track of posts and schedule them for publication. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Whichever route you take to developing social media content, you should have the following main topics: type of social media platform, date and time, topic/theme of posts, links, and tags connected to posts. A more complicated calendar could also include several platforms and details, such as if the post will be linked to an event or if you will pay to promote the post to a greater audience.

This page titled 8.5: Social Media in Business is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

access controls
ability to restrict or limit user groups to viewing specific pages within a website

algorithm
program used by a search engine to arrange pages in order from the most relevant to the least

backlink
link to another website that is related to your site and is designed to increase the rank of your site

blogging capability
feature that allows anyone in the company to add content in a thread of posts

calendaring
feature that allows you to plan content by scheduling future dates and times to release information

category
method of organizing posts on a website so that visitors can sort them easily

client side
everything that is displayed or occurs on the user's end of a web application or device, such as text and image

content creation
development of original content for social media

content curation
process of gathering information on a topic and then sharing it on social media with added value

content editor
allows users to easily review the style and format of the content in a document, which provides optimal design and readability

content management lifecycle
process for managing content through the seven stages of organization, creation, storage, workflow, editing/versioning, publishing, and removal/archiving

content management system (CMS)
application that uses a set of processes to manage web content, allowing multiple contributors to collect, create, edit, and publish content

content syndication
allowing content on one site to be hosted on another site to reach a larger audience

crawling
process by which a search engine collects data from the internet

engagement
any interaction between two parties on social media platforms, such as sharing, linking, or commenting

engagement management (EM)
systematic approach that begins with the sales process and ends with engagement closing

enterprise content management
system that facilitates the life cycle of content within an organization by creating a timeline for content to be created, approved, and distributed

hashtag
word or keyword phrase preceded by a hash symbol (#); used to pull up and filter content

indexing
process by which search engines visit pages, analyze their content, and store the information in an index

keywords
specific words and phrases in your web content that make it easy for your site to populate within search engines

library
where content in CMS programs are organized and stored

long-tail keyword
extended key words that are more descriptive and provide more specific internet search results

mobile content management system (MCMS)
CMS that hosts a data store in a centralized location and allows content to be managed for multiple platforms

open-source CMS
CMS that is maintained by a community of developers and is open to the public

PageRank
algorithm used to help business owners promote online visibility by increasing the number of internet search results for a website

pages
framework that makes up a website

plug-in
extension or app that customizes and enhances the functionality of a website

post
piece of information that can be added to your website and listed in order from oldest to newest

proprietary CMS
CMS that is owned by the individual or group that created it and can be used only by those who purchase a license key

RSS (Really Simple Syndication)
method of delivering posts to a website

search engine optimization (SEO)
using keywords to help content on your site reach audiences

serving
process by which a search engine determines the best results based on user language, location, device, and queries

social media analytics
information gathered and measured to support business decisions

social media content management
process of creating, scheduling, publishing, and analyzing content for all your media platforms

tag
keyword for specific content on the site that can be used to organize information

Web 2.0
websites that provide two-way communication or interaction

web analytics
insights or data that can be evaluated against company objectives

web content management system (WCMS)
software content management system that offers website authoring, collaboration, and administration tools

web crawler software
computer software that scans the internet for certain words, tags, and links based on a particular search term

widget
tool that can be used to embed consistent information, such as advertising, on headers, footers, and sidebars within a website

Wordpress dashboard
main screen that allows you to see the administration of a website

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get)
editing software that allows content to be displayed in the same format it will appear when printed or shown

---

This page titled 8.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.7: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

8.1 What Are Content Management Systems?

- Content management systems allow users to manage content on all platforms, such as social media and web content, to create a consistent message and image for the organization.
- Using a CMS promotes collaboration and quality control and facilitates search engine optimization, security, and the ability to reuse content.
- There are seven stages of the content management lifecycle: organization, creation, storage, workflow, editing/versioning, publishing, and removal/archiving.
- Content management systems include features for controlling each part of the content management lifecycle, including page templates, document libraries, and calendaring.

8.2 Common Content Management Systems

- Web 2.0 enables users to create, curate, and manage content by using WYSIWYG software, which allows them to visualize how their content will be displayed.
- There are three main types of CMS: open-source, proprietary, and enterprise. An open-source CMS provides free access to basic features and functionality. A proprietary CMS can offer faster, more customized solutions but requires licensing. An enterprise CMS offers high storage capacity and security, making it an ideal platform for day-to-day workflow.

8.3 Creating Content with a Content Management System

- WordPress is a CMS that is easy to install, free, and open-source. This makes it an ideal platform for small businesses, start-ups, nonprofits, and bloggers.
- To create a business website with WordPress, you may want to make use of features such as search engine optimization (SEO) and analytics that measure your site’s performance.

8.4 Search Engine Optimization

- Search engines use computer programs that filter through keywords and website content to return and rank search lists.
- SEO refers to processes that help optimize search results to increase the chance that your company’s website will appear higher up in the user’s search results list.
- Techniques for optimizing your website for effective searches include using an easy-to-understand URL, using descriptive titles, and keeping your page heading engaging.

8.5 Social Media in Business

- Businesses can use social media to reach their target audience, connect with existing customers, engage new customers, and make use of customer feedback.
- Using the appropriate social media and networking platforms can benefit a business by generating more customers, building a loyal customer base, and providing exposure to other audiences.
- Creating original content for social media requires developing and producing posts as well as curating your content in ways that are consistent with your brand.

This page titled 8.7: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
Once you learn the context of data, it is considered _____.

a. analyzed data
b. knowledge
c. information
d. content

2 .
A content management system manages _____.

a. a blog
b. e-commerce
c. site visitors
d. web content

3 .
_____ organize internal documents and the information employees may need to do their jobs.

a. Enterprise content management systems
b. Mobile content management systems
c. Social media content management systems
d. Web content management systems

4 .
A CMS allows editing, publishing, modifying content, and site administration. If you are managing a team of developers, designers, writers, and editors, which feature are you most likely to use and manage?

a. editing
b. publishing
c. modifying content
d. site administration

5 .
Multiple people are working on updating the website to match the theme of the new launch. An employee was supposed to edit images on the site, but when you log in, you find that some files are missing. The system allows you to see the time, date, and user, so you can identify when any changes were made and who made them. This feature is known as _____.

a. authoring
b. content versioning
c. multiple users
d. site administration

6 .
_____ allows user engagement to actually create content on a company website.

a. Enterprise content
b. Web 1.0
c. Web 2.0
d. Open-source

7 .
A(n) _____ CMS involves no initial costs and allows the user to download the software without a contract.

a. open-source
b. proprietary
c. enterprise-enabled
d. CMS

8.

8 .
WordPress uses _____ to control user access to different features in the site.

a. cookies
b. usernames
c. roles
d. code

9 .
Where do you find the metrics in WordPress that are used to measure the effectiveness of your website?

a. dashboard
b. stats
c. edit
d. posts

10 .
Google uses _____ to generate search results.

a. an algorithm
b. crawling
c. indexing
d. a URL

11 .
The purpose of SEO is to _____.

a. categorize blogs
b. search for keywords
c. target paid traffic to a website
d. improve the quality of a website

12 .
When using multiple words in the URL, you should use a(n) _____ to separate words.

a. underscore
b. hyphen
c. space
d. period

13 .
What is one reason having a social media presence would help a small business?

a. Guarantee sales.
b. Increase brand awareness.
c. Reduce product costs.
d. Automatically respond to complaints.

14 .
What is one key advantage of engagement management (EM)?

a. creating content
b. encouraging single site visits
c. not having a website
d. scheduling posts

15 .
What is a social media calendar?

a. data collected from different social channels to measure performance
b. a tool that allows organizations to engage with members and involves a team of client relations to satisfy clients
c. a spreadsheet or app used to schedule social posts in advance
d. hyperlinks in a web page that take you to another website or another location on your site

This page titled 8.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

16 .
If you were working on the content for Happy Tails WC, what kind of content would you need to get started? What information would you include on a website versus on social media?

17 .
Think about an organization you are involved with or perhaps where you work. What tools would you use to promote the organization or business? Are there specific social media platforms that can be utilized? What functionality would you want to have with the website?

18 .
Choose a case study from HubSpot and reflect on how a company can use a CMS to increase its conversion rate. See HubSpot's Case Studies Directory.

19 .
As a consultant, you are approached by a small venture that wants to know which type of CMS they should use for their nonprofit, which promotes awareness of recycling in the community. They have about ten employees, one of whom is responsible for adding and managing content about the company's mission. Write an email responding to the client about which CMS you suggest and why.

20 .
An eco-friendly blogger has hired you to develop and design their website using WordPress. You are tasked with selecting an appropriate theme and adding content to the home page based on the blogger's needs, as described. Browse the themes and select an appropriate theme for the blogger.

- The blogger is selling an e-book that helps people live an eco-friendly lifestyle.
- The website requires an area for daily, weekly, and monthly blog posts, plus space to sell the e-book.
- The blogger wants the site to have a coastal beach vibe and color scheme.

21 .
Go to the following websites for two different pet-related organizations. Compare and contrast the websites. Which one is better? What are the features you notice about each? Do the websites look current and secure?

- Petland Columbus, Ohio
- Clinton County Humane Society of Ohio

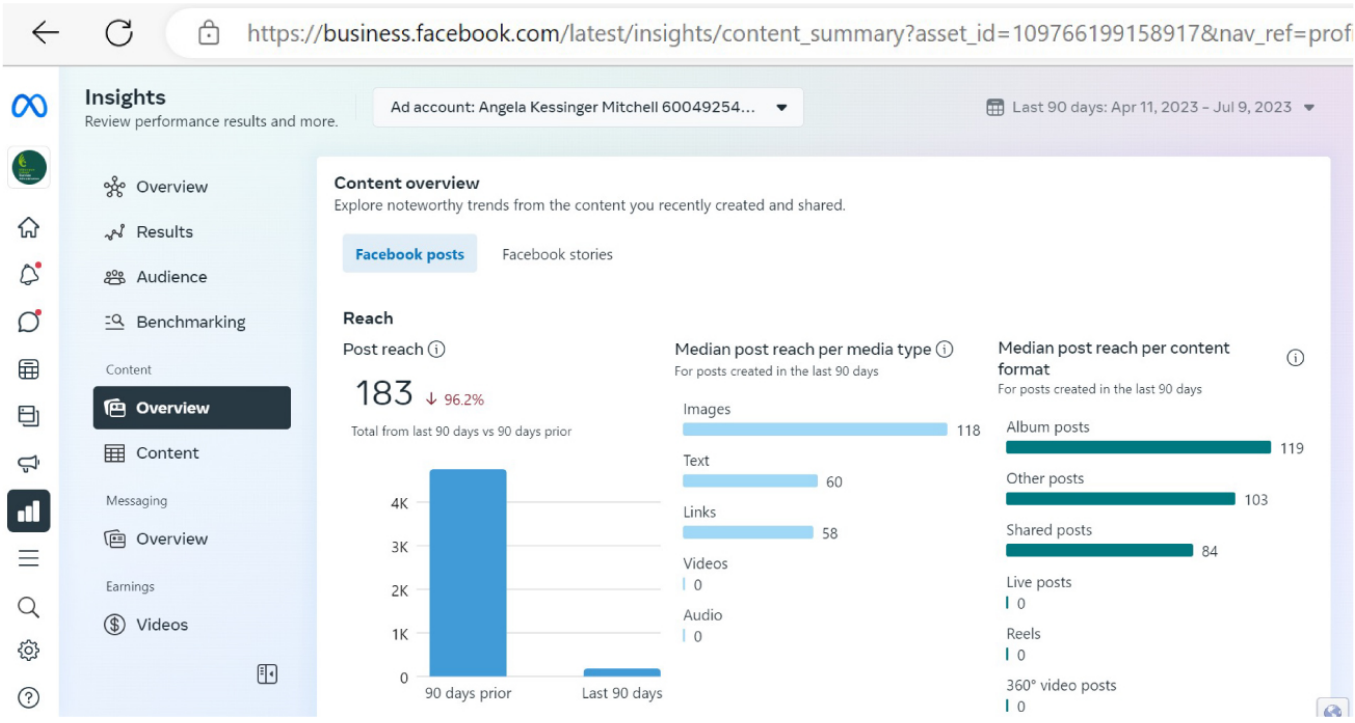
22 .
Read this article on writing SEO-friendly content and then develop a blog post using SEO strategies.

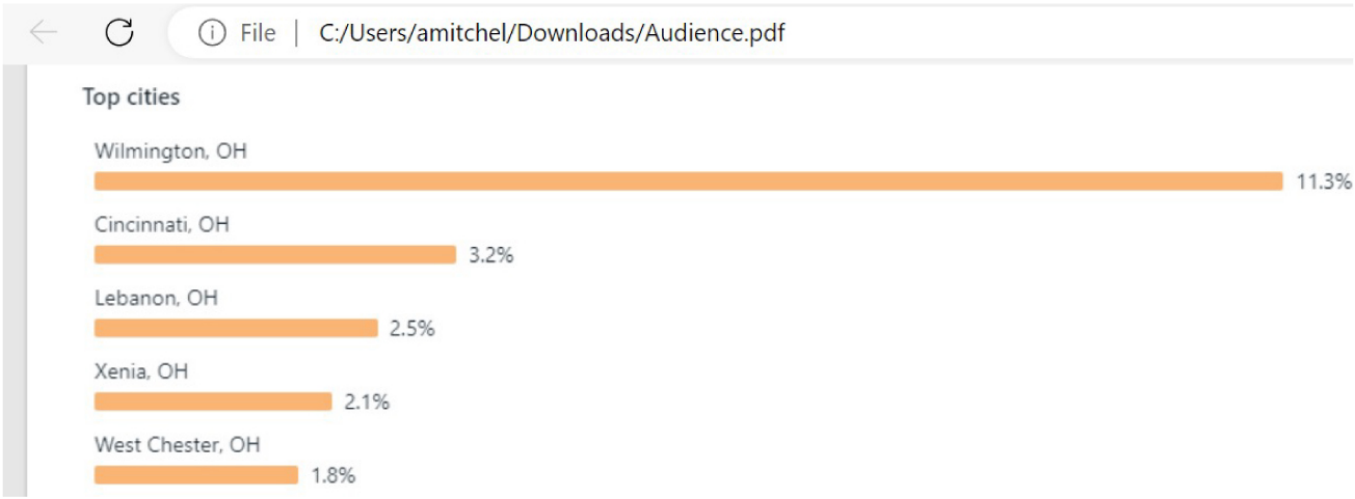
23 .
Go to the website of your favorite retailer. Looking at the content on the site, what are some categories and key terms that should be used for SEO? Now go to a specific product on the site. Does the URL follow the guidelines covered in the section? What suggestions do you have to improve the URL?

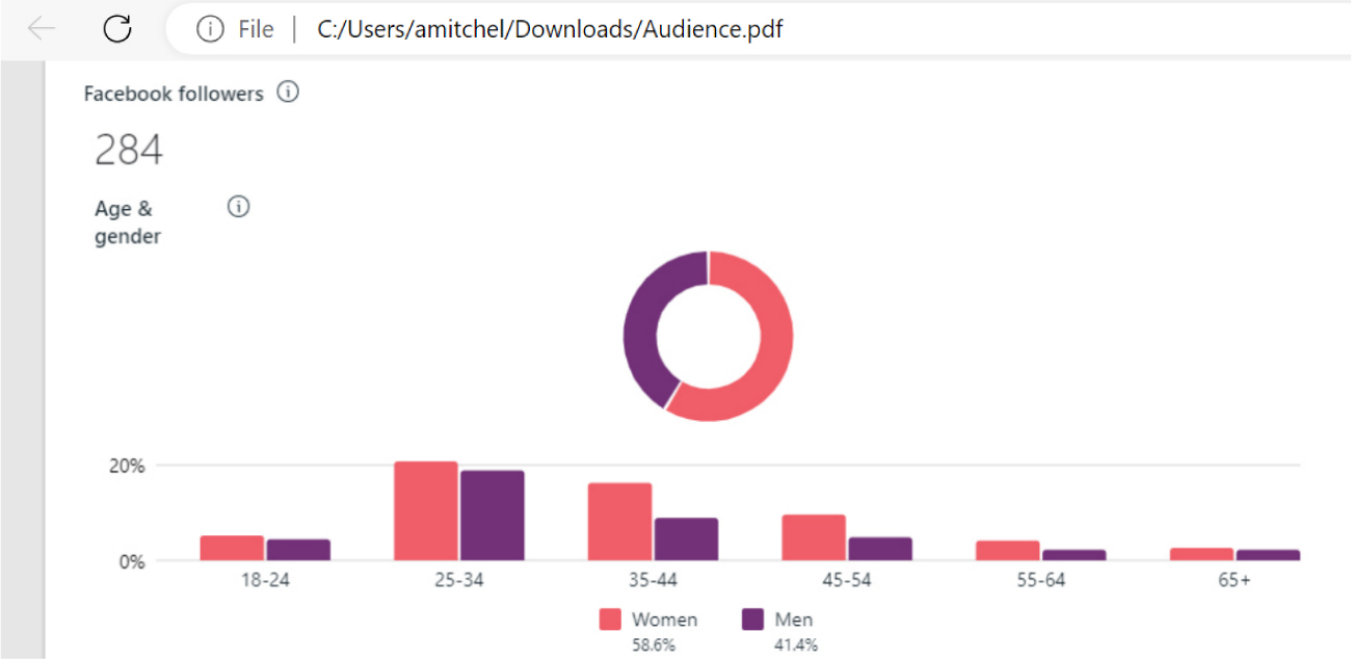
24 .
Develop a one-week content calendar for an upcoming pet adoption event focused on cats available at Happy Tails WC and include various platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and X (Twitter).

25 .

Provided here are some summary reports from a college business program Facebook page that is student-run. What are some insights you can gather from the summary report? How can this information be used to more effectively use the Facebook page?


https://business.facebook.com/latest/insights/content_summary?asset_id=109766199158917&nav_ref=prof
Insights
Review performance results and more.
Ad account: Angela Kessinger Mitchell 60049254...
Last 90 days: Apr 11, 2023 - Jul 9, 2023
Overview
Results
Audience
Benchmarking
Content
Overview
Content
Messaging
Overview
Earnings
Videos
Content overview
Explore noteworthy trends from the content you recently created and shared.
Facebook posts
Facebook stories
Reach
Post reach
183 ↓ 96.2%
Total from last 90 days vs 90 days prior
4K
3K
2K
1K
0
90 days prior
Last 90 days
Median post reach per media type
For posts created in the last 90 days
Images 118
Text 60
Links 58
Videos 0
Audio 0
Median post reach per content format
For posts created in the last 90 days
Album posts 119
Other posts 103
Shared posts 84
Live posts 0
Reels 0
360° video posts 0


File | C:/Users/amitchel/Downloads/Audience.pdf
Top cities
Wilmington, OH 11.3%
Cincinnati, OH 3.2%
Lebanon, OH 2.5%
Xenia, OH 2.1%
West Chester, OH 1.8%



This page titled 8.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

26 .
Why should an organization have a CMS?
27 .
How can teams collaborate using a CMS?
28 .
What are the major differences between Web 1.0 and Web 2.0?
29 .
What is WYSIWYG and how is it important in website development on the client side?
30 .
Discuss who might be the appropriate person or persons to maintain the website for Happy Tails WC.
31 .
Discuss some of the items you should consider when developing a website for a business that will sell products online.
32 .
How do search engines drive better traffic to a website?
33 .
How can a business use SEO to optimize its website?
34 .
How do businesses benefit from using social media?
35 .
How can curated content create stronger backlinks?
36 .
What are two critical factors in engaging return visitors to a website?
37 .
How can analytics be used to earn repeat visitors to a website?

This page titled 8.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

8.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

38 .

Read the case study on how a company switched from using Word to a CMS to manage documents from Énergir. What were the benefits of using a CMS over managing information in traditional ways?

39 .

You have been asked to help Happy Tails with their first blog post, which will highlight an upcoming fundraising event for the organization. The event will be a casino night with a silent auction. Create a blog post for the event, including relevant details such as date, time, and location. Include some ideas for graphics that could be included in the blog post.

This page titled 8.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

9: Working with Spreadsheets

9.0: Chapter Scenario
9.1: Microsoft Excel Basics
9.2: Text and Numbers in Microsoft Excel
9.3: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Microsoft Excel
9.4: Formatting and Templates in Microsoft Excel
9.5: Google Sheets Basics
9.6: Text and Numbers in Google Sheets
9.7: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Google Sheets
9.8: Formatting and Templates in Google Sheets
9.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms
9.10: Chapter Review - Summary
9.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions
9.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
9.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions
9.14: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 9: Working with Spreadsheets is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.0: Chapter Scenario

WorldCorp's Portland, Maine, location receives many finished products at their warehouse. Some of the products they sell include LCD TVs, home stereo systems, computer accessories, and tablets. They add these items to the inventory and then ship them to different destinations. Their orders include a wide variety of products, each with a different price, for many clients, and with multiple sales agents. Because WorldCorp's business model includes multiple locations and various business units, they have a large volume of data, so collaboration and sharing of information is necessary for the company to be successful. This is especially true when communicating sales information company-wide. The information needs to be organized and effectively communicated to various entities within the corporation. It will also need to be put into sales reports that follow corporate standards for reporting and be accessible by the appropriate entities for editing. By using spreadsheets, sales agents and upper management at WorldCorp can access the information they need to make informed decisions about inventory levels and distribution channels.

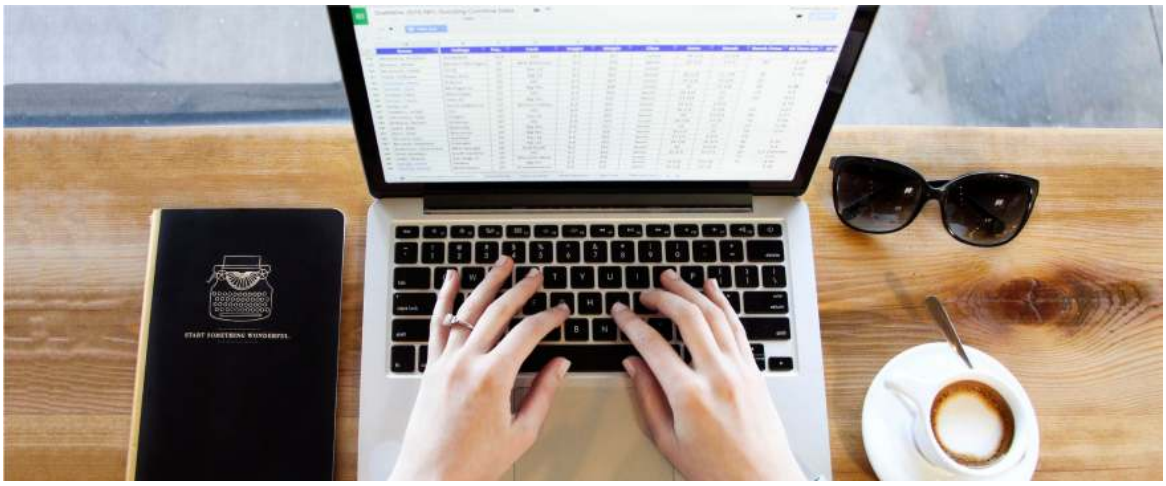


Figure 9.1: A spreadsheet is a useful tool for working with large sets of numerical data. (credit: modification of "Notebook, Typing, Coffee" by Pexels/Pixabay, CC0)

A spreadsheet is a powerful tool to organize, present, and analyze critical information that allows WorldCorp to effectively manage their diverse business. For example, WorldCorp can use a spreadsheet program such as Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets to summarize quarterly sales information for the sales agents in a particular region. A more in-depth review by upper management could be centered on analyzing the performance of sales agents or regions to set targets for the next year. Spreadsheets can be used to track inventory levels that then can be evaluated by product type or price. Generated reports can be used by the accounting department when billing customers and reconciling accounts. Finally, the programs can even be used to make sales projections or to examine the impact of price changes on profits.

This page titled 9.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.1: Microsoft Excel Basics

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify common uses for Excel spreadsheets
- Use basic features of Excel
- Describe the essential functions of each tab on the ribbon
- Differentiate between worksheets and workbooks
- Create worksheets and navigate existing files
- Print a workbook and a worksheet

WorldCorp sells many consumer electronics, including tablets, HD antennas, headphones, and TVs. The Portland location is in a port city, so it can dispatch orders anywhere in the world, but most of its orders go to the northern United States and Canada. As you receive more and more orders from clients, you need a spreadsheet or database to keep all data flowing so that the warehouse knows where the shipment will be sent, what products are in the order, and how much the total shipment costs. This data, in turn, can be added to the financial statements in the accounting system, which will help the senior managers analyze the sales results of the company. Microsoft Excel is a powerful tool that can be used for creating sales order tables.

Common Uses of Spreadsheets

Excel is a spreadsheet software application type that has rows and columns in a grid pattern. A cell is the intersection of a row and a column, and it looks like a rectangle. You can enter data into the cells to design tables and graphs and perform data analysis. A workbook is a file that contains at least one worksheet, which is a tab within a workbook where you can input data and design tables and graphs that use the data (Figure 9.2). The terms *worksheet* and *spreadsheet* are interchangeable, but Excel uses the *worksheet* terminology.

A workbook may contain several worksheets, similar to taking a hard copy of a set of data and adding it to another hard copy in a file folder. One benefit of using a workbook is that the worksheets within it can communicate with each other. Having multiple worksheets in one workbook gives you flexibility in organizing and analyzing your data. Data analysis grows in complexity as a business grows. Even a simple accounting system for a small business designed in Excel will require many sheets, and each worksheet can feed or receive data from other worksheets. One workbook can contain all of these worksheets together, as in a manila file folder.

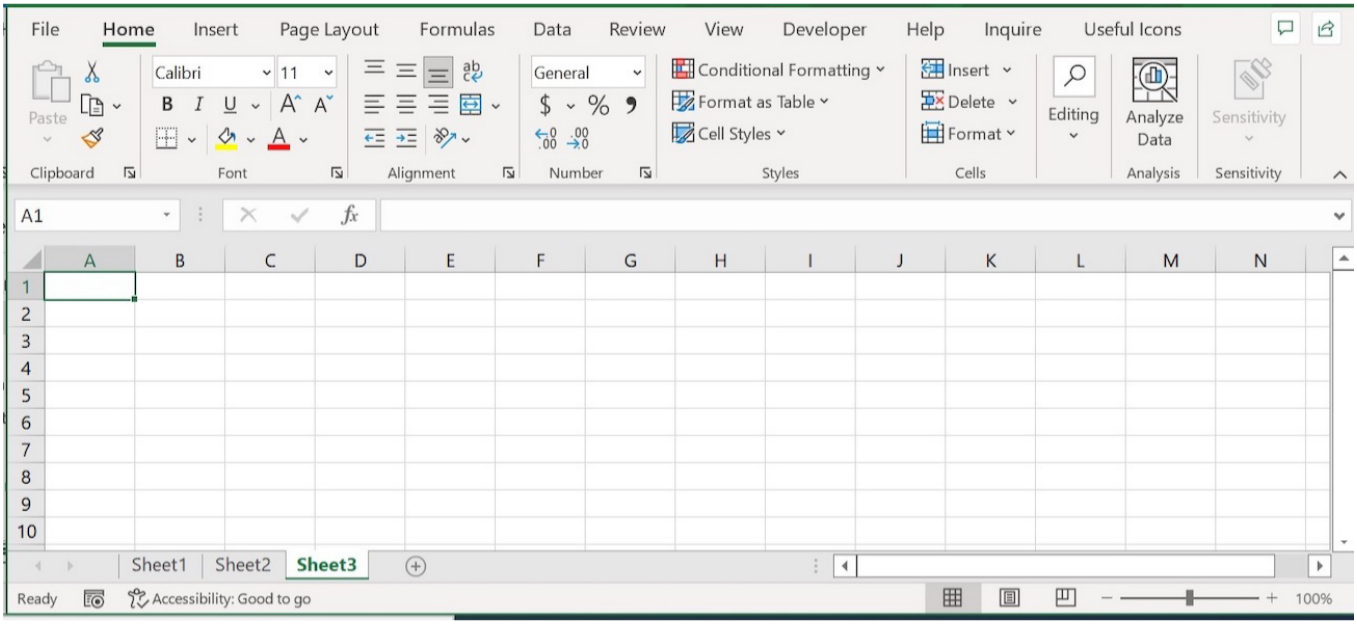


Figure 9.2: An Excel workbook contains individual worksheets made up of cells. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The cells are named based on their location. For example, the upper-left cell is in column A and row 1, so Excel designates its address relative to the other cells in the worksheet, or its cell reference, as A1. You can use these cell references to perform operations that use either formulas or functions. A formula is a mathematical operation that may use constants or cell references, or a combination of constants and cell references. All formulas must begin with "=." For example, you can calculate 4 + 4 by typing "=4+4" in a cell, or you can add the contents of cell A1 and 4 by typing "=A1+4" or typing "=" and then clicking on cell A1 and then completing the formula.

A function is a mathematical or analytical operation that uses words instead of mathematical operators. All functions must also begin with "=" in Excel. For example, to calculate 4 + 4, you can type "=sum(4,4)." Excel can do the calculations for you just as you would using a calculator. Excel's formulas and functions can take the place of a calculator.

One use for spreadsheets is to create a monthly food budget. You can keep track of how much you spend on groceries by category and on eating out at restaurants. You could list it by the type of product (i.e., milk) and by restaurant. Over time, you can use these numbers to determine your average cost for groceries and for eating out, and you will then be able to predict what you will spend on groceries. This tracking can serve as a control on your budget and will help you save money in the long run. You can use a similar process for all your personal finance and family expenses to enable you to create a budget that works for your situation by tracking expenses.

In business, the same principles apply. If you can track business sales, you will be able to allocate the money more effectively. In other words, by having a better accounting system and dispatching of orders, a manager will be able to see where money is being generated. If the manager realizes that a certain product is generating a higher profit, then the manager can allocate resources to increase the sales of that product. For example, the company could increase the unit production and hire more sales agents to sell that product, which in turn will increase distribution venues, such as corporate retail clients that sell the products in their stores. Not only that, the company may also increase the marketing and advertisement expenses of these products, to gain new clients. All of these actions stemmed from the tracking of sales and analyzing what products sell the most units. In all these layers of actions, there will be many worksheets tracking data, such as an order-dispatching spreadsheet or the unit cost manufacturing sheets.

Link to Learning

Mallory is an Australian website that offers career advice and tips to recent college grads or high-school students about to enter the job market. Read the article that discusses different ways businesses use Excel to learn more.

Basic Features

The most salient Excel feature is the arrangement of cells in columns and rows. The appearance of Excel is similar to graph paper. You can easily customize the width or height to fit words or numbers in the cells. To navigate through the cells in the spreadsheet, you can click on the cell and then use the Enter or Return key to move down to the next row, use the Tab key to move to the next column, or use the arrows on your keyboard to move around the worksheet.

Spreadsheets are designed for data analysis. Each cell has its own integrated calculators that automatically compute the result when you type in a formula or function. Another major benefit to Excel is that you can quickly and easily copy an equation into other cells, so that you do not have to retype it. Excel has many other features that can save you time over using a calculator.

To demonstrate how efficient Excel can be in organizing and analyzing data, let's look at an order-dispatching spreadsheet (Figure 9.3). Each row represents one order, and each column represents a different characteristic of the order, identified by the labels in the top row (called the headers), with the data separated into different cells.

A1

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $	Destination
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	PCS	48	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, MS
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Access	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
4	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	74	$10,582.00	Norristown, PA
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	53	PCS	275	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	97	PCS	665	$64,505.00	Metaire, LA
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Access	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	7.64	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	98	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
9	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	86	$10,922.00	Metaire, LA
10	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	28	$21,504.00	McGlynnside, MS
11	3/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	453	PCS	28	$12,684.00	Norristown, PA
12	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	241	PCS	86	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
13	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	99	PCS	98	$9,702.00	Charleston, WV
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	241	PCS	74	$17,834.00	Metaire, LA
15	2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	753	PCS	48	$36,144.00	McGlynnside, MS
16	2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	235	PCS	48	$11,280.00	Norristown, PA
17	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	87	PCS	665	$57,855.00	Hemdon, VA
18	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	PCS	28	$5,992.00	Charleston, WV

Figure 9.3: Separating data by columns makes it easier to analyze and perform calculations with the data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Separating the data by columns serves multiple purposes. First, it allows a user to organize the information by any one or more of the columns. For example, you could organize the data by date, as shown in Figure 9.3 or by destination. You can also keep different types of data, such as item description (column D) and price per unit (column G), separated. That way, if the price per unit changed, it could be updated quickly and easily. Further, if they were combined in a single column, you would be unable to use formulas to do calculations, because Excel cannot perform calculations when there are both letters and numbers in a cell. Excel recognizes numerals for calculations but cannot perform calculations with words or letters, just as a calculator cannot calculate letters. Another benefit of separating data into categories by column is that each column can later become a graph and help the user visually analyze the information.

The data in column E and column G in Figure 9.3 are not linked to other columns; in other words, they do not contain formulas or functions but are raw quantities entered into the spreadsheet. Column H, however, is a quantity based on the data in columns E and G. The FOB $ is the number of products (column E) multiplied by the price per unit (column G). The formula is displayed at the top of the Excel worksheet in the Formula Bar, which is next to the "f_x" symbol. You can see in the Formula Bar in Figure 9.4 that the formula is "=E2*G2," yet the cell displays the result of the multiplication. The "*" is the mathematical symbol Excel uses for multiplication. This simple multiplication formula shows how Excel calculates numbers.

H2 =E2*G2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $	Destination
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	PCS	48	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, MS
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Access	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA

Figure 9.4: Clicking on a cell reveals the formula above the headers in the Formula Bar, while the result of the calculation shows in the cell. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In order to apply this calculation to the rest of the data, you can repeat the formula in other cells in the same column. In Figure 9.5a, all data has been removed from column H, except for the first cell, which contains our formula "=E2*G2." The easiest way to repeat the formula is to use AutoFill. Place the cursor on the lower-right corner of the cell, until the cursor changes to a black cross. Then, click and drag the cross to the end of your column of data, which copies the formula into each cell. Figure 9.5b shows the result of dragging the formula from H2 to H18. AutoFill is also a useful feature for repeating text. The text could be a static value, such as when you enter multiple orders that contain the same item, or a time value, such as months of the year or days of the week. You can simply type in "January" and then use AutoFill to drag across or down to fill in the rest of the months. This method works for dates, days of the week, other text such as Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, and nearly any pattern of numbers (i.e., odd numbers or counting by 5). When using AutoFill for a pattern of numbers or text you want to repeat, you need to select enough of the pattern so that Excel can recognize the repetition. For example, if you want to generate a list of numbers counting up by 5, you will need to select at least the cells that contain 5 and 10 so that Excel understands you want to increase the value in each row in the AutoFill by 5.

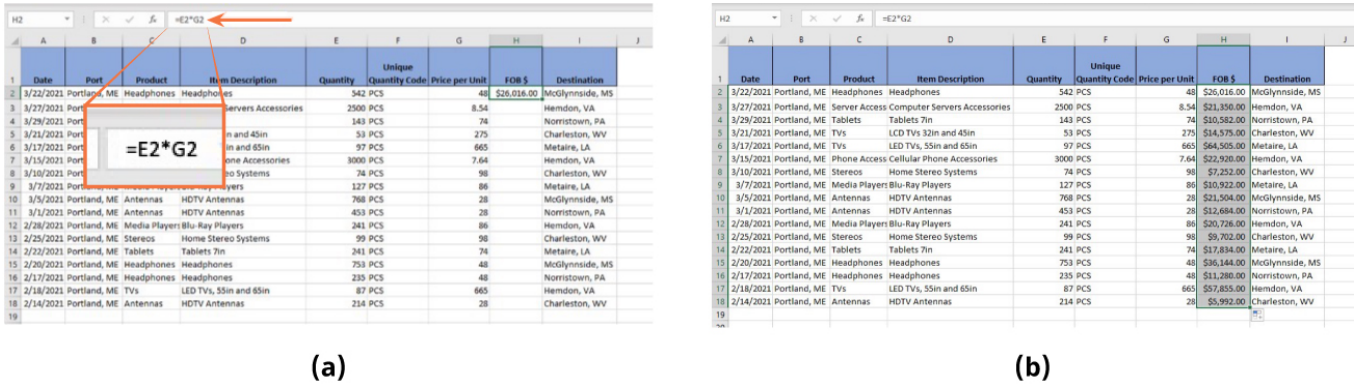


Figure 9.5: The AutoFill feature is useful to get the results without retyping or copying and pasting the formula. (a) Column H is empty, except for the first cell, which contains the formula, as seen in the Formula Bar. Clicking and dragging the formula to the end of the column automatically applies the same formula to subsequent rows. (b) By dragging the formula down the column using the AutoFill feature (small black cross sign in the lower-right corner of a cell), the values are calculated for each row. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

On a Mac, you can simply double-click on the cross, and the formula will copy down the column to the last row that contains data.

The Ribbon

As you recall from Essentials of Software Applications for Business, Excel's interface includes a ribbon of commands, grouped into categories that are similar across Microsoft Office programs. The Home tab for Excel (Figure 9.6a) has commands such as conditional formatting and inserting/deleting columns or cells. The Insert tab (Figure 9.6b) includes inserting a chart or equation, which is not included on the Insert tab of other programs such as Microsoft Word. The Formulas (Figure 9.6c) and Data (Figure 9.6d) tabs are specific to Excel. These tabs include commands for analyzing data in various ways.

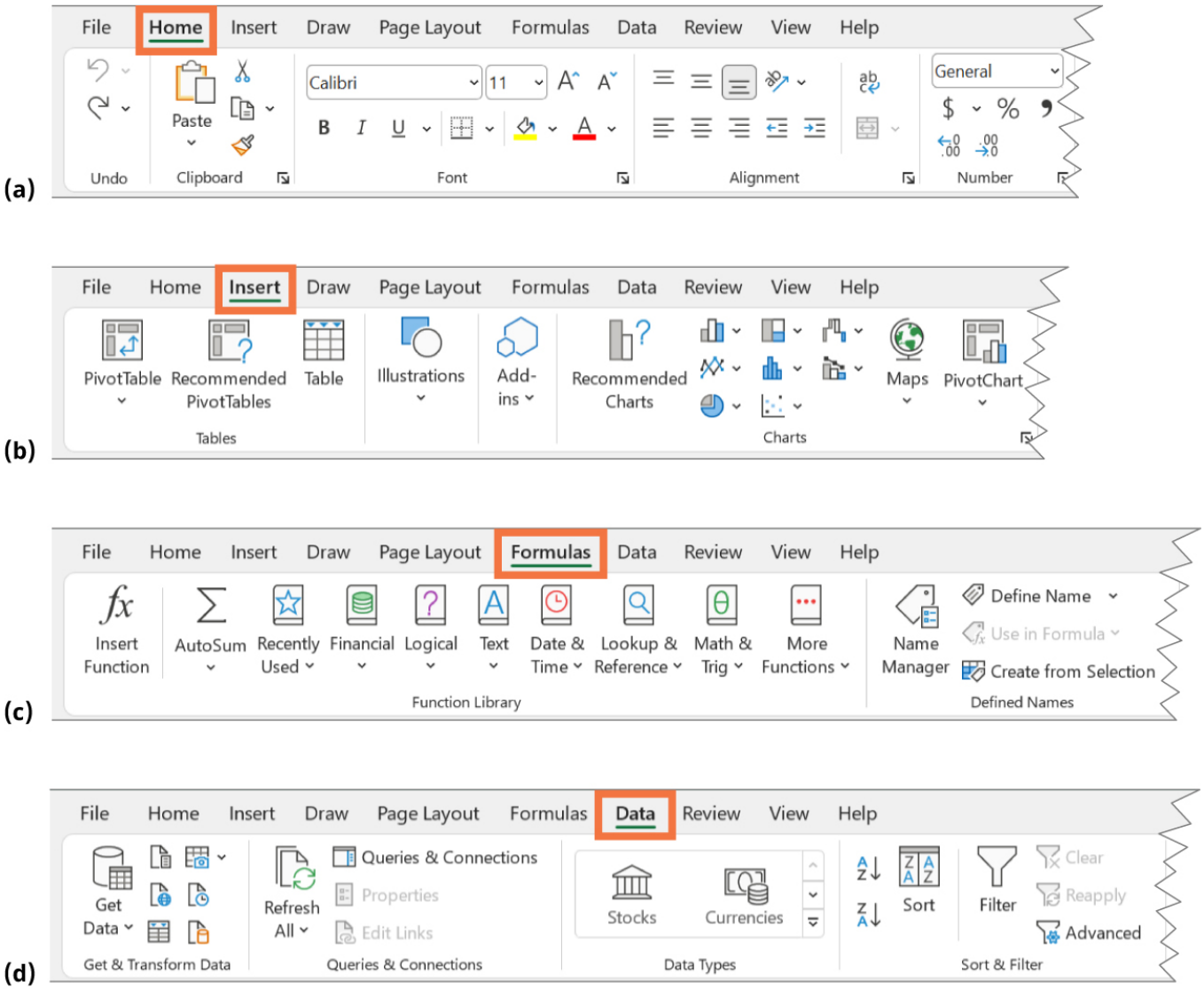


Figure 9.6: The Excel interface uses a ribbon to organize commands into tabs, which include (a) the Home tab and (b) the Insert tab, which are similar to other Office programs. The Excel ribbon also includes tabs specific to Excel, including (c) the Formulas tab, and (d) the Data tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Creating Worksheets and Navigating Existing Files

Now that you understand how to navigate a worksheet, let's see how to apply this skill. Suppose you need to build sales figures of different retail store locations. Each location will have its own worksheet, and then you'll add one more sheet to total the sales figures and make a comparison using a table. Figure 9.7a gives the data for location X. You will need to use the copy-and-paste method to use this table to make the table for location Y. In the copy-and-paste method, copy text or objects by typing Ctrl+C (or right-click to Copy or use the Clipboard command group on the Home tab), and then typing Ctrl+V to paste the text or object in the new area. To use this procedure in this workbook, follow these steps:

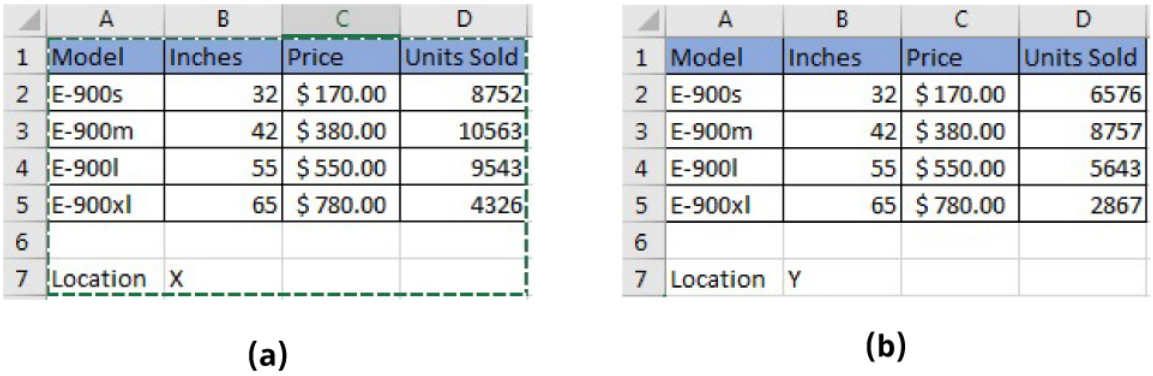
1. Highlight the table, as shown in Figure 9.7a.
2. Press Ctrl+C to copy the table.
3. Create a new sheet by clicking on the circled plus sign at the bottom of the worksheet.
4. Click on cell A1.
5. Press Ctrl+V to paste the table into your new sheet.

This process copies the table exactly, so you will need to change the data so that it reflects the sales figures of location Y using the sales figures received from the finance department.

Mac Tip

Macs use a Command key, whereas PCs use a Ctrl (control) key. These keyboard shortcuts on a Mac are Command+C to copy and Command+V to paste. Mac also uses Ctrl+click to bring up the right-click menu Windows uses.

Data that you provide or that is provided to you is often raw data, and designing a worksheet or even a workbook helps to organize it. Replace the data from location X with the data from location Y and change the location, as shown in Figure 9.7b. Using the copy-and-paste procedure saves time when dealing with the same or similar scenarios because it eliminates the need to create a new table from scratch. Note, however, that this process works with cells that contain numbers and not formulas; copying and pasting tables with formulas requires additional work after the initial copy and paste to retain the correct formulas and cell references.



	A	B	C	D
1	Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold
2	E-900s	32	$ 170.00	8752
3	E-900m	42	$ 380.00	10563
4	E-900l	55	$ 550.00	9543
5	E-900xl	65	$ 780.00	4326
6				
7	Location	X		

(a)

	A	B	C	D
1	Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold
2	E-900s	32	$ 170.00	6576
3	E-900m	42	$ 380.00	8757
4	E-900l	55	$ 550.00	5643
5	E-900xl	65	$ 780.00	2867
6				
7	Location	Y		

(b)

Figure 9.7: The copy-and-paste process makes it easy to create multiple tables that are similar to each other. Start with a formatted data table for location X. (a) Highlight (select) the table and copy it. Notice the dotted line around the selection to show that it has been copied. (b) Paste the table in a new worksheet and update it with the data for location Y. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now, replicate the steps for location Z: copy and paste the table, and then retype the real data. Next, focus on creating the final sheet that displays the totals. In the workbook, this would be “Sheet 4.” Because the summary table needs to be a similar structure to the other tables, you can copy and paste the same table here, but you will need to modify Column D so that it adds up the units sold in each location. However, the summary table will need to use the data from Sheets 1, 2, and 3.

To calculate the totals, you need an addition formula. Follow the same process used previously to insert a formula. First, in cell D2, type “=,” which tells Excel that a formula or a function is being entered. Next, click on the tab for Sheet 1 and then on cell D2 in that sheet (Figure 9.8a). Then, type the operator (in this case +), and then repeat the process for the appropriate cells in Sheets 2 and 3. When finished, press Enter, and Excel will display the total in the cell. Notice in the syntax that Excel has inserted “Sheet1!” before the cell designation in the first part of the formula. This tells Excel that it needs to use the contents of cell D2 in Sheet 1 for that portion of the calculation. The next element is “Sheet2!D2,” which is cell D2 in Sheet 2.

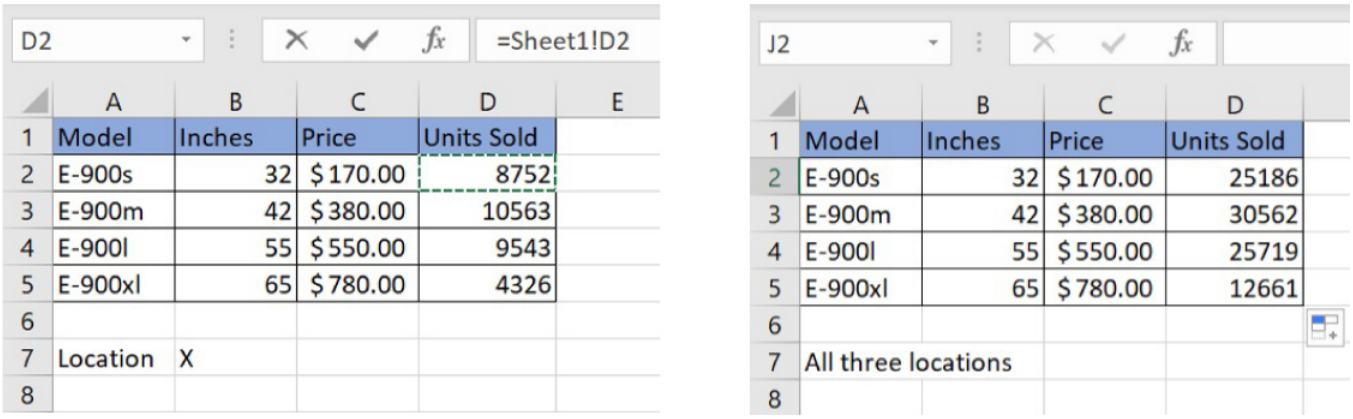


Figure 9.8: Excel allows formulas to reference data appearing on any worksheet in the workbook. To create a total of the number of units sold at each location, begin the equation with an equals sign. (a) Then, click on the relevant cell in the first worksheet. Insert the mathematical operator and click on another cell you want in the formula. The formula shows the references to other worksheets. AutoFill can complete the table with formulas that reference the relevant cells. (b) The completed table uses data from other worksheets. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that the formula is in place for cell D2, use the AutoFill feature to apply the formula to subsequent rows. Highlight cell D2, click on the cross, and drag it to the bottom of the table. If you then click on cell D3, for example, you will see that the formula has been repeated but references cells D3 in the other sheets. Figure 9.8b shows the completed table.

This summary table can be very useful. In addition to providing a straightforward list of the totals, you could create graphs using this data and have a visual representation of sales trends. This is a simple scenario assumption; in the real-world sales totals, you would have much more than just five TV models. Imagine adding all the unit and dollar sale figures of three Best Buy locations in a given city; there would be hundreds of different products. You will learn increased complexity that will help in analyzing real-world problems such as this as your knowledge of Excel grows. The sorting and filtering feature is covered in Data Tables and Ranges, where you will learn how to set up a condition and a criterion to hide or show values for analysis.

Printing Worksheets

Excel offers two options for printing: either printing each worksheet separately or printing the whole workbook. To do either, first go to the File tab, and then click on Print (Figure 9.9). The default is to print only the currently opened worksheet, so we'll do that first. Choose the number of copies you want for this page, then choose the correct printer. There are other options for printing, include changing the size of the paper, changing vertical or horizontal orientation of the paper, adjusting the margins, and regulating the scaling (i.e., zooming in or not while printing). Once you have chosen your settings, click on the Print icon, and Sheet 1 will come out of the printer. Different printers might have different options for you to choose from.

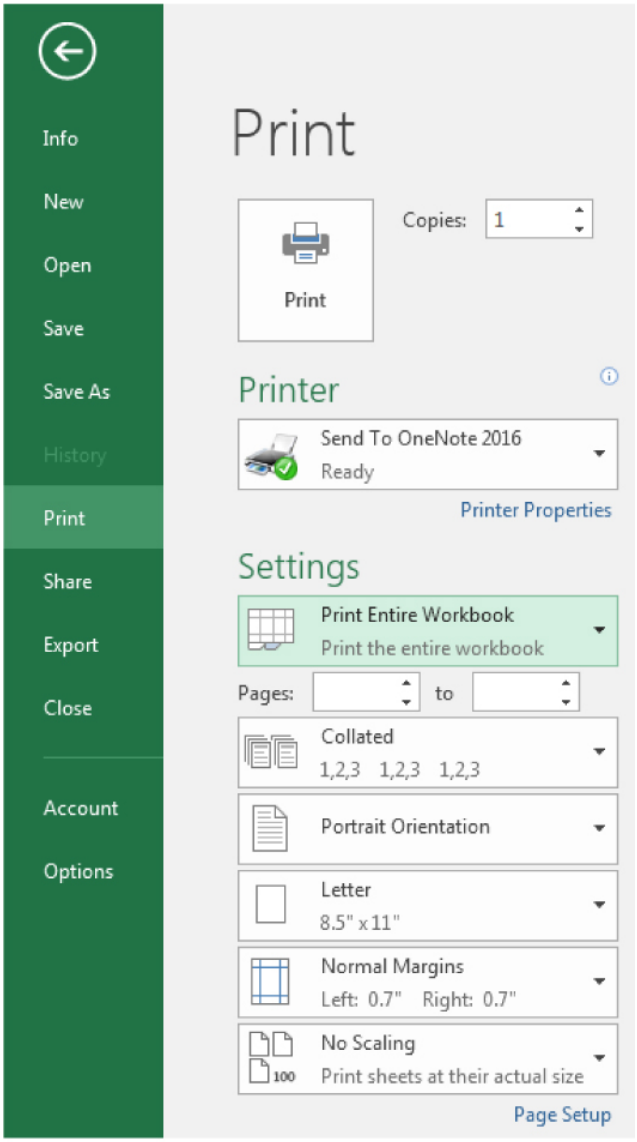


Figure 9.9: The options for printing are on the File tab. Click on Print. To print only a worksheet, leave the default selection of Print Active Sheets and make any necessary changes to the options. To print the whole workbook, select Print Entire Workbook from the first menu in the Settings. On a Mac, the steps are the same, but the appearance will differ slightly. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

It is important to note that, when constructing spreadsheets, what you see on the computer screen is rarely how it looks when you actually print the workbook. When you have large spreadsheets with multiple rows or columns, they may not always fit within the bounds of the printed page. When you print the document, the result could be columns of data split oddly across several pages. Be sure to preview the printed version prior to printing. When you select Print, you will see the print preview on the right of the screen. Double-check that the columns and rows are displayed in the way you would like them to print. If not, you can change the margins of the worksheet or insert a page break as appropriate to print a final, professional workbook. More will be covered about formatting the worksheets and workbook in Formatting and Templates in Excel.

Mac Tip

You can get to the Print menu with Command+P, but you can also use the File tab at the top of the window. There is a separate menu in the File menu to set your print area, and you can select which worksheets to print from the Print menu.

If you want to print all the sheets in the workbook, select Print Entire Workbook from the drop-down menu under Settings (Figure 9.9). Then, click on the Print icon, and this time all the worksheets will be printed (including any blank worksheets that are in the

workbook), instead of individual worksheets.

Real-World Application - Using Excel for Personal Finance

Excel is a powerful tool for business; however, it can also be a very useful tool for managing personal finances. You can set up Excel to manage all your personal finances, link bank accounts and other financial documents, help with managing documentation for income taxes, and perform many other personal finance tasks. Excel has all the features needed to set up a budget and manage personal and projected income, track expenditures, and analyze investments and other personal revenue trends. You will want to organize your financial information into separate functional worksheets within your budget workbook to ensure you keep your finances organized from the start. For instance, consider keeping separate worksheets to record income, expenditures, savings, and investments. You can start small as you grow in your comfort level in using Excel to record your financial transactions; for instance, you might want to start with a weekly or monthly expenditure sheet to track what you spend your money on, then move into savings and tracking interest accrued. This disciplined approach will ensure data is recorded in a timely manner, reducing the potential for missed information and errors, ultimately helping you maximize your dollars. What's more, there are a number of free templates available online and through Microsoft to help set up your budget workbook with little effort.

What software or other tools do you use now to help you track your budget? Do a Google or template search in Excel and identify a budget template you might adopt. Once you find one you like, set up your monthly budget.

This page titled 9.1: Microsoft Excel Basics is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.2: Text and Numbers in Microsoft Excel

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the basics of data and data analysis
- Enter and format numeric data in a worksheet cell
- Use the Text and General formats for cell data
- Use the commands in the Page Layout and Review tabs

WorldCorp receives many orders every day, and they rely on databases for recording all data. Large corporations like WorldCorp also keep an inventory of direct materials for manufacturing. These materials, such as bolts and screws, come from many suppliers on multiple orders. They need to store all this inventory information in the accounting system. Finished products—the products that the company packages for shipping and sells—are built with various components and parts, and they record a list of all this information for every item that is manufactured. When a client places an order from a sales agent, these transactions are recorded in a customer relationship management (CRM) database. Although many large corporations use Oracle or SAP databases, many other software companies furnish solutions to big, medium, and small organizations. Medium-sized companies may use Microsoft Access and/or Microsoft Dynamics for their database purposes and for the financial accounting. Organizations of all sizes can utilize Microsoft Excel.

Here, you will learn some of the basic sales order database capabilities in Excel. For WorldCorp, Excel is an appropriate tool to gather, organize, and analyze information within the smaller business units such as by region or product line. The company-wide information might be stored in another type of program suited for large corporations, but at the business-unit level, Excel can be a powerful tool to feed into the corporate information database.

Data Fundamentals

For the purpose of spreadsheet programs, data can be textual (such as a product description) or numerical (such as a price per unit), and it represents what an organization has determined is valuable. If you decide to compare the prices of oranges at different grocery stores, then you are researching and creating data. You can write your data on paper, but a more efficient and common method today for capturing and storing data is with computers. Data is collected primarily to use later in data analysis, a scientific discipline that uses mathematical and statistical tools to measure trends. For example, a company could track the sales trends of three locations over the span of a few months. Watching the data could reveal slumps in sales, which could trigger the company to introduce a corrective action.

There are different kinds of data that businesses like to collect from their clients. Demographic data can segment a growing list of clients so that a company can give them better service based on their likes or dislikes. Financial and accounting data can keep track of a business's sales, unit costs, overhead costs, and so on. In addition to client data, machines are constantly generating data related to their performance. All manufacturing plants have machines that output data to computers for engineers and managers to analyze.

Excel can manage many types of datasets but works better when the dataset is relatively small. Access databases are appropriate for large sets of data or data that will continue to grow. There are other industrial-sized data storage and analysis solutions like SAP and Oracle, as well as others that might work better for larger data files. Programs such as Sage and QuickBooks that are specific to accounting and finance provide additional features for financial analysis that are not offered in Excel.

Entering and Formatting Numeric Data in a Worksheet Cell

The information made of numerals that Excel reads like a calculator to perform mathematical equations is called numeric data. There are many purposes of numerical values in spreadsheets. The numbers can represent quantities, currency, dates, time stamps, percentages, and more. Table 9.1 summarizes the numerical values Excel uses.

Table 9.1: Numerical Values in Excel

Type of Numerical Value	Description
Number	Data has two decimal places by default, but you can add or remove them, depending on what your needs are. It accepts negative numbers as well. You can add a thousands separator.
Currency	Data has two decimal places by default. It accepts negative numbers and will display them within parentheses or with a negative sign in red or black font. The thousands separator is turned on by default. A zero is displayed with two decimal places. Excel adds the appropriate currency symbol preceding the number, and the numbers are aligned to the right with no spaces to the edges.
Accounting	Data has two decimal places by default. It accepts negative numbers and will display in parentheses only. The thousands separator is given. The zeros are displayed as "-". Excel adds a currency symbol aligned to the left. The difference between Currency and Accounting is that with the Accounting format, all currency symbols are aligned.
Date	Data is displayed in the American format by default (i.e., month/day/year). There are options to change the location or to change the format to one of many different choices, such as day/month/year or year/month/day.
Time	Data uses the 24-hour clock or AM/PM format by default.
Percentage	Data analyzes the portion of a whole and the data is displayed as a percentage with the % symbol and no decimal points by default.
Fraction	Data analyzes the portion of a whole and displays the values as in the percentages. You can convert a fraction to a percentage before entering data.
Scientific	Data can be shortened numbers written in exponential form. To shorten a number, display the first digit, add a decimal point, and then list the next two digits. Then, add "E" and the number of zeros the whole number contains. For example, 644362623 would be 6.44E+9. These truncated forms of numbers are commonly used in all sorts of sciences.

Mac Tip

Percentages are shown with two decimal points by default.

You can choose the type of numerical value appropriate for your data on the Home tab. Figure 9.10 shows the drop-down menu in the Number command group where you can choose the type of numerical data you have. You can also access more details about the number type by selecting the arrow in the lower-right corner of the Number command group. This will open up the Format Cells dialog box that allows you to specify many more types of number formatting, including the number of decimal places. If you're starting from a blank worksheet, you can plan in your mind what kind of values your tables will contain, so that you can design them to be informative and display logical information. You can even do this prewrite of the table on a piece of paper, or as you go through the process of designing the document in Excel.

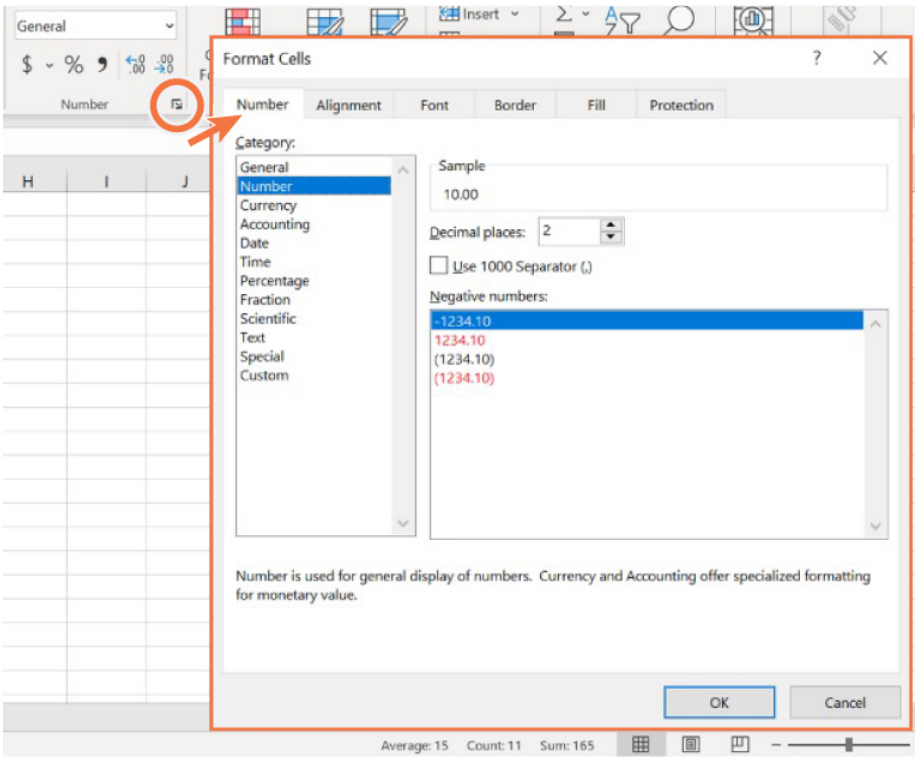


Figure 9.10: You can format numbers on the Home tab. The Number command group contains several buttons for commonly used formats and a drop-down menu. The drop-down menu contains an expanded list of common number formats. More options are available in the Format Cells dialog box. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Format Cells dialog box allows you to choose the category and formatting for your cell, based on the data. For example, you can determine the number of decimal places you want to show with your Accounting data. You can also use the Custom formatting category. There are numerous complicated formatting options in the Custom category, such as combining a date with a time, but you can also design your own by modifying an existing one to meet your needs.

Say a sales report table contains a set of orders and the name of the salesperson who fulfilled them. This worksheet contains a variety of types of data: dates, text, general, number, accounting, and more. In order to determine the type of data, click on the cell, and check the drop-down menu in the Number command group. Figure 9.11 shows that cell A2 is a Date. You can convert any number to currency by selecting a cell and then clicking on the "$" button on the Home tab.

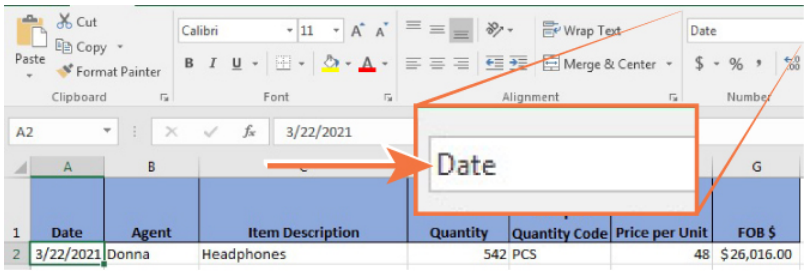


Figure 9.11: When a worksheet has multiple types of data, make sure to format it as the most appropriate type. Column A is formatted as a Date. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Figure 9.12a shows a summary of the sales figures of all agents. You will notice that the first row is shaded blue and the text is bolded. This is an effective way to differentiate the headings for each column, often referred to as the column header, title row, or header row. More about formatting cells will be covered in Formatting and Templates in Excel. For now, to make the header row stand out, you can highlight (select) the row and use the commands in the Font command group on the Home tab to change the formatting, such as bolding, shading (fill), or text color.

Figure 9.12a includes a column for each agent's percentage of the FOB $ total, but by default, Excel formats cell contents as General, so it displays the calculation as a decimal number. You can format it as a Percentage by selecting the cell and changing the

number format in the drop-down menu or by clicking on the button in the Number command group. We can use the same process to display the next cell as a fraction. Figure 9.12b shows the finished table.

Agent	Quantity Total	FOB $ Total	Percentage	Fraction
Donna	759	$ 43,850.00	0.2197	0.2197
Robert	2680	$ 46,847.00	0.2347	0.2347
Cheryl	3865	$ 108,929.00	0.5457	0.5457
		$ 199,626.00		

(a)

Agent	Quantity Total	FOB $ Total	Percentage	Fraction
Donna	759	$ 43,850.00	21.97%	2/9
Robert	2680	$ 46,847.00	23.47%	1/4
Cheryl	3865	$ 108,929.00	54.57%	5/9
		$ 199,626.00		

(b)

Figure 9.12: By default, Excel formats cells as General, so formatting may require adjustment for numbers to display properly. (a) The unformatted table shows percentages and fractions as decimals. You can choose the Percentage format for the cells in the Percentage column. You can choose the Fraction format for the cells in the Fraction column. (b) The formatted table displays the percentages and fractions correctly. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using the Text and General Cell Formats

When your worksheet uses text data, which is information made up of words, letters, numerals, or a combination of those things, you can use the General or the Text cell format. For example, say you have salespersons' names in Text format, and item descriptions in the General format. In a blank worksheet, you can enter your data using the default General format, and Excel will automatically format it according to the type of data you're entering. For example, if you type a date in a cell formatted as General, Excel will identify it as a date and reformat it accordingly. If Excel detects a number or text, it will remain in the General format. General formatting is flexible and can accommodate numbers or text. Because Excel may automatically change the format of your cell contents if you leave the format as General, consider formatting all numbers as Number or Accounting, as appropriate.

If you format your words or letters as Text, then Excel will not try to autoformat them. Figure 9.13 compares the same data formatted as Text and formatted as Number. The Text format is flexible in that it can store numbers, letters, symbols, and words.

Text	Number
0126438796	126438796
0054735474	54735474
0005643573	5643573
=4*5	20

Figure 9.13: Numbers can be stored as text data to retain symbols or leading zeros, which are regularly used in some government reports, identification numbers, and some phone numbers. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You are not restricted to the autoformatting that occurs when you type your data into a cell with General formatting. If you enter a number using the General format (Figure 9.14a), but you want the number to display as currency, for example, simply select the cell or column and then choose Currency from the Number command group's drop-down menu (Figure 9.14b). Excel will automatically add the currency symbol and two decimal places. All cells in a new workbook are by default set to General format, but you can design your tables with the correct format for your purpose.

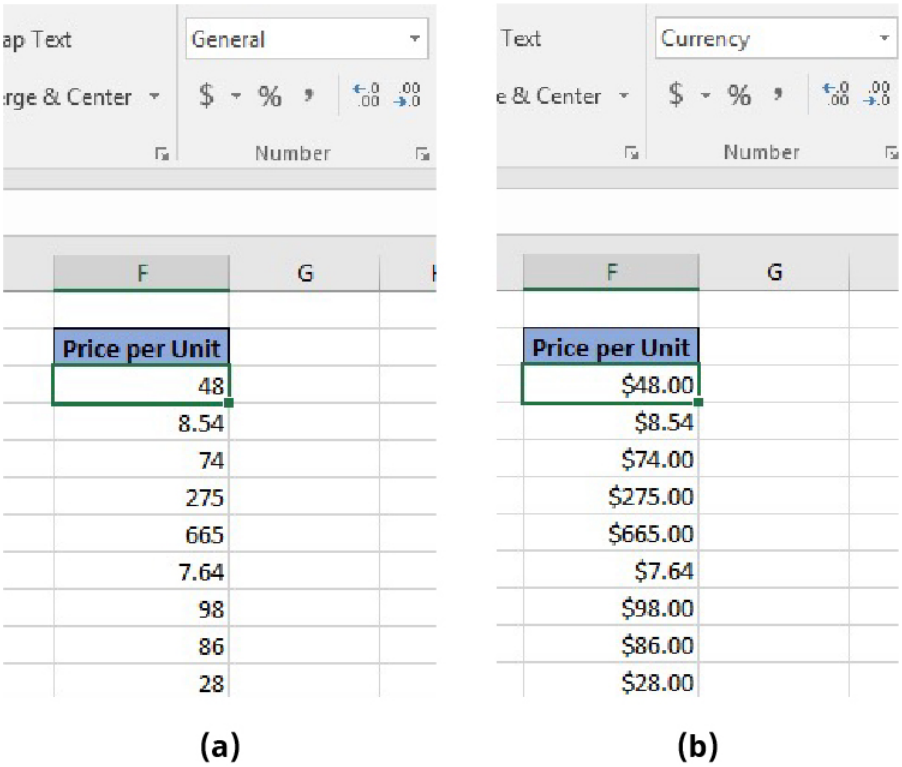


Figure 9.14: The default formatting for cell data is (a) General, but if you change it to (b) Currency, Excel will add two decimal places and a currency symbol. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Page Layout and Review Tabs

The Page Layout tab (Figure 9.15) lets the user control the page setup for printing, such as the paper size, the vertical or horizontal orientation, and the print margins. It also contains the settings for arranging graphical objects on a worksheet. One of the most useful commands here is the Breaks drop-down menu, where you can insert page breaks, just like in Microsoft Word, so that when you print your worksheet, the page breaks occur where you want them to.

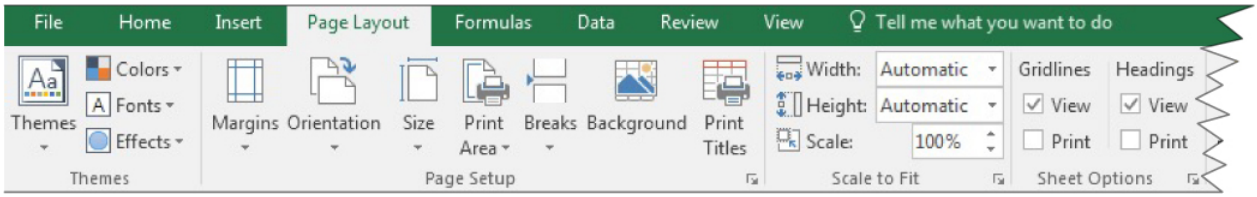


Figure 9.15: The Page Layout tab includes commands for page setup and manipulation of objects. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Review tab contains the commands for adding and reviewing comments and activating the track-changes tool, as shown in Figure 9.16. It also has password protection options, where you can restrict others' editing capabilities when you are collaborating on the same project. The spell checker and thesaurus tools are also included in the Review tab. Your Review tab might look somewhat different based on the version of Excel that you are using. If these commands are not included on your ribbon, you can add those using the process outlined in Essentials of Business Software Applications for Business.

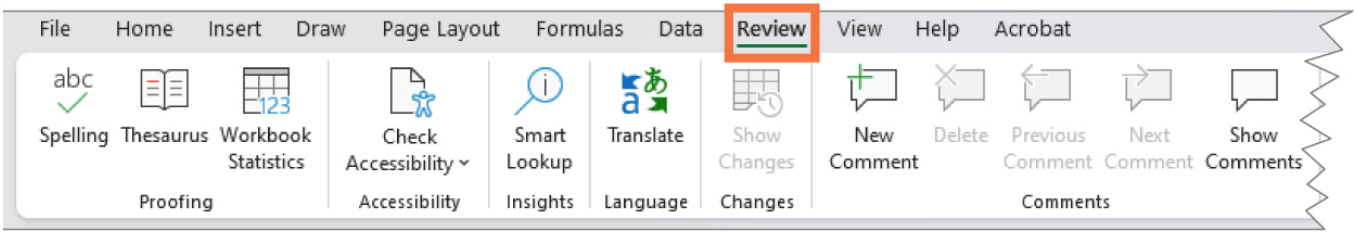


Figure 9.16: The Review tab lets you manage comments, sharing settings, and spelling tools. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 9.2: Text and Numbers in Microsoft Excel is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.3: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Microsoft Excel

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create basic formulas
- Add numbers in Excel using a formula or function
- Subtract numbers in Excel using a formula or function
- Multiply numbers in Excel using a formula or function
- Divide numbers in Excel using a formula or function

At WorldCorp, you manage several account teams, each of which has a sales team. Part of your job is to compare the sales agents' revenues using some basic data analysis, which you can extend to other applications in your job. To assess the performance of the agents and the sales team, you will need to create some basic formulas. These formulas could include the total sales during a specific time period by agent or the average sales per time period for the whole team. These values can then be used to put together a report of the performance of your entire team. Upper management compiles the reports from all the teams to summarize the company's performance. Using basic formulas in Microsoft Excel expedites the process and helps management to uniformly analyze the information.

Setting Up Basic Formulas

Now that you have learned how to set up a table or spreadsheet, you can perform calculations on the data. First, select the cell where you want the calculation to appear. Use the Formula Bar located below the ribbon to type in the formula or function, starting with the "=" sign (Figure 9.17).

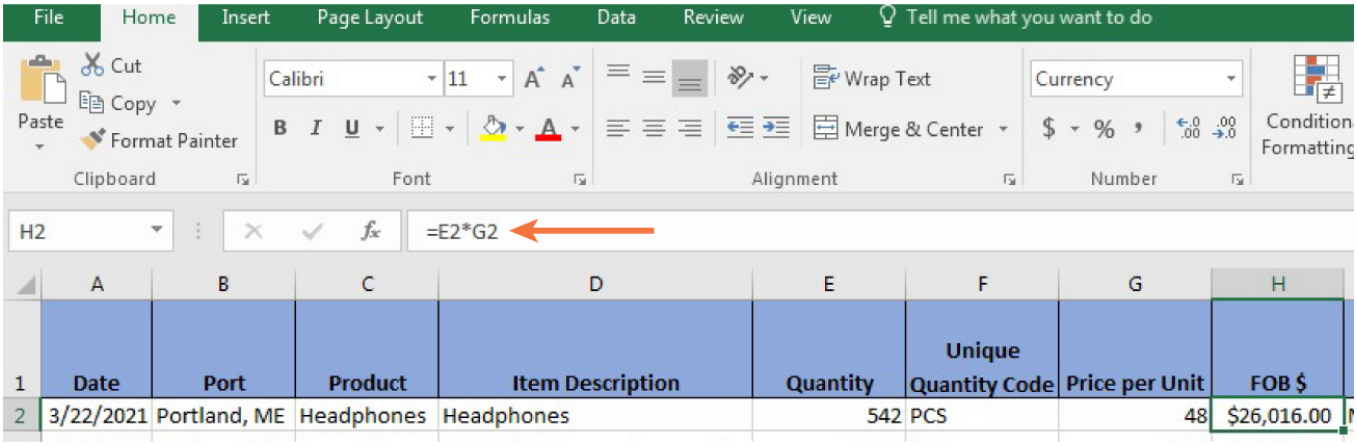


Figure 9.17: Formulas must begin with the "=" sign and contain mathematical operators (i.e., +, -, *, /). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Numbers

You have learned the two ways to add quantities in Excel: formulas and functions. We can use WorldCorp's sales data to illustrate how to add numbers. Figure 9.18a contains a set of sales data, with a row at the bottom for the total of all the sales but with the total amount missing. To fill in this empty cell, first, type "=" to open the calculation procedure. Then, click on the first cell you want to add, type a "+" sign, then click on the next cell in the column. Continue this process until all the cells you want to add are included. Figure 9.18b shows the finished formula that includes all the cells in the columns. Notice that Excel adds colors to the cells to help you follow the formulas.

F9

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $
3	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00
4	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Assessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00
5	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00
6	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$14,575.00
7	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$64,505.00
8	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$22,290.00
9					Total	

(a)

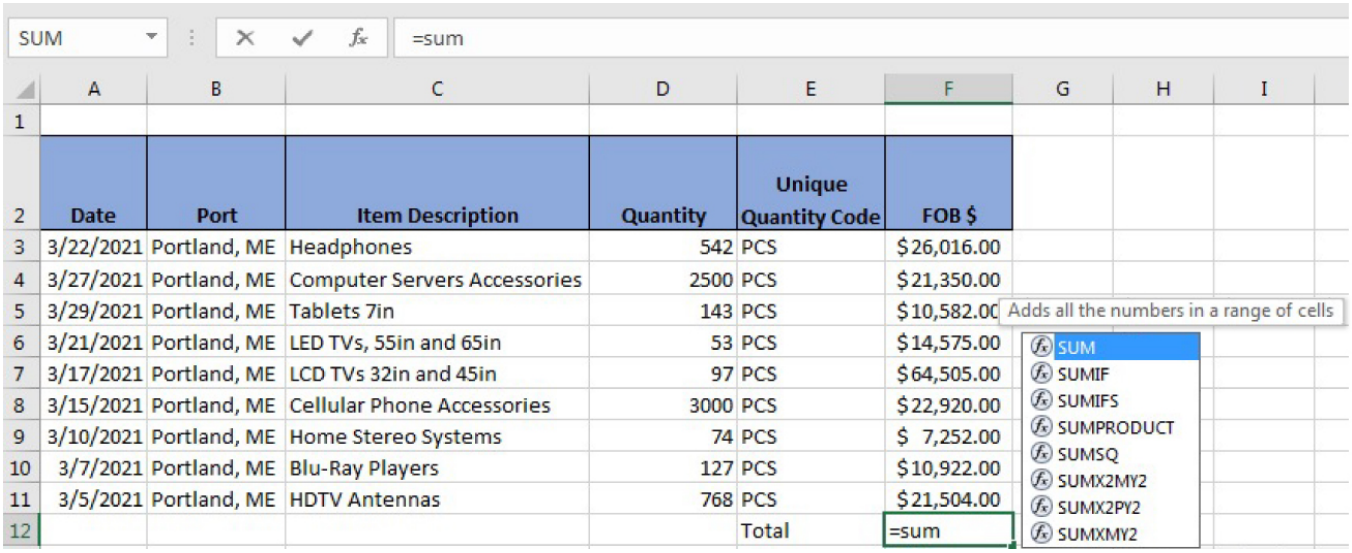
SUM =F3+F4+F5+F6+F7+F8

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $
3	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00
4	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Assessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00
5	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00
6	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$14,575.00
7	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$64,505.00
8	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$22,290.00
9					Total	=F3+F4+F5+F6+F7+F8

(b)

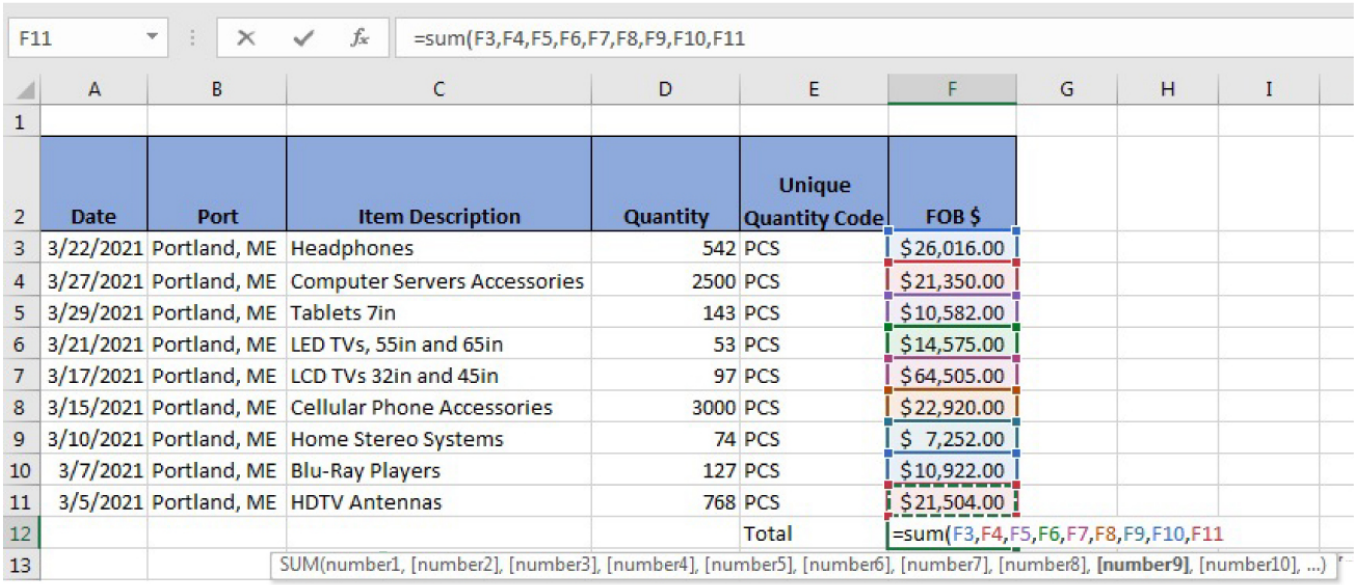
Figure 9.18: You can use a formula to find the sum of a set of cells. (a) The table has a cell for the total sales. First, type an "=" sign, then use the cell references or click on the cells and a plus sign to construct the formula. (b) The finished formula shows all of the cells referenced. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you have a small set of data, or when the numbers you are adding using the "+" operator are not all in one row or column, using an addition formula may be the best way to find your sum. However, Excel has built-in shortcuts, such as the SUM function. Functions can often save you time over performing the same calculations using formulas. Like formulas, functions must begin with an equals sign, but rather than using cell references to build an equation, you type the function name, in this case, SUM (Figure 9.19). Then, type an open parenthesis, insert the cell references, separated by commas, and then close the parentheses. You can click on each cell individually or type its cell reference, as in Figure 9.20, but you'll notice that this method does not save time because you are still entering or clicking each cell reference. Functions allow users to reference individual cells, but they also allow us to choose multiple cells at the same time, which does save time. To select a range of cells, which is a group of cells that are contiguous, you can type in the function and opening parenthesis, and then highlight the cells you want to add. You can also type in the range, separating the first cell and the last cell with a colon. Figure 9.21 shows the range as F3:F11. Functions are often faster to type than formulas, but sometimes you will need to use both formulas and functions to perform complex calculations.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $			
3	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00			
4	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00			
5	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00			
6	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$14,575.00			
7	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$64,505.00			
8	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$22,920.00			
9	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00			
10	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$10,922.00			
11	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$21,504.00			
12					Total	=sum			

Figure 9.19: Functions are time-saving methods for performing calculations on data. To find the sum of a range of cells, type the equals sign and "SUM." (Used with permission from Microsoft)



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $			
3	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00			
4	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00			
5	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00			
6	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$14,575.00			
7	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$64,505.00			
8	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$22,920.00			
9	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00			
10	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$10,922.00			
11	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$21,504.00			
12					Total	=sum(F3,F4,F5,F6,F7,F8,F9,F10,F11			
13									

Figure 9.20: Then, choose the cells you want to include. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

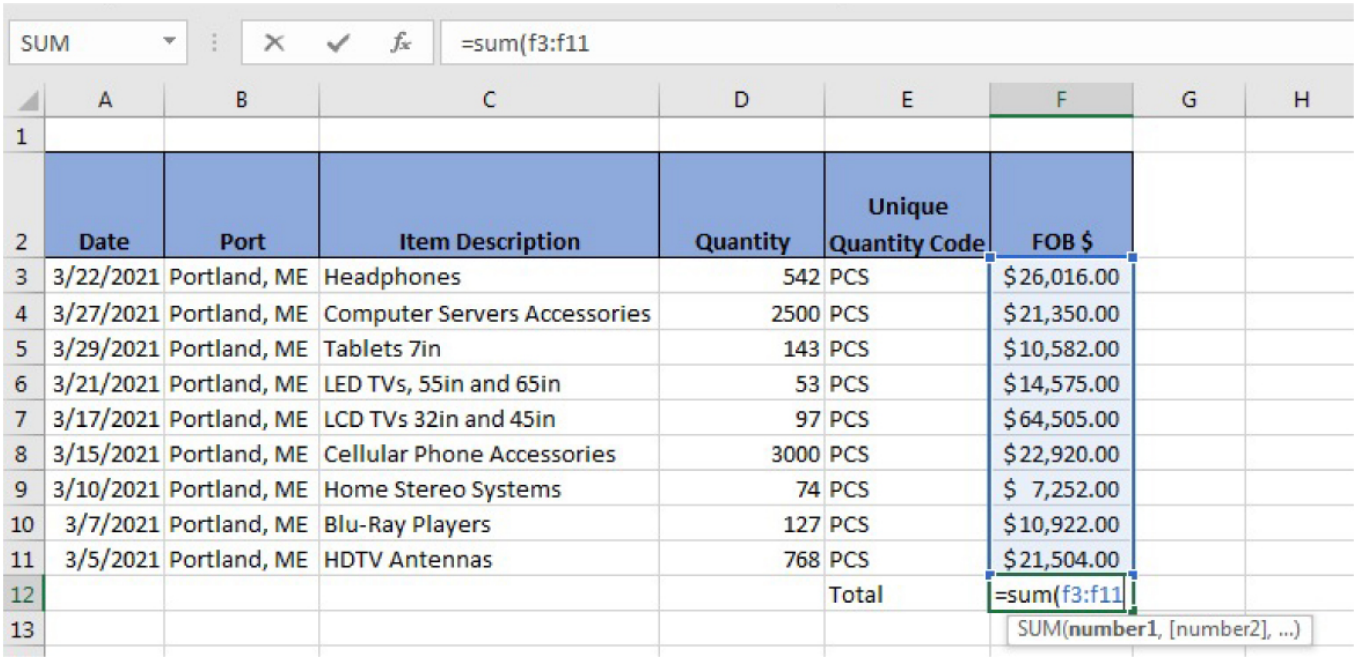


Figure 9.21: Using a range, rather than listing individual cells, can save you time. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

The Formula Builder is a tool in Excel that can help you create a function based on your data and your needs. Read the tutorial on the SUM function to learn how to use the Formula Builder.

Subtracting Numbers

Understanding how to add numbers in Excel makes subtracting them rather intuitive. If you wanted to subtract many cells in a column, you could type out a long subtraction equation, starting with the equals sign and using cell references and the hyphen key, for example, "=F3-F4-F5-F6-F7-F8-F9-F10-F11." Using a new set of data, you can see in Figure 9.22 that the margin is the price minus the cost. You can carry this formula down the rows in the same column.

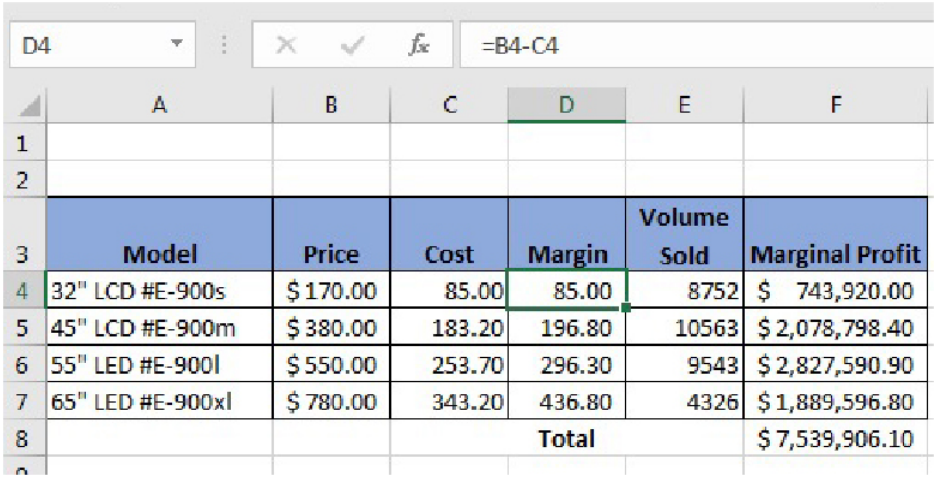
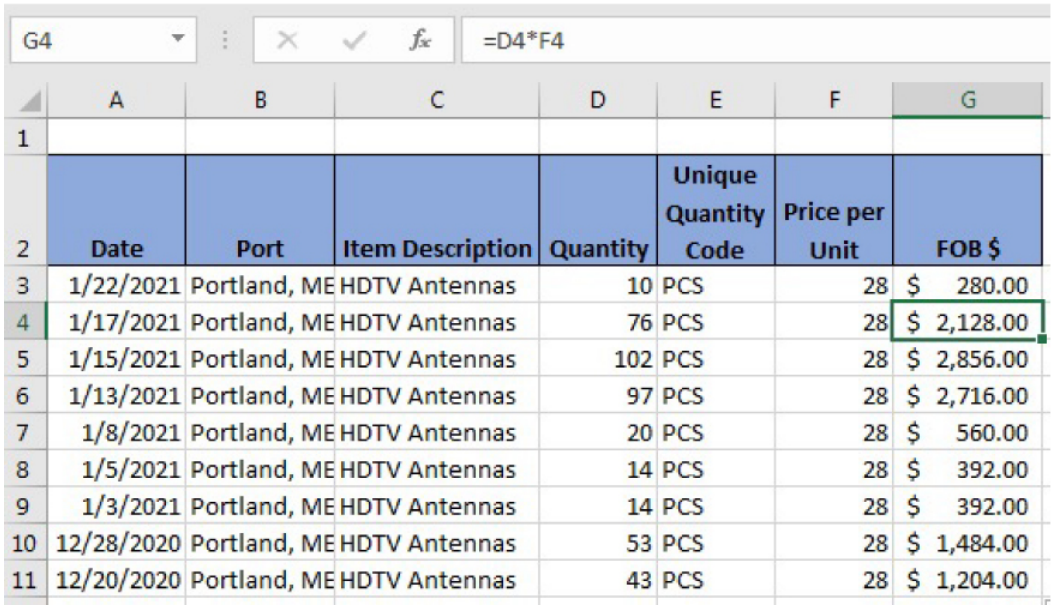


Figure 9.22: Subtraction in Excel uses formulas that are similar to addition formulas, but there is no subtraction function. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Multiplying Numbers

With multiplication, formulas and functions start getting more complicated. Sometimes, you may need to multiply the values of two or more cells, and other times, you may need to multiply a cell value by a constant value such as a percentage. One may be more efficient than the other, depending on the data. In Figure 9.23, the price per unit is the same for every row, so you can use cell

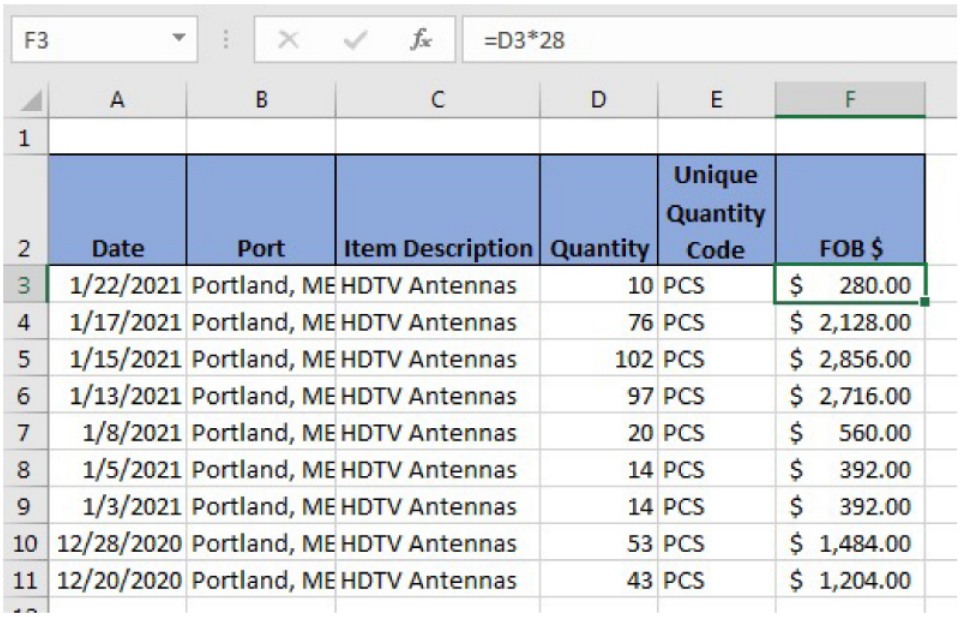
references to multiply the quantity cell by the price-per-unit cell. Because this table contains only one product, the unit price does not change, and it can be tedious to enter the same price for each sale. You can enter the price per unit in the first row and then click and drag the value to the bottom of your table. Another method would be to simplify your table by eliminating the price-per-unit column and including the value in the formula Figure 9.24. Condensing a table in this manner is helpful, especially if you have a large table of data. To construct a multiplication formula, start with an equals sign and use an asterisk (*) as the mathematical operator.



G4 =D4*F4

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	10	PCS	28	$ 280.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	76	PCS	28	$ 2,128.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	102	PCS	28	$ 2,856.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	97	PCS	28	$ 2,716.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	20	PCS	28	$ 560.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	28	$ 392.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	28	$ 392.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	53	PCS	28	$ 1,484.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	43	PCS	28	$ 1,204.00

Figure 9.23: For multiplication, use cell references to construct formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



F3 =D3*28

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	10	PCS	$ 280.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	76	PCS	$ 2,128.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	102	PCS	$ 2,856.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	97	PCS	$ 2,716.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	20	PCS	$ 560.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	$ 392.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	$ 392.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	53	PCS	$ 1,484.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	43	PCS	$ 1,204.00

Figure 9.24: You can also use constants to construct formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For multiplication, you can also use the PRODUCT function. Figure 9.25 shows an example of the function syntax. When you have entered all of the cell references, close the parentheses, and the product will be the same as it would if you had used a formula.

G3 =PRODUCT(D3,F3)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	10	PCS	28	$ 280.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	76	PCS	28	$ 2,128.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	102	PCS	28	$ 2,856.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	97	PCS	28	$ 2,716.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	20	PCS	28	$ 560.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	28	$ 392.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	28	$ 392.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	53	PCS	28	$ 1,484.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	43	PCS	28	$ 1,204.00

Figure 9.25: You can use the PRODUCT function for multiplication. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Dividing Numbers

Division calculations use the operator "/" and follow a similar syntax as other basic mathematical formulas. Figure 9.26a shows an example of division for determining increases or decreases in prices of aluminum. As you can see, the gain on 1/10/2021 was 2.36 percent. Excel does have a QUOTIENT function, but it returns only whole numbers, leaving off the decimal portion of the quotient (Figure 9.26b). It may be useful for some situations, but formulas provide more exact answers.

E4 =D4/C4

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2	Aluminum Price Volatility				
3	Start Date	Price Open	Price Close	Difference	Percentage
4	1/10/2021	2243.97	2298.15	54.18	0.0236
5	1/11/2021	2231.22	2276.54	45.32	0.0199
6	1/12/2021	2219.77	2261.25	41.48	0.0183
7	1/13/2021	2225.65	2213.44	-12.21	-0.0055
8					

(a)

I7

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2	Aluminum Price Volatility				
3	Start Date	Price Open	Price Close	Difference	Percentage
4	1/10/2021	2243.97	2298.15	54.18	2.36%
5	1/11/2021	2231.22	2276.54	45.32	1.99%
6	1/12/2021	2219.77	2261.25	41.48	1.83%
7	1/13/2021	2225.65	2213.44	-12.21	-0.55%
8					

(b)

Figure 9.26: The division formula uses a slash and returns (a) a quotient with decimal places, but you can format it to be (b) a percentage. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 9.3: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Microsoft Excel is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.4: Formatting and Templates in Microsoft Excel

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Format and manipulate a cell or group of cells
- Design column and row headers
- Use conditional formatting
- Work with templates to format worksheets

At WorldCorp, there is so much data that it is impossible to look at it all at once. For example, on a long worksheet with several hundred or thousand orders, you might want to see only orders over a certain value. In the previous sections, you learned how to organize the information in a spreadsheet and analyze the data using some basic calculations. These calculations provide the information needed to present the data to other entities in the corporation, but it might not yet be formatted in a professional manner. You may want to ensure the data meets certain criteria; you might want to add additional formatting to highlight certain trends in the data or group the data in a different way to show meaningful differences. With the skills you learned in the previous sections and those to follow, you can create a meaningful report and analysis of the data to effectively communicate company performance. This report can be utilized to measure company progress toward strategic goals or to compare WorldCorp to their competitors.

Formatting Cells

We've discussed formatting cells according to their contents, such as number, percentage, or text, but formatting extends to the visual presentation of a worksheet. In this context, formatting involves applying colors, font types, and borders to cells for styling purposes. It can make a presentation more visually appealing or distinct from other presentations. Another important reason for formatting is to increase the readability and comprehension of data. Formatting can be applied to text and numbers, to cell backgrounds, or to cell borders. It is important to remember that sometimes additional formatting may not be necessary. The goal is to have a professional presentation of the information. Too much formatting such as bright colors or distracting fonts does not enhance the presentation of the information. It is advisable to stick to simple formatting that is not distracting and is in line with company standards for your corporation.

Using Color and Fonts

Colors and fonts can be used to highlight specific parts of a worksheet such as the header row or the total row and to indicate the end of a table. Highlighting values that are outside of a certain range or to show trends in a dataset can also be useful. In accounting, the convention is to have negative numbers in red font and positive numbers in black font. These uses of colors and fonts provide meaningful information to the user at a glance.

In Figure 9.27a, the current header row is gray with white font. Suppose your manager wants to follow the color scheme of the company and wants the header row to be highlighted with a blue cell fill and a larger font. To change the fill color of the cells, first select the cells you want to change (Figure 9.27a) and then click on the paint bucket in the Font command group on the Home tab. The drop-down arrow next to the bucket allows you to choose from many preset colors, or you can create your own by clicking on More Colors. For this table, click on the blue fill box in the middle of the fifth column of colors. Now that the background is blue, the white font is harder to read, so you should change it to a darker color. To change the color of the font, select the cells and click on the text icon next to the paint bucket. You can change the font by clicking on the Font drop-down menu and the size by clicking on the adjacent Font Size drop-down menu (Figure 9.27b). You can also change the formatting of individual cells, but it saves time to highlight all of the header cells and format them at the same time.

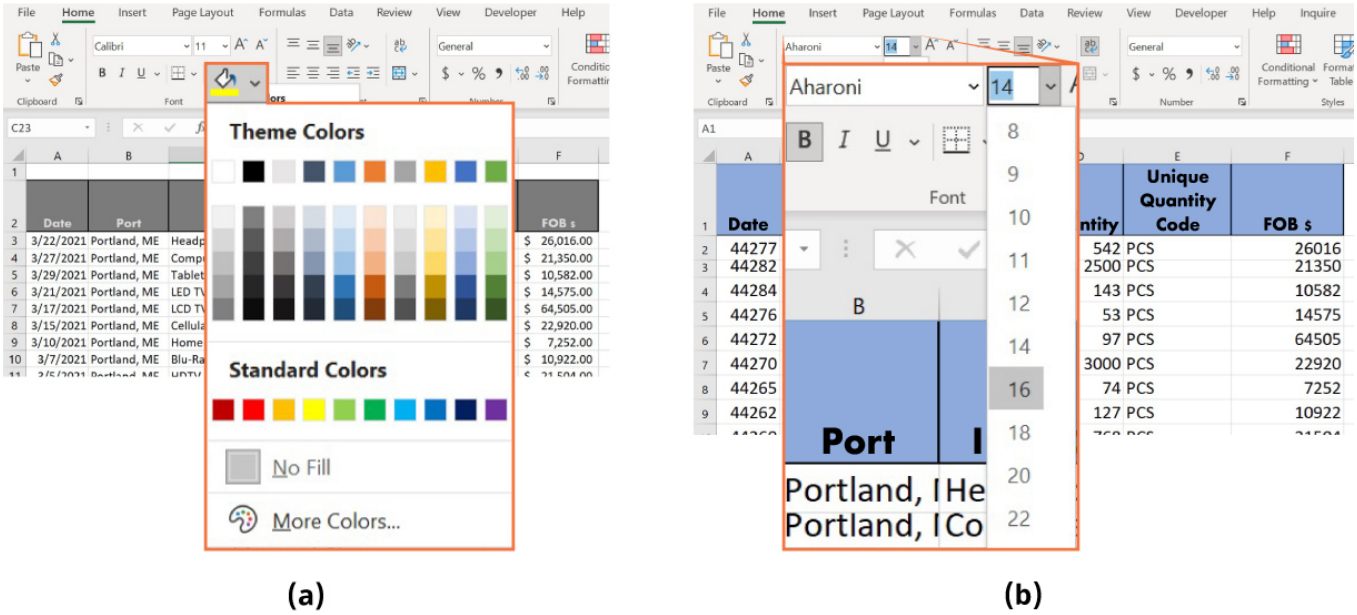
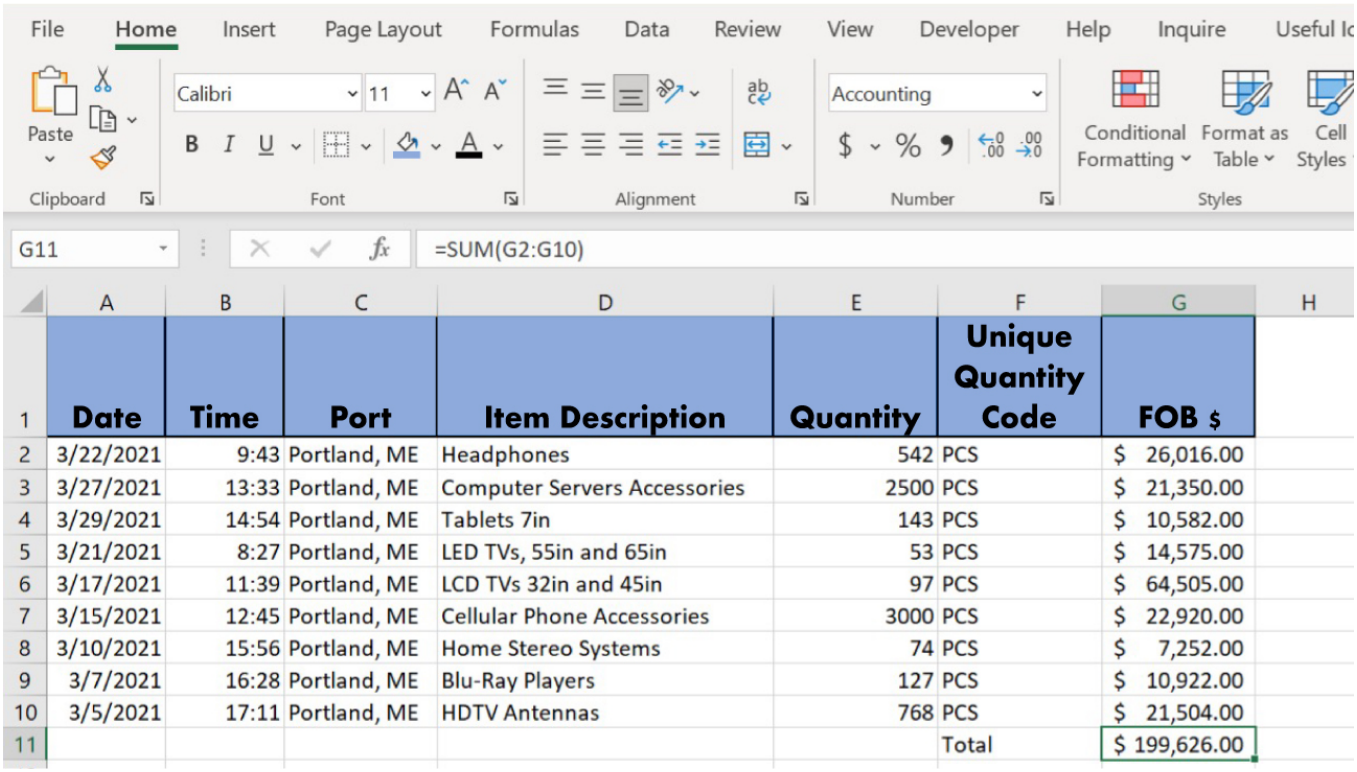


Figure 9.27: You can easily change the cell fill color, font type, and text color. (a) Select the paint bucket from the Home tab to change the color of the background fill. A drop-down menu gives you many options or you can define your own color using More Colors. The new background fill color is more visually appealing, but the text does not stand out as it would in a different color. (b) Font size, type, and color can also be changed using the commands in the Font command group. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Borders

The default style in Excel is for gridlines to be visible in order to distinguish one cell from another when viewed on the screen. However, there may be times when that distinction could be clearer, or you want to divide groups of columns or rows. You can use borders to make these distinctions. Let's assume you would like to put a border around the total cell. To add this border, first select the cell or cells where you want to add a border (Figure 9.28). Then, from the Home tab, in the Font command group, you will find the Border command drop-down menu. You can also access this by right-clicking after you selected the cells and choosing Format Cells and then the Borders tab (Figure 9.29a). By selecting the down arrow of the Border command, you can choose the appropriate border for the cell or cells. You can change the border style and color. First, select the style and thickness of the outline, change the color if you want it to be a color other than black, then apply it on the preview on the right by clicking on each border (Figure 9.29b). You can choose multiple styles of borders or leave cells without borders, such as if you wanted a border around your table but not within the rows and columns. More border options are available by choosing More Borders at the bottom of the list. This will bring up the Format Cells dialog box, Borders tab. Make sure your header row is now formatted consistently.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Time	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	
2	3/22/2021	9:43	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$ 26,016.00	
3	3/27/2021	13:33	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$ 21,350.00	
4	3/29/2021	14:54	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$ 10,582.00	
5	3/21/2021	8:27	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$ 14,575.00	
6	3/17/2021	11:39	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$ 64,505.00	
7	3/15/2021	12:45	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$ 22,920.00	
8	3/10/2021	15:56	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00	
9	3/7/2021	16:28	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$ 10,922.00	
10	3/5/2021	17:11	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$ 21,504.00	
11						Total	$ 199,626.00	

Figure 9.28: To add borders, select the cells you want to add a border to. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

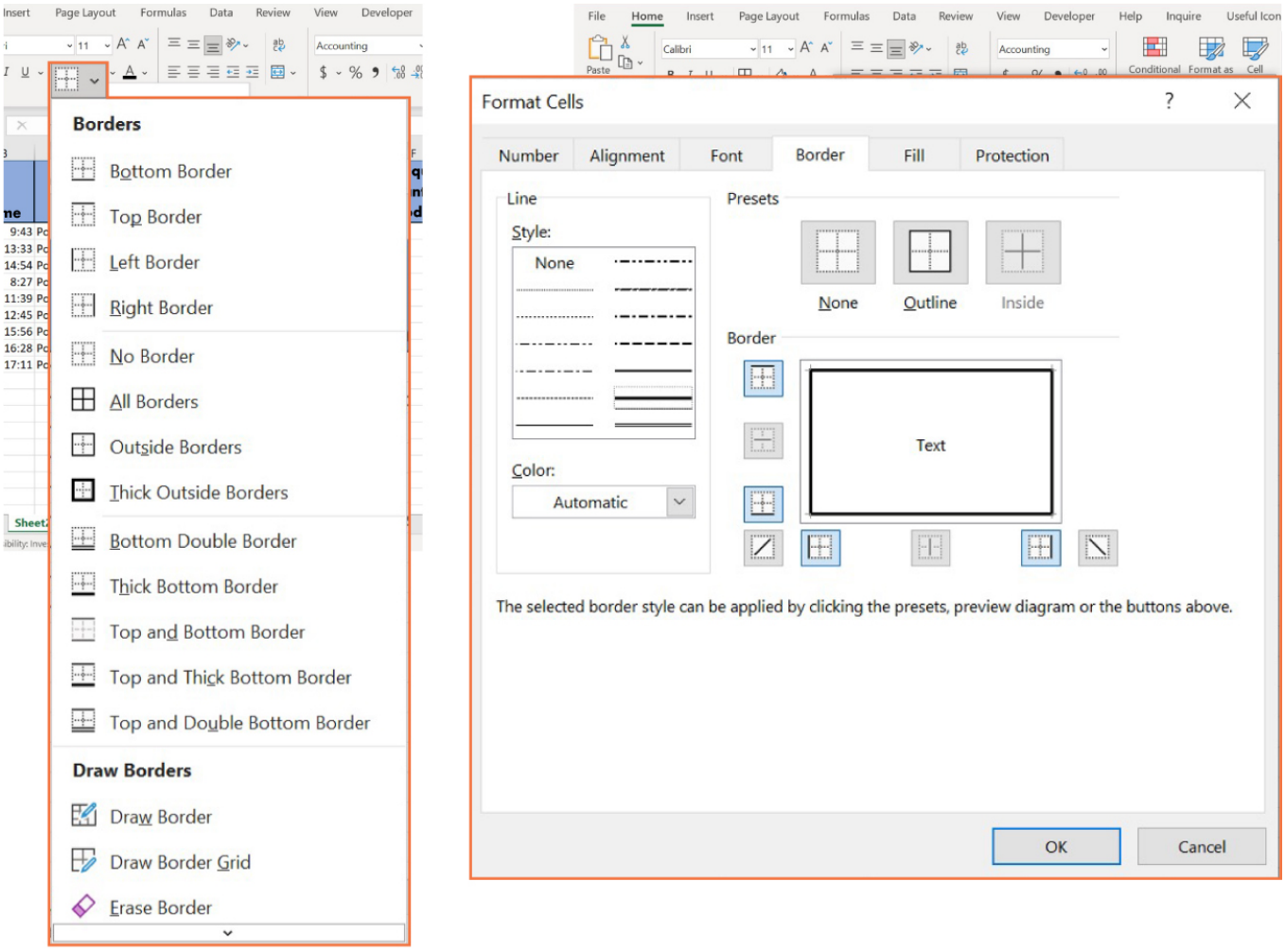
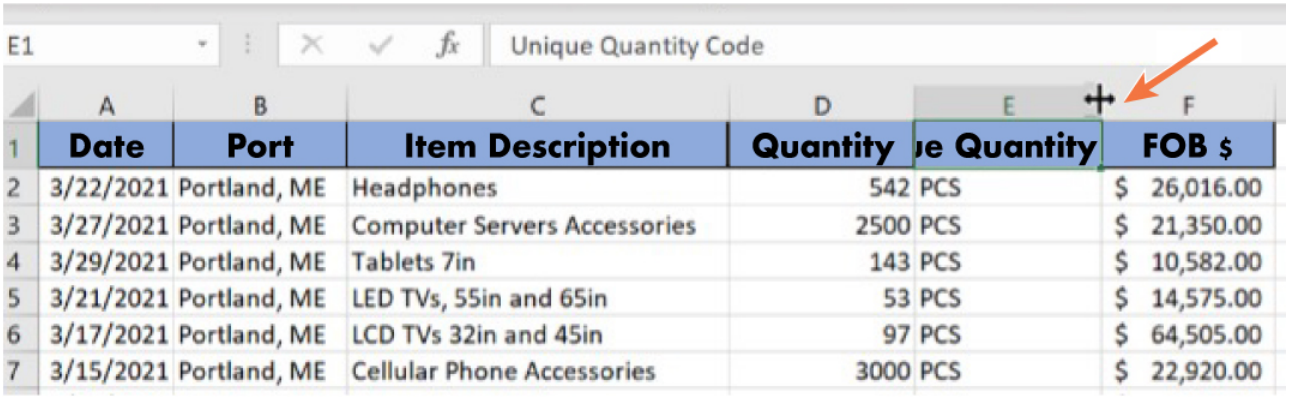


Figure 9.29: (a) You can use the Borders command drop-down menu or right-click and choose Format Cells. (b) You can select various thickness levels of the border around the cell. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

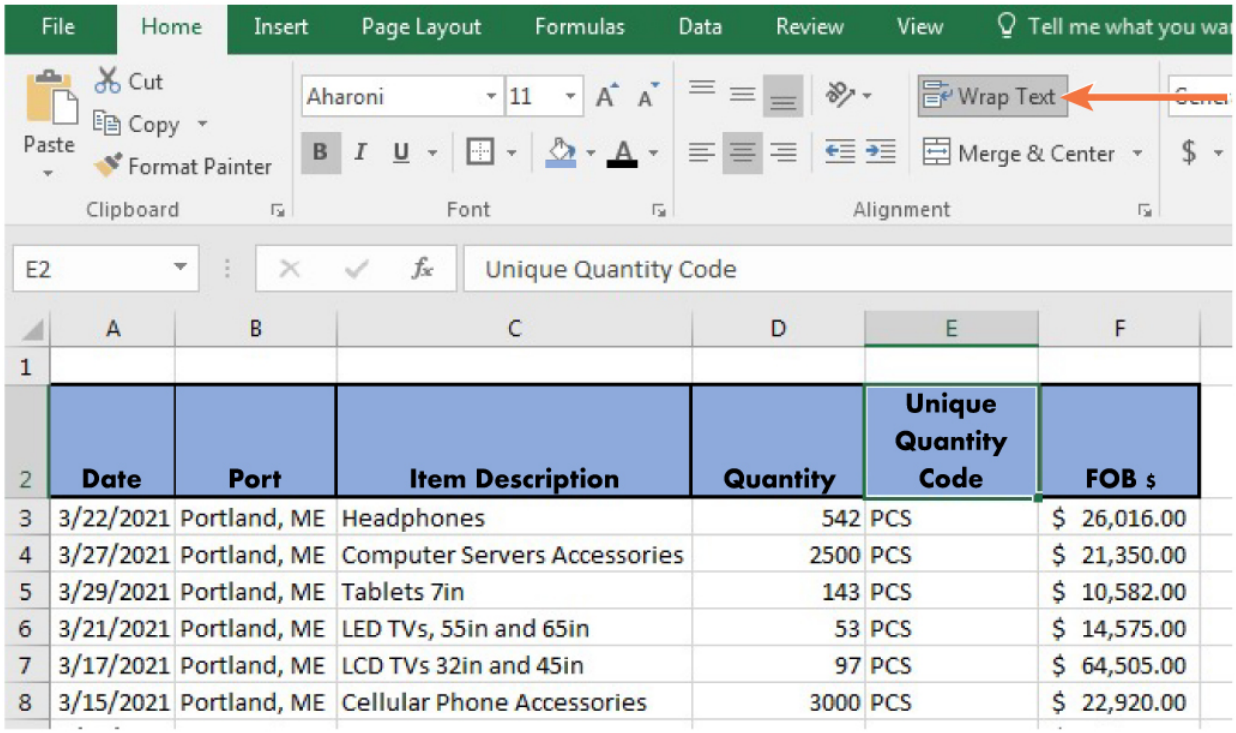
Wrapping Text

When you are working with text that is long, you can extend the width of your columns to fit it all in. One way is to do it manually. Hover over the line between two columns. The cursor will change to a black vertical line with opposite arrows. Click on this line and drag the column to your preferred width. You can also use the AutoFit command to automatically size the columns to fit the data contained in that column (Figure 9.30a). To AutoFit the columns, hover over the line between the columns, as you would to do it manually. Then, double-click on the line, and the column will adjust to the width of the contents. For example, to automatically size column E to the appropriate size for the data in the column, double-click on the line between the D and F columns at the top of the spreadsheet.

Sometimes, the text is so long that the whole width of the column is not visible on your screen; other times, you may not want a column to take up most of the width of your table. In those cases, the text is cut off. In Figure 9.30a, the header for column E is too long to fit in the cell. To fix this, select the cell, then on the Home tab, click on Wrap Text. The Wrap Text feature arranges the text in a cell so that it extends onto another line and increases the height of the row (Figure 9.30b).



(a)



(b)

Figure 9.30: Text wrapping can make long text fit in a column. (a) The header for column E is too long for the width of the column. Double-click or click and drag the line between columns to widen or narrow a column. The Wrap Text feature allows you to see text that is cut off. (b) Text wrapping changes the height of a row to accommodate long text. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Merging Cells

Borders provided one method of grouping content in a table, but there are other ways to show that some rows or columns of data should be grouped together. The merge feature combines the content from two or more cells. When merging, the content and formatting of the first cell supersedes the content and formatting of the others. Merging cells can increase the readability of the tables. Figure 9.31a shows a row added above the header row to group some of the columns together to identify important sales order information to the port dispatchers. The first two columns tell the port dispatchers when the order was placed, so you want the cell that says “When” to span both columns. First, add “When” to the first cell. Then, select both cells over the columns you want the header to span and click on Merge & Center on the Home tab. Figure 9.31b shows the merged and centered cells. This can be repeated with cells E3 and F3. You can also merge content within a table. At the bottom, merge cell A14 with cells B14, C14,

D14, E14, and F14, to make the Total row more readable. Now that the merging is complete, you can format the border outlines. Format the top row, making sure all cell contents are centered and have borders, and add borders to the bottom row to highlight the totals. Figure 9.31c shows the completed table.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2							
3	When		Where	What	How many		How much
4	**Date**	**Time**	**Port**	**Item Description**	**Quantity**	**Unique Quantity Code**	**FOB $**
5	3/22/2021	9:43	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$ 26,016.00
6	3/27/2021	13:33	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$ 21,350.00
7	3/29/2021	14:54	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$ 10,582.00
8	3/21/2021	8:27	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$ 14,575.00
9	3/17/2021	11:39	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$ 64,505.00
10	3/15/2021	12:45	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$ 22,920.00
11	3/10/2021	15:56	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00
12	3/7/2021	16:28	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$ 10,922.00
13	3/5/2021	17:11	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$ 21,504.00
14	Total						$199,626.00

(a)

	E	F	G
3	How many		How much
4	**Quantity**	**Unique Quantity Code**	**FOB $**
5	542	PCS	$ 26,016.00
6	2500	PCS	$ 21,350.00
7	143	PCS	$ 10,582.00
8	53	PCS	$ 14,575.00
9	97	PCS	$ 64,505.00
10	3000	PCS	$ 22,920.00
11	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00
12	127	PCS	$ 10,922.00
13	768	PCS	$ 21,504.00
14			$199,626.00

(b)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2						**Unique Quantity Code**	
3	When		Where	What	How		**FOB $**
4	**Date**	**Time**	**Port**	**Item Description**	**Quantity**	**Unique Quantity Code**	**FOB $**
5	3/22/2021	9:43	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$ 26,016.00
6	3/27/2021	13:33	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$ 21,350.00
7	3/29/2021	14:54	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$ 10,582.00
8	3/21/2021	8:27	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$ 14,575.00
9	3/17/2021	11:39	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$ 64,505.00
10	3/15/2021	12:45	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$ 22,920.00
11	3/10/2021	15:56	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00
12	3/7/2021	16:28	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$ 10,922.00
13	3/5/2021	17:11	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$ 21,504.00
14	Total						$ 199,626.00

(c)

Figure 9.31: Merging cells is useful for presentation and readability purposes. You can (a) group columns by adding a row above the header row, merge and center cells to create a new label above the date and time, (b) merge and center cells to group the quantity and the code, and merge cells next to the total to create a more readable total. You can also add borders. (c) The final table is clear and readable. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Did you know that you can embed Excel objects and components into other Microsoft applications? You can insert all or parts of an Excel worksheet into your presentations and documents, saving time from re-creating the same content in these applications. Embedding content also helps ensure that the content provided in your document or presentation is accurate, as changes in Excel will update in these files as well. Visit this Microsoft page that shows how to embed Excel content in PowerPoint to learn more.

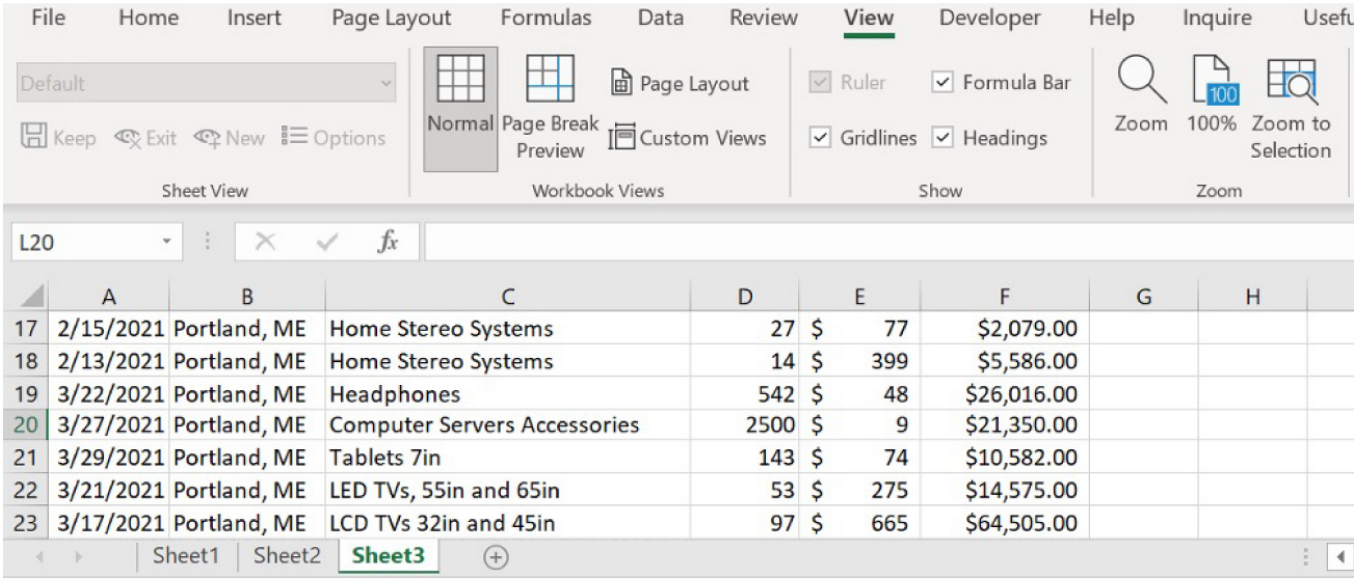
Working with Columns and Rows

The label added to tables at the top of a column or to the left of a row to make the data understandable is called a header. You've already learned to type words at the top of a column and format cells so that the headers look different from the rest of the table. Fonts can be bolded or centered, and background colors or shading applied. You can also freeze columns and rows so that the

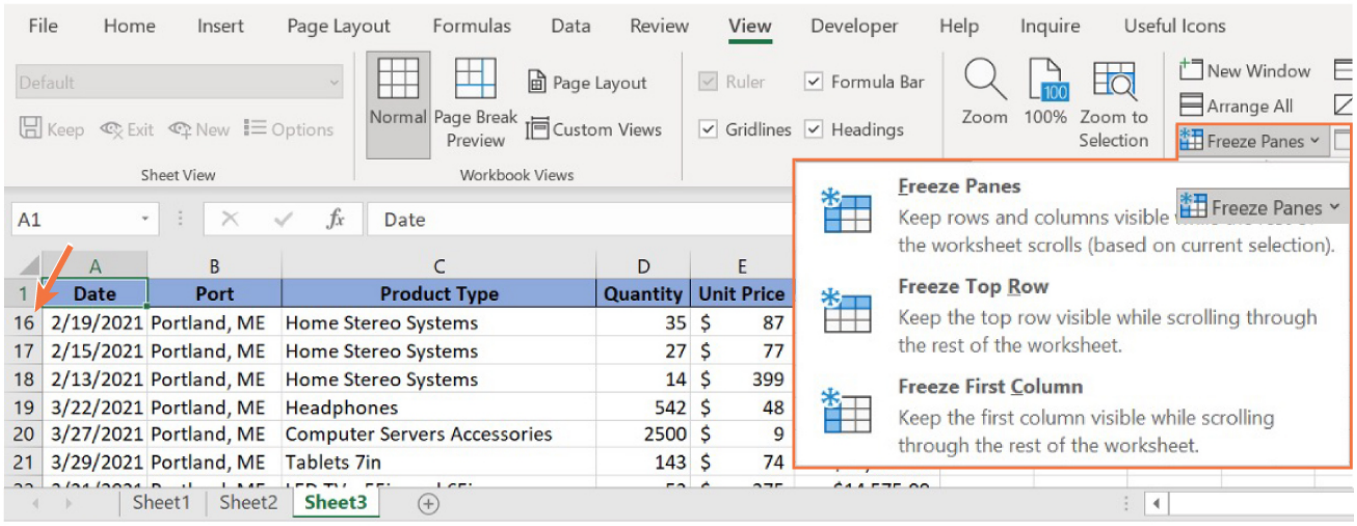
viewer of the document can see the header even if the document extends beyond the screen. Hiding rows and columns can also be useful for reducing the size of a worksheet.

Freezing Columns and Rows

When you have a large set of data, you will need to scroll beyond the edges of your screen to see all of it. You will need to be able to look at the data in each column or row but scrolling can take the header row or column off the screen. To ensure that the column or row headers are visible, you can use a command called Freeze Panes, which fixes the headers on the screen while allowing users to scroll through the rest of the data. The table in Figure 9.32a extends beyond row 22. As you scroll down through the data, notice that you can no longer see the column headers, so you will want to freeze the header row so that you can still see the column headers when you scroll down through the data. Figure 9.32b shows the choices in the Freeze Panes command on the View tab. You can freeze the top row, the first column, or both. For this data, freeze the top row so that scrolling down will keep the column headers in view. Figure 9.32b shows a line below the top row that indicates that the row is frozen. You are not limited to only freezing a header row or column. Excel allows you to use Freeze Panes anywhere in the spreadsheet. Just click on a cell and then on Freeze Panes, and it will freeze everything above and to the left of it.



(a)



(b)

Figure 9.32: Using the Freezing Panes command keeps headers visible when data extends off the screen. (a) Before the header row is frozen, scrolling down removes the header from view. (b) The Freeze Panes options are found on the View tab. Clicking on Freeze Panes allows for freezing the top row, first column, or both. Freezing the header row shows a line that indicates the row is frozen and keeps it in view while scrolling. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

On a Mac, Excel uses icons for many of the drop-down menus that appear in the Windows version. The Freeze tool, for example, is always visible at the top of your active workbook.

Link to Learning

Go Skills is a company that offers a variety of free or paid online courses. Go to their website to review presentation tips for Excel tables and learn more.

Hiding Columns and Rows

Sometimes when working with data, information may be irrelevant for one use but cannot be deleted. This could be important when formatting spreadsheets for various users or when performing calculations. A user might not need to see all the data that goes into the formula but needs to see the final result of the formula. For example, in Figure 9.32a, column B contains the name of the port, but all of the visible data for the port is the same. If the port of Portland, Maine, is working with this data, they won't need to see the column that contains the port name. Additionally, the workers at the port won't need to know the price per unit. To make the table more usable for these workers, you can use the Hide command, which temporarily removes designated rows or columns from view. To hide a row or column, click on the row or column designation (the number to the left of the row header or the letter above the column header) to select the whole row or column, then right-click and select Hide from the menu (column B in Figure 9.33a). The result is shown in Figure 9.33b. To unhide a column, select the two columns that surround the hidden column, right-click, and select Unhide (Figure 9.34a). The column appears again, as shown in Figure 9.34b.

You can tell when a row or column is hidden by looking at the header, where you can see that letters or numbers are missing and there are two lines between the column or row designations. For example, we can see in Figure 9.33b that the header row goes from column A to column C. B is hidden and is not shown as a header. It is important to watch for that when you are using a spreadsheet that you did not create.



	A	C	D
1	Date	Product Type	Quantity
20	3/27/2021	Computer Servers Accessories	2500
21	3/29/2021	Tablets 7in	143
22	3/21/2021	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53
23	3/17/2021	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97
24	3/15/2021	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000
25	3/10/2021	Home Stereo Systems	74
26	3/7/2021	Blu-Ray Players	127
27	3/5/2021	HDTV Antennas	768
28	3/26/2021	Computer Servers and Accessorie	154
29	3/23/2021	Computer Servers and Accessorie	112
30	3/20/2021	Computer Servers and Accessorie	21
31	3/15/2021	Computer Servers and Accessorie	44
32	3/12/2021	Computer Servers and Accessorie	74
33	3/10/2021	Computer Servers and Accessorie	38

Figure 9.33: Using the Hide command makes rows/columns temporarily not visible in a table. (a) Right-click on the column and select Hide. (b) When columns are hidden, double lines and skipped letters are indicated in the letter designation header. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

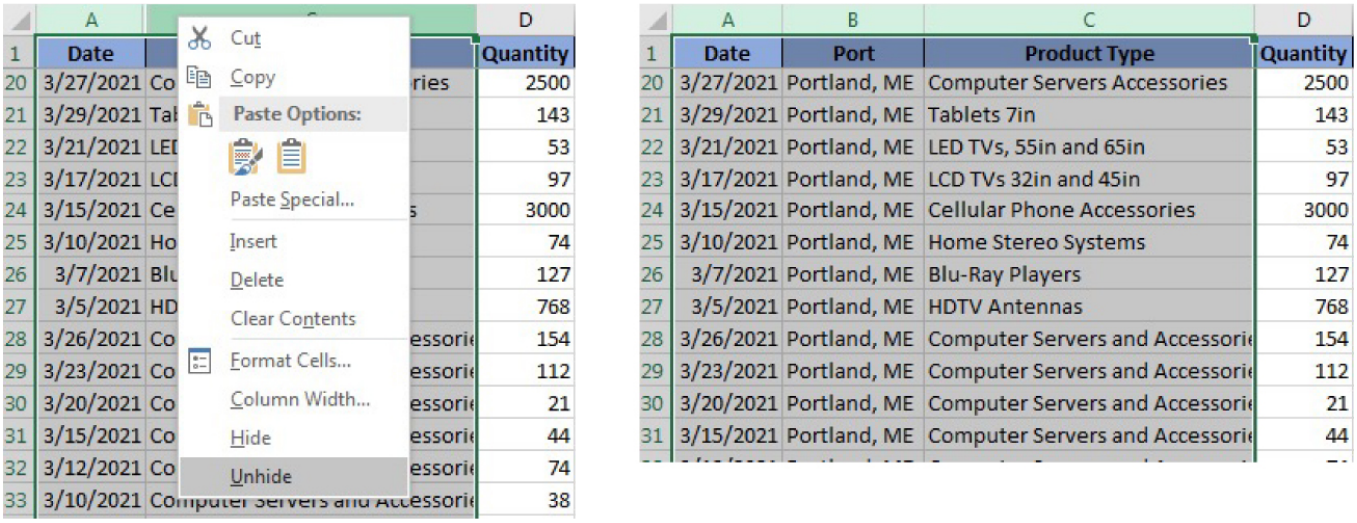


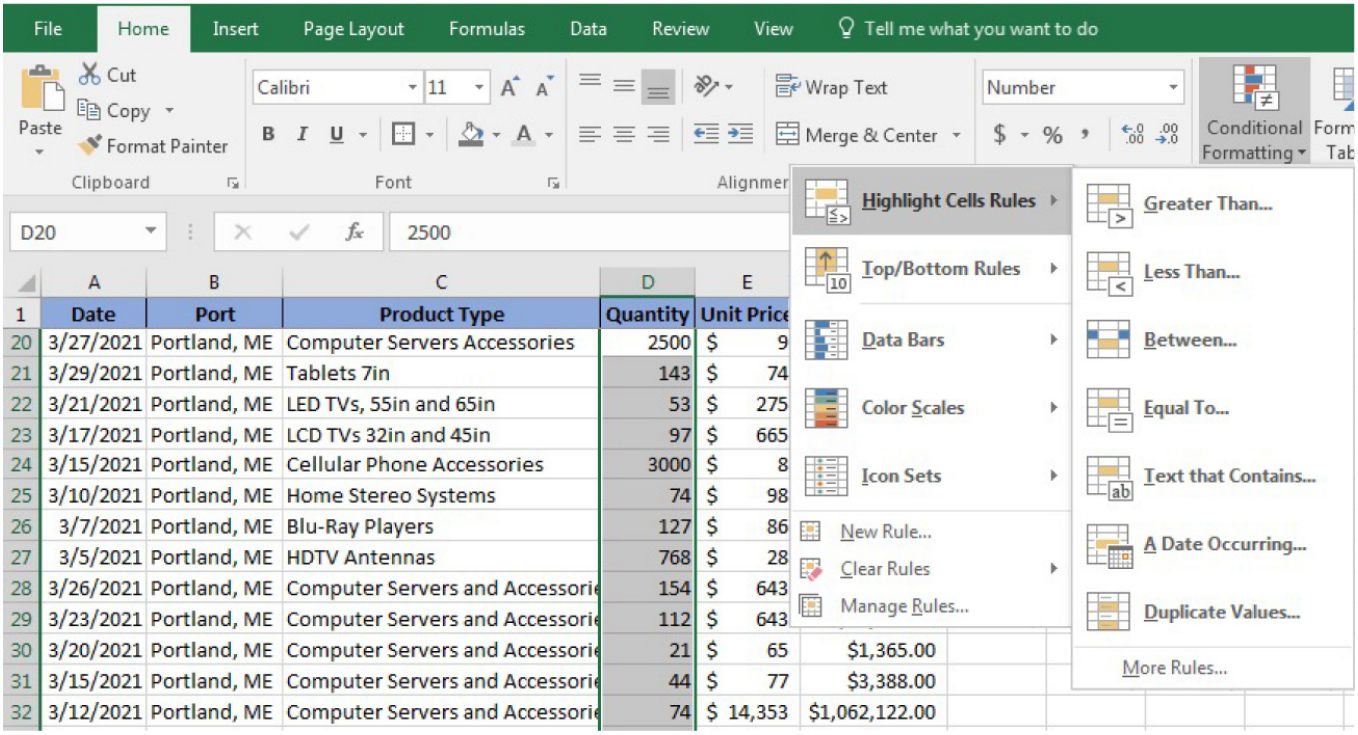
Figure 9.34: (a) To reveal the columns again, select the two columns on either side of the hidden one, right-click, and select Unhide. (b) All columns are visible again. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

To access the Hide function, hold the Control key and click on the column.

Conditional Formatting

All of the formatting you have learned about so far has involved manually configuring individual cells or groups of cells. Excel has additional formatting features that can save you the time of manual formatting. One of these features, conditional formatting, analyzes the cell contents and applies certain preset designs or layouts based on the content. One example is to change the color of the font if the data is above or below a certain threshold (Figure 9.35). Conditional formatting is not turned on by default, so you will need to apply and customize it. Click on the drop-down menu next to Conditional Formatting on the Home tab and choose the formatting you want to use. You can set up the parameters using the dialog box shown in Figure 9.36a. Figure 9.36b shows another example of conditional formatting: highlighting the top ten FOB $ values.



	A	B	C	D	E	
1	Date	Port	Product Type	Quantity	Unit Price	
20	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	$ 9	
21	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	$ 74	
22	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$ 275	
23	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	$ 665	
24	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$ 8	
25	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 98	
26	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	$ 86	
27	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	$ 28	
28	3/26/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessorie	154	$ 643	
29	3/23/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessorie	112	$ 643	
30	3/20/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessorie	21	$ 65	$1,365.00
31	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessorie	44	$ 77	$3,388.00
32	3/12/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessorie	74	$ 14,353	$1,062,122.00

Figure 9.35: Conditional formatting automatically applies designated formatting to values that meet a certain criterion. The Conditional Formatting drop-down menu lists several commonly used choices. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

(a) Cells (2500, 3000) highlighted Red Fill with Dark Red Text (

Figure 9.36: (a) The dialog box allows you to set the parameters. (b) There are numerous preset conditional formatting choices. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

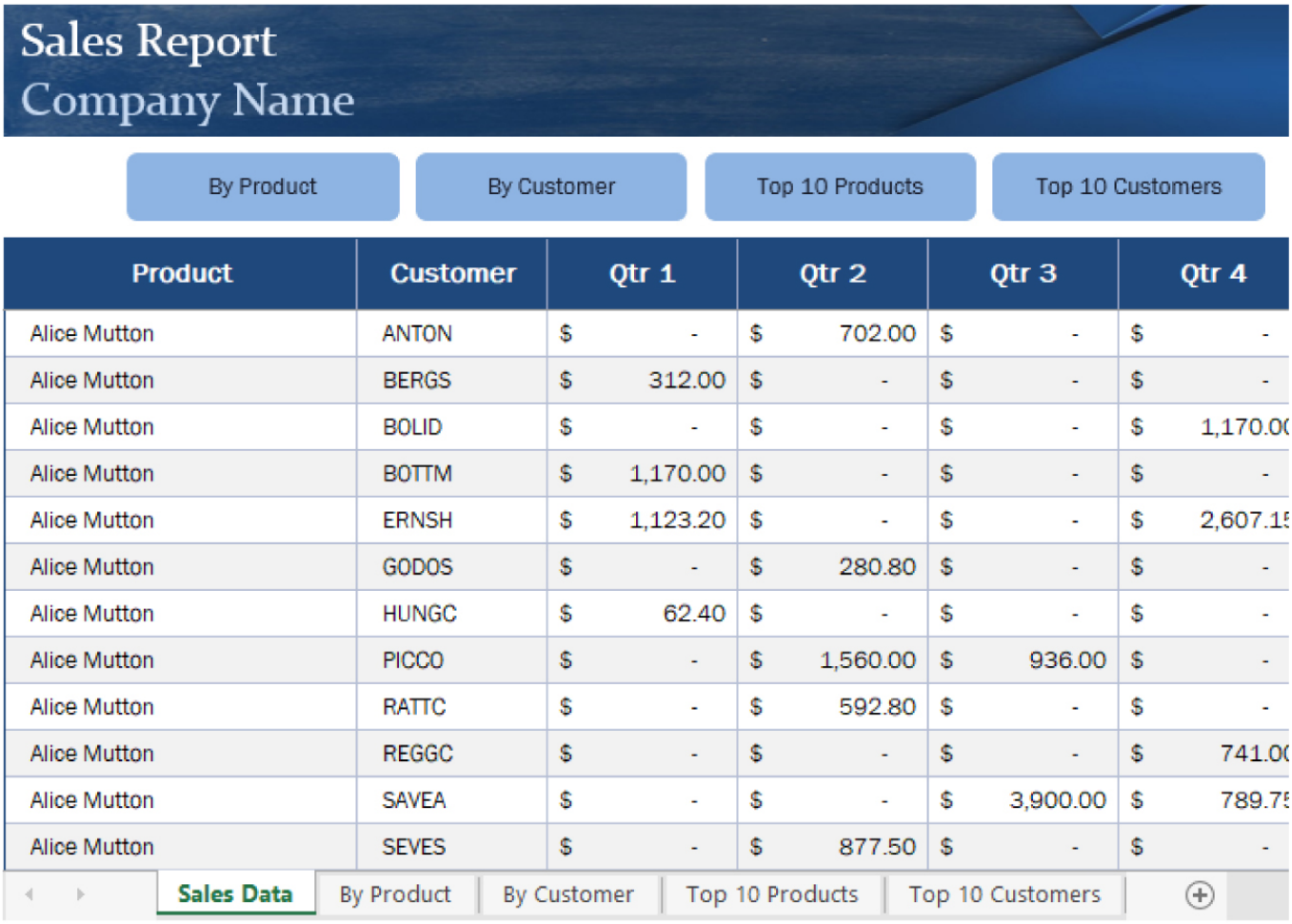
Real-World Application - Excel in the Construction Industry

The construction industry in the United States employs nearly ten million people and contributes over $1 trillion to the economy in structures built each year.[1] Excel can manage all the information needed to share among the various entities involved in a construction project. From building a small home garden shed to constructing an office complex, Excel can help manage the overall progress of a construction project. Excel can be helpful when estimating costs for construction projects to submit bids for particular projects. Items that can be summarized, tracked, and analyzed in Excel include order tracking, calculating needed quantities of materials such as lumber or piping, and payroll. Even for the small construction management company, Excel can be used to effectively manage a large construction project to keep the project on time and within budget. There are many templates available to help set up a construction project from start to finish.

What are some other industries where Excel could be a useful tool?

Working with Templates

As in the other Office applications, Excel has built-in and online templates. Microsoft has their own online templates for Office, but many other websites offer free Excel templates. Templates are blank, formatted workbooks that you populate with your own data. Microsoft provides some built-in templates. Figure 9.37 shows the selection of a sales report, which has five sheets. This sales report has an order ledger, called “Sales Data,” with the product name, customer code, and quarterly sales figures. The template comes with a few lines of generic data. The other sheets use the data you enter on the first sheet. The second sheet uses the sales data but organizes it by product. The third sheet organizes the same data by customer. The fourth sheet filters the data to show the top 10 products, and the fifth sheet filters the data to show the top 10 customers. You should be able to find a similar template in your version of Excel, but there are many other sales reports templates available. The template library is frequently updated by Microsoft, so the versions you see might look a bit different than what we have shown here. The functionality will be similar, but the colors and the layout could vary.



Product	Customer	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
Alice Mutton	ANTON	$ -	$ 702.00	$ -	$ -
Alice Mutton	BERGS	$ 312.00	$ -	$ -	$ -
Alice Mutton	BOLID	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,170.0
Alice Mutton	BOTTM	$ 1,170.00	$ -	$ -	$ -
Alice Mutton	ERNSH	$ 1,123.20	$ -	$ -	$ 2,607.1
Alice Mutton	GODOS	$ -	$ 280.80	$ -	$ -
Alice Mutton	HUNGC	$ 62.40	$ -	$ -	$ -
Alice Mutton	PICCO	$ -	$ 1,560.00	$ 936.00	$ -
Alice Mutton	RATTC	$ -	$ 592.80	$ -	$ -
Alice Mutton	REGGC	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 741.0
Alice Mutton	SAVEA	$ -	$ -	$ 3,900.00	$ 789.7
Alice Mutton	SEVES	$ -	$ 877.50	$ -	$ -

Figure 9.37: Templates are preformatted and predesigned tables. You can find the templates by clicking on File and New. A sales report has formatting and formulas preset so that all you need to do is enter your data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Figure 9.38 shows a product price list downloaded from http://templates.office.com that has columns for a product inventory number, product name, product description, retail price, and volume-selling price. This sort of price list is an information sheet for potential business clients who are considering products from you. These templates are modifiable, so you can update the header with your company's information. You can also add more products or change the headers.

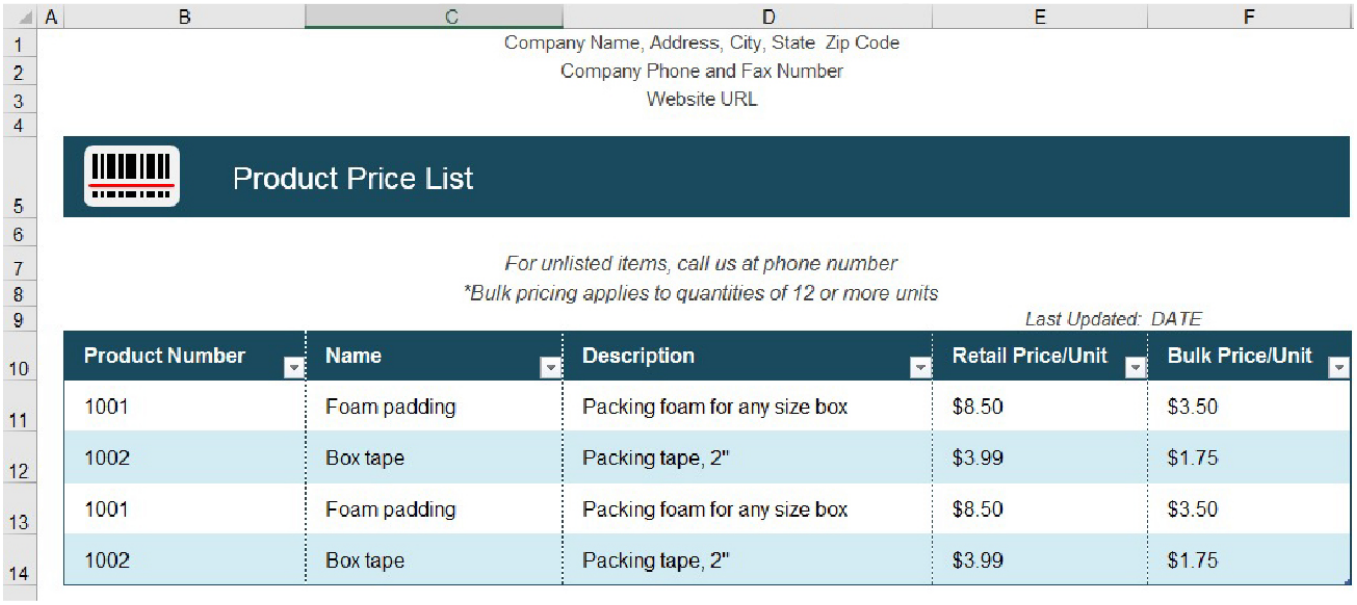


Figure 9.38: Although templates come with their own formatting, you can customize them based on your needs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Spotlight on Ethics - Ethical Considerations in Using Templates

Templates are a wonderful resource and can save time and money in creating spreadsheets and workbooks in Excel. Templates can come with preset formatting and formulas, with little more to do than enter your own data. There are many templates available online, but you must choose one carefully. You will need to consider the purpose of the template you are using, company policy regarding branding, the version of the software you are using, as well as copyright and licensing of the template itself prior to using it for business purposes. For instance, perhaps you are using a template to create an invoice to provide clients. The template may hold a license that allows you to use the template for commercial use so long as you do not resell the template itself, or the license might prohibit commercial use altogether, restricting its use to nonprofit activities only. If that is the case, you should not use the template for business purposes as it may place the business at risk of litigation. It is always best to carefully read the user agreement and license of a template prior to implementing it.

Where might you find a template's licensing and permissible usage information? How can you be sure you are permitted to use a template in the manner in which you intend?

Footnotes

- 1Ken Simonson. "Construction Data." *Associated General Contractors of America*.

This page titled 9.4: Formatting and Templates in Microsoft Excel is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.5: Google Sheets Basics

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Identify common uses and basic features of Google Sheets
- Describe the essential functions of each command group on the toolbar
- Create a worksheet in Google Sheets
- Open an existing workbook in Google Sheets
- Print a Google Sheets file

Google Sheets is another spreadsheet application that has much of the same functionality as Microsoft Excel. They have similar GUIs, in that they use window menus and a toolbar. Excel has the ribbon, which has wide tabs filled with commands. Sheets only has one toolbar menu, although its button commands grow over time as the product is updated. Sheets contains all the same basic features as Excel, but Excel is more robust with regard to higher-level tools.

Common Uses and Basic Features

Sheets serves the same basic purposes as Excel and can be used for most of the same purposes that any spreadsheet could serve. Google Workspace is a web-based service and does not have desktop versions like Microsoft Office. Because of this, there are some limitations to the functionality of Sheets compared with Excel. To access Sheets, you need to have internet access and a Gmail account.

The basic features are the same as any other spreadsheet program. Similar to Excel, Sheets has rows and columns in an interface that does calculations for the user. It has automated features like autofill and easy copying of formatting. You can create all tables you've created in Excel in Sheets, including your order-dispatching worksheets or sales reports. Sheets also requires you to separate the values in each column so that the spreadsheet can read the numbers and calculate the desired result. Words and letters should be separated from numbers in order for spreadsheets to use the numbers for calculations. Sheets doesn't have the same library of functions that you can find in Excel. On its own, Sheets may not be able to handle in-depth analysis like Excel can.

The Toolbar Overview

Sheets does not have any ribbon tabs like Excel. Instead, the toolbar is composed of menus and commands. The menu options are similar to those you see in Excel in the ribbon tabs. The menus are as follows: File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Data, Tools, and Extensions. To view the contents in the menu, simply hover over the menu title with your cursor. The File and Edit menus are similar to those for Google Docs, as covered in Essentials of Google Workspace. The View menu gives the user the ability to freeze and group cells together. Inserting and deleting cells can be accessed in the Insert menu. The data and text can be formatted using the commands contained in the Format menu. The Data menu includes commands similar to the Data tab in Excel that are useful for analyzing data in a spreadsheet. The Tools menu is like the Review tab in Excel with spelling and grammar checking commands. Advanced features are in the Extensions menu.

The toolbar is called the action bar, and it mostly remains static, yet sometimes it adds functions based on usage. Figure 9.39 shows the toolbar. In addition to the menus, the toolbar includes buttons for the more frequently used commands for easy access. These commands can be accessed through the menus, but here they are available with one click. You will notice there is some similarity in the look of the icons in Sheets and Excel. The first two commands are Undo and Redo, then Print, and Paint format. After that, you see the Zoom drop-down menu, the Format as currency, Format as percent, Decrease decimal places or Increase decimal places, and more formats. Next are the menus for the font type and size, font formatting, border lines, alignment, text wrapping, and text rotation. The last group includes linking, commenting, and adding a graph, filter, or function.



Figure 9.39: The toolbar in Sheets has one row of commands. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

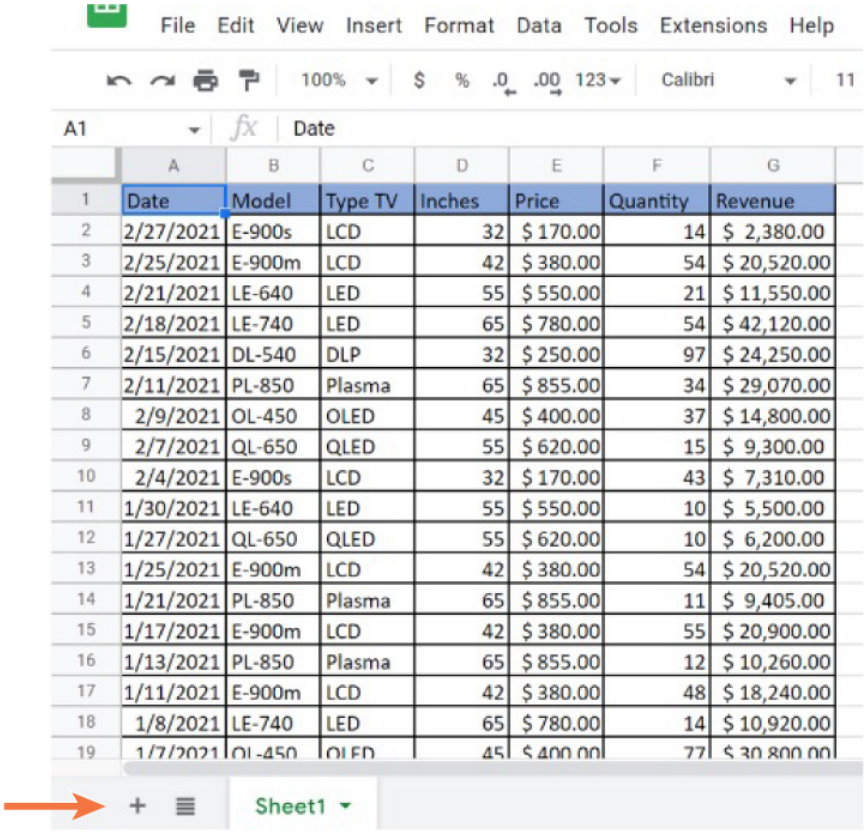
Mac Tip

On a Mac, the Google Sheets action bar shows the menu, like on a PC. However, rather than simply hovering, you will need to click on the menu title to see its contents.

Creating Sheets

Figure 9.40 shows a finished sales report, much like an Excel worksheet. As in Excel, when you open Sheets, there is only one worksheet, called "Sheet1." To add another sheet, you can click on the plus sign at the bottom left. This will add another sheet called "Sheet2." Let's walk through the steps to create this table in Sheets. Let's assume that you have handwritten invoices of a set of orders, and you want to enter these invoices in Excel or Sheets. The receipt-block pads are customized with a unique receipt number, your company logo, contact data, and other business information. These were popular before small and medium businesses started to use computerized receipts, yet you may still see these handwritten receipts sometimes. In such a case, after the sale has occurred, you need to input the data into Excel or Sheets.

The first step in re-creating the table in Figure 9.40 is to insert and format the headers in a blank worksheet. Then, select the first 20 rows below the headers, since the table has 20 rows of data (Figure 9.41), click on the Borders drop-down menu, and choose All Borders. Next, change the format type for each column based on the contents of the column (Figure 9.42). For cells A2 to A21, use the Date format under the More Formats drop-down menu. Format cells B2 to B21 and C2 to C21 as Plain Text. You can leave cells D2 to D21 as Automatic or change them to Plain Text. Format cells E2 to E21 and G2 to G21 as Accounting. Automatic as a format type is the equivalent of "General" in Excel. To select two columns that are not contiguous, select the first one, in this case E, then press Ctrl on the keyboard, and select G. This is called the Ctrl+Select process. For column F, you can leave it as Automatic or format it as a number. Now, you are ready to do the data entry of the manual invoicing. You will format the header after entering the data.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2	2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
3	2/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
4	2/21/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00
5	2/18/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00
6	2/15/2021	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
7	2/11/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
8	2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00
9	2/7/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00
10	2/4/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00
11	1/30/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00
12	1/27/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00
13	1/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
14	1/21/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	11	$ 9,405.00
15	1/17/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	55	$ 20,900.00
16	1/13/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	12	$ 10,260.00
17	1/11/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	48	$ 18,240.00
18	1/8/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	14	$ 10,920.00
19	1/7/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	77	$ 30,800.00

Figure 9.40: Formatting a normal sales report table in Sheets is similar to formatting in Excel. The table contains different types of data. First, create the headers. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

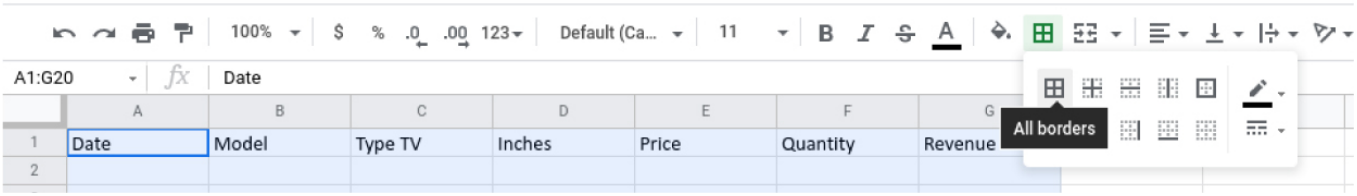


Figure 9.41: Then, highlight the cells you will be filling in to add borders. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

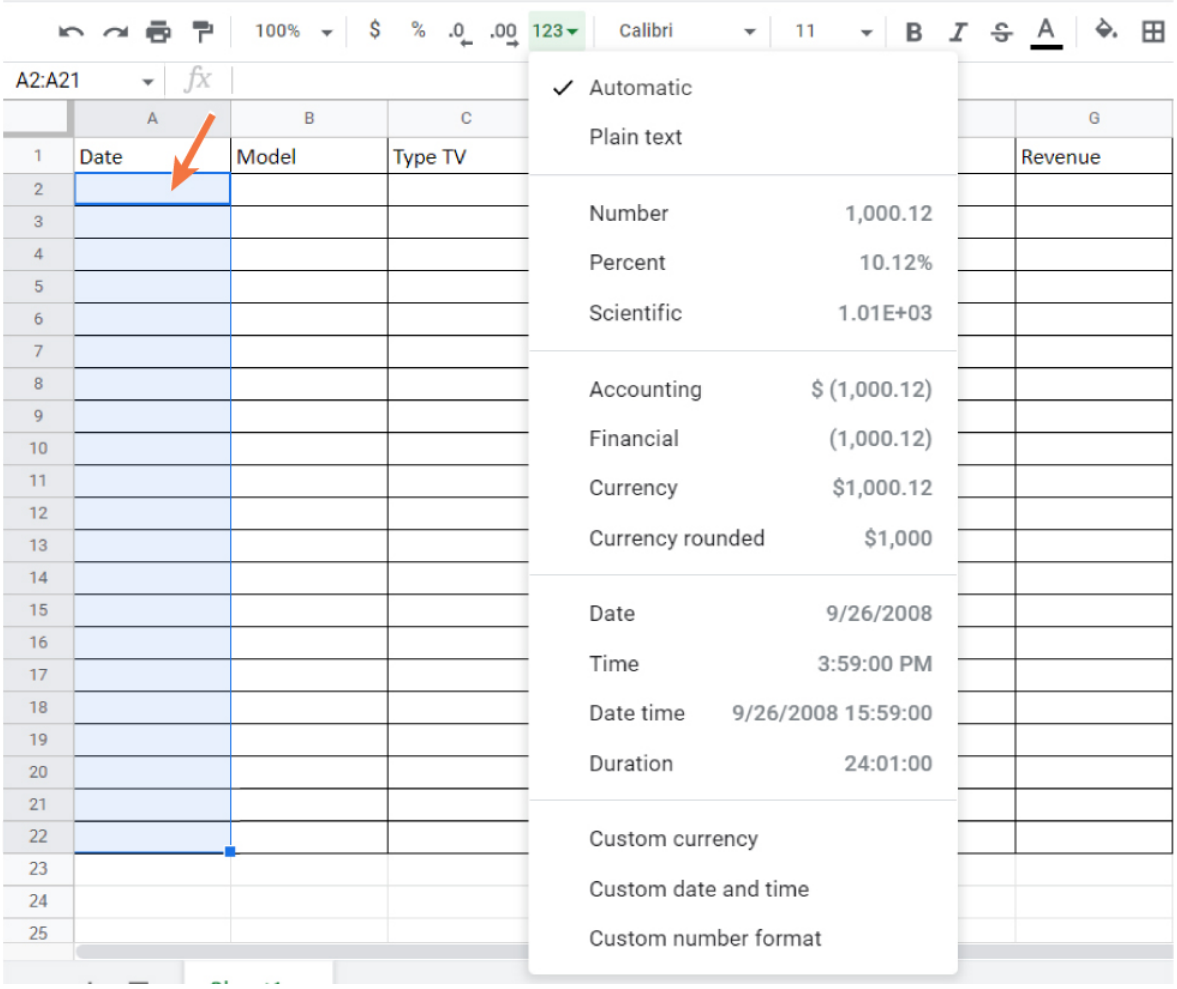


Figure 9.42: Format each column according to the type of data it will contain. The first column is a date, so you can choose Date from the menu. The next two columns can be formatted as plain text. Columns E and G can be formatted as Accounting. You can use Ctrl+Select to format both of them at the same time. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Next, enter the data in row 2, and follow the same steps for subsequent rows. The first several columns only require typing in data from the data source. The first order was placed on February 27, 2021, for 14 model E-900s 32-inch LCD TVs for $170 each. First, enter the date as 02-27-21 (Figure 9.43a). Because we selected the format in advance, it will automatically be formatted to the desired format of 02/27/2021. Fill in the rest of the data from the order across the row (Figure 9.43b). The price is already in accounting format, so you do not need to type the currency symbol. The Revenue, column G, is the product of the price and the quantity, so type in a formula, “=E2*F2” (Figure 9.43b).

A2 | 2-27-21

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2	2-27-21						
3							

(a)

G2 | =E2*F2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2	2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
3							

(b)

Figure 9.43: First, populate the first row of the table. (a) The date should automatically be formatted as month/day/year. The rest of the data can be copied from the order. (b) The revenue cell needs a formula so that it calculates the product of the price and the quantity. Notice the date is formatted correctly once you press Enter or navigate to another cell. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Now that the first row is finished, you will adjust the width of each column to accommodate the data so it looks like the original table. Place your cursor on the edge of column A, and the cursor will change to an arrow (Figure 9.44a), then double-click it. The column automatically adjusts to the width of the contents. To do this with a single action, highlight the entire table and then double-click between any two columns. This will apply the AutoFit function to all columns you have selected (highlighted). When you do this for all columns, the columns all have different widths (Figure 9.44b). Finally, to format the header row, select the whole row and click on the Fill color command, choosing a similar color, as shown in Figure 9.45.

A2 | 2/27/2021

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2	2/27/202	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
3							

(a)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2	2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$170.00	14	$2,380.00
3							

(b)

Figure 9.44: After entering a row of data, you can do the final formatting of the table. (a) Double-click at the edge of a column to change the width automatically. (b) Repeat this process for all columns. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

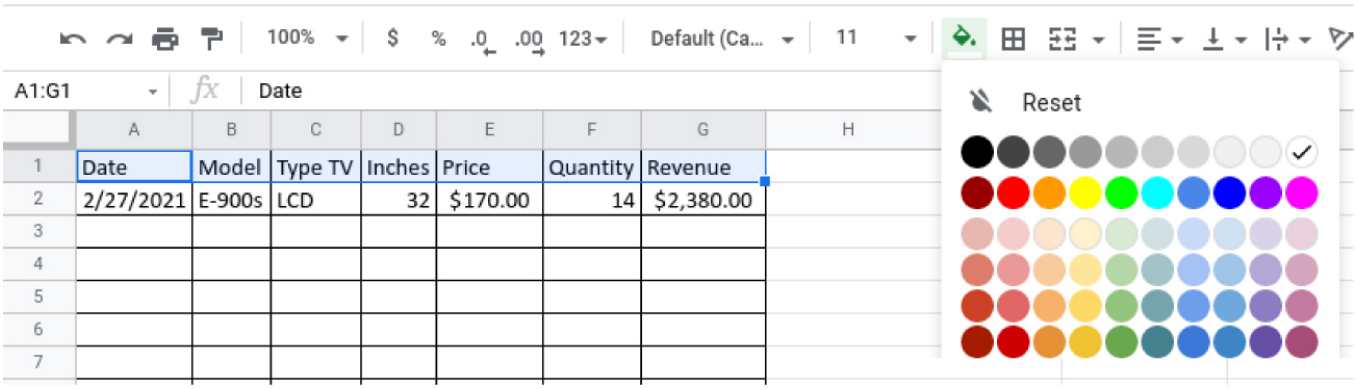


Figure 9.45: You can change the white fill color of the header row to match the original table by choosing blue from the Fill color command. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Navigating Existing Sheets

To open existing sheets, you start from Google Drive. Sign into your Drive account, then browse through your files to look for the existing workbooks. Double-click on an existing Sheets file, and it will open in a new browser tab. Figure 9.46 shows several files in Google Drive. You will need to recognize the icon for Sheets to know which are workbooks. The icon for Sheets is green. Sheets can also open Excel files. To browse for the saved Excel files not found in your Google Drive, choose Upload.

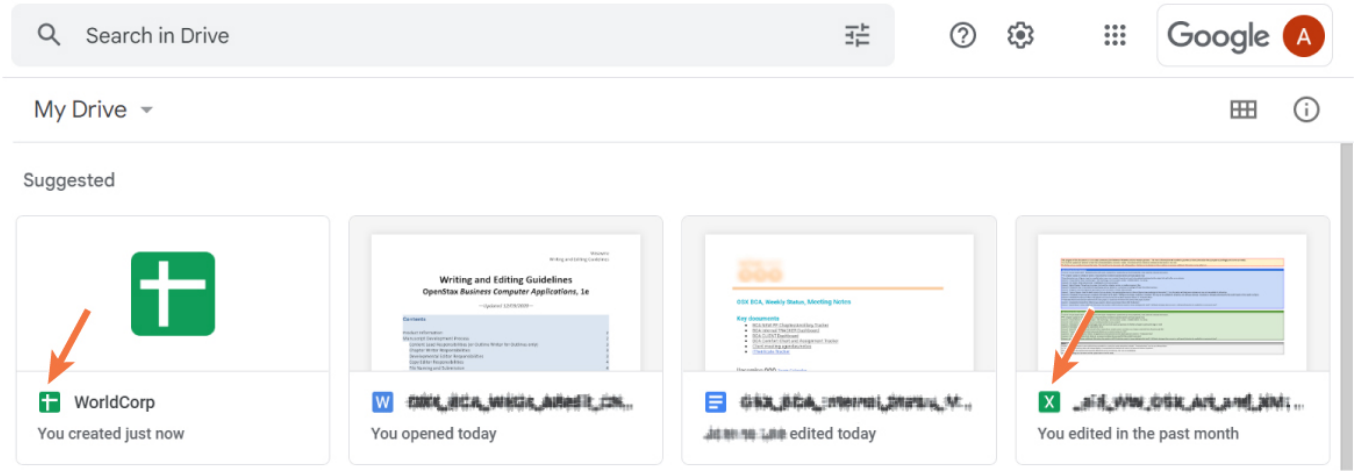


Figure 9.46: To open a Sheets file from Google Drive, you need to recognize the icon for spreadsheets. The first arrow points to an Excel file, and the second arrow points to a Sheets file. Sheets can open both types. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Spotlight on Ethics - Maintaining Accountability with Version History

In order to open Docs or Sheets, you will need to create or log in to your Google account. Every time you make a change to a file, Google Workspace uses your username to track it. If multiple people have been given access to open or edit the file, Google tracks these changes. You can review the changes different collaborators in your company make to a file using the Version History feature located near the bottom of the File menu. Version history is tracked from file creation. If a user has editing privileges for a document, they can see the version history. You can also filter changes by date to see what users changed on a specific date. You can check what changes any coworker made in the document. Having access to the version history of the document protects the integrity of collaborating with others by establishing accountability. Changes to the file cannot be made without other collaborators knowing that changes have been made. This allows transparency of information flow between collaborators. This can become important in tracking down errors in the file and can guide you if you need to revert to an earlier version of a document. It is also an important feature that helps collaboration when the individuals are not in the same location.

Printing Sheets

The process for printing worksheets in Sheets is the same as it is in Excel. Choose Print from the File menu (Figure 9.47a). The dialog box that opens (Figure 9.47b) lets you choose the print settings, such as page setup, range of pages to print, and zoom level, just like in Excel. The Print dialog box allows you to adjust the margins and add page breaks to make sure the spreadsheet prints as you would like. To adjust the margins, choose the Margins menu from the right side of the display. To add page breaks, choose Set Custom Page Breaks and move the lines to the desired location for the page breaks. Then, choose Confirm Breaks in the upper-right corner. You can also choose to print the active worksheet or the whole workbook. The whole workbook choice is shown in Figure 9.47b. When you click Next, Sheets will generate a preview of the file you are printing. Typically, your printer is listed as the default destination for printing. Choose the down arrow to choose your printer if it is not automatically listed. You can also generate a .pdf file, which you can save and then download from the browser into your computer. You can then open the .pdf file in Adobe Acrobat or any other .pdf viewer, such as Microsoft Edge, and print it there.

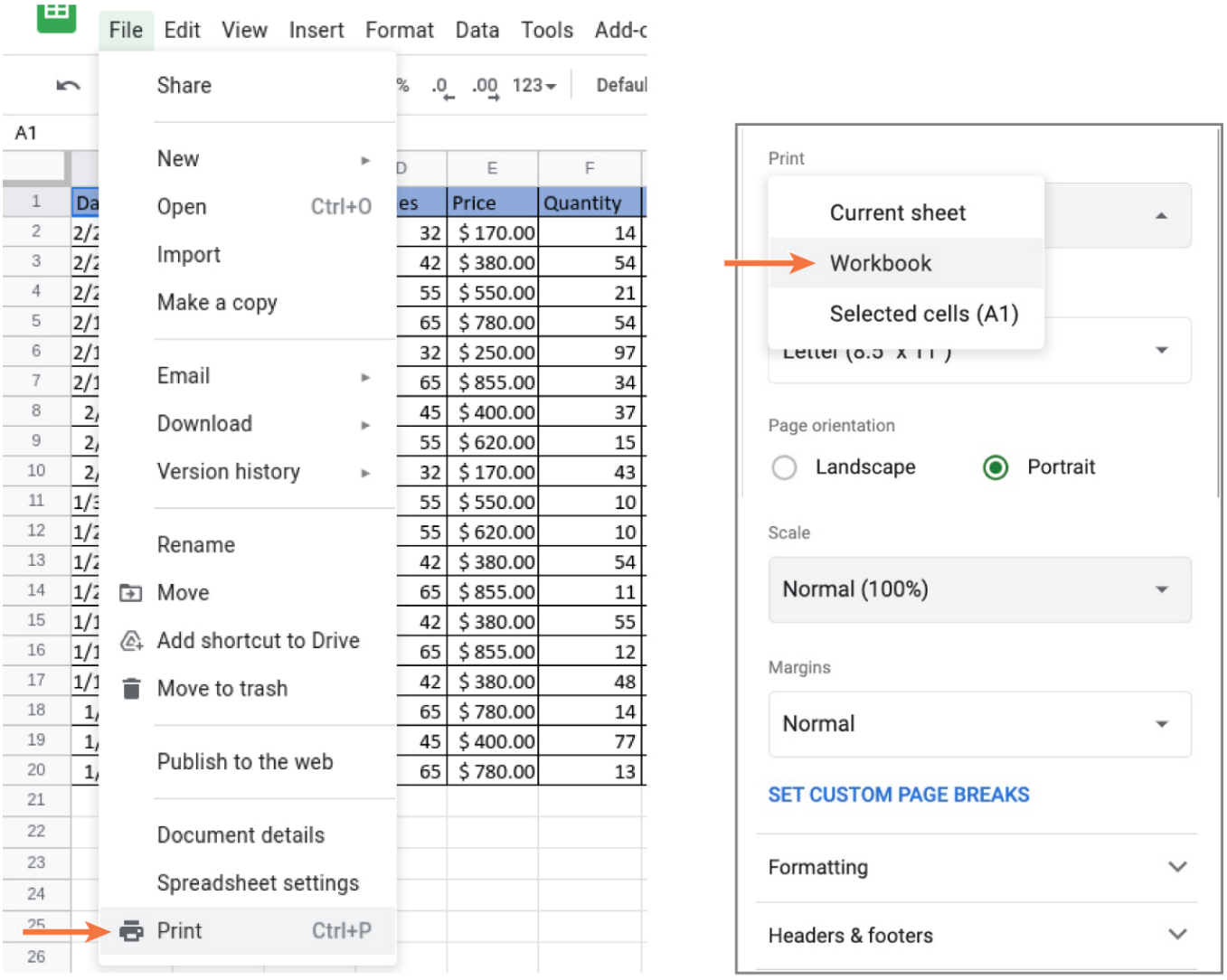


Figure 9.47: Printing from Sheets is similar to printing from Excel. (a) Select Print from the File menu. You can print the current sheet. (b) You can also print the entire workbook. Choose your printer from the Destination drop-down menu or save the file as a .pdf. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 9.5: Google Sheets Basics is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.6: Text and Numbers in Google Sheets

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the insert and copy-and-paste functions in Google Sheets
- Enter numeric and text data in a Sheets cell
- Create basic graphs from numeric and text data
- Use page layout and review features

There is a great need for text and numeric data in databases. For example, in WorldCorp's database, the client's surnames and given names are in two separate text data columns. The address, city, and state are each in their own text columns, too. The zip code and telephone may be in text format. This is because these values are numerical, but they are not used to perform any calculations. They are instead providing information about the client. Order quantity may be a number, and total dollar value per client is in accounting format. Sheets can handle large datasets in a similar manner to Excel. The cell formatting in Sheets is similar to that of Excel. Sometimes it is more a matter of company and/or personal preference. Some companies may be used to using Sheets for collaboration and information sharing, or a user might prefer the Sheets GUI over Excel. One drawback of Sheets is that it offers fewer options for charts and graphs than Excel.

Using the Copy-and-Paste and Insert Functions

Before learning to design and build a table from a blank worksheet, you need to understand how to use formatting from an existing table, as with Excel. Say a table to be copied to a new blank worksheet. Follow the same basic procedure as with Excel. First, select the table (Figure 9.48), then choose Copy from the Edit menu or press Ctrl+C on the keyboard. Next, go to the new worksheet and choose Paste from the Edit menu or press Ctrl+V. There will be are a few minor differences between your new table and the original. For example, the column widths of the original were adjusted to their contents, whereas in the pasted table, all columns have the same width. To adjust the widths, you can double-click on the edges of the header row between two columns you want to adjust.

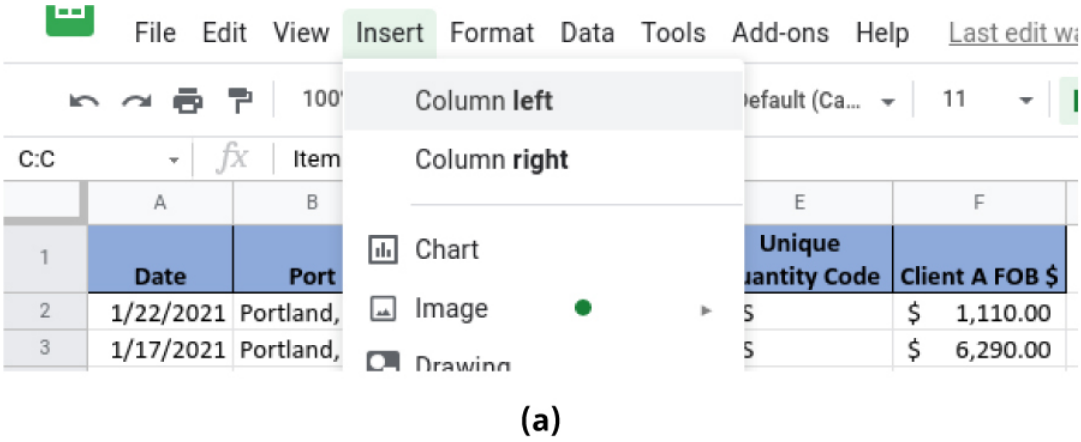
Mac Tip

As in Excel, Mac uses the Command key instead of the Control key, so the shortcut for copy is Command+C and the shortcut for paste is Command+V.

You have now created a new table using the formatting of an existing table, but the table isn't exactly what we need. Your manager asks you to add a new column between existing columns for the destination. To do this, first click on the top of column C to highlight the whole column, because you will insert the new column to its left. Then, click on the Insert menu to select Column Left (Figure 9.49a), which will insert a blank column (Figure 9.49b) where you can input your new data.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Client A FOB $
2	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
3	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	85	PCS	$ 6,290.00
4	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	110	PCS	$ 8,140.00
5	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	76	PCS	$ 5,624.00
6	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	22	PCS	$ 1,628.00
7	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
8	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
9	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	62	PCS	$ 4,588.00
10	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Tablets 7"	46	PCS	$ 3,404.00
11						

Figure 9.48: Using the formatting of an existing table can make it easier to create a new one. The table being copied has formatted headers and cells. First, highlight the table and copy it. Then, paste it into the new workbook. Since the columns are all the same size, they need to be resized. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)



(a)

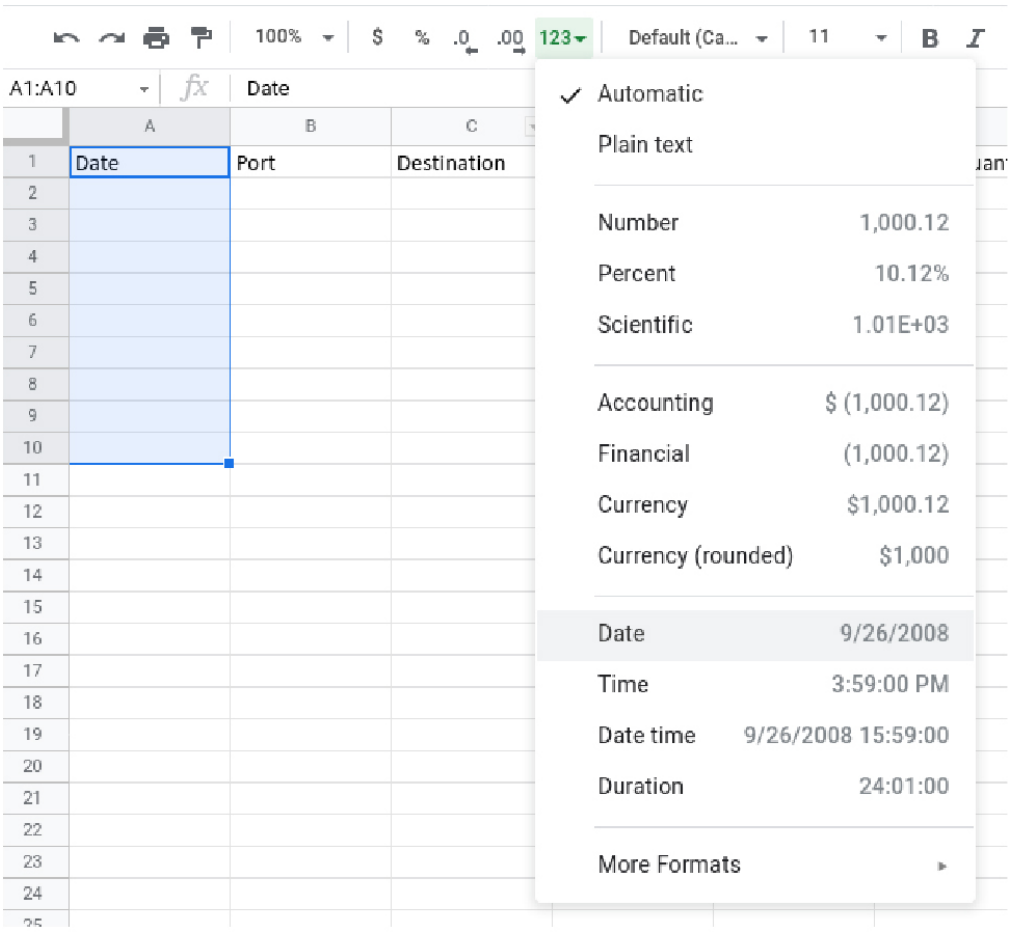
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Port		Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Client A FOB $
2	1/22/2021	Portland, ME		Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$1,110.00
3	1/17/2021	Portland, ME		Tablets 7"	85	PCS	$6,290.00

(b)

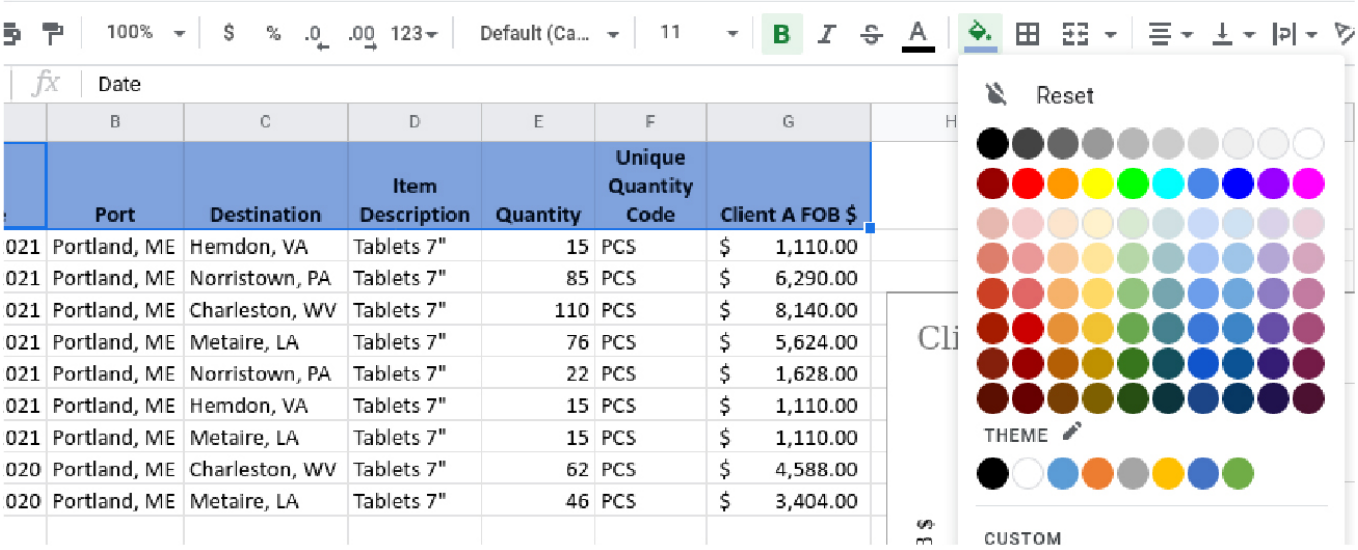
Figure 9.49: (a) Insert a column to the left of the item description. (b) The empty column keeps the visual formatting in the header. Then, you can enter the data in the new column. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Working with Numeric and Text Data in a Sheets Cell

Copying the formatting from an existing table is helpful, but it is not always an option. In some cases, you will need to create a table from scratch. The first step is to establish the headers in the first row (Figure 9.50a). Based on the headers, you can then choose the most appropriate format for the data (Figure 9.50b).



(a)



	Port	Destination	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Client A FOB $
021	Portland, ME	Hemdon, VA	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
021	Portland, ME	Norristown, PA	Tablets 7"	85	PCS	$ 6,290.00
021	Portland, ME	Charleston, WV	Tablets 7"	110	PCS	$ 8,140.00
021	Portland, ME	Metaire, LA	Tablets 7"	76	PCS	$ 5,624.00
021	Portland, ME	Norristown, PA	Tablets 7"	22	PCS	$ 1,628.00
021	Portland, ME	Hemdon, VA	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
021	Portland, ME	Metaire, LA	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
020	Portland, ME	Charleston, WV	Tablets 7"	62	PCS	$ 4,588.00
020	Portland, ME	Metaire, LA	Tablets 7"	46	PCS	$ 3,404.00

(b)

Figure 9.50: Creating a table from scratch requires many steps. First, enter your headers in the first row. (a) Then, format each column for the type of data it will contain. Adjust the column width when necessary. Format your header row by bolding and centering the content. (b) Finally, add the background fill from the custom color menu. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The format types Sheets uses are similar to the ones Excel uses. Table 9.3 compares the formats between Sheets and Excel. The names differ slightly, but many mean almost the same thing. There are minor differences like the order the format types appear in the menu, and there are some formats that are unique to Sheets. Sheets has the Financial, Currency rounded, Date time, and Duration formats that are not available in Excel.

Table 9.3: Data Formats in Google Sheets Compared with Excel

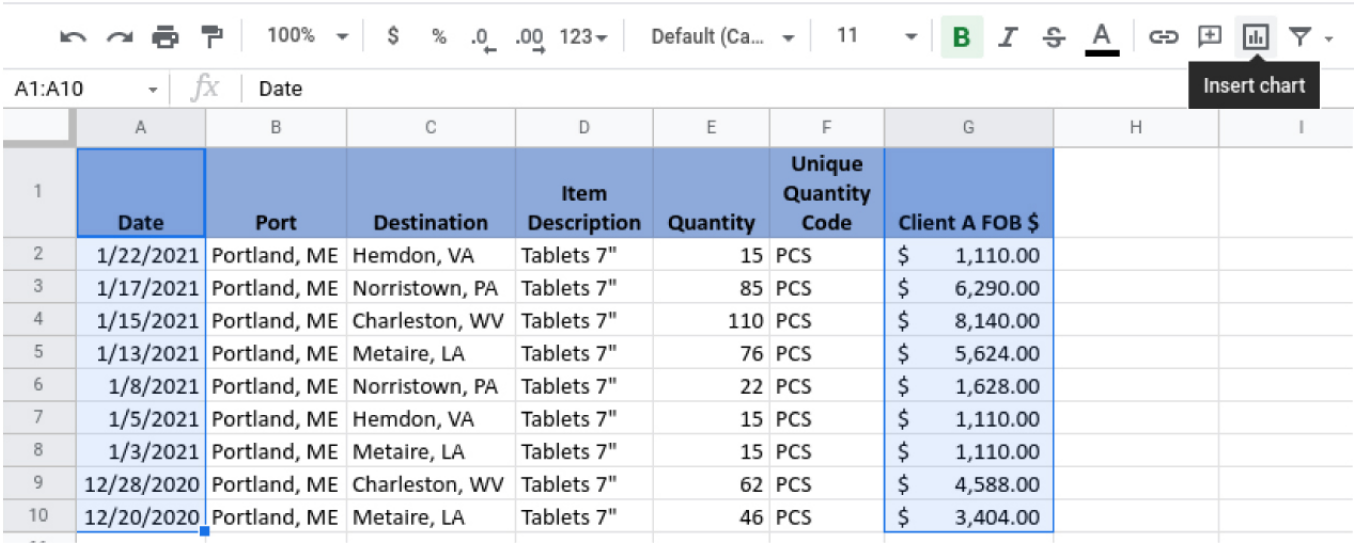
Type of Numerical Value	Difference Compared to Excel
Number	Same as Excel
Percentage	Same as Excel
Scientific	Same as Excel
Accounting	Same as Excel
Financial	Similar to Accounting, but without the currency symbol
Currency	Same as Excel
Currency rounded	Similar to Currency, but with no decimals
Date	Same as Excel
Time	Same as Excel
Date time	Similar to Date and Time but together in one cell
Duration	Unique to Sheets; a new way to measure time

Once you have your headers in place, you can apply the appropriate format to the cells below. Select all of column A and go to the More formats drop-down menu, and use the Date format (Figure 9.50a). You can set the next three columns as Plain Text and leave columns E and F as Automatic format. Set column G as Accounting. Then, you can fill in the table by adding each order. With all of the data entered, you can make any final formatting changes. First, adjust the width of the columns by double-clicking at the edge of each column. Next, drag the edge of column F to make it narrower so that the header has one word per line. Then, center align and apply bold font on all headers. Finally, apply the background color from the Custom set of colors, which shows recently used colors (Figure 9.50b).

Using Numeric and Text Data to Create Basic Graphs

To create a chart or graph in Sheets, the process is slightly different from Excel. First, select the data as you would do when creating a graph or chart in Excel. Then, go to the Insert menu and choose Chart. The chart will appear on the screen in the spreadsheet you have created. Google will analyze the type of data and choose the chart that seems appropriate for the data you have selected. The Chart Editor window will appear to the right. Here, you can adjust the type of chart you want to use and customize the chart with titles and other formatting options. Use the sales report created in Figure 9.50b to make a graph that compares the FOB $ to the Date. In other words, it will show the amount of money traded on each day. Sheets analyzes the data before creating the graph and will manipulate the data to be chronological, if necessary. It will also use its built-in artificial intelligence to choose the type of graph most appropriate for the data. You can override the graph type Sheets selects if there is one you feel is more appropriate. PivotTables/Charts goes into more detail about creating graphs and charts.

To create a basic graph, first select the columns you want to compare (Figure 9.51), using the Ctrl key to select two noncontiguous columns. Then, click on Insert Chart, and Sheets will create the graph it determines is the most appropriate. You can change the type of graph if you prefer a different type. Using the Chart Type drop-down menu, you can choose a different layout (Figure 9.52). Two other options for this data are a bar chart with the chronological order inversed, and an area chart, which is similar to the line chart. When choosing any chart option, Sheets will automatically reorder the dates.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Port	Destination	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Client A FOB $
2	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Hemdon, VA	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
3	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Norristown, PA	Tablets 7"	85	PCS	$ 6,290.00
4	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Charleston, WV	Tablets 7"	110	PCS	$ 8,140.00
5	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Metaire, LA	Tablets 7"	76	PCS	$ 5,624.00
6	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Norristown, PA	Tablets 7"	22	PCS	$ 1,628.00
7	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Hemdon, VA	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
8	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Metaire, LA	Tablets 7"	15	PCS	$ 1,110.00
9	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Charleston, WV	Tablets 7"	62	PCS	$ 4,588.00
10	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Metaire, LA	Tablets 7"	46	PCS	$ 3,404.00

Figure 9.51: Creating graphs in Sheets is simple because of the built-in analysis the application performs. First, choose the columns you want to compare and click on Insert Chart. Sheets automatically chose a line chart for the data. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

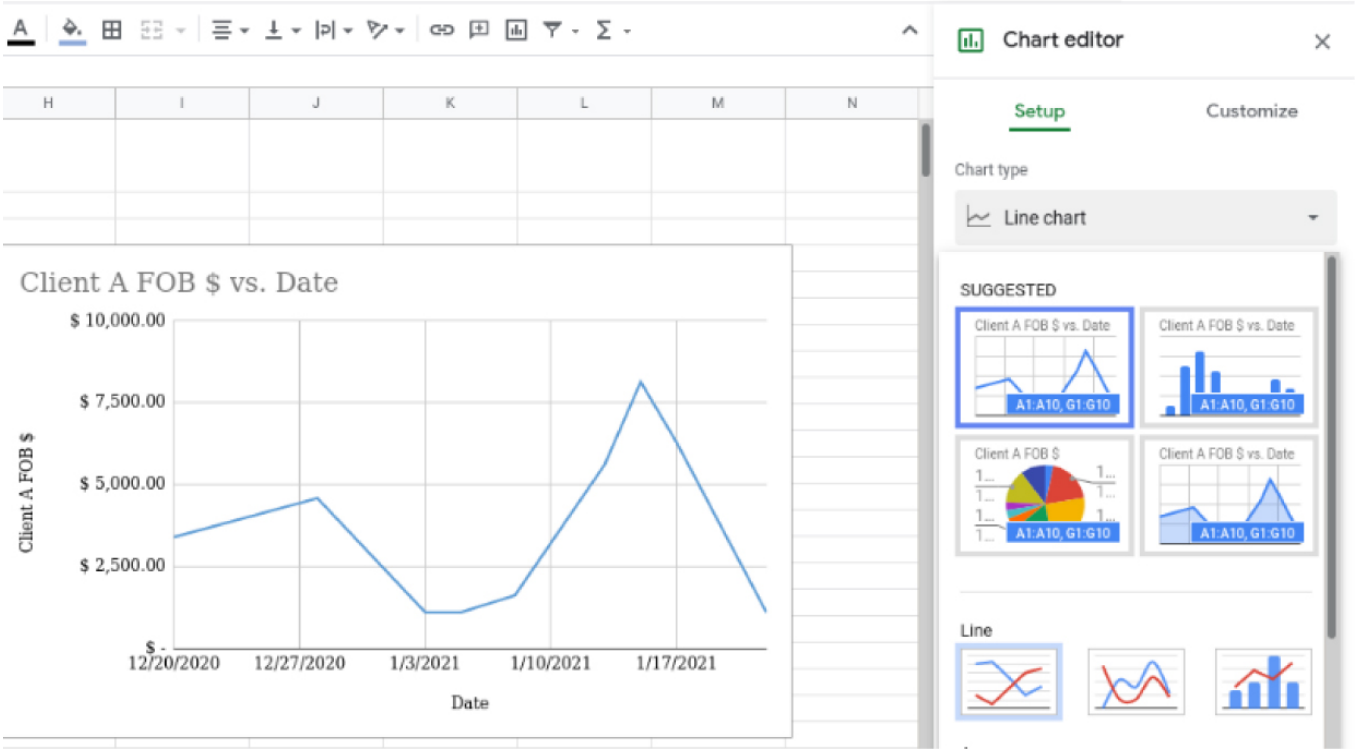


Figure 9.52: The Chart Editor sidebar gives other options for the type of chart. Another option for this set of data is a bar chart. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Link to Learning

The help forums for Sheets contain a short introduction to all the types of graphs you can build. They describe the use of each of the graphs, previews, and short step-by-step instructions. Go to Google's support page on the different graph types to learn more.

Page Layout and Review Menus

Sheets does not have menus that directly compare to the Page Layout and Review tabs in Excel, but it does have many of the same features. One feature Sheets does not have is Page Setup. The items in the Page Setup command group such as margins and page

orientation are managed in the Print Setting in Google. Similar to the Themes command group in Excel, Sheets has a Theme option found in the Format menu (Figure 9.53). Excel's Page Layout tab also has the Background command that allows you to choose an image for the background of your worksheet. This feature is partly available in Sheets in the Insert menu, which allows you to insert an "Image in cell" or "Image over cells" (Figure 9.54a). The result of placing an image in a cell is shown in Figure 9.54b. The inserted image (either in a cell or over cells) sits on top of the information in the cells, unlike in Excel, where the image is in the background. The other functions, like moving an object forward or backward, adding gridlines, or scaling settings, are partly available in Sheets. You can insert objects such as Google Draw files, Google Forms, charts, and images into the worksheets, but moving them around may be more cumbersome and less robust compared with Excel.

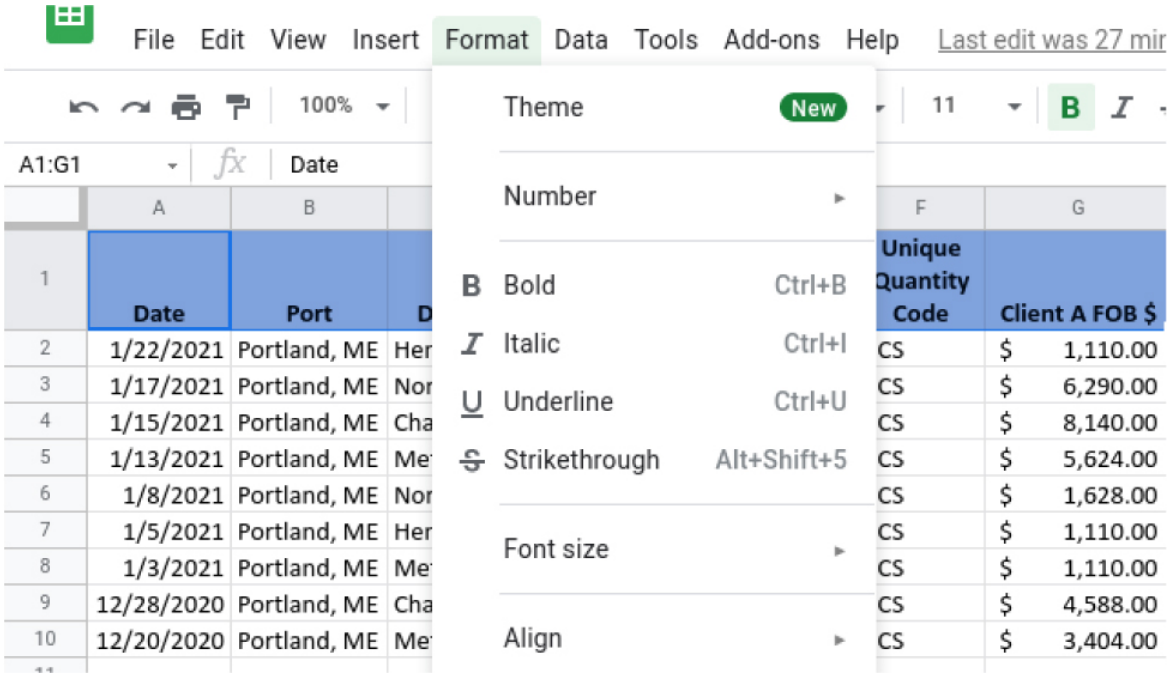
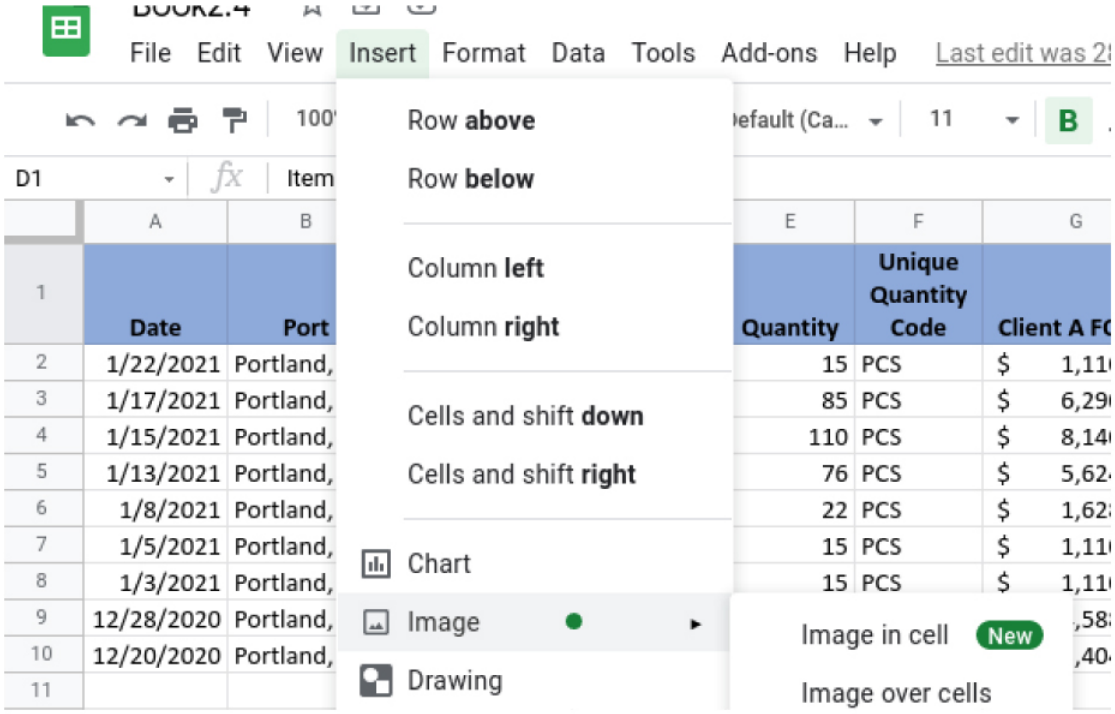
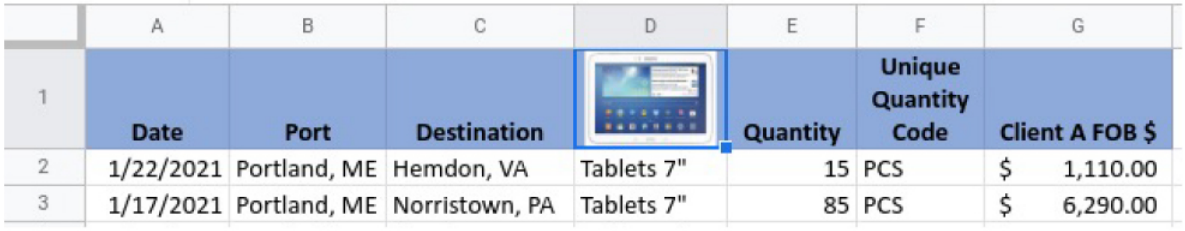


Figure 9.53: Page layout features in Sheets differ somewhat from those in Excel. Themes are used to set a color scheme and/or font type for your spreadsheet. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)



(a)



(b)

Figure 9.54: (a) You can insert an image in a single cell or over all of the cells in a worksheet. (b) Inserting an image in a single cell fills the cell with the image. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The review features in Sheets differ somewhat from the Review tab commands in Excel. Sheets allows you to insert a comment (Figure 9.55) and view all the comments on the document by clicking on the Comment History button on the top. The Tools menu in Sheets has a spelling and grammar check (Figure 9.56).

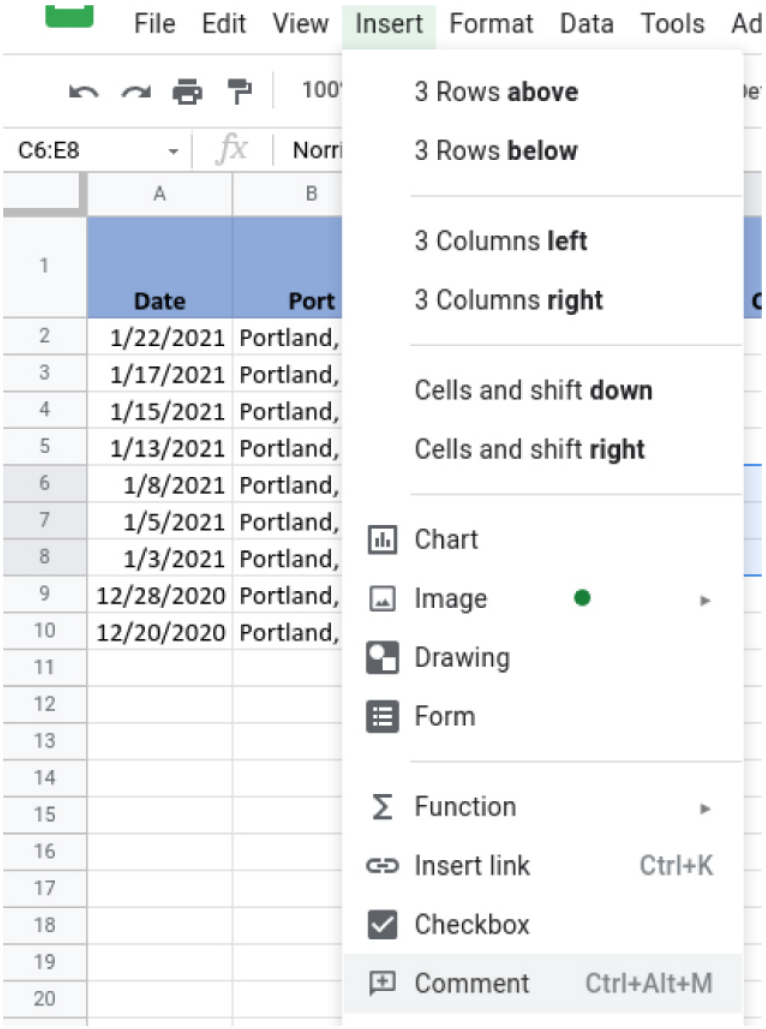


Figure 9.55: Some review features in Sheets are similar to those of Excel. Comments are available in the Insert menu. You can also review all comments in a workbook. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

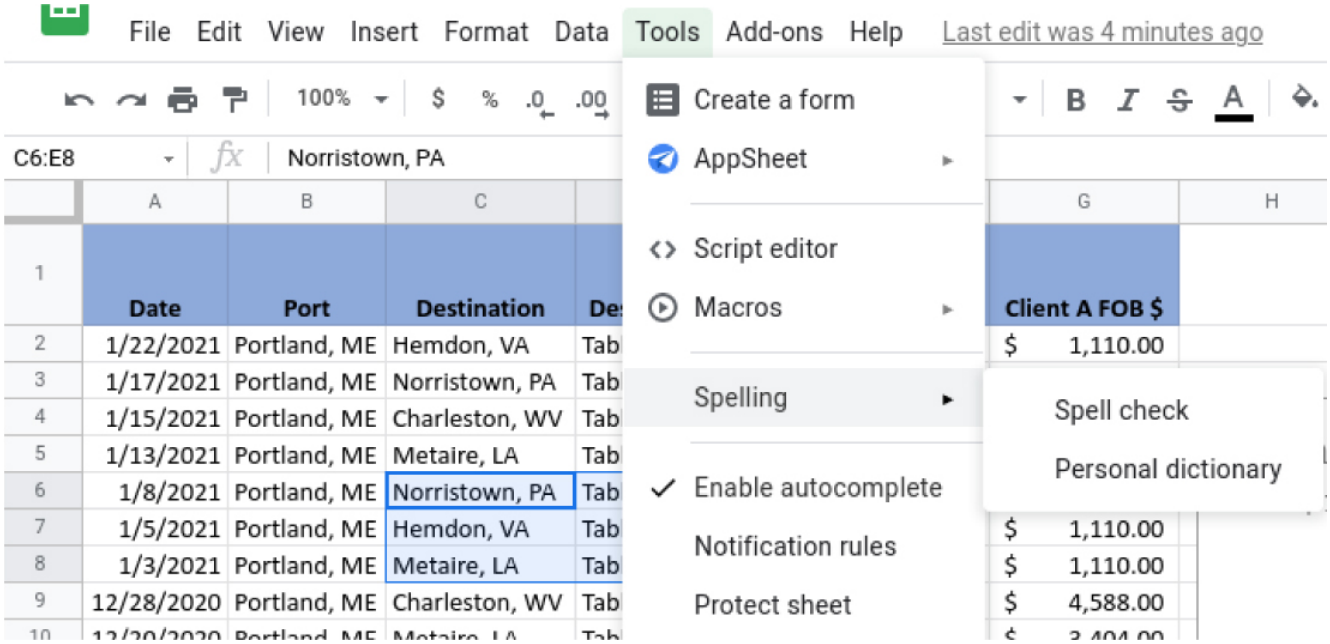


Figure 9.56: The spelling and grammar check are in the Tools menu. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 9.6: Text and Numbers in Google Sheets is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.7: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Google Sheets

Learning Objectives

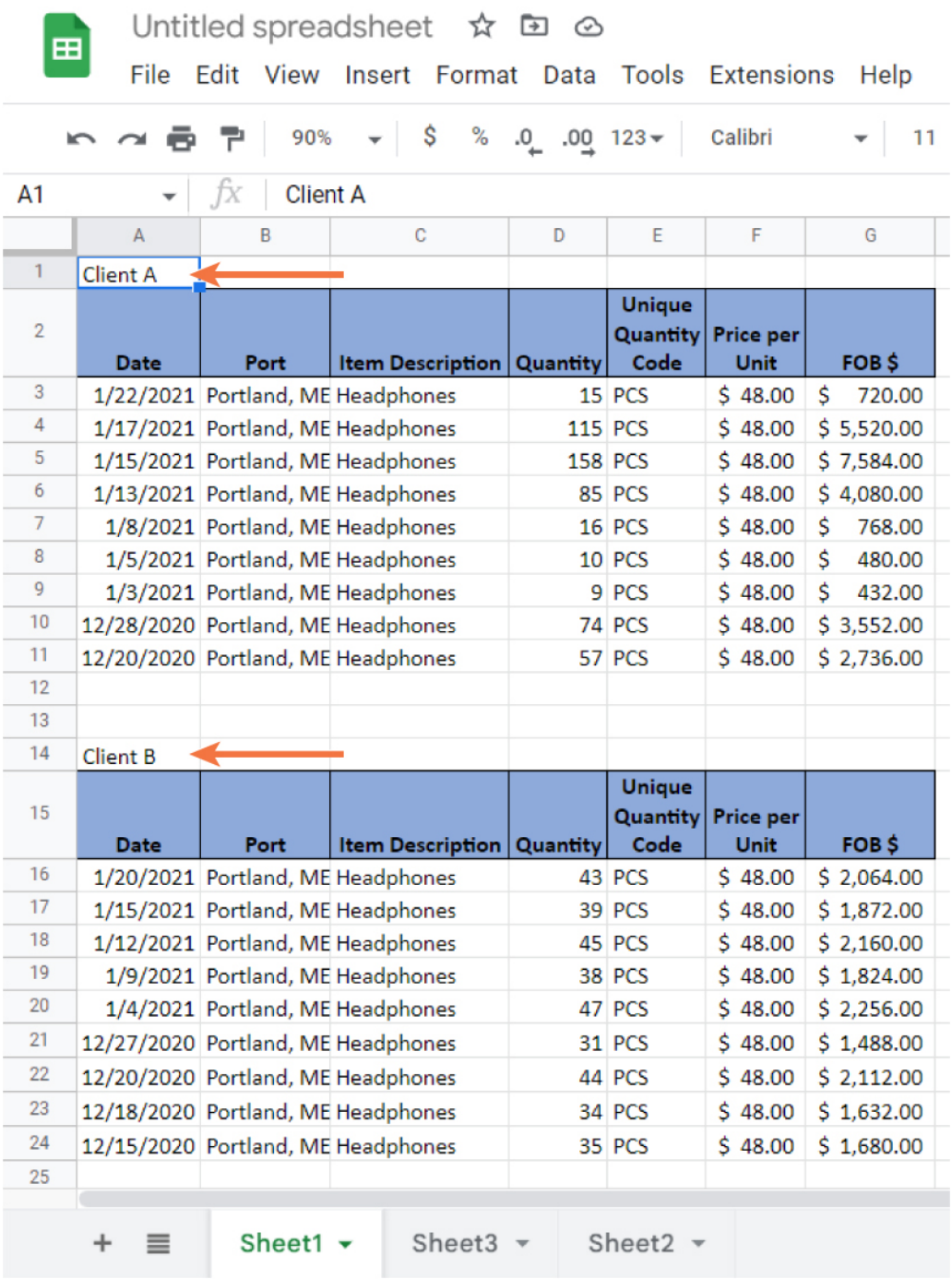
By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Add numbers in Sheets
- Subtract numbers in Sheets
- Multiply numbers in Sheets
- Divide numbers in Sheets

Microsoft Excel has been around for decades, yet there are no functions for subtracting or dividing numbers. Users must still build formulas with the appropriate mathematical operator to divide or subtract numbers. Google Sheets has added a MINUS and a DIVIDE function. WorldCorp likes being able to use these functions in their number crunching.

Adding Numbers

Adding numbers in Sheets uses the same commands and formulas as Excel does. Here, you will compare orders from two clients, Client A and Client B, who ordered the same product—headphones—but at different times and in different quantities. Figure 9.57 is a snapshot of these orders, showing the two clients' order history in two different tables.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Client A						
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 720.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 4,080.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	16	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 768.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	10	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 480.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	9	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 432.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	74	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 3,552.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	57	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,736.00
12							
13							
14	Client B						
15	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
16	1/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	43	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,064.00
17	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	39	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,872.00
18	1/12/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	45	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,160.00
19	1/9/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	38	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,824.00
20	1/4/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	47	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,256.00
21	12/27/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	31	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,488.00
22	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	44	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,112.00
23	12/18/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	34	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,632.00
24	12/15/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	35	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,680.00
25							

Figure 9.57: The addition formula in Sheets works the same way as in Excel. We can use the addition formula to summarize this information into one shorter table. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You will design a new table that summarizes these orders by client and by month using the data found in the two client tables. Figure 9.58 shows a snapshot of the summarized orders of each client, separated by month. In this table, we used the + sign to add the cells containing numbers (for example: =G3+G4+G5+G6+G7+G8+G9) in the formula bar to add together total sales for each month by client. Note this syntax is the same as Excel.

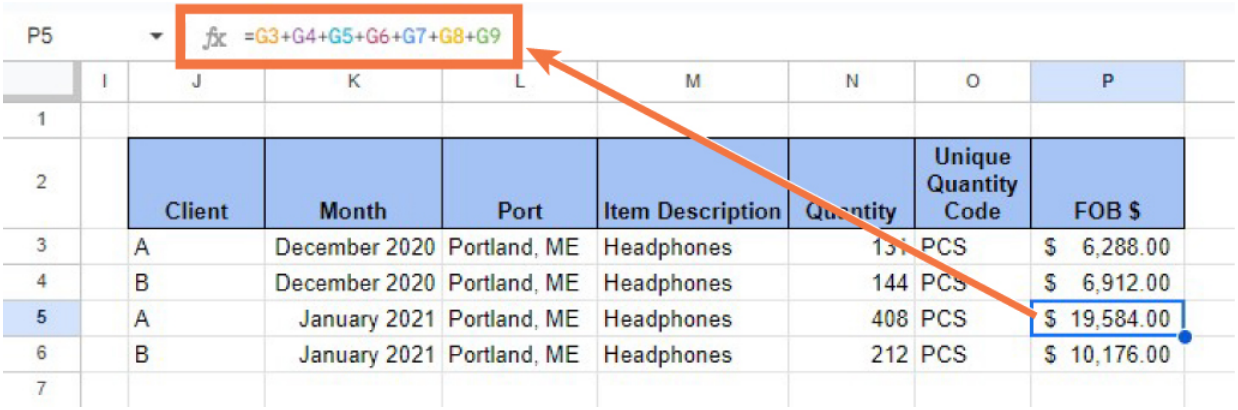
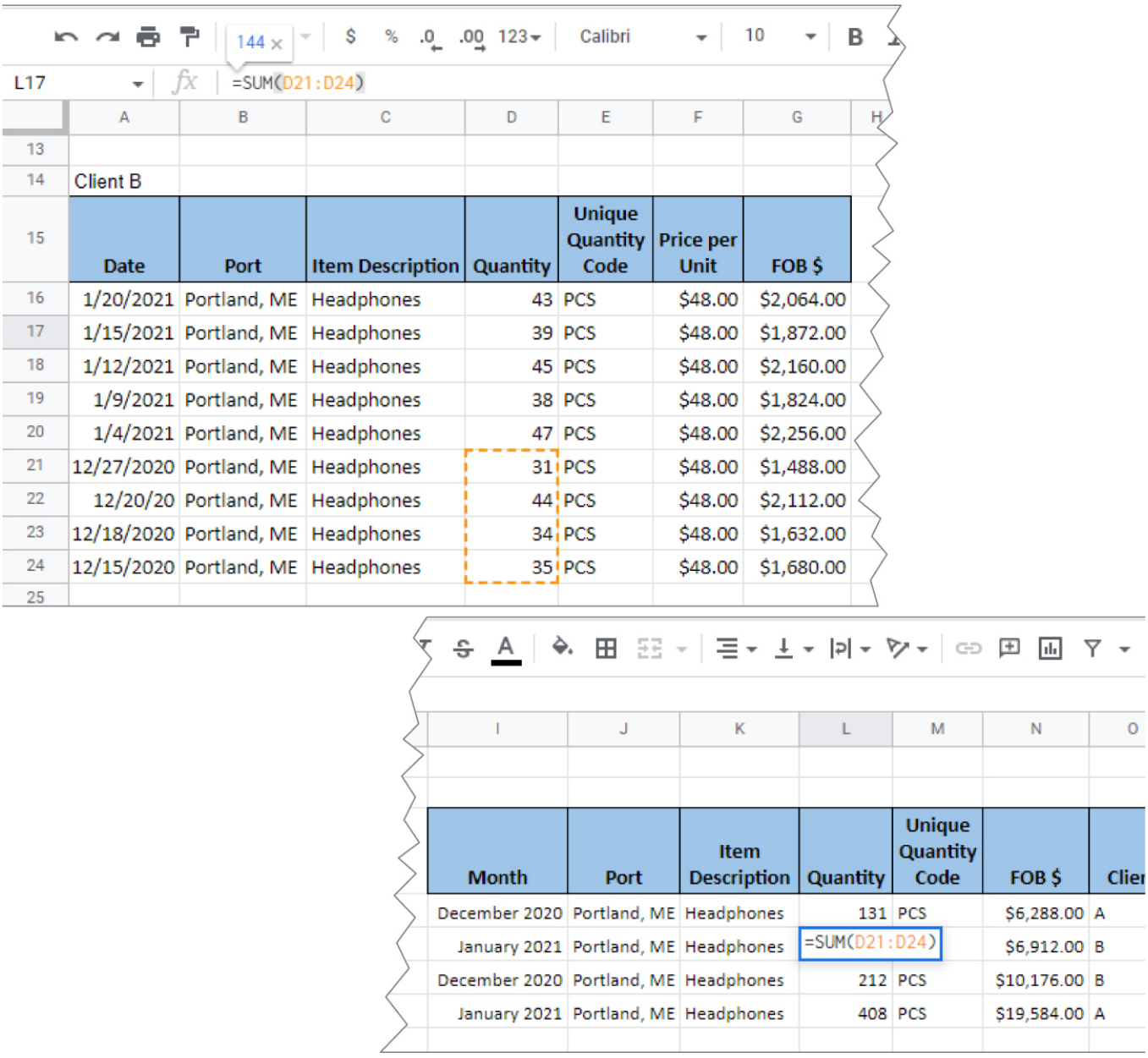


Figure 9.58: You can use the addition formula to add up all of the sales that occur in a specific month. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The same calculations can occur using functions. You can use the table in Figure 9.58, but replace the plus sign with the SUM function, like Excel. Type “=SUM", an open parenthesis, then list the cells you wish to add, putting a comma after each cell reference. Then close the formula with a closing parenthesis (Figure 9.59). Repeat the process for all sales data by month and client.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
13							
14	Client B						
15	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
16	1/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	43	PCS	$48.00	$2,064.00
17	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	39	PCS	$48.00	$1,872.00
18	1/12/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	45	PCS	$48.00	$2,160.00
19	1/9/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	38	PCS	$48.00	$1,824.00
20	1/4/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	47	PCS	$48.00	$2,256.00
21	12/27/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	31	PCS	$48.00	$1,488.00
22	12/20/20	Portland, ME	Headphones	44	PCS	$48.00	$2,112.00
23	12/18/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	34	PCS	$48.00	$1,632.00
24	12/15/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	35	PCS	$48.00	$1,680.00
25							

	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
	Month	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Clie
	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	131	PCS	$6,288.00	A
	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	=SUM(D21:D24)		$6,912.00	B
	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	212	PCS	$10,176.00	B
	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	408	PCS	$19,584.00	A

Figure 9.59: Sheets offers a SUM function that can be used instead of formulas. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Subtracting Numbers

One way to use subtraction in data analysis is to determine how far an order is above or below the average order. This information can tell us which clients might need more attention to increase their orders or to analyze ordering patterns due to seasonality. To perform this calculation, we will measure the distance from the average. First, find the average, which is the total sales divided by the number of orders. Using the data in Figure 9.57, insert two columns after Quantity for the average quantity and distance from average and insert two more columns after FOB $ for the average FOB $ and distance from average. Then, find the average for each of these and repeat the value in all cells in that column. Then, to find the distance from average, subtract the average from the individual order, for both Quantity and FOB $. Figure 9.60 shows the average columns and the formula for finding the distance from average. Then, apply the formula to all rows (Figure 9.61). Repeat the process for the distance from average for FOB $ (Figure 9.62). In these statistical analyses, you can see that there are some large orders that make the average high, which in turn makes many smaller orders have a negative distance from average and makes them seem even smaller by comparison.

G3 =E3-F3

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Customer A									
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Unique Quantity Code	Quantity	Average	$ (34.72) ×	FOB $	Average	Distance from Avg
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	15	49.72	=E3-F3	$ 720.00	$2,386.67	
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	115	49.72		$5,520.00	$2,386.67	
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	158	49.72		$7,584.00	$2,386.67	
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	85	49.72		$4,080.00	$2,386.67	
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	16	49.72		$ 768.00	$2,386.67	
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	10	49.72		$ 480.00	$2,386.67	
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	9	49.72		$ 432.00	$2,386.67	
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	74	49.72		$3,552.00	$2,386.67	
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	57	49.72		$2,736.00	$2,386.67	

Figure 9.60: You can perform subtraction calculations in Sheets using formulas, just as in Excel. After finding the average, subtract the average from the quantity to get the distance from average. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

G24 =E24-F24

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Customer A									
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Unique Quantity Code	Quantity	Average	Distance from Avg	FOB $	Average	Distance from Avg
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	15	49.72	$ (34.72)	$ 720.00	$2,386.67	
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	115	49.72	$ 65.28	$5,520.00	$2,386.67	
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	158	49.72	$ 108.28	$7,584.00	$2,386.67	
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	85	49.72	$ 35.28	$4,080.00	$2,386.67	
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	16	49.72	$ (33.72)	$ 768.00	$2,386.67	
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	10	49.72	$ (39.72)	$ 480.00	$2,386.67	
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	9	49.72	$ (40.72)	$ 432.00	$2,386.67	
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	74	49.72	$ 24.28	$3,552.00	$2,386.67	
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	57	49.72	$ 7.28	$2,736.00	$2,386.67	
12										
13										
14	Client B									
15	Date	Port	Item Description	Unique Quantity Code	Quantity	Average	Distance from Avg	FOB $	Average	Distance from Avg
16	1/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	43	49.72	$ (6.72)	$2,064.00	$2,386.67	
17	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	39	49.72	$ (10.72)	$1,872.00	$2,386.67	
18	1/12/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	45	49.72	$ (4.72)	$2,160.00	$2,386.67	
19	1/9/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	38	49.72	$ (11.72)	$1,824.00	$2,386.67	
20	1/4/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	47	49.72	$ (2.72)	$2,256.00	$2,386.67	
21	12/27/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	31	49.72	$ (18.72)	$1,488.00	$2,386.67	
22	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	44	49.72	$ (5.72)	$2,112.00	$2,386.67	
23	12/18/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	34	49.72	$ (15.72)	$1,632.00	$2,386.67	
24	12/15/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	35	49.72	$ (14.72)	$1,680.00	$2,386.67	
25										

Figure 9.61: Then, copy the formula to all cells in the same row. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

J24 =H24-I24

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Customer A									
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Unique Quantity Code	Quantity	Average	Distance from Avg	FOB $	Average	Distance from Avg
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	15	49.72	$ (34.72)	$ 720.00	$2,386.67	$(1,666.67)
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	115	49.72	$ 65.28	$5,520.00	$2,386.67	$ 3,133.33
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	158	49.72	$ 108.28	$7,584.00	$2,386.67	$ 5,197.33
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	85	49.72	$ 35.28	$4,080.00	$2,386.67	$ 1,693.33
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	16	49.72	$ (33.72)	$ 768.00	$2,386.67	$(1,618.67)
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	10	49.72	$ (39.72)	$ 480.00	$2,386.67	$(1,906.67)
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	9	49.72	$ (40.72)	$ 432.00	$2,386.67	$(1,954.67)
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	74	49.72	$ 24.28	$3,552.00	$2,386.67	$ 1,165.33
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	57	49.72	$ 7.28	$2,736.00	$2,386.67	$ 349.33
12										
13										
14	Client B									
15	Date	Port	Item Description	Unique Quantity Code	Quantity	Average	Distance from Avg	FOB $	Average	Distance from Avg
16	1/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	43	49.72	$ (6.72)	$2,064.00	$2,386.67	$ (322.67)
17	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	39	49.72	$ (10.72)	$1,872.00	$2,386.67	$ (514.67)
18	1/12/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	45	49.72	$ (4.72)	$2,160.00	$2,386.67	$ (226.67)
19	1/9/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	38	49.72	$ (11.72)	$1,824.00	$2,386.67	$ (562.67)
20	1/4/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	47	49.72	$ (2.72)	$2,256.00	$2,386.67	$ (130.67)
21	12/27/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	31	49.72	$ (18.72)	$1,488.00	$2,386.67	$ (898.67)
22	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	44	49.72	$ (5.72)	$2,112.00	$2,386.67	$ (274.67)
23	12/18/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	34	49.72	$ (15.72)	$1,632.00	$2,386.67	$ (754.67)
24	12/15/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	35	49.72	$ (14.72)	$1,680.00	$2,386.67	$ (706.67)
25										

Figure 9.62: Do the same calculation to find the distance from average for the FOB $. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Sheets also offers a subtraction function, unlike Excel. You can replace the subtraction formula with the MINUS function. First, type “=minus(” and list the cell references separated by a comma (Figure 9.63). The MINUS function subtracts numbers in the order they appear in the formula just as if they were separated by “-” in a formula. You can repeat this for all the subtraction formulas in the table. You can only subtract two numbers using the MINUS function.

G3 =minus(E3,f3)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Customer A							
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Unique Quantity Code	Quantity	Average	Distance from Avg	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	15	49.72	=minus(E3,f3)	720.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	115	49.72	$ 65.28	$5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	158	49.72	$ 108.28	$7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	85	49.72	$ 35.28	$4,080.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	16	49.72	$ (33.72)	$ 768.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	PCS	10	49.72	$ (39.72)	$ 480.00

Figure 9.63: Sheets has the advantage over Excel in that it has a MINUS function. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Multiplying Numbers

As in Excel, when using the multiplication formula in Sheets, you can multiply a cell reference by a constant or a cell reference by a cell reference. Using the same dataset, you can find the FOB $ by multiplying the quantity by the price per unit. Figure 9.64a

shows multiplication of the cell reference from the Quantity column by the constant price per unit without adding a column for the value. A Price per Unit column is added and the constant in the formula is replaced with the cell reference (Figure 9.64b). You can repeat the calculation for all rows, as previously illustrated.

F3 =D3*48

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Customer A					
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$ 720.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$ 5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$ 7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$ 4,080.00

(a)

G3 =D3*F3

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Customer A						
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$ 48.00	=D3*F3
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 4,080.00

(b)

Figure 9.64: You can use cell references and constants for multiplication using formulas in Sheets. (a) The price per unit is the same for all items in this table, so you can multiply the quantity by the price without adding a column. Alternatively, you can add a column for the price per unit and (b) use cell references to perform the calculation. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To use the function, replace the formula with "=multiply(" and add the constant and/or cell references in parentheses, separated by commas (Figure 9.65). You can only multiply two numbers using the MULTIPLY function. Sheets has another function, PRODUCT, that can multiply a series of numbers rather than just two.

G3 =multiply(D3,F3)

	D	E	F	G	H
1					
2	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $	
3	15	PCS	$ 48.00	=multiply(D3,F3)	
4	115	PCS	$ 48.00	$5,520.00	
5	158	PCS	$ 48.00	$7,584.00	

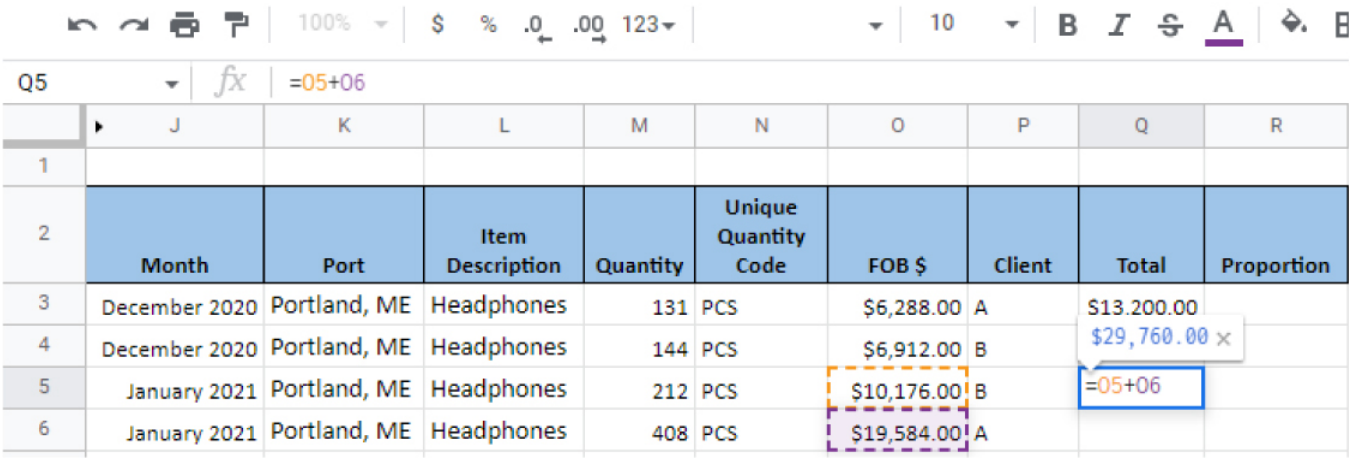
Figure 9.65: The function for multiplication in Sheets is MULTIPLY. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Dividing Numbers

Dividing numbers using formulas in Sheets is also the same as in Excel. You can use the same sales data to find the proportion of sales of each client compared with the total. Start with the data from Figure 9.58, organized by month. Add a column for the total

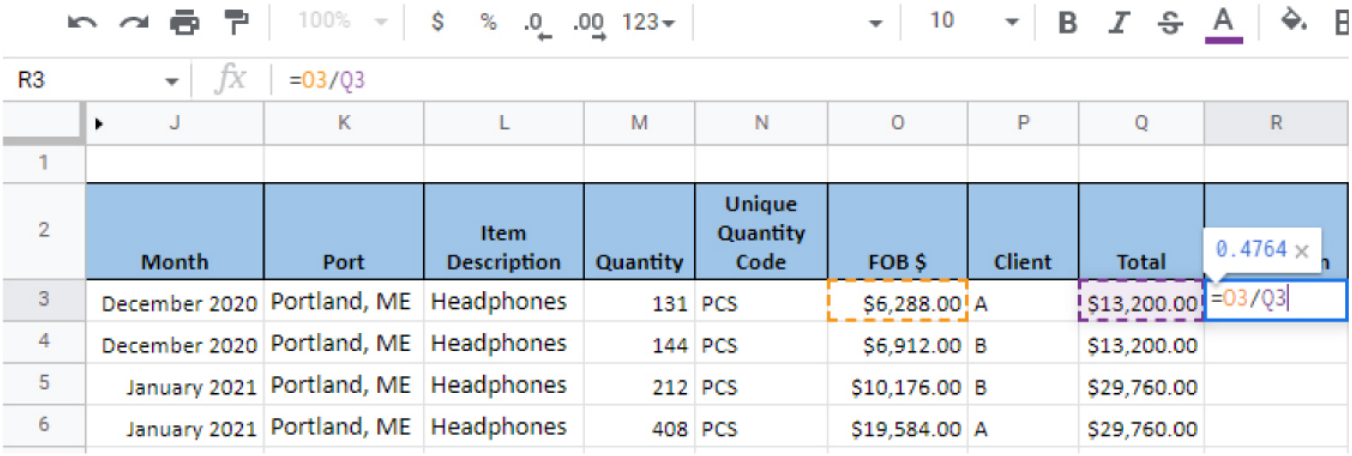
sales for each month and one for the proportion, and then add a formula to calculate the total sales for clients A and B for each month (Figure 9.66).

Now that you have the totals, find the proportion by dividing the FOB $ in O3 by the total in Q3 (Figure 9.67). Repeat the same operation for the other three rows (Figure 9.68). This analysis shows the sales behavior differences between clients A and B. This data analyses shows that in December, client B had 52.36 percent of the sales, and in January client A had 65.81 percent of the sales. The proportion can be changed into a percentage to increase readability, as shown in Figure 9.69.



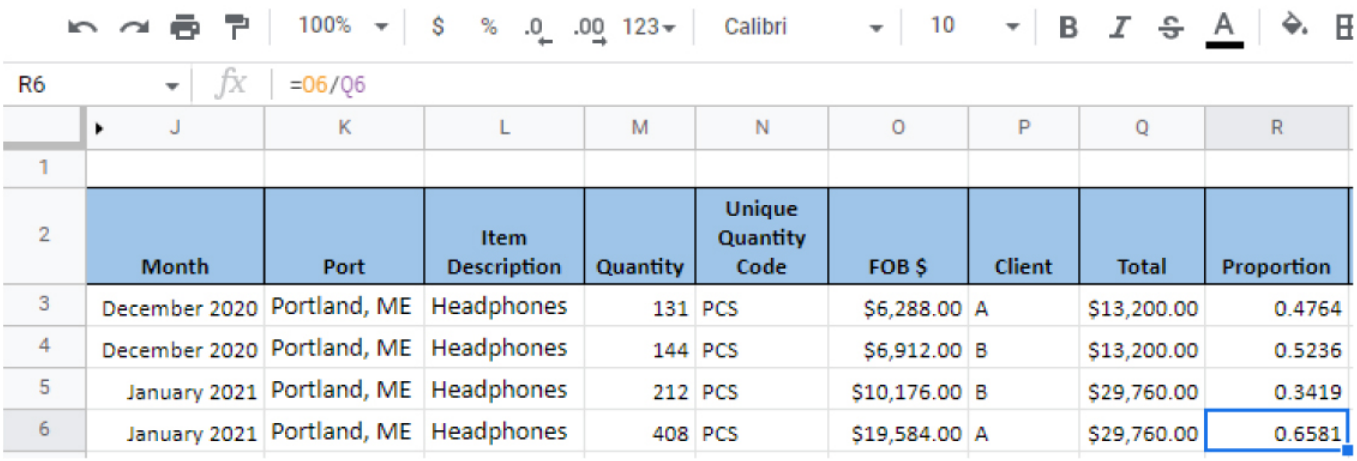
	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1									
2	Month	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Client	Total	Proportion
3	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	131	PCS	$6,288.00	A	$13,200.00	
4	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	144	PCS	$6,912.00	B		
5	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	212	PCS	$10,176.00	B		
6	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	408	PCS	$19,584.00	A		

Figure 9.66: You can use division to find the proportion of sales by client and by month. First, find the total sales for each month. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)



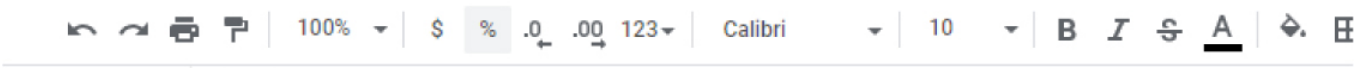
	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1									
2	Month	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Client	Total	
3	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	131	PCS	$6,288.00	A	$13,200.00	=O3/Q3
4	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	144	PCS	$6,912.00	B	$13,200.00	
5	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	212	PCS	$10,176.00	B	$29,760.00	
6	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	408	PCS	$19,584.00	A	$29,760.00	

Figure 9.67: Then, use the division formula to divide the client's total by the total monthly sales. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)



	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1									
2	Month	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Client	Total	Proportion
3	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	131	PCS	$6,288.00	A	$13,200.00	0.4764
4	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	144	PCS	$6,912.00	B	$13,200.00	0.5236
5	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	212	PCS	$10,176.00	B	$29,760.00	0.3419
6	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	408	PCS	$19,584.00	A	$29,760.00	0.6581

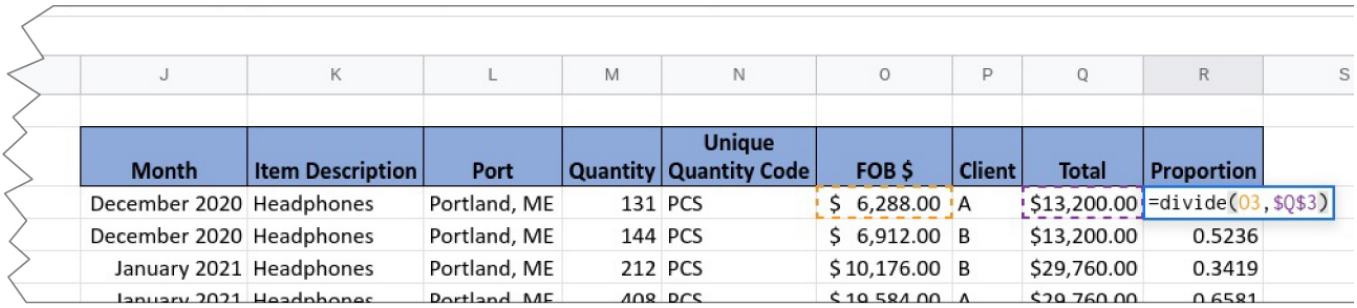
Figure 9.68: Carry these formulas down the column to get the proportion for each client in each month. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)



	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1									
2	Month	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Client	Total	Proportion
3	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	131	PCS	$6,288.00	A	$13,200.00	47.64%
4	December 2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	144	PCS	$6,912.00	B	$13,200.00	52.36%
5	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	212	PCS	$10,176.00	B	$29,760.00	34.19%
6	January 2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	408	PCS	$19,584.00	A	$29,760.00	65.81%

Figure 9.69: Reformatting the cells as percentages makes the data more useful. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The division function in Sheets works in the same way as other mathematical functions. You can type "=divide(" and then enter the cell references, separated by a comma (Figure 9.70). Notice that the result of the DIVIDE function is a decimal. The numbers are divided in the order in which they are placed in the function, and you can only divide two numbers using the DIVIDE function. The QUOTIENT function in Sheets also works in the same way as Excel. The result of the QUOTIENT function will be a whole number, not a decimal. For example, when you divide 5 by 4, the answer is 1.25, but using the QUOTIENT function, the answer will be displayed as 1.



	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
	Month	Item Description	Port	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Client	Total	Proportion	
	December 2020	Headphones	Portland, ME	131	PCS	$ 6,288.00	A	$13,200.00	=divide(O3,Q3)	
	December 2020	Headphones	Portland, ME	144	PCS	$ 6,912.00	B	$13,200.00	0.5236	
	January 2021	Headphones	Portland, ME	212	PCS	$ 10,176.00	B	$29,760.00	0.3419	
	January 2021	Headphones	Portland, ME	408	PCS	$ 19,584.00	A	$29,760.00	0.6581	

Figure 9.70: You may use DIVIDE as a function in Sheets. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

This page titled 9.7: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Google Sheets is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.8: Formatting and Templates in Google Sheets

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Format and manipulate a cell or group of cells
- Design column and row header
- Use conditional formatting
- Work with templates to format worksheets

Google Sheets has the same formatting features that Microsoft Excel does. The cell formatting of fonts and shading of cells is part of everyday use when making headers. Text wrapping is also a feature in Sheets. Like Excel, there are numerous Sheets templates available online and within the application. All of these features make Sheets a valuable spreadsheet application for WorldCorp.

Formatting Cells

Sheets has the same functionality for formatting cells as Excel does. For example, you can use contrasting color combinations to make text easier to read. The main difference in formatting cells between Sheets and Excel is the location of the tools.

Using Color and Fonts

The tables in Figure 9.57 have the standard blue headers we've been using. Starting with these tables, we will apply formatting changes. First, let's change the font of the headers and the body of the tables. Click on the header row and choose Courier New from the Font drop-down box (Figure 9.71a). Next, change the color of the font. Since the headers are still selected after the font change, go to the action bar and click on the Text color command. Select dark orange (last option in the third column from the left) as the text color. You can then change the background color to a lighter blue using the Fill color command on the action bar (Figure 9.71b). In this case, changing the color of the background or the color of the font can make the column headers stand out more and is more visually appealing.

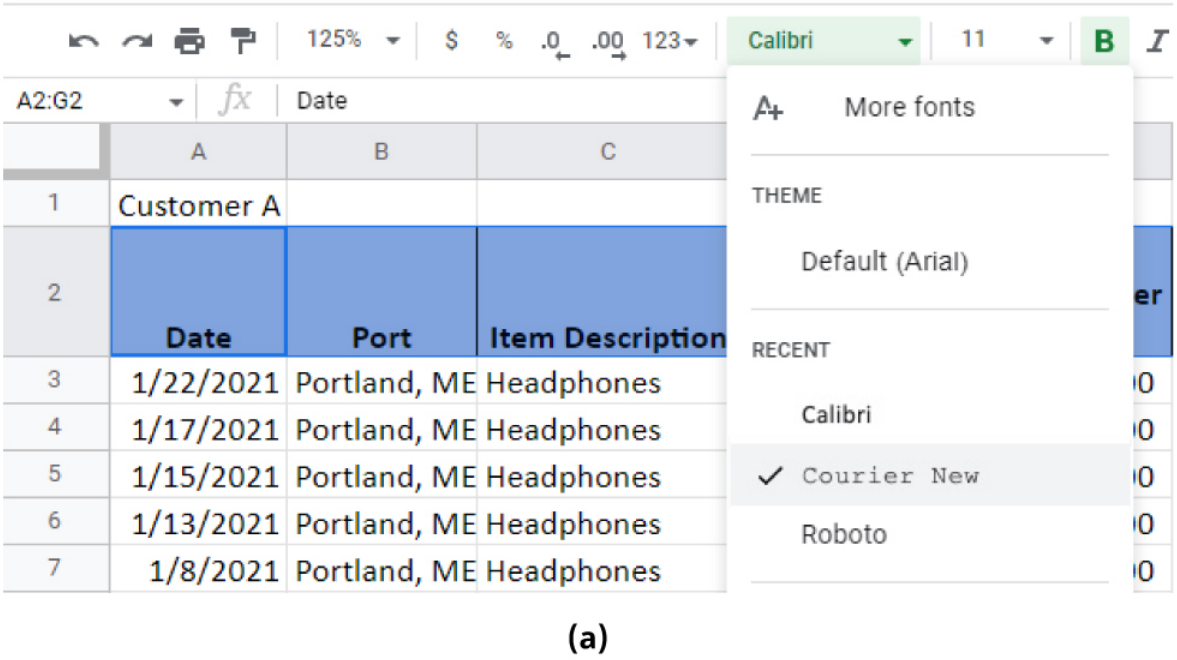


Figure 9.71: In Sheets, you can format headers by (a) changing the font, changing the color of the font, and (b) changing the cell background color, just as in Excel. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Borders

The Borders command lets users modify the borders on each cell. Using the same table, let's change the thickness of the borders around the headers to differentiate them from the body. You will also add an outside border for the body of the table. First, select the headers and click on the Borders command on the action bar, then click on the Border style drop-down menu and select the third thickest (Figure 9.72a). To apply the thicker border, click on the command for All borders (Figure 9.72b).

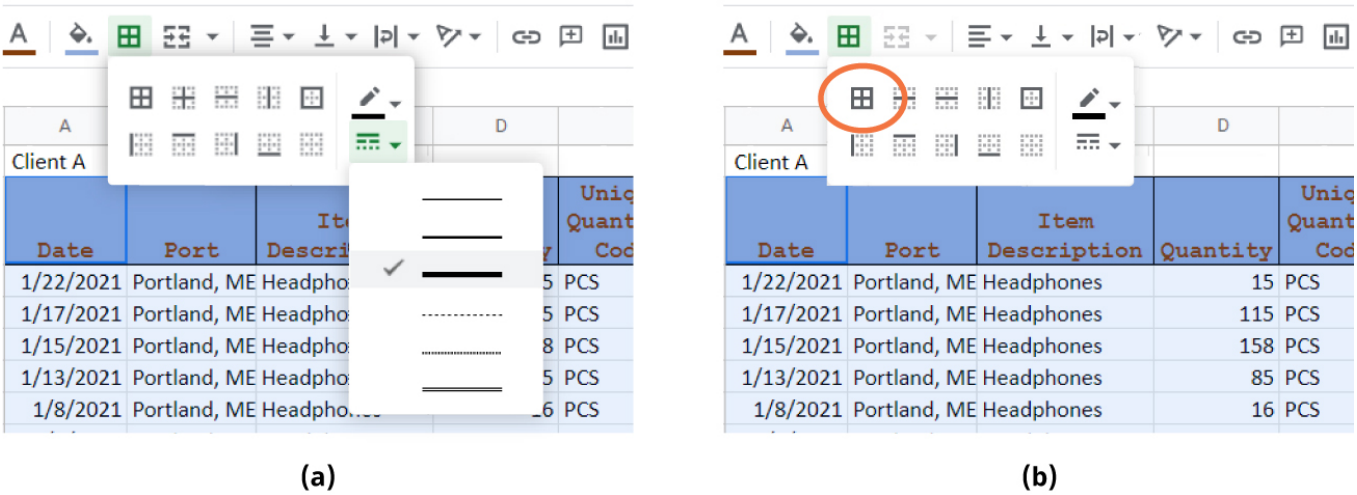
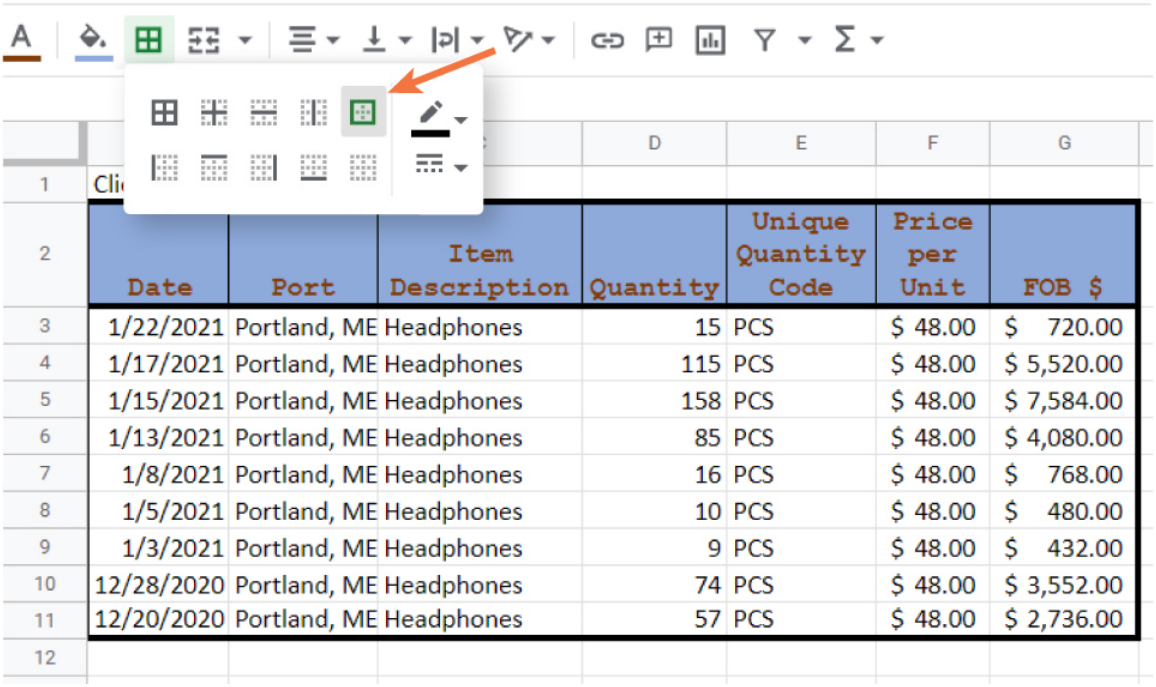


Figure 9.72: You can change the borders from the action bar. Click on the Borders command and choose Border style. (a) There are several border styles to choose from in the list. (b) After choosing the style, apply it to all borders. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

For the border around the table body, repeat the same first step, selecting the third thickest. Then, instead of applying it to all borders, choose the Outer borders option (Figure 9.73).

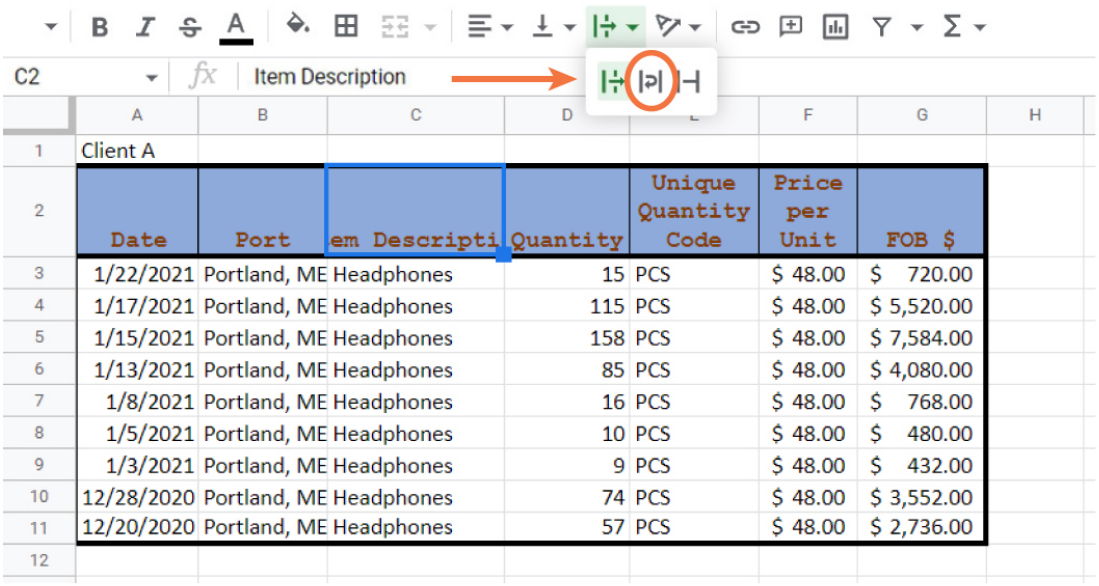


	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 720.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 4,080.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	16	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 768.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	10	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 480.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	9	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 432.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	74	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 3,552.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	57	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,736.00

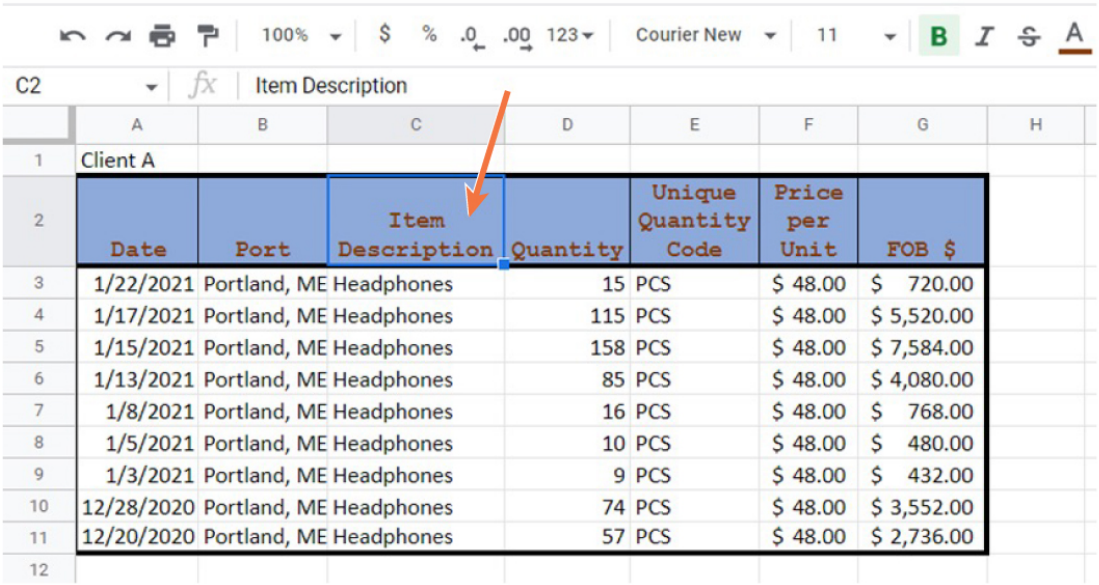
Figure 9.73: The header borders are formatted, and the same styling can be used to add a border to the outside of the table. Click on the Borders command, choose the border style, and then apply it to the outer borders. The final table looks neat and professional with borders. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Wrapping Text

You may have noticed that because you changed the font, the header in column C does not fit the width of the column. This is easily fixed by using the Text wrapping command on the action bar. First, select cell C2, then click the Text wrapping command, and select the middle command for Wrap (Figure 9.74a). Now all of the text is visible, as seen in Figure 9.74b. If the text is still a little tight, widen the column slightly by hovering over the edge of the column until the cursor changes to a double arrow, then drag the edge of the column to the right to accommodate the text.



(a)



(b)

Figure 9.74: When the text does not fit in a cell, one option is to wrap the text. (a) Select the cell and use the Wrap command. (b) The text should automatically fit in the cell. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Merging Cells

As with Excel, Sheets allows cell merging. This enables information to be grouped to make it more readable for the user. For example, the Merge cells command could group sales agents by region. To use this function, first select the cells you would like to merge. Then, use the Merge cells tool in the action bar, as shown in Figure 9.75. You have several options with the tool: Merge all, Merge vertically (working with rows), Merge horizontally (working with columns), and Unmerge.

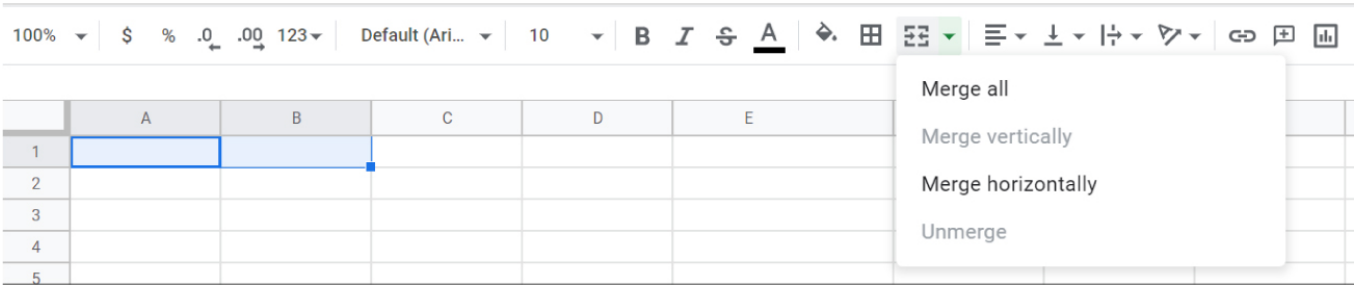
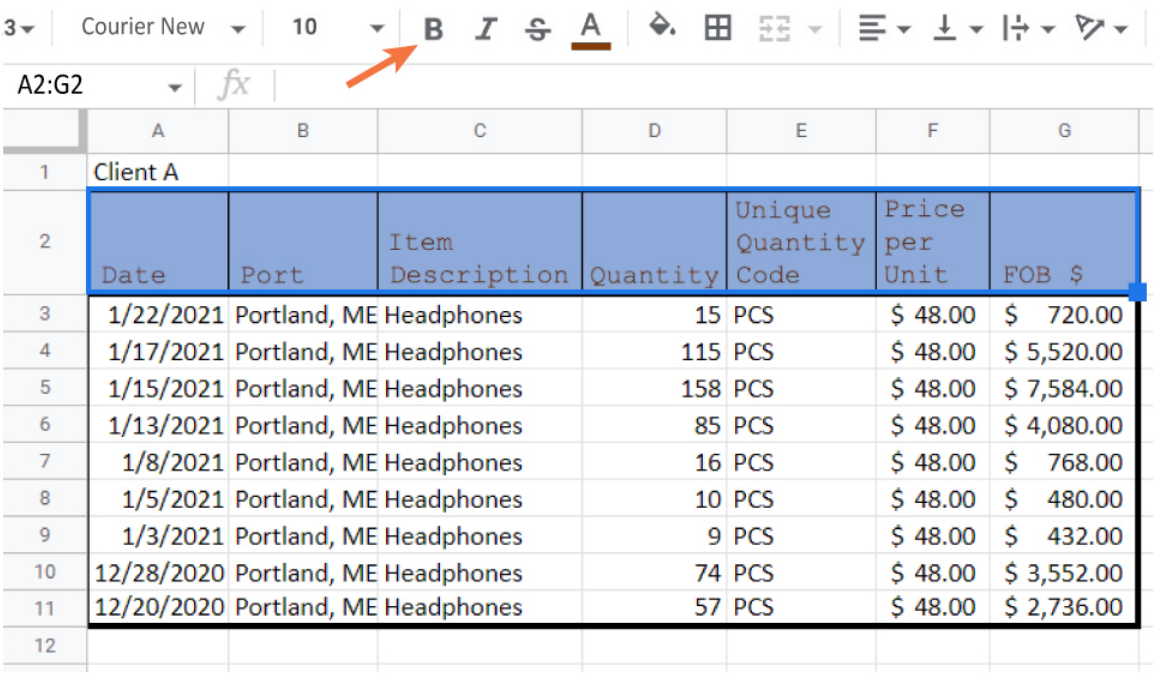


Figure 9.75: The Merge cells tool is found on the action bar. First, select the cells to be merged, then select the Merge cells tool. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

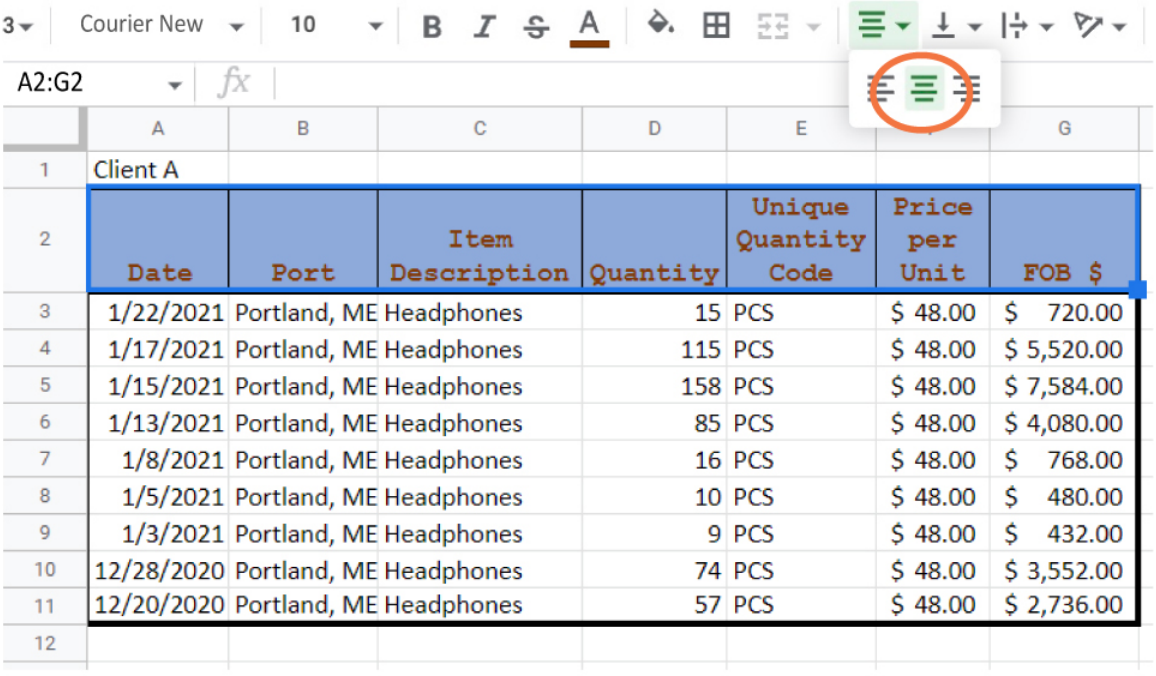
Designing Column and Row Headers

You have learned how to change the font, font color, background color, and width for header styling. Header text can be bolded and centered to make them easier to read, and background colors can be applied and changed. Figure 9.76 shows the formatting applied to cell B2 in the header. The font is bold and the text is centered.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Client A						
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 720.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 4,080.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	16	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 768.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	10	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 480.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	9	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 432.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	74	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 3,552.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	57	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,736.00
12							

(a)



	A	B	C	D	E	G
1	Client A					
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 720.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 4,080.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	16	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 768.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	10	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 480.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	9	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 432.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	74	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 3,552.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	57	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,736.00
12							

(b)

Figure 9.76: Most professionally designed tables (a) use bold font on the headers and (b) are center aligned. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Freezing Columns and Rows

Freezing columns and rows is useful when the data in your sheet does not fit the available viewing space. In Sheets, you can freeze panes anywhere in the worksheet, but it's certainly most useful to freeze column and row headers. First, select the row that you

want to freeze, then select Freeze from the View menu and choose Up to current row. Sheets freezes that row and all rows above it, as shown in Figure 9.77.

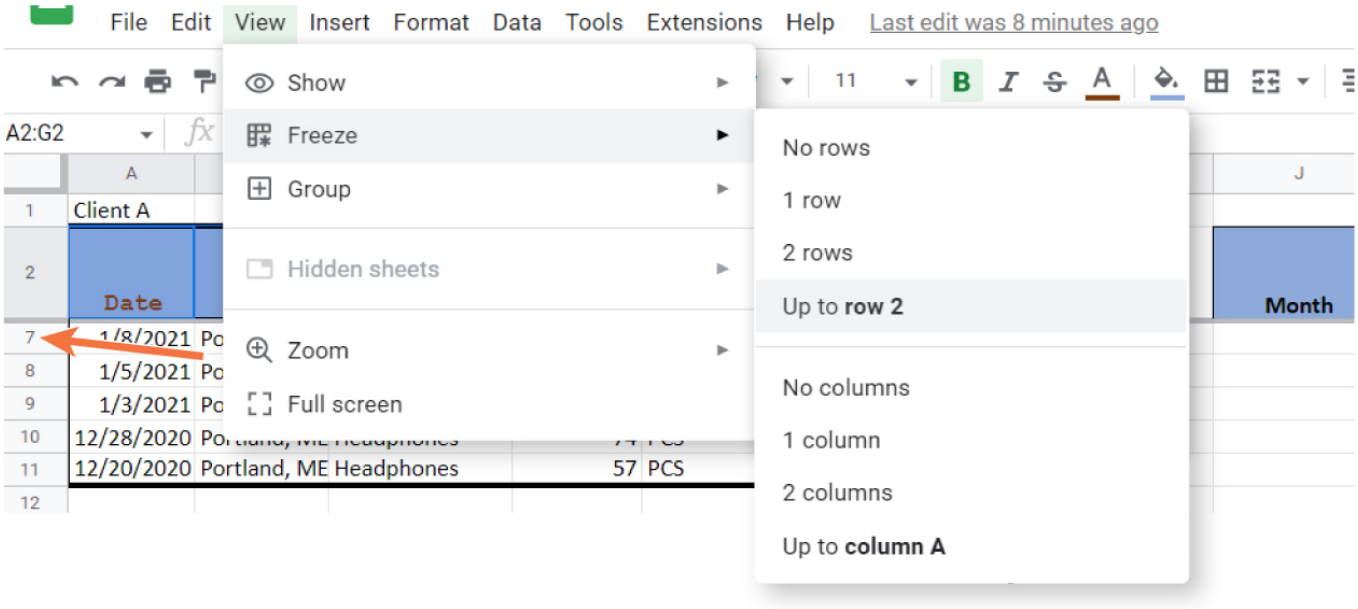


Figure 9.77: You can freeze panes anywhere on a sheet. Click on the row that you want to freeze and freeze up to that row. That row freezes, and you can scroll through the data below it. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Hiding Columns and Rows

Sheets also supports hiding columns and rows. Select the row or column you want to hide. Right-click and then click on Hide row or Hide column (Figure 9.78a). To unhide it, select the two on either side of the hidden row or column, right-click and click on Unhide rows or Unhide columns (Figure 9.78b), or click on one of the two small arrows in the header.

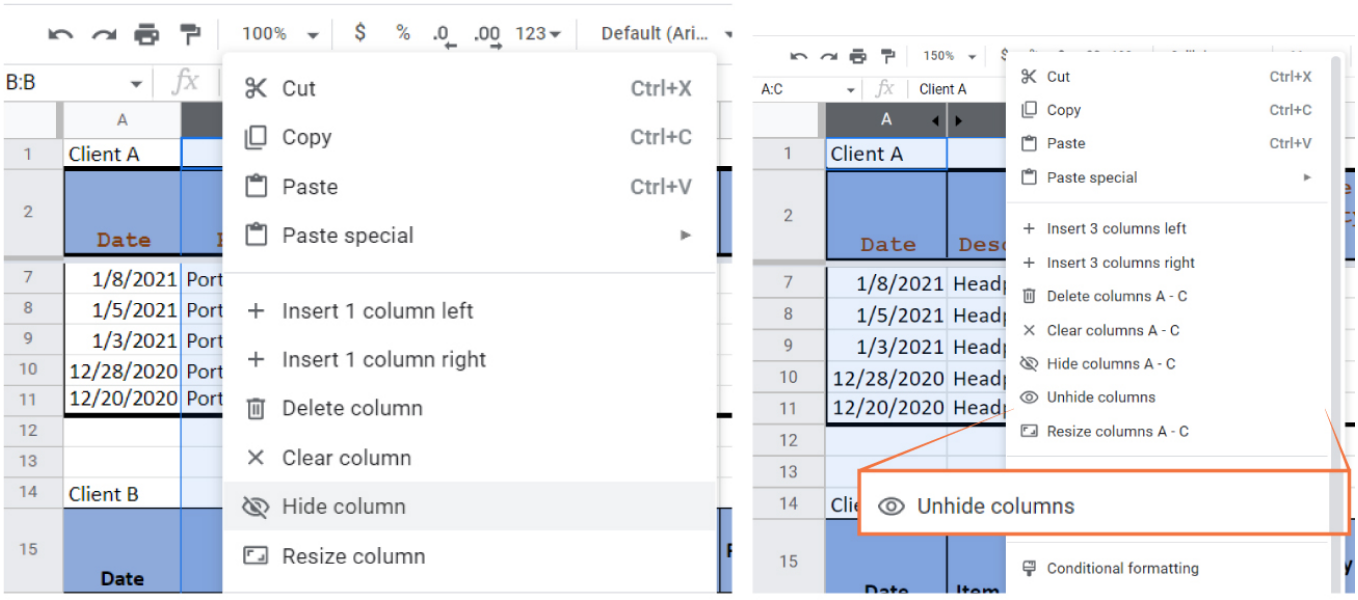


Figure 9.78: Hiding and unhiding columns in Sheets is similar to the process in Excel. (a) Select the column you want to hide, right-click, and click on Hide column. (b) To unhide, select the columns on either side of the hidden column, right-click, and click on Unhide columns. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Conditional Formatting

Conditional formatting allows us to apply preset formatting to data that meets certain criteria. You can find the conditional formatting feature in Sheets on the Format menu (Figure 9.79). First, select the cells to format, and then choose the conditional formatting feature. A sidebar opens where you can set up the conditional formatting. In this example, the conditions are set so that Sheets will highlight in the default color any cells in the range G2:G11 that have values greater than 999. The table updates instantly (Figure 9.80).

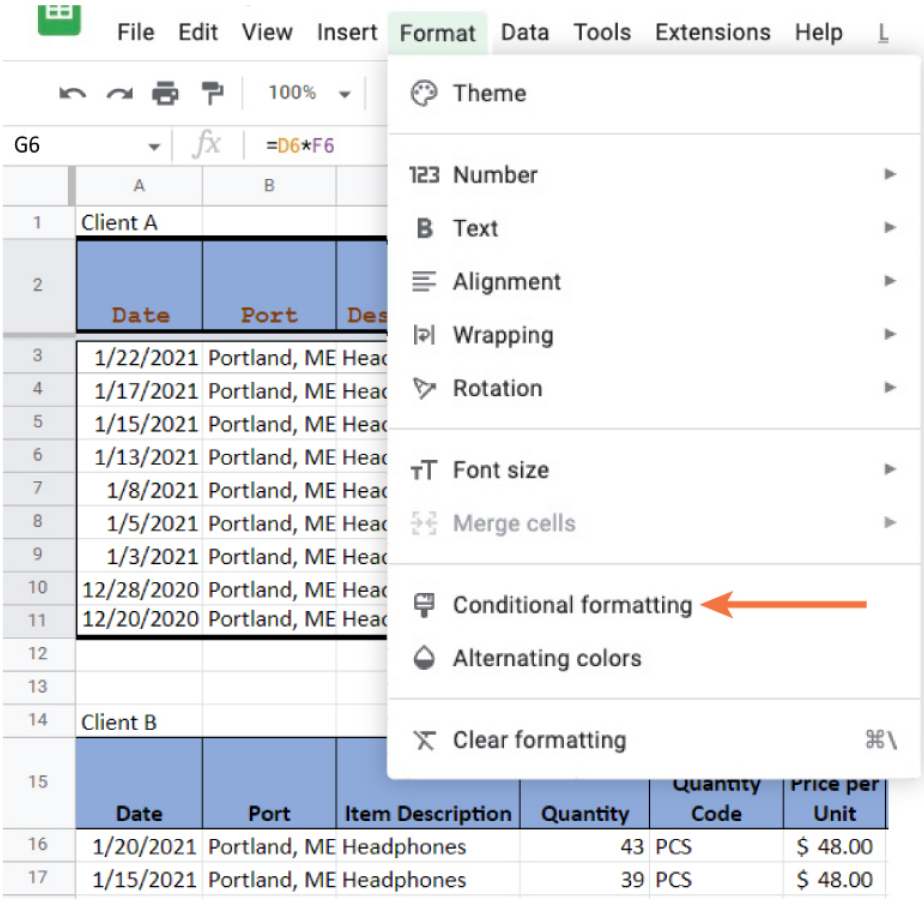
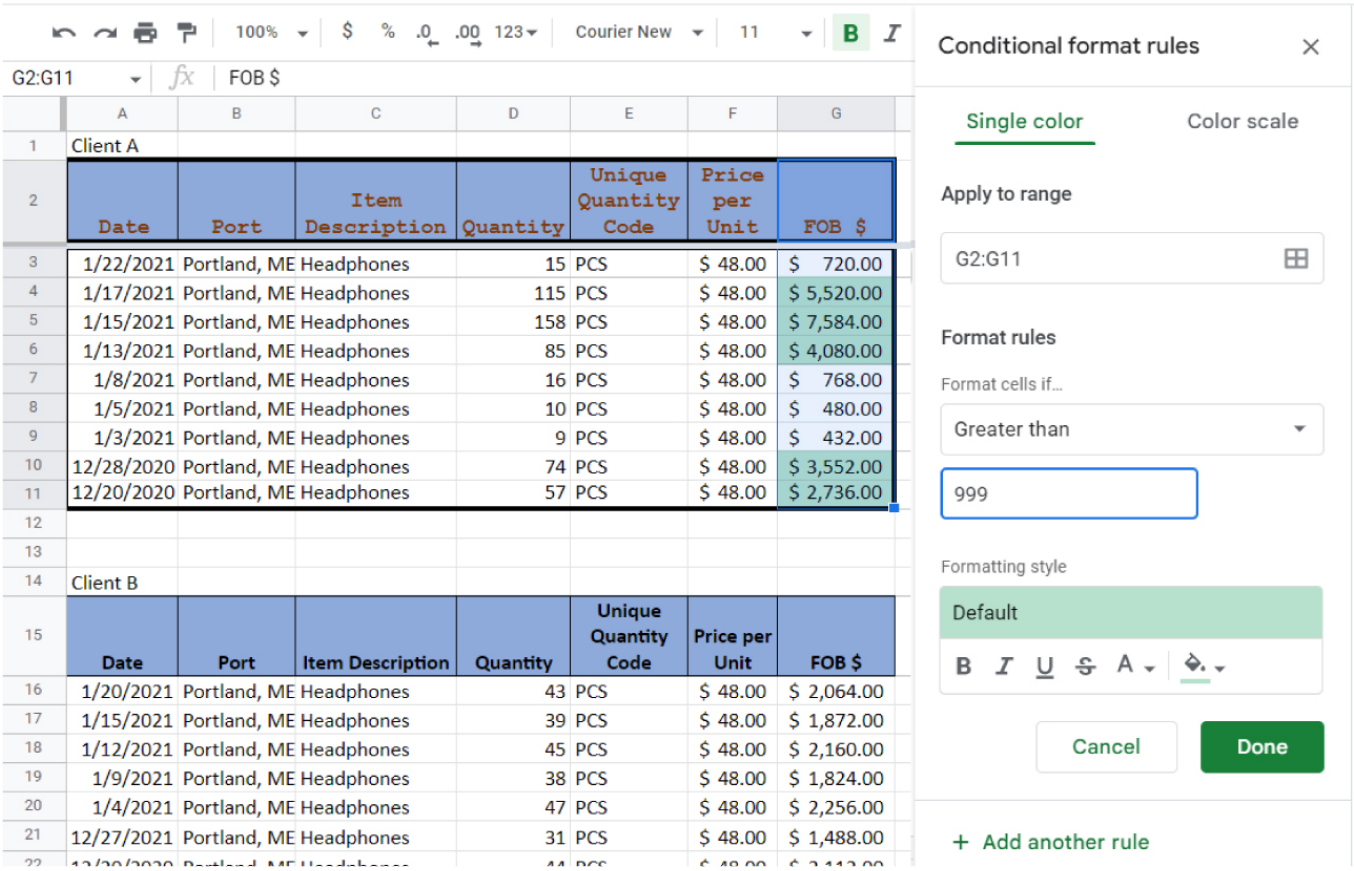


Figure 9.79: In Sheets, you can set up conditional formatting as in Excel. Conditional formatting is in the Format menu. The sidebar opens up to set the criteria. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Client A						
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 720.00
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 5,520.00
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 7,584.00
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 4,080.00
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	16	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 768.00
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	10	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 480.00
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	9	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 432.00
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	74	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 3,552.00
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	57	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,736.00
12							
13							
14	Client B						
15	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Price per Unit	FOB $
16	1/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	43	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,064.00
17	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	39	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,872.00
18	1/12/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	45	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,160.00
19	1/9/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	38	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,824.00
20	1/4/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	47	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 2,256.00
21	12/27/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	31	PCS	$ 48.00	$ 1,488.00

Figure 9.80: When the criteria are set, the table instantly updates. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Working with Templates

Sheets offers many templates on the Welcome screen (Figure 9.81). If you do not find what you are looking for in this screen, you can search for other online templates, but you have to use certain criteria. You need to use the Google search engine, and type "X template site:https://docs.google.com." For example, if you are looking for business budget reports, you would type "business budget report template site:https://docs.google.com." Searching in this manner will give you results from other Google Docs users' Google Drive accounts, meaning that they are sharing their templates with other users and they are available for use and not protected or restricted. This also means that the templates have been formatted for Sheets and not for Excel. In some cases, importing Excel files into Sheets can alter the formatting.

When you find the one you want to use, click on it, and a little ball will appear in the middle while you wait for the document to open. You can then edit the document that was generated using the template to customize it for your needs (Figure 9.82).

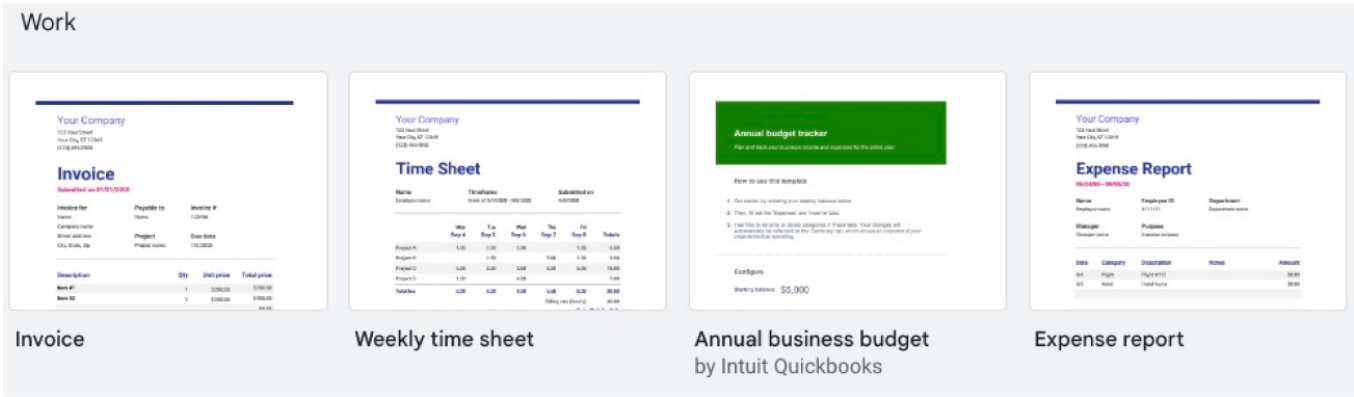


Figure 9.81: Sheets templates are available on the Welcome screen. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

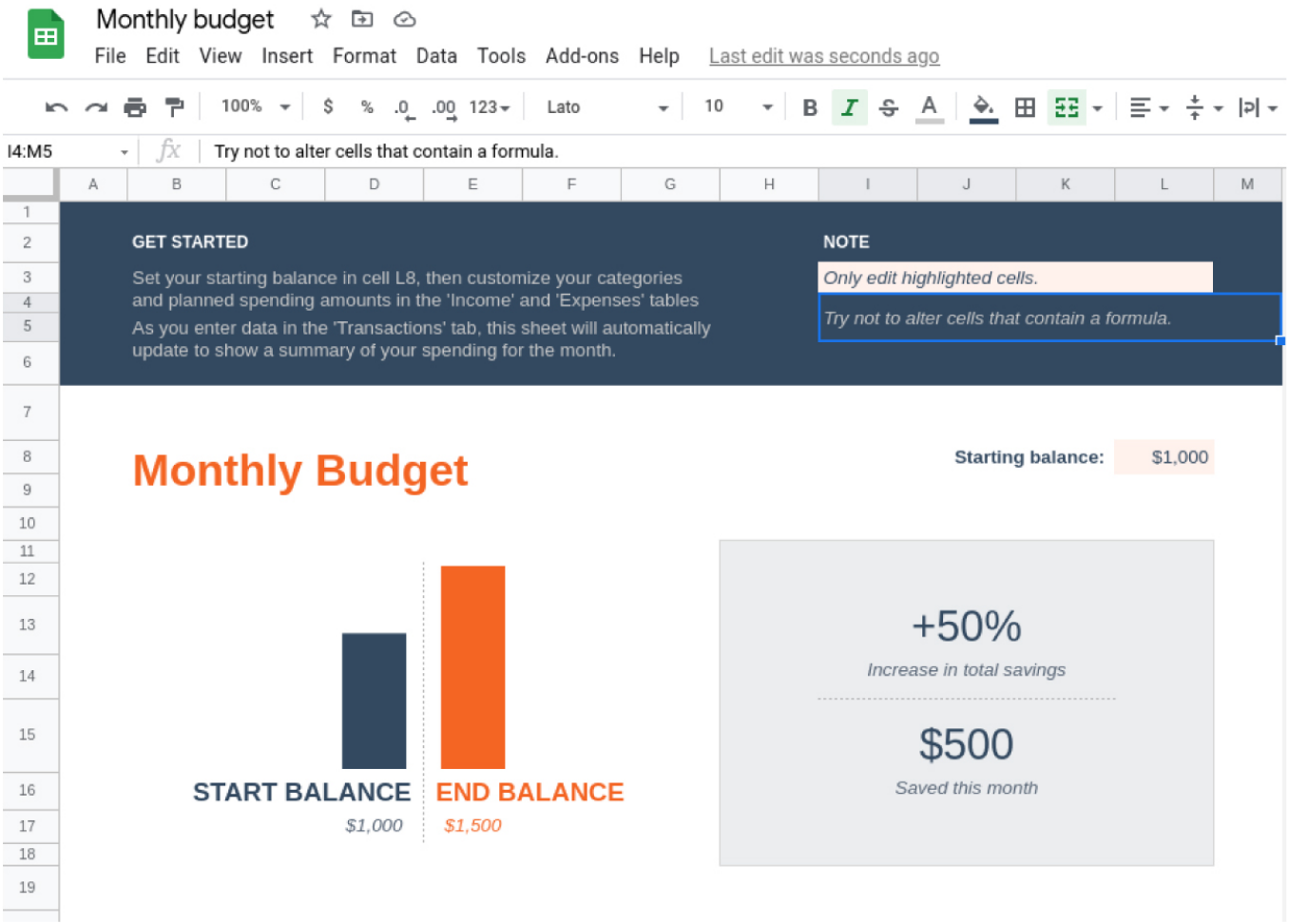


Figure 9.82: Sheet templates are also available online from other users. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Link to Learning

It is not always easy to present data in an appealing and interesting way. Following a few simple steps and best practices in formatting Sheets can ensure you are able to get your message across, while also engaging your audience. Check out these best practices for presenting data to learn more.

This page titled 9.8: Formatting and Templates in Google Sheets is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

cell reference
address of a cell relative to the other cells in a worksheet

conditional formatting
feature in Excel that analyzes the cell contents and applies certain preset designs or layouts based on the content

Ctrl+Select
command that allows you to select two or more areas that are not contiguous

data analysis
scientific discipline that uses mathematical and statistical tools to measure trends

formatting
applying colors, font types, and borders to cells for styling purposes

formula
mathematical operation that may use constants or cell references, or a combination of constants and cell references

freeze panes
fixing the headers on the screen while allowing users to scroll through the rest of the data

function
mathematical or analytical operation that uses words instead of mathematical operators

header
label added to tables at the top of the columns or to the left of the rows to make the data understandable

hide
temporarily remove designated rows or columns from view

merge
combine content from two or more cells

numeric data
information made of numerals that Excel reads like a calculator to perform mathematical equations

spreadsheet
software application type that has rows and columns in a grid pattern where you can enter data to design tables and graphs and perform data analysis

text data
information made up of words, letters, numerals, or a combination

workbook
file that contains one or more worksheets

worksheet
tab within a workbook where you can input data and design tables and graphs that use the data

Wrap Text

feature that arranges the text in a cell so that it extends onto another line and increases the height of the row

This page titled 9.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.10: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

9.1 Microsoft Excel Basics

- A spreadsheet is a type of software that allows you to calculate mathematical equations and design tables that you can use for financial documents and that performs data analysis and mathematical calculations.
- The GUI of Excel is designed for manipulating the cells of the spreadsheet. The GUI also has a ribbon, which is a wide, multitabbed menu that contains features for customizing and formatting tables.
- The spreadsheet file is called a workbook and is composed of worksheets. A workbook can contain only one worksheet. However, you cannot have a worksheet without a workbook.
- Add new worksheets to a workbook by clicking on the + next to the sheet tabs found along the bottom of the interface.
- The Print feature of Excel allows you to print a single worksheet or the whole workbook.

9.2 Text and Numbers in Microsoft Excel

- Excel is a powerful tool to manage small to somewhat large sets of data.
- Data can be collected in Excel and analyzed to track a business's sales or costs or a machine's output, for example.
- Both text and numbers can be formatted to match the contents of the data such as formatting a description as text or a cost as accounting.
- The Page Layout tab includes commands to help you format the printed page in a professional manner.
- The Review tab is especially useful when sharing the spreadsheet for collaboration and ensuring accuracy in spelling and grammar.

9.3 Calculations and Basic Formulas in Microsoft Excel

- Excel uses the formula syntax to add, subtract, multiply, or divide. The formula syntax is comparable to writing out math equations by hand, with numbers and mathematical operators.
- The function syntax can perform the same calculations as the formula syntax for addition and multiplication but not for subtraction or division. The function syntax uses function names with cell references or ranges in parentheses to calculate.

9.4 Formatting and Templates in Microsoft Excel

- Formatting cells using colors, fonts, and borders can make a worksheet more readable and visually appealing. Other commands such as Merge Cells and Wrap Text can be used to adjust the information in the cells to enhance the professional presentation of the spreadsheet.
- By hiding columns or rows, you can make a more manageable worksheet or control what other users see and how they interact with it.
- Freezing rows or columns keeps the information visible when navigating large spreadsheets.
- Using conditional formatting identifies trends in the data or highlights values that are inside or outside a certain range.
- There are a variety of templates available within Excel and online for many uses such as invoicing, sales reports, and budgeting.

9.5 Google Sheets Basics

- Sheets serves many of the same purposes as Excel, but some of its tools are limited, compared with Excel. Many of the features are the same as or similar to Excel.
- The toolbar on Sheets is called the action bar. It is just one row of commands, unlike the wider Microsoft Office ribbon, with menus that are essentially the same as the tools in Excel, but the action bar also includes a row of buttons for frequently used commands.
- The process of creating a worksheet and formatting cells in an existing worksheet in Sheets is similar to that of Excel, with drop-down menus for common commands.
- Printing in Sheets is similar to printing in Excel.

9.6 Text and Numbers in Google Sheets

- The copy-and-paste function in Sheets works the same way as in Excel and allows the user to use the structure of an existing table to create a new one. Users can then manipulate the table by inserting columns or rows.
- To create a new table, first create header rows and then format the cells below it based on their contents. Then, as you add text or numbers, Sheets will automatically format them based on the type of data.
- Basic graphs require selecting the data for analysis and then inserting a graph. Sheets chooses the type of graph based on the type of data. You can change the graph type using the sidebar.
- Sheets has many of the same page layout and review features as Excel, with the major difference being the location of the tools in the interface.

9.7 Calculations and Basic Formulas in Google Sheets

- In Sheets, mathematical calculations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division can use formulas, mathematical operators, and/or functions.
- The functions in Sheets differ some from Excel. Sheets has a few functions such as MINUS and DIVIDE that are not in Excel.

9.8 Formatting and Templates in Google Sheets

- Sheets has many of the same formatting functionalities as Excel, such as colors, fonts, borders, text wrapping, and merging cells.
- The formatting features allow for designing professional column and row headers. Hiding and unhiding columns or rows can simplify a worksheet to make it easier to use.
- Conditional formatting works the same as in Excel.
- Sheets contains some templates on the Welcome screen, but users of Sheets also share their own. Searching among only those publicly available templates can help you find many additional templates.

This page titled 9.10: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
Excel is a spreadsheet software that can design sales report tables and calculate math equations using _____.

a. data, lines, and rectangles
b. calculators, graph paper, text
c. numbers, GUI, WordArt
d. cells, formulas, and functions

2 .
What is the primary difference between worksheets and workbooks?

a. Worksheets are tabs in a workbook.
b. Workbooks are tabs in a worksheet.
c. Worksheets are cells in a workbook.
d. Workbooks are cells in a worksheet.

3 .
Which command can be used to paste information that was recently copied?

a. Ctrl+C
b. Ctrl+A
c. Ctrl+V
d. Ctrl+=

4 .
What is the cell format that lets you type long numbers using just the first three digits?

a. Scientific
b. Date
c. Accounting
d. General

5 .
What are examples of the benefits of using both numerical and text data in your worksheet but keeping them in separate columns?

a. Numerical data can be combined with text data for writing descriptions of objects and their measurements.
b. Text data can be used for autofilling a calculation of multiple scenarios.
c. Numerical data can be used in accounting, dates, or number formats, while text is used for descriptions or headers.
d. Text and numerical data are easily typed and interpreted by Excel, as it can read words, thus they can be used for computable lists.

6 .
What is a benefit of preformatting cells in Excel?

a. You can automatically fill the data without typing it by inserting an image from the phone.
b. You can type the data and Excel will apply the format, so it looks how you want it to.
c. You can send a Bluetooth connection to the data, and it will be autofilled.
d. You can use the cell references to do mathematical operations.

7 .
What are the two methods to add numbers in Excel?

a. using the SUM function and the “+” sign in formulas
b. using constants and cell references
c. using variables and constants
d. using functions such as PRODUCT and constants

8 .

The _____ function does not have the same functionality compared with the "/" because it does not return a full answer if it has decimals.

a. DIVISION
b. PRODUCT
c. QUOTIENT
d. PROPORTION

9 .
Where in the ribbon can you change the font?

a. You can change the font in the Alignment command group on the Home tab.
b. You can change the font in the Text command group on the Insert tab.
c. You can change the font in the Symbols command group on the Insert tab.
d. You can change the font in the Font command group on the Home tab.

10 .
Identify the steps for automatically highlighting any cells from a column that are greater than a certain number.

a. Select the cell you want to analyze, click on Conditional Formatting, go to Highlight cell rules, click Greater than, and set the parameters.
b. Select the column in question, then click on Conditional Formatting, go to Highlight cell rules, click Greater than, and set the parameters.
c. Select the column in question, then click on Conditional Formatting, go to Highlight cell rules, click Between, and set the parameters.
d. Select the cell you want to analyze, click on Conditional Formatting, go to Highlight cell rules, and click Top 10%.

11 .
Where do you find the Spell check command in Sheets?

a. Format menu
b. Extensions menu
c. Tools menu
d. File menu

12 .
_____ is the process to select two noncontiguous cell ranges.

a. Ctrl+Select
b. Shift+Select
c. mouse left-click select
d. mouse right-click select

13 .
What commands or tools are found on the toolbar?

a. all the options that are contained on the Tools menu
b. tools that the user selects to be placed on the toolbar
c. the more widely used tools/commands
d. all of the commands and tools from the File and Data menus

14 .
What menu would you use to add cells in a worksheet in Sheets?

a. Tools
b. Insert
c. Edit
d. Data

15 .
Double-clicking on the cell edge between the column header row will:

a. change the format of the cell to financial

b. automatically resize the column width to the data in the column
c. remove the data in that column
d. highlight the column for graphing

16 .
Where will you find the Themes settings in Sheets?

a. Format menu
b. Insert menu
c. action bar
d. Page Layout menu

17 .
What is the function name for subtracting in Sheets?

a. There is none.
b. MINUS
c. SUBTRACT
d. DIFFERENCE

18 .
_____ is the name of the function for multiplication of two values in Sheets.

a. PRODUCT
b. TIMES
c. MULTIPLY
d. RESULT

19 .
What is the difference between the QUOTIENT and DIVIDE functions?

a. DIVIDE gives you decimals in the result, and QUOTIENT gives you whole numbers.
b. There is no difference; they will always produce the same answer.
c. QUOTIENT will give a result with the first two decimal places, whereas DIVIDE gives a result that includes all decimal places.
d. You can use QUOTIENT in Sheets, and you can use DIVIDE in Excel.

20 .
What would be a general header style most favored by the corporate world?

a. leaving it plain text, as it can be easily read by Sheets
b. aligning the text to the right, applying a bright color background, and plain type
c. applying bold text, with no background or alignment
d. applying a background color shading, bold font, and center aligned

21 .
How do you look for public templates in Sheets?

a. You need to go to the Welcome screen, and search for templates there.
b. You need to go to Google.com, and type “X template site:docs.google.com”.
c. You can’t because Sheets doesn’t have access to public templates.
d. You can look for Microsoft Word templates because they work in Sheets, too.

22 .
What is the main difference between freezing panes in Excel and in Sheets?

a. In Sheets, you can choose the row or column at any part of the worksheet.
b. In Excel, you can choose the row or column at any part of the worksheet.
c. In Sheets, you can only start the pane freeze at the first row or column.
d. Both are the same in all aspects.

This page titled 9.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

23 .

Refer to Figure 9.7

.

Using part a of the figure, move to the next column to the right. This new column will be for adding the average. This average can easily be calculated by typing the AVERAGE function. Research the syntax and use it in the new column. Once you find the average, copy the formula down the column.

24 .

WorldCorp’s sales team uses a customer relations management (CRM) software that gives the user the option to export data. This exported data needs to be formatted when you open it with Excel. Design a table with the following headers: Date, Product, Qty, Price per Unit, Total Value, and Notes and preformat each column based on its respective type of data.

25 .

Using the table from the last exercise, add the data shown in the following image. Insert a calculation for the total value instead of typing in the dollar amount from the table.

Table 9.2

Date	Product	Price	Qty	Total
12/20/2020	Headphones	$48.00	57	$2,736.00
12/28/2020	Headphones	$48.00	74	$3,552.00
1/3/2021	LED 65	$780.00	13	$10,140.00
1/3/2021	Headphones	$48.00	9	$432.00
1/5/2021	Headphones	$48.00	10	$480.00
1/7/2021	OLED 45	$48.00	77	$30,800.00
1/8/2021	LED 65	$780.00	14	$10,920.00
1/8/2021	Headphones	$48.00	16	$768.00
1/11/2021	LCD 42	$380.00	48	$18,240.00
1/13/2021	Plasma 65	$855.00	12	$10,260.00
1/13/2021	Headphones	$48.00	85	$4,080.00
1/15/2021	Headphones	$48.00	158	$7,584.00
1/17/2021	LCD 42	$380.00	55	$20,900.00
1/17/2021	Headphones	$48.00	115	$5,520.00
1/21/2021	Plasma 65	$855.00	11	$9,405.00
1/22/2021	Headphones	$48.00	15	$720.00
1/25/2021	LCD 42	$380.00	54	$20,520.00
1/27/2021	QLED 55	$620.00	10	$6,200.00
1/30/2021	LED 55	$550.00	10	$5,500.00
2/4/2021	LCD 32	$170.00	43	$7,310.00
2/7/2021	QLED 55	$620.00	15	$9,300.00
2/9/2021	OLED 45	$400.00	37	$14,800.00
2/11/2021	Plasma 65	$855.00	34	$29,070.00
2/15/2021	DLP 32	$250.00	97	$24,250.00
2/18/2021	LED 65	$780.00	54	$42,120.00
2/21/2021	LED 55	$550.00	21	$11,550.00
2/25/2021	LCD 42	$380.00	54	$20,520.00
2/27/2021	LCD 32	$170.00	14	$2,380.00

26 .
Refer to Figure 9.22
.
Use the figure to find the average of the marginal profit value. First, determine the total volume sold and total marginal profit. Then, divide those two numbers to find the average marginal profit per unit sold. Design this extended table.
27 .
Refer to Figure 9.23
.

WorldCorp handed you an assignment to use the figure to determine the FOB $ average of all orders and then to compare the average order and the invoice order individually in a new column. Create the new column to show the difference between each individual order and the FOB $ average. Finally, divide that difference by the FOB $ to get a percent difference. Be sure to format the data as a percentage. Construct this table.

28 .

WorldCorp sells various business tablets that are designed to be rugged. In the past month, the model FE-546 sold 435, the model FR-765 sold 324, and the model FH-985 sold 213. They cost $356, $467, and $586, respectively. Construct a table with these values. Include a total column as well.

29 .

Refer to Figure 9.28

.

Using the data in the figure, construct a line chart comparing dates and sales. Build this chart. Look for information on the internet on how to build basic graphs using Excel.

30 .

Your manager at WorldCorp asks you to design a sales report with the following columns: date, model, price, quantity, and sales total. Enter four different fictional orders in the table. Use formatting that you feel is appropriate for the header rows.

31 .

Your manager at WorldCorp tells you to print the document. Explain in detail what you would do to print five copies of the document, which contains only one worksheet.

32 .

WorldCorp makes many products and sells them to thousands of customers. The sales team keeps call logs for when they make calls to their corporate clients to generate sales. These clients are retailers that buy directly from WorldCorp because of the volume discount. Design and create a call log with the date of the call, the purchasing executive's name, the client's name, the phone number, and the order details. The order details are separated in different columns for text description, units, sale value, and optional notes. These optional notes contain special delivery requests from the client. Use the cell formatting methods you have learned so far.

33 .

Create an address book using information for four friends or family members. The table should include their names, street addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. Their street addresses should be separated into four columns: the street and house/apartment number, the city, the state, and the zip code. Use the formatting methods you have learned so far.

34 .

WorldCorp is releasing a new universal remote control model that has a touch screen and is programmable for any model of TV, stereo, cable box, and movie player. The sales figures for the preorders need to be added together by location and then multiplied by the price per unit to get the final sales figures. Enter the data into Sheets and complete the table using functions.

Item Description	Digital touch screen remote control		
Date	**Location X**	**Location Y**	**Location Z**
5/24/2021	424	986	883
4/17/2021	864	332	554
2/19/2021	429	446	473
Total Sales			
Price per Unit	76.88	76.88	76.88
Revenue			

35 .

WorldCorp sells tablets to educational organizations. Each basic tablet's price is $157.64, on a discounted rate because they are purchased for hundreds of students. The tablet comes with its own keyboard, all in one package. WorldCorp sold 654 in Fairfax, Virginia; 867 in Portland, Maine; and 532 in Deeville, Texas. Make a table forecasting the revenues of each location. Compare the locations with the total sales revenue using a proportion. Make a graph comparing these three locations' performances. Use the best practices discussed in the chapter for designing tables.

36 .

WorldCorp sells tablets to educational organizations. Each basic tablet's price is $157.64, on a discounted rate because they are to be bought for hundreds of students. The tablet comes with its own keyboard, all in one package. WorldCorp sold 654 in Fairfax, Virginia; 867 in Portland, Maine; and 532 in Deeville, Kansas. Make a table forecasting the revenues of each location. Use a

conditional formatting of “Greater than” and set the minimum to be $100,000. Explain the significance of the conditional formatting in these three revenue comparisons.

This page titled 9.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

9.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

37 .
How can AutoFill help you fill a table with values? Explain.
38 .
Discuss how the ribbon in Excel differs from other Microsoft programs.
39 .
Discuss the differences between formulas and functions. Give an example of each.
40 .
What is the benefit of the AutoFill feature in Excel?
41 .
What is the common use of the Review tab? Explain.
42 .
Why would you choose to use the function PRODUCT instead of the “*” operator? Give examples.
43 .
What are the advantages of using the SUM function?
44 .
Describe in steps the way to access the border outlines.
45 .
Describe the purpose and process of freezing panes.
46 .
Why might a business use Sheets over Excel?
47 .
Why would you use cell formatting for designing tables?
48 .
How do you create a graph in Sheets?
49 .
Why would you use the currency, accounting, and financial cell formats? Explain each one.
50 .
Describe the process of making a sales line chart.
51 .
Why would you use functions instead of formulas? Explain.
52 .
What are some of the uses of the four mathematical functions SUM, MINUS, MULTIPLY, and DIVIDE?
53 .
Describe how you could use the following concepts to create a budget that analyzes your average daily spending: formatting, creating a chart, using functions.
54 .
Why would you use conditional formatting?
55 .
What is the main difference between freezing panes in Excel compared with Sheets?
56 .
Describe the steps of hiding and then unhiding a column.

This page titled 9.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

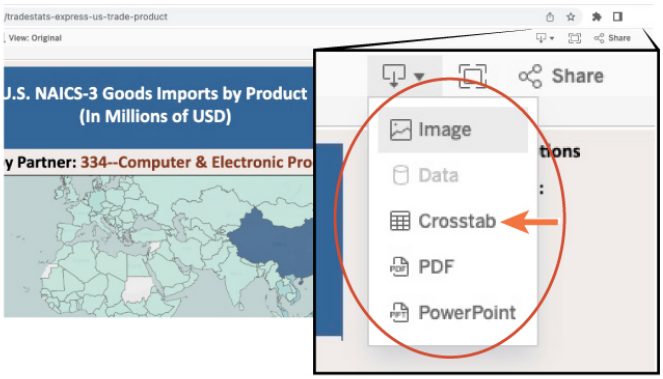
9.14: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

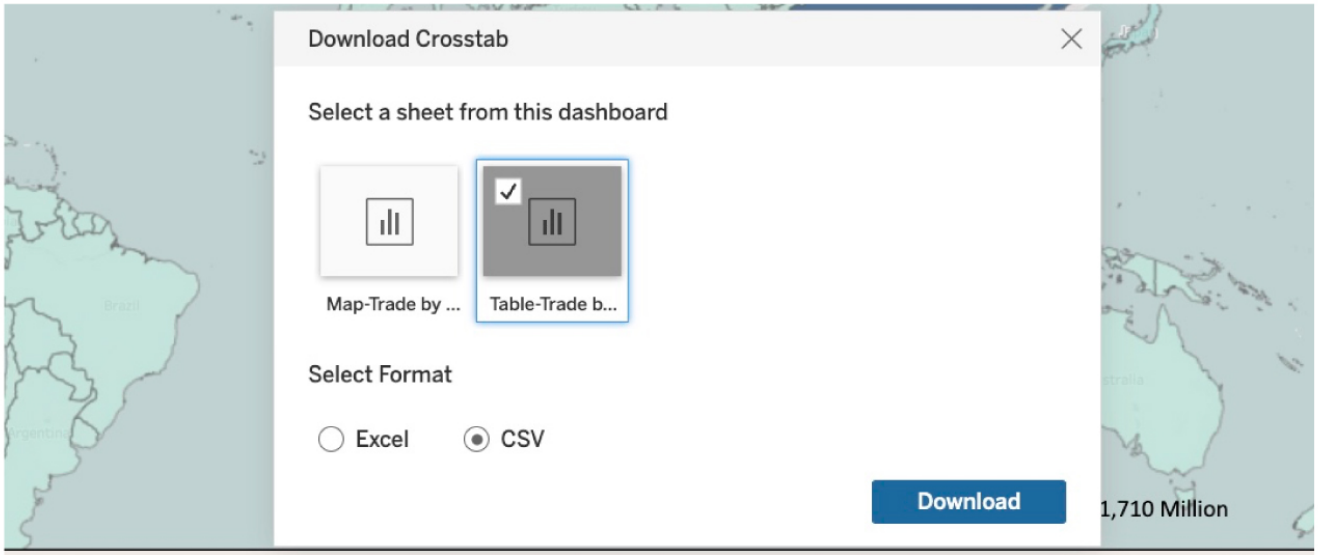
Case Exercises

57 .

Go to the International Trade Administration website. On the right, select Product 334 – Computers and Electronics from the Products drop-down menu, then select Imports under Trade Flows. Next, select Download from the top of the window and choose Crosstab. When prompted, select CSV and then download. These steps generated and saved a set of data that you can use for the following Case Exercises. Be sure to save the .csv file for use later in the chapter.







2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
$347,794	$351,379	$366,603	$376,038	$372,664	$400,123
$154,399	$159,054	$168,280	$170,551	$161,233	$184,054

A. Open the .csv file with Excel and format the cells. Select the columns that have text data and format the information as text. Select the columns that have accounting format and use the appropriate number format. Delete unnecessary columns. Then, use Save As to save the file in .xlsx format, so that you can keep the changes.
B. On the headers, choose an appealing background color, bold font, and centered alignment.
C. Select the whole table to apply border lines around all cells.
D. Use the process of double-clicking between the tops of columns so that they are automatically fitted. You will be able to see all the numbers.

58 .
These exercises use the .csv (comma separated values) file from the NAICS-334 chart. Upload it to your Google Drive.

A. Open the .csv file with Sheets and format the cells. Select the columns that have text data and label it as such. Select the columns that have accounting format and label it as such.
B. On the headers, apply traditional corporate styles, with background color, bold font, and centered alignment.
C. Select the whole table to apply border lines around all cells.
D. Set the column widths based on their contents by double-clicking on them so that you can see all the numbers.

This page titled 9.14: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

10: Advanced Excel Formulas, Functions, and Techniques

10.0: Chapter Scenario
10.1: Data Tables and Ranges
10.2: More About Formulas
10.3: Using Arithmetic, Statistical, and Logical Functions
10.4: PivotTables
10.5: Auditing Formulas and Fixing Errors
10.6: Advanced Formatting Techniques
10.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
10.8: Chapter Review - Summary
10.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
10.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
10.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
10.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 10: Advanced Excel Formulas, Functions, and Techniques is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.0: Chapter Scenario

WorldCorp's Fairfax, Virginia, location is a manufacturer of consumer electronics, and it regularly fulfills orders for its Portland, Maine, location, where their products are shipped worldwide through the port. WorldCorp's sales are increasing, but the Fairfax plant is struggling to keep up with the orders. Their Fairfax location is more than ten years old and no longer has the capacity they need. The corporate headquarters has approved an expansion of their facility. The regional manager wants to keep the original facility but increase the amount of square footage through adjacent additions. Executing this expansion will involve project planning, acquiring the needed materials, determining the needed funding, working with outside suppliers, and so forth. The data generated during the expansion will need to be evaluated and regularly tracked to ensure the project stays on time and within the budgeted resources.



Figure 10.1: Manufacturing involves a lot of data analysis, and Excel's data analytics supports corporations every day. (credit: modification of "Man Standing Beside Heavy Equipment" by Kateryna Babaieva/Pexels, CC0)

Microsoft Excel can facilitate this type of analysis to aid the decision makers as the projects progress. In this chapter, you will use the "what-if" scenarios of each location in the walk-throughs and exercises to rename cell ranges, use the AutoFill feature in tables, and practice simultaneous calculations of formulas. Excel also supports the associated statistical and financial analyses required for WorldCorp.

This page titled 10.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.1: Data Tables and Ranges

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Differentiate between a spreadsheet and a Data Table
- Explain the advantages of a Data Table
- Create/insert a Data Table from data in a spreadsheet
- Define a cell range
- Select and name a cell range
- Differentiate between a cell range and an array

WorldCorp has sufficient savings for capital investment for the Fairfax project, yet the chief financial officer (CFO) wants to borrow from a bank about 50 percent of the amount of the estimate for the new addition. There are many banks in Fairfax, each offering different interest rates and years to pay back the loan. The CFO is not sure which offer is best, as the longer the loan period is, the more interest WorldCorp will end up paying, yet the shorter the loan period, the higher the payment will be. The CFO is also analyzing the different interest rates and how they affect the installments and subsequently the total interest charge over the life of the loan.

This case shows why it's important to learn the intricacies of using Microsoft Excel's Data Tables. Data Tables can be helpful to assist management in determining the best course of action by evaluating interest charges and monthly payments. In this section, you will create a data table from existing data and will discover the advantages of using the Data Table tool in the What-If Analysis, plus related concepts and definitions, such as data ranges and arrays. The Data Table's powerful analysis options will be further explored in Organizing and Presenting Data.

Differentiating Between a Spreadsheet and a Data Table

Spreadsheets have a wide variety of applications and can be used for accounting, budgeting, data collection and analysis, and operations efficiency. Spreadsheets are used in all departments of corporations, such as marketing or operations. These departments can use spreadsheets in a variety of ways, such as compiling information from market studies, or performing statistical analysis on operations from the manufacturing plant.

A Data Table is a scenario-building tool. It lets users choose a set of cells on the spreadsheet, and then outputs different solutions or forecasts depending on different scenarios. The difference between a Data Table and a spreadsheet is that a spreadsheet is a file with blank cells that can be formatted using the various tools and commands contained in the application. A Data Table can be part of (embedded in) a spreadsheet, but a spreadsheet can also include a graph, some text for information, or the listing of the inputs for the Data Table. The Data Table feature of Excel automatically builds a table of data based on certain inputs that is part of the spreadsheet. Figure 10.2 shows an example of an Excel-generated Data Table, as well as the data used in the scenarios. You will build a Data Table after learning more about its uses.

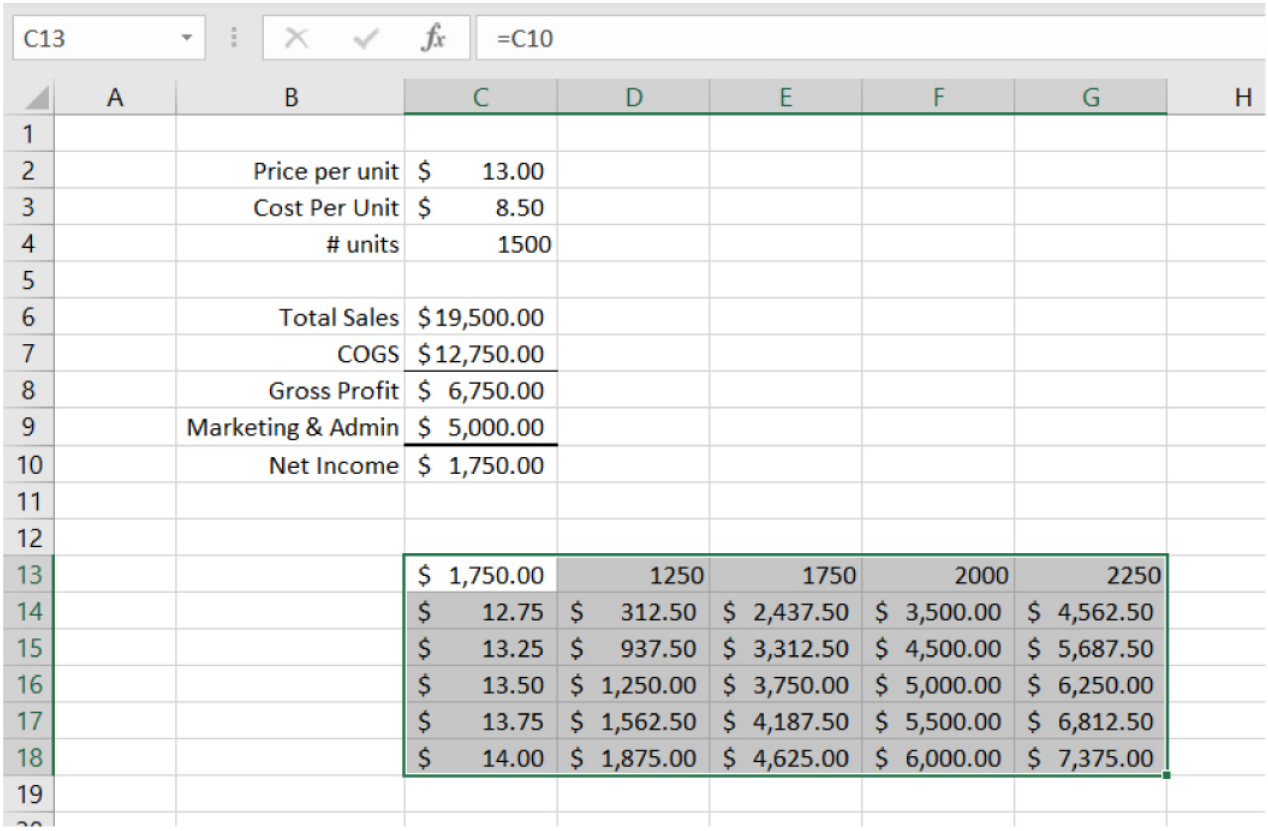


Figure 10.2: Data Tables are added to a spreadsheet and are autogenerated in Excel based on the input you select. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Advantages of a Data Table

The advantages of Data Tables are many. One of their most important advantages is their ability to automate scenario-building. Another advantage is increased accuracy due to less manual entry of data. If you were to create a scenario from a blank workbook, you would need to build out the formulas initially and then copy them through the desired levels of the inputs. This increases the possibility of user error caused by inputting values or formulas incorrectly. By using the Data Table feature, all that work is done automatically—and quickly. Data Tables allow users to view all the levels of inputs in a single table without inputting multiple formulas.

Consider the example of expanding Fairfax's WorldCorp location. You have gathered the needed information to determine the amount of the loan you will need to finance the added capacity. You have the loan terms from banks in the area and you know that the loan payment period will be ten years. WorldCorp is working on its annual budget, so the CFO wants you to investigate the annual payments, not the monthly payments. The CFO also wants to examine the variability of the annual installment if the interest rate is increased by 0.5 percent increments per year over the life of the loan. The Data Table in the What-If Analysis will automatically perform the annual payment calculations for each increment. The CFO will then be able to look at the results and determine which loan from which bank will best meet the company's needs.

The first step in this analysis is to set up your data. Since you're looking at how the interest rate affects the annual payment, you can use Excel's Payment (PMT) function, which uses the present value (the value of the loan), the number of payments, and the rate. The PMT function is in the Financial library of functions found on the Formulas tab. The present value (PV) is principal to be borrowed; in this case, we will use $750,000, which is half of the total cost of the expansion. This was determined by the initial research by the CFO as the amount needed to finance the company growth. The time period of the loan has been set at ten years. Most loans are paid monthly, but since you are analyzing the annual payments, you will use 10 (not 120) for N (shown as Nper in the function builder) to define the number of payments. After gathering all the interest rates offered by the banks, it was determined that the average interest rate (I) of all is 6.5 percent. Using these input values, the yearly payment can be determined using the financial PMT function. Figure 10.3 shows the building of the PMT function in Excel.

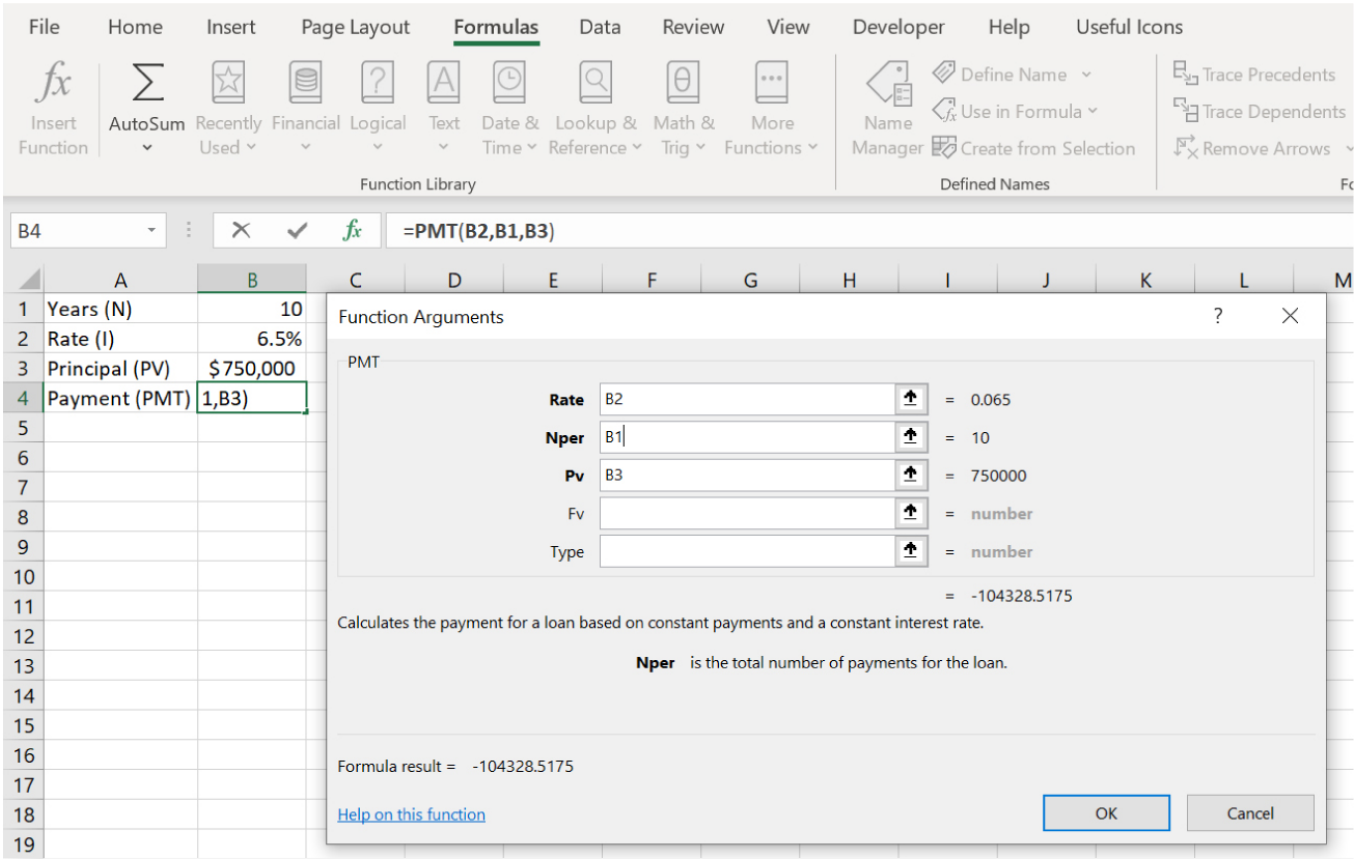


Figure 10.3: Using the inputs of the interest rate, the number of years, and the principal amount, you can quickly determine the annual payment for the loan. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The result is an annual payment on the loan of $104,328.52 (Figure 10.4). The output for Excel with the PMT function is negative by default, which is displayed in parentheses and in red. This is to indicate that the loan total will decrease by that amount each year after the payment is made. Keep this in mind as you examine the output.

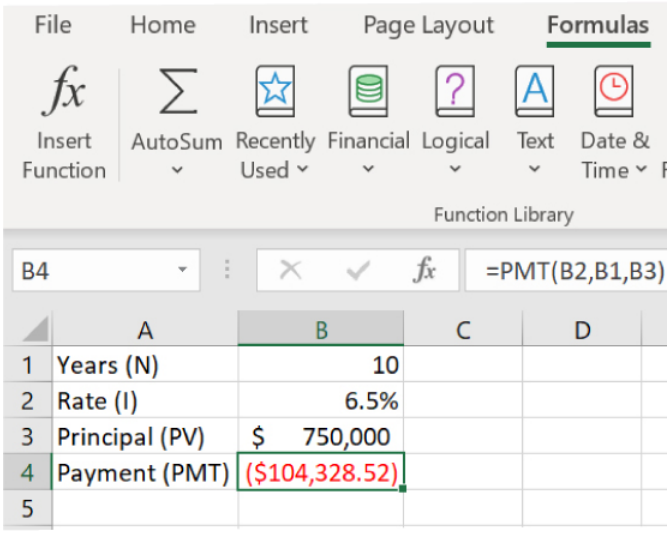


Figure 10.4: The PMT function in Excel calculates the payment required for a loan. The output is negative by default to show that the loan will decrease by that amount each time a payment is made. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The next step in the analysis is to compare the payments with different loan terms. You can calculate the payment manually using the PMT function many times—that is, every time you change the interest rate. You can play around with it by changing the interest rate and seeing how it affects the payment. If the rate is lower, the payment will be lower, and if the rate is higher, the

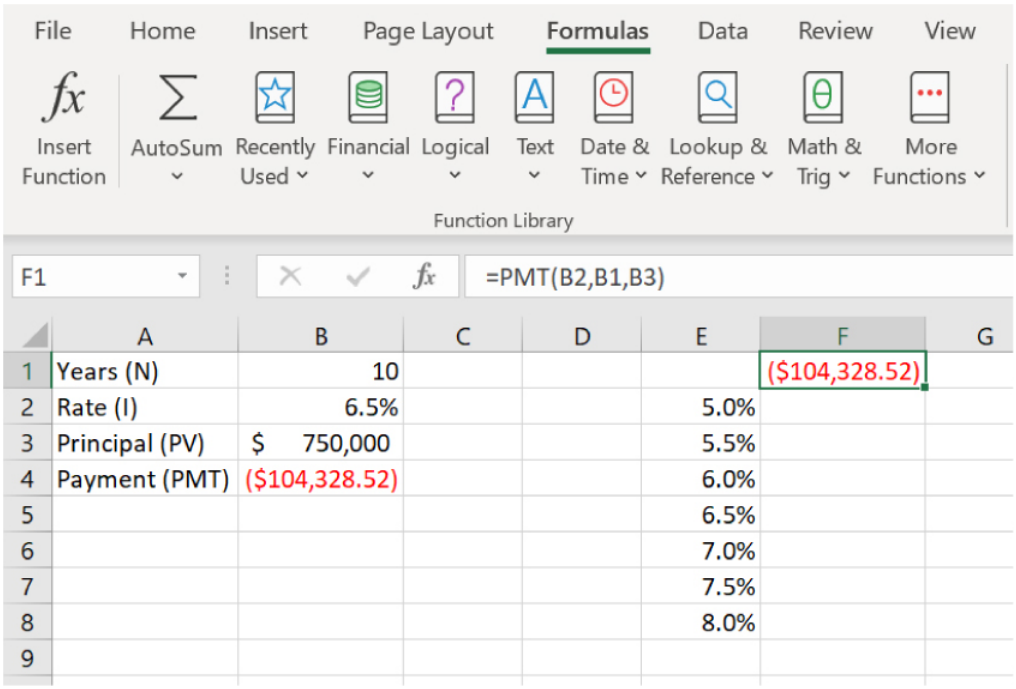
payment will be higher. For example, in Figure 10.3, if you change the rate to 5 percent, the payment automatically updates to $97,128.43. However, this approach does not retain all of the options easily. Unless you make a separate table to capture the impact of changes in the interest rate on the payment, that information is lost each time you make a change to the inputs. If you do create a table, you would need to format it in a manner suitable for additional analysis and decision making. It would be a time-consuming exercise to record all of the data for each interest rate, and then you would need to take an extra step to summarize it in an easy-to-follow table. By creating a Data Table, you can use various levels of the interest rate to calculate the payment and summarize it in one concise table.

Real-World Application - Calculating Mortgage Payoff Schedule

PMT is a useful tool for comparing different interest rates and their impact on monthly payment. It can also be used to determine a mortgage payoff schedule. Paying down a mortgage at a faster pace than agreed upon can lead to significant savings in interest payments. Even one additional payment a year can have a large impact on the amount of interest paid. You can find any number of amortization templates available online, either where you input the information and the site calculates it for you, or through an Excel template. Do some online research to find an Excel template to help you calculate your mortgage payoff schedule. Open the template and review the formulas. Notice the use of IF and PMT functions throughout. Using the template, locate a home to purchase and determine the payoff schedule for the home using today's interest rates. If you own a home already, determine what one additional payment per year will do to your final home cost upon payoff.

Creating a Data Table from Data in a Spreadsheet

To facilitate the process of comparing various interest rates on the annual payment, you can create a Data Table. To do so, the information must be arranged on the spreadsheet in a specific way. First, make a list in a column of the interest rates being examined. The order doesn't matter to Excel, but it makes the data easier to analyze if you put them in numerical order, either lowest rate to highest or vice versa. In the next column to the right and one row above, use the PMT function to calculate the payment at the current rate (recall, you used 6.5 percent), as shown in Figure 10.5.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Years (N)	10				($104,328.52)	
2	Rate (I)	6.5%			5.0%		
3	Principal (PV)	$ 750,000			5.5%		
4	Payment (PMT)	($104,328.52)			6.0%		
5					6.5%		
6					7.0%		
7					7.5%		
8					8.0%		
9							

Figure 10.5: To create a Data Table, you must first determine the list of input values, in this case the changing interest rate. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next, select the area of the spreadsheet where the changing input values are contained. In this example, that is cells E1:F8. On the Data tab, you will see the What-If Analysis menu group on the right side. Select the drop-down arrow and choose Data Table (Figure 10.6).

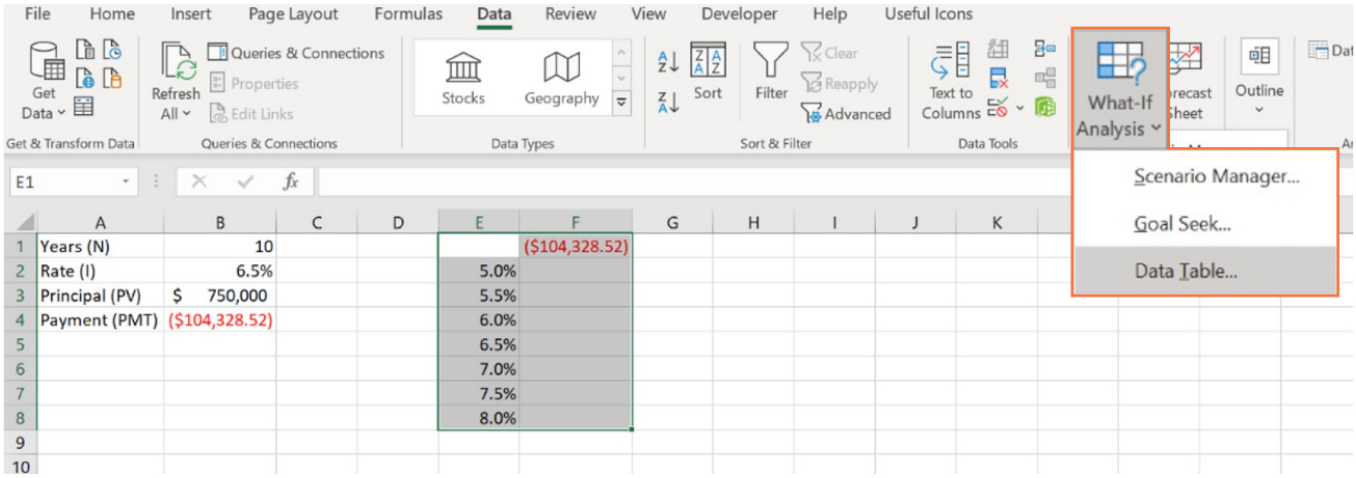


Figure 10.6: To create a Data Table, use the What-If Analysis menu. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When the Data Table tool is selected, a dialog box appears for inputting data. Because the interest rates are listed in columns, use the "Column input cell" box. In this cell, place the cell reference for the original interest rate used in the PMT function. Notice the dollar sign ($) in front of the letter and number in the cell reference. This will set the column input cell to always refer to the value in cell B2. This is referred to as an absolute reference. You will learn more about absolute references in Absolute Cell References. For this example, the cell is B2 (Figure 10.7).

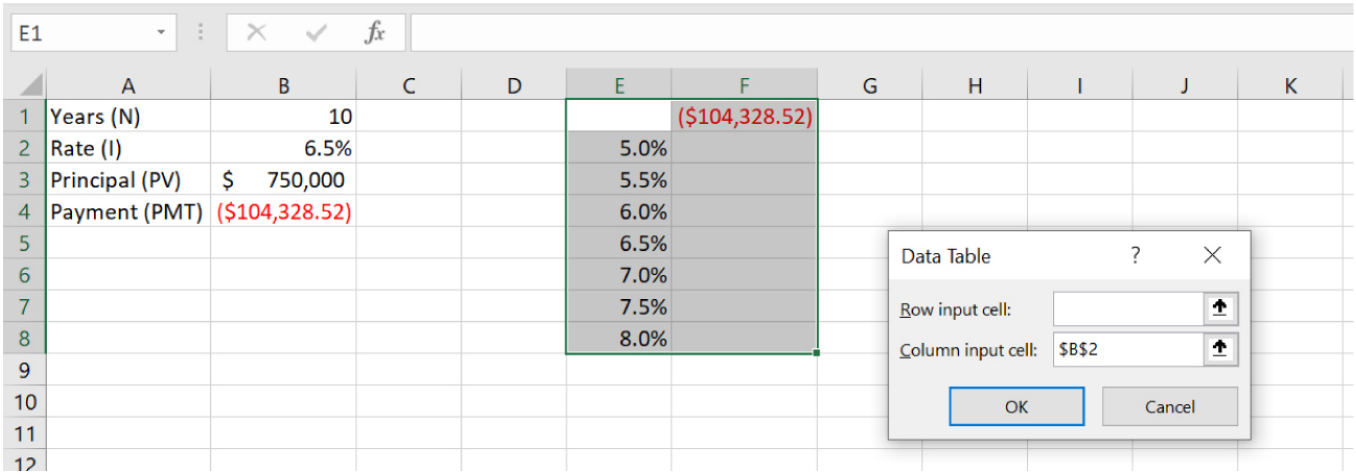
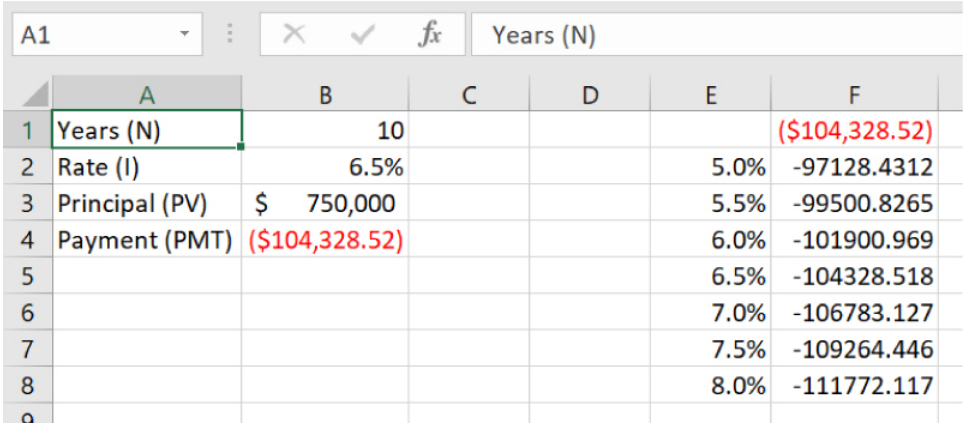


Figure 10.7: If you had placed the interest rates in a row rather than a column, you would use the "Row input cell" box instead of the "Column input cell" box. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Data Table will automatically calculate the payment at each of the interest rates listed in the column below the PMT, as shown in Figure 10.8. You will need to format the data to be Accounting or Currency.



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Years (N)	10				($104,328.52)
2	Rate (I)	6.5%			5.0%	-97128.4312
3	Principal (PV)	$ 750,000			5.5%	-99500.8265
4	Payment (PMT)	($104,328.52)			6.0%	-101900.969
5					6.5%	-104328.518
6					7.0%	-106783.127
7					7.5%	-109264.446
8					8.0%	-111772.117

Figure 10.8: When the Data Table is created, the output is not formatted. Use the Accounting or Currency format to display the data correctly. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This process will save a lot of time, as it eliminates manually creating a formula for each cell. Furthermore, with the same Data Table, any of the values in the list can be changed and the information will automatically update to the correct value. For example, to see the payments for a 6.4 percent interest rate instead of 6.5 percent, simply change that one value, and the row's value will be autofilled to calculate the new installment payment. The rest of the data table stays the same, as you can see in Figure 10.9.

	$104,328.52
5.00%	$ 97,128.43
5.50%	$ 99,500.83
6.00%	$ 101,900.97
6.40%	$ 103,840.83
7.00%	$ 106,783.13
7.50%	$ 109,264.45
8.00%	$ 111,772.12

Figure 10.9: Notice that by changing the cell to 6.4 percent, the payment changes only for that value. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Suppose you have taken this Data Table to the WorldCorp CFO, who tells you that the company will not pay high interest rates and will only negotiate and meet with the executives of banks that offer rates at or below 7 percent. There is no need to create a new Data Table that only includes the data for that range of rates because you may need the information at a later point. Instead, you can temporarily hide the values that exceed the 7 percent maximum using Excel's filtering tools. A filter is a tool that lets you select certain criteria so that only data with your chosen criteria is shown.

To use a filter within the Data Table, select the rate column, and then go to the Data tab. In the Sort & Filter command group, select Filter (the funnel icon). When Filter is selected, a small arrow will appear at the top of the column, as shown in Figure 10.10a. Select that arrow and go to Number Filters, then select Less Than Or Equal To.... On the dialog box that appears next, select 7.00% from the choices, and then click OK. The result is that the Data Table will only show values that are less than or equal to 7 percent, as shown in Figure 10.10b.

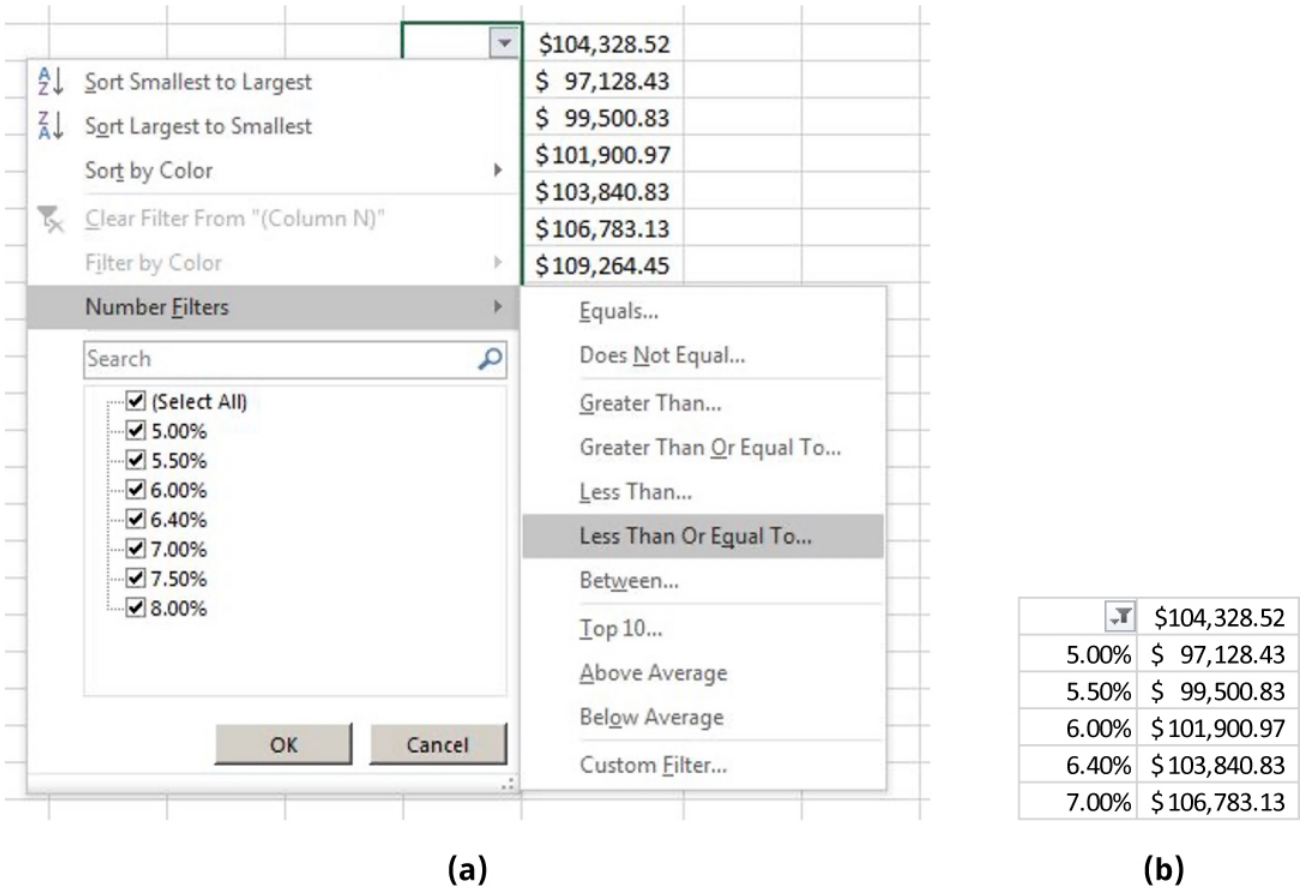


Figure 10.10: (a) In the drop-down menu, there are many different filter options. (b) The funnel icon in a cell indicates that a filter has been applied to that column. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that you have created a Data Table with one variable, you will follow a similar process to analyze two variables. With the added capacity in Fairfax, WorldCorp can sell more products to help the company reach its strategic goals. Increasing unit sales could also allow the company to reduce its price per unit. You would like to better understand the impact of the increased sales and price changes on the annual revenue for WorldCorp. Let's assume that in 2020, WorldCorp sold 5,000 RX-500 digital scales in the state of Virginia, at the retail price of $17.99 per unit. That would mean an annual revenue of $89,950 for this item. What would happen if the price was decreased to $16.99, in hopes that the unit sales would increase? Or, conversely, what would happen if the price increased to $18.99? WorldCorp is not sure how the public will react to either option, but you can estimate the revenue it will produce. Let's assume that either sales will stay the same (i.e., 5,000 per year), decrease to 3,000, or increase to 7,000. With the Data Table tool located in the What-If Analysis, all the revenues will be autofilled for the different unit sales and the different prices (Figure 10.11). To create this table, follow the steps for the loan interest rate example. However, instead of only including the column input, also include the row input.

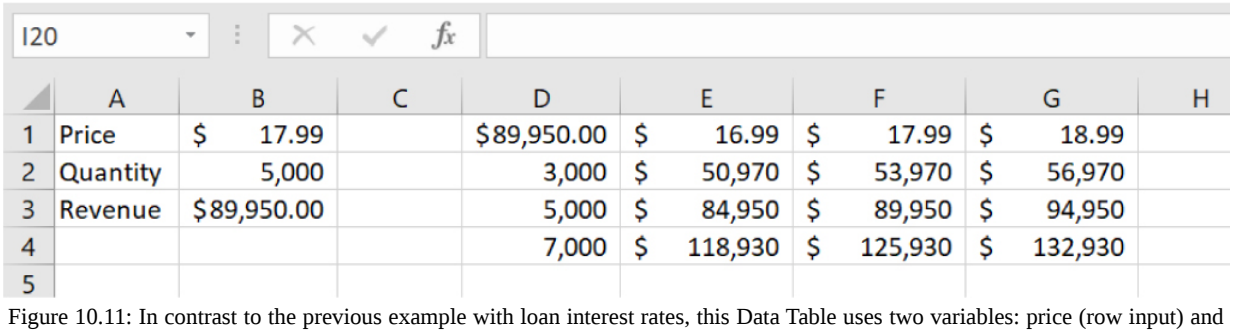


Figure 10.11: In contrast to the previous example with loan interest rates, this Data Table uses two variables: price (row input) and quantity sold (column input). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Defining, Selecting, and Naming a Cell Range

A cell range is a selection of rows or columns of cells that is given a name to make it easier for the worksheet designer to find that specific group of cells later. It can include a group of cells that are next to each other or separated across the worksheet or workbook. Defining a cell range is especially useful when designing a large Excel worksheet with a substantial amount of data, or when interconnecting datasets or different spreadsheets. Naming a range of cells is referred to in Excel as defining a range. You can define a range in three different ways.

Method 1: Define a Range

First, select the range of cells you want to name. Then, click on the leftmost box below the ribbon (Excel calls this the Name Box). After the cursor on the Name Box begins blinking, type the name you want to use for the data range, and press Enter. Subsequently, you may refer to this range of cells as the name you typed in the Name Box. Type “digital scale” in the Name Box, as shown in Figure 10.12.

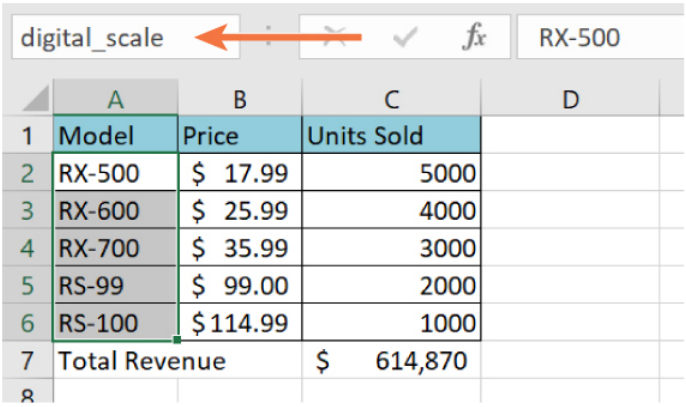


Figure 10.12: The Name Box sits just below the ribbon and above the column letters. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Method 2: Define a Range

Begin by selecting the desired range of cells, then go to the Formulas tab, and select Define Name. A new dialog box will appear; it has three fields: Name, Scope, and Comment. Next to Name, simply type the name you want to use for the data range; under Scope, select Workbook; the Comment field is optional. Click OK to complete the process (Figure 10.13).

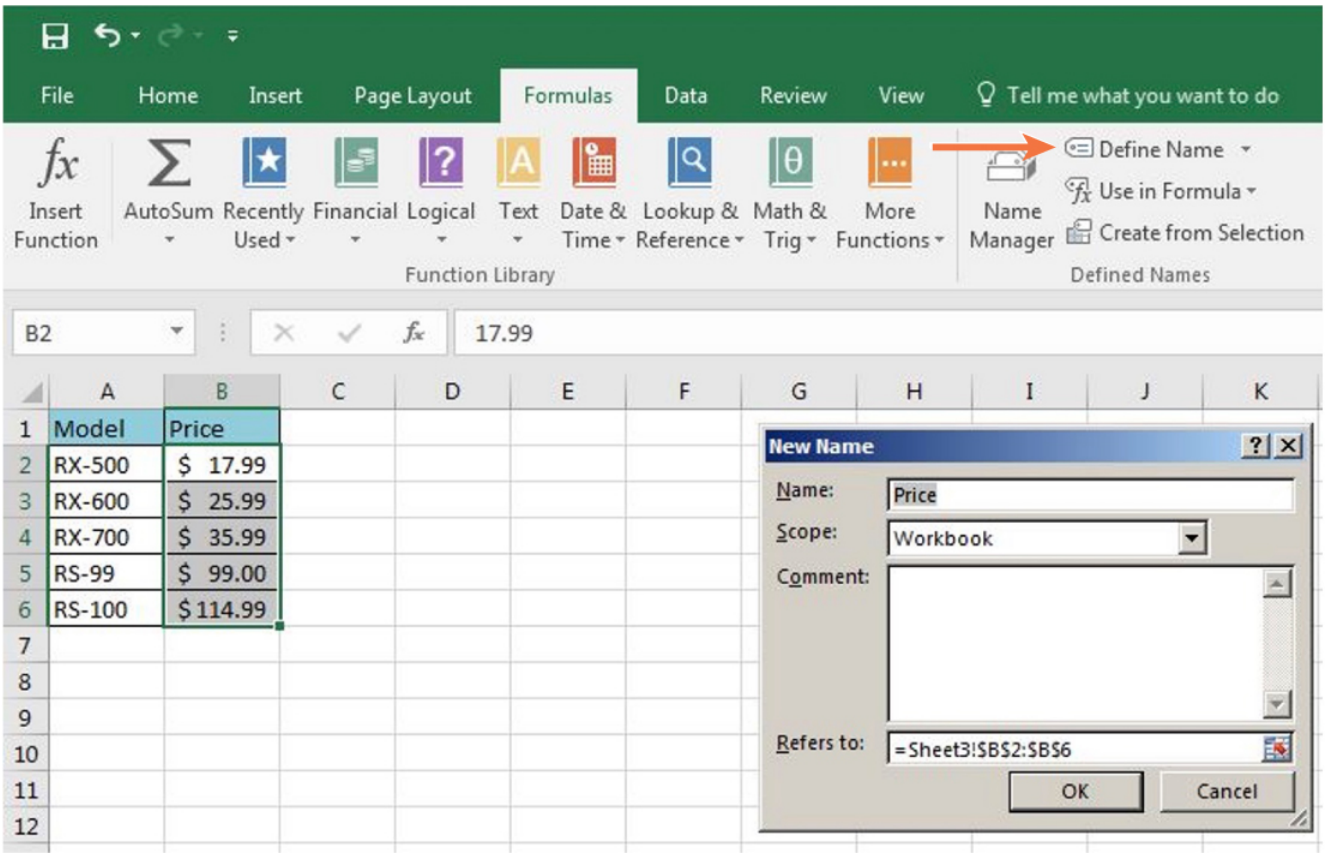
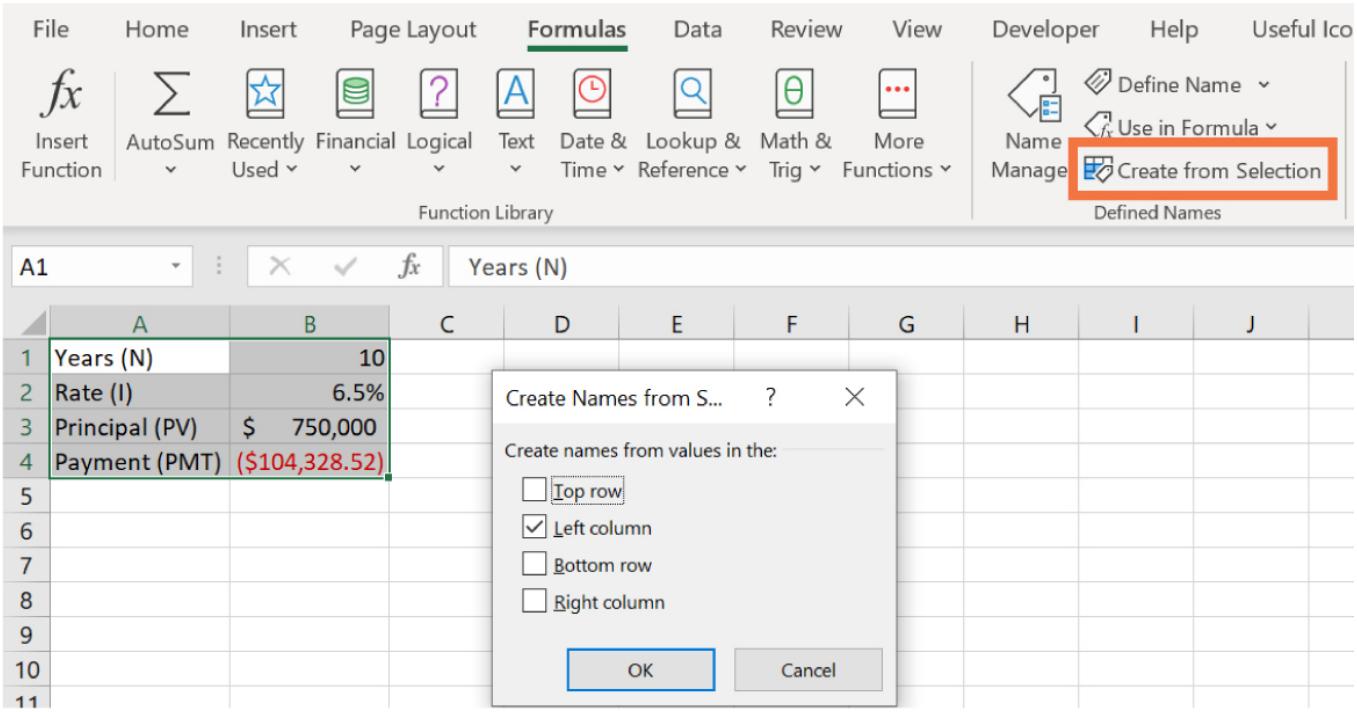


Figure 10.13: The Define Name option is in the center of the Formulas tab ribbon area. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

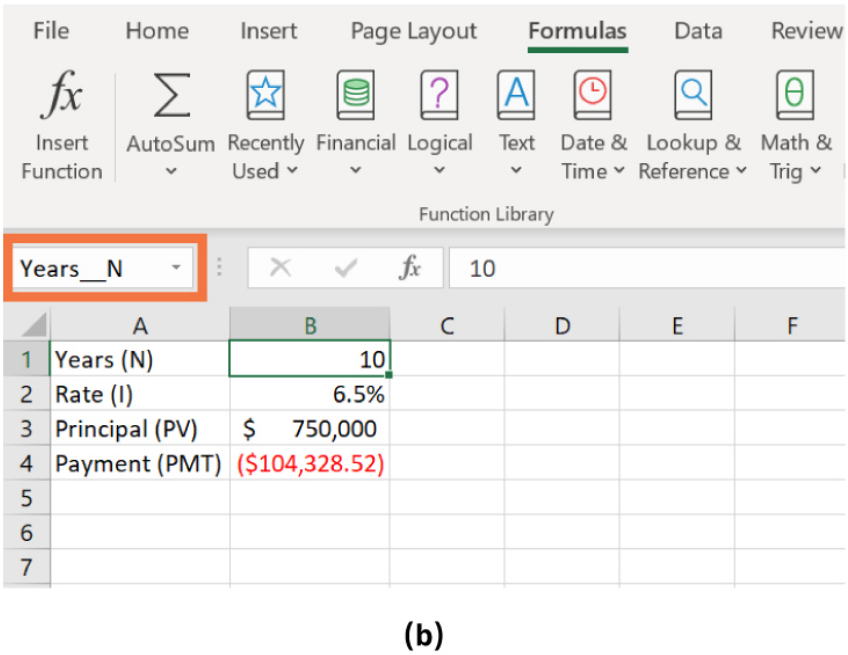
Method 3: Define a Range

The third way to define a range is more comprehensive, as it allows you to select various columns or a whole Data Table. You need to select the entire table, or the set of columns (or rows), that you want to define. After making your selection, go to the Formulas tab in the ribbon and choose Create from Selection. A dialog box will appear and where you select the headers. (Many tables have column headings only, and other tables have row headings.) In the dialog box, you will select if the table has the column headings on the bottom or on the top, or if the row headings are on the right or on the left.

Using the WorldCorp example of the loan interest rates, choose Left column, and click OK, as shown in Figure 10.14. Because you didn't type anything, as this method is more geared for tables, Excel automatically gave defined names to the data ranges (rows). Excel uses the text in the left column of the table to name (define) the data ranges. Spaces are automatically converted to "_" by Excel. Consequently, the data ranges are Years_N, Rate_I, Principal_PV, and Payment_PMT.



(a)



(b)

Figure 10.14: (a) To activate the Create from Selection command, click on the area shown after first selecting the data table. (b) Notice that cell B1 has been renamed Years_N based on the title for that row listed in the left column (column A). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Differentiating Between a Cell Range and an Array

An array is similar to a cell range in that it is a collection of data in ranges of cells, but arrays do not have to be contiguous (right next to each other). Arrays can contain text or numbers and can span multiple rows and columns if needed. The array can be a collection of cells that consists of unrelated elements, whereas cell ranges have a start and finish and are made of elements related to each other. Arrays also are different from data ranges in that they can work creatively to simultaneously calculate different

computations at the same time. An array can replace many standard formulas and make simple computations more efficient. The array formula performs multiple calculations on several values, so using arrays and array formulas can save users time.

Let's use the WorldCorp digital scale example and recalculate it using arrays. The unit sales of each model are added to the previous data in column C. Then, using arrays, you can determine the total revenue without calculating the revenue for each model separately. Figure 10.15a shows how you can add a column for the revenue of each model and then add them up to get the total revenue of the digital scales. Figure 10.15b shows the total revenue for sales of all models in cell C7, without any of the individual calculations, using an array.

To use an array to calculate the total revenue in Figure 10.15b, click on a blank cell (here, cell C7), and type the function =sum(b2:b6*c2:c6) and hold down Ctrl+Shift as you press Enter. This function calculates the sum of the revenue for each item, as shown in the ranges in the parentheses. As visible in the Formula Bar, Excel recognizes b2:b6 from the defined data ranges, and renames it "Price" in the formula. Excel also adds a curly brace ("{ }") before and after the whole function (Figure 10.15b) because it recognizes it as an array. Excel then does all of the calculations we did manually in Figure 10.15a in one step and provides the total revenue. You'll notice that the total revenue values match, regardless of whether you do the calculations manually or use an array. When a selection is defined as an array, then any formula is calculated as an array formula, which allows for multiple calculations to happen simultaneously.

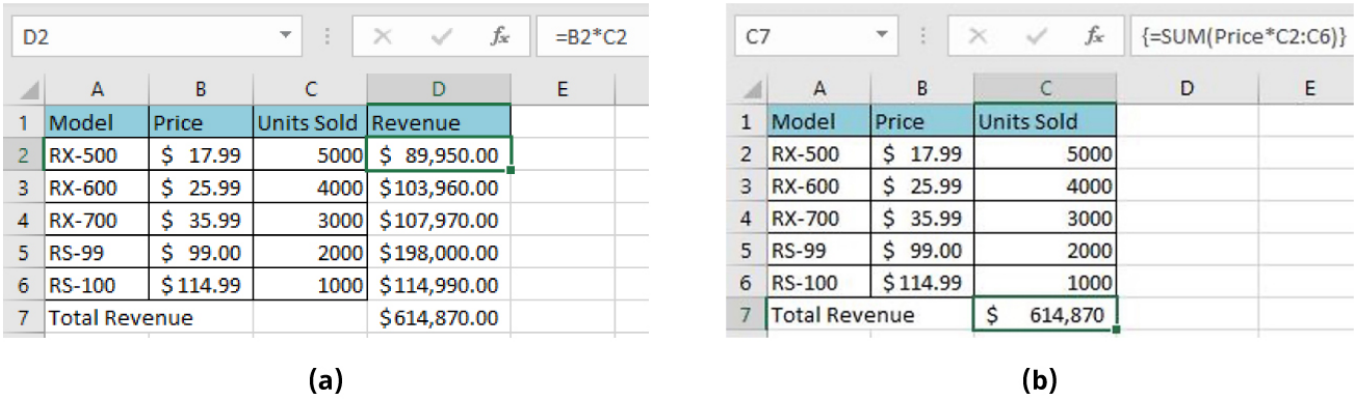


Figure 10.15: The array formula enables Excel to derive the same results using less space in the sheet. (a) You can calculate each model's revenue and then add those values to get the total revenue. (b) You can also use an array, which determines each model's revenue and adds them up in one step. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 10.1: Data Tables and Ranges is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.2: More About Formulas

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create complex formulas
- Use cell references in formulas
- Use comparison operators
- Use arrays in formulas

Portland is a small city in Cumberland County, Maine, and is Maine's most populous city. Its main commercial attraction is that it is a port city, and among the main economic activity in the region is marine transport services. WorldCorp has an office there, as the company uses the port facilities to export some of their products to different destinations. The WorldCorp regional manager has to use intricate spreadsheets to keep track of the large volume of cargo coming from different cities in the United States. The manager wants to start using data automation intelligence tools in Excel, allowing the manager to make operational decisions more quickly.

The shipping information may contain data such as the origin city, the destination, types of inventory included in the cargo, the weight of each shipment, and specific international shipping terms for the shipment. The manager receives this information separately in each bill of lading (a summary of the shipment) and has constructed many complex Excel workbooks with different tabs, each containing the raw data from the cargo. With shipments increasing year by year, this raw data has grown and become unwieldy. Using Excel's built-in analytical tools, such as cell references, comparison operators, and array formulas, the manager can make sense of this raw data to use and process it in a more helpful way.

As a WorldCorp employee, you are asked to deliver recurring reports based on this data. These reports can be tedious to create if you are not able to immediately find the information you need in your spreadsheets. In this case, you are asked to find the heaviest shipment, the average tonnage, the most-used destination, and other report highlights.

Excel's analytical tools like cell references, comparison operators such as greater than (>), and array formulas allow all the information in your spreadsheet to be summarized automatically. Using comparison operators enables powerful functions that are used for different purposes when constructing array formulas. Cell reference notations—relative, absolute, and mixed—are used to construct automated tables. A relative cell reference means that the cell used in the formula will change if it is copied to another part of the spreadsheet. More specifically, both the column and row location are not fixed. An absolute cell reference occurs when both the row and the column are fixed to that exact cell, so if you copy the formula to another location in the spreadsheet, it will always reference the same cell. A mixed cell reference is when either the column or the row is fixed. If the column is fixed, the row will be relative when copied to another location in the spreadsheet, and if the row is fixed, the column will be relative. Understanding cell reference notations will help you learn to build and use complex formulas using the correct order of operations. More advanced use of cell references will allow you to use comparison operators and arrays in different situations.

Complex Formulas

As calculations grow in complexity, they require the use of several operators, such as +, –, /, *, and ^, in the same formula. This is the basic definition of a complex formula, a formula that uses several operators to calculate an output. One important aspect of complex formulas is that Excel will automatically calculate them in a specific order. When first working with complex formulas, it can be helpful to write out the formula on paper first. To input formulas into Excel, use parentheses to separate the different mathematical functions. Multiple parentheses might be needed when working with complex and long formulas. For example, to add cells A1 and B1 and then divide by cell C1, it would look like

Math input error

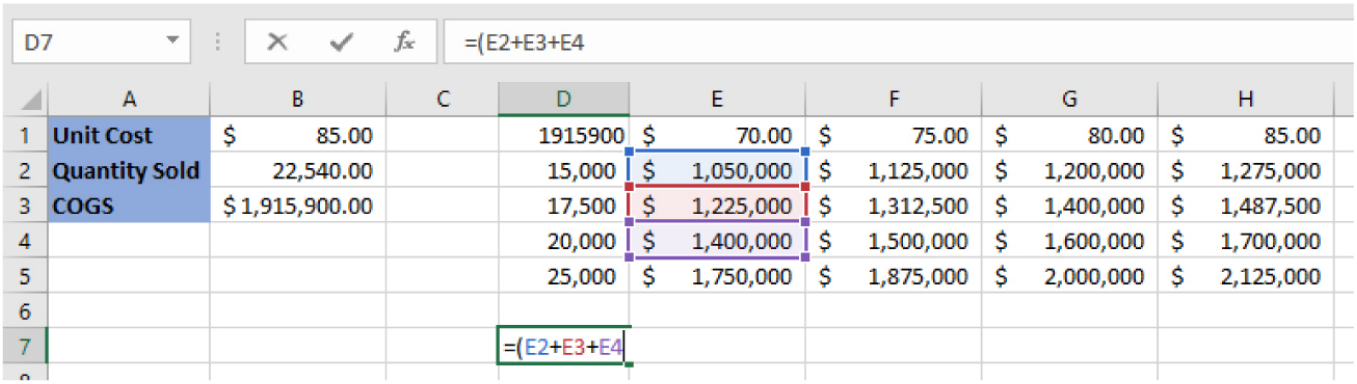


Figure 10.16: The color-coding system for complex formulas is also applied when using multiple sets of parentheses in a formula. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Insert Function Tool

Recall, the Formula Bar is located right above the lettered columns, right beneath the ribbon. The Formula Bar can be used for double-checking that what you typed in the cell was what you intended, or for editing the relative cell references of a copied cell. However, there is another feature in the Formula Bar using the Insert Function tool, which is essentially an assistant to help users build formulas. It contains the whole roster of Excel functions, categorized by discipline (e.g., engineering, financial, math and trigonometry, statistical), so users can explore and search for functions. Insert Function is activated by clicking on the "fx" icon that you see in the Formula Bar, or by going to the Formulas tab, and selecting Insert Function. The Function Library command group on the Formulas tab also shows formulas grouped by category.

Mac Tip

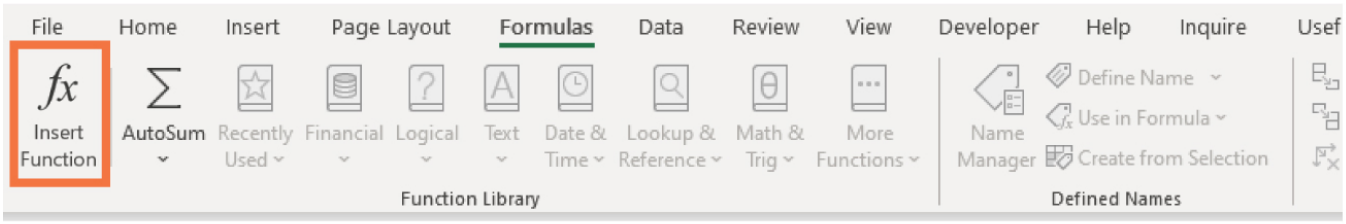
In the Mac version, the Formula Bar only shows the most commonly used formulas, but you can expand the Formulas tab.

Let's examine how to use the Insert Function tool for a simple function, the SUM function. (Note that the Insert Function tool is typically used for more complex and specialized functions because it is quick and easy to just type in the simple formulas; however, here, the SUM function provides a simple example.) First, select the cell where you want the summed total to appear. Then, click on the Insert Function icon. The dialog box will open, asking for the function you want to use; select the Math & Trig category, and look for SUM (they are listed alphabetically). When selected, a second screen will appear and ask for the range on which to perform the addition. Select the range and then click OK.

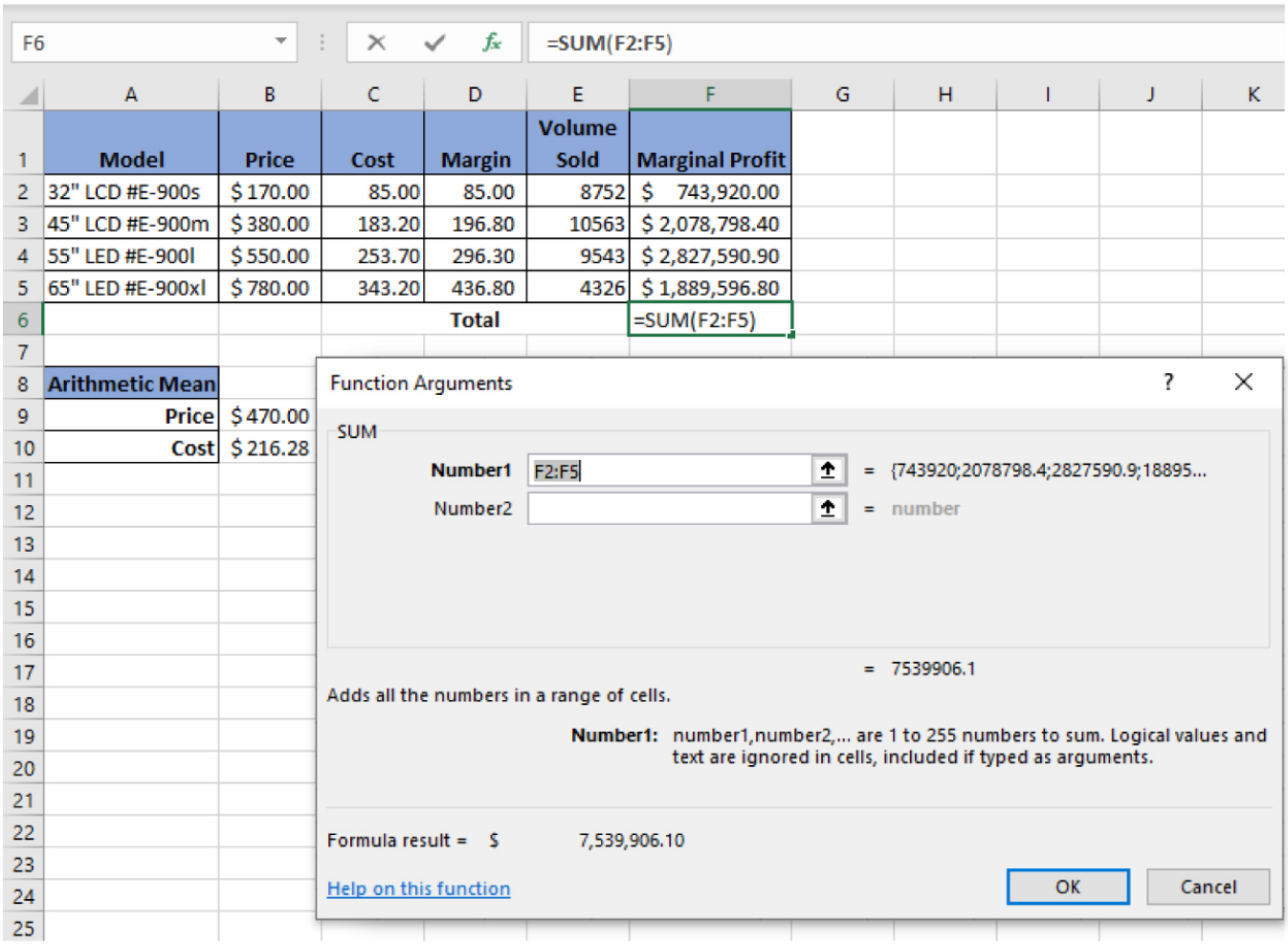
Mac Tip

In the Mac version, the Formula Builder defaults to the last formula you used.

One useful feature of the Insert Function tool is that it can automatically detect what your range might be (Figure 10.17a). In Figure 10.17b, Excel automatically guessed that the user would want to sum the range F2:F5. This Insert Function tool is useful when you do not want to manually type the formula in the Formula Bar.



(a)



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit
2	32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00
3	45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$ 2,078,798.40
4	55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$ 2,827,590.90
5	65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$ 1,889,596.80
6				Total		=SUM(F2:F5)
8	Arithmetic Mean					
9	Price	$ 470.00				
10	Cost	$ 216.28				

(b)

Figure 10.17: The Insert Function tool includes tips on how to apply each function. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Order of Operations

In all math equations, there are rules regarding the order in which calculations must be completed. Otherwise, the equation result will be incorrect. The order of operations is the universal law of math used to prescribe the order of doing each calculation in an equation: parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction, going from left to right (the acronym PEMDAS can help you remember the order). For example, if you calculate 5+3*3–5 from left to right, you would add 5 and 3 to get 8, then multiply 8 by 3 to get 24, and then subtract 5 to get 19, which is incorrect. Following the mathematical order of operations, the equation should be done in this order: multiply 3 by 3 to get 9, then add 5 to get 14, then subtract 5 to get 9. You can also use parentheses to help show the correct order of operations, such as 5+(3*3)–5. The parentheses show that the multiplication should be done first. Excel requires equations to follow the correct order of operations, using parentheses when combining operations in a single cell.

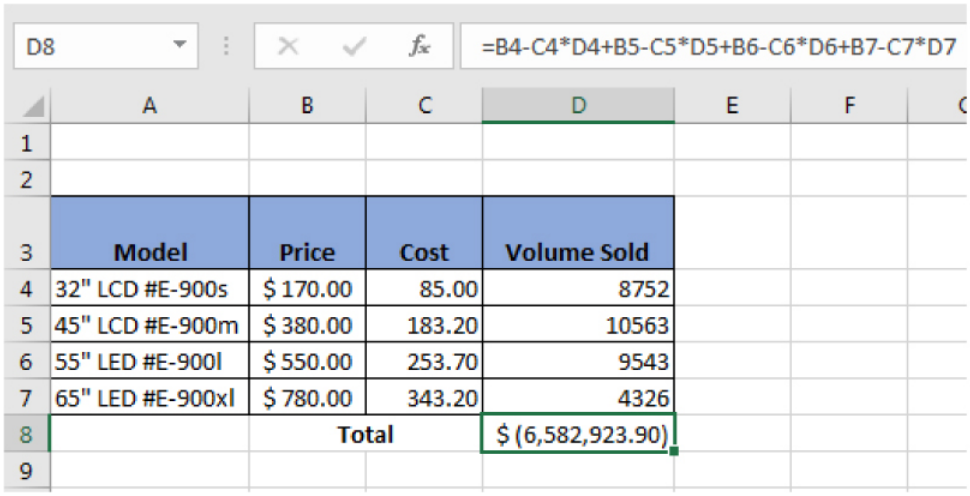
Let's look at some WorldCorp revenue streams to see this on a larger scale. WorldCorp produces thousands of different consumer electronic products, including TVs. Figure 10.18 shows the number of TVs sold for each of these models in the Volume Sold column. To calculate the margin for each model, subtract the cost from the price. Then, to calculate the profit per each model (Marginal Profit), multiply the margin by the volume sold.

Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00
45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$ 2,078,798.40
55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$ 2,827,590.90
65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$ 1,889,596.80
			Total		$ 7,539,906.10

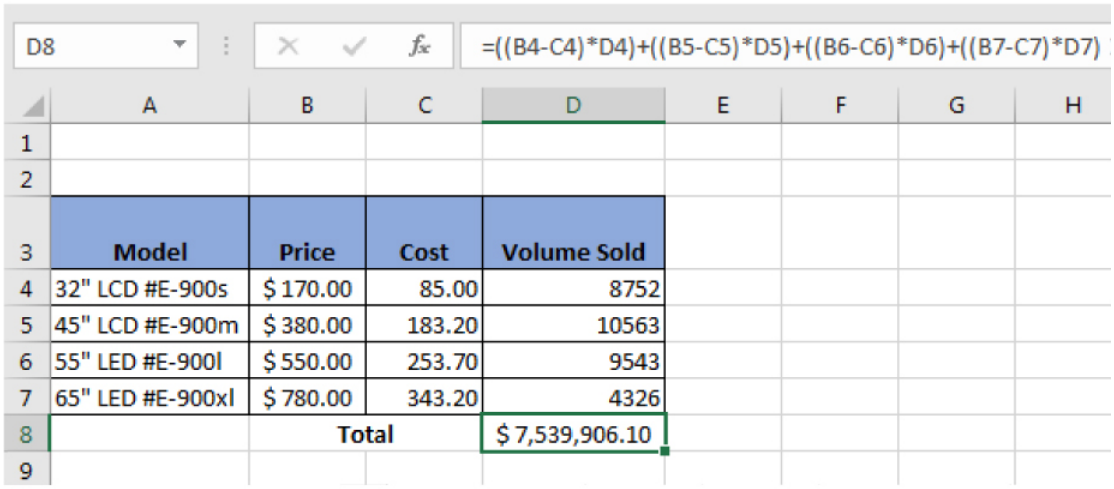
Figure 10.18: Several simple formulas were used to calculate the profit margin for each model. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To calculate the total profit margin, you can use the SUM function on the Marginal Profit column. This simply adds up all of the profit margin amounts for each model. Alternatively, you can get this same total by creating a complex formula. Subtract the cost from the price, then multiply the difference by the volume sold, then add the product of each model and the quantity. Remember to use parentheses to make sure that each section of the formula is completed in the right order. The formula would look something like this: =((Price1-Cost1)*Volume Sold1)+((Price2-Cost2)*Volume Sold2)+((Price3-Cost3)*Volume Sold3) [etc.].

The calculation in Figure 10.19a shows the wrong answer that would result from not using parentheses in the formula. It uses the formula =Price1-Cost1*Volume Sold1+Price2-Cost2*Volume Sold2+Price3-Cost3*Volume Sold3 [etc.], which means the cost is multiplied by the volume sold *first*, before being subtracted from the price, which is not correct. Figure 10.19b shows the formula written the correct way (with the parentheses). It uses =((B4-C4)*D4)+((B5-C5)*D5)+((B6-C6)*D6)+((B7-C7)*D7), which gives the correct result.



(a)



(b)

Figure 10.19: In (a) the volume sold is incorrect because the parentheses that determine the order of operations in the formula are missing; (b) is correct. These formulas show how easy it is to make a mistake in the order of operations. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Cell References in Formulas

In Defining, Selecting, and Naming a Cell Range, you learned about cell references and how to define a range of cells. Now, we will expand this into Excel's cell reference notation and learn how to use relative, absolute, and mixed cell references.

Relative Cell References

Formulas use relative cell references by default in Excel. A relative cell reference is one in which the cell reference in a formula or function updates automatically to reference an adjacent cell when you copy that formula or function to another cell; in other words, if your formula refers to cells A2 and B2, Excel knows that this means the columns are next to one another and in the same row. If you copy a formula with these values to the next row, Excel will automatically change the cell references to A3 and B3.

Let's consider an example. You want to replicate the TV profit calculation =((B4-C4)*D4)+((B5-C5)*D5)+((B6-C6)*D6)+((B7-C7)*D7) in another table with different models of TVs. You simply need to copy (Ctrl+C) the cell with the formula in it (D8), and paste (Ctrl+V) it into a new cell (D15). As shown in Figure 10.20a, all of the Price, Cost, and Volume Sold values in the new table are different, and cell D15 is blank. Once you copy the formula into cell D15 (as in Figure 10.20b), the result is that the formula will be exactly the same, but the cell references will automatically be changed to reflect the new table: =((B11-C11)*D11)+((B12-

C12)*D12)+((B13-C13)*D13)+((B14-C14)*D14). As a word of caution, this only works if the tables are uniform and the formulas needed are the same.

D8 =((B4-C4)*D4)+((B5-C5)*D5)+((B6-C6)*D6)+((B7-C7)*D7)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2								
3	**Model**	**Price**	**Cost**	**Volume Sold**				
4	32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	8752				
5	45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	10563				
6	55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	9543				
7	65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	4326				
8		**Total**		$ 7,539,906.10				
9								
10	**Model**	**Price**	**Cost**	**Volume Sold**				
11	27" LCD #E-900s	$ 130.00	65.00	7535				
12	42" LCD #E-900m	$ 300.00	144.00	9536				
13	50" LED #E-900l	$ 480.00	220.80	10674				
14	60" LED #E-900xl	$ 690.00	303.60	4563				
15		**Total**						
16								

(a)

D15 =((B11-C11)*D11)+((B12-C12)*D12)+((B13-C13)*D13)+((B14-C14)*D14)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3	**Model**	**Price**	**Cost**	**Volume Sold**						
4	32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	8752						
5	45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	10563						
6	55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	9543						
7	65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	4326						
8		**Total**		$ 7,539,906.10						
9										
10	**Model**	**Price**	**Cost**	**Volume Sold**						
11	27" LCD #E-900s	$ 130.00	65.00	7535						
12	42" LCD #E-900m	$ 300.00	144.00	9536						
13	50" LED #E-900l	$ 480.00	220.80	10674						
14	60" LED #E-900xl	$ 690.00	303.60	4563						
15		**Total**		$ 6,507,235.00						
16										

(b)

Figure 10.20: Because the tables are identical in size and column values, the formula from (a) the first table will work perfectly when copied to (b) the second table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

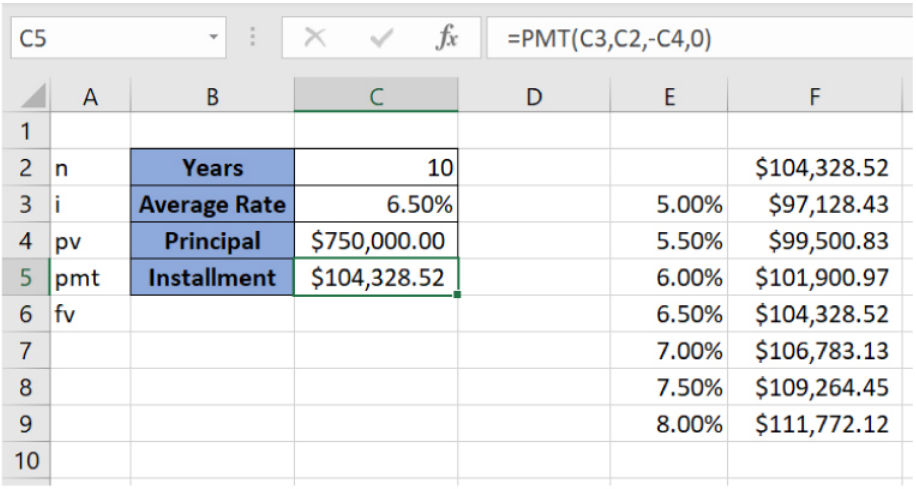
As a reminder, all shortcuts that use Ctrl on a PC use Command on a Mac.

Yet, as easy as relative cell references can be, they might not be appropriate for all circumstances. For example, you may have a set of informational data that will be used recurrently, but you don't want Excel to move the reference of one or more cells, so the relative cell reference function will not work. This is when a different type of cell reference can be used.

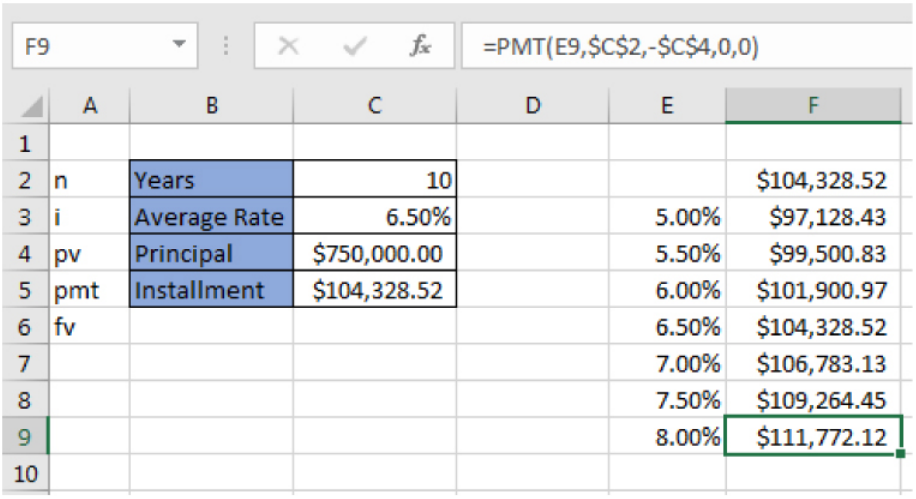
Absolute Cell References

An absolute cell reference is one in which the cell reference is fixed, regardless of where you copy the formula. To use the absolute cell reference feature, put a "$"before the column and row reference. For example, A3 means that the reference to column A, row 3 is fixed. If you don't add both "$" symbols, the absolute cell reference won't work, and you will simply have a relative cell reference. Another way to use the absolute cell reference is with a shortcut. Click on the cell you would like to fix, and then click F4, and Excel will automatically add the "$" to the cell.

Recall the loan you were analyzing for WorldCorp, but instead of using a Data Table What-If Analysis, you will use the PMT function and absolute cell references. As shown in Figure 10.21a, the same loan interest rate data remains, but now you will calculate the payments using absolute references. The formula in cell F3: =PMT(E3,C2,-C4,0,0). You can click on the fill handle (the lower-right corner of the cell) of cell F3 and drag it to F9. This copies the formula so that all the PMTs will automatically be calculated for you, using the fixed references to cells C2 and C4. Figure 10.21b shows the completed table, and the formula in cell F9 shows the updated formula with absolute cell references.



(a)



(b)

Figure 10.21: Using absolute cell references allows you to copy the formula to other cells without having to update your formula. (a) The PMT formula in cell C5 calculates it using relative cell references. (b) Using the absolute cell references for cells C2 and C4, you can create a table that shows the payment for various interest rates. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Let's examine this formula without absolute cell references; in other words, using relative cell references. If cell F3 is =PMT(E3,C2,-C4,0,0), and you drag the fill handle to cell F9, then all the values from F4 to F9 will be incorrect (Figure 10.22). Essentially, you have copied the same formula, but the relative cell references have moved location along with the location of the formula. Instead of referring to cells C2 and C4 for each iteration of the formula, the reference moved down one row for each row you copied the formula down the table.

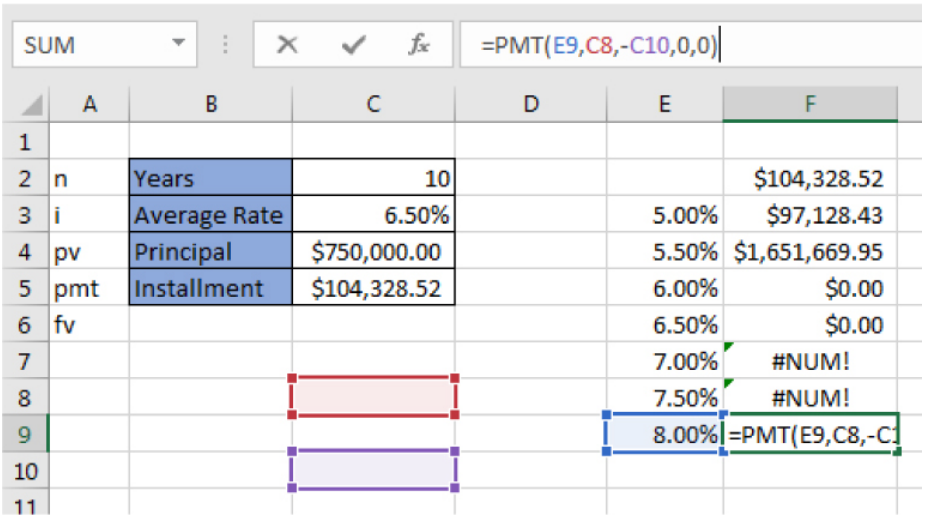


Figure 10.22: Using absolute cell references will avoid errors in your formulas when you are using the same cell in each of your formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application - Excel Horror Stories

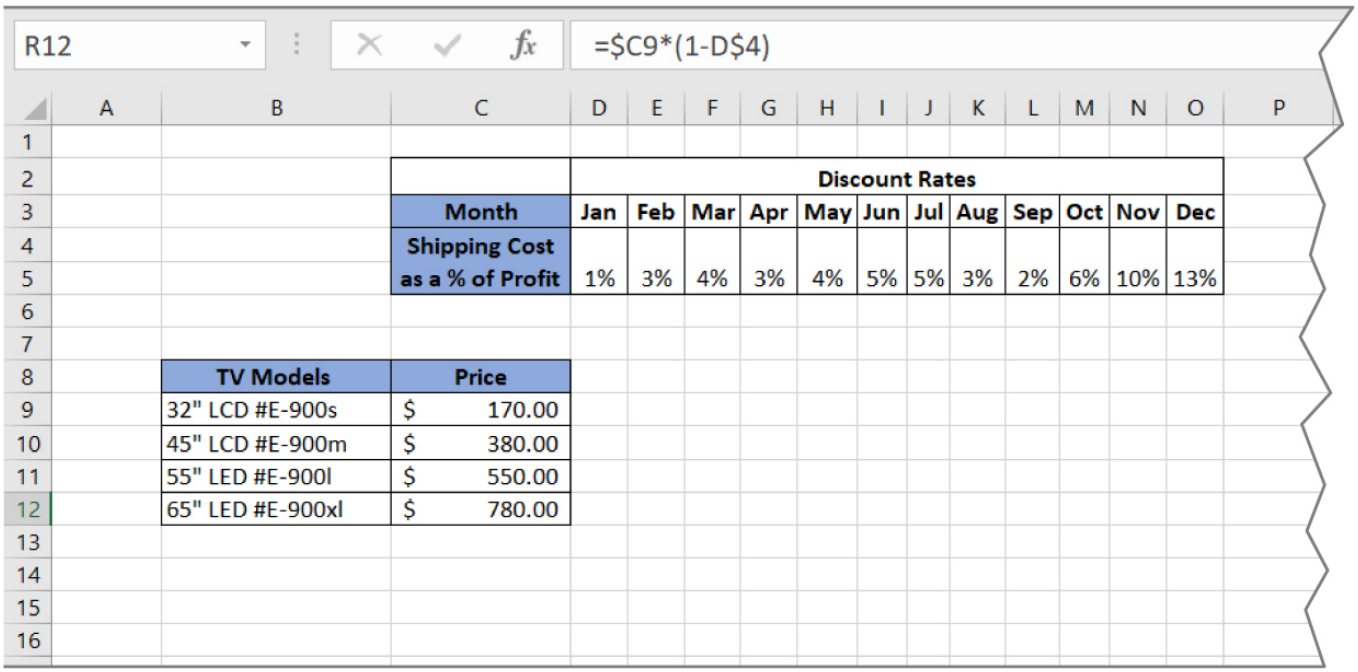
Even the employee with the most certifications and skills in Excel can make mistakes. Excel facilitates most computations, but if the user makes an error in the formula or with entering the data, there can be significant consequences. For instance, you might think copying and pasting information would reduce errors. However, that was not the case for an employee working at JP Morgan Chase. In 2012, an employee copied and pasted content and formulas from one spreadsheet to another while working on a Value Risk model. The data and formulas were untested and unverified, and errors were carried over into the model.

You should also consider the veracity and completeness of files you might receive. Barclays ended up purchasing 179 contracts they did not want from the Lehman Brothers in 2008. Why? They received a spreadsheet of Lehman's assets, in PDF form. When they reviewed the Excel spreadsheet, they identified 179 contracts they did not want to purchase and hid those rows, but those notes were omitted from the PDF when it was converted, and the hidden rows were visible. Excel is a very powerful tool; with that power comes the potential for grave mistakes that can be incredibly costly. The utmost care and integrity must be taken to ensure fidelity of any spreadsheet generated and/or shared.

Mixed Cell References

A mixed cell reference uses a combination of both relative and absolute cell references. A mixed cell reference might have a fixed row but a relative column or a fixed column but a relative row. When the "$" is directly to the left of the row number only (e.g., B$1), the row is absolute and the column is relative. When the "$" is directly to the left of the column only (e.g., $B1), the column is absolute and the row is relative.

Let's look at another example. The WorldCorp Portland, Maine, location offers different promotional discounts as a percentage of the TV retail price depending on the month. The manager asks you to create an autofilled table of the unit prices per TV model for the year 2020. That is easy to achieve manually, multiplying the monthly discount times the retail price, but each cell reference has to be fixed as they move. To automate the calculation, you can use mixed cell references. Figure 10.23 shows the retail prices per unit and the monthly discount rates.

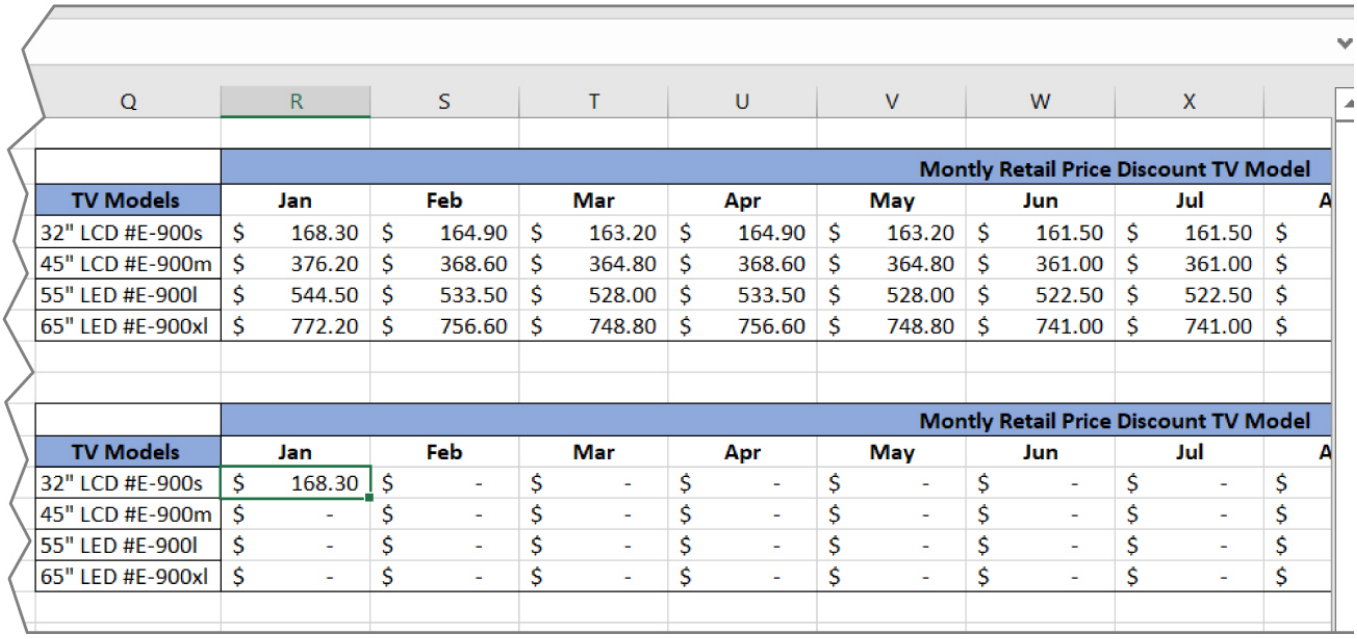


	Discount Rates											
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shipping Cost as a % of Profit	1%	3%	4%	3%	4%	5%	5%	3%	2%	6%	10%	13%

TV Models	Price
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00
45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00
55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00
65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00

Figure 10.23: Calculating outputs from tables with two sets of variables can be a good use of mixed cell references. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In Figure 10.24, the discounted retail price for model 32" LCD #E-900s is $168.30 to be calculated in cell D9. This is obtained by multiplying the Price in column C9 by (1-discount rate found in cell D5). For this example, this would be 170*(1-0.01) or C9*(1-D5). Without absolute cell references for either the column or row, the table will not calculate correctly when the formula is copied (see Figure 10.23). Placing the $ before the column (column C) for the price will fix the formula to always calculate the output based on column C, and the table will fill properly with the discounted prices when you copy the formula from D9 into the remaining cells.



	Montly Retail Price Discount TV Model							
TV Models	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	A
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 168.30	$ 164.90	$ 163.20	$ 164.90	$ 163.20	$ 161.50	$ 161.50	$
45" LCD #E-900m	$ 376.20	$ 368.60	$ 364.80	$ 368.60	$ 364.80	$ 361.00	$ 361.00	$
55" LED #E-900l	$ 544.50	$ 533.50	$ 528.00	$ 533.50	$ 528.00	$ 522.50	$ 522.50	$
65" LED #E-900xl	$ 772.20	$ 756.60	$ 748.80	$ 756.60	$ 748.80	$ 741.00	$ 741.00	$

	Montly Retail Price Discount TV Model							
TV Models	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	A
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 168.30	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$
45" LCD #E-900m	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$
55" LED #E-900l	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$
65" LED #E-900xl	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$

Figure 10.24: By having the columns fixed, the formula always references the Price column. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Comparison Operators

The Excel comparison operators are the same as the inequality symbols used in math. These are: < (less than), > (greater than),

Math input error

Arrays in Formulas

Array formulas can save time when used for basic or intermediate calculations (recall saving the time of adding an extra column in Figure 10.15). But more importantly, array formulas are used for higher-level calculations that may involve statistical and financial analysis, such as figuring out maximums and minimums of a certain product (similar to MINIF and MAXIF functions) or summing certain X or Y rows/columns (similar to SUMIF). In short, most array applications can be done in other ways in Excel, but using arrays allows you to do multiple calculations at the same time.

Let's use a manufacturing example to see how to use arrays in formulas. WorldCorp's Fairfax, Virginia, manufacturing plant transports their items by truck to the Portland, Maine, location. The Fairfax plant has plenty of stock for some of the items in the orders, but not for all of them. Figure 10.25 shows the available stock in the Fairfax plant (Quantity In Stock) and the amounts needed to complete the orders (Quantity Planned). Let's calculate the difference between these two numbers to determine if more is needed. Specifically, if the Quantity in Stock (Column E) is larger than the Quantity Planned (Column D), we will not need to manufacture more. To make this simple, we will use a simple subtraction calculation: Quantity in Stock – Quantity Planned. If this value is a positive number, there is plenty in stock. This would be the case with Row 6 – Tablets 7in. The Quantity in Stock is 425 and the Quantity planned is 143. So, 425 – 143 = 282. So, there will be 282 units remaining after filling the Quantity Planned order. If the value of the subtraction formula is negative, then more product is needed. We see this in Row 4 where the Quantity in Stock is 464, but 542 are Planned. Using the equation, 464 – 542, we are left with a shortfall of 78 units or -78. First, determine the difference between the values in Column E and Column D using an array. This will allow us to do the calculations for all rows in one step. Highlight cells G4 to G12. Then, in the Formula Bar, type the formula: E4:E12 – D4:12 (Figure 10.25a), and then press Ctrl+Shift+Enter simultaneously for the curly braces to appear, as shown in Figure 10.25b. The formula then is automatically entered for all highlighted rows.

TEXTJOIN | =E4:E12 - D4:D12

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1					Date: January 13, 2021		
2	Fairfax, VA Location						
3	Date of Future Shipping	To be sent to Port	Item Description	Quantity Planned	Quantity In Stock	Estimated FOB $, if Completed Units	Difference
4	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	464	$ 26,016.00	D4:D12
5	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	1964	$ 21,350.00	
6	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	425	$ 10,582.00	
7	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	74	$ 14,575.00	
8	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	128	$ 64,505.00	
9	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	5436	$ 22,920.00	
10	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	119	$ 7,252.00	
11	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	117	$ 10,922.00	
12	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	532	$ 21,504.00	

(a)

G4 | {=E4:E12 - D4:D12}

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1					Date: January 13, 2021		
2	Fairfax, VA Location						
3	Date of Future Shipping	To be sent to Port	Item Description	Quantity Planned	Quantity In Stock	Estimated FOB $, if Completed Units	Difference
4	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	464	$ 26,016.00	-78
5	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	1964	$ 21,350.00	-536
6	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	425	$ 10,582.00	282
7	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	74	$ 14,575.00	21
8	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	128	$ 64,505.00	31
9	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	5436	$ 22,920.00	2436
10	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	119	$ 7,252.00	45
11	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	117	$ 10,922.00	-10
12	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	532	$ 21,504.00	-236

(b)

Figure 10.25: Make sure to highlight all the cells you want the formula to be entered into. (a) Notice the color coding of the formula that corresponds to the colors in the columns below. (b) If you don't press the Ctrl+Shift+Enter combination, the array will not work. You will see the curly braces when you have a formula as an array. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

For those who are new to using the Excel math syntax and notation, the first section of this video tutorial on using math in Excel has a series of handwritten math exercises set alongside the same calculations using Excel. Seeing math equations

written out in the “traditional” way may help you better understand how to devise Excel formulas. You can access the companion handout to use as a reference.

This page titled 10.2: More About Formulas is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.3: Using Arithmetic, Statistical, and Logical Functions

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use basic financial functions
- Identify and use arithmetic and statistical functions
- Insert logical functions

The world has changed rapidly in the decades since the 1980s, as personal computers became commonplace in offices and homes. Business calculations that used to be done by people in highly specialized accounting departments using manual methods became automated. Production plans and managerial oversight are informed with data from ever-expanding datasets that include data from sales to manufacturing. To manage this data, WorldCorp uses complex worksheets that may link to other worksheets (or other workbooks), with the aim of producing actionable business intelligence. To generate policies and strategic decisions, managers must use every tool at their disposal, including functions like MIN, MAX, STDEV; financial calculations like PV, FV, PMT; and logical functions like IF, AND, and OR.

Arithmetic and Statistical Functions

Functions used in basic math, or arithmetic functions, help users to add, multiply, find averages, and perform other types of mathematical operations. You have already learned how to use basic math functions, but there are others that will be very useful in basic data analysis, such as financial functions and statistical functions.

AVERAGE

The average, or mean, is a number found by adding up a group of values, and then dividing it by the number of values you added up. Simply select the cell where you want to calculate the mean and type =AVERAGE(range), and identify the range of the values you want to average.

Spotlight on Ethics - The Problem of Using Averages of Averages

When reporting on data, it may be tempting to average a series of averages to summarize information or determine if there is a mass effect. It is especially tempting to do this in Excel, as it makes this process quick and easy. However, averaging averages is very problematic and can indicate a greater impact than actually realized. It is much better to use the original numbers to determine the actual average versus attempting to average averages. That said, what happens if you do not have the original numbers? This may happen if you are handed processed analysis separated from the original data source. In this case, using weighted averages is a better approach. Weighted averages take into consideration the varying levels of importance of different numbers that can be found within a given dataset; to ensure you capture the percent or proportion of importance of these numbers, each number within the dataset is multiplied by a predetermined value before the average is found.

To underscore, it is best to avoid averaging averages and instead use original values to calculate the average of the totality of these values. If these are not available, you must use weighted averages that will factor in the number of values included in the averages to determine the correct average. You can do your own research regarding how to perform this calculation. There are plenty of simple but effective tutorials available online.

COUNT, ROWS, and COLUMNS

The function COUNT is useful when you have a large dataset of rows (or columns) and want to know how many there are. When you type =COUNT(range), Excel will count the rows or columns with numerical values in the range you identify. The major drawback of the COUNT function is that it will only count the number of rows/columns that have numerical values, and it will ignore any text values. In this scenario, you need to use the ROWS or COLUMNS function to count all of the rows/columns. Write them in the same way: =ROWS(range) or =COLUMNS(range). Knowing the number of rows of invoices, for instance, can be useful if you need to have the exact number of *n* for an equation.

MAX and MIN

Excel has functions that can determine the highest or lowest numbers in a dataset: MAX (=MAX(range)) finds the highest value, and MIN (=MIN(range)) finds the lowest value (Figure 10.26). The range is the set of all of the cells you are analyzing to find the maximum or minimum value.

B13 =MIN(F2:F10)

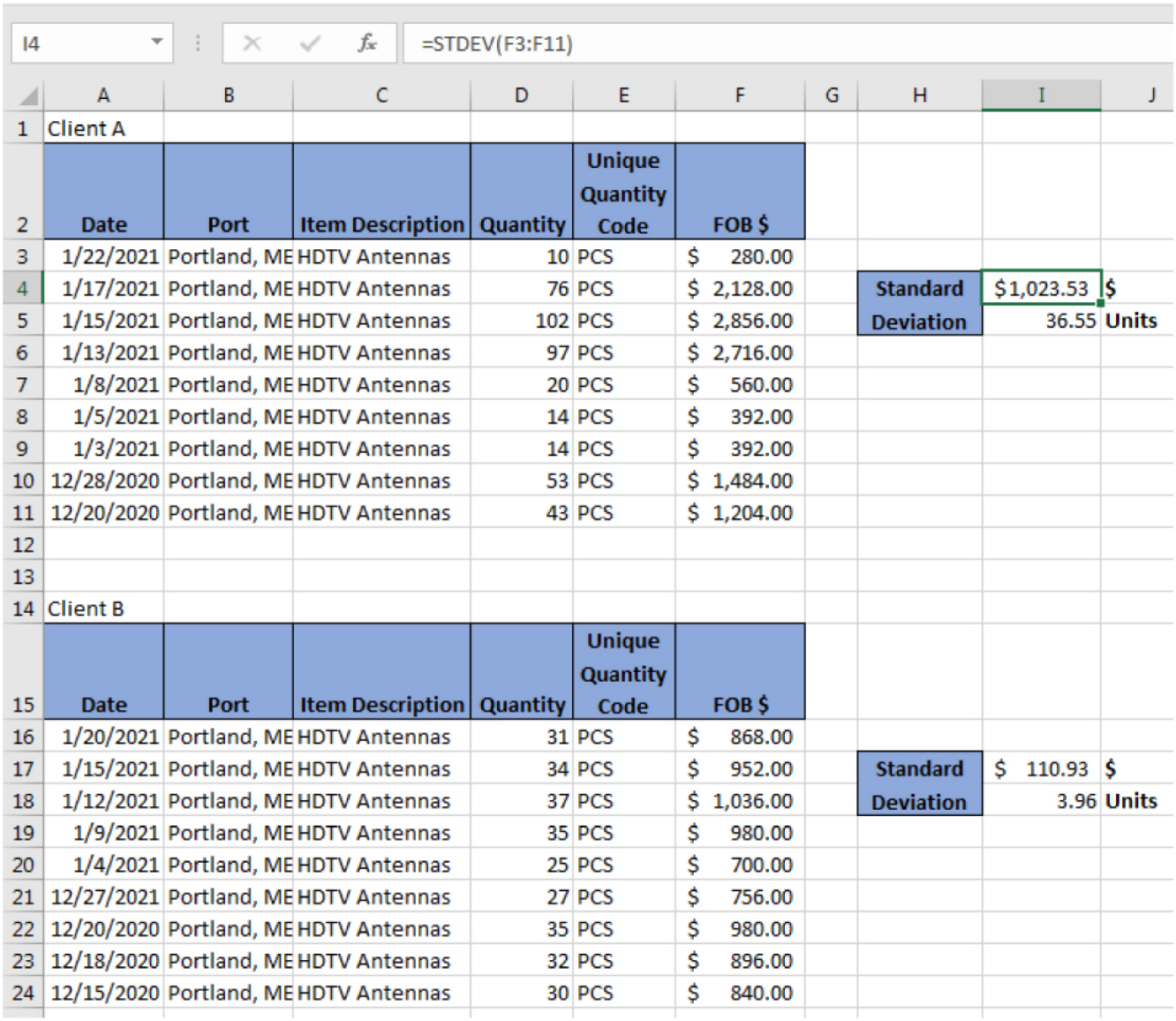
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $
2	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$21,504.00
3	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$10,922.00
4	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00
5	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$22,920.00
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$64,505.00
7	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$14,575.00
8	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00
9	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00
10	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00
11						
12	Max	$ 64,505.00				
13	Min	$ 7,252.00				
14						

Figure 10.26: The MAX and MIN functions are useful if the dataset is very large, and you cannot see the minimum or maximum value with a quick glance. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Standard Deviation

A common statistical tool used by many data analysts to calculate the variability of the figures in a dataset from the arithmetic mean is called standard deviation. In other words, it tells how much the figures vary from the average. For example, if you have a dataset of invoices from client A, and the bills vary in their total by a considerable amount, then you would have a high standard deviation. If the invoices of client B vary less, meaning their totals are similar every time, then the standard deviation will be low. Excel has a quick way to calculate this: the STDEV function. Type =STDEV(range) and Excel will give the standard deviation for that range. For example, Figure 10.27 shows the standard deviation for the range F3:F11.

I4 =STDEV(F3:F11)



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Client A									
2	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $				
3	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	10	PCS	$ 280.00				
4	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	76	PCS	$ 2,128.00		Standard	$1,023.53	$
5	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	102	PCS	$ 2,856.00		Deviation	36.55	Units
6	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	97	PCS	$ 2,716.00				
7	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	20	PCS	$ 560.00				
8	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	$ 392.00				
9	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	$ 392.00				
10	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	53	PCS	$ 1,484.00				
11	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	43	PCS	$ 1,204.00				
12										
13										
14	Client B									
15	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $				
16	1/20/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	31	PCS	$ 868.00				
17	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	34	PCS	$ 952.00		Standard	$ 110.93	$
18	1/12/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	37	PCS	$ 1,036.00		Deviation	3.96	Units
19	1/9/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	35	PCS	$ 980.00				
20	1/4/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	25	PCS	$ 700.00				
21	12/27/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	27	PCS	$ 756.00				
22	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	35	PCS	$ 980.00				
23	12/18/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	32	PCS	$ 896.00				
24	12/15/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	30	PCS	$ 840.00				

Figure 10.27: The standard deviation is probably the most used statistical tool in the data analysis set of formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Financial Functions

The main functions used for calculating loan installments, investment returns, net present value of capital investments, mortgage payment comparisons, and many more real-world applications are called basic financial functions. These functions are NPER, RATE, PV, PMT, and FV, which correspond to the N, I, PV, PMT, and FV in financial calculators. You learned about the PMT function in The Advantages of a Data Table.

Date and Time Functions

On their own, the DATE and TIME functions do not seem very useful, as you can easily just enter a date or a time in a cell by typing them. But these functions are often used in conjunction with other Excel features, such as in array formulas or complex IF functions. To enter a date, write =DATE(year,month,day), using the date's numerical values, and Excel will return with a formatted date, such as 3/31/2021. For the TIME function, write =TIME(hour,minute,second) in 24-hour format, and Excel returns a time in am/pm format. If you typed =TIME(14,44,24) Excel would return 2:44 PM.

Logical Functions

Typically, logical functions are long formulas with embedded logical tests and often use comparison operators to search for delimited data. They compare two values in your worksheet and return one result if the comparison is true and a different result if the comparison is false. These logical functions are powerful tools for allocating and sourcing large amounts of data.

The IF function is one of the most used functions in Excel. It is regularly used in conjunction with other functions. Moreover, IF functions are regularly combined with array formulas. Figure 10.28 shows an example from the WorldCorp Portland, Maine, shipments. The IF formula, written as =IF(logical test,value if true,value if false), analyzes the FOB values, and inserts “Over 20K” if they are greater than or equal to $20,000.

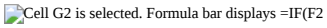


Figure 10.28: Excel gives users the freedom to invent their own true and false tags. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

SUMIF and COUNTIF are other logical functions that are very useful. The SUMIF formula, written as =SUMIF(range,criteria,sum_range) will give a total of a given range (sum_range) if certain criteria are met. For example, you can create a SUMIF function to search for and add up the amounts of all purchase orders of more than 30 servers (=SUMIF(C3:C235,“>30”,D3:D235)).

The COUNTIF (=COUNTIF(range, criteria)) function is similar except that it gives you the number of cells that meet the criteria rather than a total. You can use a COUNTIF formula to find the number of invoices that are equal to a certain sale amount (=COUNTIF(A2:A500, “=5000”)). Using these formulas with comparison operators makes gathering intelligence from large datasets easy.

Let’s revisit our WorldCorp example. WorldCorp exports that go through Portland, Maine, use container ships to transport goods to their destination. Figure 10.29 shows the shipment data from March 2021. Apply COUNTIF and SUMIF formulas to gather information on how many shipments meet certain criteria. The Excel notation used for the COUNTIF formula in cell I7 is =COUNTIF(D2:D10,“>=1000”), which calculates how many shipments (column D, “Quantity”) contained more than 1,000 pieces. The SUMIF formula in cell I2 is =SUMIF(F2:F10,“>=20000”), which adds up all of the FOB amounts that were more than $20,000. (Notice how the comparison operators and their numbers are in quotation marks—this is necessary to calculate the formula correctly.)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $			
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00			
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00		All FOBs Over 20k, Summation	$156,295.00
4	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00			
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$14,575.00			
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$64,505.00		Shipments With More Than 1000 PCS	
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$22,920.00			2
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00			
9	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$10,922.00			
10	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$21,504.00			

Figure 10.29: Different types of IF formulas are often used to look up values that meet a certain criterion. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The AND, written as =AND(logical1, logical2), is regularly used in combination with the IF function. It can be used in limits, establishing a low and a high limit, and labeling them if they meet these criteria. In our WorldCorp example, this could help sales managers at the Fairfax, Virginia, location identify any invoices that are below a certain value, thus flagging those customers who

might be retail consumers instead of wholesale. The formula in cell G2, in Figure 10.30, sets up an IF test: if both of the AND criteria are true (if the FOB is greater than $0 and less than $1,000), then the tag “Low Value” appears in column G.

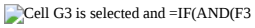


Figure 10.30: The AND function can be used as an interval, as shown here. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The OR is similar to the AND function in that it compares two values, but with the OR function, only one argument needs to be satisfied. It, too, is often used in conjunction with the IF function. In Figure 10.31, the sales manager is automating the Excel worksheet to show when quantities fall outside of certain values. This could flag a product if sales fall below 200 units, for example, because it could indicate that it requires more marketing or additional investigation into the drop in sales. Likewise, the sales manager wants to know when quantities are above 1,000 units, which might trigger a discount for customers or additional incentives for the sales agent. Use the OR function to “flag” these orders for additional review.

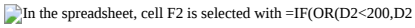


Figure 10.31: The OR function is more flexible than the AND function, as the interval can be either. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The NOT can also be used to look for values that meet a certain criterion. It is regularly used in combination with the AND, OR, and IF functions. In Figure 10.32, NOT negates the criteria set forth by the AND function; namely, that if the FOB amount is *not* greater than or equal to $0 and also less than $1,000, then the tag “High Value” should appear in column G.

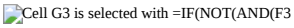


Figure 10.32: The NOT function is regularly used in complicated IF functions. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Nesting occurs when we have a formula that uses a function and includes a function as one of the arguments; these functions are typically known as nested functions. Nested functions are used in the workplace to evaluate several conditions at a time. This can be helpful when you have multiple criteria that influence a single outcome. This can be a powerful approach to performing calculations in Excel; however, they can be very complicated as they require a specific structure in order to ensure accuracy. This tutorial from Microsoft walks us through this structure. The uses for this approach are limitless, as you can nest up to 64 levels.

This page titled 10.3: Using Arithmetic, Statistical, and Logical Functions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.4: PivotTables

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Define a PivotTable
- Organize and clean your data prior to designing a PivotTable
- Design/insert a PivotTable
- Understand and use the recommended PivotTable tool
- Add a PivotChart to pictorially present the data

PivotTables help data analysts use raw data and organize it into an interactive tool for summarizing and analyzing the data points. WorldCorp can, for example, gather their manufacturing datasets of each machine's daily performance and put this information into a table that the PivotTable tool can use to analyze the information. This type of organization would be useful for producing various metrics (such as machine performance) and company Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The PivotTable tool can also divide data into a set of criteria, which will organize your data by variables you choose. This separation and division of data help you create business intelligence with ease.

Definition and Uses

Excel has various ways to store data and various tools that aid in data intelligence queries. You've learned the purpose of using What-If Data Tables, naming ranges, using comparison operators and writing statistical and logical functions—all of which can be combined with arrays (or other tools) to make interactive and automated tables. Excel has an even quicker way to make relational tables and automated business intelligence: PivotTables.

A PivotTable lets users create interactive charts and tables from raw datasets. They can process large, raw datasets and allow the user to choose how the data will be tabulated and summarized using easy drag-and-drop features. PivotTables also help summarize the data for a professional appearance and to show it in a more user-friendly way. Out of thousands of rows and columns of raw data, you can produce a simple, easy-to-read table with different options for displaying your metrics. Some applications of PivotTables might include producing metrics for website views and ad clicks, displaying demographic information for a county or city, or gathering information about small business revenue. In each of these cases, PivotTables can be used to process large, ever-growing datasets into readable tables.

Organizing and Cleaning Your Data

Let's return to the example of shipped products from WorldCorp's Portland, Maine, location. PivotTables can be used to aggregate values and create an actionable market analysis and business intelligence for the company.

The first step of creating this PivotTable is to organize and summarize the data. Having a digestible raw data sheet that Excel can read well enough to aggregate the data is critical. To clean the data, you should ensure that:

- There are no merged cells anywhere in the data.
- All filters are inactive.
- There are no SUM functions on the bottom or sides of the worksheets.
- All erroneous, duplicate, and/or blank values are deleted from the data.
- All values in each column are of the same value (e.g., currency, date, text).

Next, convert your data into a top-down table, meaning that all of the data range headers should run along the top row of the sheet. This is the typical format for tables and will make using PivotTables much easier. In general, horizontal tables can be hard to follow. Cross-tabular source data (with headers on top/bottom and left/right) are even more difficult to read for the PivotTable generator. Designate a unique name for each top header; do not repeat any column header names. Figure 10.33 shows a correctly formatted worksheet. You can copy this worksheet into Excel, or you can use the data in the "pivot_table_data" tab of the downloadable Chapter 10 data file workbook.

Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Destination
3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, MS
3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Access	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00	Norristown, PA
3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	53	PCS	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	97	PCS	$64,505.00	Metaire, LA
3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Access	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00	Charleston, WV
3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$10,922.00	Metaire, LA
3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$21,504.00	McGlynnside, MS
3/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	453	PCS	$12,684.00	Norristown, PA
2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	241	PCS	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	99	PCS	$ 9,702.00	Charleston, WV
2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	233	PCS	$17,242.00	Metaire, LA
2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	753	PCS	$36,144.00	McGlynnside, MS
2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	235	PCS	$11,280.00	Norristown, PA
2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	78	PCS	$51,870.00	Hemdon, VA
2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	PCS	$ 5,992.00	Charleston, WV

Figure 10.33: This small representation of data is a sample of what could be hundreds, thousands, or millions of individual shipments a month. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Inserting a PivotTable and Rearranging Variables

To create a PivotTable, go to the Insert tab, choose the PivotTable icon located on the far left, select the entire dataset, and output to New Worksheet. (Alternatively, you may name your data ranges, as instructed in Defining, Selecting, and Naming a Cell Range, and simply select the named ranges for your data.) The Field List will activate and ask which columns to display, as shown in Figure 10.34. Select the headers (variables) in the order that you want the PivotTable to display them. In the WorldCorp example, to see the quantity each client is buying, select Destination, then Quantity, and then FOB $. As shown in Figure 10.35, the PivotTable neatly displays the data, with interactive features allowing the user to select different pieces of information as variables.

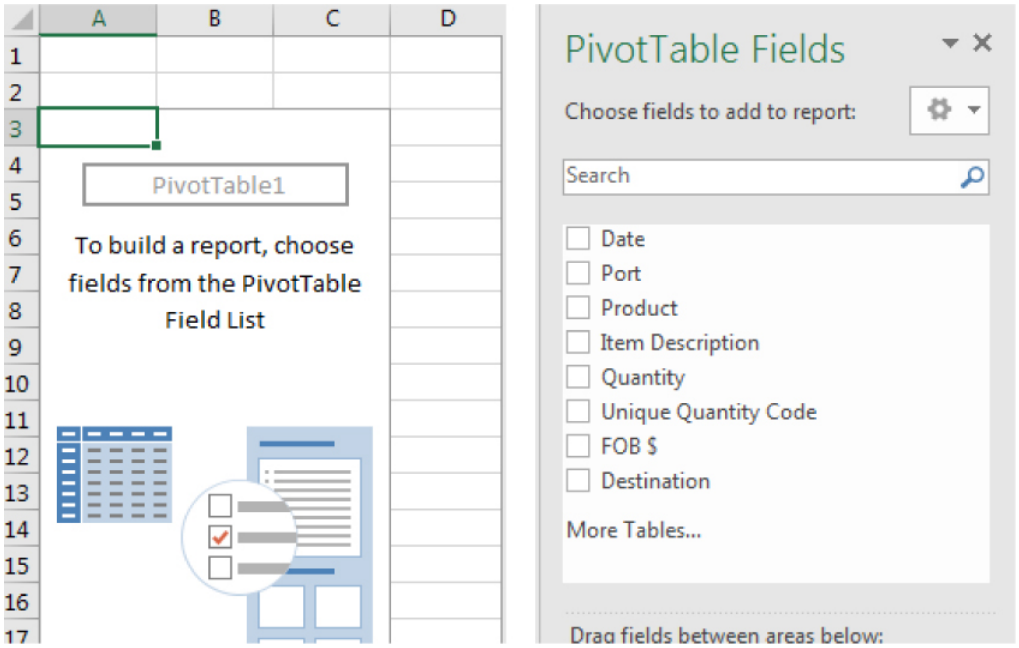
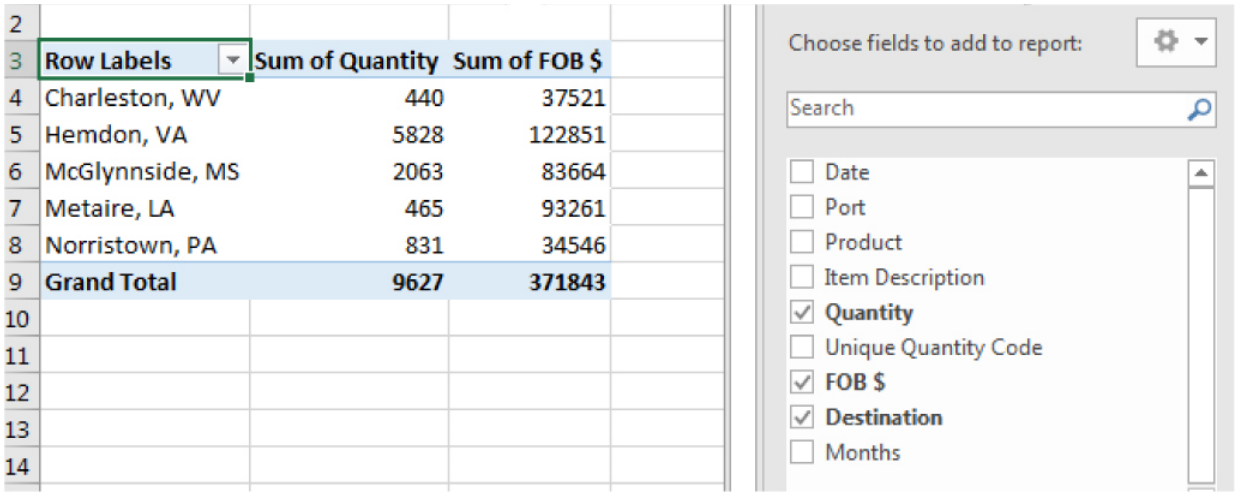


Figure 10.34: The PivotTable wizard can help to create clean, interactive tables from raw data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



Row Labels	Sum of Quantity	Sum of FOB $
Charleston, WV	440	37521
Hemdon, VA	5828	122851
McGlynnside, MS	2063	83664
Metaire, LA	465	93261
Norristown, PA	831	34546
Grand Total	**9627**	**371843**

Figure 10.35: The PivotTable displays the data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now, to further delimit the details of the clients, add Date to the variables (Figure 10.36a). Because you chose Destination first, you are separating all the variables and ordering them by client to know what the client is consuming in volume and in dollar amount. Adding the date allows you to see total sales but also breaks down the data by month.

This is only one way to create a PivotTable with this data. If you were to change the order in which you selected the headers in the PivotTable wizard, the whole table would be different. Additionally, you can choose a different set of data to display, which changes how the information is grouped. To demonstrate this, uncheck Date (you have to uncheck Months, too) and instead check Product. As seen in Figure 10.36b, the table gives a totally different perspective. Instead of seeing the data grouped by Date, the grouping has changed to show the products the client ordered and the quantity of each.

Row Labels	Sum of Quantity	Sum of FOB $
⊟Charleston, WV	440	37521
⊞Feb	313	15694
⊞Mar	127	21827
⊟Hemdon, VA	5828	122851
⊞Feb	328	78581
⊞Mar	5500	44270
⊟McGlynnside, MS	2063	83664
⊞Feb	753	36144
⊞Mar	1310	47520
⊟Metaire, LA	465	93261
⊞Feb	241	17834
⊞Mar	224	75427
⊟Norristown, PA	831	34546
⊞Feb	235	11280
⊞Mar	596	23266
Grand Total	9627	371843

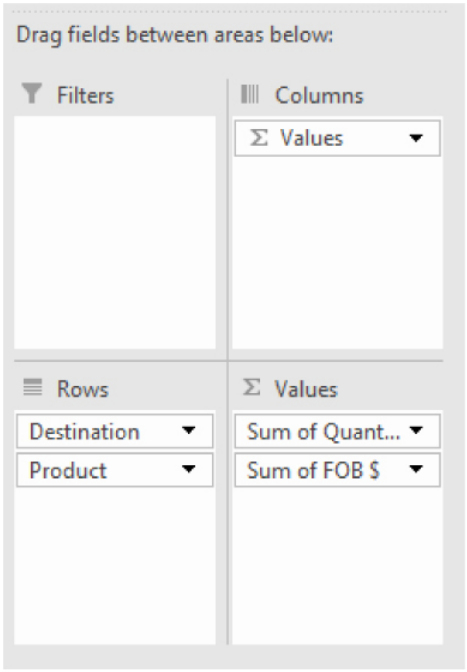
(a)

Row Labels	Sum of Quantity	Sum of FOB $
⊟Charleston, WV	440	37521
Antennas	214	5992
Stereos	173	16954
TVs	53	14575
⊟Hemdon, VA	5828	122851
Media Players	241	20726
Phone Accessories	3000	22920
Server Accessories	2500	21350
TVs	87	57855
⊟McGlynnside, MS	2063	83664
Antennas	768	21504
Headphones	1295	62160
⊟Metaire, LA	465	93261
Media Players	127	10922
Tablets	241	17834
TVs	97	64505
⊟Norristown, PA	831	34546
Antennas	453	12684
Headphones	235	11280
Tablets	143	10582
Grand Total	9627	371843

(b)

Figure 10.36: Selecting headers in a different order will change where and how they appear in a PivotTable. (a) The original table broke the data down by date, and (b) the new table breaks down the data by product. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can easily change the arrangement of the PivotTable using the fields in the lower half of the Field List. You can drag and drop the variables from one field to another to change how they appear in the PivotTable. For example, you can change the arrangement of the rows by putting Product first. This automatically changes the PivotTable completely, from being destination oriented (as seen in Figure 10.37a) to being product oriented (Figure 10.37b).



(a)

Row Labels	Sum of Quantity	Sum of FOB $
Antennas	**1435**	**40180**
Charleston, WV	214	5992
McGlynnside, MS	768	21504
Norristown, PA	453	12684
Headphones	**1530**	**73440**
McGlynnside, MS	1295	62160
Norristown, PA	235	11280
Media Players	**368**	**31648**
Hemdon, VA	241	20726
Metaire, LA	127	10922
Phone Accessories	**3000**	**22920**
Hemdon, VA	3000	22920
Server Accessories	**2500**	**21350**
Hemdon, VA	2500	21350
Stereos	**173**	**16954**
Charleston, WV	173	16954
Tablets	**384**	**28416**
Metaire, LA	241	17834
Norristown, PA	143	10582
TVs	**237**	**136935**
Charleston, WV	53	14575
Hemdon, VA	87	57855
Metaire, LA	97	64505
Grand Total	**9627**	**371843**

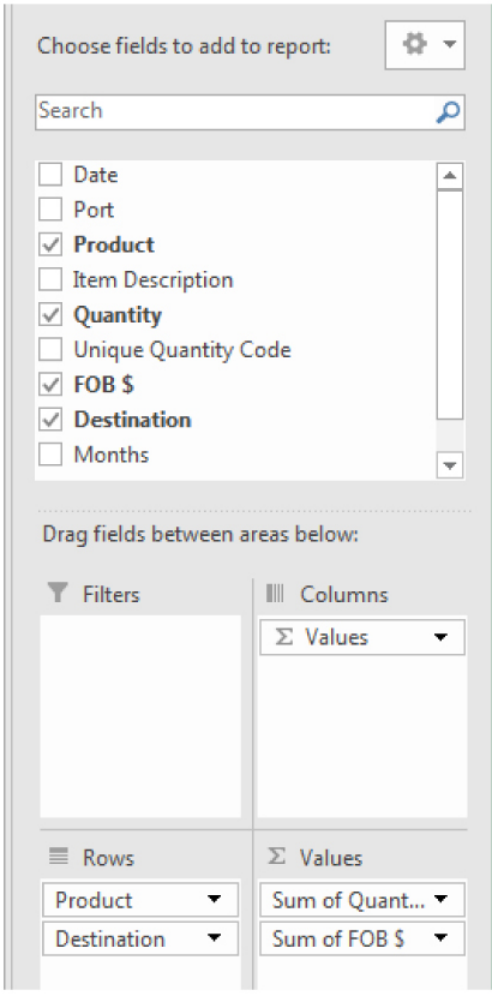
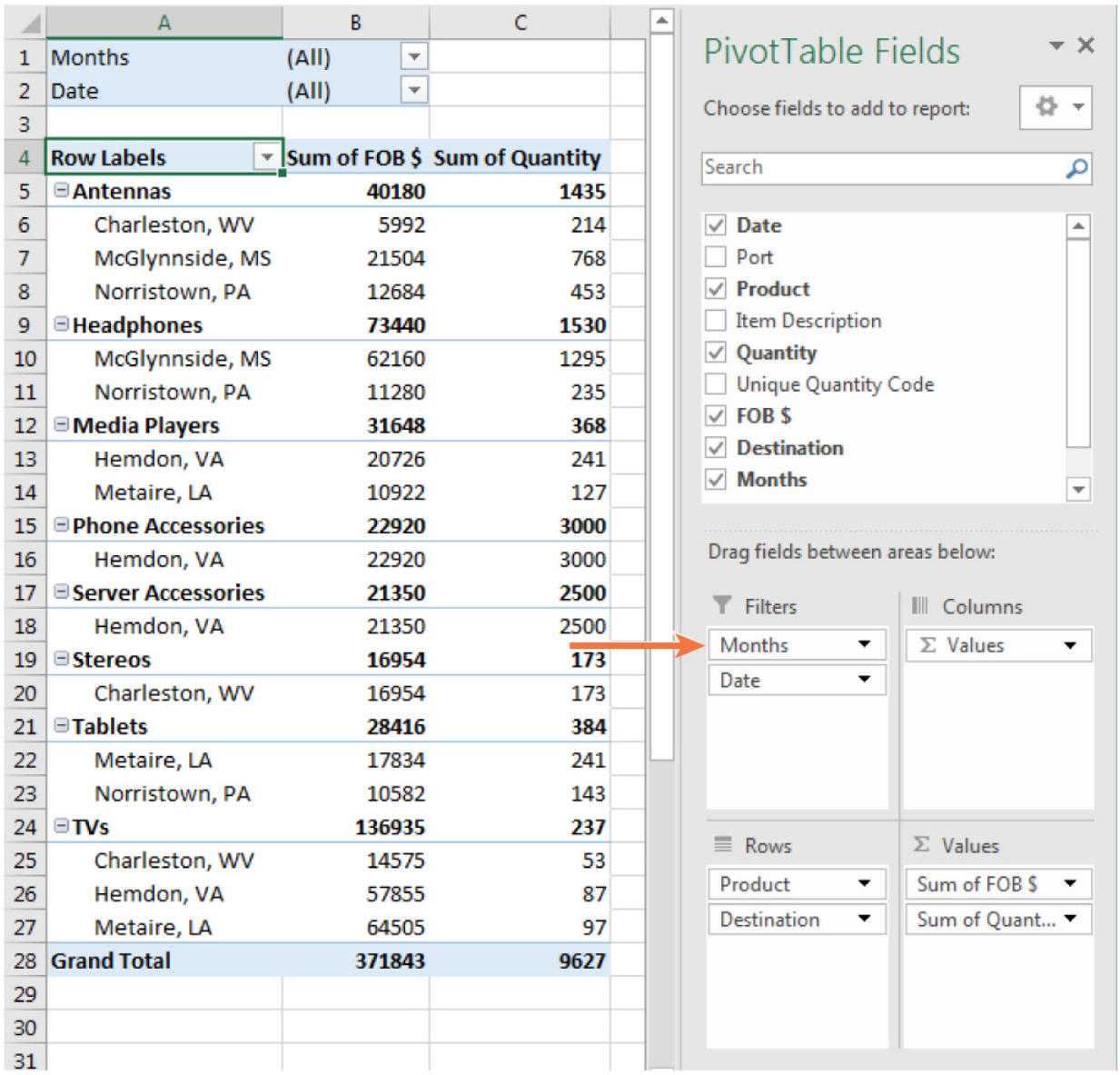


Figure 10.37: Changing the headers can change the entire table. (a) You can rearrange the data so that product comes first. (b) The PivotTable looks completely different from the previous destination-oriented table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Let's apply a filter to the results from Figure 10.37b. To filter by date, first check the Date and Month variables on the top half of the Field List. Then, drag and drop the dates from the Rows to the Filter field, as shown in Figure 10.38a. This will allow you to apply a filter to the dates and be able to select only certain dates. To see just the February sales, go to the Month drop-down menu on the PivotTable and select Feb. Now, only the sales from that month will appear (Figure 10.38b).



	A	B	C
1	Months	(All)	
2	Date	(All)	
3			
4	**Row Labels**	**Sum of FOB $**	**Sum of Quantity**
5	**Antennas**	**40180**	**1435**
6	Charleston, WV	5992	214
7	McGlynnside, MS	21504	768
8	Norristown, PA	12684	453
9	**Headphones**	**73440**	**1530**
10	McGlynnside, MS	62160	1295
11	Norristown, PA	11280	235
12	**Media Players**	**31648**	**368**
13	Hemdon, VA	20726	241
14	Metaire, LA	10922	127
15	**Phone Accessories**	**22920**	**3000**
16	Hemdon, VA	22920	3000
17	**Server Accessories**	**21350**	**2500**
18	Hemdon, VA	21350	2500
19	**Stereos**	**16954**	**173**
20	Charleston, WV	16954	173
21	**Tablets**	**28416**	**384**
22	Metaire, LA	17834	241
23	Norristown, PA	10582	143
24	**TVs**	**136935**	**237**
25	Charleston, WV	14575	53
26	Hemdon, VA	57855	87
27	Metaire, LA	64505	97
28	**Grand Total**	**371843**	**9627**
29			
30			
31			

(a)

	A	B	C
1	Months	Feb	
2	Date	(All)	
3			
4	**Row Labels**	**Sum of FOB $**	**Sum of Quantity**
5	**Antennas**	**5992**	**214**
6	Charleston, WV	5992	214
7	**Headphones**	**47424**	**988**
8	McGlynnside, MS	36144	753
9	Norristown, PA	11280	235
10	**Media Players**	**20726**	**241**
11	Hemdon, VA	20726	241
12	**Stereos**	**9702**	**99**
13	Charleston, WV	9702	99

14	Tablets	17834	241
15	Metaire, LA	17834	241
16	TVs	57855	87
17	Kenmore, WA	57855	87
18	Grand Total	1595535	1870

(b)

Figure 10.38: Filters are useful for when you want to see only a subset of your data. (a) You can choose a single month in the filters. (b) The table then shows you only that month's data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

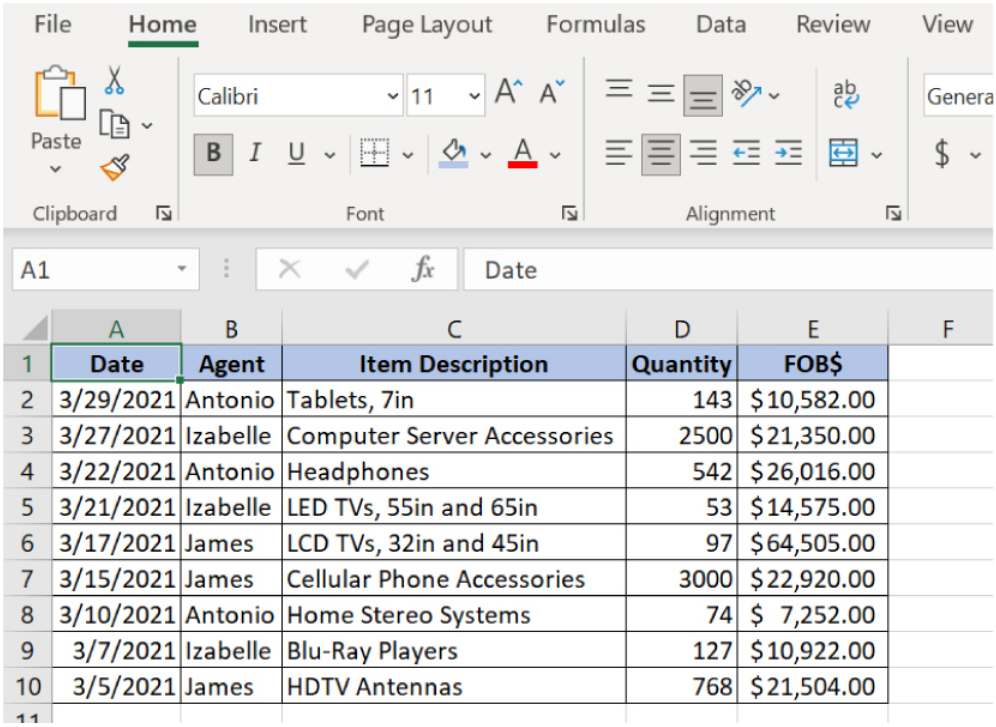
Using the Recommended PivotTable Tool

If you are unsure how to organize a PivotTable for your data, Excel can recommend one depending on how the data is organized. Let's see what using a recommended PivotTable might look like.

Go to the Insert tab and select the Recommended PivotTables icon. A dialog box appears with a handful of recommended charts. Scroll and select the one you like best. These recommended tables may be helpful to get you started, but they only compare one variable at a time. However, if you choose one, the new PivotTable will appear in another worksheet, and you can customize it there, adding or reorganizing variables until you have a PivotTable that presents your data in a way that makes sense.

Adding a PivotChart to Visually Present Data

Excel has a feature that allows you to create a PivotChart to visually present the data in your PivotTable. The first step is to select the entire PivotTable, which causes the ribbon tab "PivotTable Analyze" to appear. Next, select the PivotChart icon. You will use a small dataset from Figure 10.31 to create a chart of the information. More in-depth coverage of PivotTables is in PivotTables/Charts. Figure 10.39 shows the original data and Figure 10.40 shows the data summarized in a PivotTable by sales agent. To create a chart of the data summarized in the PivotTable, choose PivotChart from the PivotTable Analyze tab.



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00	
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00	
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00	
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00	
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00	
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00	
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00	
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00	
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00	

Figure 10.39: The data is summarized in a simple table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

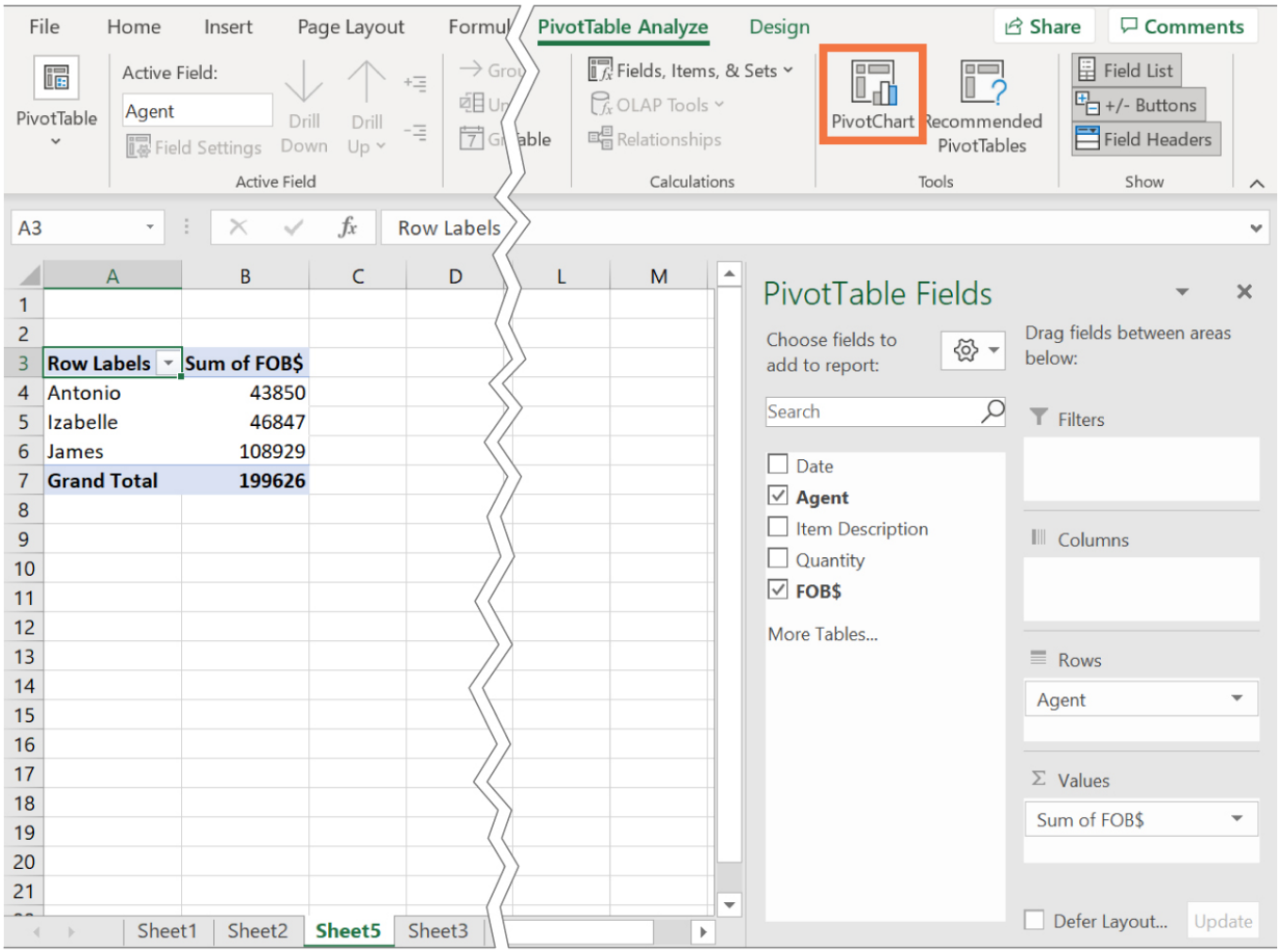


Figure 10.40: Placing the data in a PivotTable enables further analysis and filtering of the data to meet specific needs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For the data in Figure 10.40, a bar chart, pie chart, or clustered column chart would be optimal. These chart types are appropriate because they allow you to see the difference in scale between the sales levels of the agents. For this example, choose the column chart. With the column chart, the higher the column, the greater the sales totals for that agent. You can further customize the column chart by adding percentages or labels. The Agent drop-down menu in Figure 10.41 allows you to further filter or change the column chart.

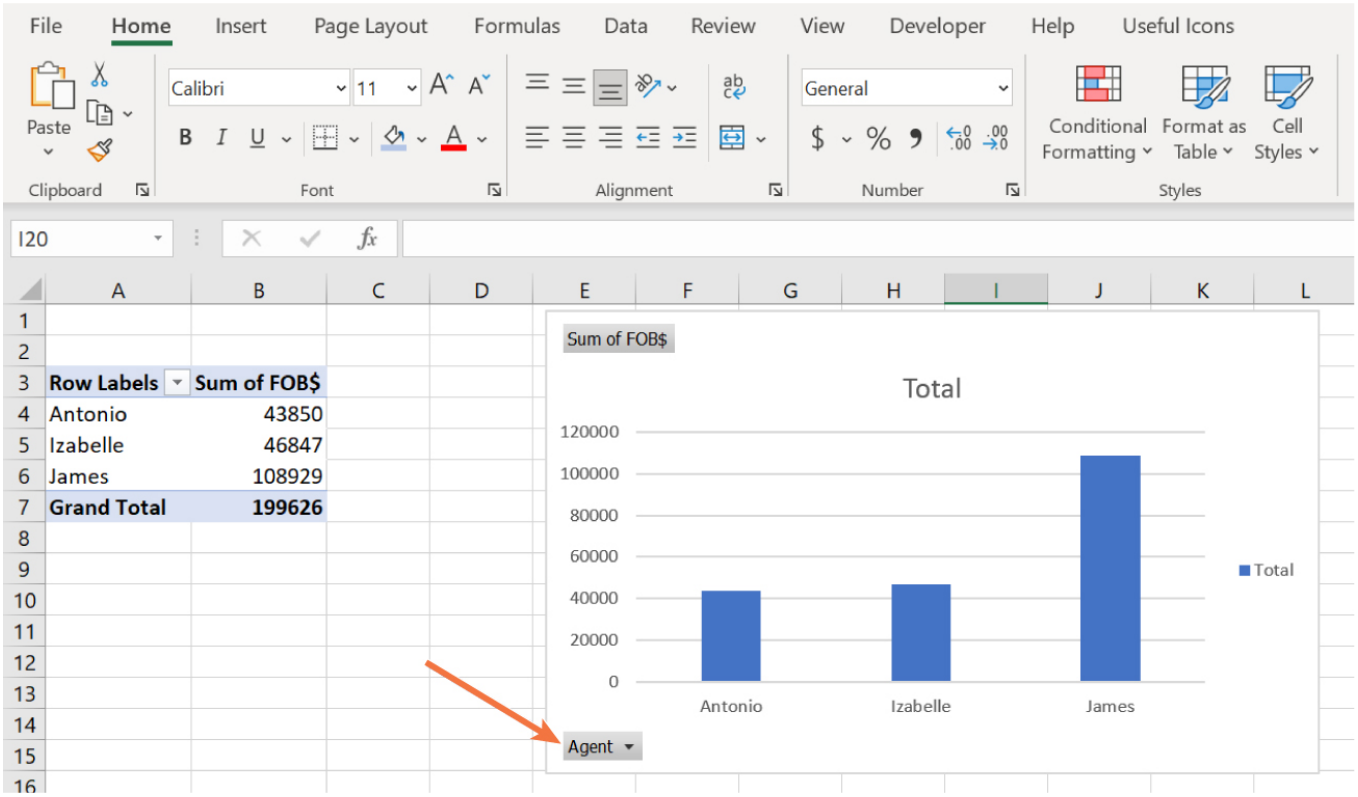


Figure 10.41: You can further customize the PivotChart by adding features such as value labels or by sorting the information in a different order. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application - Using PivotTables to Track Spending

PivotTables can be a powerful tool for businesses in budgeting and creating other financial reports and analyses. You can also use PivotTables for your own personal budgeting. There are many budgeting services available online or through apps, but you can create your own powerful budgets that can help track all personal finance matters, including spending, without paying for an online service or app. As an individual, you might be able to track your budget fairly easily; however, as your financial matters become more complex, or as your family grows, Excel can come in handy to assist you in managing your budgets without the additional expense of a service or application.

To get started, you can download a CSV file of your transactions from your financial accounts. Most institutions will have this function where you review your account and transaction information online. You will want to collect all information, particularly from your spending accounts, such as credit cards. Once these are gathered, be sure to validate the information, then create a column heading named Category. You will then create your categories, such as Food or Entertainment. Some credit cards will auto populate these categories when you download your transactions, but you will want to verify these are accurate. From there, you will complete your PivotTables using the instructions you can find in this textbook. You can opt to create different timelines of your budget, such as daily, monthly, or yearly, depending on your own budget analysis needs.

This page titled 10.4: PivotTables is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.5: Auditing Formulas and Fixing Errors

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the reasons formulas may need to be audited
- Identify the various errors that may be present in worksheets and tables
- Identify the cells involved in a formula
- Implement the appropriate options for auditing various aspects of formulas

WorldCorp receives many client orders every day, and the corporation needs to have an accurate count of inventory to ensure that they have the capacity to deliver orders on time. This real-time inventory handling and customer relationship management can only happen by implementing computer systems that track these business activities. Microsoft Excel can be programmed to help in fulfilling these tasks with the right data. Yet, as you can imagine, this enormous data load can be daunting, and occasionally, small errors may be made in some formulas. Excel has various tools for the user to identify such errors, and thus correct them.

Reasons to Audit Formulas

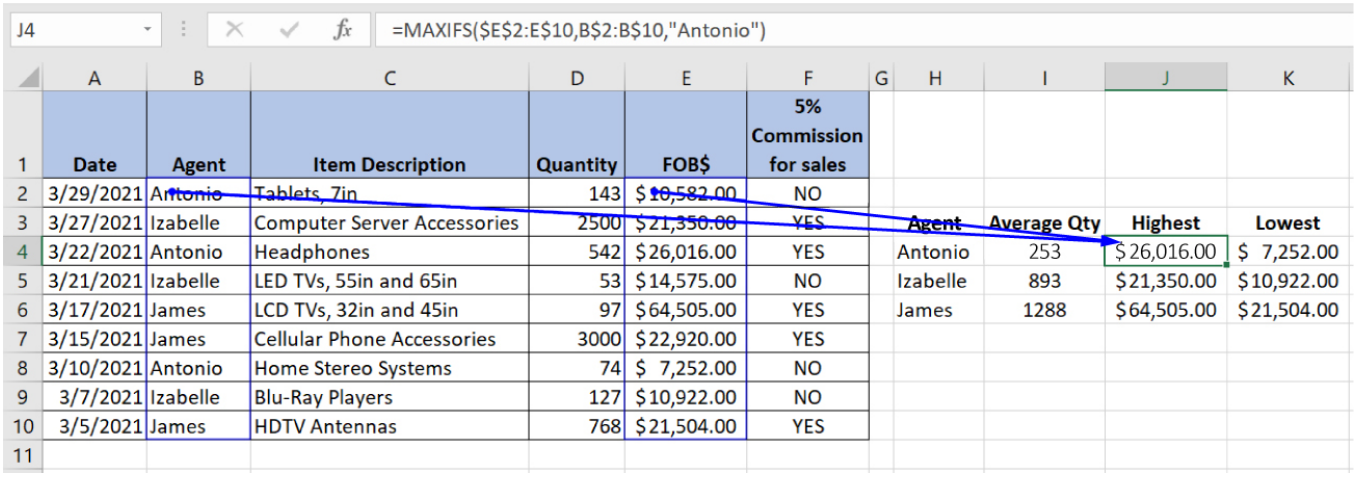
As a business grows, its activities grow in complexity, requiring higher-level and concurrent data analyses. As a result, managers build large Excel workbooks to handle these business operations, designing spreadsheets with a wide selection of formulas, functions, PivotTables, arrays, data ranges, What-If Data Tables, and other Excel data exploration tools. Each of these tools requires user input, which makes them inevitably subject to user error. The process of using Excel tools to monitor and fix errors in worksheets is called auditing formulas.

Remember that almost all formulas or functions have relationships to other areas of the workbook. Cell references or named ranges may even refer to other cell references, creating a complex web of references. If the key data points do not have the right formula or function, the resulting value will not be correct. You may also see an error message in Excel if the user settings are set to alert the user when a formula or function has a broken link or incorrect syntax.

Identifying Errors in Worksheets and Tables

There are many ways to check for errors in your workbook. These include tracing precedent functions, tracing dependent functions, showing the formula, and automated checking of errors. When tracing precedent or dependent functions, you are finding the relationships between cells.

When you are tracing precedent functions, you are finding the source of an error in a formula by locating the cells that provide the data to perform the calculation in the active cell. The arrows will point to the cells that are used to construct the formula used in the active cell so you may review them before making a correction. When you are tracing dependent functions, you are finding any cells affected by the active cell. You would want to do this before deleting a cell from a worksheet. These specifically relate to checking cell references and the information found within them. Figure 10.42 shows the output when tracing precedents for a cell.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	5% Commission for sales					
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$ 10,582.00	NO					
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00	YES		Agent	Average Qty	Highest	Lowest
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00	YES		Antonio	253	$26,016.00	$ 7,252.00
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00	NO		Izabelle	893	$21,350.00	$10,922.00
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00	YES		James	1288	$64,505.00	$21,504.00
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00	YES					
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00	NO					
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00	NO					
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00	YES					
11											

Figure 10.42: The arrows point to cells B2 and E2 that are used to determine the highest value in the formula. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Showing the formula is simply looking at a certain formula or function and manually checking its syntax. There is a command on the Formulas tab called Show Formulas that will automatically show which cells contain formulas. The actual formula in the cell is displayed, replacing the value that was calculated from that formula. It changes the content of the worksheet to show exactly what formulas are in the cells. This is a good first step to finding errors in formulas. To hide the formulas and return to the original spreadsheet with the computed values, simply select the Show Formulas command again. There is also an Error Checking command, which can help to identify specific errors in formulas.

Before any error checking can occur, first make sure that your version of Excel is tracking the errors when they happen. Click on the File tab and select Options. In the dialog box, choose the Formulas tab, and check the “Enable background error checking” option. You should also check all of the “Error checking rules” boxes, and then click OK, as shown in Figure 10.43.

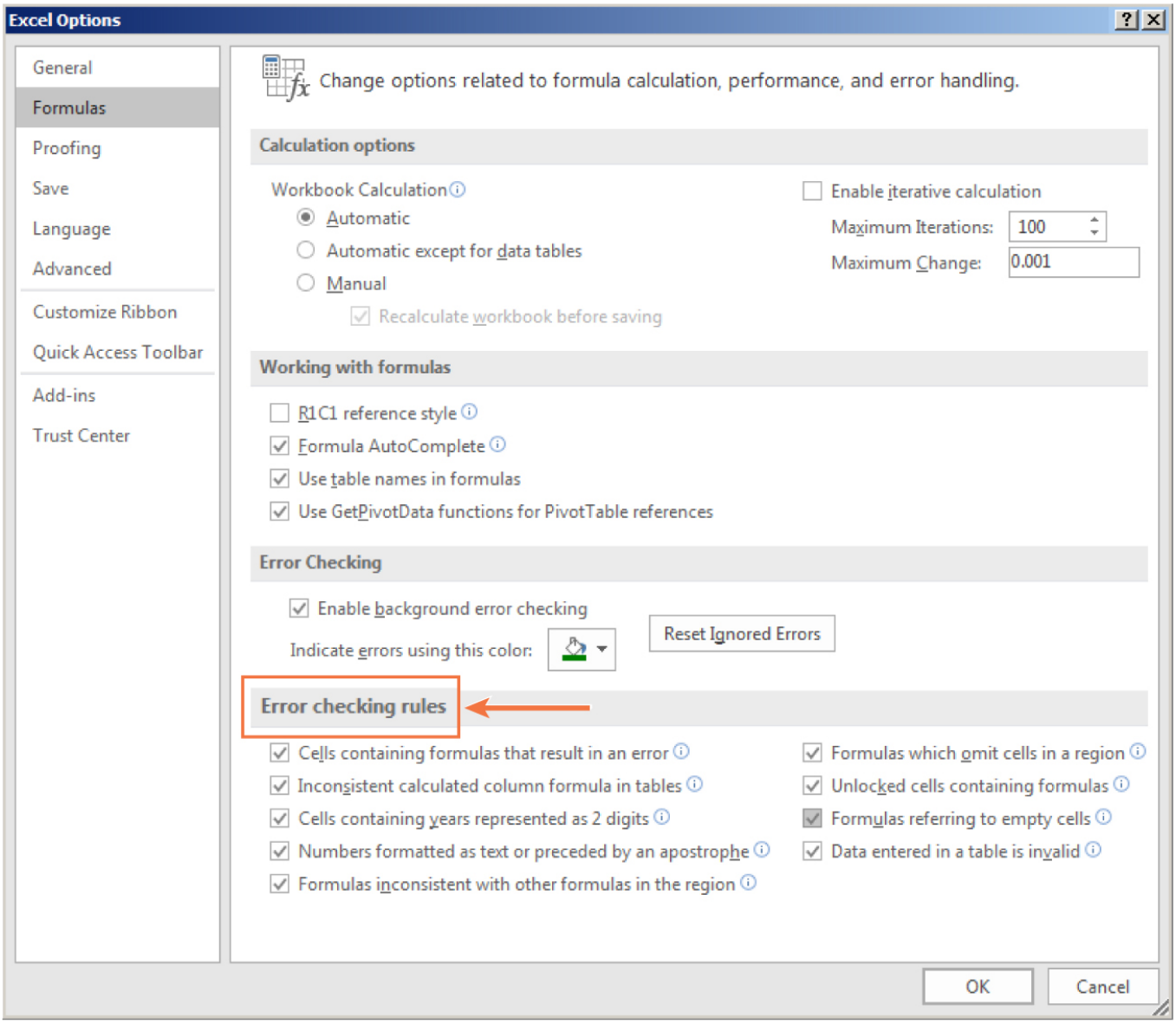


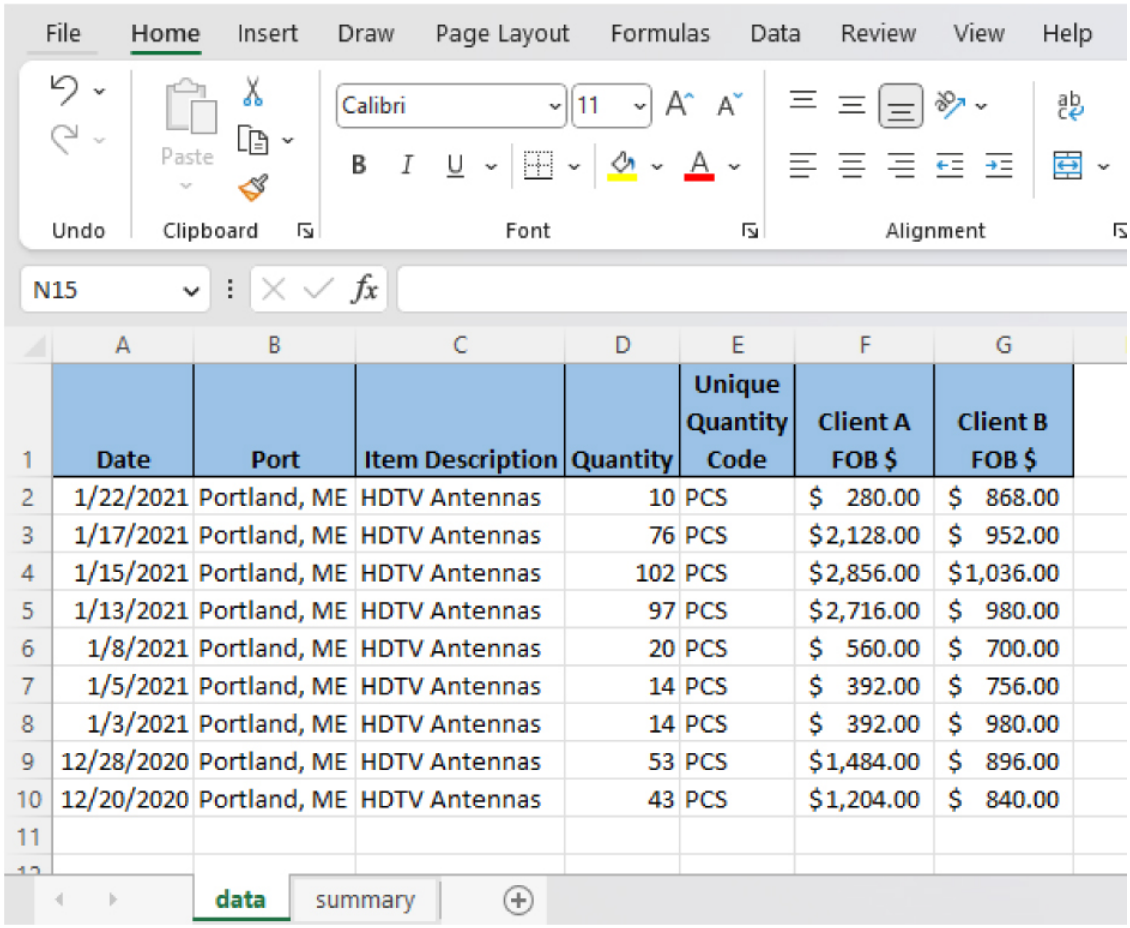
Figure 10.43: Error checking starts with having Excel notify you if any error happens. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Remember that there are two main characteristics that all formulas have:

1. All formulas must start with the equals sign (=).
2. Formulas have constants, cell references, or both, and operators, functions, or both.

Constants are numbers that are typed inside a formula; they can be integers or rational numbers. Operators are math notation signs for performing different calculations, such as +, –, *, /, and ^. These operators must respect the order of operations (PEMDAS). If the formula is complex—if it has multiple functions, for example—you must ensure that the function's syntax rules are obeyed. For example, the PV function must include values for RATE, NPER, PMT, and FV, in that order, or the function will not work.

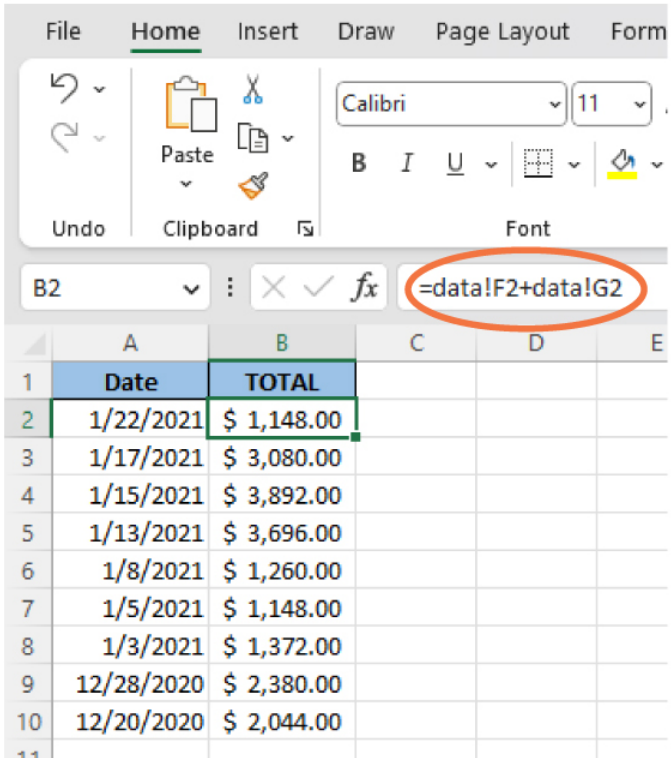
There are several types of potential errors. You may have syntax errors (not having the right argument in the function or having too few or too many arguments); capacity errors (in Excel, you cannot have more than 64 functions in a cell); or sheet or cell reference errors. It is worth noting that, when linking a formula in one worksheet to a cell in another worksheet, Excel automatically adds the sheet's name and "!" after the sheet's name; you must double-check that you didn't delete this mark. For example, WorldCorp's data for two clients is seen in Figure 10.44a. You summarize the overall total on a separate sheet, which references the first sheet. Notice in the formula the "!" after the worksheet named "data" and before the cell reference you include in the calculation (Figure 10.44b).



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	Client A FOB $	Client B FOB $
2	1/22/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	10	PCS	$ 280.00	$ 868.00
3	1/17/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	76	PCS	$2,128.00	$ 952.00
4	1/15/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	102	PCS	$2,856.00	$1,036.00
5	1/13/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	97	PCS	$2,716.00	$ 980.00
6	1/8/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	20	PCS	$ 560.00	$ 700.00
7	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	$ 392.00	$ 756.00
8	1/3/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	14	PCS	$ 392.00	$ 980.00
9	12/28/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	53	PCS	$1,484.00	$ 896.00
10	12/20/2020	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	43	PCS	$1,204.00	$ 840.00
11							

data summary

(a)



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	TOTAL			
2	1/22/2021	$ 1,148.00			
3	1/17/2021	$ 3,080.00			
4	1/15/2021	$ 3,892.00			
5	1/13/2021	$ 3,696.00			
6	1/8/2021	$ 1,260.00			
7	1/5/2021	$ 1,148.00			
8	1/3/2021	$ 1,372.00			
9	12/28/2020	$ 2,380.00			
10	12/20/2020	$ 2,044.00			

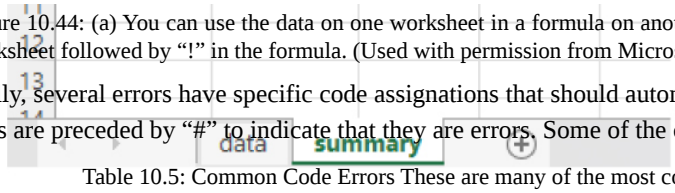


Figure 10.44: (a) You can use the data on one worksheet in a formula on another worksheet. (b) Excel will include the name of the worksheet followed by "!" in the formula. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Additionally, several errors have specific code assignations that should automatically appear in your cell if you have an error. These code errors are preceded by "#" to indicate that they are errors. Some of the common code errors are described in Table 10.5.

Table 10.5: Common Code Errors These are many of the most common code errors, and how to fix them.

# Code	Explanation	How to Fix It
####	This common error is a formatting error rather than a formula error. It occurs when the column is not wide enough for the numbers to be displayed.	Make the column wider.
#NAME?	This error is displayed if the function is not well-written, such as if there is a typo in the name of the function, or the designated function name is not complete or is written incorrectly.	Find the correct wording of the function by clicking on the Insert Function tool.
#DIV/0!	This error happens when you divide by zero. This can also be caused if a linked cell reference has no value.	Enter a value in the cell, or add the correct constant in the denominator.
#NULL!	This happens when the Excel notation syntax rules are not obeyed, such as if an operator is incorrect or missing.	Follow the pop-up menu that appears when writing a function. It tells where commas should be, what value should be referenced, and so on. If the error was made in the past, you can consult the roster of functions on the Formulas tab in the ribbon and selecting the Insert Function icon.
#NUM!	This happens when a cell reference contains contradictory or unsound numbers that stop the function from calculating the result.	Check the referenced cells, and retype the numbers that are unsound.
#REF!	This means that the cell references in a formula are not there anymore, or the cell reference was entered incorrectly in the formula.	Find the correct cell reference and fix the formula.
#VALUE!	This happens when a cell reference has a different data type, for example, when you use a function that requires two numerical values but you insert text for one of them.	Use the same data types.
#N/A	This happens when a function searches for a certain value and the function cannot find it.	Change the criterion on the search operators (e.g., LOOKUP function).
#GETTING_DATA	This is a temporary error. While waiting for Excel to calculate a complicated query, Excel will process the answer in a few seconds and display this error.	Wait for Excel to calculate the answer.

Identifying the Cells Involved in a Formula

Excel makes it easy to find cells that meet certain criteria. For example, Excel can highlight all cells in a worksheet that contain formulas. To do this, select a cell (Figure 10.45) and go to the Find and Select icon on the Home tab, then choose Go To Special (Figure 10.46a). Next, select Formulas, then click OK (Figure 10.46b). All the cells that contain formulas will be selected (highlighted) in that worksheet.

Excel also has a built-in feature, called the Watch Window, that allows users to see where each constant, reference, and operators are correct. Select the Watch Window icon (on the Formulas tab in the ribbon). The Watch Window will be blank, so choose Add Watch, and select the cell or cells you want to analyze, as shown in Figure 10.47. Putting a cell or a range in the Watch Window allows you to monitor the cells you choose to ensure they remain error-free as you continue to work in a worksheet. You can add multiple cells to the Watch Window by following the same process. The Watch Window tells you the value and the function, the sheet, the workbook, the cell, and the defined name to help you identify any errors.

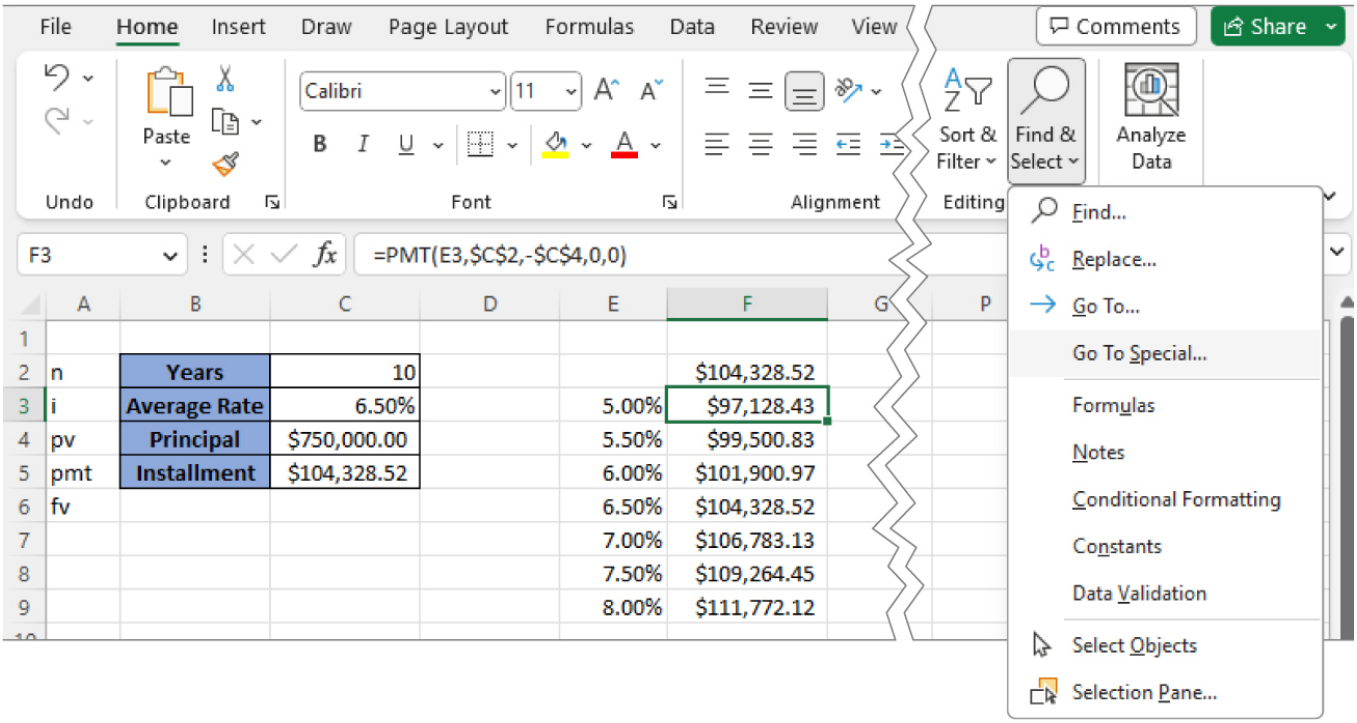


Figure 10.45: The Watch Window can tell you the relationships of the cell to other cells. You can use Find and Select to highlight cells that contain items such as Notes or Formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

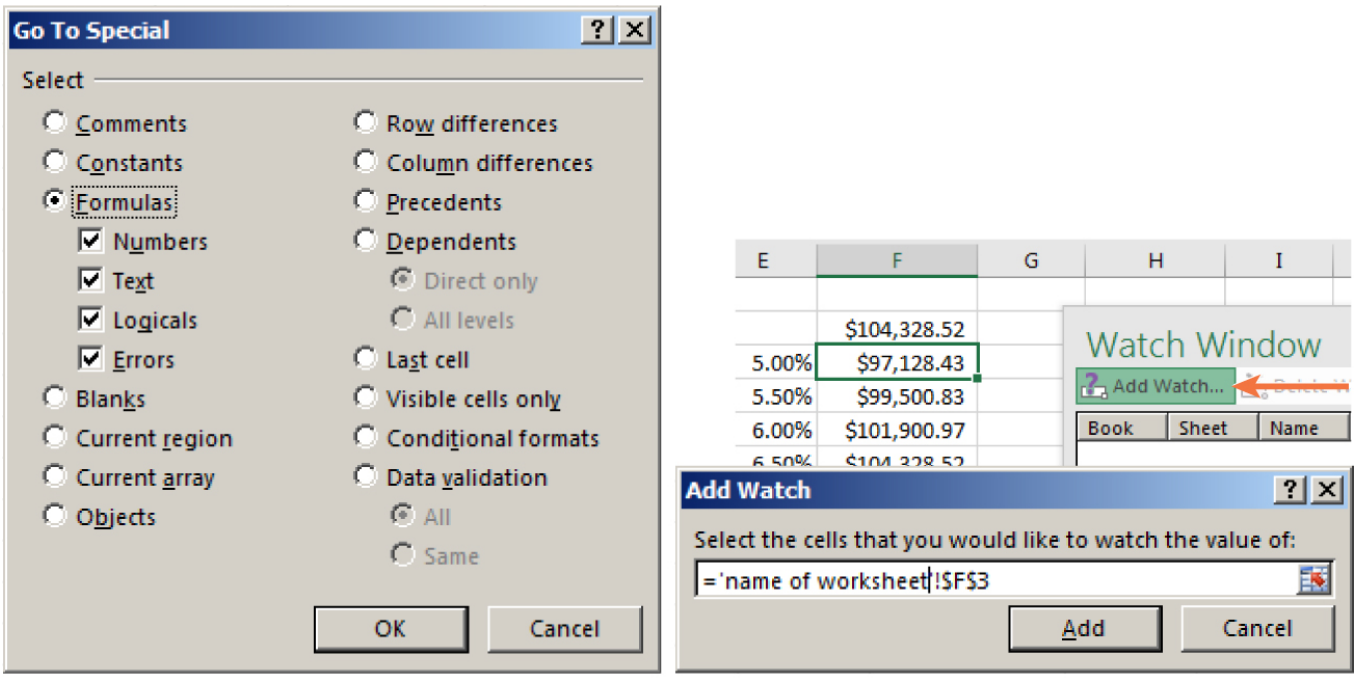


Figure 10.46: (a) Use Go To Special to define what elements you want Excel to search for in the cells on the worksheet. (b) Watch Window is an alternative to see the formulas in cells on a worksheet. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

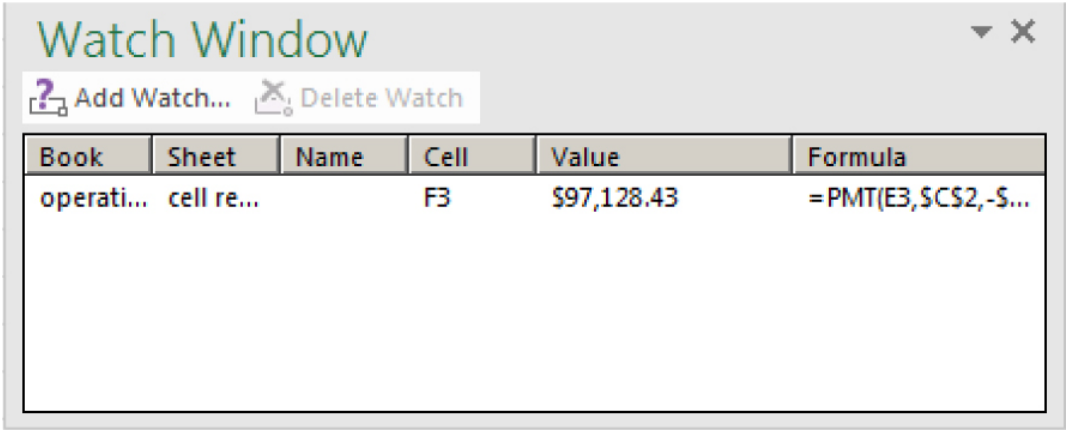


Figure 10.47: Click Add Watch to list the cells and the formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another way to dissect a formula is by selecting the cell and choosing Evaluate Formula (on the Formulas tab). This command solves the formula piece by piece to ensure that the formula is built correctly. First, the formula displays as shown in Figure 10.48. Then, select Evaluate, which will solve the first argument of the function, then click on Evaluate again and the second argument gets resolved. Continue to click Evaluate to solve the formula one argument at a time, until you reach the last argument, where the final step is the calculation result. This lets you confirm that the cell is calculating correctly.

Figure 10.48 shows the Evaluate window when it first opens, and Figure 10.49 shows the last step before the final answer is shown in the window. If clicking the Evaluate button does not provide clarity on the formula, you can use Step In, which shows a more detailed view of all of the components of the formula. You are essentially going into the formula to see all the cell references that contribute to the data in that cell. If you use Step In, you will need to click Step Out to go back to the macro view of the formula and to proceed to the next argument, as shown in Figure 10.50. You can use this method to break down complex formulas that might include cell references in other worksheets.

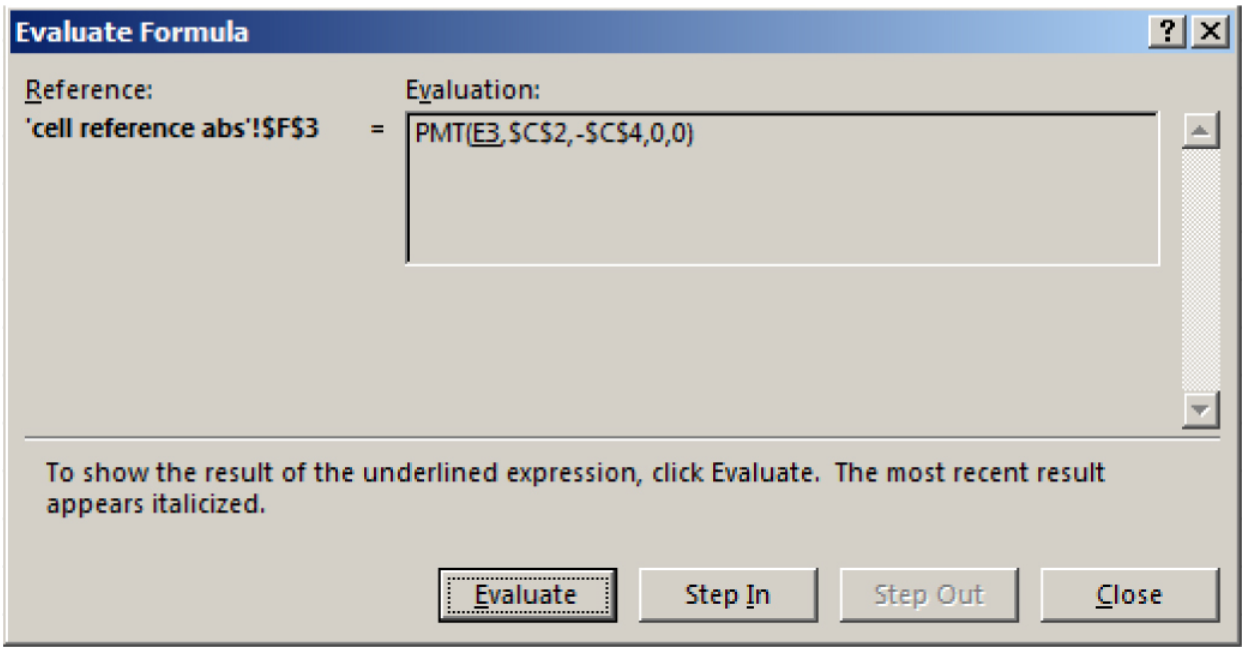


Figure 10.48: The Evaluate Formula tool can easily show where the error is by solving for each argument. Choose Evaluate to go step-by-step through the formula. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

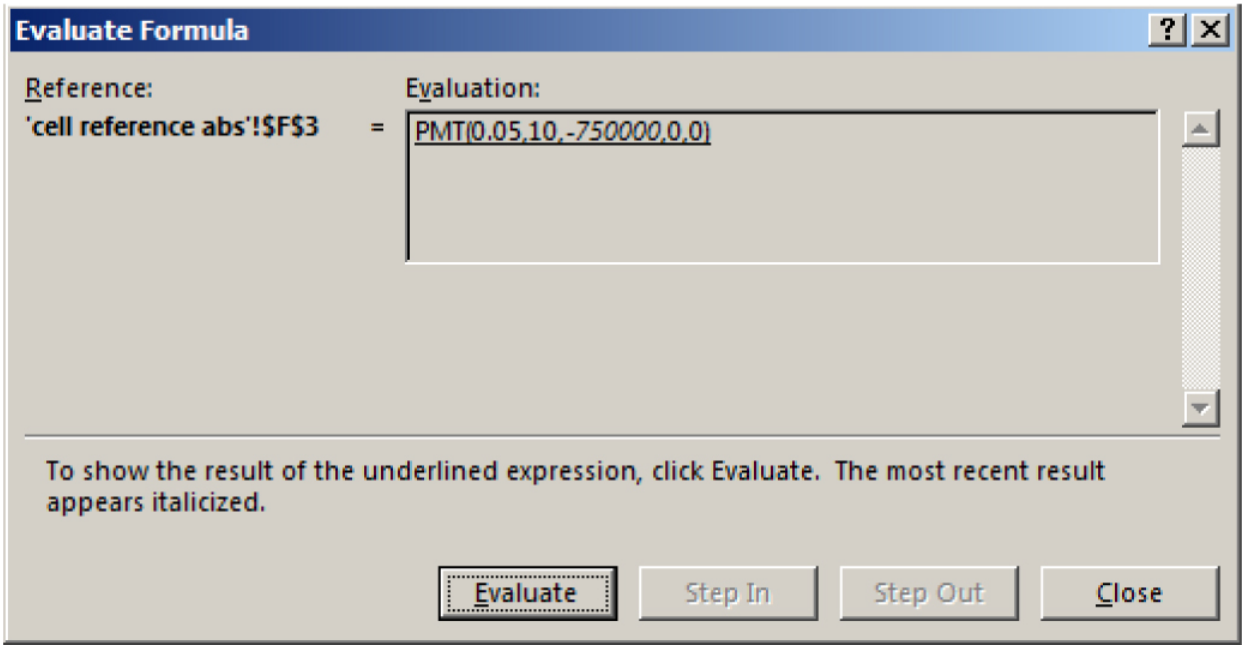


Figure 10.49: To see the result, choose Evaluate. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

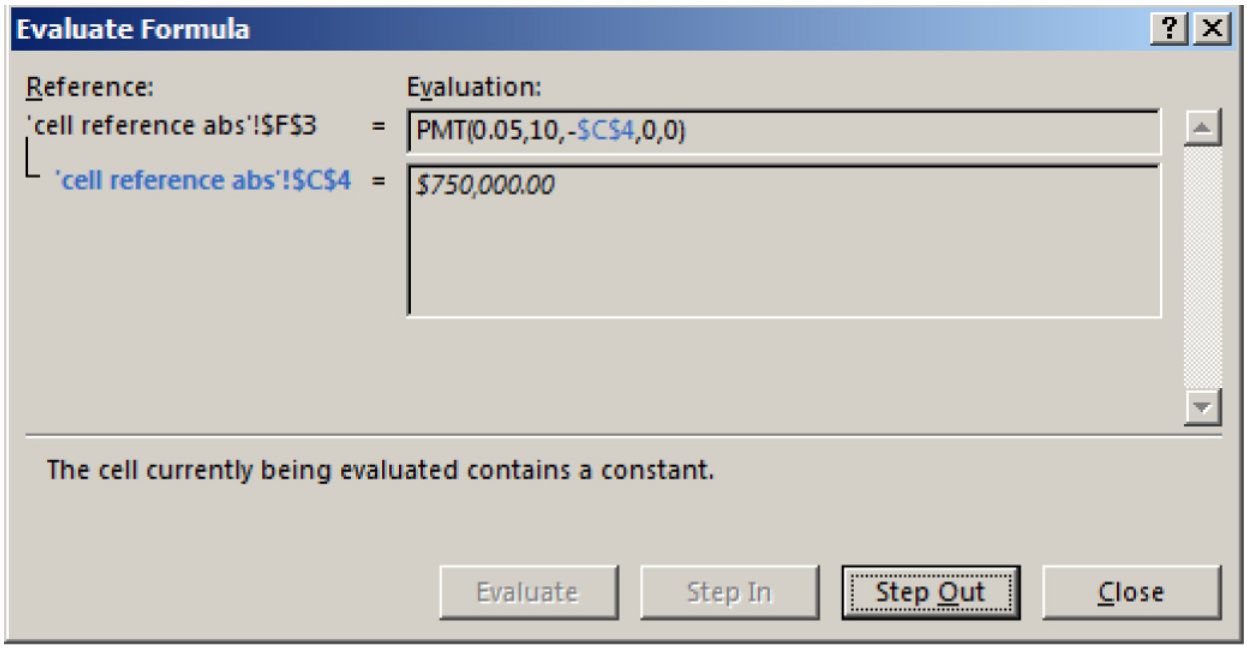


Figure 10.50: Step In takes you into the formula for a more detailed view, and Step Out goes back to the original full formula instead of the individual components. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another way to see the references of a formula is by simply selecting the cell in question, and then pressing Ctrl+[(Control and open bracket) to see dependent references, or Ctrl+] (Control and close bracket) to see precedents. This simple method selects all the cell references of the formula in question, as shown in Figure 10.51a. You can see that cells C2, C4, and E3 are selected and shaded in. These commands serve a similar function as the Trace Dependents and Trace Precedents tools; they show the dependent cells or precedents, but they do not draw a line like the Trace Dependents and Trace Precedents tools do.

If a cell has no dependent cells—cells that are depending on this data from other worksheets, or workbooks, or from another table in the same worksheet—then you cannot perform the Ctrl+[command, as shown in Figure 10.51b. In this example, there were no dependent cells.

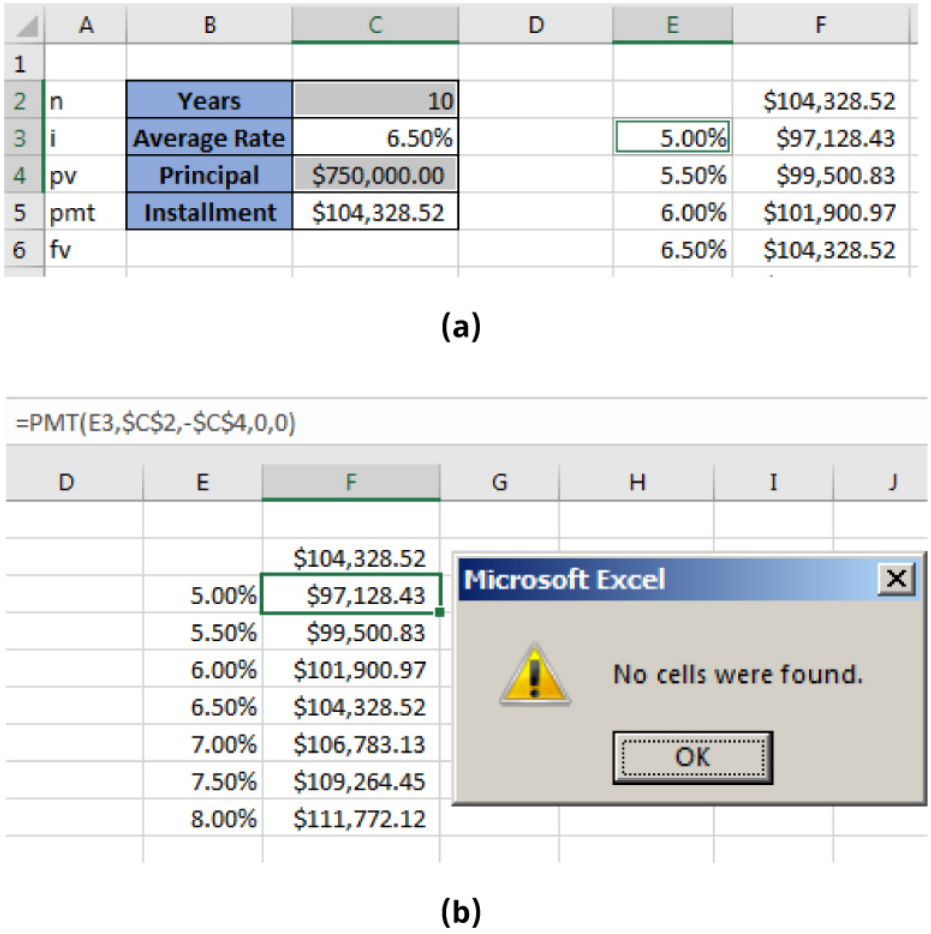


Figure 10.51: The Ctrl+[command is a simple way to see dependent cells. (a) Excel highlights the dependent cells. (b) If there are no dependent cells, Excel will let you know that there are none. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The most comprehensive way to see your cell relationships is by installing the Inquire add-in. First, go to the Add-ins menu (File > Options > Add-ins) (Figure 10.52). Look for Manage drop-down at the bottom of the window and select COM Add-ins, from the drop-down menu. Then, select Go. Then, check Inquire and click OK, as shown in Figure 10.53a. Excel adds a new tab to the ribbon. From that ribbon tab, select Workbook Analysis (Figure 10.53b). The workbook will be displayed with all its formulas and connections between cells, and all formulas will be categorized by the type of function used (Figure 10.54). This new ribbon tab also offers the features Workbook Relationship, Worksheet Relationship, and Cell Relationship, all of which give a graph of the relationship between the sheet and the precedents and dependents in the worksheet.

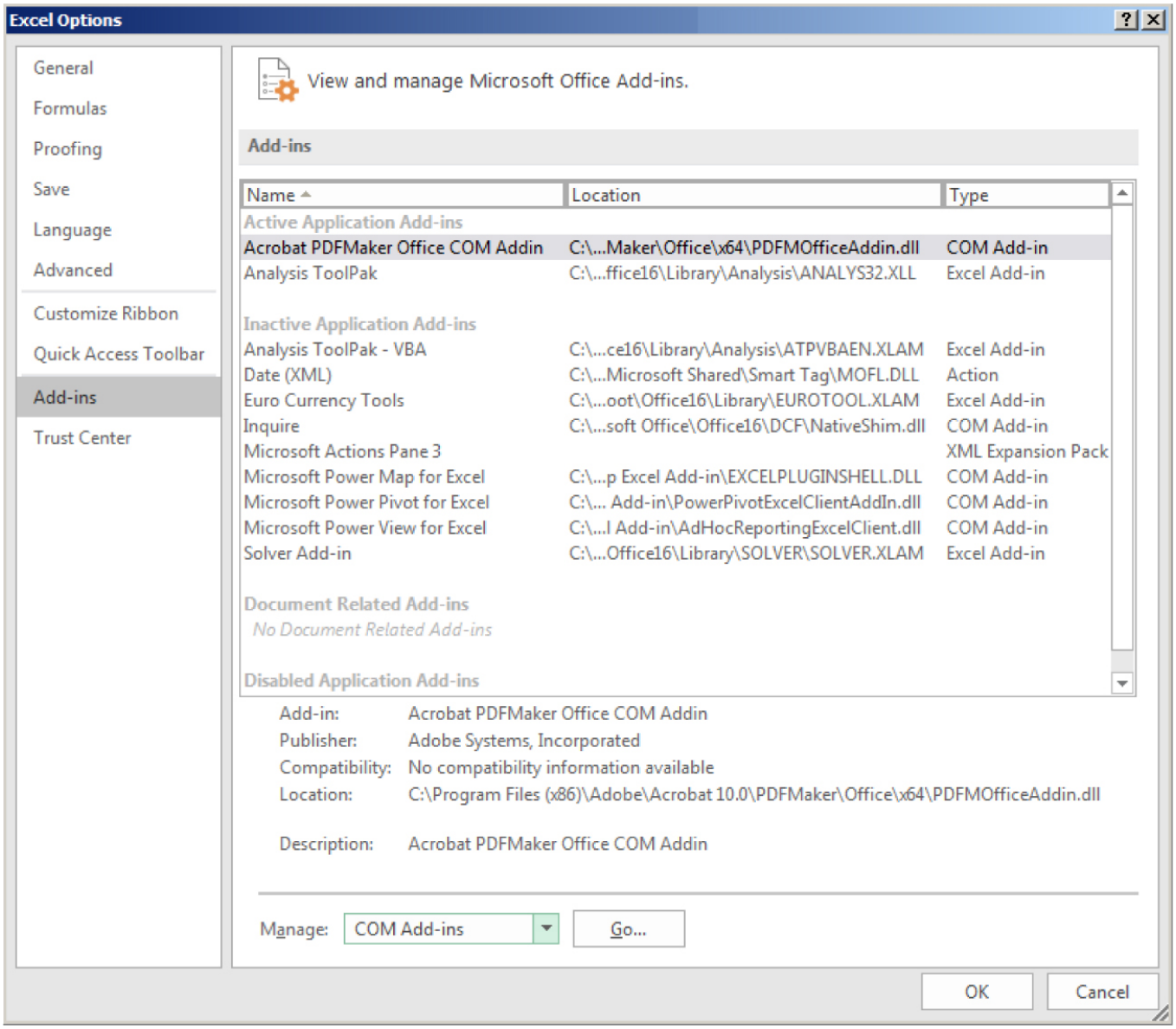
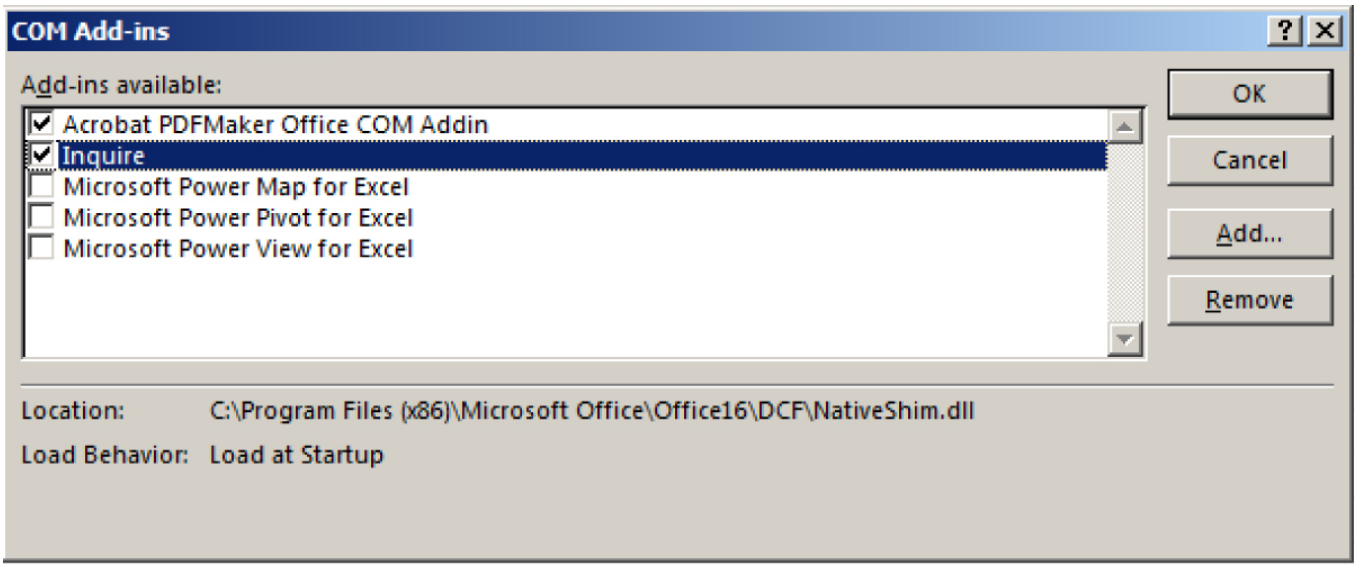
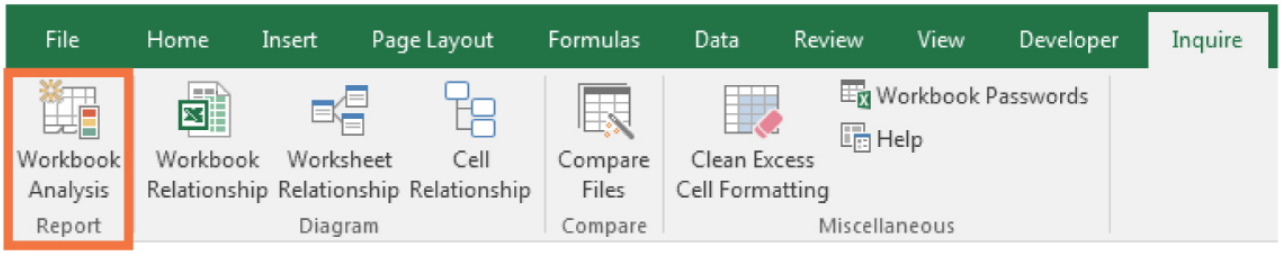


Figure 10.52: Access Excel Options from the File tab to find Add-Ins. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



(a)



(b)

Figure 10.53: (a) Inquire is a formula-auditing tool that does what the Watch Window does but also gives the found errors and organizes the formulas by categories. (b) Inquire will be added as a tab giving you several options to choose from. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

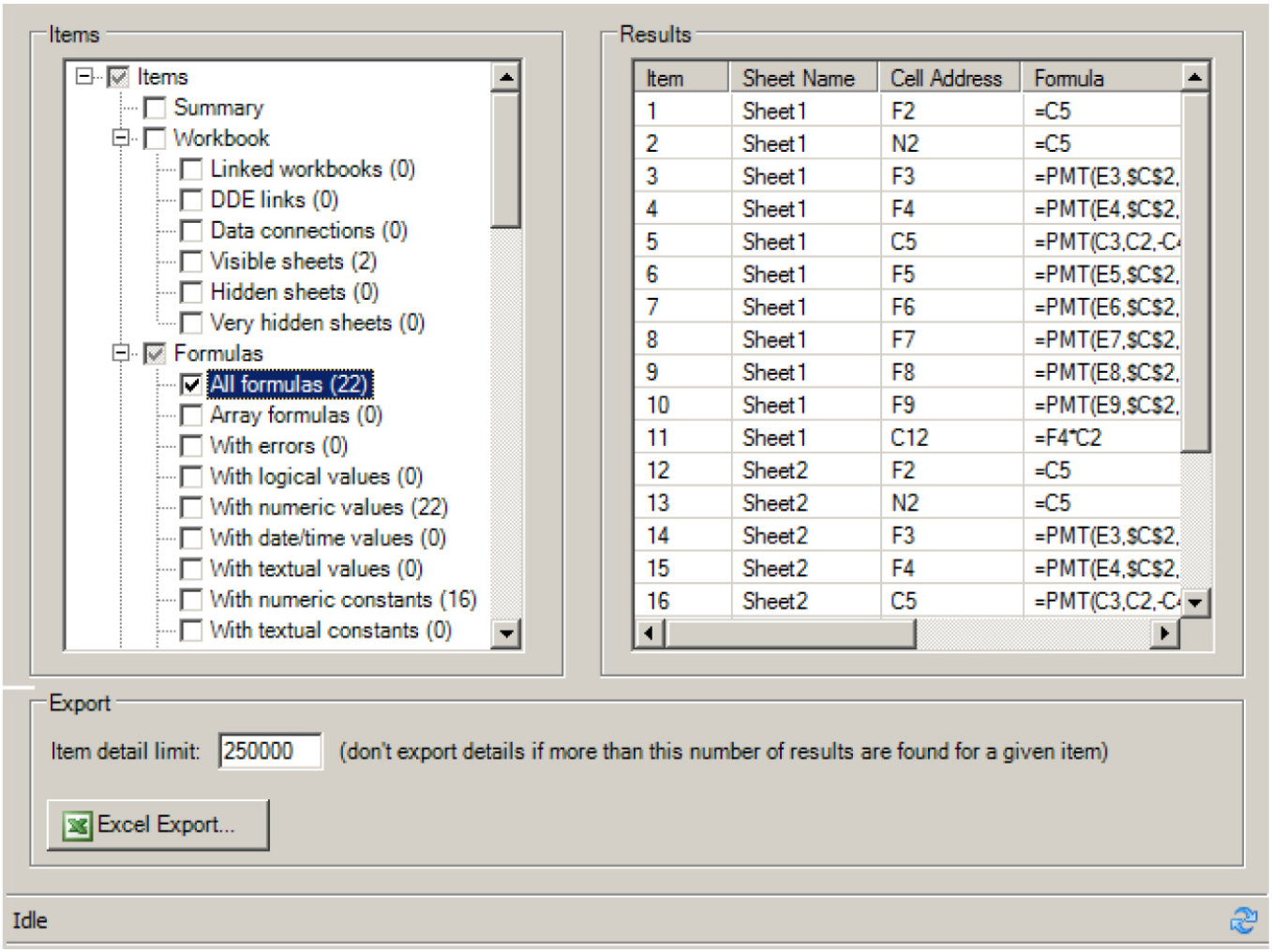


Figure 10.54: You will be able to see all formulas in the spreadsheet with their location identified by the cell reference. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

In the Mac version, all add-ins are located in the Tools menu.

Choosing and Implementing Formula Auditing Options

Let's look at an example to practice identifying errors and choosing and implementing the correct ways to fix those errors. Using the WorldCorp loan installment example, suppose that the loan the company settled on has a 5.5 percent interest rate, resulting in a payment of $99,500.83 per year in interest and principal. Therefore, the total cost of the increase in capacity for the manufacturing plant will be $995,008.27. Cell F4 now has precedents and dependents, as shown in the arrows in Figure 10.55.

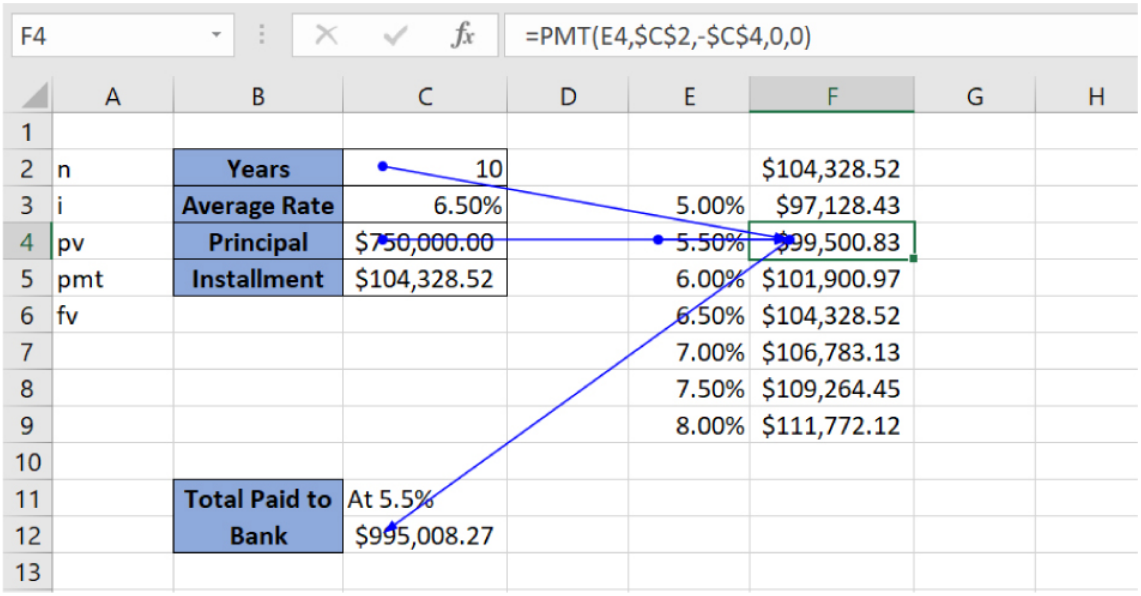


Figure 10.55: The cell pulls data from many other cells. By using Trace Precedents and Dependents, we can visually see the cells that are connected by formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The data in Figure 10.55 looks good, but suppose you get a #NUM! error in cell F4 (Figure 10.56). Recall that this type of error means that the formula contains contradictory or unsound numbers that stop the formula from calculating the correct result. First, try the Error Checking tool. Change the location of the N variable to a blank cell, C1. This gives the error shown in the figure. The formula cannot be calculated based on a blank cell. Choose the Error Checking tool from the Formulas tab in the Formula Auditing command group.

Mac Tip

In the Mac version, the Error Checking tool is located in the Formulas menu.

When the window appears, choose Show Calculation Steps (Figure 10.56). This opens the Evaluate Formula command, which shows the formula already solved (Figure 10.57a). When examining the formula, you can see the values of 0.065 for the rate and 750,000 for the principal. Because the PMT function requires you to input N, or the number of payment periods, you would also expect to see 10 in the formula, but there is a 0 instead of a 10 in the N variable location in the formula. Thus, you can see where the problem in the formula is, so you can fix it. If you then close the Evaluate Formula window, you are taken back to the Error Checking tool from where you can choose Edit in Formula Bar. When selected, the cells used in the formula are highlighted. At this point, you should see that the formula uses cell C1, not C2 as was intended. Revise the formula to replace C1 with C2 (Figure 10.57b), and run the Error Checking tool again. Now the worksheet doesn't have any errors (Figure 10.58c).

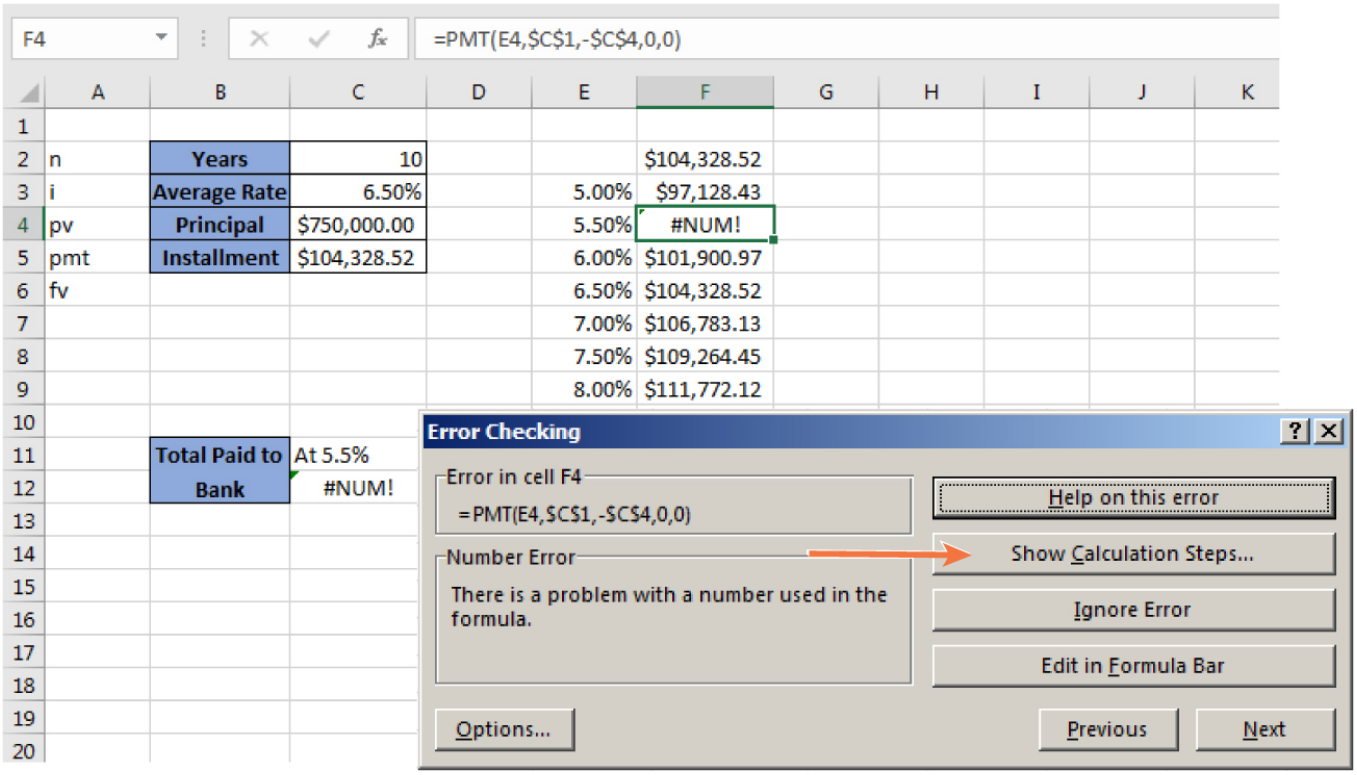
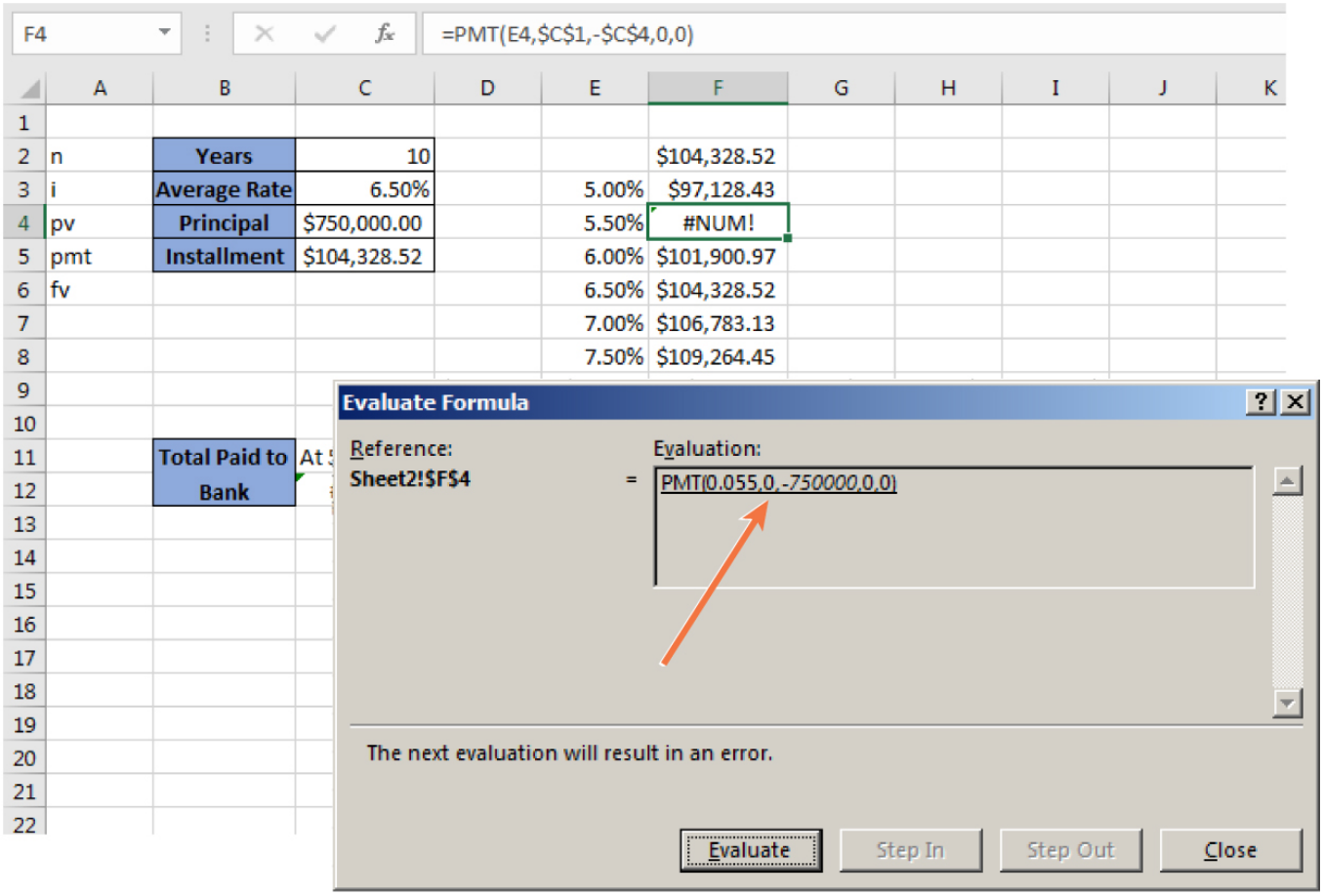
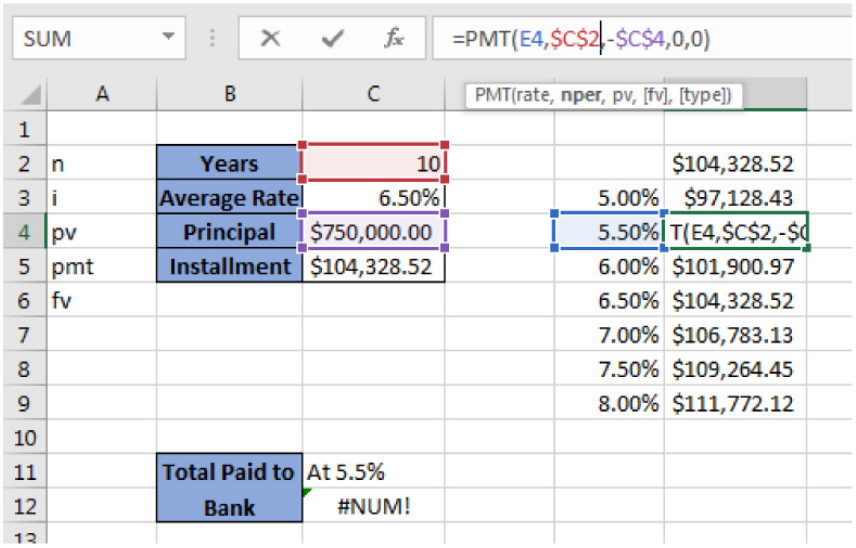


Figure 10.56: The formula cannot calculate an answer because of an error on the worksheet. The Error Checking tool is similar to the Evaluate Formula tool, except that it checks the whole worksheet at once. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



(a)



(b)

Figure 10.57: (a) Show Calculation steps will show you where the error is located. (b) You can adjust the formula to address the error on the spreadsheet. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

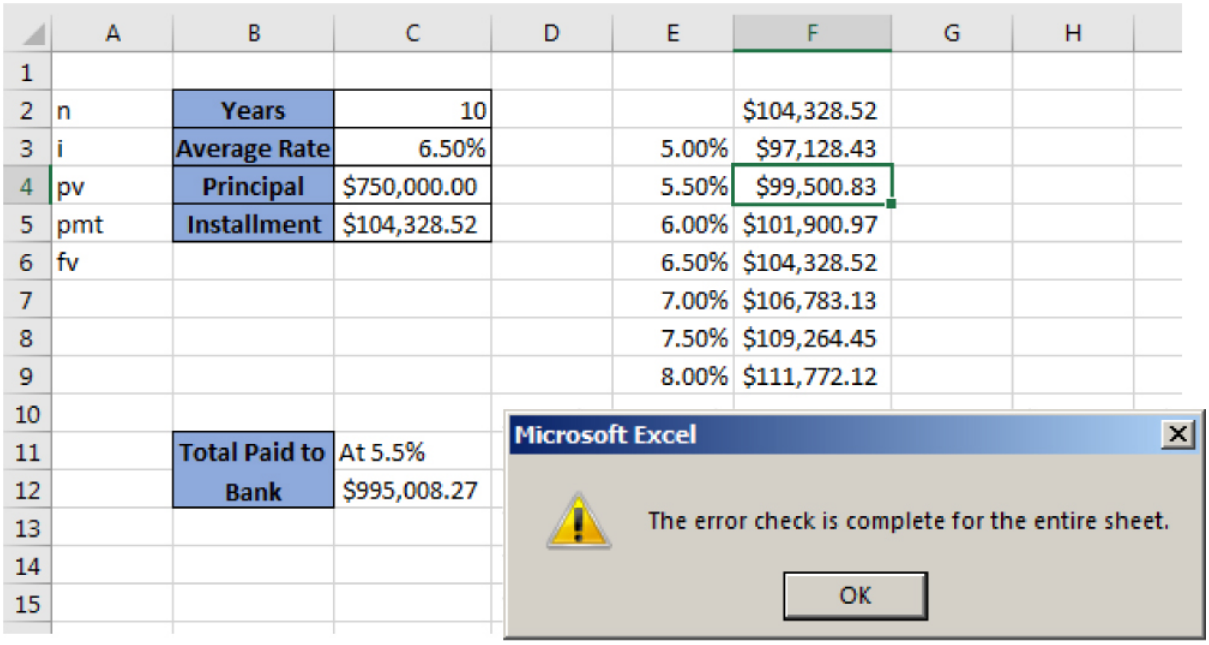


Figure 10.58: Running Error Check again indicates that the spreadsheet is now error-free. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Spotlight on Ethics - The Tick and Tie Method

All businesses should have multiple ways of checking and auditing their financial statements. Often this is referred to as "checks and balances." One example for banking purposes would be to require two signatures on all checks that are written on the account. That then ensures that two different people have approved the check. The concept of auditing in accounting is checking and double-checking that the financial statements are accurate and follow the appropriate accounting standards. This not only protects the company from the consequences of errors, but it can also ensure that the company employees are not committing any wrongdoing.

One method to accomplish this is the "tick and tie" internal auditing method, which involves verifying the numbers on one financial statement with those on another. Managers can use this method internally to monitor transactions for irregularities (payments to unknown vendors, for example) or verify that company financial statements balance before the external auditors do a yearly review. It is better to monitor constantly and consistently than to wait for the external auditor to find the errors. Also, by having a regular internal audit of the finances of the company, you can create a culture that expects honesty and integrity. If you happen to find a deliberate error by an employee, you can address it quickly. By using the tools available in Excel, you can set up an internal audit system to use regularly, thus creating the culture in the organization and identifying misconduct quickly.

This page titled 10.5: Auditing Formulas and Fixing Errors is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.6: Advanced Formatting Techniques

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create custom formats for worksheet or table for appearance
- Create custom formats for a worksheet or table for content
- Copy formatting from one range of data to a new range of data

It is important for organizations to use uniform branding and style, which can appear anywhere, from emails to invoice templates to Excel files. Having a uniform style within an organization adds a level of professionalism and consistency to the business, and these may be tied to the company's intellectual property and similar protections. Many organizations provide guidelines or manuals for all files produced, to ensure that all employees can easily follow the same style or use the same templates.

Microsoft Excel offers many prepackaged themes and styles that can be easily applied to tables and spreadsheets. But it is also possible to create your own custom format. This can be ideal for businesses that want their products to look a certain way and contain specific branding.

Custom Formats for Appearance

The tables and datasets you've been working with were finished versions, with color, font, table size, and background set. Here, you'll create these tables step-by-step with themes and other style elements.

Using Existing Themes

To make formatting easy to use and high quality, Excel offers Themes. Applying a Theme can quickly change the color scheme, fonts, and size of a table or graph. For example, you could easily change the formatting of a table without manually readjusting everything. If your objective is to save time when changing the overall formatting, choose a default theme and all the formatting will be handled automatically.

To access Themes, go to the Page Layout tab and select the Themes icon (Figure 10.59a). Then, choose any of the available themes. ("Wisp" is shown in Figure 10.61.) All of the formatted tables and graphs in that particular workbook will be changed. If you have a simple worksheet with no specific formatting such as colors, font style, and the like, when you choose a theme, nothing will change. However, if you have a worksheet with formatted headings and charts, you will notice changes when you select a theme. The Color combo box lets users further modify the theme by selecting a different color palette (Figure 10.59b).

For additional changes, the Home tab has a combo box called Cell Styles that lets users select other font sizes or background colors, as shown in Figure 10.60. Depending on your selection in the Colors menu in the Themes command group (Page Layout tab), the options in the Styles menu will change. For instance, use Blue from the palette, and in the Styles combo box, select Heading 3 and Accent 5, 40%. If an orange color palette from the Color menu was chosen, the Styles options would be orange tones.

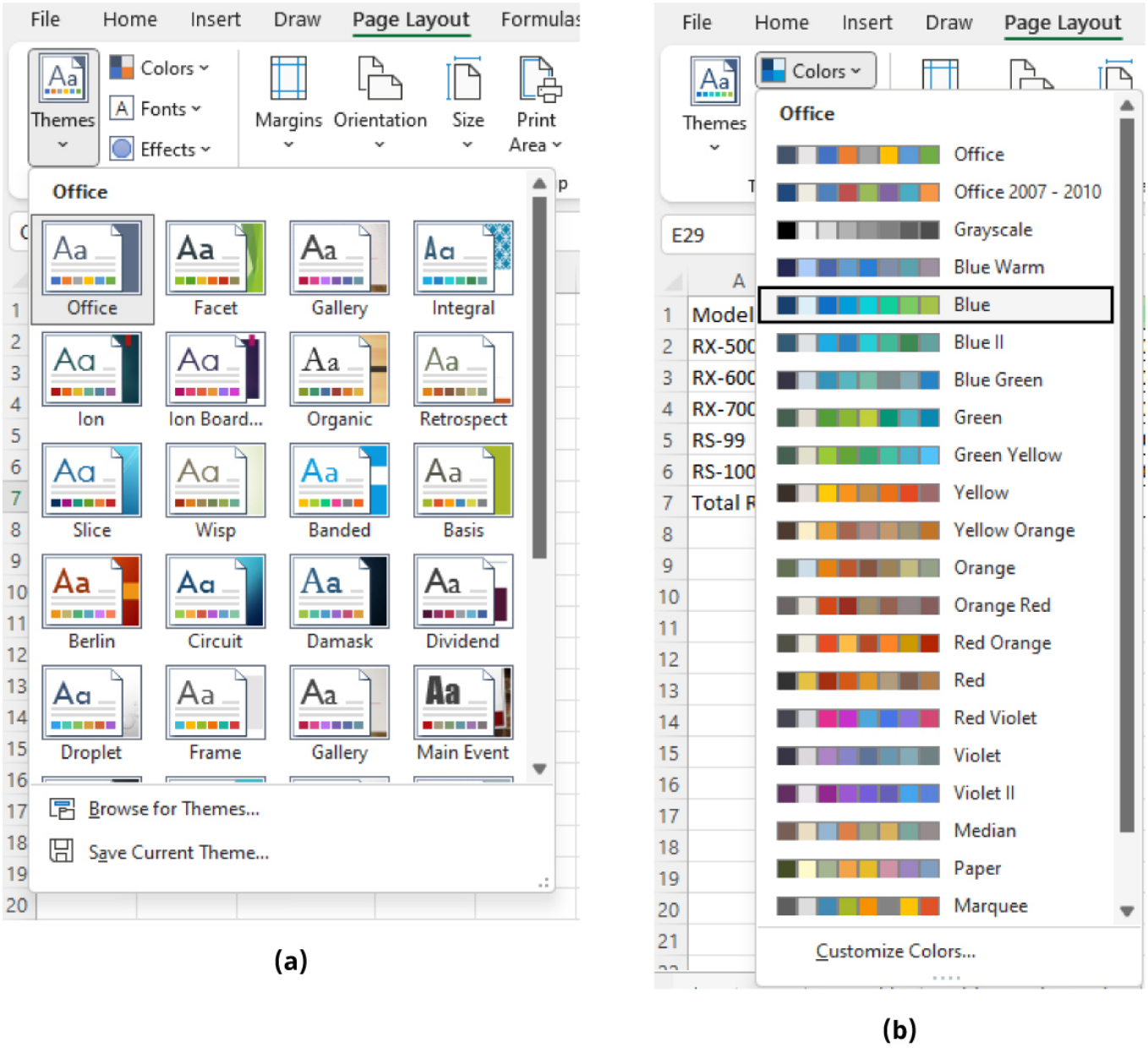


Figure 10.59: (a) Themes are useful if your company has a custom theme to apply for all charts. (b) Color schemes can be customized to meet your needs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

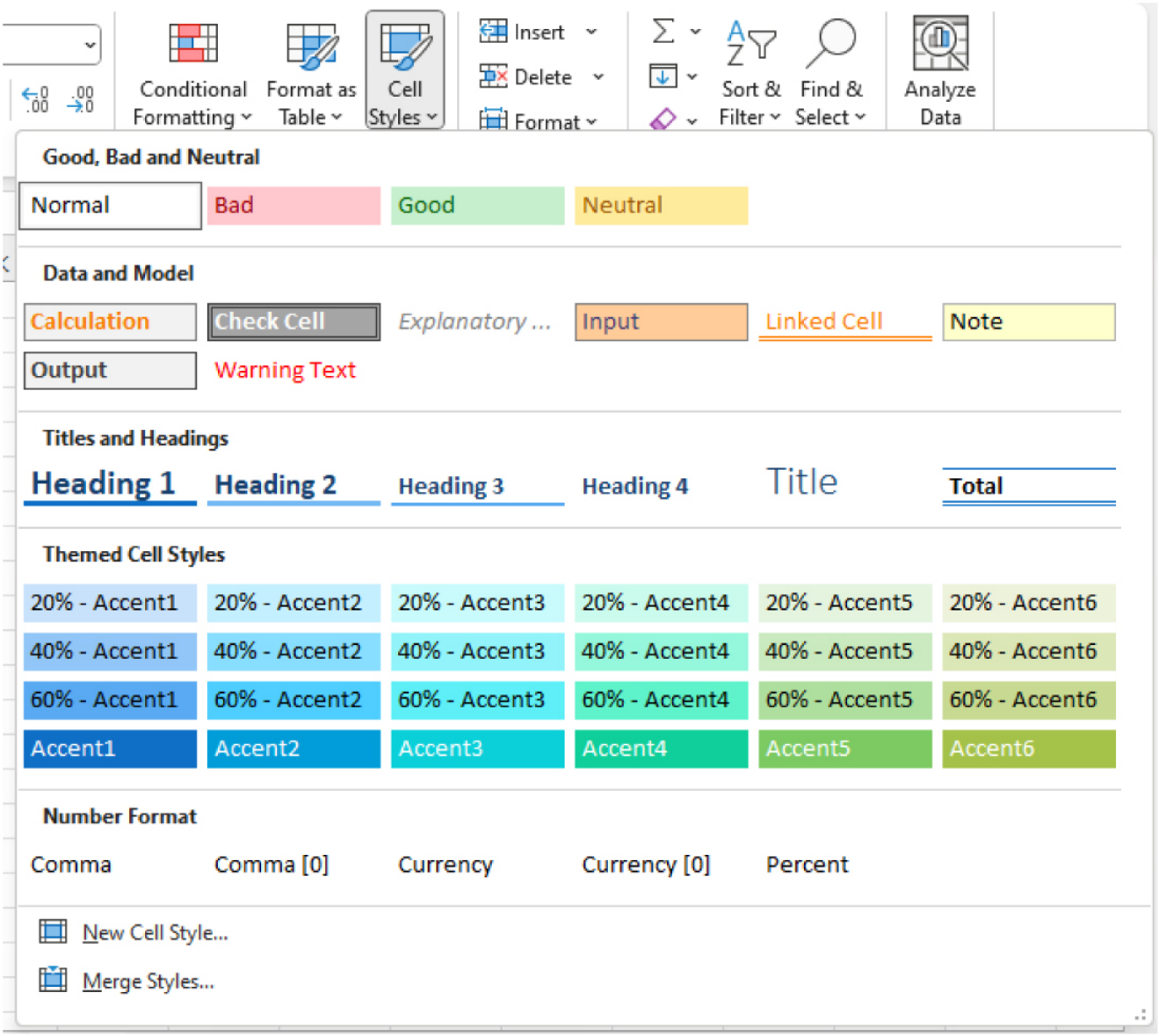


Figure 10.60: You can use the built-in themes to automatically format heading and numbers. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

	A	B	C
1	**Model**	**Price**	**Units Sold**
2	RX-500	$17.99	5000
3	RX-600	$25.99	4000
4	RX-700	$35.99	3000
5	RS-99	$99.00	2000
6	RS-100	$114.99	1000
7	Total Revenue		$ 614,870.00

Figure 10.61: Applying a theme is easier than formatting each section of the table individually. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Creating Custom Themes

Often companies will have a color scheme for all communications and materials within and outside of the company. The palette is usually linked to the company logo and is an essential part of creating a unified and professional appearance for marketing

purposes and legal usage. If a company has a specific theme, it can be saved and used by all employees. The saved theme file can be shared company-wide to ensure consistency. Moreover, the saved theme can be used across all Microsoft products.

There are two ways to create a custom theme. First, users can create the theme from scratch. This means you define the font, color, and other elements of the theme. Second, and perhaps easier, is to start with an existing theme that is close to the desired theme. You can then make the needed adjustments such as changing the font or modifying heading colors slightly. First, format your table using the desired settings, and then choose Save Current Theme at the bottom of the Themes menu to save the theme as a file that can be used in other Microsoft products and/or shared with others.

Link to Learning

Go to Microsoft's theme repository and look for Excel themes. Think about how they might be used in a business. Look for themes that might be appropriate for an accounting department or a human resources department.

Other Formatting Tools

Another time-saving strategy is using the Format as Table tool. On the Home tab, select the Format as Table combo box to see many options for formatting tables (Figure 10.62). The background color, heading font, and borders can be changed; additionally, column widths will change automatically to fit the text. This feature also automatically adds filters to the columns, which can help with organizing the data in a table Figure 10.63. However, using the Format as Table feature does not format cells according to their content, such as currency.

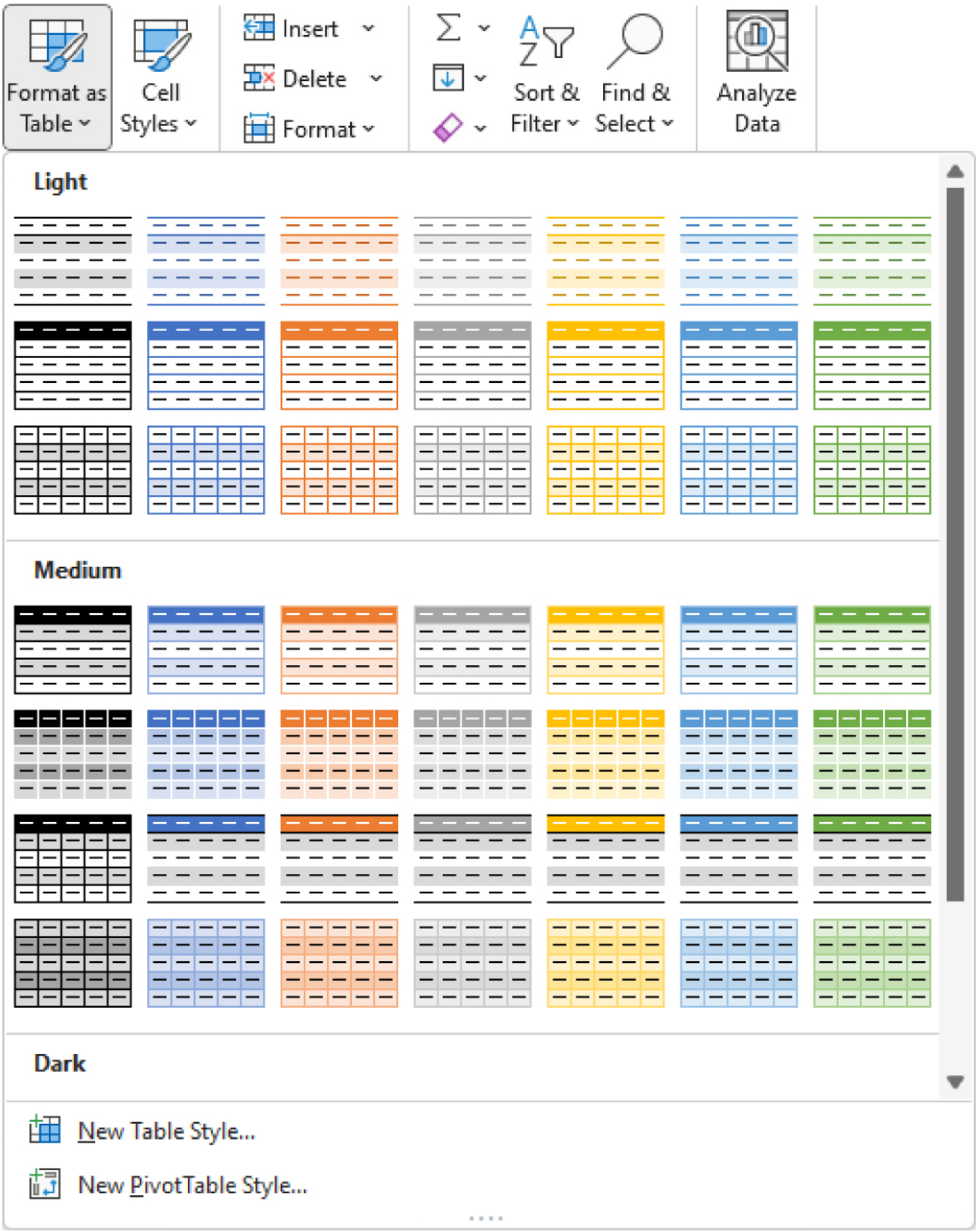


Figure 10.62: The Format as Table tool is a simple way to add full formatting to basic tables. When you format the selection as a table, there are several color options and themes to choose from. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

	A	B	C
1	Model	Price	Units Sold
2	RX-500	17.99	5000
3	RX-600	25.99	4000
4	RX-700	35.99	3000
5	RS-99	99	2000
6	RS-100	114.99	1000
7	Total Revenue		614870

Figure 10.63: You get a filter option after the selection is formatted as a table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Images to the Background

Beyond formatting cell content, you can also add an image to a table's background. The background is a canvas that is displayed behind the cell contents of a worksheet. It could be useful to add a logo, or a topic-related image to the background of a table, especially for an internal or client-facing presentation. Often, this feature is used to indicate that documents are not finalized but in a "draft" stage.

To add an image in the background, first select the table, then go to the Page Layout tab and select Background. You will then be prompted to select an existing file, or you can search online for an image. An image of the word "Confidential" has been added in Figure 10.64 to show that this report should be kept confidential and not shared. You may insert an existing file or search the internet for a picture.

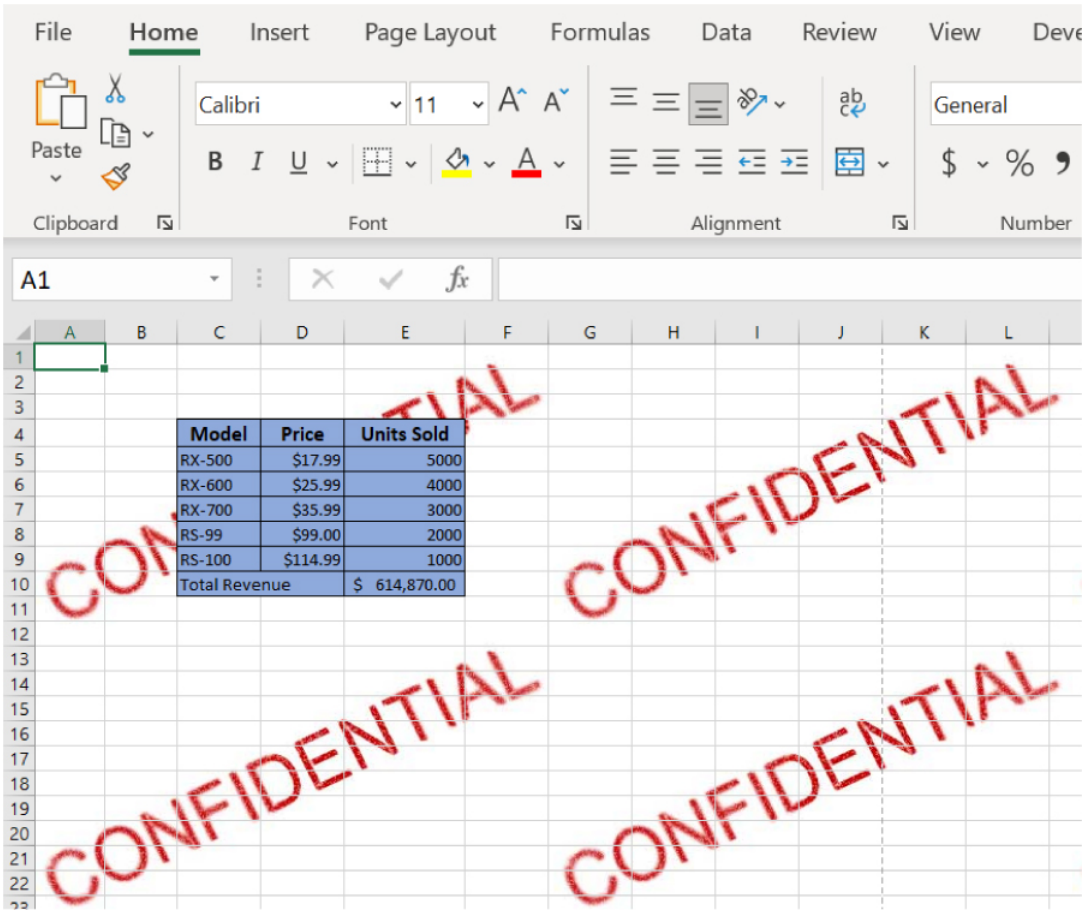


Figure 10.64: The background change tool is useful for design purposes or for company branding. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Custom Formats for Content

Custom formats for content allow users to design a format for data contained in cells. For example, you can use custom formatting to set a format type for how your purchase order numbers are input into your company's system, or to change how dates are displayed. This feature is different from merely changing a cell's format such as the decimal points displayed or how months are abbreviated. Instead, the custom format can be saved as a format that is then widely applied to worksheets. You can create a format from scratch, but it is easier to use one of the built-in formats and adjust if necessary. You can customize most aspects of the formatting—from spacing, to displayed decimals, to font color.

Shortening Large Numbers

Sometimes, the appearance of many repeated large numbers in a spreadsheet can be overwhelming. Other times, you may simply want to reduce numbers to estimates. Excel can shorten large numbers so that they are summarized by a letter, such as K (for "thousands") or M (for "millions"). Figure 10.65 shows that the estimated COGS varies depending on the quantity sold and the unit cost.

Unit Cost	$ 85		$ 19,170,900	$ 70	$ 75	$ 80	$ 85
Quantity Sold	225,540		155,000	$ 10,850,000	$ 11,625,000	$ 12,400,000	$ 13,175,000
COGS	$ 19,170,900		180,000	$ 12,600,000	$ 13,500,000	$ 14,400,000	$ 15,300,000
			205,000	$ 14,350,000	$ 15,375,000	$ 16,400,000	$ 17,425,000
			255,000	$ 17,850,000	$ 19,125,000	$ 20,400,000	$ 21,675,000

Figure 10.65: Shortening estimated figures can be useful for presentations and reports, as they will be easier to read than these long numbers. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Since these figures are estimations for the coming period, they can be abbreviated to the million by marking with an "m." To do this, select the cells on which to perform this process, and then right-click and select Format Cells. In the Format Cells dialog box, go to Custom, as shown in Figure 10.66. In the Type field, delete the existing text, type [0,,"m"], and then click OK. Using the 0 indicates no decimal points and to use only whole numbers. The "m" is used to round to the million units. Excel will change the figures in the selected cells to be rounded up to the nearest million, as shown in Figure 10.66.

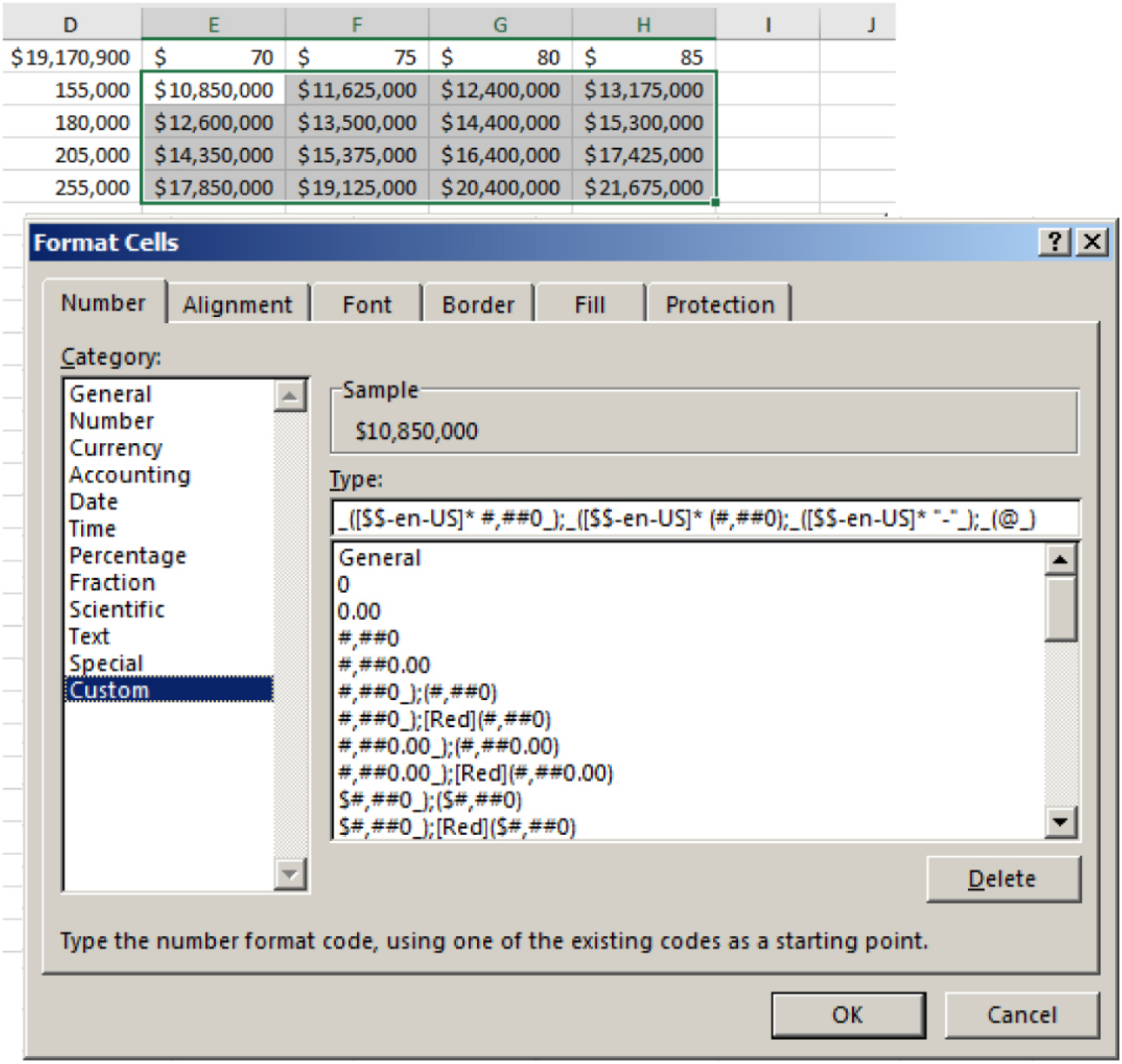


Figure 10.66: There are multiple “Custom” formatting codes, as you can see in the list. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

D	E	F	G	H
$19,170,900	$ 70	$ 75	$ 80	$ 85
155,000	11m	12m	12m	13m
180,000	13m	14m	14m	15m
205,000	14m	15m	16m	17m
255,000	18m	19m	20m	22m

Figure 10.67: Choosing to format large numbers to display as millions can make a table more readable. The finished product could now be further formatted for appearance. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Common Number Formats

Some number formats come up frequently, such as addresses, phone numbers, or Social Security Numbers (SSNs). Their formats may be consistent in a specific region (like SSNs in the United States), or they may be similar with variations (like phone numbers with all hyphens, hyphens and parentheses, or spaces).

In Figure 10.68, you can see a table of names and contact information. However, there are some issues with the data: the numbers all look the same. Phone numbers should be separated by parentheses for the area code and a hyphen after the exchange, and SSNs use hyphens around the middle two digits. Zip codes should be five digits long, but some are showing up as only four digits; this is because Excel does not recognize the leading zero. As is, the data in the current table is confusing. Microsoft offers a standard command to format cells in these situations.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone	SSN
2	Floyd Altenwerth	9543 Lakewood Dr	Newark	NJ	7101	8195930263	272921446
3	Brian Collins	1686 Dovetail Dr	Chicago	IL	60089	7402464512	625861065
4	Jill Fowler	6474 Franklin Av	Hatfield	MA	1038	9733067727	313042959
5	Sheri Foley	2002 Cornier St	Trezevant	TN	38258	8049761222	290113577

Figure 10.68: There are ways to fix the formatting issues in this table without having to manually fix each one. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

First, select each column separately, right-click each column, select Format Cells, and then select Special. For formatting zip codes (Figure 10.69), select the Zip Code column values (but not the header), and in the Special format cell dialog box, select Zip Code, and choose OK. Follow the same steps for formatting phone numbers (Figure 10.70). As you can see in the result shown in Figure 10.71, Excel already has special formats for these number types.

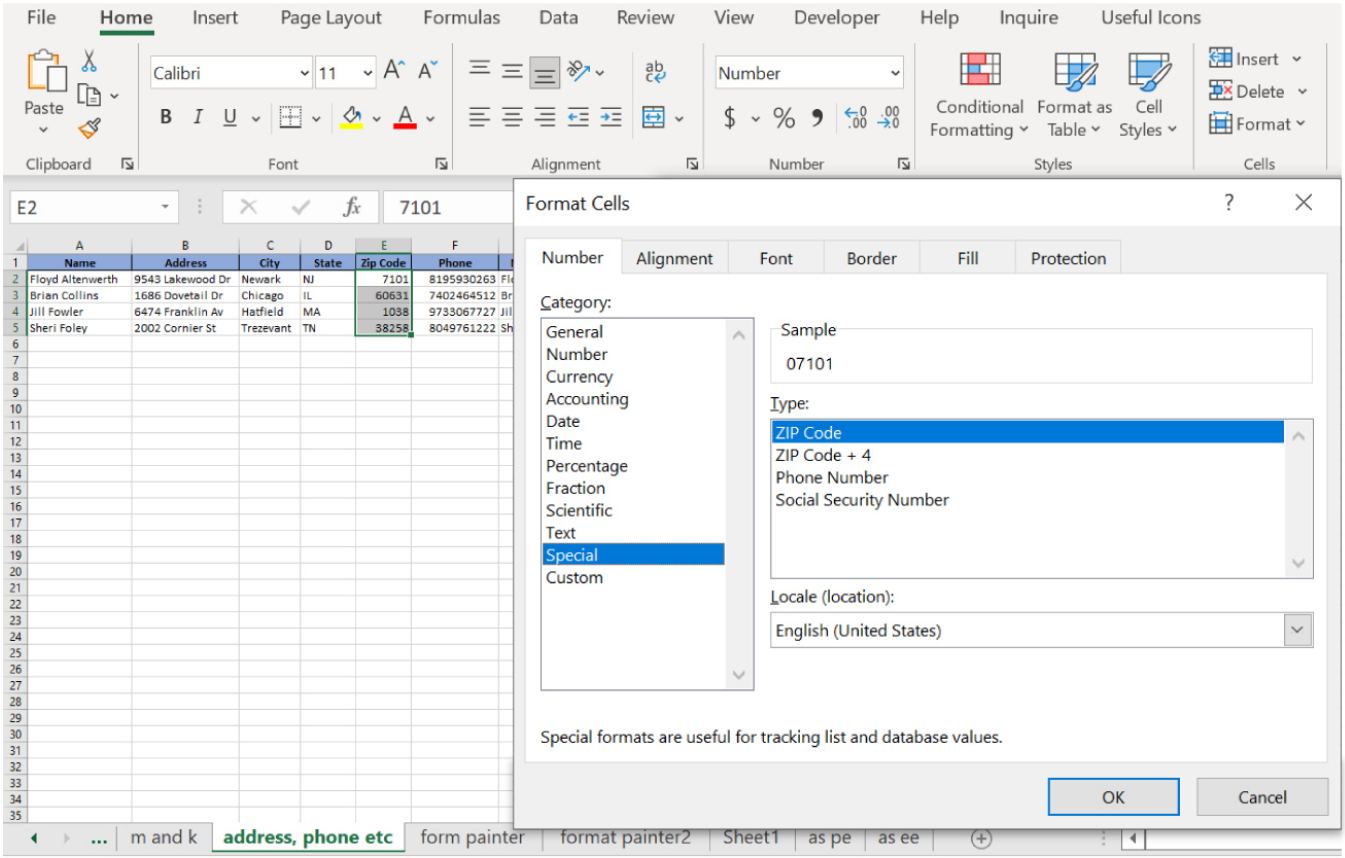


Figure 10.69: Microsoft already has preset formatting for many number types, including zip codes. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

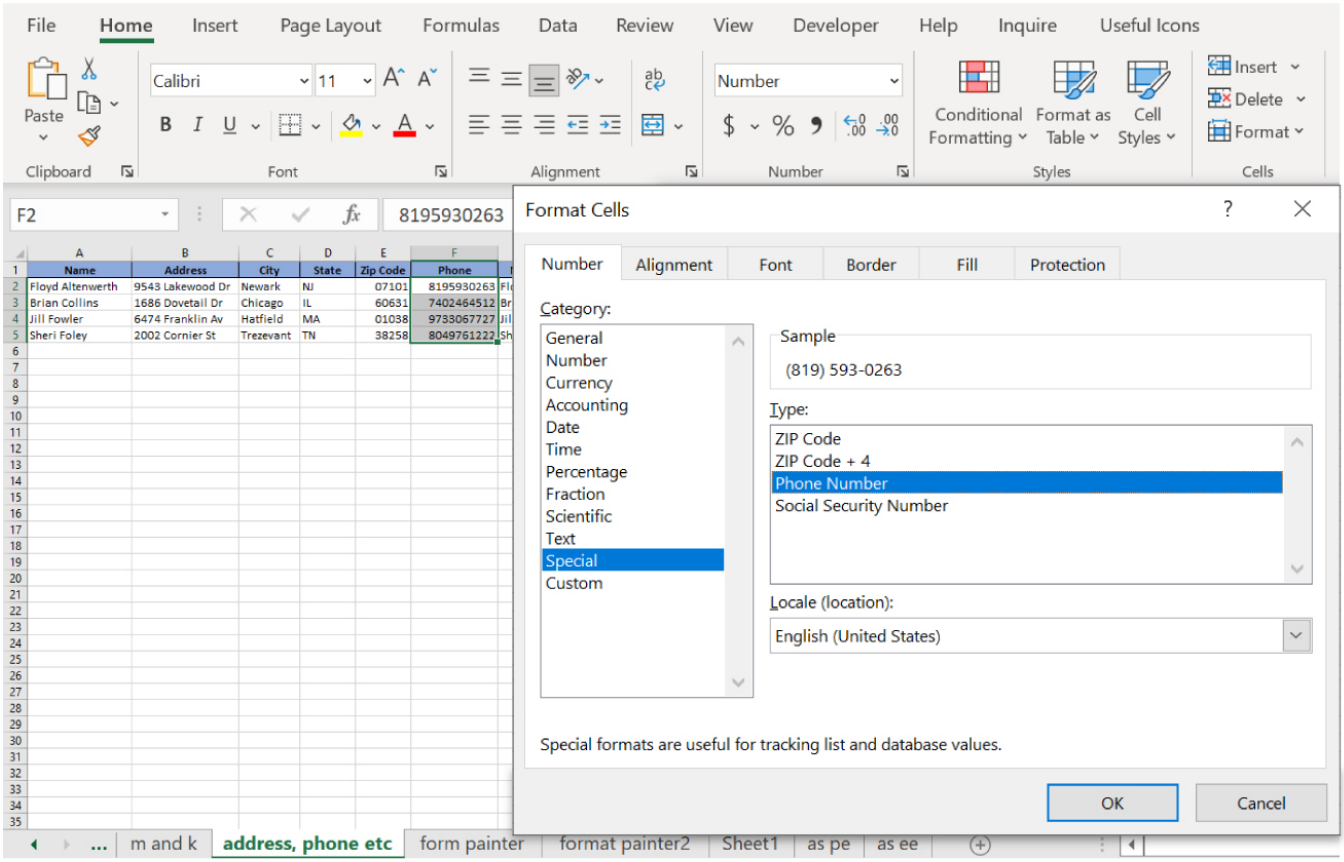


Figure 10.70: Another preset formatting is for phone numbers. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone
2	Floyd Altenwerth	9543 Lakewood Dr	Newark	NJ	07101	(819) 593-0263
3	Brian Collins	1686 Dovetail Dr	Chicago	IL	60631	(740) 246-4512
4	Jill Fowler	6474 Franklin Av	Hatfield	MA	01038	(973) 306-7727
5	Sheri Foley	2002 Cornier St	Trezevant	TN	38258	(804) 976-1222
6						

Figure 10.71: The finished product can save the consuming process of writing the parentheses or hyphens manually and decreases data entry errors. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

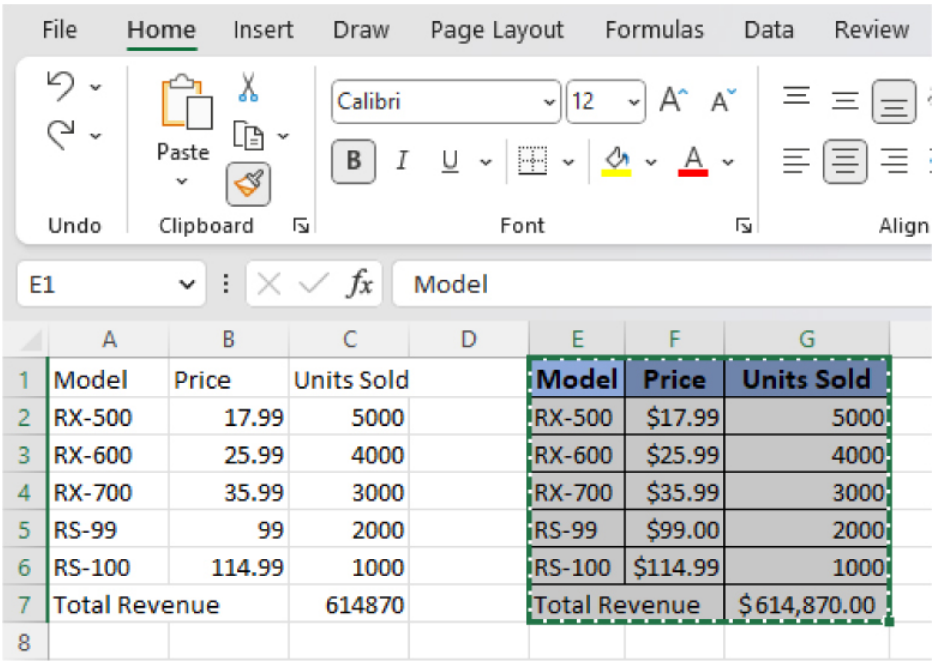
Link to Learning

The mail merge feature of Microsoft Word allows the user to create letters, mailing labels, or envelopes from a list of names and addresses such as a customer list. This can make the process much quicker than formatting each letter or envelope individually. Often lists of customers with contact information such as addresses and emails will be organized in a spreadsheet. Mail merge connects a Word document to an Excel data table to seamlessly create the documents needed for mailing. Watch this tutorial from *Business Insider* on Mail Merge to learn the steps.

Copy Formatting

Copying the format of a given cell is one of the most used commands in Microsoft Office because it is available not only in Excel, but in all other Office applications. The Format Painter command lets a user copy a certain range's formatting and apply it to a new range by selecting the cell with the desired format to be copied, and then selecting the Format Painter icon on the Home tab. Format Painter can be used to transfer the formatting from one cell or a whole table to another cell or table. The Format Painter tool is the paintbrush icon on the Home tab in the Clipboard command group. To use the tool, first select the cell or cells that have the

formatting you want to apply to other cells. Figure 10.72 shows the selected cells E1 to G7. Then, click on the paintbrush icon on the Home tab. As you do, your cursor will change to a paintbrush. With that paintbrush, select the range of cells to which you want to apply the formatting. In this example, those cells are A1 to C7. The unformatted table will then be formatted in the same manner as the formatted table. The result is apparent in Figure 10.73. The only step left is adjusting the columns by clicking on the border of each column on top.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Model	Price	Units Sold		Model	Price	Units Sold
2	RX-500	17.99	5000		RX-500	$17.99	5000
3	RX-600	25.99	4000		RX-600	$25.99	4000
4	RX-700	35.99	3000		RX-700	$35.99	3000
5	RS-99	99	2000		RS-99	$99.00	2000
6	RS-100	114.99	1000		RS-100	$114.99	1000
7	Total Revenue		614870		Total Revenue		$614,870.00
8							

Figure 10.72: The Format Painter tool allows you to copy the formatting from one table and apply it to another. Notice the cursor paintbrush next to it. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Model	Price	Units Sold		Model	Price	Units Sold
2	RX-500	$17.99	5000		RX-500	$17.99	5000
3	RX-600	$25.99	4000		RX-600	$25.99	4000
4	RX-700	$35.99	3000		RX-700	$35.99	3000
5	RS-99	$99.00	2000		RS-99	$99.00	2000
6	RS-100	$114.99	1000		RS-100	$114.99	1000
7	Total Revenue		########		Total Revenue		$614,870.00

Figure 10.73: Both tables are formatted using the same font, fill color, and number format. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

The Mac version uses Cell Styles to format cells.

There are also other ways to copy formatting. Another way is to use the Paste Special tool. You first select the whole formatted table and press Ctrl+C (to copy it), then select your entire unformatted table (Figure 10.74a). Then, on the Home tab, choose Paste Special from the Paste menu and click on Formatting (R) from the last row, as shown in Figure 10.74b. This tool will paste just the formatting from your original selection; it will not paste any of the values or formulas (Figure 10.74c).

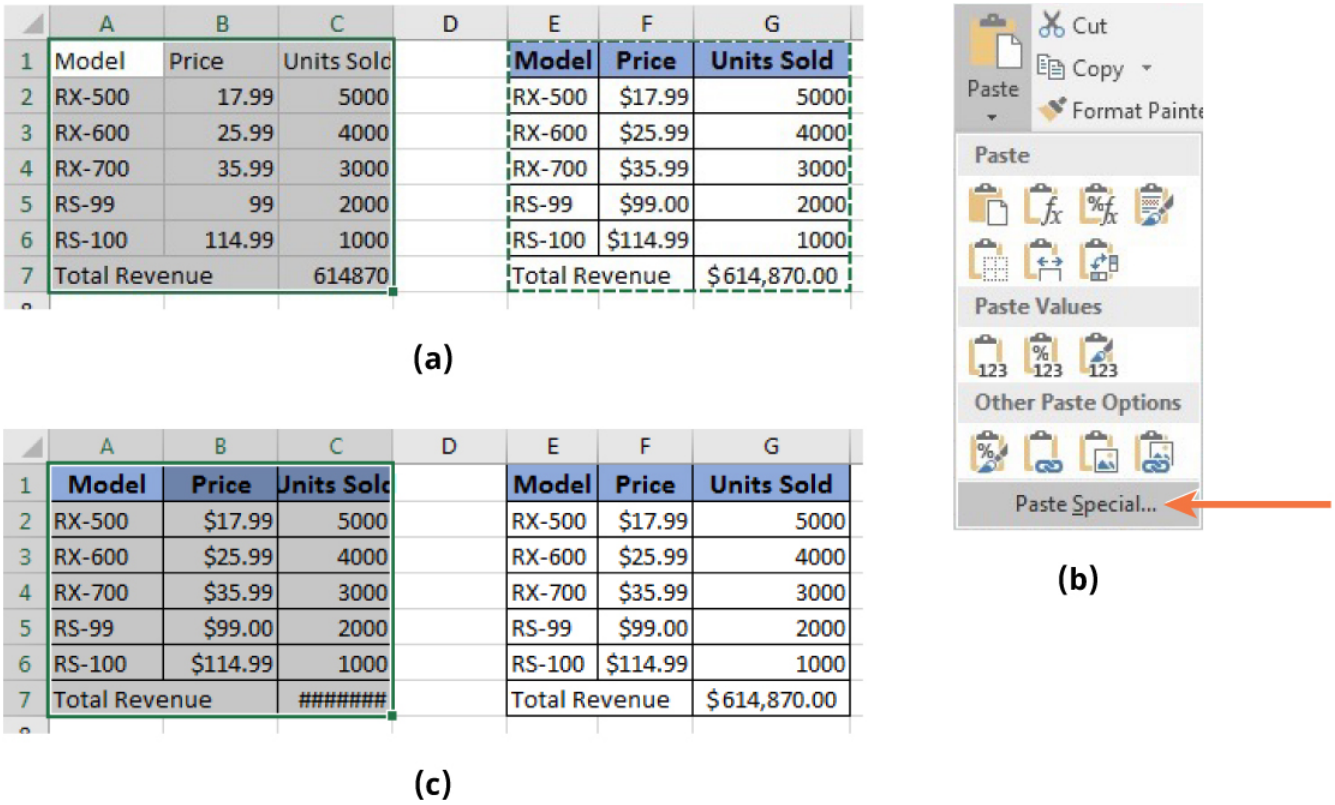


Figure 10.74: Paste Special can be used instead of the Format Painter tool. (a) First, copy the table with the formatting you want to apply. Then, highlight the table where you want to apply the formatting. (b) Choose Paste Special. (c) The tool applies the formatting only; it does not copy any of the cell contents. You would then adjust your column widths to avoid the error. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 10.6: Advanced Formatting Techniques is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

absolute cell reference
one in which the cell reference is fixed, regardless of where you copy the formula

array
selection of rows or columns that do not have to be contiguous

auditing formulas
process of using Excel tools to monitor and fix errors in worksheets

average
number found by adding up a group of values, and then dividing it by the number of values you added up; also called the mean

background
canvas that is displayed behind the cell contents of a worksheet

basic financial functions
main functions used for calculating loan installments, investment returns, net present value of capital investments, mortgage payment comparisons, and many more real-world applications

cell range
selection of rows or columns that is given a name to make it easier for the worksheet designer to find that specific group of cells later

Cell Style
tool that lets you select other font sizes and background colors

comparison operators
inequality symbols used in math; includes <, >, ≥, ≤, =, and <>

complex formula
one that uses several operators to calculate an output

Data Table
scenario-building tool in Excel that lets users choose a set of cells on the spreadsheet, and then outputs different solutions or forecasts depending on different scenarios

filter
tool in Excel that lets the user select certain criteria so that only data with that criteria is shown

Format Painter
tool that lets you copy a certain range's formatting and apply it to a new range

logical functions
long formulas with embedded logical tests that often use comparison operators to search for delimited data

MAX
function that finds the highest value in a dataset

MIN

function that finds the lowest value in a dataset

mixed cell reference
one that uses a combination of both relative and absolute cell references

order of operations
universal law of math used to prescribe the order of doing each calculation in an equation

PivotTable
tool in Excel that lets users create interactive charts and tables from raw datasets

relative cell reference
one in which the cell reference in a formula or function updates automatically to reference an adjacent cell when you copy that formula or function to another cell

standard deviation
common statistical tool used by many data analysts that calculates the variability of the figures in a dataset from the arithmetic mean

tracing dependent functions
finding the source of an error in a formula by finding any cells affected by the active cell

tracing precedent functions
finding the source of an error in a formula by locating the cells that provide the data to perform the calculation in the active cell

---

This page titled 10.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.8: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

10.1 Data Tables and Ranges

- Data Tables can be used for automatically generating multiple possible scenarios. This can be used to predict future outcomes, such as revenues, unit sales projections, installment payments, interest rate changes, and many other variables.
- Businesses need to construct complex datasets for their everyday control and management of the company. For that purpose, Excel has data ranges, which help the user define a name for a particular set of cells. This allows the user to use the given name of the data range instead of cell references.
- Arrays also simplify the complexity of huge worksheets, as they let the user autofill and compute multiple calculations simultaneously.

10.2 More About Formulas

- Businesses need spreadsheets to handle datasets that are updated every minute with information. Cell references, comparison operators, and array formulas can help analyze large sets of changing data.
- Complex equations need complex formulas to solve them. Excel formulas use the same math symbols as “pencil and paper” math and follow the same order of operations. An easy way to remember the order of operations is with the acronym PEMDAS.
- Cell references are needed in formulas and in constructing autofilled tables. There are three types of cell references: relative, absolute, and mixed. Relative cell references are when a cell copies its links to other cells relative to where it is located. Absolute cell references lock a reference to a specific cell, row, or column. Mixed cell references use both.
- Comparison operators are math inequalities used in Excel formulas. They use logical operators like the IF function to make your workbook pull information for you.
- Array formulas make simultaneous calculations, which saves time. They do the same operations that other default Excel functions do but allow the user to customize the calculation given the designed criteria in the formula.

10.3 Using Arithmetic, Statistical, and Logical Functions

- The tools introduced in this section will help you use and make sense of internal business data, such as client orders, invoice amounts, and machinery operative data. The arithmetic functions and statistical tools can give you an idea of the operations’ tendencies and cycles.
- The basic financial functions can be used to determine monthly or annual loan payments or the number of years needed to pay off a loan.
- Logical functions are used for making inferences or deductions. Many logical functions can be embedded within one another to create complex logical scenarios.

10.4 PivotTables

- Corporations need to analyze their datasets to produce metrics or insights. However, these datasets need to be organized and cleaned before they can be processed.
- A PivotTable is a tool that reads raw datasets. It has user-friendly drag-and-drop capabilities that can help organize the table information for the business.
- These PivotTables are malleable, as the user can rearrange the variables in different ways to generate entirely different data highlights.
- Visual representations of PivotTables can be generated using another Excel tool, PivotChart.

10.5 Auditing Formulas and Fixing Errors

- All organizations should use auditing formula techniques to double-check their datasets. Errors can occur in a variety of ways, from user error to cell reference errors.
- Running the Trace Precedents and Trace Dependents tools on a cell can diagram the problem with that formula or the information contained in that cell.
- Auditing formulas is a manageable process if you use the right tools. You need to specify the correct options in the Excel settings to be able to see all the error codes, and be aware of all the built-in error-checking tools Excel has to offer, such as the

Inquire add-in.

10.6 Advanced Formatting Techniques

- Using consistent branding and style throughout a company's documents is important for promoting professionalism. This can be achieved by using a company-wide branding or style manual.
- The Themes tool lets you change a formatting scheme throughout an entire workbook. You can further adjust the theme by using the Styles combo-box options.
- Excel lets you save time by copying a format using the Format Painter or the Paste Special method.

This page titled 10.8: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
What is one method to name data ranges?

a. On the Page Layout tab, use options in the Sheet Options command group.
b. Use the Formula Bar.
c. Press Ctrl+Shift+Enter.
d. On the Formulas tab, select Define Name in the Defined Names command group.

2 .
What is one example of a benefit of using Data Tables in your worksheet?

a. renaming a cell reference
b. reorganizing the values from large to small
c. adding an extra column on your table with results
d. autofilling and calculating multiple scenarios

3 .
Where is the Data Table tool?

a. on the Home tab in the Sort & Filter command group
b. on the Data tab under the What-If Analysis menu
c. on the Insert tab in the Charts command group
d. on the Formulas tab under Financial functions

4 .
What are the benefits of using data ranges in your worksheets?

a. You can autofill and compute scenarios.
b. You can simultaneously calculate different operations in different worksheets.
c. You can save time by not going back to search for named cells.
d. You can reorganize the data following different criteria.

5 .
Which comparison operator represents “not equal”?

a. <>
b. =/
c. >=
d. ><

6 .
What is a mixed cell reference?

a. when you combine cells together
b. when either the row or the column is fixed
c. an absolute cell reference
d. a relative cell reference

7 .
Which function is used to total a range based on a certain criteria?

a. COUNT
b. SUM
c. NPER
d. SUMIF

8 .
Identify the correct order for the PV function.

a. =pv(rate,nper,pmt,fv)

b. =pv(rate,nper,pmt,pv)
c. =pv(rate,nper,pv,fv)
d. =pv(rate,pmt,pv,fv)

9 .
What is a PivotTable?

a. a tool that derives information from raw data, which it processes in different arrangements depending on the variables the user chooses
b. a tool that autoformats your workbook by automatically changing the background canvas, fonts, and data types
c. a tool that defines the names of given ranges, so that you can use them for building formulas with certain cell references
d. a tool that automatically makes simultaneous calculations in one cell, yet needs you to design and write the formulas

10 .
What does the Recommended PivotTable tool provide?

a. The tool recommends and constructs a PivotTable with several variables based on your data.
b. The tool creates both a PivotTable and a PivotChart from the selected data.
c. The tool recommends PivotTable variables (i.e., headings) to be the leading data presented in one-dimensional tables.
d. The tool recommends appropriate formulas to analyze the data in the PivotTable.

11 .
Where do you select the headers you want to use in a PivotTable?

a. on the Insert tab in the Text command group
b. on the Data tab under What-If Analysis
c. in the PivotTable Field List after creating a PivotTable
d. on the Insert tab using the Insert PivotTable command

12 .
What is one reason you might audit a formula?

a. You would audit a formula if you get a negative number.
b. You would audit a formula to copy it to another cell.
c. You would audit a formula if your PivotTable is not formatting correctly.
d. You would audit a formula if you have an error such as #NUM! on the spreadsheet.

13 .
How does a user inspect if the current cell has input and/or output problems?

a. The user would use the Step In tool.
b. The user would use the Inquire add-in.
c. The user would use the Watch Window.
d. The user can run the Trace Precedents and Dependents tools.

14 .
How would you create a custom color in a theme?

a. A custom theme color is created using the Format Painter.
b. Choose cell styles from the Home tab.
c. On the Page Layout tab, choose Colors.
d. The custom color can be created using the Effects menu.

15 .
Where would you go to reformat a phone number?

a. the Format Cells tool in the Number command group on the Home tab
b. in the Page Layout menu in the Themes command group
c. using the Format Painter
d. using Cell Styles from the Home tab

This page titled 10.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

16 .

WorldCorp sells servers to small and medium technology companies. WorldCorp offers different features for each model of server, but the average unit price is $1,500. Last year, they sold 550 servers in the Fairfax, Virginia, area. The product VP wants to calculate a forecast of how much revenue the company will make depending on how many they sell in the coming year. Revenue is determined by multiplying the Price * Quantity Sold. The VP wants you to complete a table with the revenue outputs. The VP wrote these numbers on a paper, and gave it to you to put into Excel. Use these numbers (units sold) for your autofilled data table.

350
400
450
500
550
600
650
700

Price	$ 1,500
Quantity Sold	550
Revenue	$ 825,000

17 .

WorldCorp builds TVs, and the best-selling model is the E-900. As you can see in the table, each model has a different sales price. Define a data range in this exercise. Choose one that you think is appropriate. Describe the steps you had to follow.

Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold
E-900s	32	$ 170.00	8752
E-900m	42	$ 380.00	10563
E-900l	55	$ 550.00	9543
E-900xl	65	$ 780.00	4326

18 .

WorldCorp manufactures 32-inch LCD screens that cost them an average of $85 per unit. The COO wants to save money by decreasing the manufacturing cost per average unit and thus the total Costs of Good Sold (COGS). Total COGS is determined by Unit Cost * Quantity Sold. The COO has started a table of possible savings by decreasing the unit cost, but wants an analyst to finish the table. What Excel tool or combination of tools would you use for completing this table? Describe your process, then complete the table. Lastly, define the second table using a data range method learned in this chapter.

Unit Cost	$ 85
Quantity Sold	22,540
COGS	$ 1,915,900

(a)

	$ 70	$ 75	$ 80	$ 85
15,000				
17,500				
20,000				
25,000				

(b)

19 .

The WorldCorp sales team uses a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software to keep track of customer data. It tells them when they should call their customers again, how much the customer has ordered in the past, and other notes about the customer. The sales agents receive a salary, but if their customer orders are over $20,000, they are given an additional 5 percent commission. Use the information and the data in the figure to design a formula that can calculate the total commission the sales agent will receive and an overall total for commissions paid.

Table 10.1

Date	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	5% Commission for sales
3/29/2021	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00	$2,736.00
3/27/2021	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00	$3,552.00
3/22/2021	Headphones	542	$26,016.00	$10,140.00
3/21/2021	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00	$432.00
3/17/2021	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00	$480.00
3/15/2021	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00	$30,800.00
3/10/2021	Home Stereo Systems	74	$7,252.00	$10,920.00
3/7/2021	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00	$768.00
3/5/2021	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00	$18,240.00
1/13/2021	Plasma 65	$855.00	12	$10,260.00
1/13/2021	Headphones	$48.00	85	$4,080.00
1/15/2021	Headphones	$48.00	158	$7,584.00
1/17/2021	LCD 42	$380.00	55	$20,900.00
1/17/2021	Headphones	$48.00	115	$5,520.00
1/21/2021	Plasma 65	$855.00	11	$9,405.00
1/22/2021	Headphones	$48.00	15	$720.00
1/25/2021	LCD 42	$380.00	54	$20,520.00
1/27/2021	QLED 55	$620.00	10	$6,200.00
1/30/2021	LED 55	$550.00	10	$5,500.00
2/4/2021	LCD 32	$170.00	43	$7,310.00
2/7/2021	QLED 55	$620.00	15	$9,300.00
2/9/2021	OLED 45	$400.00	37	$14,800.00
2/11/2021	Plasma 65	$855.00	34	$29,070.00
2/15/2021	DLP 32	$250.00	97	$24,250.00
2/18/2021	LED 65	$780.00	54	$42,120.00
2/21/2021	LED 55	$550.00	21	$11,550.00
2/25/2021	LCD 42	$380.00	54	$20,520.00
2/27/2021	LCD 32	$170.00	14	$2,380.00

20 .

The Fairfax regional manager wants to know some Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) about their sales team. They need the average quantity sold, the top invoice, and the lowest invoice of all the sales agents. Use an array formula to figure out these metrics for each sales agent using the WorldCorp data.

Table 10.2

Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	5% Commission for sales
3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00	NO
3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00	YES
3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00	YES
3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00	NO
3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00	YES
3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00	YES
3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$7,252.00	NO
3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00	NO
3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00	YES

21 .

The Fairfax location’s regional manager wants to know the maximum of the units sold per order, and the minimum FOB $. Use functions to find these values.

Table 10.3

Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$
3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00
3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00
3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00
3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00
3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00
3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00
3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$7,252.00
3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00
3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00
Max Units				
Min $				

22 .

The Fairfax regional manager is comparing two customers. The manager wants to know when the units fall below the average for the customer and when the dollar per order is below the average. Use the Insert Function tool to find out which functions you can

use for this purpose, then calculate these values. If one of the customers is more variable than the other, use an IF function to tell the manager either if it's customer A or B.

Table 10.4

Customer A					
Date	**Port**	**Item Description**	**Quantity**	**Unique Quantity Code**	**FOB $**
1/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	15	PCS	$720.00
1/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	115	PCS	$5,520.00
1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	158	PCS	$7,584.00
1/13/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	85	PCS	$4,080.00
1/8/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	16	PCS	$768.00
1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	10	PCS	$480.00
1/3/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	9	PCS	$432.00
12/28/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	74	PCS	$3,552.00
12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	57	PCS	$2,736.00
Customer B					
Date	**Port**	**Item Description**	**Quantity**	**Unique Quantity Code**	**FOB $**
1/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	43	PCS	$2,064.00
1/15/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	39	PCS	$1,872.00
1/12/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	45	PCS	$2,160.00
1/9/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	38	PCS	$1,824.00
1/4/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	47	PCS	$2,256.00
12/27/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	31	PCS	$1,488.00
12/20/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	44	PCS	$2,112.00
12/18/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	34	PCS	$1,632.00
12/15/2020	Portland, ME	Headphones	35	PCS	$1,680.00

23 .

The WorldCorp Fairfax, Virginia, location has one client who purchased various TV technologies in 2021. The product manager for TVs wants to gather some metrics on which technology sells best for this customer, as well as the revenue per product type. Use the raw data in the "worldcorp_tv_data" tab of the downloadable Chapter 10 data file workbook to construct a PivotTable that shows the metrics according to what the product manager wants to see.

24 .

WorldCorp collects thousands of datasets every week. A large part of the managers' jobs is monitoring this data, and they cannot monitor it efficiently if a workbook has mistakes. See this figure for a current dataset with some #VALUE! errors. What does this #VALUE! error code mean? What would you recommend doing in the formula audit process? What are the tools you would use, and how would you do it? Explain.

Table 10.6

Operational Budget for the Fairfax, VA Manufacturing Plant			
Component	**Projected Cost**	**Actual Cost**	**Difference**
Direct Materials	$52,536,474.63	$56,436,363.00	$3,899,888.37
Direct Labor	$64,236,234.33	$67,436,356.00	$3,200,121.37
Manufacturing Overhead	$53,386,433.99	$52,453,476.00	#VALUE!
Maintenance	$535,252.00	$446,736.00	$(88,516.00)
Utility Services	$4,526,236.00	$5,736,363.00	$1,210,127.00
Administrative Costs	$4,256,236.00	$4,156,477.00	$(100,296.00)
Sales Costs	$7,755,674.64	$7,537,363.00	$(218,311.64)
Depreciation	$85,670.00	$86,845.00	$1,175.00
	$187,318,748.59	$137,853,616.00	#VALUE!

25 .

WorldCorp is buying an industrial robot that will pack small- to medium-sized consumer electronics in sealed plastic bags. The new machine will increase productivity because it will be faster than human workers. The financial manager is taking out a loan from the bank to pay for this machine; the loan will be paid out over the course of ten years. WorldCorp will pay 15 percent of the total cost up front, but the rest will be the principal for the loan. The total cost of the machine is $7,327,749. The interest rate is 5 percent. The manager has designed a repayment schedule, but clearly there are some mistakes in the table. How would you find the errors? Which tool would you use to fix them? Explain which tools you ultimately used to find and solve the errors.

Table 10.7

Year	Payment	Principal	Interest	Balance
1	$806,630.47	$495,201.13	$311,429.33	$5,733,385.52
2	$806,630.47	$519,961.19	$286,669.28	$5,213,424.32
3	$806,630.47	$545,959.25	$260,671.22	$4,667,465.07
4	$806,630.47	$1,040,003.72	$233,373.25	$3,627,461.35
5	$806,630.47	$625,257.40	$181,373.07	$3,002,203.95
6	$806,630.47	$656,520.27	$150,110.20	$2,345,683.69
7	$806,630.47	$(46,107,043.25)	$46,913,673.72	$48,452,726.93
8	$806,630.47	$(1,616,005.88)	$2,422,636.35	$50,068,732.81
9	$806,630.47	$(1,696,806.17)	$2,503,436.64	$51,765,538.99
10	$806,630.47	$(1,781,646.48)	$2,588,276.95	$53,547,185.47

26 .

Replicate the table in this figure using a Theme and Style of your choice. Explain your process step-by-step.

Average Percent Discount for Computer Servers												
	Discount Rates											
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average % discount	0.5%	2%	3.5%	2.5%	4.15%	4.28%	5.32%	2.87%	1.8%	5%	12%	15%

This page titled 10.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

27 .
What are the main differences between a cell range and an array?
28 .
How is a Data Table different from a spreadsheet? Explain the objectives of using a Data Table.
29 .
Why is the order of operations important? What role does it play when writing your formulas in Excel? Explain.
30 .
What is the difference between using array formulas and simply using a function?
31 .
When working with large datasets, what can go wrong?
32 .
Explain the purpose of using the IF function in dataset analysis.
33 .
What sort of complications can arise from a client with highly fluctuating unit orders? How is the standard deviation useful in this case?
34 .
What is the benefit of the drag-and-drop interface of PivotTables?
35 .
How should the raw source data of a PivotTable be formatted? Explain why.
36 .
Describe how to determine what kind of PivotTable variables you can use in a graph.
37 .
Why would formulas need to be audited?
38 .
Why is it important to install the Inquire add-in *before* doing any precedents and dependents diagrams?
39 .
Describe the purpose of using the Watch Window.
40 .
What is the difference between using the Themes tool and formatting a set of tables by copying the formatting? Explain.
41 .
Why would you need to create your own theme?
42 .
Why is formatting important?

This page titled 10.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

10.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

43 .

This video introduces crop budgets in the state of Nebraska. This crop budget monitoring is done by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and they have all the input costs that go into producing the crop yield. You can download the datasets by visiting the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's website. Download any of their current year crop budgets in Excel format.

A.

Copy and paste the Materials tab into a new workbook.

B.

Create a PivotTable from this data to examine the Applied Price (total) by Category.

C.

Insert a PivotChart for the data.

D.

Write a short summary of the data set.

This page titled 10.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

11: Advanced Excel Spreadsheets- Statistical and Data Analysis

11.0: Chapter Scenario
11.1: Understanding Data, Data Validation, and Data Tables
11.2: Statistical Functions
11.3: What-If Analysis
11.4: PivotTables/Charts
11.5: Data Analysis Charts
11.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms
11.7: Chapter Review - Summary
11.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions
11.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
11.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions
11.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 11: Advanced Excel Spreadsheets- Statistical and Data Analysis is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.0: Chapter Scenario

As with many corporations, at WorldCorp there is a need to share information internally across various business functions, such as marketing, accounting, and operations. This could include information about current customers and their purchasing patterns or price changes in shipping cost over the last five years. This type of information can then be used by each department to evaluate their performance or to identify opportunities. The data used by each group might vary and the analysis will also differ based on the needs of the department. The information gathered internally might also be shared with external stakeholders in the business, such as customers or investors. Data shared with external entities could include shipping volume per customer or overall profit calculations for key investors in the business.



Figure 11.1: Using the advanced tools in Excel can help businesses evaluate the effectiveness of their social media marketing efforts. (credit: modification of "Group of Women gathered inside Conference Room" by Christina Morillo/Pexels, CC0)

Microsoft Excel can facilitate data analysis at various levels within WorldCorp and for external audiences. It is a useful tool for assisting management with decision making and to understand the business at a higher level. Excel's advanced tools facilitate the management, interpretation, and presentation of data critical to managing a business or an organization.

This page titled 11.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.1: Understanding Data, Data Validation, and Data Tables

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the different types of data
- Define data validation and describe the different techniques for validating data
- Construct a Data Table for a dataset

Data can come in a variety of forms. It can fit into specific categories, or it can be more general in nature. We can collect data in different ways, such as through instruments like a thermometer or through an open-ended survey. Regardless of the type of data and how it is collected, the information is useless without analysis. Data analysis is a powerful tool that can guide key strategic decisions. Businesses rarely make important decisions without some data analysis to support them. A key step in the analysis process is ensuring the reliability and validity of data. A business can then use various techniques to understand the information better. Microsoft Excel provides several tools to make that process a bit easier for the business decision maker.

Business analytics is one career field that uses extensive Excel skills. This field focuses on careful analysis of data to provide insights and recommendations to the management team on ways to monitor and improve performance. The soft skills needed in this field include critical thinking, analytical thinking, problem solving, attention to detail, and communication. The business analyst must dig deeper into data by asking the "why" questions and then be able to clearly communicate their findings to colleagues who may not know the terminology and techniques. The vast amount of data in today's business world creates a high demand for these positions. Over the next decade, the number of jobs in the field is expected to grow over 10 percent with the positions commanding salaries over $80,000 per year.[1] Even if you choose to take a different path in your career, learning these skills can greatly increase your value to an organization.

What Is Data?

To analyze data, let's examine the various forms that data can take and how to collect and organize it. In essence, data consists of facts or information that can be used for reference, performance monitoring, and/or analysis. For example, data can be collected about online purchasing habits to monitor the market share performance of select brands. A business can then analyze the data to reveal trends such as the purchasing habits of certain demographic groups.

Businesses use many methods to collect data. One common approach is using surveys, which can collect a wide variety of information. Also, with today's technology, surveys can often reach a large audience by using email or social media distribution. Businesses also often have a lot of data stored in both internal and external databases. Internal databases consist of information a company has collected itself, such as customer demographic information, past purchases, or frequency of purchases. WorldCorp's internal database includes key contact information for each of their customers, order sizes and frequency of orders, and payment history. External databases are collected by data providers. Often, a business can purchase this data from a provider to obtain information on market demographics, competitor products, and industry statistics. Many sources of compiled data can be accessed for free. U.S. Census data, available at the United States Census Bureau website, is one example. This site provides a lot of varied information on U.S. residents, such as education levels and median incomes. The data can be filtered based on specific criteria, such as location. WorldCorp can use this census data to identify and evaluate new locations for warehouses. They can use the data to determine if a particular city has the employee base needed to open the new warehouse and what the salary ranges in the region are (Figure 11.2).

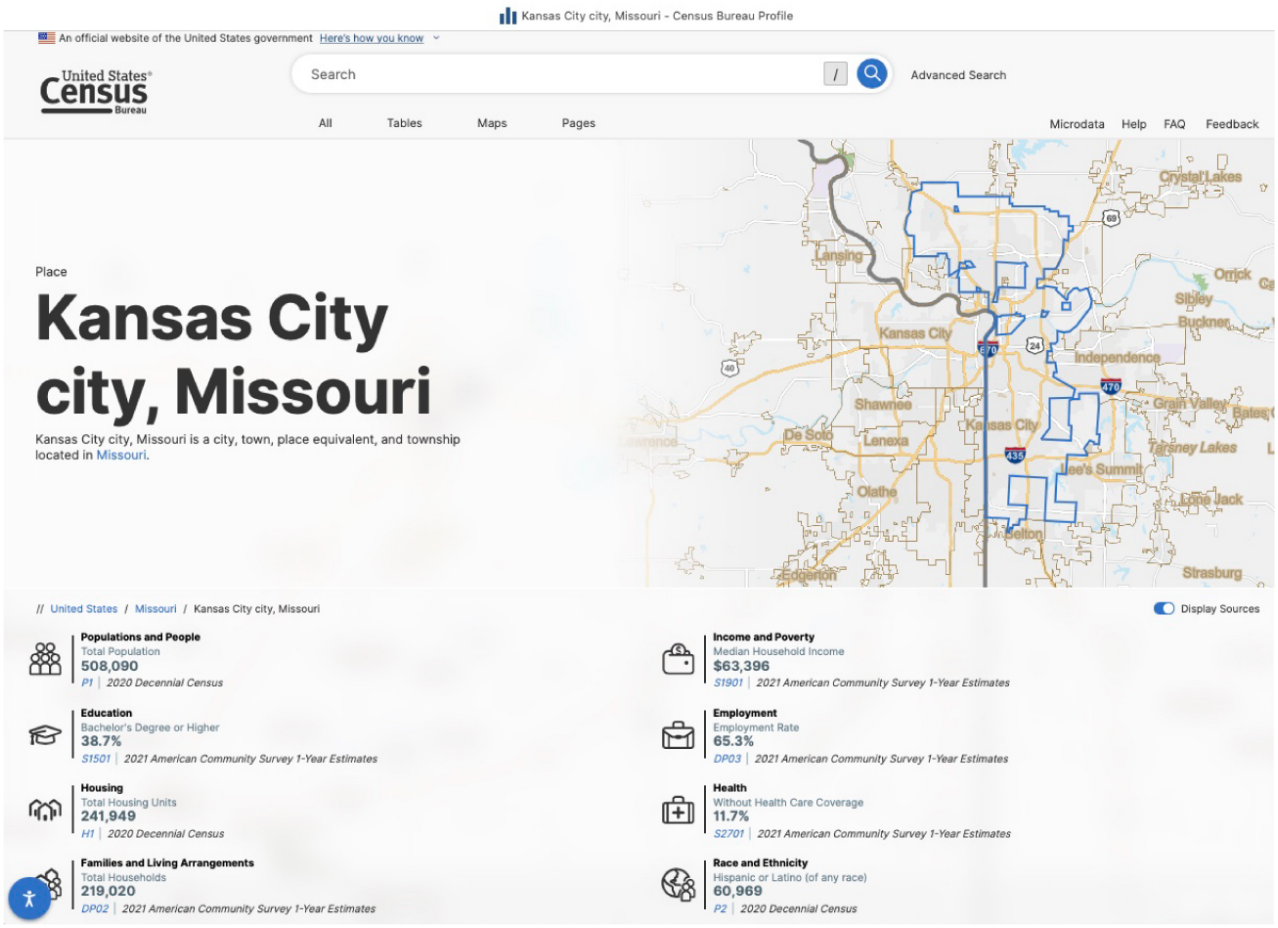


Figure 11.2: Using census data can help you gather a good deal of detailed information about a geographic location.

Interviews and focus groups are also methods for collecting data such as customer preferences for a product or for understanding the impact of price changes, but they do not provide as much data for deep analysis. Excel is better suited for numerical information. However, some information from interviews and focus groups can be transformed into quantitative data. For example, if you ask potential customers if they would still purchase a product if the price increased by 5 percent or a certain dollar amount, you could record the number (or percentage of respondents) who replied yes and no to that question. Both methods can be time intensive and generally provide information that is more exploratory in nature.

The information gathered from interviews or focus groups can often help data analysts determine the appropriate data they might need for a more in-depth analysis. The information about a price change could then be further explored with more research to determine at what point a price increase becomes too much and the customer will no longer purchase the product.

Spotlight on Ethics - Is Your Information Safe Online?

Database marketing is a business strategy that uses information collected on consumers to better market their products or services to them. This could include collecting information from people's online activities or buying information collected by marketing research firms on their purchasing habits. User data and information about online activities is collected at an astonishing rate.[2] All of this available data brings up valid concerns related to privacy and protecting your information from unlawful activities. What's more, many people often provide sensitive information freely, such as when completing online surveys or taking social media quizzes that often are designed to determine usernames and passwords. In 2019, nearly fifteen million people were the victims of identity fraud. Some strategies to protect yourself include using strong passwords and changing them often, only visiting trusted sites, using prepaid cards for online transactions, and hiding personal information when you can. You will also want to avoid providing personal information unless absolutely necessary and be mindful of how you use the sites you visit.

Once data is collected, it can be grouped into two broad categories: qualitative and quantitative. The first category, qualitative data, is categorical information that does not include numbers, or if it does include numbers, those numbers do not have a true mathematical meaning. For example, a question on a class evaluation survey could ask the mode of delivery for the course and could be as follows: 1 – in person, 2 – online, or 3 – hybrid. The numbers in this case do not have a meaning; instead, they are placeholders to indicate the category you select. However, because Excel cannot analyze text information, converting the categories to numbers allows for some analysis of this qualitative data. Other qualitative data can be in the form of text that includes statements of opinion. For example, a customer review that reads "This product is wonderful!" is a qualitative assessment of the product.

The second category, quantitative data, involves numerical evaluations. It could include numerical expressions of opinions but also could be facts such as the cost of a specific product. Along with a glowing qualitative review of a product, a customer could also provide a rating of five on a scale of one to five. In this example, the same assessment, the customer's opinion of the product, can be expressed in both qualitative and quantitative terms. This is similar in concept to what you might see for a product rating on an e-commerce site. A buyer can give a product five stars and add some textual comments about their experience with the product.

Quantitative data can be further classified as discrete or continuous. Information that can only take on a specific set of values is called discrete data. For example, the number of customers in a store is discrete information. You cannot have a portion of a customer. So, the number of customers in the store is restricted to certain values, in this case, whole numbers. Discrete data is counted. In contrast, continuous data is information that is measured and can take on an infinite set of values. For example, you could weigh yourself at home on a digital scale that only measures to one-tenth of a pound (i.e., 132.7 lbs.). Your doctor might have a more precise scale that will display your weight in hundredths of a pound (i.e., 132.65 lbs.). There is an infinite range to which the data can be reported, and it is constrained by the measurement device.

Data is grouped by the level of measurement represented by the information. There are four categories of measurement into which all data can be placed: nominal, ordinal, interval, and ratio. The nominal level of measurement is the lowest level of analysis. With nominal data, the information can only be placed in categories. No category is more important than another, and the categories cannot be placed in any logical order. One example of nominal data is marital status. With four possible answers (single, married, divorced, or widowed), every response can be placed into one of the four categories.

The next level of measurement is ordinal. At this level, data is placed into categories, but then those categories can be put in order. Ordinal data gives the company more information than nominal data does, but there is still not enough information for an in-depth analysis. The distance between the levels of the categories is not defined, but one category is of a higher order than another. A typical example is an opinion scale, often referred to as a Likert scale (Figure 11.3). As a company, you know that you want customers to be Very Satisfied as opposed to Unsatisfied. WorldCorp often uses this scale to get feedback on the customers' interactions with sales agents. They can then rank the responses to determine which sales agents are ranked higher than others. But what you do not know is the degree of difference between Very Satisfied and Unsatisfied.


How satisfied are you with...

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied	Very unsatisfied
The responsiveness of the sales agent	○	○	○	○	○
The service you received	○	○	○	○	○
Our company overall	○	○	○	○	○

Figure 11.3: A Likert scale is used to gather ordinal data that can be analyzed.

Link to Learning

Organizations often use surveys to gather data to inform their organizational and business practices. For instance, a business might send out a satisfaction survey to their clients. Or they might survey employees regarding their work preferences. Regardless of the purpose, you will need to write questions and provide options for responses that will capture exactly the

information you need to answer the questions you are asking. Read this article from Survey Monkey regarding how to craft effective survey questions to learn more.

The last two levels are interval and ratio. Both allow data to be put into categories (nominal) and establish an order of the categories (ordinal), but now quantitative data is added so that the difference between each category is defined. The key difference between interval and ratio is how they treat a value of zero. With the interval level, zero acts as a placeholder rather than representing the value of zero, or the absence of something. One example is a survey question in which zero represents a neutral response. In this case, the respondent has no strong feelings either way on the question being asked. In contrast, with the ratio level of measurement, zero takes on the value of zero. If your product sold zero units this week, there was an absence of sales for the product. Understanding the differences between these levels of measurement can help you determine the best strategy to analyze the data you have collected. Figure 11.4 summarizes the levels of measurement.

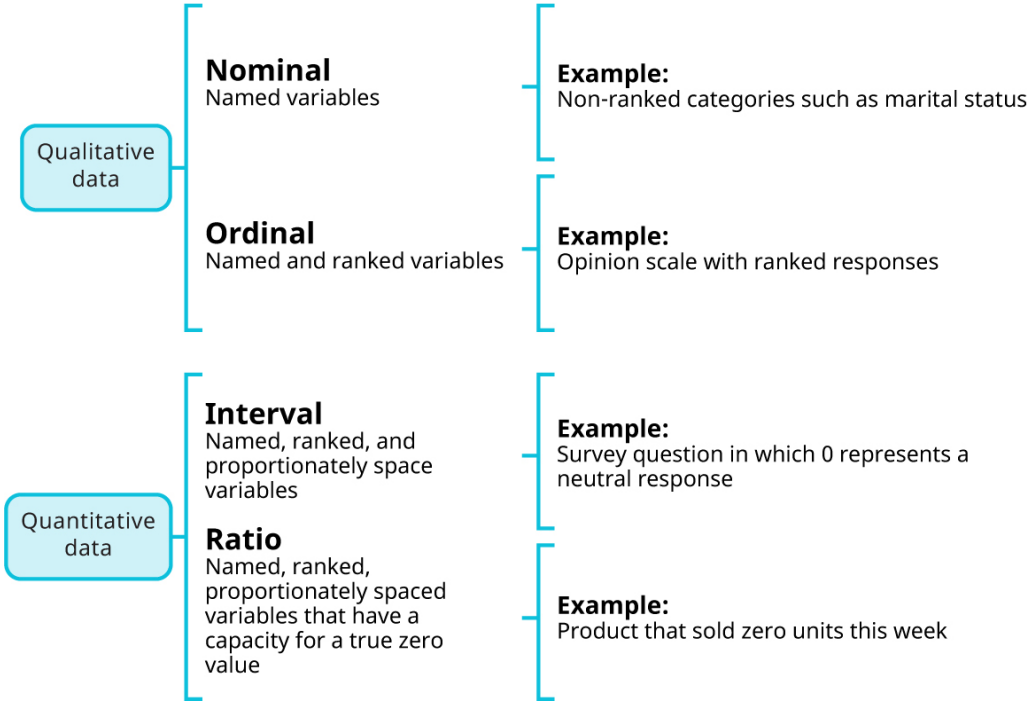


Figure 11.4: The levels of measurement differentiate data based on the depth of analysis possible.

Categorical Data

Nominal and ordinal data make up categorical data, which is grouped into categories based on attributes or characteristics. Categorical data is considered qualitative data. The data can be represented with numbers; however, those numbers do not have a mathematical meaning. Some examples would be gender, marital status, or employment status (see Figure 11.4). Numbers can be assigned to these categories to make analysis possible with Excel, but those assignments are arbitrary. For example, you could represent full-time employment with the number 1 and unemployment with a 0. The same analysis could happen if the numbers were 2 and 4. There is no mathematical meaning behind the assigned numbers.

An advantage of using categorical data is that you can capture assessments of behaviors, opinions, and emotions. These concepts are not quantifiable, but using categorical data, you can assess and analyze these concepts to better understand the situation at hand. A disadvantage of categorical data is that deeper analysis using statistical methods may not be possible. Categorical data is often represented in a table format and graphically displayed with pie charts or bar charts. The data is most often analyzed through percentages in each of the categories of interest.

Numerical Data

The interval and ratio levels of measurement are numerical data. Numerical data is quantitative data and represents measures of variables, and it can either be discrete or continuous. The key feature is that the numbers have mathematical meaning with respect to the attribute or variable being evaluated. For example, a manager could determine the distance between two office locations in

miles to determine the mileage reimbursement for employees traveling between the two sites. Other examples include the length of time waiting for a table at a restaurant, the amount of money spent by a customer at a particular shop, or the fuel efficiency of a vehicle (Figure 11.5). The advantage of using numerical data is that you can do in-depth analysis with statistics and use the data to develop predictions for future performance. This could be helpful for a business to forecast sales in the next quarter or predict expenses for the next year. Numerical data can be graphed using scatter plots and histograms. The data can be analyzed using various statistical methods. These could include mean, mode, median, standard deviation, and regression modeling.

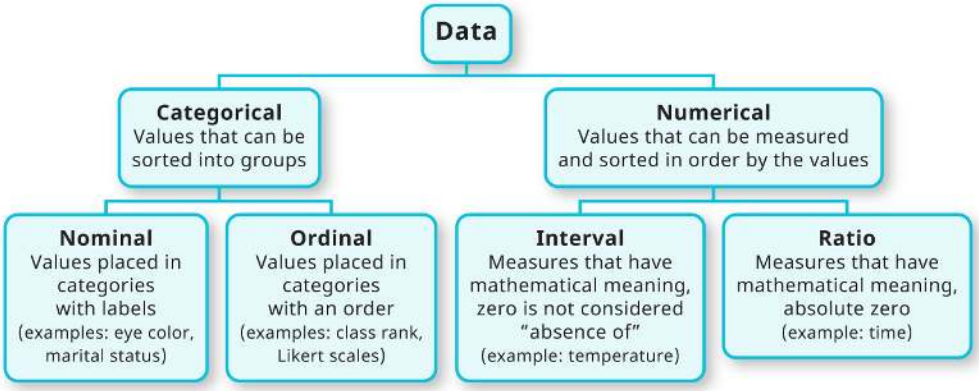


Figure 11.5: Categorical data can be used for behaviors and emotions. Numerical data is used for more objective information such as distances or sales figures.

What Is Data Validation?

Data validation is another technique that can be used to verify data. In essence, data validation is the process of ensuring that the data values fall within a predetermined range. For example, if you know that there are only fifteen sales agents at WorldCorp, you can use data validation to make sure that the values assigned to various sales transactions in the monthly sales data spreadsheet are only whole numbers from 1 through 15. Data validation can also be used to ensure that product codes for the HDTVs sold by WorldCorp are accurately entered into the spreadsheet.

Two components are often used to ensure you are working with quality data: data verification and benchmarking. The process that ensures your data is accurate and reliable is called data verification. It is important to check the accuracy because if the data is not valid, then any analysis using that data will also be invalid, which could lead to critical mistakes if key strategic business decisions are based on the inaccurate data. WorldCorp could use data verification to ensure that product codes or prices are entered correctly into the spreadsheet used by the accounting department. You can imagine the issues that could arise if the price entered is incorrect. WorldCorp could be charging customers incorrectly for the product, which could lead to issues with both internal recordkeeping and external customer relations.

There are several approaches to checking the validity of your data. One way is to check the data that has been inputted in the spreadsheet against the original paper copy of the data. You could also use benchmarking, a tool that checks the validity of your data with similar datasets or a set standard. Benchmarking involves checking specific values such as price points or sales projections against known standards. These known standards could be from competitors or from established company goals. Sometimes, standards are set by government organizations as well. WorldCorp could use benchmarking to evaluate their product shipping speeds and costs versus that of their closest competitor. If their competitor ships products faster and at a cheaper price, WorldCorp might decide to investigate the impact of lowering their prices. Benchmarking can also be used to measure how your company's sales are growing versus that of your competitors. Benchmarking against industry-wide data is also commonly used when assessing the performance. The benchmarking process can help a company determine where there might be gaps in performance compared with the competition or ways to enhance their position in the marketplace.

The Process and Techniques of Data Validation

Data validation techniques can be used to ensure that quality information is being used in decision making. Errors can occur when inputting data into the spreadsheet. Data can be entered in the cell incorrectly, data can be accidently duplicated, or numbers can be transposed. Through data validation, many of these common errors can be identified and then the user can correct those errors as appropriate. Data validation can also be used as a part of ongoing process improvement efforts in conjunction with benchmarks

from key competitors or industry values. The tools available in Excel for data validation help ensure that your data has as few errors as possible and check business performance against internal standards or competitors.

Spotlight on Ethics - Keeping Accurate Data

Professional ethics dictates that businesses keep accurate and up-to-date information and data; this includes information they may collect with consent from clients and internal business information, as well as information they may create and consume in their interactions with external stakeholders across all platforms, including in spreadsheets where much of their financial information will likely be found. As such, quality data is accurate data and businesses can incorporate a number of ways to ensure data is recorded accurately, such as using Excel's data validation capabilities. Data validation simply means we have a process in place to ensure the information is entered correctly and that it is appropriately checked to ensure it is both accurate and useful. For instance, businesses can ensure employees use effective and accurate data entry practices, such as shortcuts, AutoFill, and drop-down menus.

In addition, Excel can also restrict what content is input in certain cells to ensure it is correct—for instance, you can use data validation to have Excel reject an entry of 000-000-0000 as a valid phone number. In Excel, you would enter this validation criteria in data validation settings (Data tab, Data Validation, then select Settings). You can also prompt the person entering the data with an input message, giving them instructions to enter specific information in a cell.

Data Validation

The process of validating data is made easier with Excel. There are several ways to customize the validation processes to meet specific needs. One simple validation approach is removing duplicates. You access this tool through the Data tab. This function is helpful if you are unsure whether there are duplicate entries in your data.

Consider an example in which there are twenty employees at WorldCorp's warehouse location in Portland and each of those employees has a unique company identification number. In a spreadsheet keeping track of the number of days of vacation remaining for the year for each employee, you would not expect to have more than one line per employee. For a dataset of only twenty employees, it would be easy to identify a duplicate entry. But what if your company had two thousand employees? This could take a good bit of time to manually identify duplicates.

To remove duplicates from your data, first open the spreadsheet that you want to examine. Click on the Data tab and then on the Remove Duplicates tool (Figure 11.6).

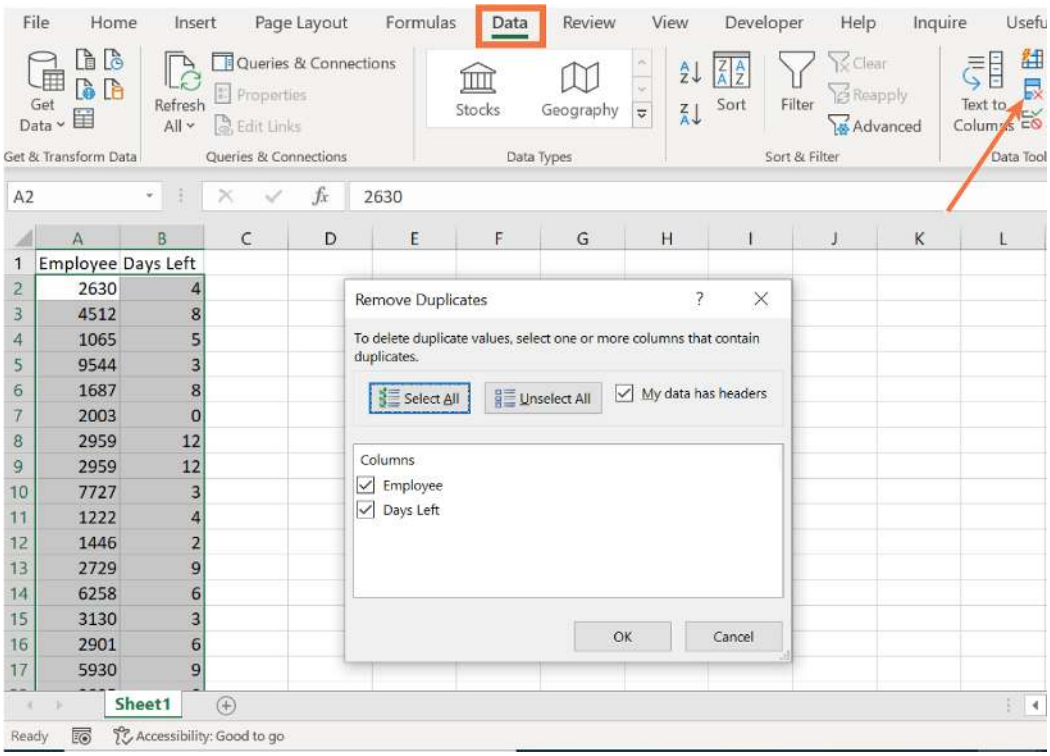
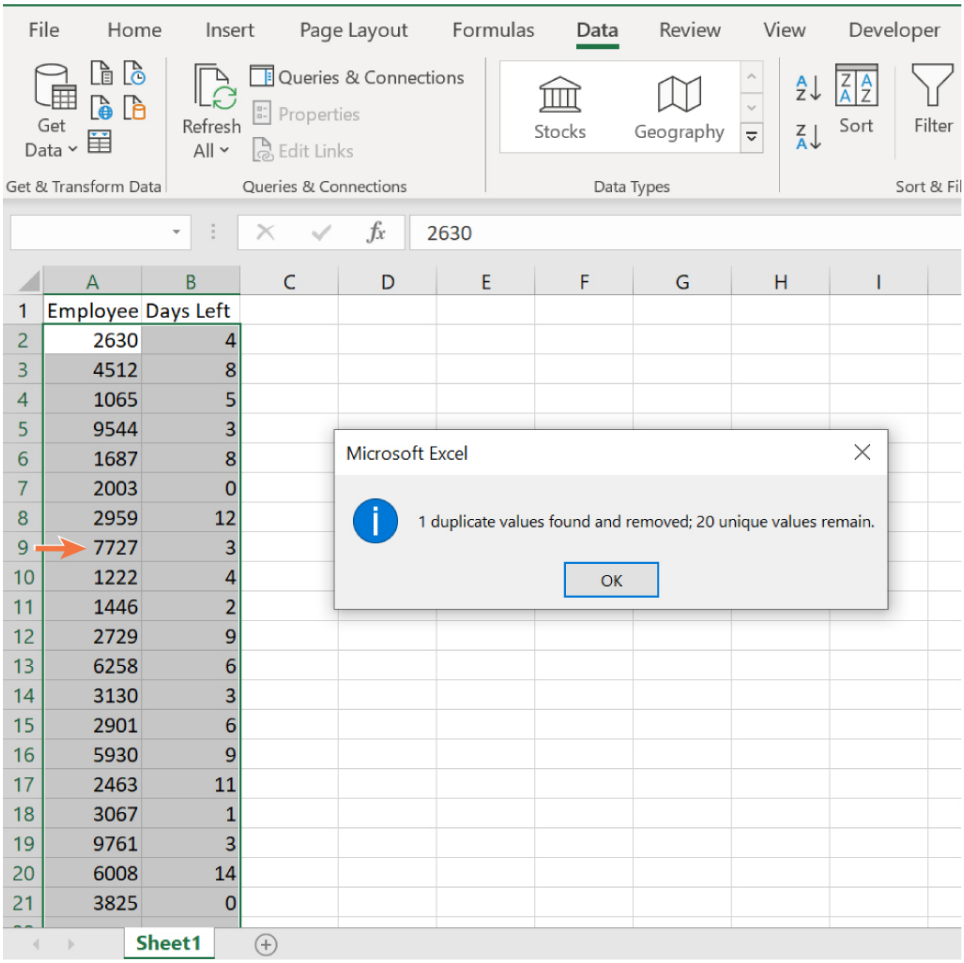


Figure 11.6: The Remove Duplicates dialog box allows you to choose the data from which you need to remove the duplicates. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The dialog box that opens has several options. First, ensure that the box next to “My data has headers” is checked if your data has a header row, as shown in Figure 11.6. Then, choose which columns you want to check for duplicates. In this case, you will check both columns for rows that have duplicate data in both. The removal of the duplicate information in this example requires checking both columns and only occurs if both columns have duplicate information. You can check only one column if desired as well. In this example, though, you choose both columns because the information is grouped by rows. Thus, the Employee number is matched up with their days of vacation left.

After you’ve chosen the data to check, click OK. Notice that employee number 2959 (rows 8 and 9) appears twice, with the same number of days left. Excel will remove one of these entries. If you had only selected the first column, Excel would delete any rows that had duplicate information in Column A, regardless of the content of Column B. For this reason, you need to be careful to ensure that your criteria will not unintentionally delete too much data. Once the tool has finished removing duplicates in the selected data, Excel will notify you of the number of duplicates that were removed from the selection and indicate how many unique values remain (Figure 11.7).



	A	B
1	Employee	Days Left
2	2630	4
3	4512	8
4	1065	5
5	9544	3
6	1687	8
7	2003	0
8	2959	12
9	7727	3
10	1222	4
11	1446	2
12	2729	9
13	6258	6
14	3130	3
15	2901	6
16	5930	9
17	2463	11
18	3067	1
19	9761	3
20	6008	14
21	3825	0

Figure 11.7: The Remove Duplicates tool removed Employee 2959, who appeared twice in the data, from row 9. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Further validation of data can be accomplished using Excel's Data Validation tool accessed through the Data tab in the Data Tools command group. This tool checks a selection of data to determine if it falls within a specific range of numbers.

There are several options available with the Data Validation tool. You can set the tool to check the data within a certain date range, to verify if all numbers are whole numbers, or to check for all positive numbers. You can also create a drop-down list of options from which the user can choose. Additionally, you can set the tool to display an error message when a data point does not meet the criteria you have established.

How to Add Data Validation

Adding data validation means that you are requiring that a dataset meet certain specifications to be deemed valid. If these specifications are not met, the formula will not work. To demonstrate how to add data validation, you'll go back to the example of employee vacation days.

In the spreadsheet, first select the data (B2:B21) you want to examine. Do not select the column headers when selecting the data. Only select/highlight the numerical information. Next, click on the Data tab and choose the Data Validation tool (Figure 11.8). The Data Validation window will open. Once open, there are three tabs available.

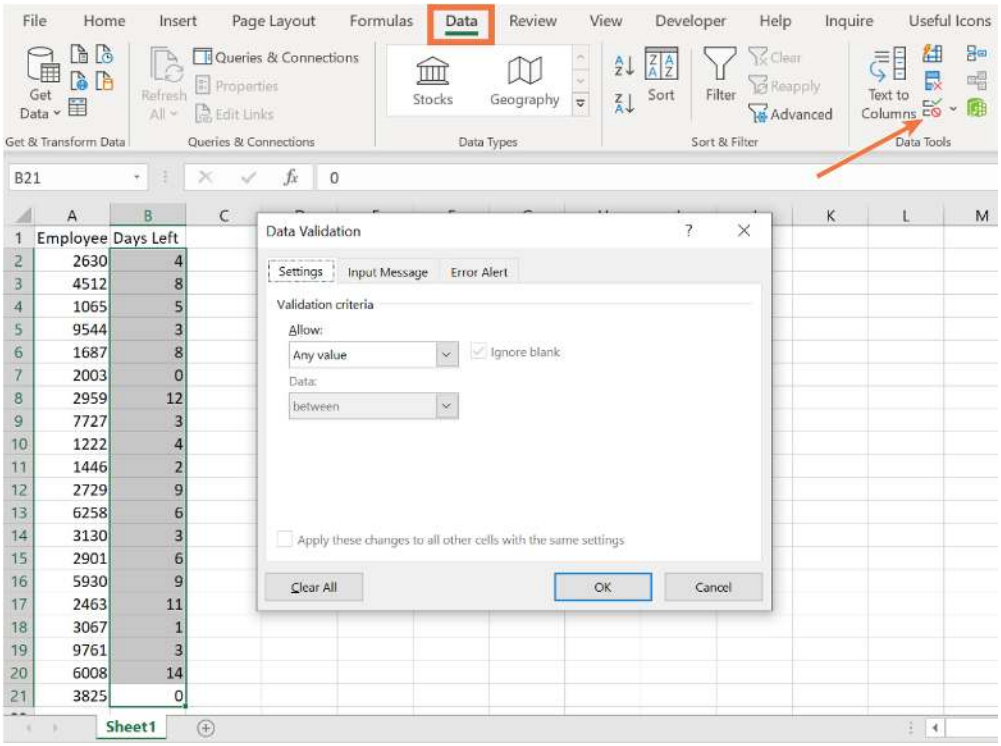


Figure 11.8: When using the Data Validation tool, first select the data and then choose the tool from the Data Tools command group. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Settings tab allows you to set parameters/ranges for the data validation. Assume that each employee is allocated two weeks (or 14 days) of paid vacation per year. This simple spreadsheet shows the number of vacation days remaining for each of the employees. Make sure that all entries are from 0 through 14. Using the Settings tab, change the value box under Allow to indicate a whole number (Figure 11.9). Then, under Data, choose “less than or equal to” and enter 14 in the Maximum box. Examine the other options available under Data. You could choose to have the number fall between two values. You could select greater than, greater than or equal to, and not between two values. The many choices will accommodate most data validation needs.

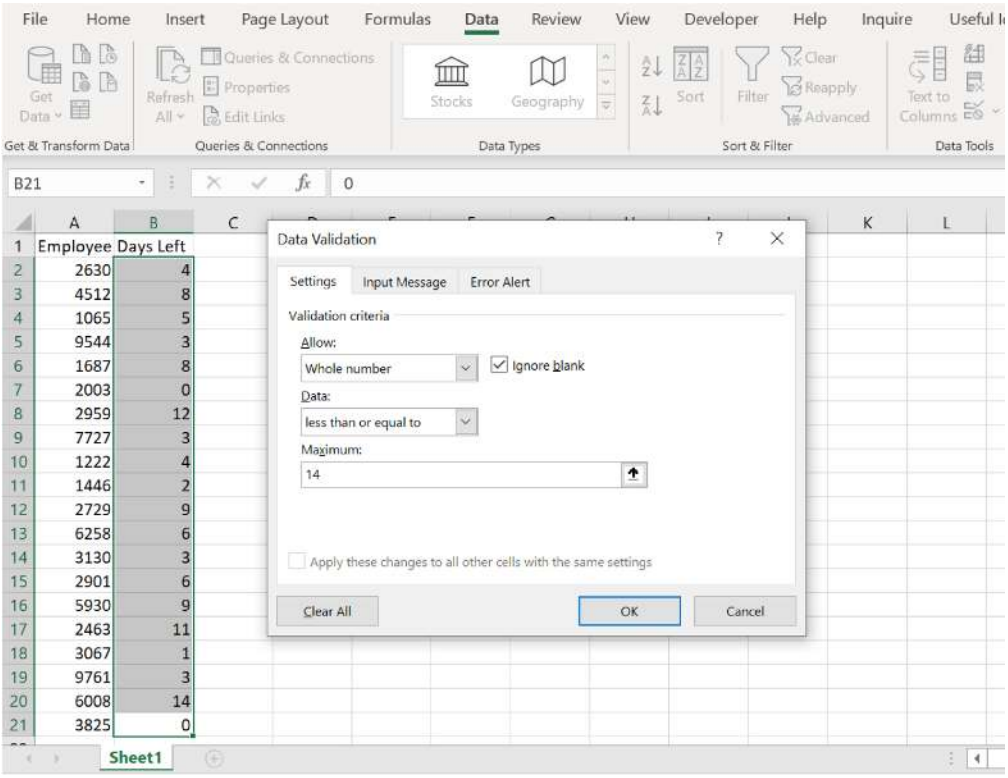


Figure 11.9: Use the Allow and Data fields to change the parameters of the data validation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next, go to the Input Message tab. This is used to show a message to a user of a spreadsheet when they click in a cell to add data. For example, this message could indicate that the number must fall within a certain range. This is particularly useful if you have multiple users for an Excel spreadsheet.

Finally, the Error Alert tab will display a message to the user when they have entered an invalid entry. There are three different types of errors available. The Stop error gives you the option only to retype an entry or cancel. The Warning error allows the user to add an entry that is not in the predetermined list. Finally, the Information error simply states to the user that the entry does not match the validation rules, but the entry is still allowed. When an entry triggers an error, a small green triangle will appear in the upper-left corner of the cell. Clicking on the triangle will show what caused the error. Finally, you have the option to not display an error alert at all. By selecting this checkbox, all entries are permitted.

Once the parameters and messages are established in the previous steps, click OK. Now, using those settings, Excel can check the data. Under the Data Validation tool, click on the small down arrow to the right of the button to open the additional options. Select Circle Invalid Data. You then will see all data that does not meet the established criteria circled in orange (Figure 11.10).

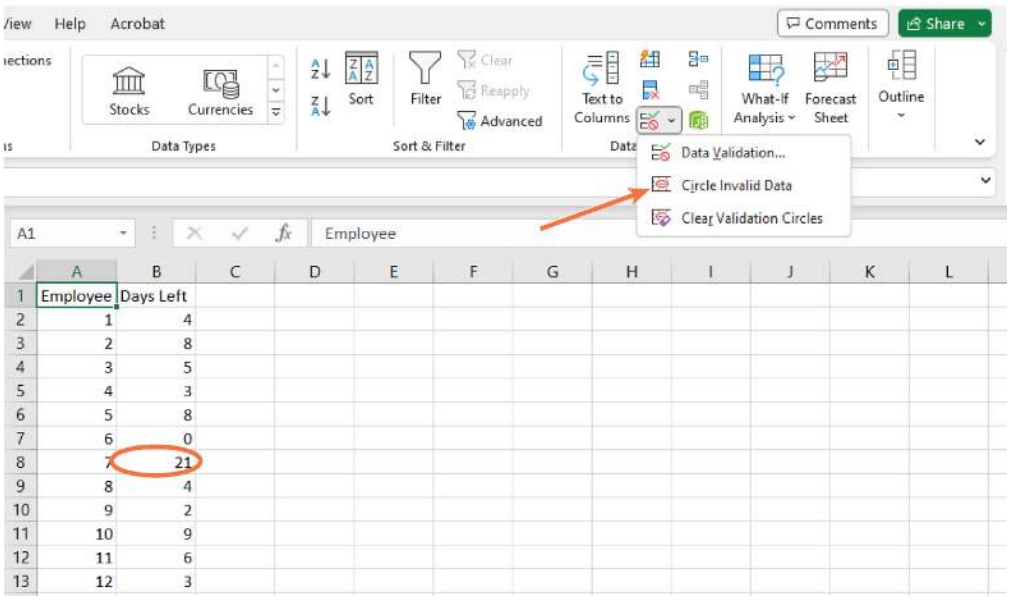


Figure 11.10: You input the settings for validating data with data validation. Then, to do the validation, choose "Circle Invalid Data." The circle is placed around data that does not meet the parameter of the data validation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can clear the circles by clicking on Clear Validation Circles. To remove data validation entirely, select the Data Validation tool, and in the lower left, choose Clear All. This will clear the validation rules from the cells. Here are the general steps for using the Data Validation tool to find invalid data:

1. Highlight the desired data (include only numbers, not text).
2. Click on the Data tab and select the Data Validation tool.
3. Set the parameters for the validation under the Settings tab.
4. Set an input message if desired.
5. Set an error alert message if desired.
6. Click OK.
7. Choose Circle Invalid Data under the Data Validation tool to identify data that does not meet the parameters established in Step 3.

Data Validation List

Creating a data validation list is a convenient way to ensure that only specific values are entered into a spreadsheet. The user chooses the appropriate response from a predetermined set of values, which can be numbers or text. This assures that only acceptable values will be entered into the spreadsheet. For example, let's add a column to the employee spreadsheet that indicates the employee's location. Suppose the company has three different locations: North, East, and South. The management team may want to review staffing at the various locations when vacation time is used, so this column might provide helpful information for scheduling purposes.

To create a data validation list, first click in an empty cell on the spreadsheet. Then, access the Data Validation tool. On the Settings tab under Allow, choose List. In the Source, you have two options. You can input text or values into the box separated by commas (Figure 11.11a), or if you have the list already in the named range, you can reference the named range in the Source box (Figure 11.11b). By using the cell range reference, the drop-down list is dynamic and will update if you change the source list. This is often the preferred method unless it is certain that the options will remain the same.

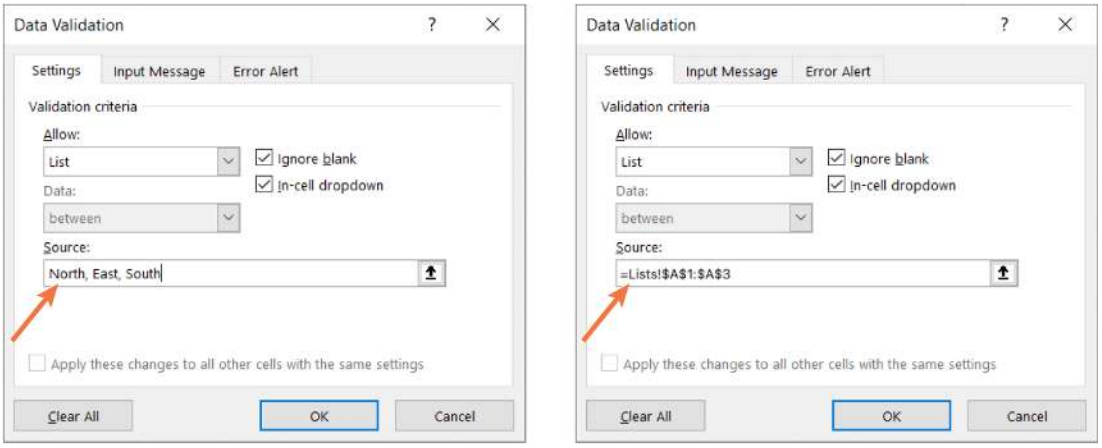


Figure 11.11: When establishing a data validation list, you can (a) directly enter the text or values, but it is preferred to use (b) cell references so that the drop-down list is dynamic. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Either method will give the user a drop-down list to choose from when inputting information into the spreadsheet (Figure 11.12). If the list needs to be copied to other cells, it can be copied using the Paste Special technique (see Essentials of Software Application for Business).

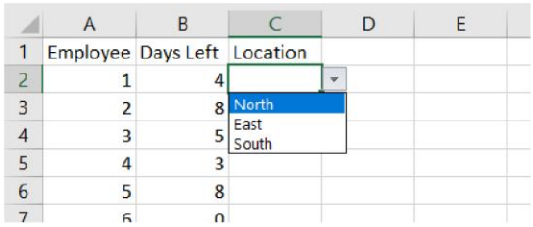


Figure 11.12: The drop-down list will show the text from the data validation list so the user can choose from the permitted values. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Custom Data Validation Rules

If there are specific validation needs that are not covered by the existing built-in choices in data validation, you can create a custom data validation rule. This allows you to set your own parameters for the cells. Open the Data Validation tool and in the Allow drop-down menu, choose Custom. This offers a great deal of flexibility to use formulas and functions in data validation. You can use any of the available functions for data validation, even those that look at text or characters. Using data validation to look at text or characters could help you identify product codes or city names that were spelled incorrectly.

Using the employee vacation list, let's add the employee names to the data. Create a column called Name. To ensure that only textual information is entered into the cell, you will use the custom data validation option. Open the Data Validation tool. Select Custom. In the Formula Bar of the window, use the ISTEXT function to restrict the entries to text data only (Figure 11.13). You can also add an input message and error alert if desired. Click OK.

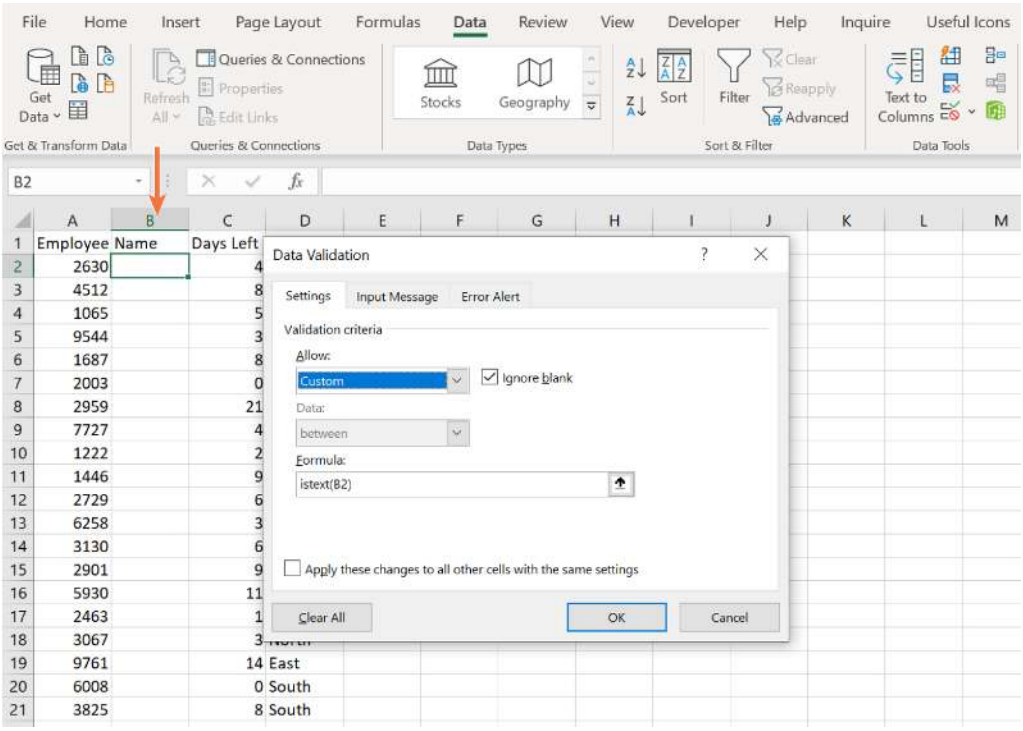


Figure 11.13: Data validation can be set to ensure that only text is input into a cell or group of cells. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If the user tries to enter a number in the cell and you have enabled error alerts, an alert message will appear. Other custom data validation rules include not allowing any punctuation, restricting entries to not exceed a certain total, or entering data within a specified range.

The custom data validation rule option helps to ensure the accuracy of data entered based on scenarios that are appropriate to your specific application. These options are useful when creating spreadsheets that have multiple users. Data quality issues can be mitigated by setting up validation rules or adding drop-down lists. Data validation along with other skills, such as protecting sheets or cells, can be critical to maintaining the integrity of the spreadsheet and the data analysis built from the information in the spreadsheet.

Editing Validation Rules

To edit existing validation rules, first identify the cells where data validation rules are located. To do this, on the Home tab, go to Find & Select on the far right side of the tab, and choose the down arrow. When the menu appears, choose Data Validation. This will highlight all cells that have data validation rules. To view the parameters of that rule, simply click in one of the highlighted cells. Then, go to the Data Validation tool. The tool window will appear and list the restrictions of the data validation rule. If you want to make any changes, you can make them here. However, before closing the window, ensure that you check the box next to the instruction “Apply these changes to all other cells with the same settings” (Figure 11.14). This will then apply the changes to the other cells with the same data validation rule.

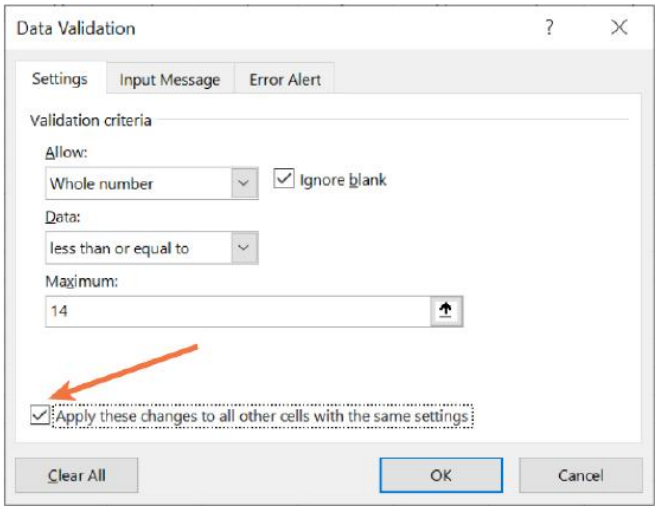


Figure 11.14: Be sure to select this checkbox to apply changes to all cells using the same data validation rule. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Organizing and Presenting Data

A benefit of using Excel to organize data is the wide variety of formatting choices available for presenting the information in a professional manner. Remember the basic formatting concepts you learned in Working with Spreadsheets. Organizing the data in a table format with headers, colors, and other formatting options makes the information visually appealing and often makes it easier to understand. This is especially important when dealing with a large spreadsheet of information. When formatting data in your spreadsheet, there are a few settings that will allow you to present the data in a more professional way:

- Adjust the alignment so that numbers are aligned to the right and text is aligned to the left. This allows users to easily distinguish between text and numerical information.
- Add formatting to column and row headings, such as bold fonts or a larger text size. You might consider adding a border to the header row but avoid using all capital letters in the header row because it makes text difficult to read.
- Filler colors can highlight your header row or make it easier to distinguish between rows of data. Too many colors, however, can distract from the professional look of the spreadsheet. One clean and simple way to distinguish rows is to use a light gray filler for every other row or column, as illustrated with the WorldCorp dataset from the previous chapter, shown here in Figure 11.15.
- When choosing fonts for your data, use only one font, and use fonts that are easy to read, such as Times New Roman or Calibri. Avoid script fonts and fonts that look artistic.
- Adjust column widths and row heights to make the spreadsheet more readable.
- In large datasets, consider freezing the header row so that when the user scrolls, the column headings remain visible. To do this, go to the View tab, select Freeze Panes, and then Freeze Top Row. This keeps the top header row visible while scrolling.

There are many built-in settings that might be useful when formatting your data for a professional look. You can access them through the Cell Styles menu on the Home tab (see Working with Spreadsheets).

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Port	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB s	
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	PCS	$ 26,016.00	
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$ 21,350.00	
4	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$ 10,582.00	
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	PCS	$ 14,575.00	
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	97	PCS	$ 64,505.00	
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	PCS	$ 22,920.00	
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$ 7,252.00	
9	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$ 10,922.00	
10	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$ 21,504.00	
11					Total	$ 199,626.00	
12							
13							

Figure 11.15: Built-in Cell Styles make datasets with many rows more visually appealing. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Another way to present data in a spreadsheet is to display it in a graphic format. The type of chart or graph you should choose depends on the type of data. For example, a bar chart is appropriate for categorical data, while a line graph is appropriate for numerical data. When the data includes categories that equal 100 percent, a pie chart (Figure 11.16) is an effective option, such as with the data presented in Figure 11.15. Using a pie chart with the data, you can see the proportion of each product compared with each other. Charts will be covered in more depth later in Data Analysis Charts.

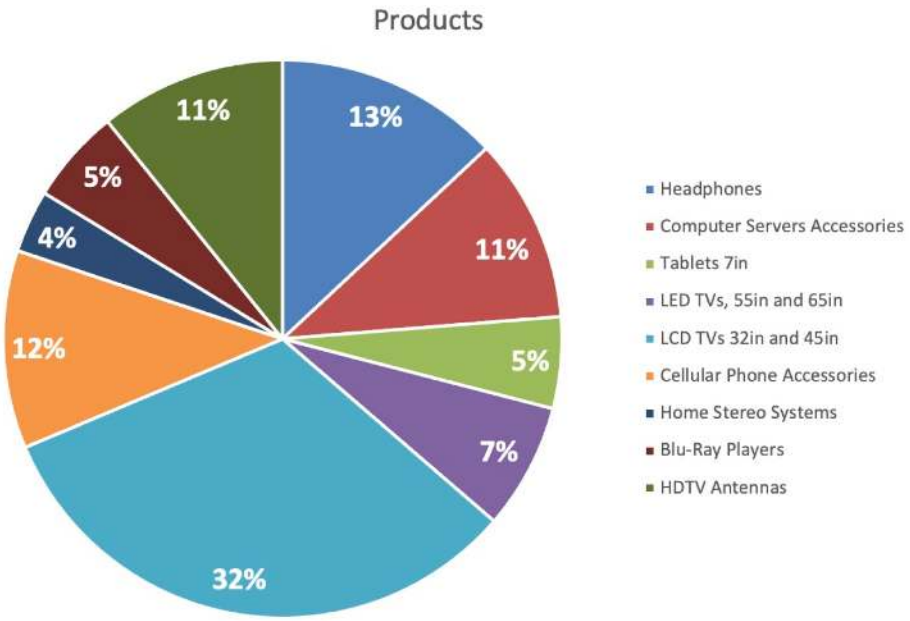
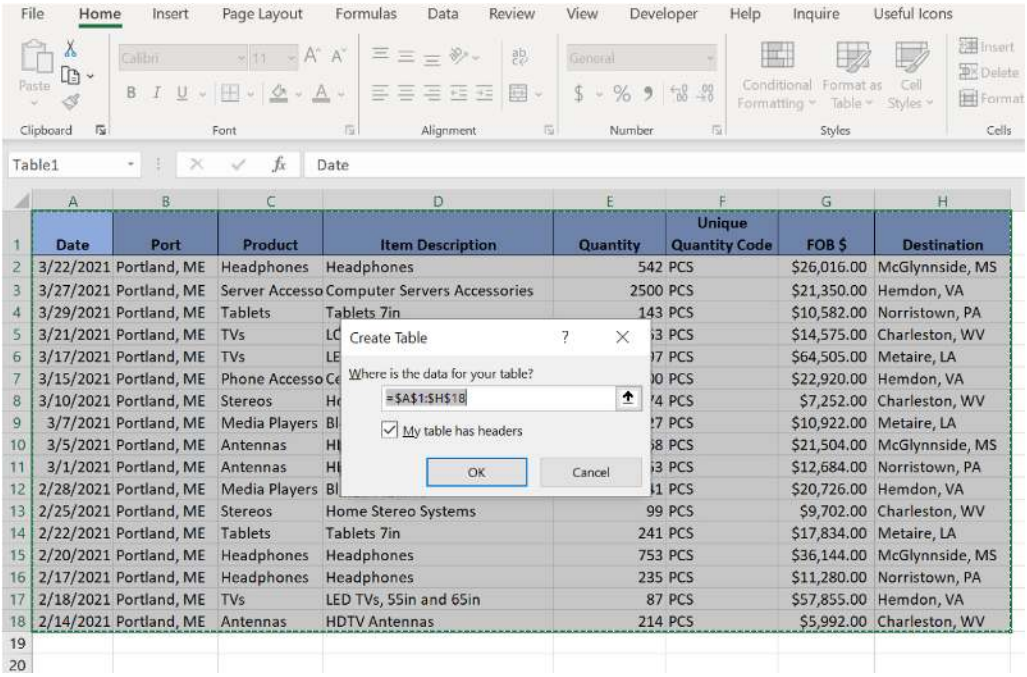


Figure 11.16: Pie charts are an effective way to visually represent data when categories equal 100 percent.

Constructing a Data Table

To add even more functionality, you can format data to be an Excel Data Table, rather than simply a table of numbers. Using the Data Table formatting sets the data as a separate object in the spreadsheet. It is more than simply adding column or row headings. This feature allows you to easily add rows or columns, is automatically formatted to look professional, and allows you to quickly sort and filter information with a filter button at the top of the column. The table will automatically expand with the insertion of new rows or columns, and the preset formatting will carry over to these additions. Column headings are always visible without manually freezing the row, and formulas entered into cells are automatically applied to all cells in that column. Although these functions are available without formatting a set of data as a Data Table, working with the data is much easier if it is set this way.

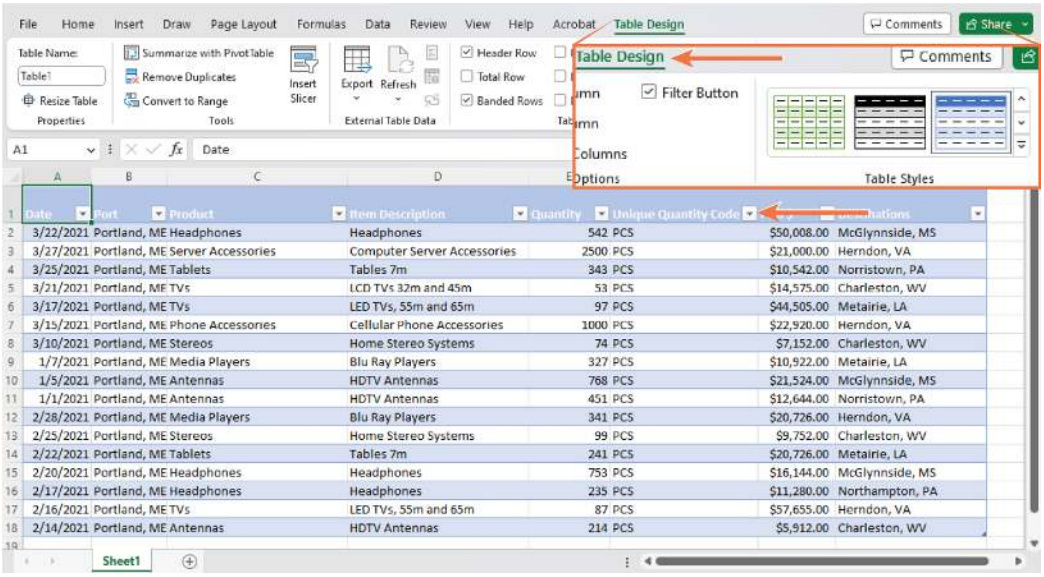
You can create a Data Table from scratch and then add the data at another time. However, it is often easier to work from an existing spreadsheet of data to create the Data Table. To do so, open the "pivot_table_data" tab in the downloadable Chapter 11 data file workbook. There are two ways to format the data as a Data Table. For both, first highlight the data you want to convert to a Data Table. Then, press Ctrl+T, which opens a small window showing the selected range and a checkbox if the data contains a header row (Figure 11.17). Click OK. The other method is to click on the Home tab and choose Format as a Table in the Styles command group.



	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code	FOB $	Destination
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	PCS	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, MS
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accesso	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	PCS	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
4	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	143	PCS	$10,582.00	Norristown, PA
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LC	3	PCS	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LE	7	PCS	$64,505.00	Metaire, LA
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accesso	Ce	0	PCS	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	He	4	PCS	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
9	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Bl	7	PCS	$10,922.00	Metaire, LA
10	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HI	8	PCS	$21,504.00	McGlynnside, MS
11	3/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HI	3	PCS	$12,684.00	Norristown, PA
12	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Bl	1	PCS	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
13	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	99	PCS	$9,702.00	Charleston, WV
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	241	PCS	$17,834.00	Metaire, LA
15	2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	753	PCS	$36,144.00	McGlynnside, MS
16	2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	235	PCS	$11,280.00	Norristown, PA
17	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	87	PCS	$57,855.00	Hemdon, VA
18	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	PCS	$5,992.00	Charleston, WV
19								
20								

Figure 11.17: To create a Data Table, first select the columns and rows to be included in the table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Once you click OK, you will notice that your data looks different. There are drop-down arrows associated with each column, and there is a new tab in the ribbon: the Table Design tab (Figure 11.18).

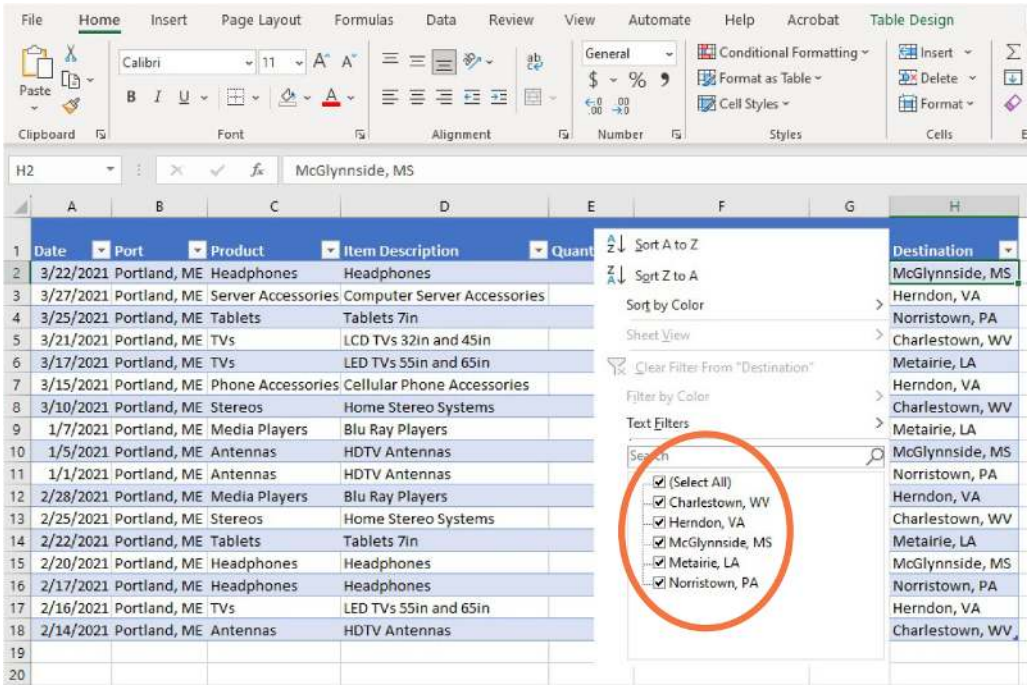


	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Code		
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	PCS	$50,008.00	McGlynnside, MS
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accessories	Computer Server Accessories	2500	PCS	$21,000.00	Herndon, VA
4	3/25/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tables 7m	343	PCS	$10,542.00	Norristown, PA
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32m and 45m	53	PCS	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55m and 65m	97	PCS	$44,505.00	Metairie, LA
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accessories	Cellular Phone Accessories	1000	PCS	$22,920.00	Herndon, VA
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	74	PCS	$7,152.00	Charleston, WV
9	1/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu Ray Players	327	PCS	$10,922.00	Metairie, LA
10	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	768	PCS	$21,524.00	McGlynnside, MS
11	1/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	451	PCS	$12,644.00	Norristown, PA
12	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu Ray Players	341	PCS	$20,726.00	Herndon, VA
13	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	99	PCS	$9,752.00	Charleston, WV
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tables 7m	241	PCS	$20,726.00	Metairie, LA
15	2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	753	PCS	$16,144.00	McGlynnside, MS
16	2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	235	PCS	$11,280.00	Northampton, PA
17	2/16/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55m and 65m	87	PCS	$57,655.00	Herndon, VA
18	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	PCS	$5,912.00	Charleston, WV

Figure 11.18: When data are in a Data Table, you will see a Table Design tab for formatting options. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Table Design tab appears when you click inside the Data Table and allows you to customize the table. You can change the color scheme, name the table, summarize the data, and refresh the information.

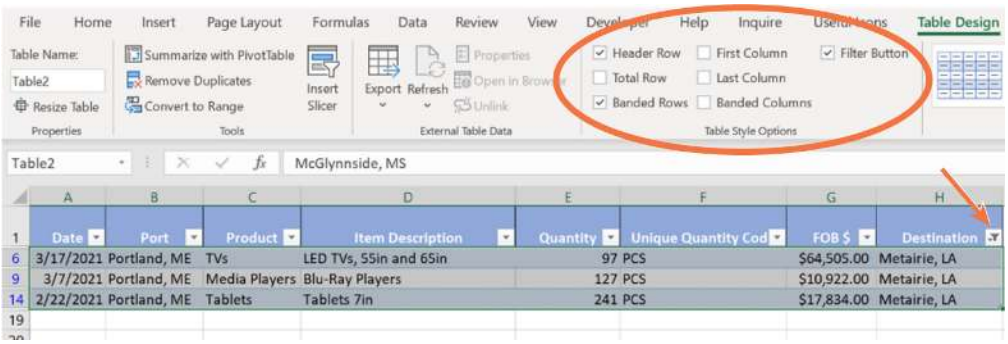
The drop-down arrows on each column header allow you to filter and sort the data. You can sort the data in many ways, and you can filter the data to only show selected information. You could sort this example to show certain destinations, such as Metairie, LA (Figure 11.19).



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quant			Destination
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones				McGlynnside, MS
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accessories	Computer Server Accessories				Herndon, VA
4	3/25/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in				Norristown, PA
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in and 45in				Charlestown, WV
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs 55in and 65in				Metairie, LA
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accessories	Cellular Phone Accessories				Herndon, VA
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems				Charlestown, WV
9	1/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu Ray Players				Metairie, LA
10	1/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas				McGlynnside, MS
11	1/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas				Norristown, PA
12	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu Ray Players				Herndon, VA
13	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems				Charlestown, WV
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in				Metairie, LA
15	2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones				McGlynnside, MS
16	2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones				Norristown, PA
17	2/16/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs 55in and 65in				Herndon, VA
18	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas				Charlestown, WV
19								
20								

Figure 11.19: The drop-down menu with each column in a Data Table is a convenient way to filter information. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To accomplish this, select the down arrow in the Destination column. Then, deselect all the destinations *except* Metairie. This will filter the entire table to only display those products for Metairie (Figure 11.20). You can tell that the data is filtered because the row number starts at a number other than 2 (row 1 is the header row). In this case, it starts at row 6. The other data is still contained in the table, but it does not display when this filter is applied. Also notice that the drop-down arrow changes to a funnel icon to indicate that the table has been filtered based on the information in this column. To remove the filter, click on the funnel icon and choose Clear Filter. This will remove the filtering from the table, and it will return to its original form. The funnel icon will change back to a drop-down arrow. If you do not want to filter your data, you can choose to not have the filter buttons displayed in your table using the Table Design tab in the Table Style Options command group. You can also use the Table Styles Options command group to add a total row to your Data Table.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Unique Quantity Cod	FOB $	Destination
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	97	PCS	$64,505.00	Metairie, LA
9	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	127	PCS	$10,922.00	Metairie, LA
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	241	PCS	$17,834.00	Metairie, LA
19								

Figure 11.20: Customize the Data Table using the options in the Table Style Options command group. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To customize the color scheme of the Data Table, choose the Table Style Options command group in the Table Design tab. There are many color choices and designs to choose from. You can also create a custom style, perhaps with your company colors, by choosing New Table Style. A window appears that allows you to format each section of the table with various fonts or colors.

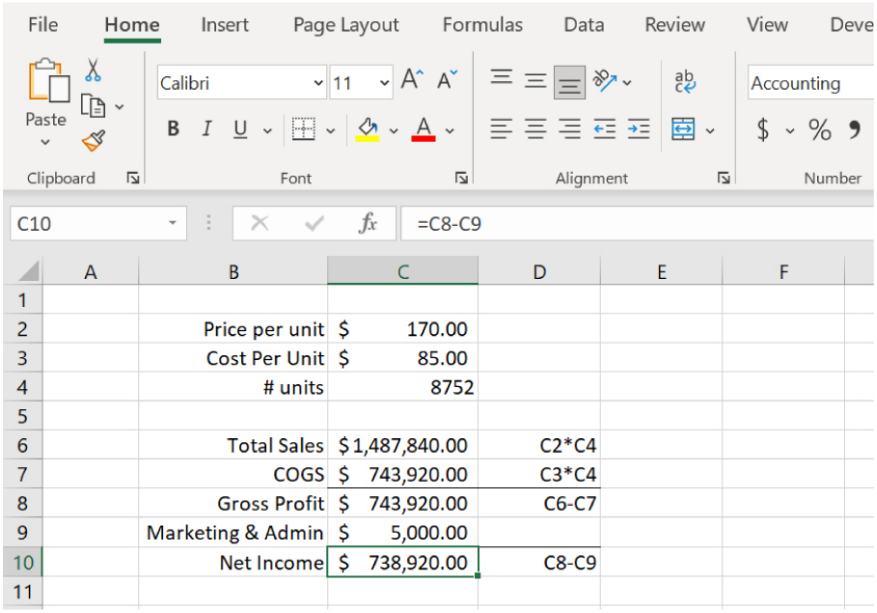
Another benefit of using Data Tables is that you can easily summarize the data using PivotTables. This feature allows you to display the data in various ways to better analyze the information. You can create subtotals and summations of various factors within the table. To use this feature, choose Summarize with PivotTable from the Tools command group on the Table Design tab. We will discuss PivotTables in PivotTables/Charts.

If you no longer want to use a Data Table object for your data, you can revert it to a regular data range. Choose Convert to Range in the Tools command group on the Table Design tab. This will keep all the formatting but will leave the data as a range rather than a Data Table object in the spreadsheet. This makes it easier to copy and paste the information into a document or a presentation when communicating the analysis to others.

One-Variable Data Tables

Data Tables allow you to change cell values and see the result those changes have on other cells containing formulas. The tables can be used to evaluate possible scenarios to help make decisions within a business. Often, Data Tables are used to understand the financial implications of decisions.

Data Tables can use one variable or two variables. The Data Table tool is part of the What-If Analysis options on the Data tab. A one-variable Data Table investigates the impact of manipulating a single cell on another cell. Imagine you are interested in looking at the impact to your company's overall profit if the price of one product is changed. Begin by setting up a model of the current data. For this example, let's look at WorldCorp's 32" LCD TV that sells for $170 and costs WorldCorp $85 to make. Let's assume that marketing and administrative costs are $5,000 annually. You can set up an initial spreadsheet that reflects the current model and an abbreviated income statement to show the company profit (Figure 11.21). The formulas are shown in column D so that you can see how the cells were calculated.

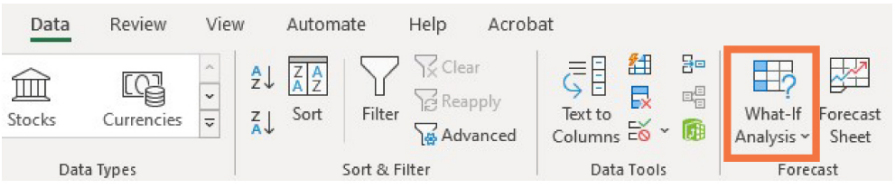


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2		Price per unit	$ 170.00			
3		Cost Per Unit	$ 85.00			
4		# units	8752			
5						
6		Total Sales	$ 1,487,840.00	C2*C4		
7		COGS	$ 743,920.00	C3*C4		
8		Gross Profit	$ 743,920.00	C6-C7		
9		Marketing & Admin	$ 5,000.00			
10		Net Income	$ 738,920.00	C8-C9		
11						

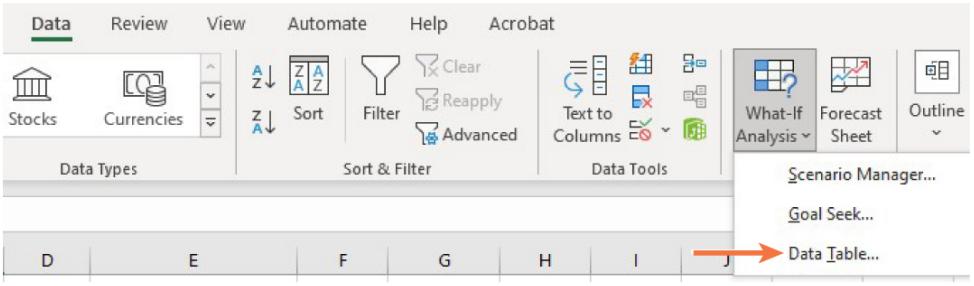
Figure 11.21: For a one-variable Data Table, you will model a single variable such as Net Income. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You are interested in seeing the impact to profit, or cell C10, in this example. The value in this cell becomes the top row of the Data Table, so repeat it below the model. Next, identify the new prices to investigate. With a one-variable Data Table, those values are placed in the column to the left of the impacted cell. In this example, put the values in column B, starting in the row below the impacted cell. At this point, you can format the values using the Currency style to be more representative of what is being investigated. Then, select the cells to include in the Data Table, including all the price-level changes being evaluated.

Now, construct the Data Table. Go to the Data tab, click the arrow next to What-If Analysis, and select Data Table from the list (Figure 11.22). When the input window appears, choose the input value (price in this example) in the Column input cell box. You only use the Column input cell for a one-variable Data Table (Figure 11.23). Notice the dotted line around the input cell and the highlighted region for the Data Table. Click OK.



(a)



(b)

Figure 11.22: (a) For the new data table, first choose the What-If Analysis option from the Data tab. (b) Then select Data Table from the drop-down menu. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

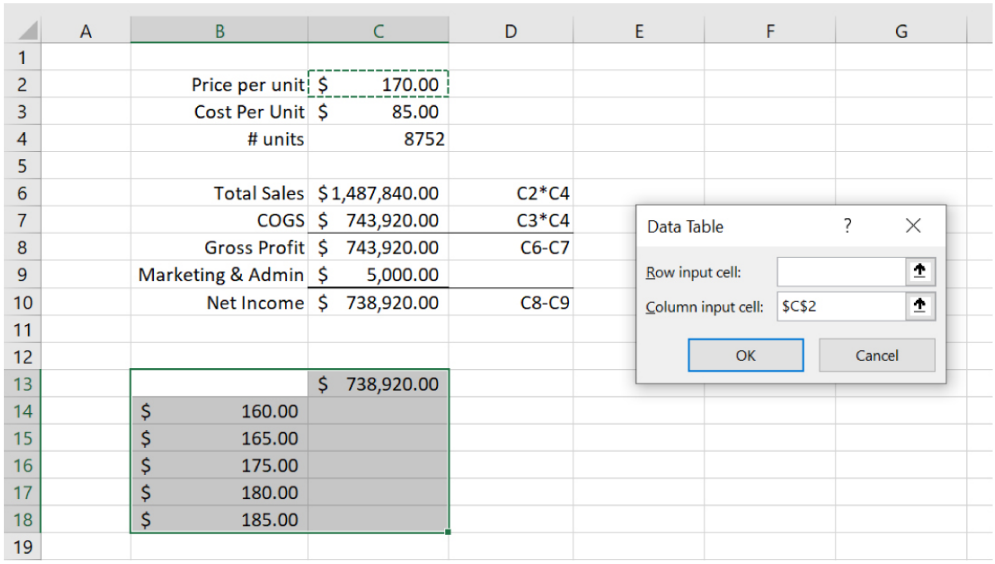
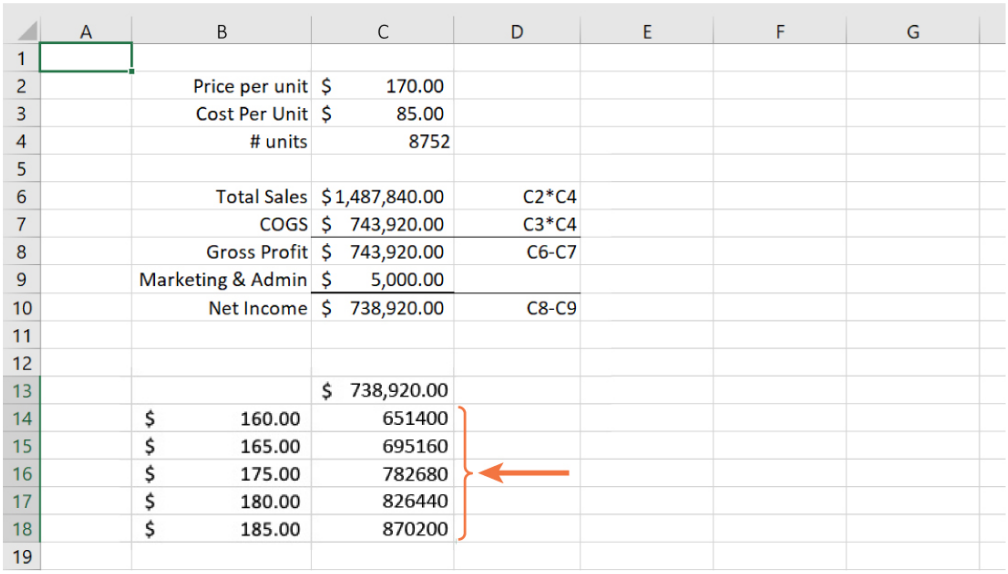


Figure 11.23: The impact of the Price per unit on overall Net Income is the desired output. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you click OK, Excel will use the information from the model to calculate the Net Income at each of the price points (Figure 11.24).



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2		Price per unit	$ 170.00				
3		Cost Per Unit	$ 85.00				
4		# units	8752				
5							
6		Total Sales	$ 1,487,840.00	C2*C4			
7		COGS	$ 743,920.00	C3*C4			
8		Gross Profit	$ 743,920.00	C6-C7			
9		Marketing & Admin	$ 5,000.00				
10		Net Income	$ 738,920.00	C8-C9			
11							
12							
13			$ 738,920.00				
14		$ 160.00	651400				
15		$ 165.00	695160				
16		$ 175.00	782680				
17		$ 180.00	826440				
18		$ 185.00	870200				
19							

Figure 11.24: The change in net income due to the change in the price per unit is automatically generated. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Excel shows that if the price point per unit is adjusted to $165.00, the Net Income will be $695,160, as shown in cell C15. When Excel creates the Data Table, the results are not automatically formatted. You can format the information after the Data Table is created, or you can set the number style to accounting or currency for the cells C14:C18 prior to creating the table. This simple example demonstrates the value of creating a Data Table. Excel quickly calculates the impacted cell values based on the predetermined formulas. This allows the decision maker to see all options in a single table.

Two-Variable Data Tables

Often in data analysis, there is more than one variable. You may need to investigate the interaction between two variables to get more information. For example, a two-variable Data Table could analyze the performance of various locations during each quarter of the year or could examine different production levels at various price points to investigate the impact on profit.

Let’s continue with the example of product price and impact on profit, and add various quantities sold into the analysis. Again, the target impacted cell is C10, Net Income. Put the quantity values across the top of the table and the prices down the side, as with the one-variable Data Table. Format the output cells (D14:H17) as currency. Next, highlight the table area and go to the Data Table tool in What-If Analysis. For the Row input cell, choose the # units, C4, and for the Column input cell, use the unit price, C2. Click OK (Figure 11.25). Notice the output cells are formatted to the Currency style. As a manager, you can see the impact on your profit outlook when you change the two variables (Figure 11.26). For example, if the price is lowered to $165 and you sell 9,500 units, your profit would be 755,000 (cell G15).

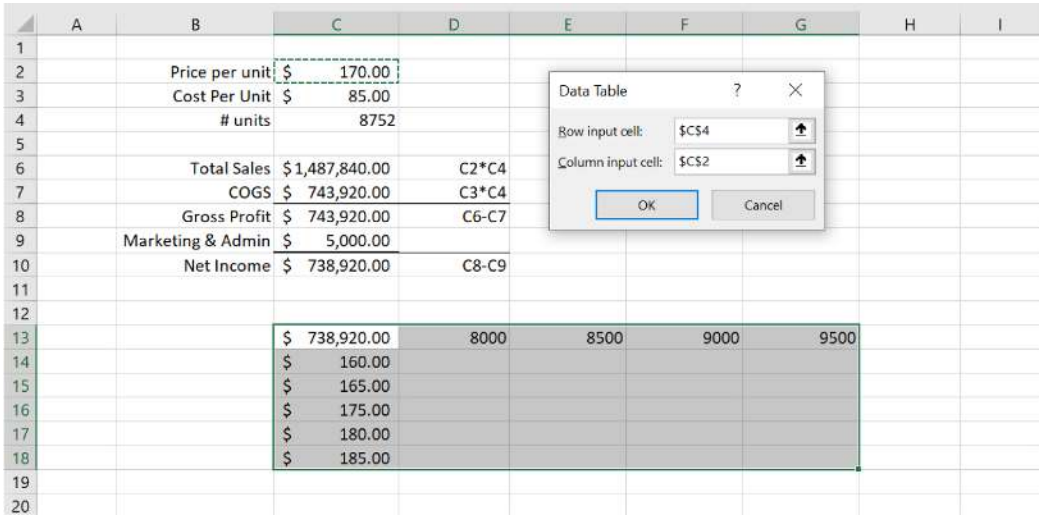


Figure 11.25: Two-variable Data Tables can manipulate two cells. Use the Data Table tool to enter your input cells. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

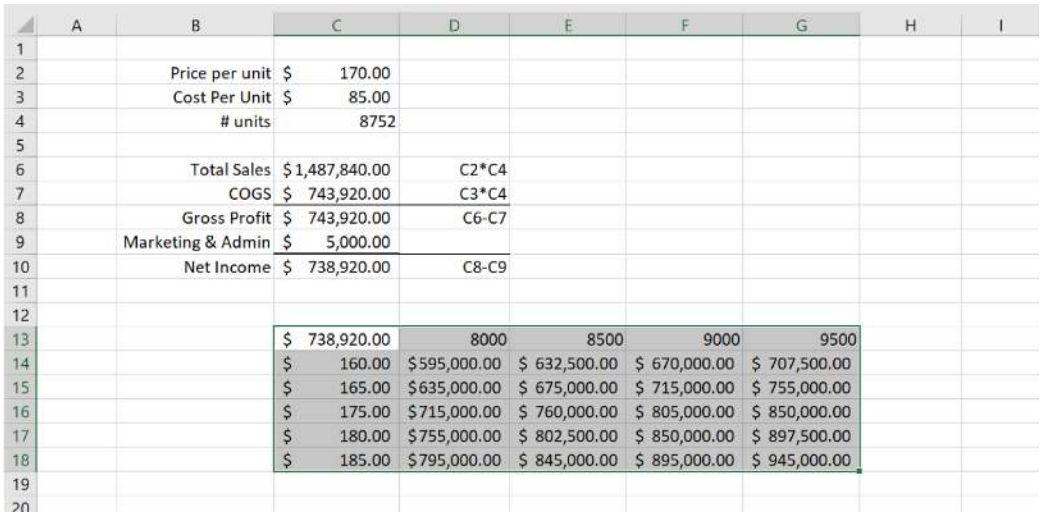
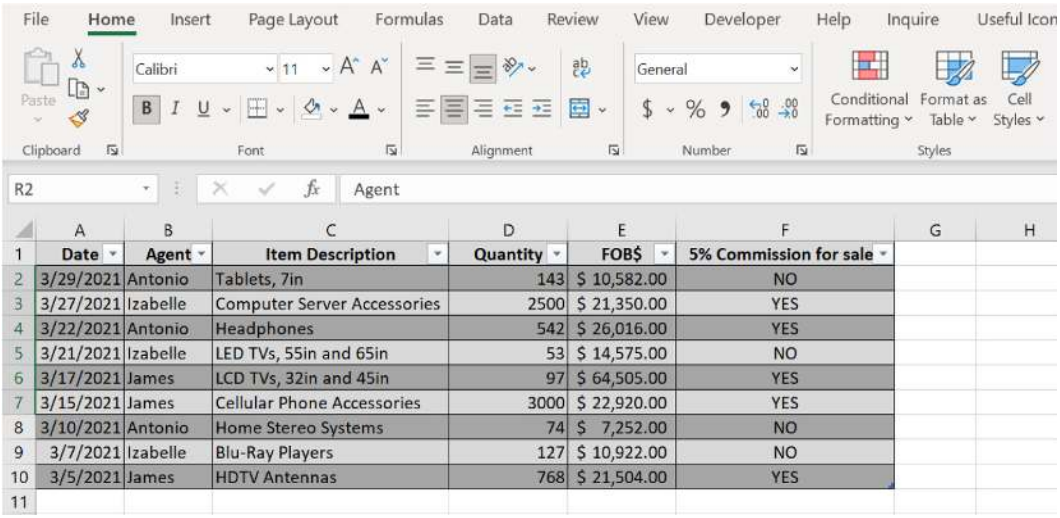


Figure 11.26: The final Data Table shows the impact of changing one or both variables. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Visualizing Mixed Variables

Data collected by businesses comes in a wide variety of forms. It may not always be numerical. It might include income or age data reported as ranges of numbers rather than an exact number. Sales data may report a purchase was made but not include the sales price. The Data Table in Figure 11.27 includes both numerical data (the number of units sold) and categorical data (the sales agent). Summarizing both categorical and numerical data in the same table is appropriate and useful in many cases. The data can also be visually presented with a combination of charts and graphs. However, for any in-depth analysis, you will need to adjust the categorical data.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	5% Commission for sale		
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$ 10,582.00	NO		
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$ 21,350.00	YES		
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$ 26,016.00	YES		
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$ 14,575.00	NO		
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$ 64,505.00	YES		
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$ 22,920.00	YES		
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00	NO		
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$ 10,922.00	NO		
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$ 21,504.00	YES		
11								

Figure 11.27: Information in a Data Table can be numerical or categorial. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

One strategy to adjust categorical data is to replace the text with a numerical value. Using the data in Figure 11.27, you could replace all instances of “Antonio” with the number 1, “Izabelle” with the number 2, and “James” with the number 3. When making a substitution like this, be sure the spreadsheet includes a legend that identifies each category and its corresponding number. This could be a simple chart on the same worksheet or on another worksheet that explains what each number represents. When there are only two categories, such as a Yes/No question, you can use the binary system with 0 for No and 1 for Yes. Using the Find and Replace tool makes the process of changing text to numbers easier. Categorical data combined with numerical data can also be analyzed using PivotTables.

Footnotes

- 1U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Management Analysts: Summary. Occupational Outlook Handbook. www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/management-analysts.htm. Modified September 8, 2022.
- 2Nicole Marti. “How Much Data Is Collected Every Minute Of The Day.” *Forbes*. August 12, 2019. https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicolemartin1/2019/08/07/how-much-data-is-collected-every-minute-of-the-day/?sh=30871fd03d66

This page titled 11.1: Understanding Data, Data Validation, and Data Tables is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.2: Statistical Functions

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use basic statistical functions to describe a dataset
- Describe other useful functions for data analysis in Microsoft Excel
- Use the Data Analysis tool for advanced statistical functions
- Understand the Solver add-in and its use for data analysis

Data surrounds us. In business, there is always a need to better understand the company, the competitors, and the customers. You gain this understanding through data collection and data analysis. The field of statistics is centered on analyzing and making sense out of data. You may have taken a statistics class at some point, but even if you have not taken a statistics class, you have probably used some statistical concepts—maybe more often than you think. Concepts such as averages and probabilities are often applicable to everyday life. For example, you may have been exposed to some statistical concepts when learning about political candidates prior to an election. This could include the percentage of registered voters of a particular demographic or the correlation between geographic location and political party. Statistics can be applied across nearly all fields and situations, and there is almost always a need to know more and dig deeper into what the data are showing.

There are two branches of statistics: descriptive and inferential. Descriptive statistics, as the name implies, describe situations. For example, the average transaction amount for purchases in a store at a specific location is descriptive information about that location. Another example of descriptive information is the turnover rate of employees in a manufacturing facility.

Inferential statistics relate to predicting and forecasting. With inferential statistics, you are using historical data and trends to forecast future performance. The regional sales manager might use the last five years of sales data to make a forecast for this year's total sales. A nonprofit organization might use historical fundraising efforts to make predictions about fundraising for the next two years. Both branches are useful in understanding data. Information garnered from statistics can be used in a variety of ways in businesses to improve performance and track progress. Microsoft Excel has a variety of tools to make statistical analysis easier.

Basic Statistical Functions

There are several commonly used statistical functions that can give you a basic summary and understanding of the information in your spreadsheet. You can access the functions through the Formulas tab. From this tab, you can either choose Insert Function on the far left of the tab or use the grouped functions in the Function Library (Figure 11.28). The Function Library is helpful if you are not quite sure of the appropriate function for your needs. The functions are organized by application (e.g., financial) and include the ones that are most commonly used.

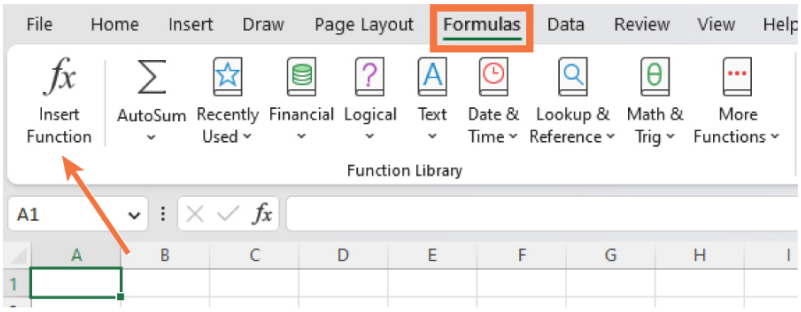


Figure 11.28: Functions can be found in the Insert Function tool or in the Function Library. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using the Insert Function command has some advantages. When you click on Insert Function, a window appears with the functions grouped by category like in the Function Library, and then listed alphabetically within each category. When you click on a function, a brief description of the function appears in the window. There is also an option to search for functions by typing a description or keyword. This is useful if you are unsure of the function's purpose (Figure 11.29).

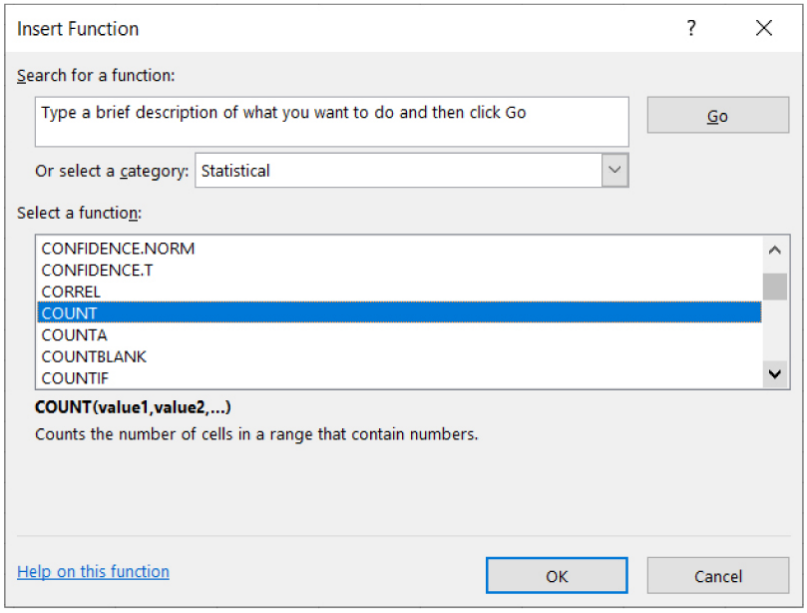


Figure 11.29: The Insert Function window lists all the built-in functions in Excel. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To use functions, first, click in the empty cell where you want to put the function. Then, use either the Insert Function option or the Function Library to select the function. For this example, you will choose the AVERAGE function to calculate the average of a list of data. When you select a function from the Insert Function window, an input window will appear where you will select the range of data for analysis (Figure 11.30). After you select the range, click OK. Notice that the result of the function is displayed in the lower left of the input window. Also notice that a dotted line will surround the data identified for analysis. The function will also be visible in the Formula Bar.

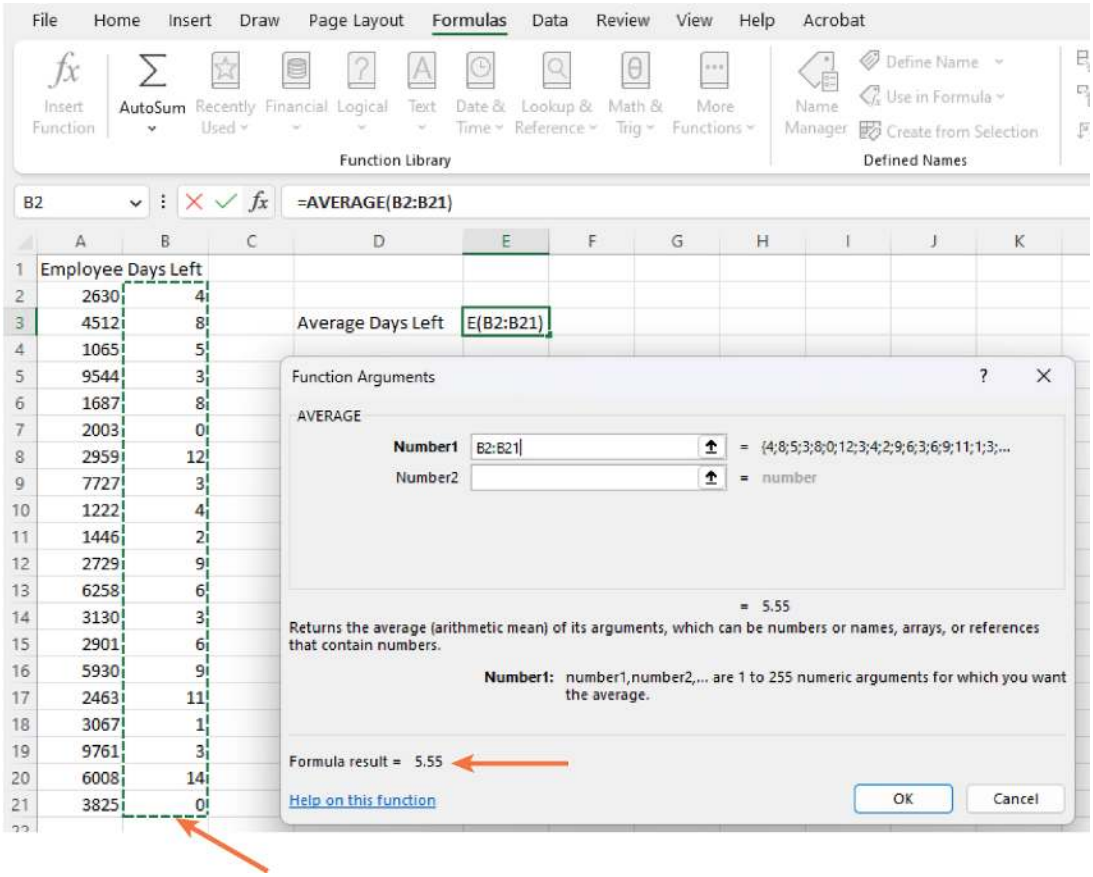


Figure 11.30: The input window to insert a function will display the answer for the given function at the bottom of the window. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you select a function from one of the groups in the Function Library, the function will appear in the spreadsheet (Figure 11.31). You can select the data for analysis and press Enter. A dotted line will still appear around the selected range of cells, and the function still displays in the Formula Bar.

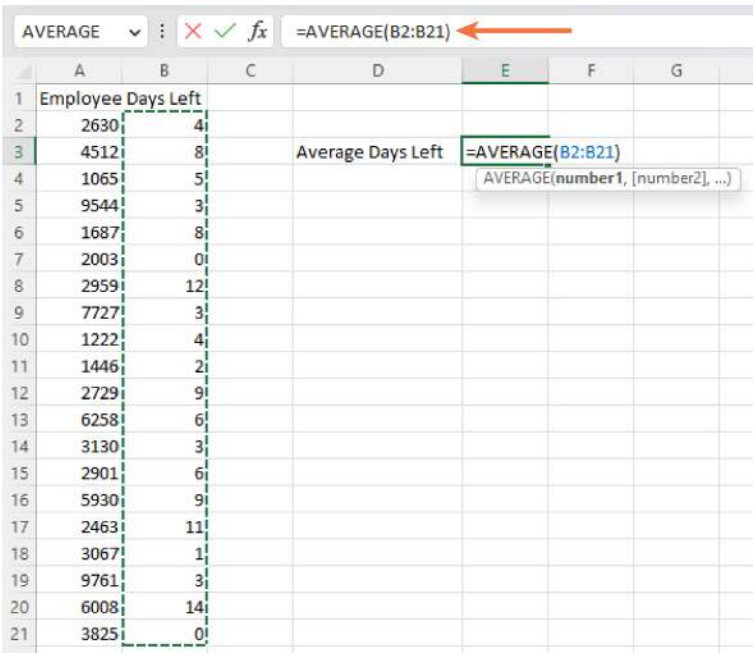


Figure 11.31: The selected cells for the function are displayed on the spreadsheet. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

One of the most commonly used functions is SUM. It even has its own button on the Home tab as the AutoSum feature (Figure 11.32). The function gives the total for a selected range of cells. Other commonly used functions in data analysis are MODE, RANGE, MEDIAN, and AVERAGE, which returns the mean of a selected range of data.



Figure 11.32: The AutoSum shortcut is a very useful tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Other Useful Functions

There are several other functions available that are not specifically statistical functions, but they can be quite useful when dealing with large datasets or with text. Some of these were covered in Advanced Excel Formulas, Functions, and Techniques. These functions can help you manage and sort datasets of any size. Table 11.1 summarizes some useful functions for data analysis.

Table 11.1: Numerical Functions

Function	Definition
AVERAGEIF	Returns the average of a range that meets specific criteria
COUNT	Counts the number of entries in a range
COUNTIF	Returns the count of a range that meets specific criteria
CORR	Returns the correlation between two ranges of data
IF	Tests a condition and returns a predetermined value
MAX	Returns the maximum value in a range
MIN	Returns the minimum value in a range
SUMIF	Returns the sum of a range that meets a specific criterion
SUMIFS	Returns the sum of a range that meets multiple specific criteria

Let us look closer at the AVERAGEIF function. It returns the average of a selected range according to a set of criteria. As with other functions, it is accessed through the Insert Function button on the Data tab or from the Function Library. When selected from the Insert Function tool, an input window will appear with three arguments to fill in (Figure 11.33). In the first box, input the range to examine against the criteria. In the second box, set the criteria, and in the third box, input the range of numbers to be averaged. Both formulas and text can be entered into the criteria. Be sure to put text elements in quotation marks when establishing criteria.

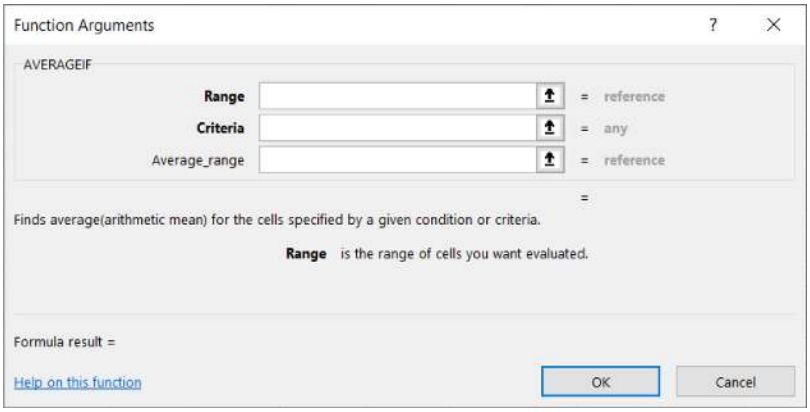


Figure 11.33: The AVERAGEIF function returns the average of a selected range according to a set of criteria. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Let's revisit the employee vacation data and use it to find the average number of vacation days employees have remaining for the North location. The criteria range is the Location column (D2:D21), the criteria is "North," and the average range is the Days Left column (C2:C21) (Figure 11.34). The function then returns the average number of vacation days remaining for all the employees in the list at the North location.

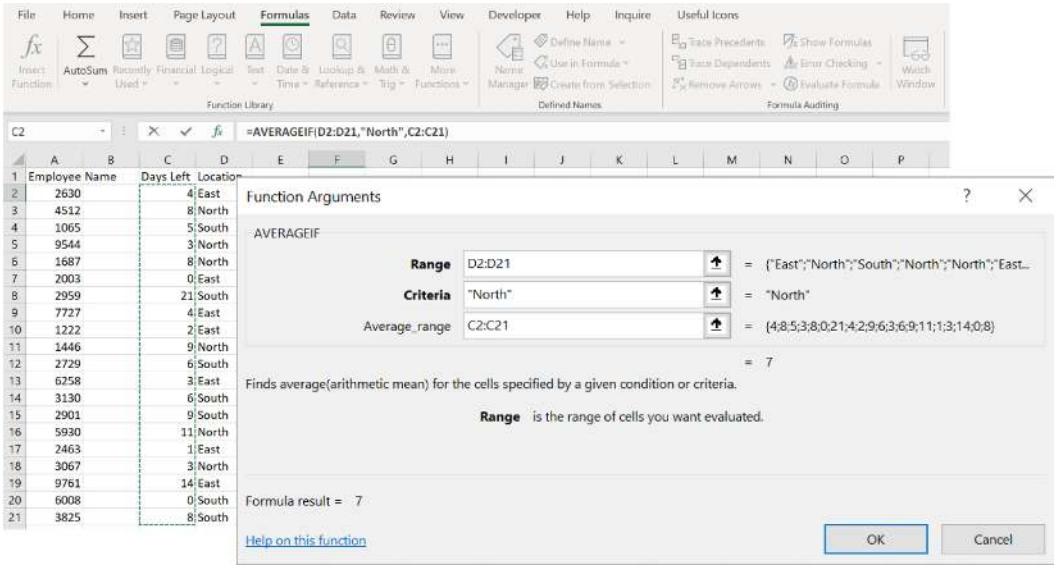


Figure 11.34: The function can use categorical data as criteria instead of just numerical information. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In some cases, you might need to evaluate data using more than a single criterion. The AVERAGEIFS, COUNTIFS, and SUMIFS functions give the flexibility to add additional criteria. Just remember that each criterion must be matched with a range where the function will search (Figure 11.35). To add an additional criterion with its corresponding range to the analysis, simply press the Tab key on your keyboard and additional criteria will be added to the function arguments.

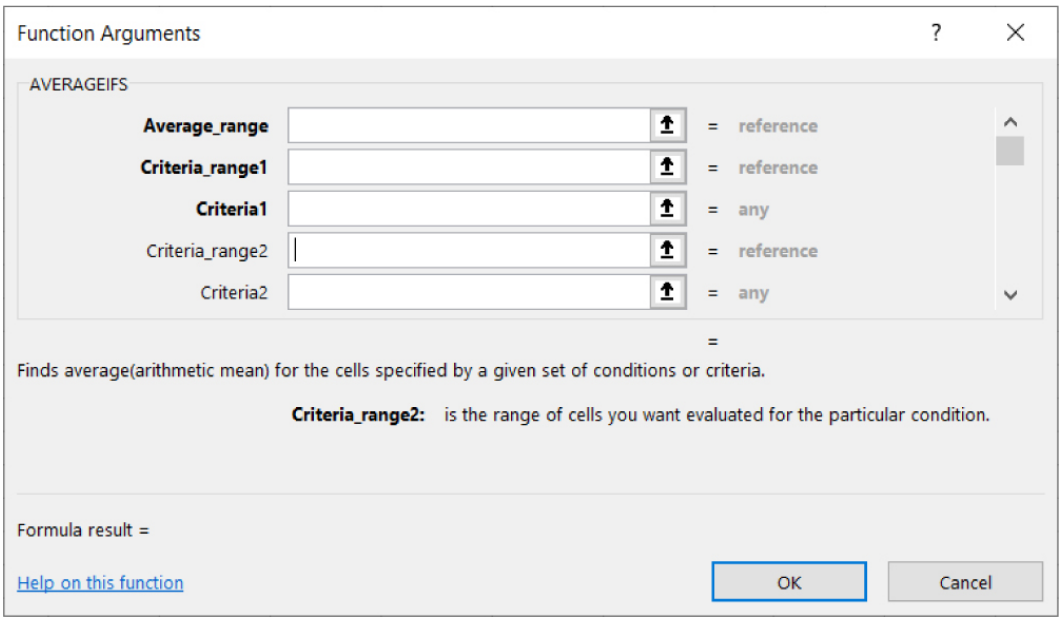


Figure 11.35: If multiple criteria are needed, use the AVERAGEIFS function. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The functions we have discussed so far deal with numbers, but there are some functions that are useful for dealing with text. These can be particularly helpful when you are importing data into a spreadsheet. These functions can separate out parts of text or take the first several characters and put them in a separate column. Table 11.2 summarizes some useful functions for managing text in a spreadsheet.

Table 11.2: Text Functions

Function	Description
CONCATENATE	Combines information in multiple cells into one cell
LEFT	Will extract characters from the left of text
RIGHT	Will extract characters from the right of text
TRIM	Removes spaces from cells except the single space between words

The CONCATENATE function is useful when data comes from a database or other files. It combines information from multiple columns into a single column. For example, data imported into an Excel spreadsheet often contains first and last names in separate columns. With the CONCATENATE function, you can easily combine those two columns into a single column. To use the function, select the text elements that you want to combine into one cell (Figure 11.36). To include a space, in the Text2 argument insert " " (quotation marks with a space between). This will then output the first name last name correctly spaced (Figure 11.37). Use AutoFill to copy the CONCATENATE function through the entire list. In newer versions of Excel, the function has been replaced with CONCAT, which includes additional features.

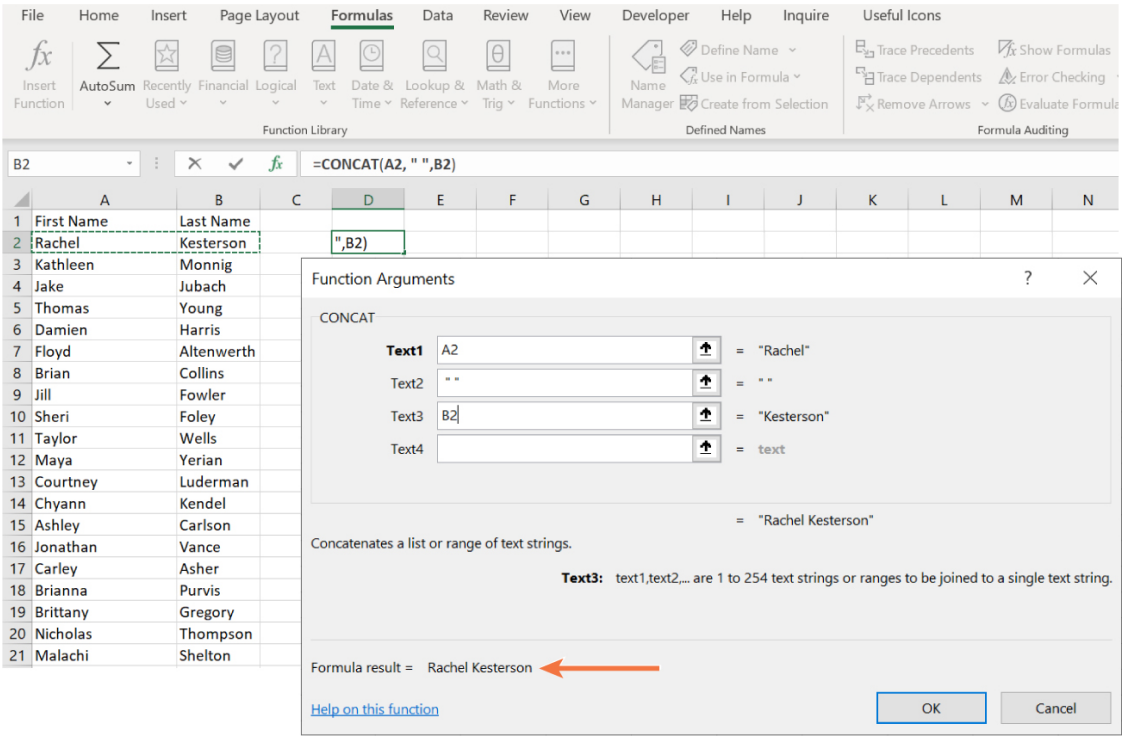
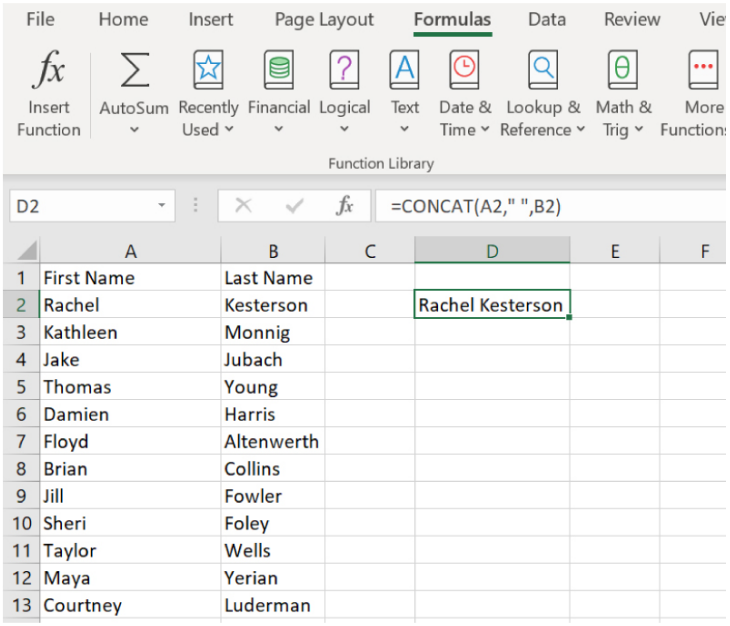


Figure 11.36: The CONCATENATE function can be useful when importing data from a database. The CONCAT function takes data from two columns. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	First Name	Last Name				
2	Rachel	Kesterson		Rachel Kesterson		
3	Kathleen	Monnig				
4	Jake	Jubach				
5	Thomas	Young				
6	Damien	Harris				
7	Floyd	Altenwerth				
8	Brian	Collins				
9	Jill	Fowler				
10	Sheri	Foley				
11	Taylor	Wells				
12	Maya	Yerian				
13	Courtney	Luderman				

Figure 11.37: Then the CONCAT function combines it into one column. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Text to Columns tool on the Data tab is the opposite of the CONCATENATE function. It takes a single column of text and separates it into two or more columns. This tool is also a helpful tool if you are importing information. Sometimes data imported from another program might not be in the format you desire or need for further analysis. For example, you can use this tool to place First Name and Last Name in a separate column if they are imported into a single column. Text to Columns can also be used to separate out City, State, and Zip into columns.

Data Analysis Tools Add-in

Excel has many advanced data analysis tools available. These include a wide variety of simple and more complex statistical functions that are available as individual functions in Excel, but it is easier to access the tools through the add-in called Data Analysis. This add-in puts all the statistical tools together in one place. As this section discusses these tools, it will keep the focus on using the tools within Excel and not on statistical techniques, their assumptions, and usage for data analysis. (You can learn more about those topics in a statistics course or resource.) Some of the most commonly used built-in tools include Correlation, Descriptive Statistics, Histogram, and Regression. Additional advanced tools include Analysis of variance (ANOVA), and several tools for testing hypothesis, including the F-Test, t-Test, and z-Test.

Excel also offers a helpful feature to guide you through ideas for analyzing your dataset, called the Analyze Data help feature, accessed on the far-right side of the Home tab (Figure 11.38). This tool allows you to search for helpful functions or Excel tools to analyze your dataset. A pop-out will appear on the right side of the screen, listing a few examples of ways to understand the data better. If you are finding it difficult to get started on analyzing a dataset, this might be an effective way to generate ideas as you work through the information. Suggested items for data analysis might include charts, graphs, or a PivotTable.



Figure 11.38: The Analyze Data tool offers some suggestions to analyze a dataset. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

GCFGlobal.org provides 100 percent free online courses in a number of topics relevant to career preparation. This includes a variety of technology and computer skills courses. They currently offer a number of micro-courses in Excel. Go to this page to see a list of these courses, as well as others offered on the site.

Getting the Data Analysis Tool

Because the Data Analysis tools are an add-in, they are included with Excel but generally not installed by default. To obtain the add-in, go to the File tab, select Options, and select Add-Ins. From there, click on Analysis ToolPak and select Go at the bottom left of the window (Figure 11.39a). Then, select the checkbox for Analysis ToolPak, Analysis ToolPak - VBA, and Solver Add-in. Click OK (Figure 11.39b). This will add both the Data Analysis tool and the Solver add-in to the far-right side of the Data tab (Figure 11.40).

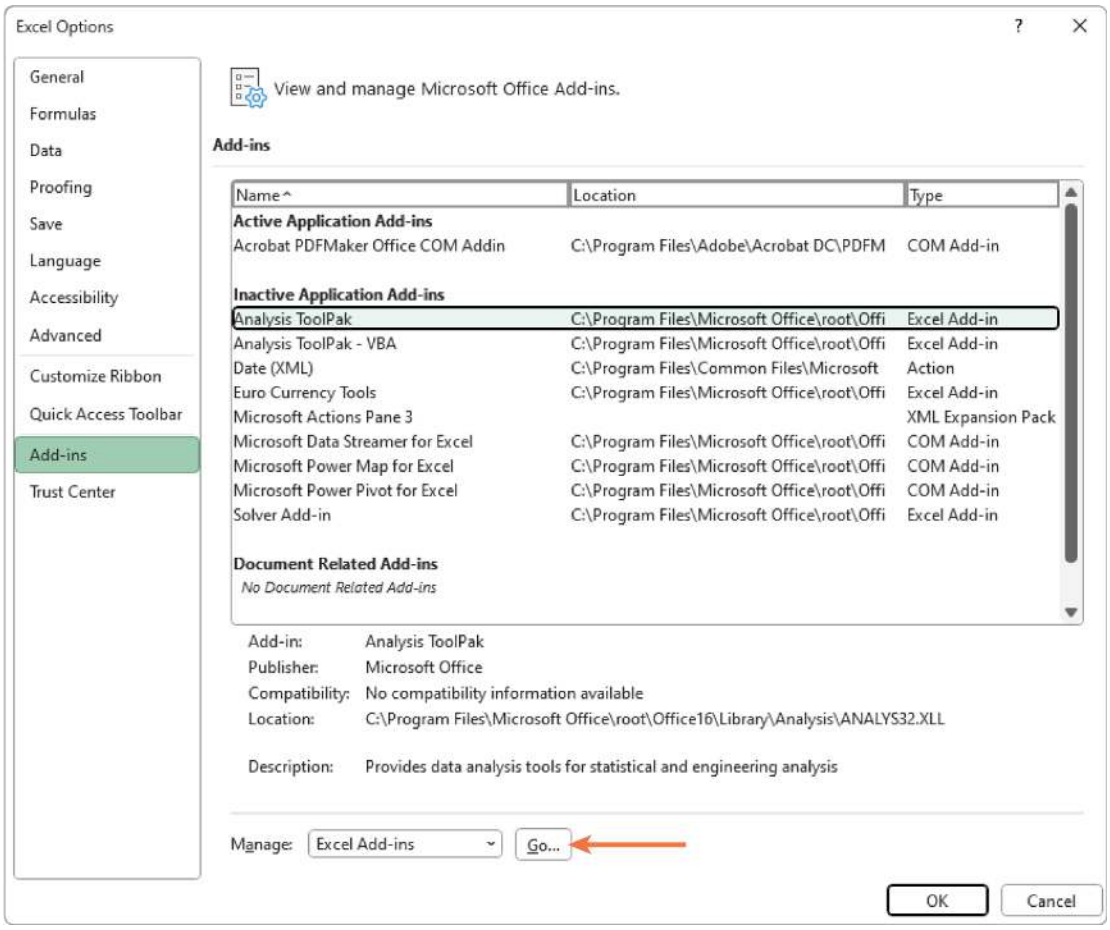


Figure 11.39: Select Go instead of OK to add the Analysis ToolPak. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

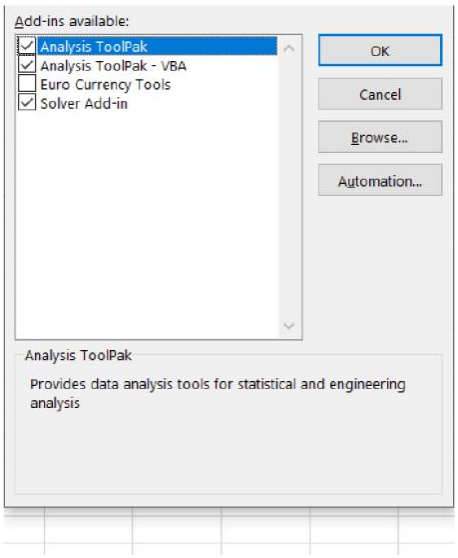


Figure 11.40: Select Analysis ToolPak, Analysis ToolPak - VBA, and Solver Add-in to add the appropriate tools. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

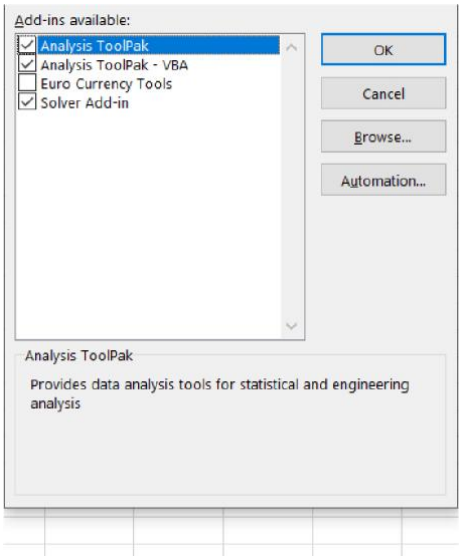


Figure 11.41: The Solver add-in is found on the Data tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Built-in Data Analysis Tools

The Data Analysis tool add-in offers a variety of statistical tools. You likely won't use many of them unless you are doing in-depth statistical analysis. However, there are several that are quite helpful for evaluating most datasets. These tools are some of the more frequently used statistical analysis tools regardless of the industry or application. The functions and tools are listed in the Data Analysis library in alphabetical order. Detailed explanations of the context, analysis, and use of these statistical analysis tools is outside the scope of this text. Rather than focus on the statistics here, this section will walk through the steps involved in using each tool.

Correlation

Correlation is used to analyze the relationship between two variables. The function in Excel computes the correlation between two or more variables at one time. The output is in the form of a correlation matrix or grid that shows how the variables are connected to each other. The closer the correlation value is to either +1 or −1, the more strongly connected the variables are to each other. A value closer to zero is a sign that the two values are not strongly connected. A positive correlation indicates that the variables will move in the same direction. This means if one variable is higher, the other variable will also be higher, for instance, when a company's increased sales also increase their overall company profit. A negative correlation value indicates that the data move in

opposite directions, for example, if an increase in price decreases the quantity sold. Only numerical data can be analyzed using correlation. If you have categorical data that you are interested in analyzing, you will need to code it using numbers.

To use the tool, go to the Data tab and select the Data Analysis tool and then Correlation. Then, select the data of interest and click OK (Figure 11.42). Be sure to select Labels in First Row if your dataset contains column headings. It is generally good practice to include these in your analysis as it helps to identify the information and has a more professional look. If there are no headings, the output will list the data by column number. You can also select an area on the page to display the output or have the output on a new tab in the current worksheet or a new worksheet entirely. The output will be static. That means if you change any of the data points in the selection, the correlation will not be updated. You will need to run the Correlation tool again to update it based on new or different data.

WorldCorp would like to investigate the relationship between the price of their products and the quantity sold. Management thinks that the items with the lower prices sell more. For this example, the selected range is the Quantity column and the Price column. Be sure to check Labels in First Row to tell Excel that there are column headings in your selection.

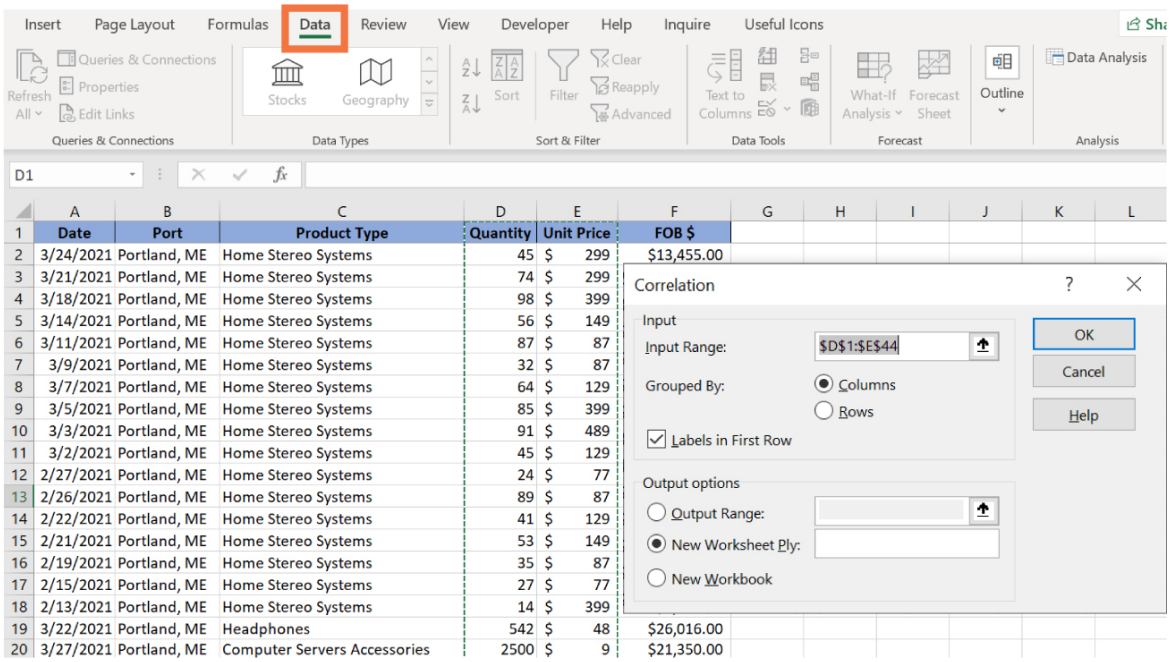


Figure 11.42: Correlation is used to find the relationship between two variables. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using the dataset from WorldCorp's product sales, you can create the correlation matrix in Figure 11.43 as the output. The default for Excel is to include several decimal points. Often, this level of detail is not necessary, so you may need to clean the output by reducing the number of decimal points and changing the column widths. You might also consider additional formatting such as bolding certain numbers or filling cells with color. According to the output, the correlation between sales and price is not very strong. The value −0.092 is closer to zero than it is to one, which indicates that management's suspicion that more products at the lower price range are sold is not correct.

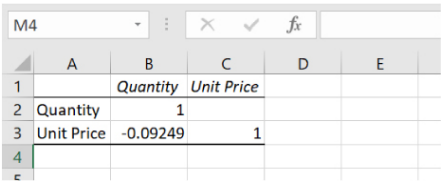


Figure 11.43: The output from the correlation function gives you a matrix of correlation values for the selected variables. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Descriptive Statistics

The Descriptive Statistics tool provides a summary of the dataset in a table format. The summary information includes items such as the mean, variance, standard deviation, and range. You can select a single column of data or multiple columns at once. You can

also analyze data that is grouped in rows rather than columns. Be sure to check the appropriate box when prompted if your data is in rows. As with correlation, you can display the information on the current worksheet, on a new worksheet, or in an entirely new workbook. To access Descriptive Statistics, go to the Data tab and then Data Analysis. Choose Descriptive Statistics (Figure 11.44). When the input window appears, select the data you want to analyze. Be sure to check the box to indicate that the data has a header row. Next, determine the desired location for the output result. Finally, select Summary Statistics at the bottom of the input window and click OK.

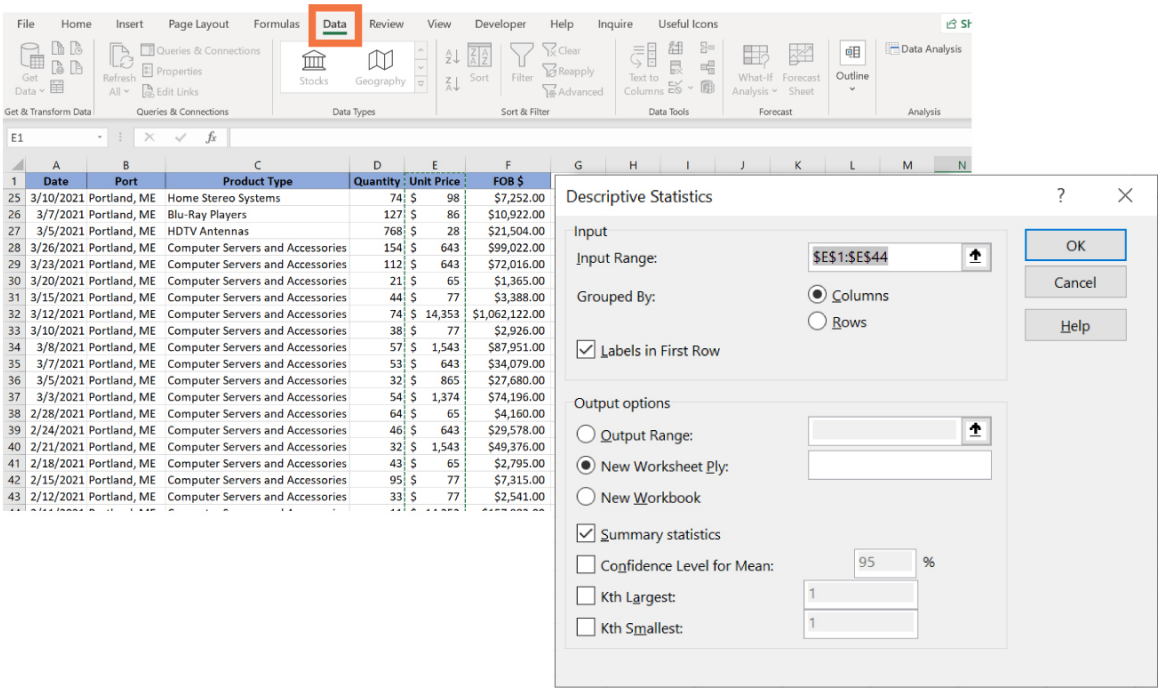
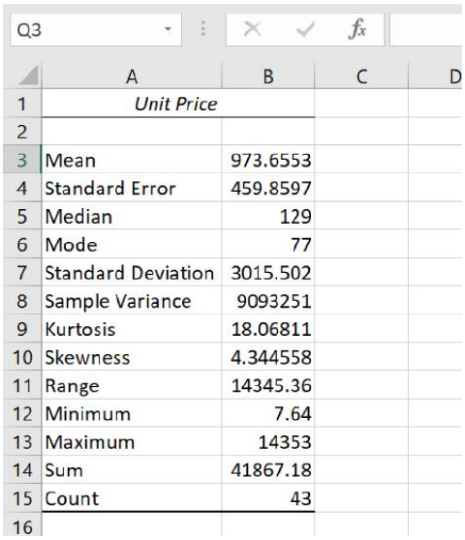


Figure 11.44: The Descriptive Statistics tool is a quick way to summarize a dataset. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Notice that you also have an option to select confidence levels and both the *K*th largest and smallest values in the output. These are more advanced level statistical analyses. If desired, choose those options to be included in the output. The default setting for confidence intervals in Excel is 95 percent, but you can customize that setting. If you use the dataset for WorldCorp, you obtain the following output when you use the Descriptive Statistics tool (Figure 11.45).



	A	B
1	*Unit Price*	
2		
3	Mean	973.6553
4	Standard Error	459.8597
5	Median	129
6	Mode	77
7	Standard Deviation	3015.502
8	Sample Variance	9093251
9	Kurtosis	18.06811
10	Skewness	4.344558
11	Range	14345.36
12	Minimum	7.64
13	Maximum	14353
14	Sum	41867.18
15	Count	43
16		

Figure 11.45: The output from the Descriptive Statistics tools includes values such as the mean and standard deviation. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Notice with this output, you will again need to adjust the number of displayed decimal points to give it a more professional look. You can also choose to format the numbers with commas or as currency, if applicable.

Histograms

A histogram is a chart that displays the number of occurrences of data within a defined range. This is a convenient way to easily see the ranges of most of the data. It is not an in-depth statistical analysis of the data; instead, it provides a summary of the overall distribution of the data. Histograms can be used with data that is at least at the ordinal level of measurement. The histogram function can be accessed through the Data Analysis library. When selected, as with others in the analysis library, an input window will appear (Figure 11.46). You will need to input some information such as the input range and the bin range.

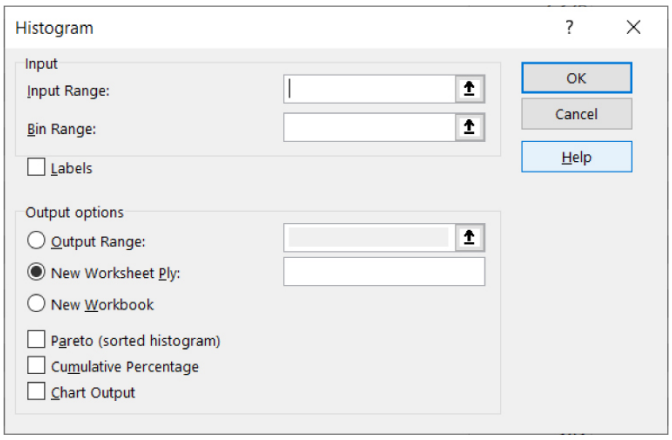
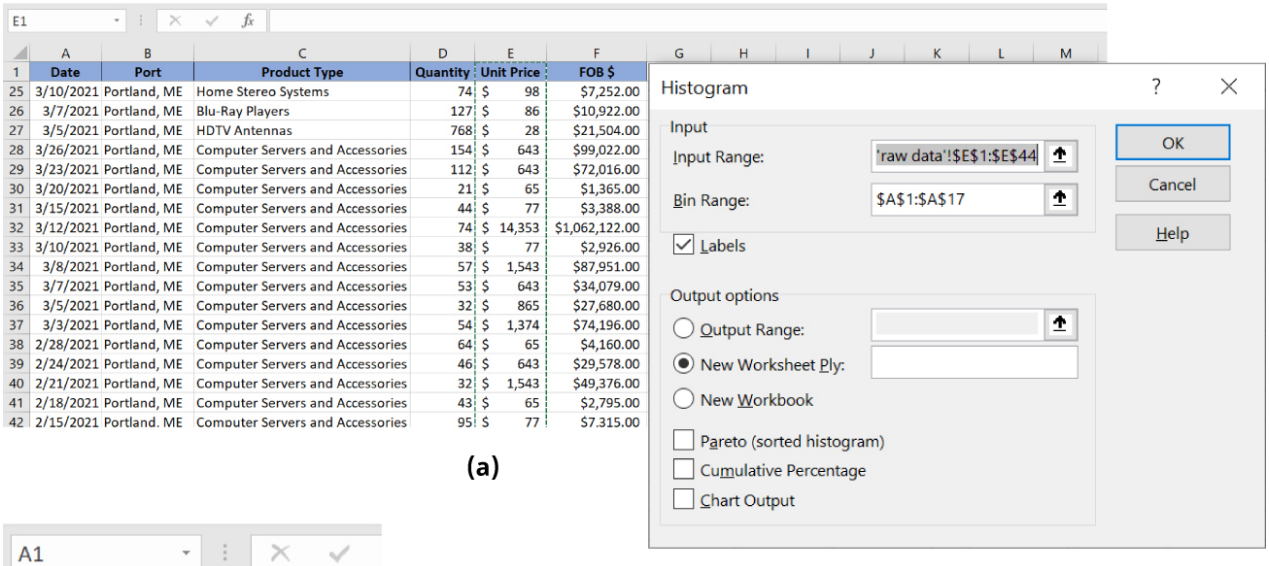


Figure 11.46: The input range and the bin range are needed to construct a histogram of the data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The input range represents the data being divided into the various "bins," or category ranges. These bins must be mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive. In other words, each data point needs to have only one bin into which it fits. This means the bin ranges must be set up to accommodate the maximum and minimum values. Excel will sort the data correctly into the bins. Other options for the Histogram tool are to include the cumulative percentage, output a sorted histogram, or have the output be in the form of a chart in addition to sorting the data into each of the bins.

Let us look at the WorldCorp sales data again. To construct the histogram, establish the number of bins and the size of the bins you will be using. Be sure to include enough bins to show differences that may exist in the dataset but not so many that it is difficult to see trends or that several bins have no data in them. A general rule of thumb is to divide the range of the data (highest data point – lowest data point) by the width of the categories. For example, if the range is 800 and you want each category or bin to increase by 50, you will need approximately 16 bins. You can also determine the range of each bin by first determining how many bins you want. For your range of 800, if you want 20 bins, each bin will have a range of 40.

The column of data you will use for the histogram is column E, Unit Price. When using the Descriptive Statistics tool, you determined that the minimum number is $7.64 and the maximum number is $14,353. The output also gave the range of the dataset, $14,345.36. If you divide the range by the number of desired bins, you get the approximate size of the bins you should use. In this example, let's use 15 bins. That would be 14,345.36/15 or 95.62. You then use this as a basis to establish the bin range that you will use in the Histogram tool. You can use whole number categories to make the histogram easier to follow and look cleaner. You could set the first bin at $100 since the value calculated was almost $100 ($95.62). This means that all data up to, but not including $100 will be included in that bin. Each subsequent bin will increase by 100 until you reach 16 bins. You record these bins in the spreadsheet manually. Excel does not create the bins for you. These bins can be either on the dataset worksheet or a separate worksheet. You will use these cells as your bin range when creating the histogram.



	Date	Port	Product Type	Quantity	Unit Price	FOB $
25	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 98	$7,252.00
26	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Blu-Ray Players	127	$ 86	$10,922.00
27	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	HDTV Antennas	768	$ 28	$21,504.00
28	3/26/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	154	$ 643	$99,022.00
29	3/23/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	112	$ 643	$72,016.00
30	3/20/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	21	$ 65	$1,365.00
31	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	44	$ 77	$3,388.00
32	3/12/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	74	$ 14,353	$1,062,122.00
33	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	38	$ 77	$2,926.00
34	3/8/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	57	$ 1,543	$87,951.00
35	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	53	$ 643	$34,079.00
36	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	32	$ 865	$27,680.00
37	3/3/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	54	$ 1,374	$74,196.00
38	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	64	$ 65	$4,160.00
39	2/24/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	46	$ 643	$29,578.00
40	2/21/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	32	$ 1,543	$49,376.00
41	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	43	$ 65	$2,795.00
42	2/15/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers and Accessories	95	$ 77	$7,315.00

(a)

	A	B
1	*Bins*	*Frequency*
2	100	20
3	200	5
4	300	3
5	400	3
6	500	1
7	600	0
8	700	5
9	800	0
10	900	1
11	1000	0
12	1100	0
13	1200	0
14	1300	0
15	1400	1
16	1500	0
17	1600	2
18	More	2
19		

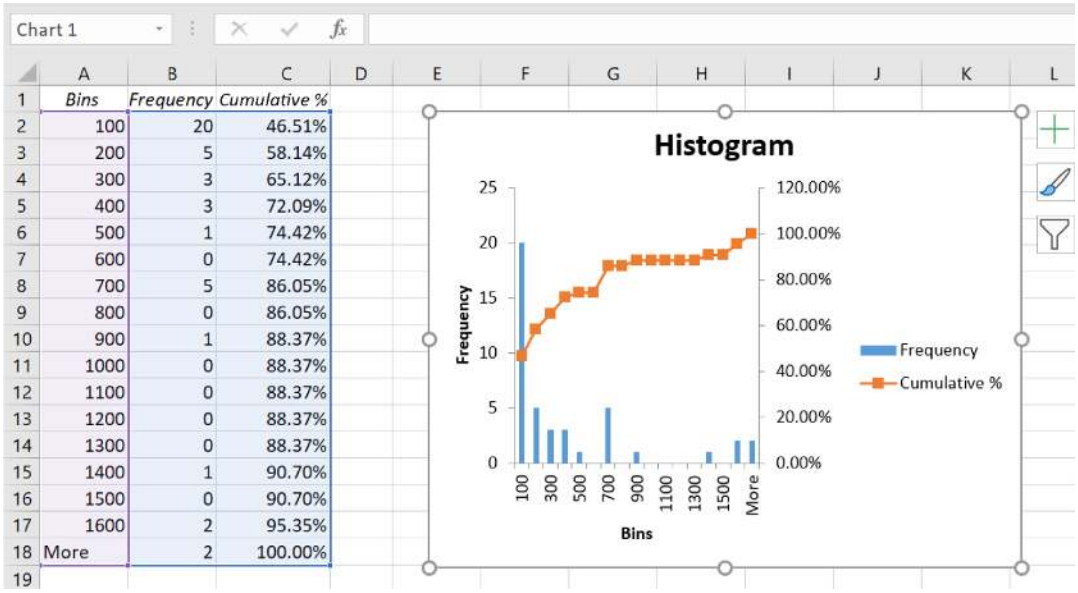
(b)

Figure 11.47: You can create a histogram of WorldCorp data. The bin range defines the category limits for the histogram. (a) You can then use the Histogram tool to set the criteria. (b) The output of the Histogram tool displays the frequency in each bin or category. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Open the Histogram tool in Data Analysis. Select the input range, the Unit Price column, and then select the bin range. Be sure to select the Labels checkbox if you are including the column header in the input data selection. You must also include a column heading for the bin range if the data range has a column heading (Figure 11.47a).

The output for the histogram Data Table shows the count in each of the established bins for the input range selected (Figure 11.47b). Excel will automatically add a “More” bin at the end to include all data that falls outside of the range that you establish. Even if you have a bin to accommodate the maximum data point, Excel will add the “More” bin at the end of the histogram Data Table.

From this table of data, you can create the histogram using the options on the Insert tab. Alternatively, you can select the chart output and create the chart at the same time you create the data by checking the Chart Output option at the bottom of the window. You can also include cumulative percentages in the output by checking the Cumulative Percentage (Figure 11.48). Creating a histogram chart from a dataset not using the Data Analysis tools will be covered in Histogram.



	A	B	C
1	*Bins*	*Frequency*	*Cumulative %*
2	100	20	46.51%
3	200	5	58.14%
4	300	3	65.12%
5	400	3	72.09%
6	500	1	74.42%
7	600	0	74.42%
8	700	5	86.05%
9	800	0	86.05%
10	900	1	88.37%
11	1000	0	88.37%
12	1100	0	88.37%
13	1200	0	88.37%
14	1300	0	88.37%
15	1400	1	90.70%
16	1500	0	90.70%
17	1600	2	95.35%
18	More	2	100.00%
19			

Figure 11.48: If selected, the histogram can also be displayed graphically. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Regression

Regression is a tool used in inferential statistics. It determines the best fit line or data model for a given dataset. There are many types of regressions, but linear regression is the method most used in business. Linear regression can be used to forecast sales and expenses for the next year, to better understand the drivers of customer purchasing levels, or to investigate how price changes might impact profit. With the regression process, you have one dependent variable you are predicting (*Y*) and one or more independent variables (*X*) you are using to predict *Y*. With the tool in Excel, you can have as many *X* variables as you need.

Real-World Application - Regression in Business

Regression is the primary tool used by businesses to determine if a relationship between variables exists, as well as the magnitude and nature of this relationship should it exist. In business, regression can be helpful in optimization and business forecasting across a variety of industries. For instance, you can investigate the increase in new home sales based on economic growth. You can also make determinations about how much inventory to purchase.

Regression is one of the Data Analysis tools. As with the other tools, when you open it, an input window will appear (Figure 11.49). Select the column to use for the *Y* variable and then select the column(s) to use for the independent variable(s) *X*. If using more than one independent variable, be sure that all the *X* variable columns are next to each other. Also note that you must have equal numbers of rows for all variables you select for analysis.

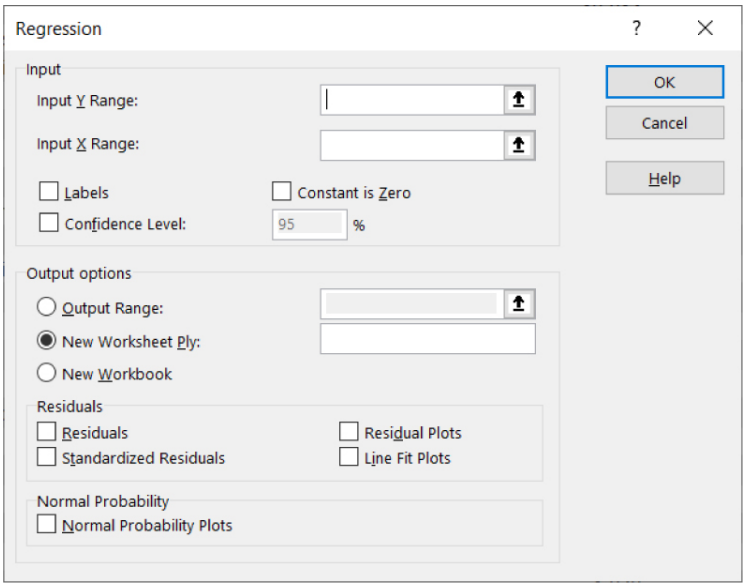
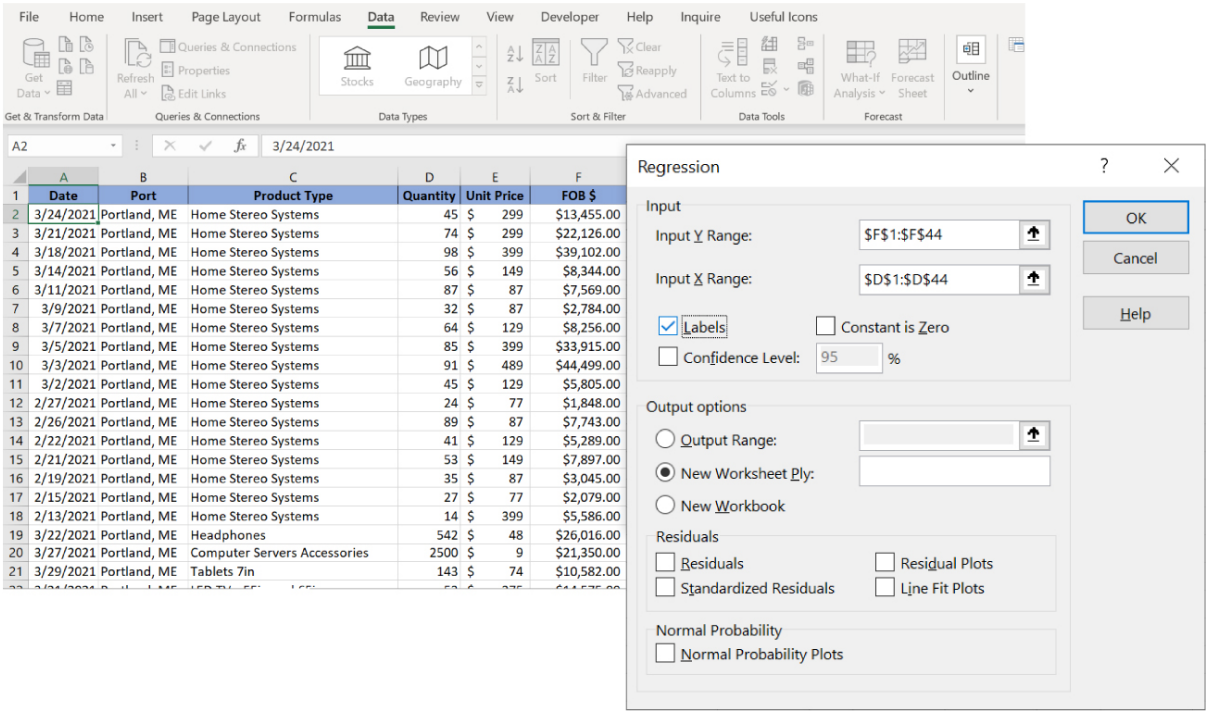


Figure 11.49: The input window for the Regression tool allows you to select the *Y* and the *X* variable(s). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Be sure to check the Labels box if you included the column headings. It is good practice to include the headings, as the output for regression will be more specific to your dataset. Other checkboxes relate to residuals and line fit plots, so check them if they apply to your situation. These options are more advanced statistical tools that can be used. As with the other tools, you can decide where to place the output of the function. The output will be a detailed regression analysis from which you can extract the relevant information, such as R^2 and the regression equation, using the coefficients column.

Using the same dataset you've been using, you can run a single regression using Quantity as the independent variable (*X*) to predict the FOB $ as the dependent variable (*Y*). These values were chosen to investigate the impact that Quantity has on FOB $. Management believes that although Unit Price and Quantity are not strongly connected, the Quantity value is a good predictor of FOB $ (Figure 11.50). To begin, go to the Data tab, and choose Data Analysis. Then, select Regression from the list. Select the data in column F, FOB $, as the *Y* input range and column D, Quantity, as the *X* input range. Check the Labels box if you also included the column headings. Then, click OK. Make sure to clean up the data, such as by reducing the number of decimal places, and format it to give it a professional look (Figure 11.51).



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Port	Product Type	Quantity	Unit Price	FOB $
2	3/24/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	45	$ 299	$13,455.00
3	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 299	$22,126.00
4	3/18/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	98	$ 399	$39,102.00
5	3/14/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	56	$ 149	$8,344.00
6	3/11/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	87	$ 87	$7,569.00
7	3/9/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	32	$ 87	$2,784.00
8	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	64	$ 129	$8,256.00
9	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	85	$ 399	$33,915.00
10	3/3/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	91	$ 489	$44,499.00
11	3/2/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	45	$ 129	$5,805.00
12	2/27/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	24	$ 77	$1,848.00
13	2/26/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	89	$ 87	$7,743.00
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	41	$ 129	$5,289.00
15	2/21/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	53	$ 149	$7,897.00
16	2/19/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	35	$ 87	$3,045.00
17	2/15/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	27	$ 77	$2,079.00
18	2/13/2021	Portland, ME	Home Stereo Systems	14	$ 399	$5,586.00
19	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	542	$ 48	$26,016.00
20	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	$ 9	$21,350.00
21	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets 7in	143	$ 74	$10,582.00

Figure 11.50: This example uses Quantity as the *X* variable and FOB $ as the *Y* variable. (a) The Regression tool shows the ranges for each of the variables. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

A1: SUMMARY OUTPUT

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	SUMMARY OUTPUT								
2									
3	*Regression Statistics*								
4	Multiple R	0.040162737							
5	R Square	0.001613045							
6	Adjusted R Square	-0.022737856							
7	Standard Error	163136.1468							
8	Observations	43							
9									
10	ANOVA								
11		*df*	*SS*	*MS*	*F*	*Significance F*			
12	Regression	1	1762917359	1762917359	0.066241713	0.798176932			
13	Residual	41	1.09115E+12	26613402405					
14	Total	42	1.09291E+12						
15									
16		*Coefficients*	*Standard Error*	*t Stat*	*P-value*	*Lower 95%*	*Upper 95%*	*Lower 95.0%*	*Upper 95.0%*
17	Intercept	52084.5878	26539.04578	1.962564451	0.056507053	-1512.102468	105681.2781	-1512.102468	105681.2781
18	Quantity	-11.084456	43.06739534	-0.257374655	0.798176932	-98.06082538	75.89191339	-98.06082538	75.89191339
19									

Figure 11.51: The output provides many statistics a business can use for forecasting. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If the dataset has more than one independent variable, the information for each variable will be listed in the output as an additional row under the Intercept row.

Advanced Data Analysis Tools

The Data Analysis library of tools has many other statistical analysis tools. These are used in business less frequently than the tools discussed so far, but they do offer some opportunities for more in-depth analysis. You might see these tools used in more scientific disciplines such as chemistry or biology. This section will briefly introduce how to use these functions in Excel.

Analysis of Variance

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) is a statistical technique used to compare more than two groups at the same time. It involves conducting an analysis to determine if differences are present in the data based on their respective variances.

There are three types of ANOVA analyses available in Excel that are easily accessed through the Data Analysis tool. The input windows for the ANOVA functions look very similar, so be sure to check the title at the top of the input window.

ANOVA: Single Factor focuses on analyzing information for a single variable (Figure 11.52). For example, perhaps you want to do some price checking on your favorite brands at three retailers. You could use ANOVA to determine if there are price differences between the retailers.

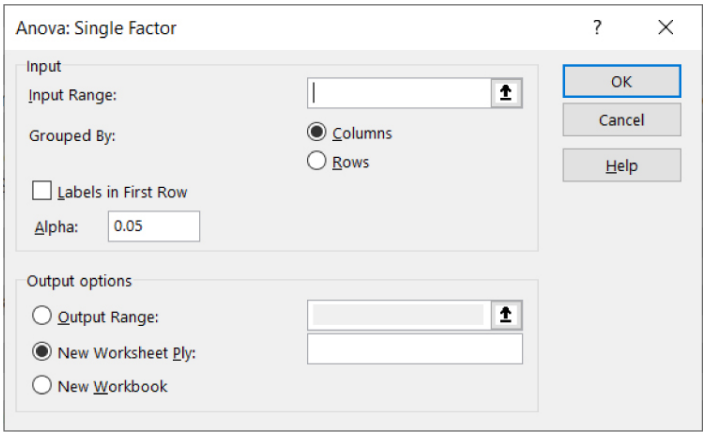


Figure 11.52: Single Factor ANOVA is centered on differences between a single variable. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To use the Single Factor function, simply select the data of interest and choose the appropriate grouping of the data (columns or rows). Be sure to check the Labels box if you included the headings in your selection. You also have the option to change the alpha (significance level) for your analysis. The output will be in the form of a typical ANOVA table, which you may have seen in a statistics course.

ANOVA: Two-Factor With Replication is used to test two variables and to determine if there is any interaction present in the variables (Figure 11.53). The input window looks like that of the Single Factor, except you will need to add the number of rows per sample. This number will need to be the same for all categories. You must also have row and column headings for this option. Excel assumes that the first column and the first row in the selection will include the headings for the data, so there is no Labels checkbox.

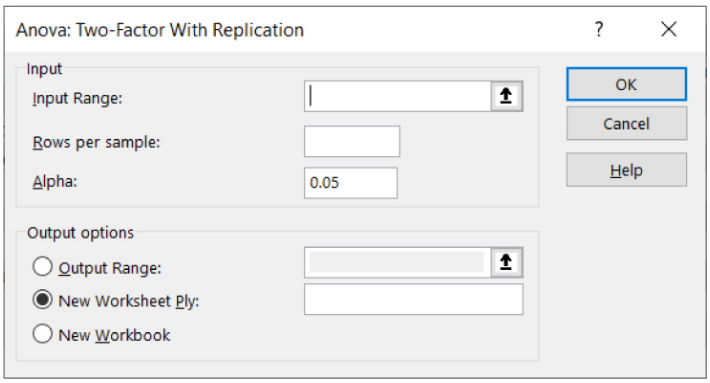


Figure 11.53: ANOVA: Two-Factor With Replication requires that all samples have an equal number of rows. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The final type of ANOVA in Excel is ANOVA: Two-Factor Without Replication, which allows you to test two variables. Unlike With Replication, here you will not be testing for the interaction between the two variables. Instead, you are testing the two variables independent of each other, but simultaneously. Notice in Figure 11.54 that the window looks the same as the window for Single Factor, except for the title. There is no box to fill in the Rows per Sample, as there is in Two-Factor With Replication.

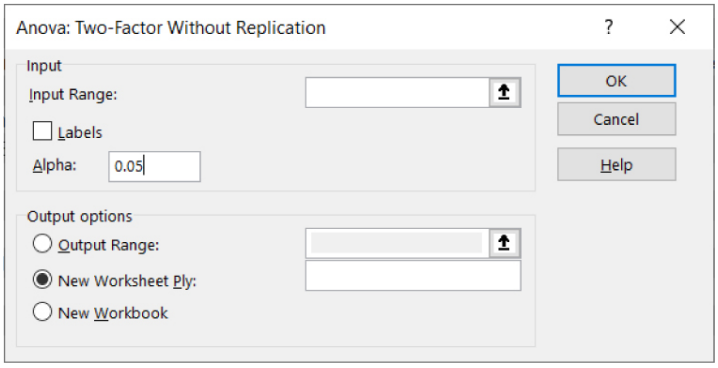


Figure 11.54: Two-Factor Without Replication has a single row per sample. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Through the use of the advanced statistical tools in Excel, you can better analyze data and discover differences among various groups of consumers in your target market. Watch this video on how ANOVA can be used to understand consumers in the craft beer industry to learn more.

F-Test

The F-Test is used to determine if two datasets are from the same population based on their variances. It is another type of hypothesis test that can be used for in-depth statistical analysis. Select F-Test: Two Sample for Variances from the Data Analysis tool library. As with the other functions, an input window will appear (Figure 11.55). You will need to select the range of each variable separately. The ranges do not need to be the same size. Check the Labels box if you included the column headings. Click OK when you are ready to analyze the data.

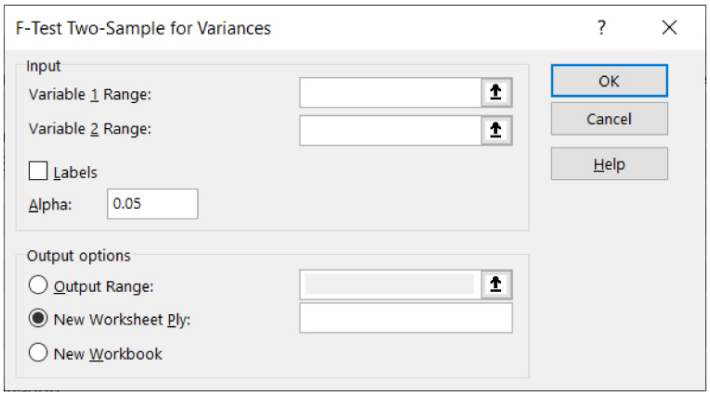


Figure 11.55: The F-Test function examines the variances between two datasets. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

T-Tests

T-Tests are also hypothesis tests. T-Tests are used when data does not follow the normal distribution (a concept in statistics), when the sample sizes are small (generally less than 30), or when you do not have a population standard deviation. It is often used in statistics to test for statistical differences between two groups of data. There are three t-Tests available in Excel. The input windows look the same, except for the title of the input window, so make sure you have selected the appropriate test. The first type, t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means is for dependent datasets, such as if you are determining the success of a coupon campaign. You could track sales for a group of customers before the coupon and then track the sales for the same group of customers after the coupon campaign. You can then use this test to determine if there is a statistical difference between the means of the two groups, or you can input a specific level for the difference in the Hypothesized Mean Difference input argument (Figure 11.56). If there is no set difference level you are investigating, then type “0” in the Hypothesized Mean Difference box.

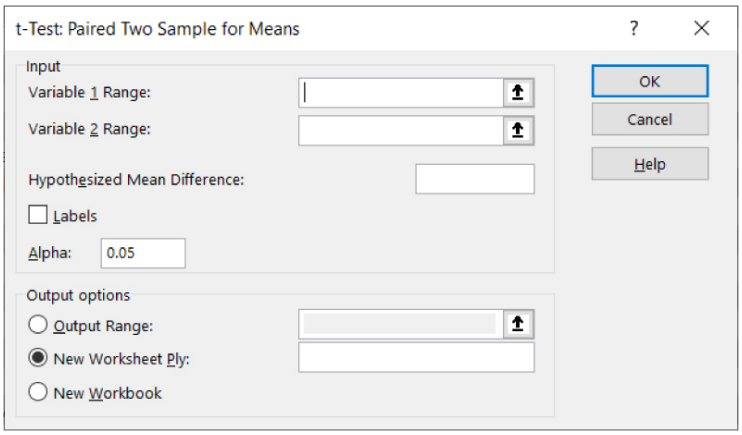


Figure 11.56: The Paired Two Sample for Means test examines before and after comparisons. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The two remaining t-Tests in Excel are for analysis with independent datasets. The tests are t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Equal Variances and t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances. You could use the two-sample t-Test to determine if there is a difference between purchase amounts for males and females. You could also use the test to determine if sales have changed between last year and this year. The difference between the two tests is that one deals with equal variances, and the other deals with unequal variances. You will need to determine before selecting the test if the variances are nearly equal or not. You can determine if the variances of two datasets are equal by using the Descriptive Statistics tool discussed in Descriptive Statistics. When you choose the appropriate function, an input window will appear (Figure 11.57). As with the Paired test, you will need to select the two ranges of data and a Hypothesized Mean Difference. If there is no difference, then type “0” into the Hypothesized Mean Difference box.

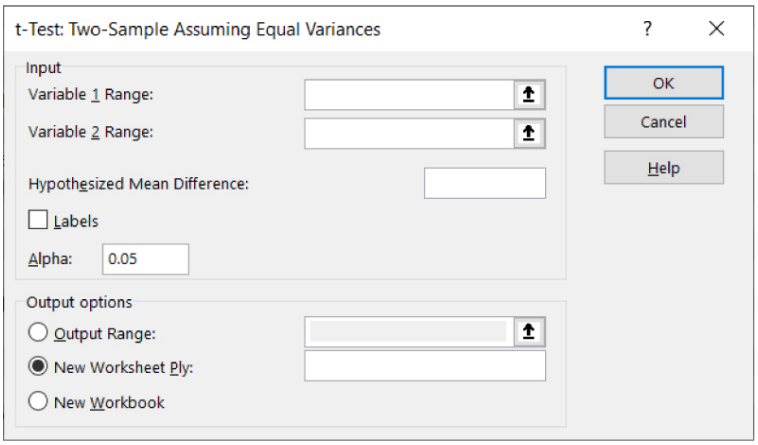


Figure 11.57: The Two-Sample Assuming Equal Variances function examines statistical differences between two datasets when the variances are equal. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using the WorldCorp data file with unit price, you can determine if there is a difference in the unit price between Home Stereo Systems and Computer Servers Accessories. The t-Test is appropriate for this analysis because the population standard deviation is not known. In other words, you do not know whether the data follows the normal distribution. Upon verification, you determine that the variances of the two groups are very different, so you should choose the t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances (Figure 11.58).

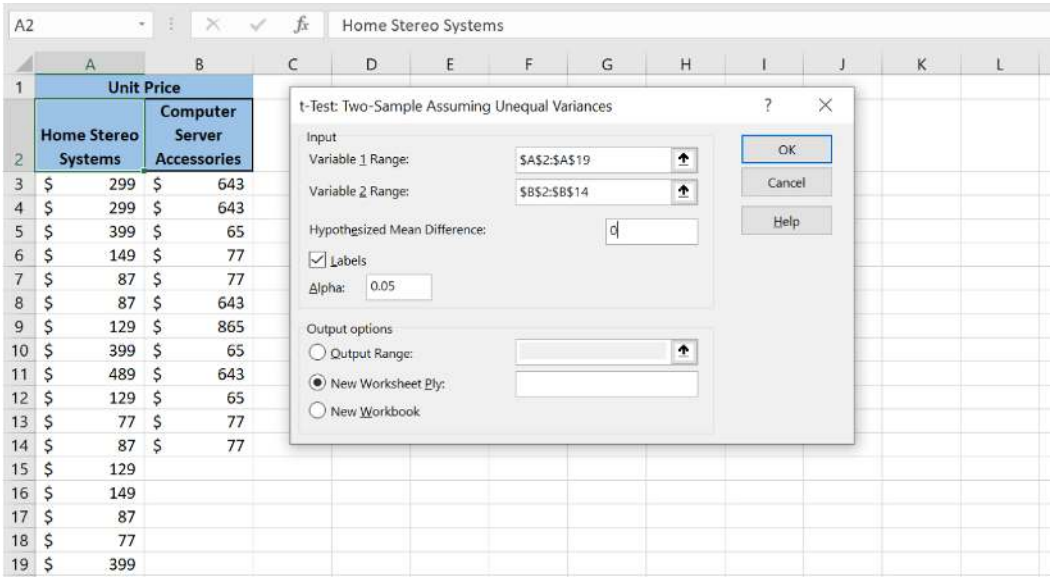
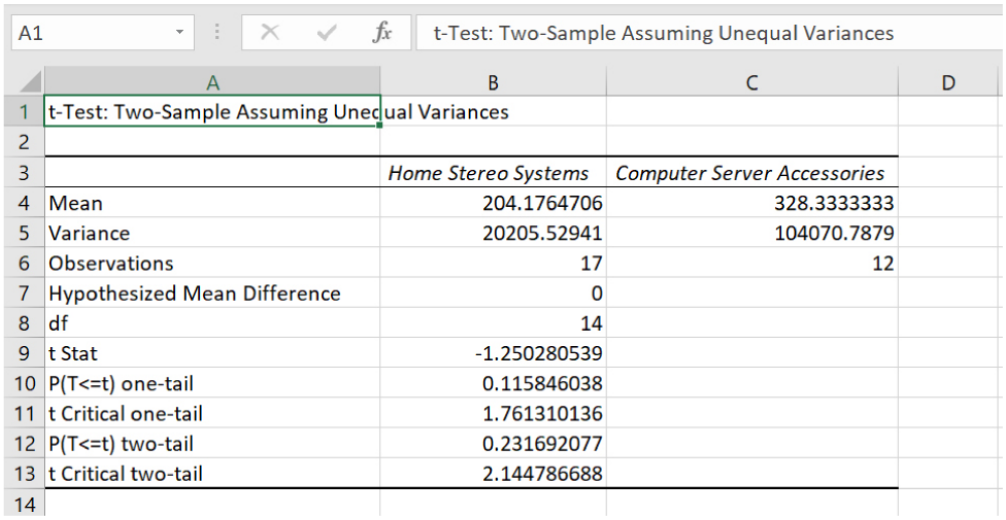


Figure 11.58: If the variances are known to be not equal, use the t-Test Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances function. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The output from the function gives all the information needed to make the decision for the hypothesis test. As with previous functions, clean up the decimal points and reformat. The output obtained from using the other t-Test functions will look like Figure 11.59.



	A	B	C	D
1	t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances			
2				
3		*Home Stereo Systems*	*Computer Server Accessories*	
4	Mean	204.1764706	328.3333333	
5	Variance	20205.52941	104070.7879	
6	Observations	17	12	
7	Hypothesized Mean Difference	0		
8	df	14		
9	t Stat	-1.250280539		
10	P(T<=t) one-tail	0.115846038		
11	t Critical one-tail	1.761310136		
12	P(T<=t) two-tail	0.231692077		
13	t Critical two-tail	2.144786688		
14				

Figure 11.59: The output from the t-Test function shows the *P* value for both a one-tail and two-tail test. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Z-Test

The z-Test: Two Sample for Means (Figure 11.60) tests for differences between two independent datasets that follow the normal distribution. It is like the t-Test except that the data is normal.

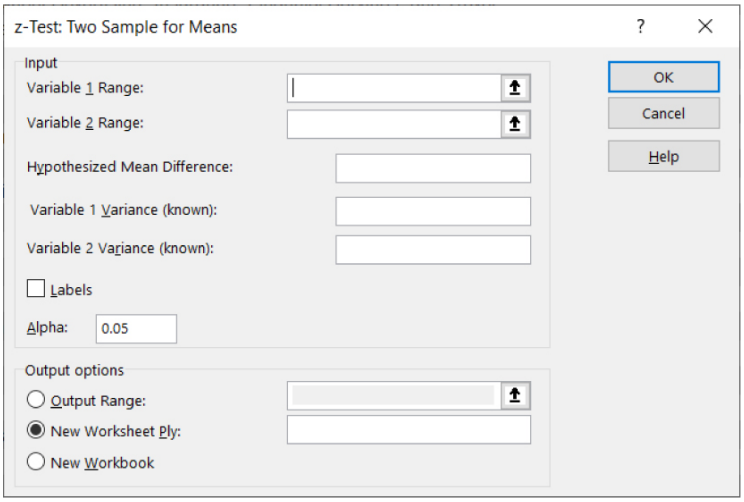


Figure 11.60: The z-Test function is used when datasets are known to be normal. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You will need to select the two ranges for analysis and include a Hypothesized Mean Difference if desired. In addition, you will need to enter the variance for each of the variable ranges. If you don't already know the variance, you can use the Descriptive Statistics tool previously discussed or the variance function in the Insert Function library to obtain it. The variance you enter must be a number, not a cell reference. Check the Labels box, if appropriate, and then click OK. The output obtained from the z-Test will be much like the output for the t-Tests.

The Solver Add-in

The Solver add-in offers additional ways to analyze a dataset. This section will just cover the basics, but you can research the tool further if you want to know more about Solver and its uses for data analysis. Solver appears with Data Analysis on the Data tab (Figure 11.61).

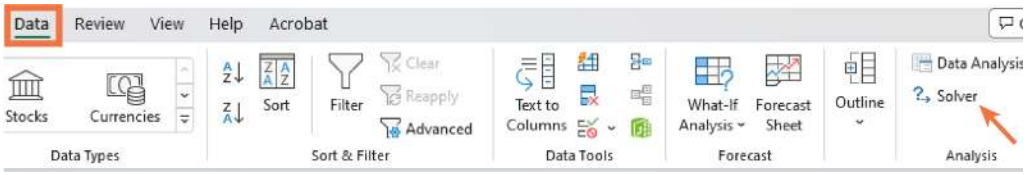


Figure 11.61: The Solver add-in is found on the Data tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Solver tool allows you to change levels in a dataset according to specific constraints you set up (Figure 11.62). Then, you can see the various solutions under those constraints. This is a helpful tool if you have multiple variables within a dataset. The output provides an optimal solution with the dataset given the constraints you establish.

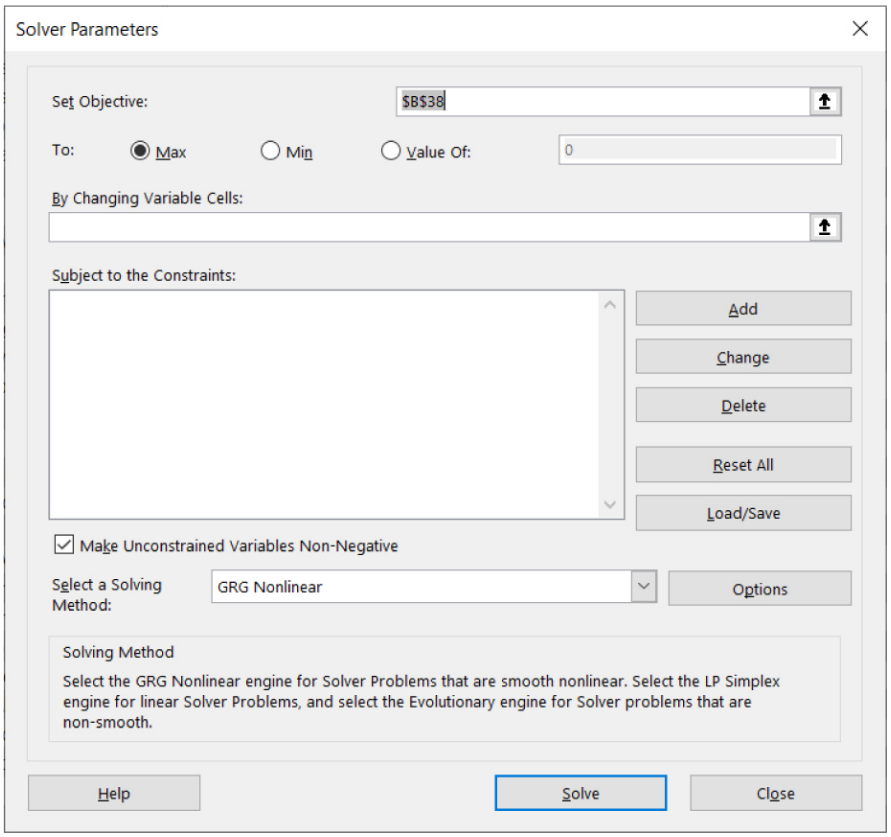


Figure 11.62: The Solver tool allows you to change levels in a dataset according to specific constraints. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To use the tool, you need to determine the target cell for optimization and the criteria (maximum, minimum, or a specific value). Then, you add the various constraints to the dataset. You can add up to 100 constraints to the Solver tool. Solver will find a solution to meet the criteria for the target cell assuming there is a solution. You can apply the solution to your dataset by choosing “Keep Solver Solution” with the output. There are many applications in business for Solver. For example, you could use the tool to determine the optimal level needed to minimize costs or maximize revenues in a business. You can use it to find the optimal solution for allocations in a retirement fund to enable you to retire at your desired age. You can also use it to determine the conditions necessary to pay off a mortgage loan in half the time. Take a look at the data in the "solvsamp" tabs of the downloadable Chapter 11 data file ("solvsamp1-7") for some great examples of Solver and applications of the tool to various problems.

Spotlight on Ethics - Data Integrity

There are many ways that information and data can be manipulated to tell a different story from what is factual or to influence your interpretation of the information to slant a certain way. Simple changes such as adjusting the scaling on a chart or adding formatting changes to numbers can alter the way people interpret the information. For instance, you may want to show a larger than actual impact. You might decide to use a baseline number other than zero along the *x*-axis to show a much larger trend in the data than what is real. Or, perhaps you can choose to emphasize information and impacts by using very small units of measure. With today’s endless access to data, the influence of the media, and the ever-present “fake news” online, it is important to be diligent about making sure that data is accurately reported, analyzed, and presented to the intended audience.

This page titled 11.2: Statistical Functions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.3: What-If Analysis

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use Scenario Manager to evaluate different variables
- Determine a desired result using Goal Seek

Having a backup plan is helpful when things do not go as expected. The plan offers an alternative course of action to pursue in case the first path does not work out. In business, this practice is called contingency planning, and it is essential for the business to be successful. This planning process can involve investigating alternatives if sales are lower than expected. It can involve planning for the eventual retirement of key personnel in the business. It could also address items such as the long-term strategic direction of the company. The contingency plan is a proactive attempt to anticipate some situations that might be different from your expected course of action and that might negatively impact the success of your business. Having this plan in place certainly does not guarantee that nothing outside of the plan will happen, but it helps a business to deal with specific situations they have identified as well as some degree of uncertainty. You cannot always plan for the unexpected, such as natural disasters or shifts in consumer preferences, but there are some things that you can plan around. For example, the business can have a plan in place in the event sales are lower than expected. This plan could involve budget cuts or enhanced marketing efforts to boost sales.

There is a process to developing a contingency plan for a business. These steps might also be helpful in your personal life as you plan for your future career. The first step is to list the risks or the events that have some uncertainty associated with them. For example, if you are unsure of what the utility costs might be for a new building, that could be a risk for your business. Some areas where a business may experience risks are unplanned issues with time or schedule, cost adjustments, availability of resources, or technical problems. Next, you will need to rank the risks according to the impact to the business. For example, if your business is an e-commerce site, a technical issue that crashes your website would be a significant priority over increased office supply expenses. Next, you need to set a plan for each event that you have identified. Each plan should be detailed enough to provide an alternative course of action for the business. Your business should revisit the contingency plan often and make any adjustments necessary, based on any changes in the business. There are many templates online that can help you with contingency planning in business. Some Excel templates use formatting to make the plan easy to understand and professional so that you can easily share it with others in the company.

Using Scenario Manager

The Scenario Manager tool in Excel provides a way to look quantitatively at contingency planning. It allows the user to change attributes without altering live data to examine the resulting impact on key variables. You can change up to 32 cells and view the results of those changes all at the same time. This feature can be quite helpful for contingency planning. For example, you might already have metrics that identify the best- and worst-case scenarios for sales. Using this range and the Scenario Manager tool, you can look at the impact to the overall profit picture for the business. You could also use the tool for planning your personal finances. You could investigate the impact of increasing your monthly mortgage payment on the time it will take you to pay off the loan. The tool can be instrumental in helping a business navigate multiple courses of action to determine the best approach moving forward. You can also merge the scenarios from a single or multiple worksheets together for more in-depth analysis.

What Is a Scenario?

The Scenario Manager is part of the What-If Analysis tools suite in the Forecast command group. The tool is accessed from the Data tab and is in the Forecast command group (Figure 11.63).

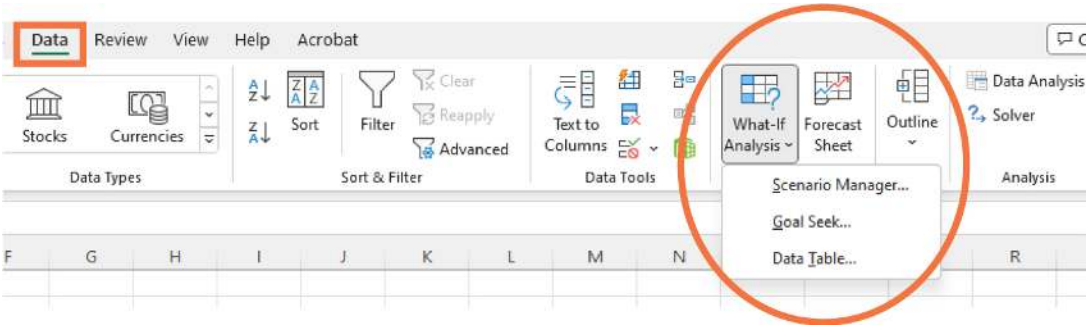


Figure 11.63: The Scenario Manager tool provides a way to look quantitatively at contingency planning. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

A scenario determines the values that Excel will use to change the input cells. You can save different scenarios with different values to view the impact on your target cell(s) at the same time. When you choose Scenario Manager, an input window will appear (Figure 11.64). From here, you will set the changing cells that define the scenario and the target cell for the results.

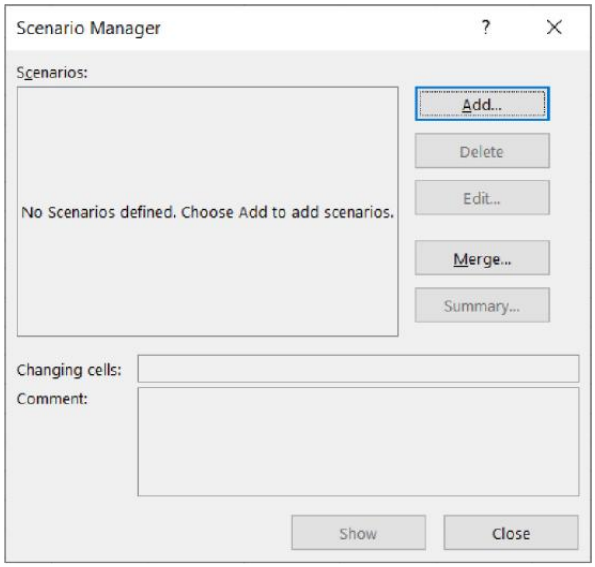


Figure 11.64: To use the Scenario Manager, first set the changing cells and target cell. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Let's begin with a simple example of obtaining a home mortgage. The initial mortgage is for $150,000 for 30 years with an interest rate of 5 percent. You want to find a better interest rate and see the impact that rate will have on your payment and the total amount you will pay. Using the PMT (payment) and FV (future value) functions from the Function Library, you can quickly determine the status of the loan (Figure 11.65). With these values at the current rate of 5 percent, you will pay just over $800 per month and at the end of the life of the loan, you will have paid nearly $260,000. The functions by default return a negative number for the results, as indicated by the parentheses and the red font color. You will need to adjust the equation to convert the number to a positive number. You can either put a "-" in front of the function or use the ABS function at the beginning of the formula to use the absolute value of the number. You can use the Scenario Manager to investigate different interest rates and different payment terms if you decide you want to pay the loan over 15 years or a time frame other than the standard 30-year mortgage term. You will use the same mortgage example to investigate different levels for the interest rate and repayment terms.

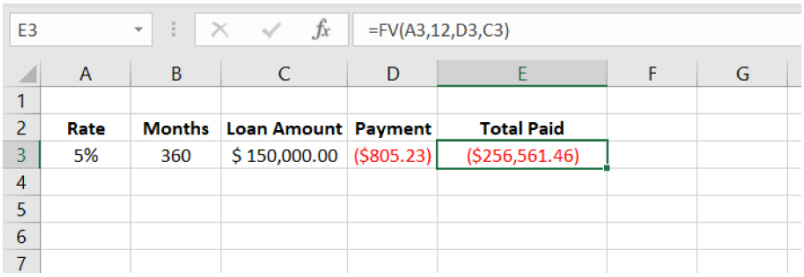


Figure 11.65: The functions by default return a negative number for the results as indicated by the parentheses and the red font color. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding and Deleting a Scenario

Using the mortgage example, you can create a scenario to look at the impact of lowering the interest rate on both the payment and the total amount paid for the loan. First, to add a scenario, go to the Data tab, choose What-If Analysis, and select Scenario Manager. Click Add and the Add Scenario dialog box will appear (Figure 11.66). Here, you will define the changing cells and name the scenario. You can name this scenario "rate changes."

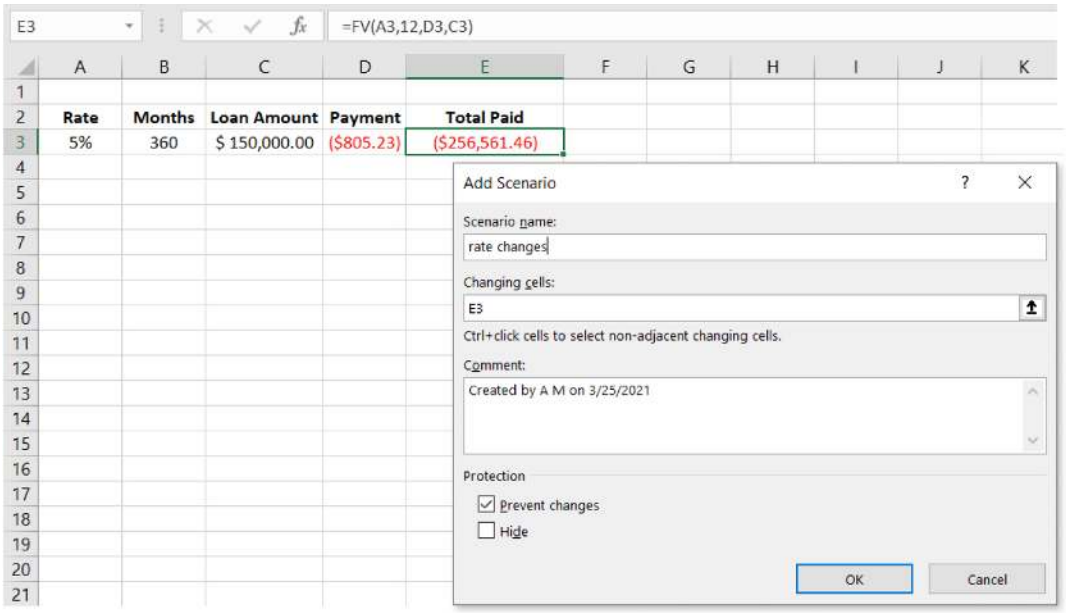


Figure 11.66: To add a scenario, click Add in the Scenario Manager window and define your scenario in the dialog box. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next, select the cell you want to change. To change the rate, you would select cell A3. The Scenario Manager does allow you to add more than one cell in the scenario. In this example, you will also change the length of time for the loan. Select A3:B3 for Changing cells. You can add comments if desired to explain the scenario, such as details about the reason for the selected ranges and other relevant information. Then, click OK. Next, you will define the levels or range of values that Excel will use to change the value in cells A3 and B3. Assume you want to compare the impact of a rate higher than the original 5 percent and a loan term shorter than the original 360 months to the impact of a lower rate and longer loan term (Figure 11.67). Add two separate scenarios at the various levels for each cell, A3 and B3. Click OK. This will take you back to the Scenario Manager window. Add the other scenario in the same way.

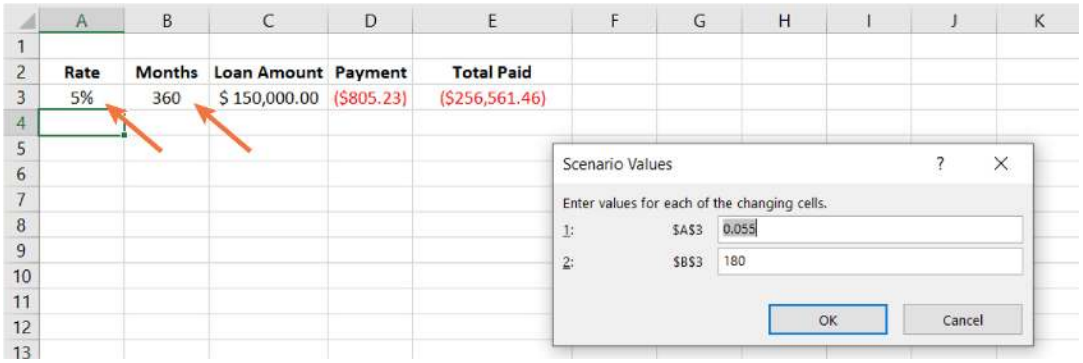


Figure 11.67: Define the ranges of values for Excel to manipulate in the scenario. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Notice that you have two scenarios listed in the Scenario Manager (Figure 11.68).

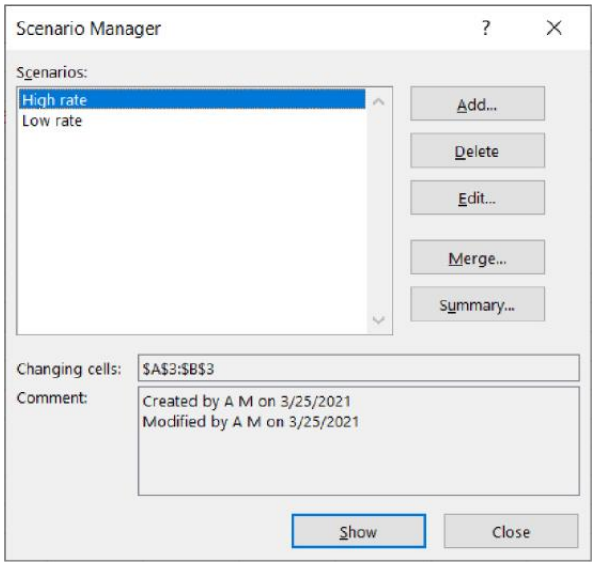
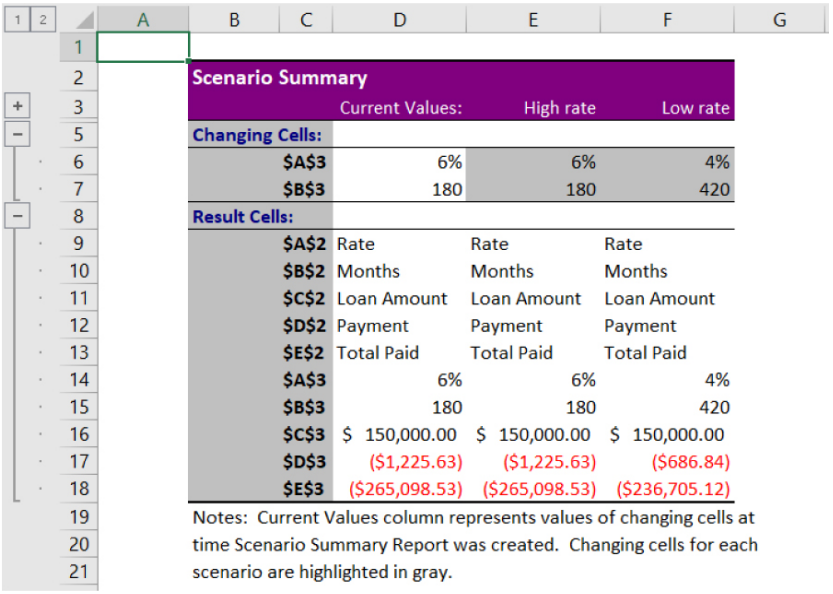


Figure 11.68: The Scenario Manager lists all the active scenarios on a spreadsheet. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

There are a couple of options at this point. If you want to see the results from either scenario on the spreadsheet, click the appropriate scenario in the list and click Show. This will change the value in the spreadsheet, but only for one scenario at a time. If you choose Summary, the Scenario Manager will compile the information for all the scenarios in the list in a clear table on a separate worksheet so that you can compare the results (Figure 11.69). You can then format and adjust the table to fit your needs. One other functionality of the Scenario Manager is that it can merge scenarios from other worksheets into a single worksheet using the Merge button.



Scenario Summary			
	Current Values:	High rate	Low rate
Changing Cells:			
A3	6%	6%	4%
B3	180	180	420
Result Cells:			
A2	Rate	Rate	Rate
B2	Months	Months	Months
C2	Loan Amount	Loan Amount	Loan Amount
D2	Payment	Payment	Payment
E2	Total Paid	Total Paid	Total Paid
A3	6%	6%	4%
B3	180	180	420
C3	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00	$ 150,000.00
D3	($1,225.63)	($1,225.63)	($686.84)
E3	($265,098.53)	($265,098.53)	($236,705.12)

Notes: Current Values column represents values of changing cells at time Scenario Summary Report was created. Changing cells for each scenario are highlighted in gray.

Figure 11.69: The Scenario Manager tool provides a summary of the results on a separate worksheet. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To delete a scenario, go to the Scenario Manager and select the scenario you want to delete from the list and choose Delete. If you have created a scenario summary table, the table will remain even if you delete the scenario. If you instead selected Show and the scenario is displayed on the spreadsheet, the numbers will not revert to the original values even if you delete the scenario. Rather, you will lose your original data. For this reason, it is generally better to use the Scenario Summary rather than the Show option.

Real-World Application - Personal Budgeting

You've learned that Excel can be a helpful tool for managing your personal finances. It can also be a handy tool to help you plan for future purchases and accumulate savings for retirement. Take a look at this article to see how the Scenario Manager can help with budgeting your personal finances. Let's use the Scenario Manager to save for a vacation. You will need to investigate the cost of the vacation—for instance, factor in all costs associated with the travel (flight, hotel, food, etc.). Ideally, you will want to compare more than one cost associated with the vacation—perhaps you are comparing hotels, or flights, or even another destination altogether. Then, determine what your sources of income might be. You will use the Scenario Manager to determine the costs of the vacation by comparing the different vacation options using your budget information.

Think about the following:

- How can the Scenario Manager tool be used to help you reach your goals?
- What assumptions did you need to make in order to establish your budget?

Editing a Scenario

To edit a scenario, open the Scenario Manager, select the scenario you want to edit, and choose Edit on the right of the window. This will open the initial scenario window. You can make changes to the target cells, comments, or name of the scenario. Then, click OK. You will be prompted to adjust the values if desired. Then, click OK. You will need to run the Summary again to see the updated results based on the changes you made.

Using Goal Seek

Goal Seek is another tool in the What-If Analysis group. It is like Solver but restricted to a single input variable. The Goal Seek tool allows you to select a target cell and value for that cell by changing another cell that contains a formula. For example, Goal Seek could determine how much money you need to set aside to reach your retirement fund goal. It could also determine the mortgage interest rate needed to keep a monthly payment within your budget. In a small business, this tool can help when considering a purchase of equipment or property for the business. In this case, the duration and the total amount of the loan are typically known. Goal Seek can investigate financing options to get the monthly installment payment within budget. Conversely,

Goal Seek can determine how much in total a person or business can afford for a loan based on a set interest rate and length of the loan.

To begin, open the spreadsheet with the information needed for your analysis or create a new one. Using the mortgage example, suppose you would like to determine what value of home you can afford. Most mortgages have a term of 30 years (360 months), and you are planning on a 5 percent interest rate. You would like a monthly payment not to exceed $850. The Goal Seek tool can determine the loan amount that will keep the mortgage payment within your budget. Go to the Data tab, click on the drop-down arrow next to What-If Analysis, and choose Goal Seek (Figure 11.70). Notice the input window has three arguments: Set cell, To value, and By changing cell.

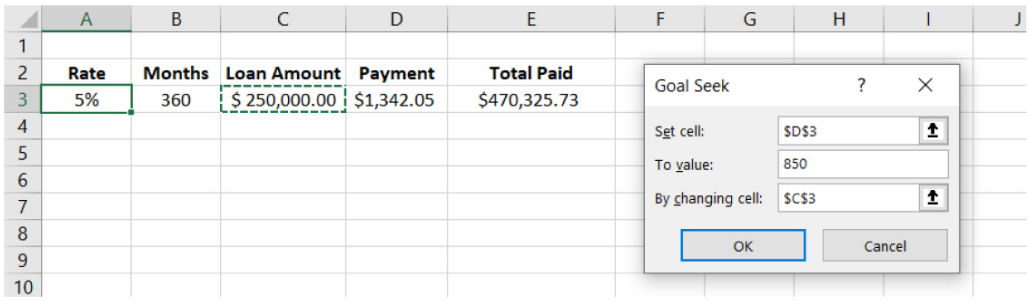


Figure 11.70: Goal Seek is similar to Solver, but you are restricted to a single input variable. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In this example, type D3 in the Set cell field, 850 in the To value field, and C3 in the By changing cell field (loan amount). Click OK (Figure 11.71). The result will display in the window if Excel found a solution.

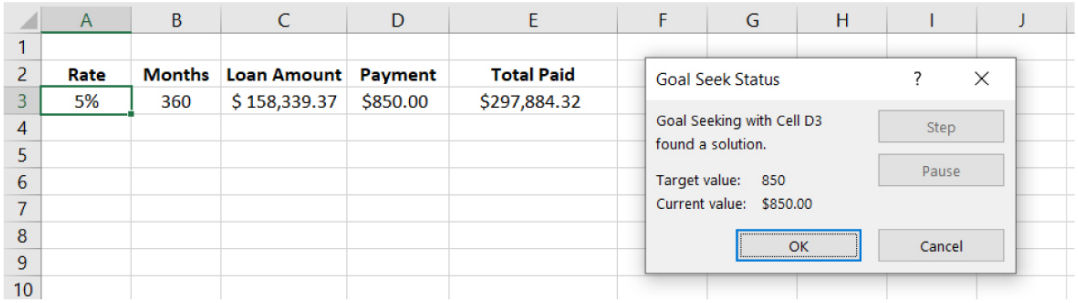


Figure 11.71: Goal Seek displays the result if a solution is found in the Goal Seek Status window. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Your budgeted monthly payment of $850 will allow you to afford a home that is approximately $158,000. The result window also provides the target value (850) and current value ($850.00) for the solution. When you click OK, Excel retains the solution in the spreadsheet. If you want the values to return to their original numbers, click Cancel instead. You can use the tool to examine various options, such as the price you could afford if you increased your monthly payment to $900. This tool provides information for data analysis and contingency planning when you are focused on one input variable, but it is limited in its use for in-depth planning and analysis.

This page titled 11.3: What-If Analysis is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.4: PivotTables/Charts

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Manipulate and create calculated fields in a PivotTable
- Add slicers to a PivotTable
- Use timelines in a PivotTable

In business, you will sometimes hear references made to “big data.” In this context, “big data” represents the large, growing, diverse datasets used by businesses to analyze their performance and attract more customers. There are three components to big data: the velocity of growth in the amount of data, the massive volume of data collected, and the variety of data that is collected and used in businesses. This data is collected through a process called data mining, which involves using software to make sense of all the data collected by the company and from outside sources. The goal is to analyze and evaluate large quantities of information and discover trends that may be useful to the company. Those trends could show purchasing patterns for a specific demographic group or identify a new competitor that businesses need to combat. The possibilities are as endless as the data that is collected. Through programs such as Excel and sophisticated data analytic software packages, the data can be synthesized to aid in decision making in the business. The use of data for decision making is applicable to all types and sizes of businesses and organizations.

You learned about PivotTables in Advanced Excel Formulas, Functions, and Techniques. Here, you will focus on the advanced features of PivotTables that help with data analysis. The PivotTable Analyze tab provides several tools that make data analysis a bit easier. Recall that the PivotTable Analyze tab is available when you have data formatted as a PivotTable and you click inside the table (Figure 11.72).

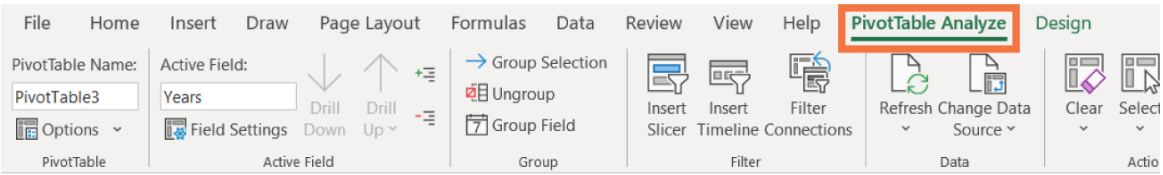


Figure 11.72: The PivotTable Analyze tab provides several tools that make data analysis streamlined. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Timeline and Slicer tools offer a more visual way to filter the data in the PivotTable. The Fields, Items, & Sets menu allows you to include more calculations in your analysis. There are additional options in this menu that can help facilitate data analysis in the PivotTable.

Insert Timeline

The Insert Timeline feature for a PivotTable allows you to quickly filter information based on a date field. You must have a field formatted as a date to use the Insert Timeline tool. Using the first four tabs in the Chapter 11 data file workbook ("timeline1," "timeline2," "timeline3," and "timeline4"), you can create a PivotTable using the skills learned in Advanced Excel Formulas, Functions, and Techniques. The PivotTable summarizes the enrollment English Index Score (EN Index Score) for various majors at a university over several years (Figure 11.73). You can use this data to see if there have been changes in the score over time. The Insert Timeline feature on the PivotTable Analyze tab allows you to add a date filter to the table.

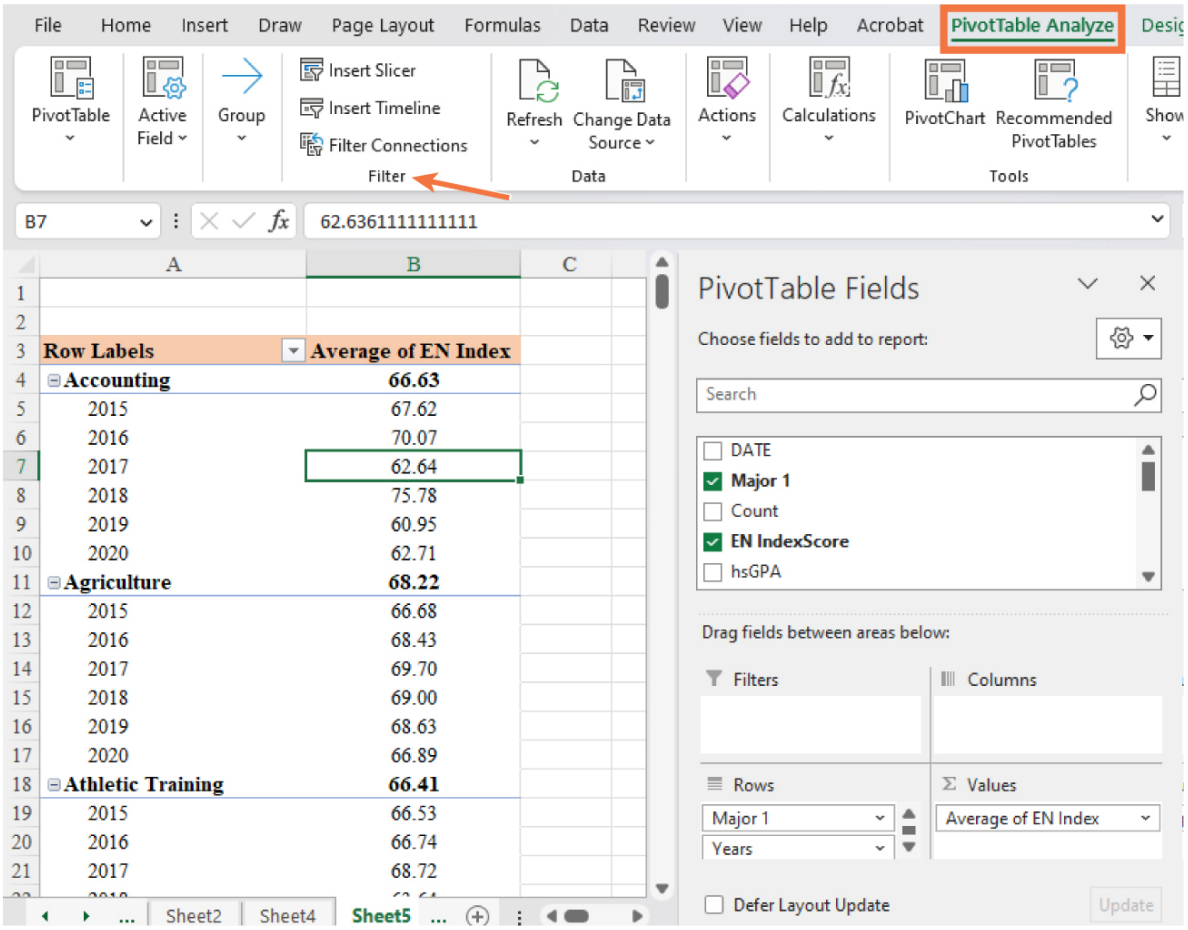


Figure 11.73: A date filter can be applied to a dataset with the Insert Timeline tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Click in the PivotTable to bring up the PivotTable Analyze tab. Choose Insert Timeline from the Filter command group. Click the checkbox next to the field title that contains the date. In this example, the field is called DATE. Click OK. The timeline scroll bar will appear (Figure 11.74). In this case, you only have annual data, so you can change the unit to years instead of quarters, months, or days.

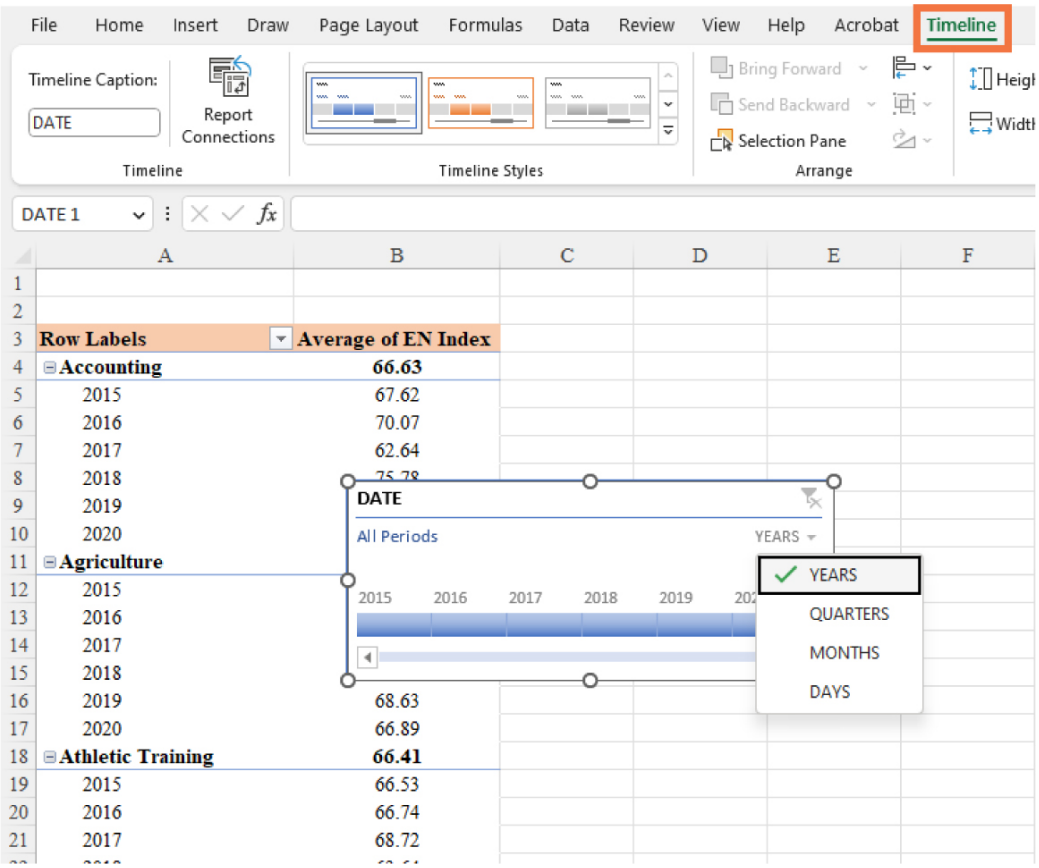


Figure 11.74: The timeline scroll bar offers a quick way to filter data using time such as years. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Currently, the PivotTable shows all years available in the dataset. You can deselect those years that you do not want and keep only those that you are interested in examining. Let's select 2017 and 2018, which filters the table using those dates only. You can then use this filtered data for more in-depth analysis and calculations. To remove the timeline, right-click on the timeline scroll bar and choose Remove Timeline. If you had already filtered the data with the timeline, the data in the PivotTable will remain filtered to those dates. If you want the table to return to its original form with all of the dates included, be sure to click on the Remove Filter button prior to removing the timeline.

Insert Slicer

A slicer is a visual, interactive way to filter data in a PivotTable. When a PivotTable has slicers available, you can filter the data by clicking on buttons in the slicer as opposed to using the filter options in the column headings of a PivotTable. They are particularly useful when there are multiple users of a PivotTable who need to view the information that is relevant to their needs. You can add slicers through the PivotTable Analyze tab in the Filter command group.

Let's look again at the dataset of enrollment ACT scores. A PivotTable can be created to include the years, major, average high school grade point average (HS GPA), EN Index Score, and average ACT Math. You can insert a slicer to delve deeper into the data. Assume you want to look at the HS GPA for biology and chemistry majors compared with that of accounting and business majors. You can use a slicer to make this process easier. First, click in the PivotTable to access the PivotTable Analyze tab. Then, choose Insert Slicer. A selection window will appear (Figure 11.75). Click the checkbox next to Major 1. Click OK.

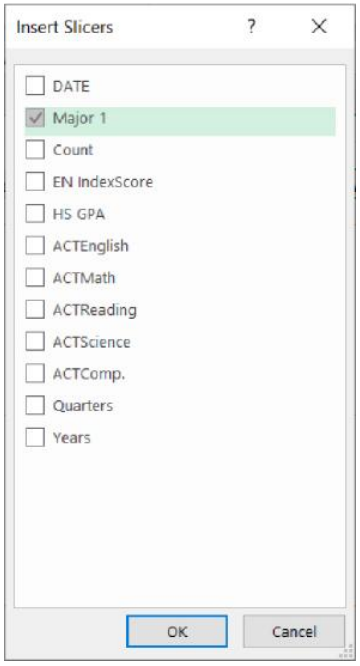


Figure 11.75: The Insert Slicer tool allows you to choose which variable to filter. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The slicer will appear on the spreadsheet with selection buttons for each of the majors in the list. You can resize and format the slicer to meet your needs. You can also choose various slicer styles under the Slicer tab that becomes accessible when you click inside the slicer (Figure 11.76).

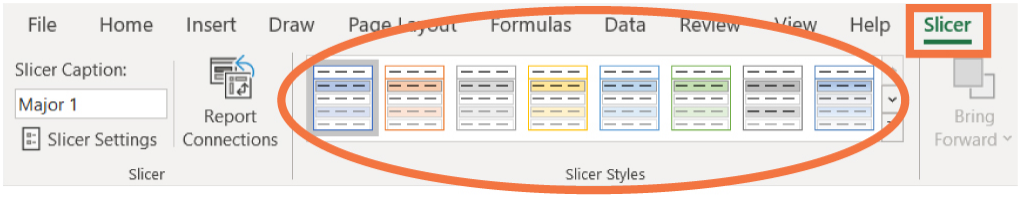


Figure 11.76: The Slicer tab appears when you have inserted a slicer into a PivotTable. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you insert the slicer, the default is for all majors to be selected, as indicated by the blue highlighted buttons (Figure 11.77). You can click on the Multi-Select option to remove all the majors and start building your table for analysis. For this example, you want to look at the differences in HS GPA for Biology, Chemistry, Accounting, and Business Administration. You will choose only those majors to be displayed in your PivotTable (Figure 11.78).

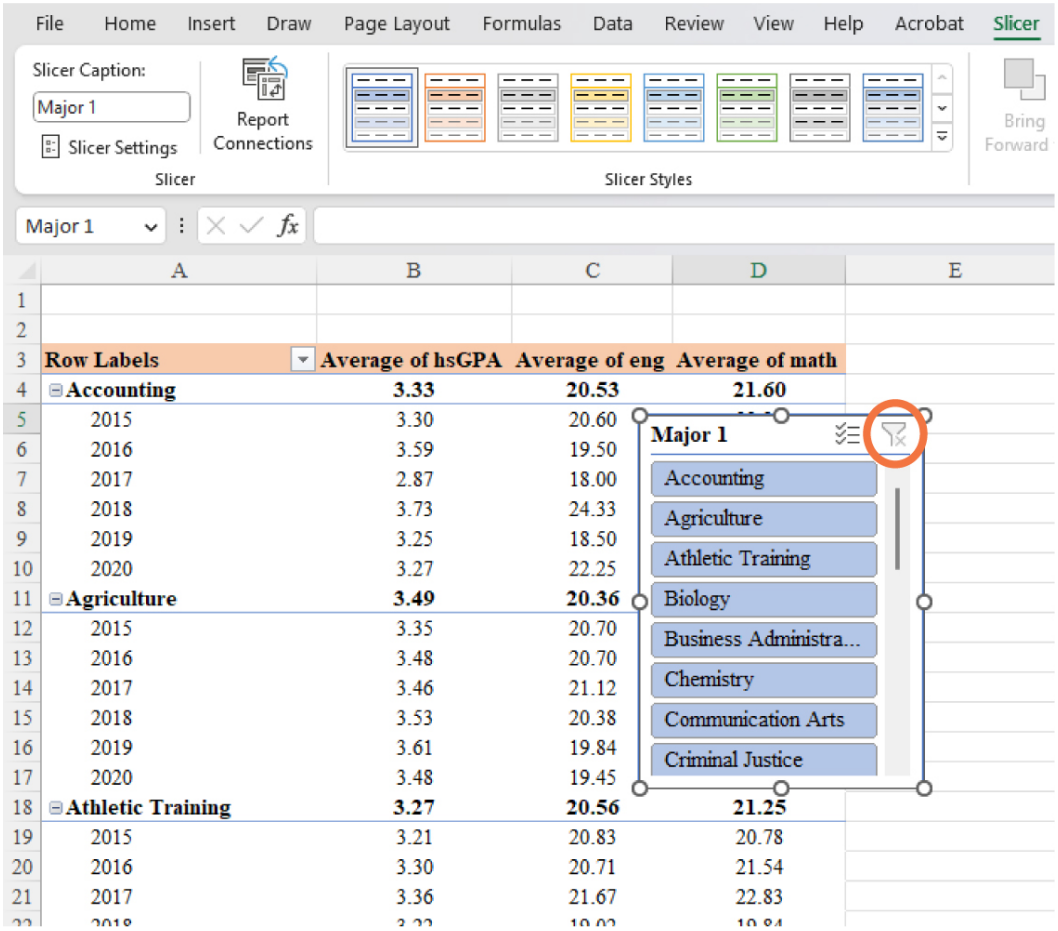


Figure 11.77: By inserting a slicer, a user can quickly filter data by simply clicking on the major of interest in this example. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

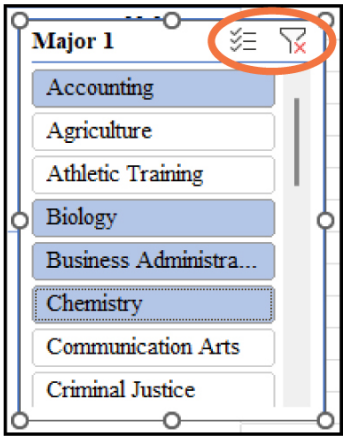


Figure 11.78: To remove a filter, click on the Remove Filter button. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Choosing only these majors filters the table for an easier and more direct comparison. Remember, you could simply use the filter option in the column heading, but slicers are a convenient and interactive way to filter data. To remove the filter, click on the Remove Filter button in the top right of the slicer window. To remove the slicer entirely, right-click on the slicer and choose Remove Slicer. Be sure to remove the filters first if you want the data to return to its original form. Simply removing the slicer window will not also remove the filters you set in place.

Slicers are also available when you have data in a Data Table. With the data formatted as a Data Table, click inside the Data Table to bring up the Table Design tab. The Insert Slicer option is in the Tools command group (Figure 11.79). The process to insert, format, use, and remove slicers is the same as it is for PivotTables.

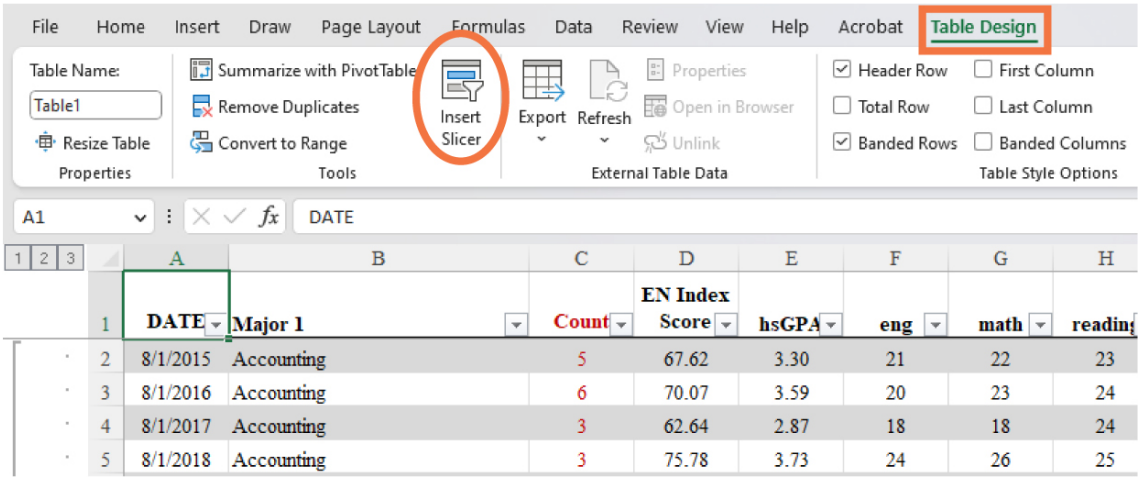


Figure 11.79: Slicers can be used with Data Tables as well through the Table Design tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

PivotTable slicers are a great way to set up an interface so that users can better navigate the data file. You can make a dashboard of slicers to make it easier for users to select the data they need to see from the PivotTable. Read this article that provides a detailed example of setting up a dashboard with both slicers and timelines to learn more.

Calculated Field

The Calculated Field tool allows you to add columns of calculations to your PivotTable. The Calculated Field tool is accessed through the Fields, Items, & Sets menu on the PivotTable Analyze tab (Figure 11.80).

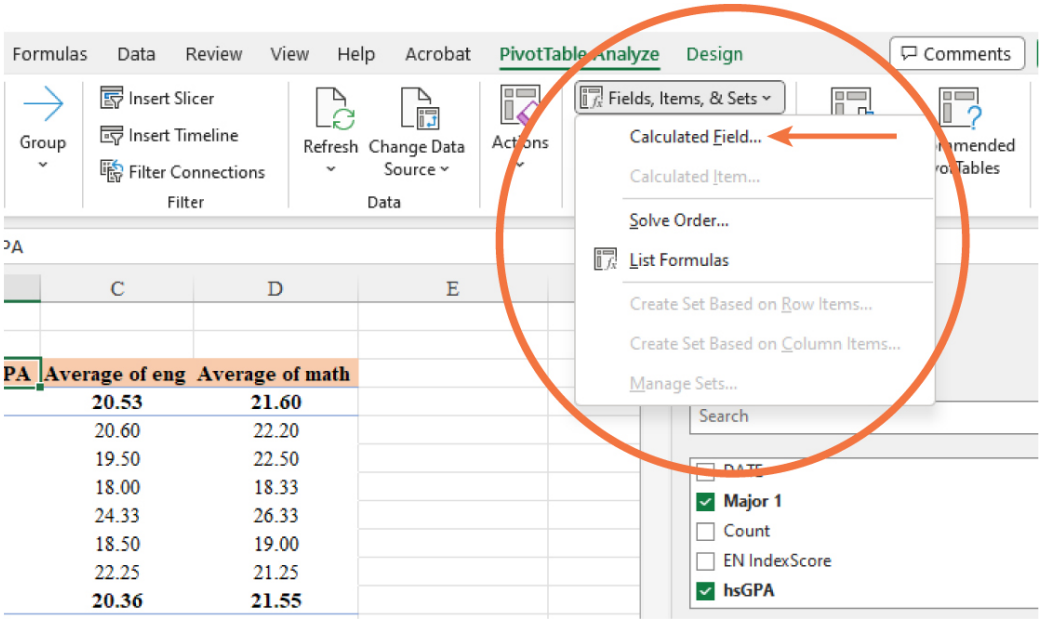


Figure 11.80: Calculated fields are added to a PivotTable through the PivotTable Analyze tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

These calculated field columns cannot be used with slicers, but they allow you to analyze the data in other ways. Using the dataset of enrollments and ACT scores, assume you want to get the average ACT scores across the various content areas (English, Math, etc.). You will need to get an average of the four ACT scores as a calculated field column. Click inside the PivotTable to access the PivotTable Analyze tab; choose Fields, Items, & Sets; and click on Calculated Field. An input window will appear (Figure 11.81).

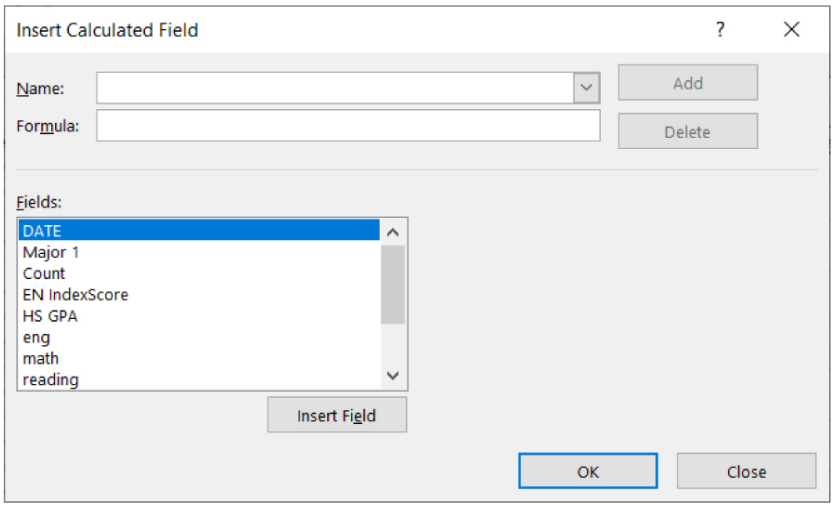
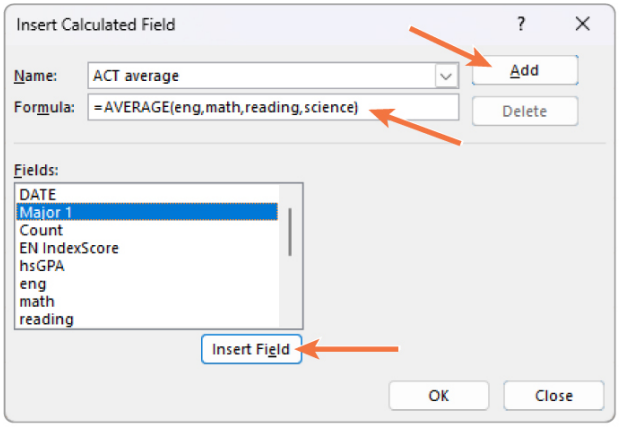
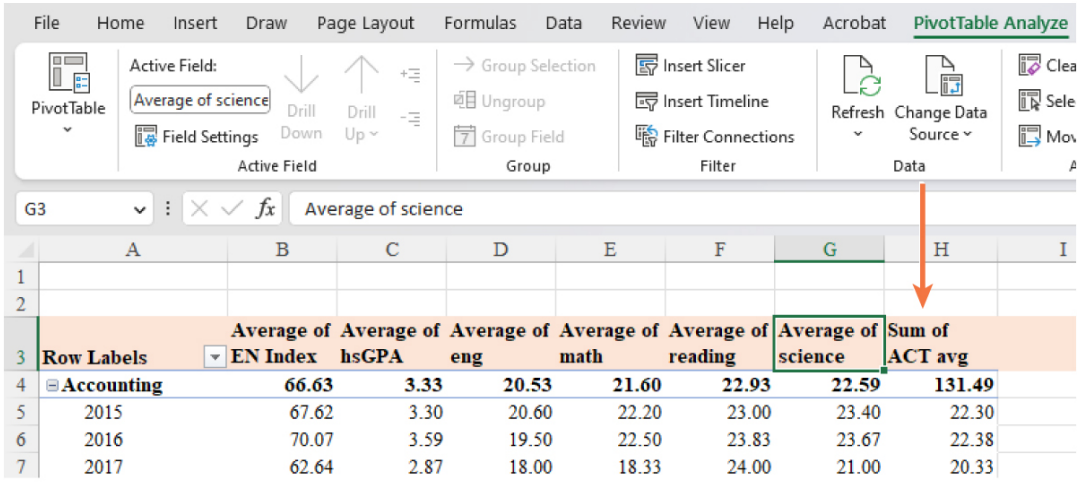


Figure 11.81: Select the variable for the calculated field in the Insert Calculated Field window. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You will need to name the calculated field—use “ACT average” for this example—and then you can input the formula. Remember that all formulas in Excel need to begin with an equals sign. You can use functions such as AVERAGE, SUM, and IF, as appropriate for your needs. For this example, you want the average of the English, Math, Reading, and Science fields. To accomplish this, type in the Formula input box “=AVERAGE(” to begin. Then, choose “eng” from the Fields list and select Insert Field. Then, type a comma and insert the next field, “math.” At the end of the formula, make sure to close your parentheses and then check for extra spaces in the formula. Then, click Add to create the calculated field. Finally, click OK (Figure 11.82a). You will now see the calculated field column in your PivotTable (Figure 11.82b).



(a)



Row Labels	Average of EN Index	Average of hsGPA	Average of eng	Average of math	Average of reading	Average of science	Sum of ACT avg
Accounting	66.63	3.33	20.53	21.60	22.93	22.59	131.49
2015	67.62	3.30	20.60	22.20	23.00	23.40	22.30
2016	70.07	3.59	19.50	22.50	23.83	23.67	22.38
2017	62.64	2.87	18.00	18.33	24.00	21.00	20.33

(b)

Figure 11.82: Using the (a) Calculated Field feature will add (b) a new column to the PivotTable. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The default setting for the column headings in PivotTables is “Sum of” even though you are calculating an average. When you created the calculated field, you named the field ACT average, but that is not the column heading Excel will use. Excel will automatically add on “Sum of” to the column heading. You can change that by simply clicking on the column heading and deleting the words “Sum of.” Notice the data in the first cell in the ACT average column for each major is much larger than the other numbers in the major. This cell represents the sum of all the averages for the subgroup. For accounting, 131.49 is the sum of the average ACT numbers for the years 2015 to 2020. Excel automatically adds the subtotal to the first field in the Rows list. This number is probably not as valuable as the averages per year under each major. You can delete this value by choosing the field settings for Major 1 and under Subtotals, select None (Figure 11.83).

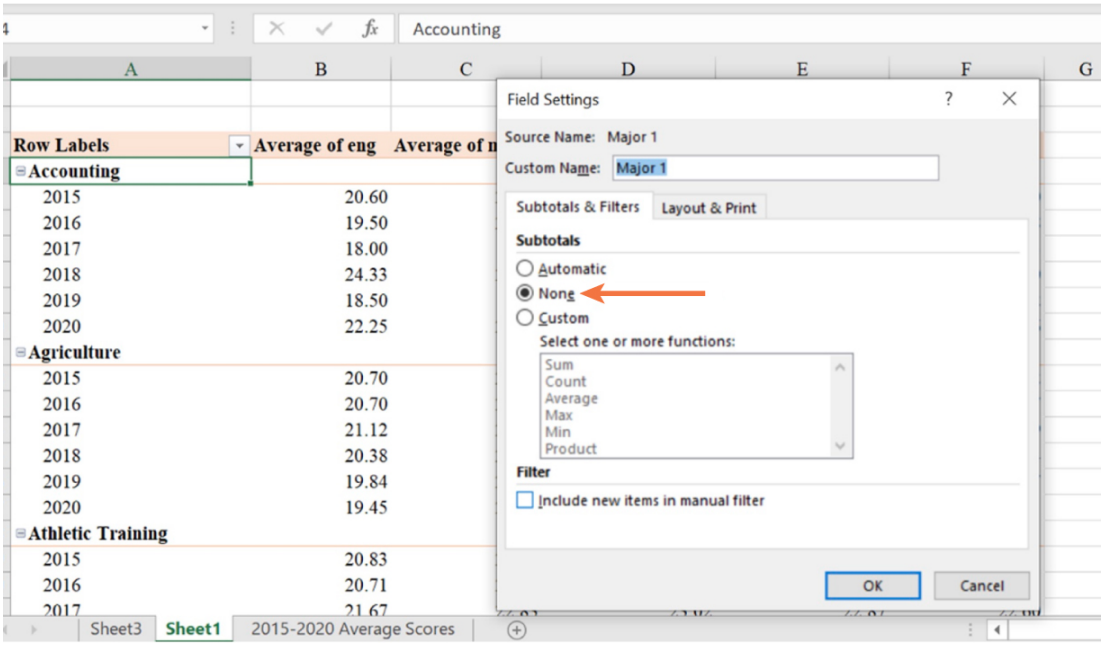


Figure 11.83: The default setting is “Automatic.” This adds the subtotal for the first field in Rows in the PivotTable. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding this calculated field for the accounting majors, you can see that the average ACT was at its lowest in 2019 and at its highest in 2018. Calculated fields can be used with sales and expense information to determine your profit, profit margin, and other similar calculations.

There are other options in the Insert Calculated Field input window that may also be useful. You can select the calculated field from the list and modify it to make changes. You can also select that calculated field and delete it entirely. Click OK after making your changes or deleting the calculated field. If you delete the field, the column will be removed from the PivotTable.

List Formulas

If there are multiple users of a data file, it can be important to ensure everyone is aware of the calculations behind the columns. This will assist the users in understanding the dataset and the information contained within. The List Formulas option in the Fields, Items, & Sets menu creates a separate tab that lists all the formulas (calculated fields) used in a PivotTable (Figure 11.84). This option is accessed when you are in the PivotTable in the PivotTable Analyze tab. Then, go to Field, Items, & Sets to get to List Formulas. It is good practice to include this with all data files that have multiple calculated fields. The list is not dynamic. If you create additional fields after the list is created, you will need to delete the original list and create a new one.

	A	B	C
1	*Calculated Field*		
2	**Solve Order**	**Field**	**Formula**
3	1	ACT average	=AVERAGE(eng,math,reading,science)
4	2	sum math science	=math+science
5	3	ratio of math to avg	=math /'ACT average'
6			
7	*Calculated Item*		
8	**Solve Order**	**Item**	**Formula**
9			
10			
11	*Note:*	When a cell is updated by more than one formula,	
12		the value is set by the formula with the last solve order.	
13			
14		To change the solve order for multiple calculated items or fields,	
15		on the Options tab, in the Calculations group, click Fields, Items, & Sets, and then click Solve Order.	

Figure 11.84: If there are multiple users for a spreadsheet, use the List Formulas tool to make sure all users are aware of the calculated fields and solve order in a PivotTable. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application - Tracking Spending

PivotTables can be a powerful tool to manage finances in a business or for your personal retirement planning. They allow you to compare data, as well as identify trends and patterns in the data. They are especially useful when you have a large amount of data. PivotTables can summarize this data, as well as provide interactive capabilities that allow you to adjust the different variables and investigate their influence. For instance, perhaps you would like to investigate spending and determine different considerations, such as how much is being spent, by whom, and on what. The same scenario can be applied to your own personal budget. Consider how you can use a PivotTable to track your own spending:

- How might this process be adjusted for a small business?
- What are some other uses of PivotTables in small businesses that you can think of?

This page titled 11.4: PivotTables/Charts is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.5: Data Analysis Charts

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Determine the most appropriate chart for a given dataset or analysis
- Create a chart template
- Use the Quick Analysis tool to add sparklines to a table

At some point in your career, you might need to present an analysis of data to an audience of peers or management. Your information must appear clear and professional and will likely include graphs and charts of your analysis. Recall that the theme and color choices of these elements can be critical to developing a professional presentation that will effectively and clearly communicate your intended message (see Preparing Presentations for a review of design strategies and tips).

You learned how to create graphs and charts in PivotTables. Some of those skills, such as using legends, adding gridlines, editing axis titles and labels, and including chart titles, will make for a professional presentation of the data. This section will discuss several types of charts and graphs and when they might be appropriate to use based on your dataset.

With data visuals, it is key that you select the type of chart or graph that works best for a particular dataset and makes the information easy to understand. You cannot simply select a graph or a chart based on its appearance. All types of graphs and charts are not appropriate for every dataset. As you decide which chart or graph to use, consider the type and level of data that you have (Table 11.3). You should also consider what kind of message you are trying to convey. Are you trying to inform, compare, show trends over time, or reveal relationships? Your purpose can dictate what type of chart you will use.

Table 11.3: Usage of Graphs and Charts

Purpose	Appropriate Charts/Graphs
Comparisons	Bar chart, pie chart, stacked bar chart, clustered column chart
Changes	Line graph, area chart, timeline
Relationships	Scatter plot, histogram, combo column/line chart

Link to Learning

Selecting the right type of chart to represent your data is not always easy. How you present your data is incredibly important. You need to always be mindful that you are accurately presenting your data visually in a way that tells the story objectively, with no apparent bias or intention. Visit this link to read strategies for choosing the correct chart to visualize your data.

Clustered Column Chart

A clustered column chart is simply a column chart that includes multiple variables to show the comparison between the groups. A column chart compares one variable against another variable. For example, you might put the sales region on the horizontal axis and the total sales on the vertical axis. A clustered column would have that, but it would include the same data for multiple years of data. The clustered column chart is great for showing comparisons (Figure 11.85). Using the WorldCorp data, you can create a clustered column chart to see the comparisons between the quantity sold for each product type over time. A drawback of the clustered column chart is that it is not appropriate for large amounts of data. If you have more than five sets of data, the chart can look too busy and overwhelm your audience. The clustered column chart also works better with a 2D display rather than a 3D display. The 3D display can look too busy and can make it difficult to interpret the information easily.



Figure 11.85: A clustered column chart can show data for multiple products at the same time.

Combination Chart

A combination chart combines two different chart types in one visual, allowing you to display data at different levels on the same chart. You can use combination charts to understand and examine comparisons between groups and the relationship between different variables. With this example, a combination chart can be created to show the FOB $ for each month based on the quantity sold for each of the two product types. With the combination chart, you determine which chart is appropriate for each data series you are including. Figure 11.86 uses a column chart for quantity sold and a line graph for FOB $. Combination charts are often easier to interpret as 2D than as 3D. Consider using contrasting colors to make the plotted series more visible.

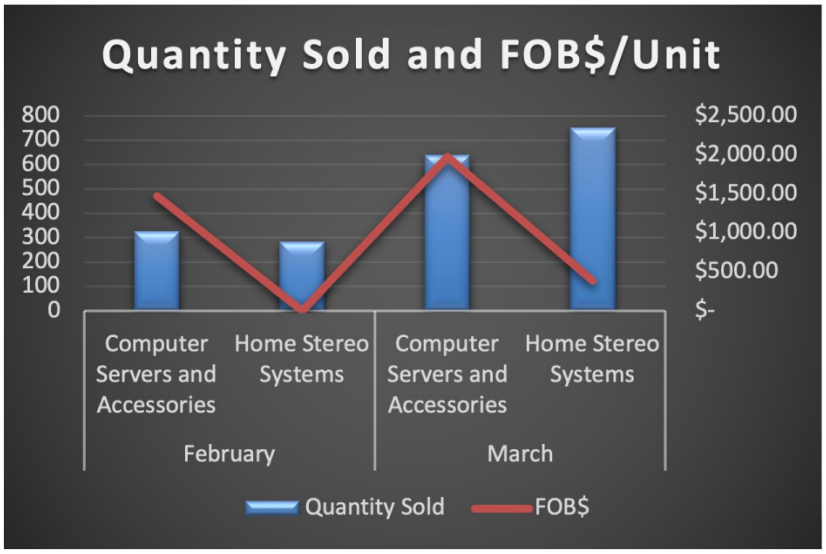


Figure 11.86: Combination charts can be used to show different types of data on the same chart.

Stacked Column Chart

The stacked column chart compares data like the clustered column chart but displays it in a different format. It shows the relationship between groups using the same scales. Instead of the columns being next to each other, the data is stacked, one series on top of the other, in a single column. A stacked column chart can be used to show part-to-whole relationships. Using contrasting colors will help make the distinction between the groups more visible. Using one of the 3D options for displaying a stacked column chart can give it a professional appearance that is easy to interpret (Figure 11.87). This stacked column chart shows WorldCorp's sales agents' FOB $ during a three-week period.

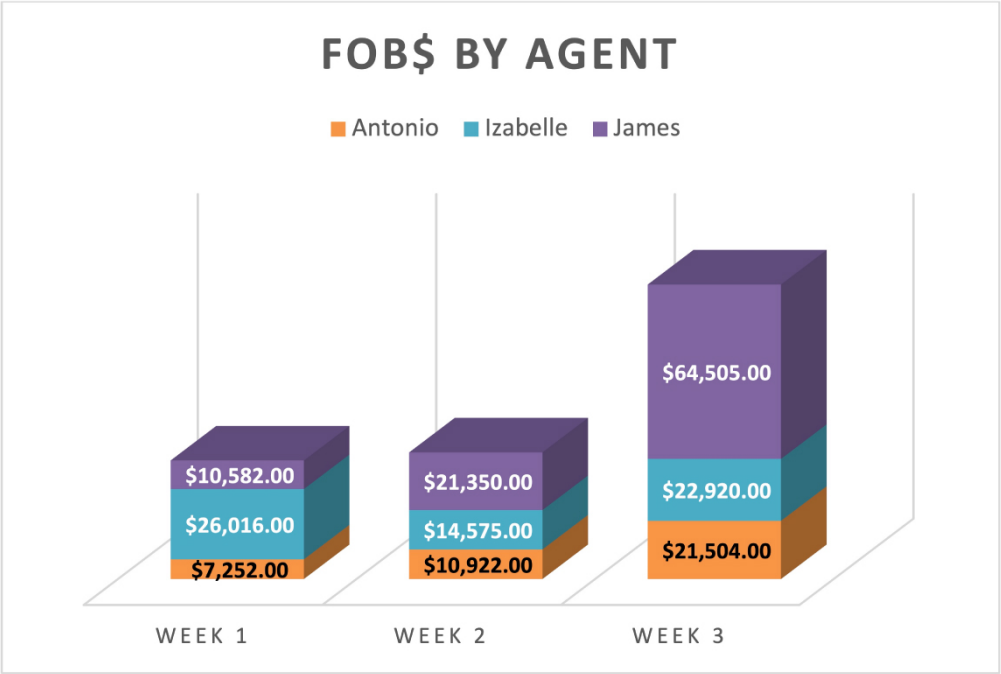


Figure 11.87: A stacked column chart is a different way to display multiple series of data.

Bar Chart

A bar chart is a horizontal column chart. It is sometimes used to communicate complex datasets and can be easier to interpret in certain situations. Bar charts are effective for displaying negative and positive numbers together. They also work well for charts with long text labels along the *y*-axis because the labels are more readable when placed horizontally (Figure 11.88). You can create clustered and stacked bar charts to display multiple series in a single chart. Use a simple layout and contrasting colors for the most professional look. Like a clustered column chart, bar charts work best with smaller datasets. Too many bars on the chart can make it unreadable. Use a bar chart when you have ten or fewer categories to display. You can use WorldCorp data to construct a bar chart of the volume sold for four different sizes of televisions.

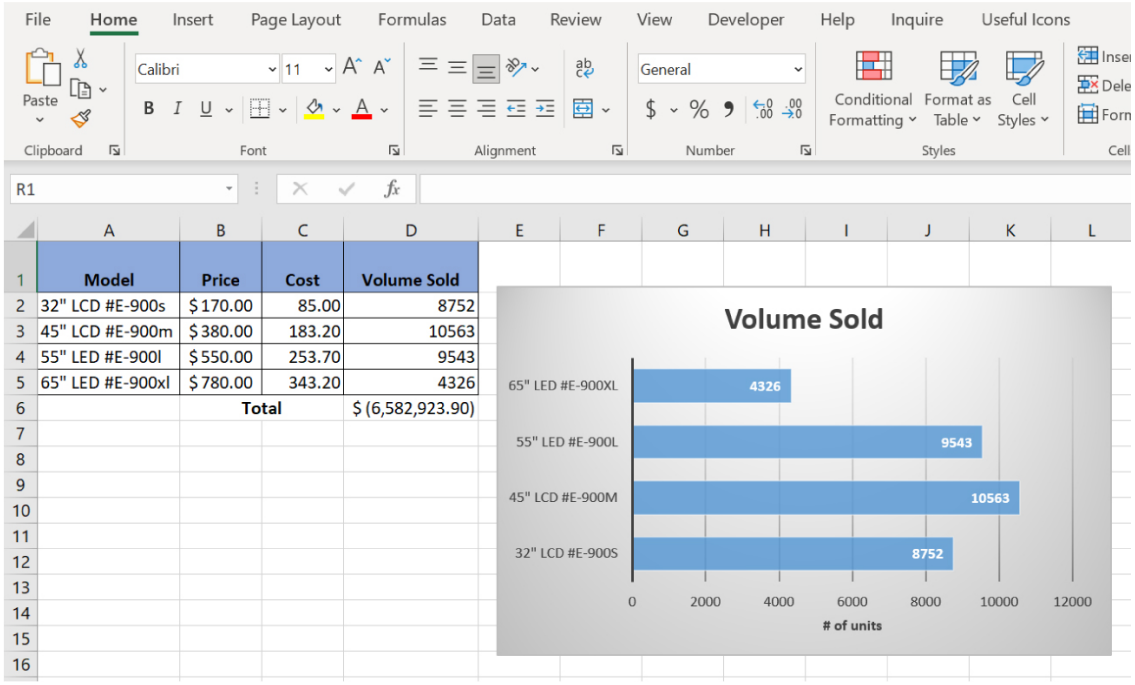


Figure 11.88: Bar charts can be good for displaying complex sets of data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Line Chart

A line chart is used to show changes over time. It is appropriate for trend analysis and graphing continuous datasets. Line charts are not appropriate for categorical data. Be careful of the scaling of the axis so as to not overemphasize or deemphasize the trend in either the vertical or horizontal directions. Keep the chart to four lines or fewer for the most effective presentation of the material, and use thicker, solid lines rather than thin lines or dotted/dashed lines. Be sure to include a legend if you are plotting more than one series of data (Figure 11.89). Also consider including data markers on the lines to make interpretation clearer. The 3D line chart is difficult to interpret even with a single line; the 2D line chart presents data more clearly. You can examine the changes in sales for Home Stereo Systems at WorldCorp for the month of March with a line chart. Adding gridlines or data labels can help your audience quickly see values at certain points in time.

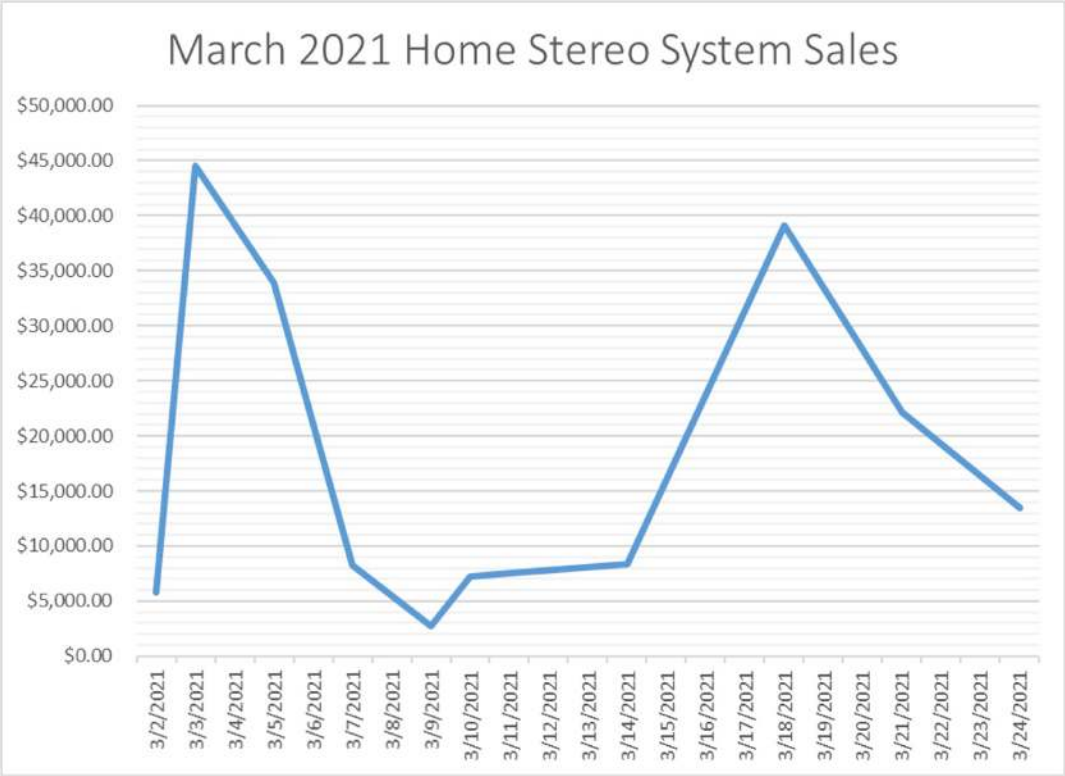


Figure 11.89: A line chart can be used to show changes over time.

Real-World Application - Misleading Graphs

Earlier, you learned the importance of accurately representing data in a chart to prevent misinterpretation of the information. When you are presenting charts and graphs as opposed to the actual data, special care should be taken to make sure the data representation is valid. By adjusting the scaling on either axis, you can drastically change the interpretation of the information presented in a chart. Take a look at this article on how mistakes have been made in representing data to learn more. Now select one chart represented in the preceding link and re-create the chart so that it is not misleading, and then answer the following questions:

- What was the major issue(s) with the selected chart?
- What are some of the incorrect conclusions drawn from the chart?
- What adjustments did you make? How does it more accurately reflect the information?

Scatter Chart

A scatter chart or scatter plot shows the relationship between two variables. It is often used as part of a regression analysis, and it easily shows the direction of the slope of the line (Figure 11.90). A positive slope indicates a positive correlation between the variables, and a negative slope indicates a negative correlation. A positive slope is when the two variables move in the same

direction. The chart of data will have a line that moves from the lower-left to the upper-right corner. A negative slope means the variables move in opposite directions. The chart of a negative slope will start in the upper-left corner and move down toward the lower-right corner of the chart. If the chart is relatively flat, meaning a near 0 slope, then there is little relationship between the two variables. The scatter plot for FOB $ versus Quantity Sold show a slight positive (upward) trend in the data.



Figure 11.90: A scatter chart is used in regression analysis.

A scatter chart can show if a relationship exists. It does not provide a quantitative measure of the relationship between the two variables; it simply shows the estimated relationship. In a scatter plot, the data points are not connected. Instead, it uses the data points only and then, if desired, you can add in a best fit regression line to examine the information more closely (Figure 11.91). If the data points are clustered around the best fit regression line, the relationship is strong. If the data points are scattered and show little to no discernible pattern around the fitted regression line, the relationship is weak. When you add the trendline to the previous scatter plot, you can see that the data points are not clustered around that trendline. Instead, they are quite spread out. This is a visual indication that the variables (FOB $ and Quantity Sold) are not strongly connected to each other.

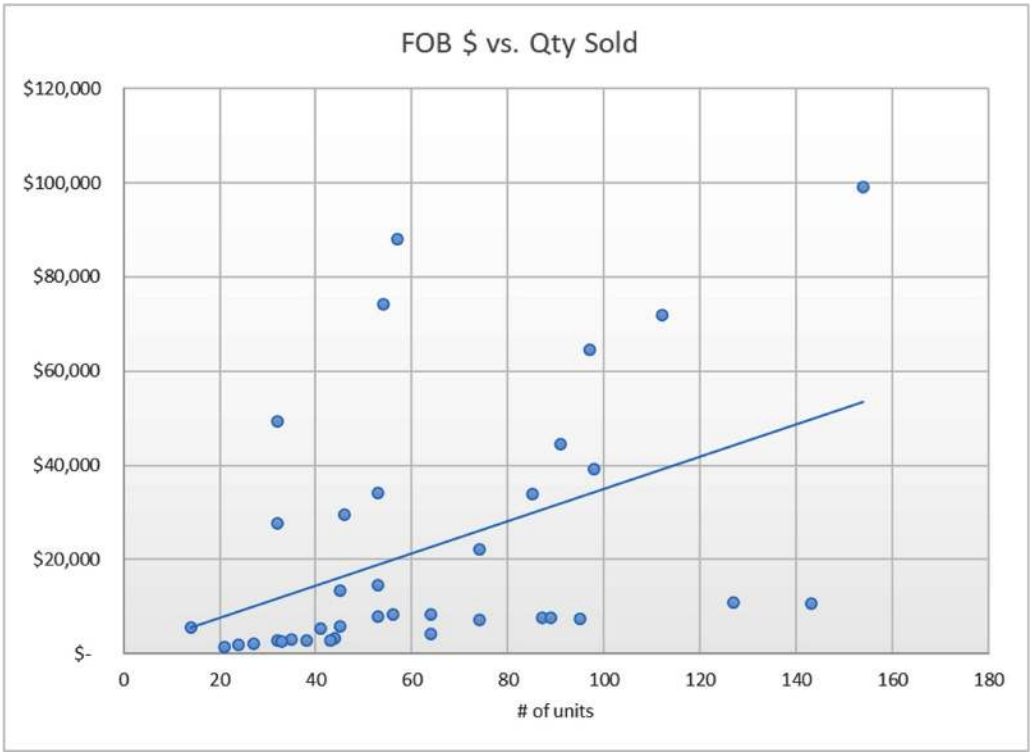


Figure 11.91: Adding a trendline gives a visual representation of the strength of the relationship between two variables.

Histogram

A histogram represents a single variable at various levels/ranges for that variable. With a histogram, a dataset is condensed into categories for a quick analysis of the distribution of the data (Figure 11.92). It is the visual representation of a histogram table. Histograms can represent discrete or continuous data, such as the distribution of customers. They are used frequently for a quick assessment of a dataset and to visually convey large datasets in an easy-to-understand format. They readily show outliers or gaps in information. The process of creating histograms was covered in more detail in Histograms.

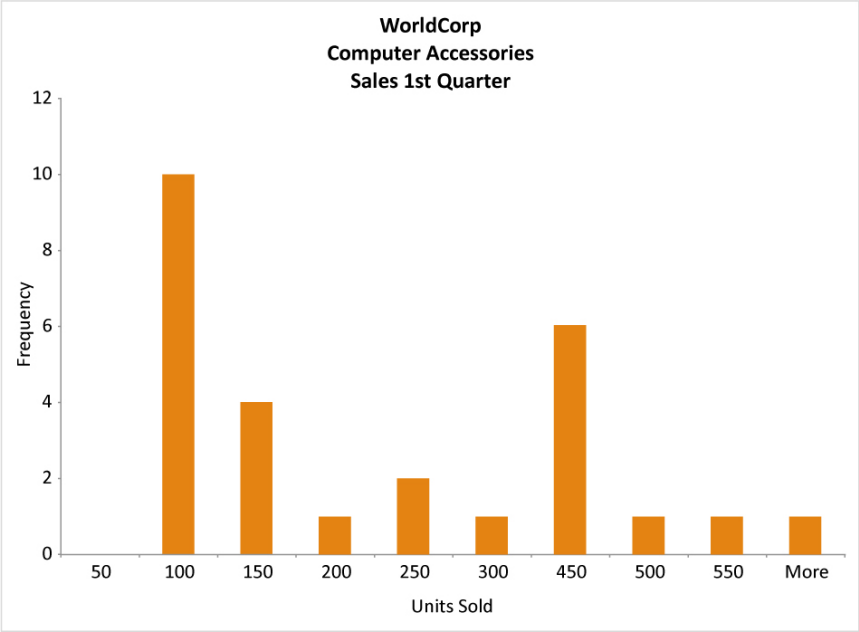


Figure 11.92: A histogram is a visual representation of a histogram table.

Stock Chart

Stock charts are used to represent market data to show the highs and lows for stocks. They can also be used in quality control to show the range of data on a certain day or shift for a production process. To create a stock chart, you will need a date or time reference and the high values and low values for that date or time. The horizontal axis will be the span of time and the vertical axis will be dollars, in the case of a stock market chart. It could be another measure if you are using the stock chart for quality control purposes (Figure 11.93).

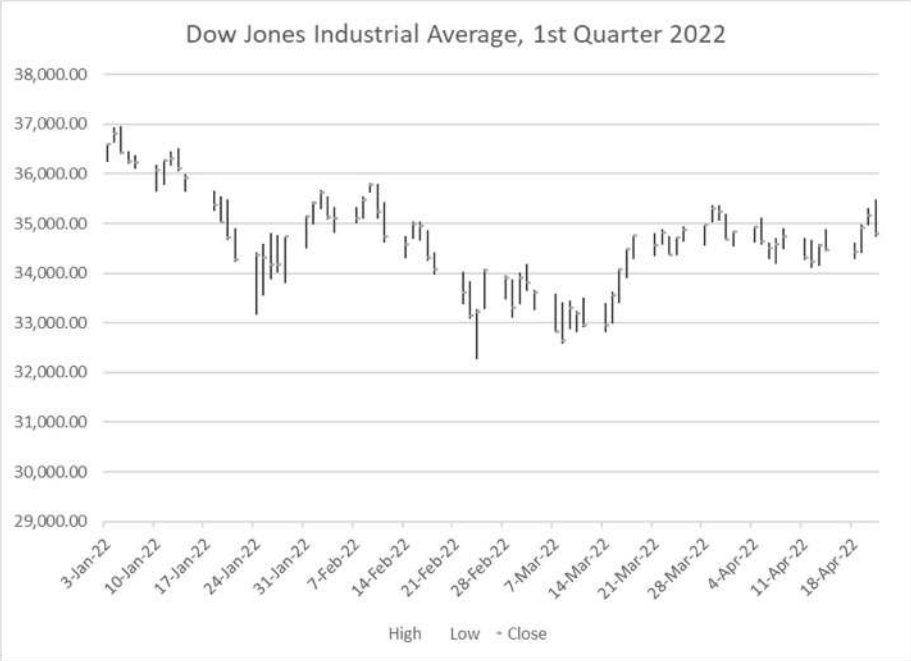


Figure 11.93: A stock chart shows the changes in stock prices over time.

Chart Template

If you are creating the same type of chart on a regular basis, creating a chart template will save time. You can save features, themes, colors, and formats as a template that you can use with other data files. To begin, create the chart as you would normally create it. Add the desired customization to the chart. This could include formatting the chart with company colors or including the company logo as a watermark in the chart. When you are finished, right-click on the chart you just created and formatted (Figure 11.94). Choose Save As Template. You will then be prompted to enter a name for the chart template you just created (Figure 11.95). Consider a name for the template that will help identify the template's use. Make sure the type is listed as Chart Template Files. Input a name and click Save.

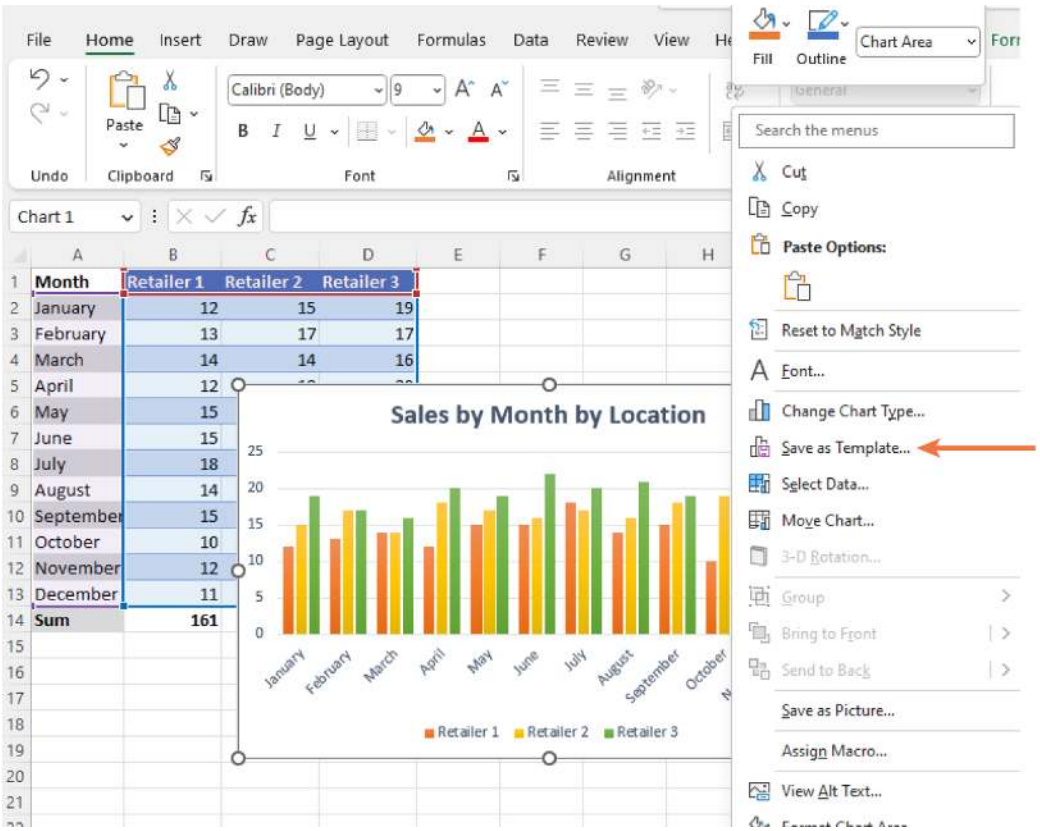


Figure 11.94: If you use a chart format and design on a regular basis, it might be easier to save it as a template for future use. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

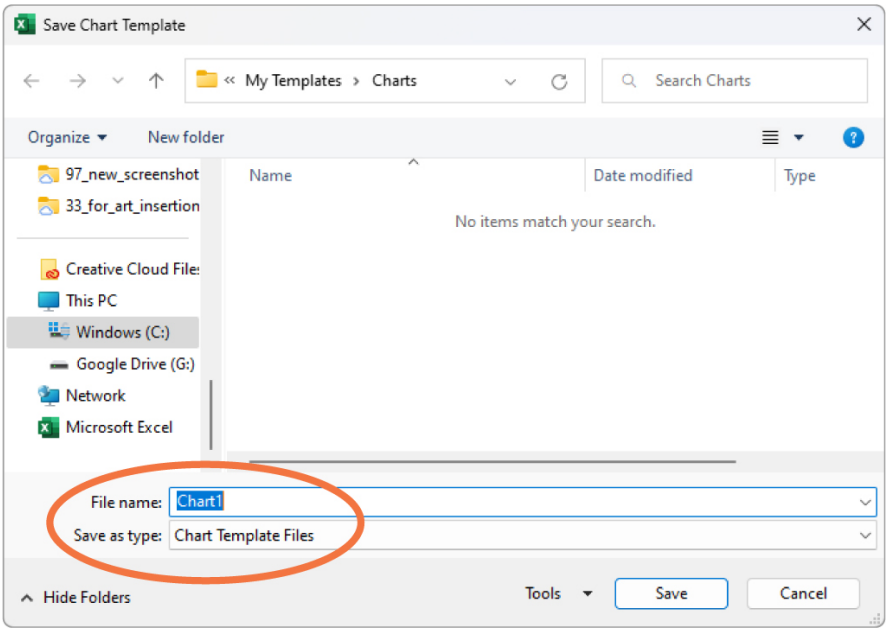


Figure 11.95: Remember to give it a file name and that the Save as file type is a chart template file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To access the saved template, go to the Insert tab and choose Recommended Charts (Figure 11.96). Then, select All Charts and Templates. The saved template should be listed, and you can select that template to apply to the new dataset. Click on the template, then click OK, and Excel creates the chart based on your new dataset.

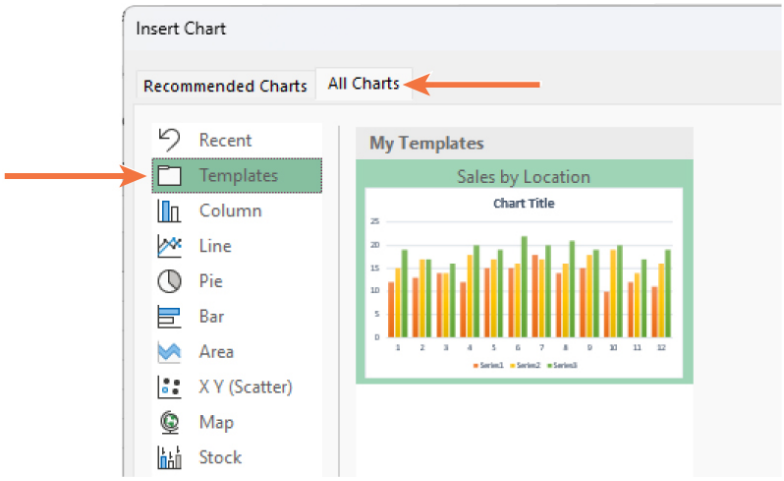
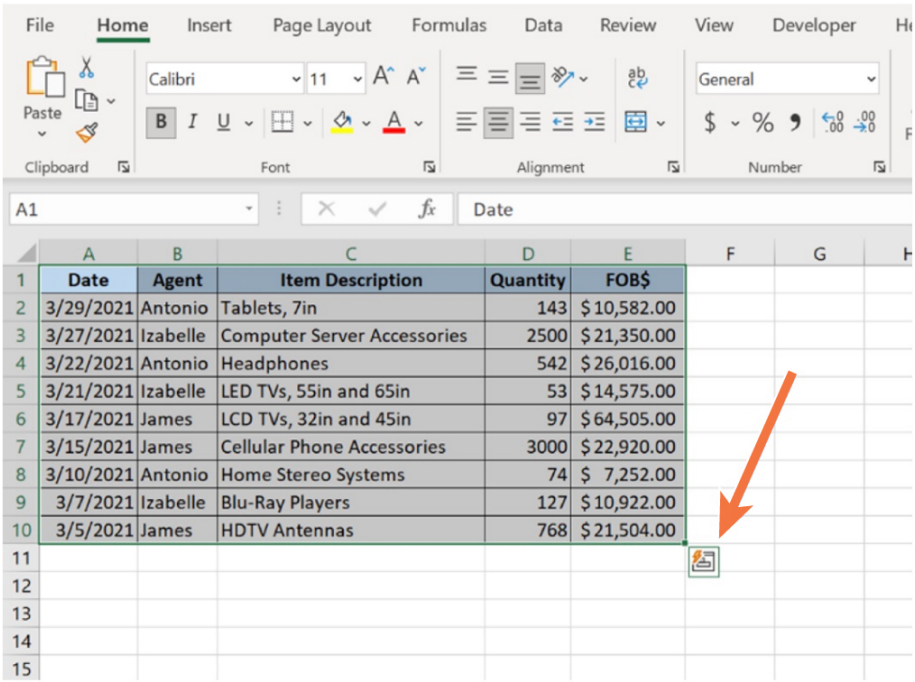


Figure 11.96: Chart templates are found under All Charts, then choose Templates. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Quick Analysis Tool

The Quick Analysis tool provides a shortcut to analyzing a dataset with a group of options located in one place for ease of use. You can use these options to add formatting, to automatically insert totals and subtotals, or to add sparklines to your Data Table. There are three ways to access the Quick Analysis tool. If you highlight the Data Table you are interested in analyzing, the Quick Analysis tool icon will appear in the lower right of the selection (Figure 11.97). You can also use Ctrl+Q or right-click on a cell inside the dataset and select Quick Analysis from the menu that appears.



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$ 10,582.00
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$ 21,350.00
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$ 26,016.00
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$ 14,575.00
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$ 64,505.00
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$ 22,920.00
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$ 10,922.00
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$ 21,504.00
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Figure 11.97: The Quick Analysis tool can be used to add sparklines to the Data Table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you access the tool, a menu of options appears (Figure 11.98). Choose the appropriate tab and click on the option you want to use.

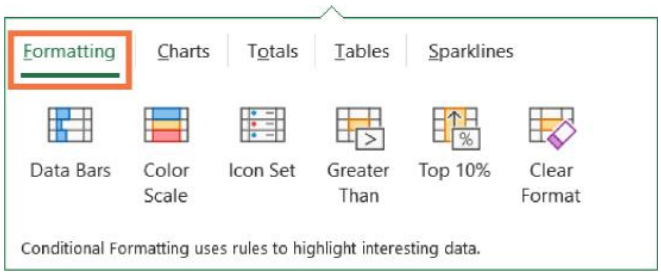


Figure 11.98: There are various formatting options in the Quick Analysis tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Formatting

The Formatting options in the Quick Analysis tool will insert conditional formatting based on the criteria you select. You can also access these options through the Home tab in the Styles command group. Select the drop-down menu next to the Conditional Formatting button. Conditional Formatting provided more detail on using conditional formatting for data. For formatting graphs and charts, there are a few options to choose from under the Conditional Formatting menu, and you can stack the formatting options upon each other. For example, you can choose to have both the Data Bars and Icon Set displayed in your table at the same time. You can add data bars into the selected cells, and they will appear on top of the values and will be appropriately sized for the data in that cell (Figure 11.99). You can format the bars through the Conditional Formatting menu on the Home tab. To remove the data bars, click on Clear Format on the far right of the Format tab in the Quick Analysis tools. You can also clear the formats by choosing the Clear Rules option in the Conditional Format menu on the Home tab.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$ 10,582.00	
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$ 21,350.00	
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$ 26,016.00	
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$ 14,575.00	
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$ 64,505.00	
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$ 22,920.00	
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00	
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$ 10,922.00	
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$ 21,504.00	
11						

Figure 11.99: Data bars provide a visual representation of the magnitude of the data in a cell in relation to the other cells. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Color Scale option adds colors to the cells based on the values relative to each other. There are several different color scales you can choose. For example, one color scale uses blues to represent the higher values and reds to represent the lower values in the dataset (Figure 11.100). Again, to remove the colors, click on Clear Formats in the Quick Analysis tools or Clear Rules under Conditional Formatting.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$ 10,582.00	
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$ 21,350.00	
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$ 26,016.00	
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$ 14,575.00	
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$ 64,505.00	
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$ 22,920.00	
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00	
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$ 10,922.00	
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$ 21,504.00	
11						

Figure 11.100: Color scales are colors added to the cells based on the values relative to each other. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Icon sets are a more visual way to see differences between the values in a dataset (Figure 11.101). The default icon is an arrow that is either red, yellow, or green based on the value in the cell. The icon can be changed by accessing the Conditional Formatting menu on the Home tab.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00	
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00	
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00	
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00	
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00	
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00	
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00	
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00	
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00	
11						

Figure 11.101: Adding an icon set is yet another way to visually examine the differences within a dataset. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Greater Than option in the Quick Analysis tools will highlight data that is greater than the value you set (Figure 11.102). You set this value in the input window, choose the color scheme for the highlighted cells that meet the criteria, and then click OK. Using the default color scheme, the cells that are greater than the value you set will be highlighted with a light red fill and a dark red text.

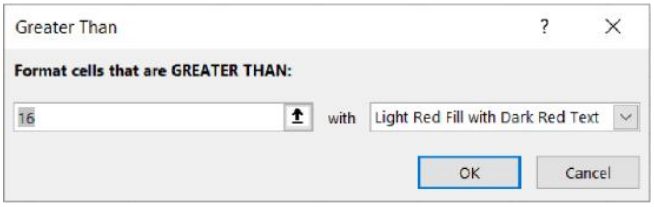


Figure 11.102: Using Greater Than, data that is outside the criteria you select is highlighted. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The final option in the Formatting tab of the Quick Analysis tools is the Top 10% tool. This tool highlights the values that are in the top 10 percent in the dataset. The default is to highlight those with light red fill and dark red text. This can be changed as desired (Figure 11.103).

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$	
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00	
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00	
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00	
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00	
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00	
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00	
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00	
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00	
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00	
11						

Figure 11.103: The Top 10% tool is helpful to quickly see the top values in a dataset. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Charts

The Quick Analysis tools give you the option to quickly insert a chart of the data (Figure 11.104) using the Charts tab. The chart will be inserted directly on the worksheet using the default color schemes. After you have created the chart, you can choose to customize it to meet your needs using the skills you have already learned. You can access charts not listed specifically by clicking on More Charts.

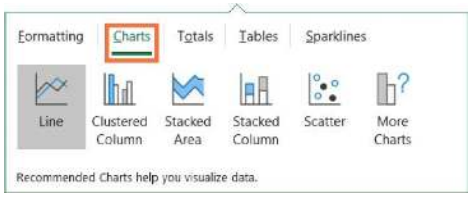
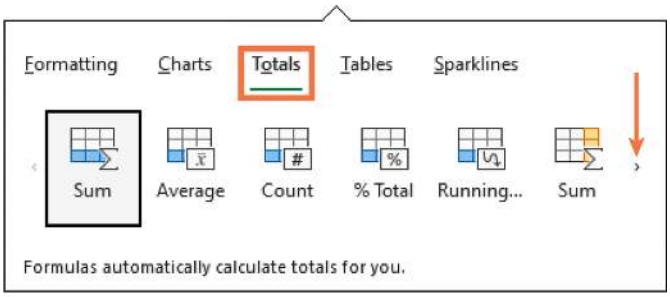


Figure 11.104: The Quick Analysis tool allows you to easily access several charting options. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Totals

The Totals tab in the Quick Analysis tool gives you several options for summarizing your dataset. You can access the same options through the Formulas tab, but the process is much simpler through the Quick Analysis tool (Figure 11.105a). You can include the total of data (sum), average, count, percent of total, and running total. These options are available for both columns and rows. To access the additional formulas, click on the small arrow to the right of the window. With any of the options, the result of the formula will be included in your Data Table as another row or column (Figure 11.105b).



(a)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$
2	3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$ 10,582.00
3	3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$ 21,350.00
4	3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$ 26,016.00
5	3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$ 14,575.00
6	3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$ 64,505.00
7	3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$ 22,920.00
8	3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00
9	3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$ 10,922.00
10	3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$ 21,504.00
11				7304	$ 199,626.00

(b)

Figure 11.105: The Quick Analysis tool tab gives several ways to summarize the dataset. (a) The Totals tab has many options; more tools are available if you click on the arrow. (b) Adding the sum of a column inserts a new row with the total. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Sparklines

One way to show trends in your data is to use a sparkline, a small chart inserted into a cell next to your data that shows changes over time. There are three options in the Sparklines tab: Line, Column, and Win/Loss (Figure 11.106). These can also be accessed through the Insert menu in the Sparklines command group.

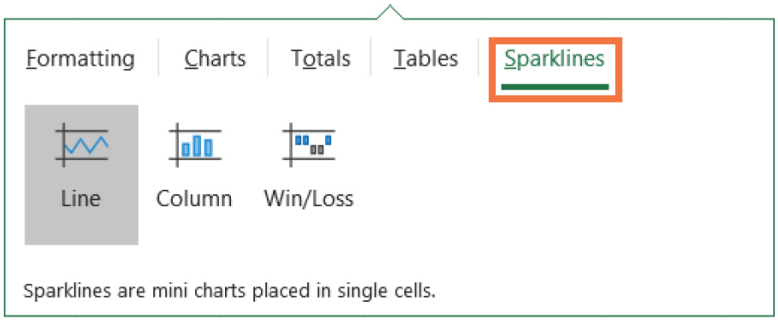


Figure 11.106: Sparklines are another option to add visual interest to your Data Table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

By default, sparklines are inserted at the end of each row. Once the sparkline is inserted, you have access to the Sparkline formatting tab. Here, you can format the sparkline's style, change the input data, or change the type of sparkline. You can also add markers to the sparkline to show the highest and lowest points. In Figure 11.107, the Line sparkline was inserted. With just a quick glance, you can see that Antonio had the most sales in week two but did not do as well in week three, whereas Izabelle and James improved consistently.

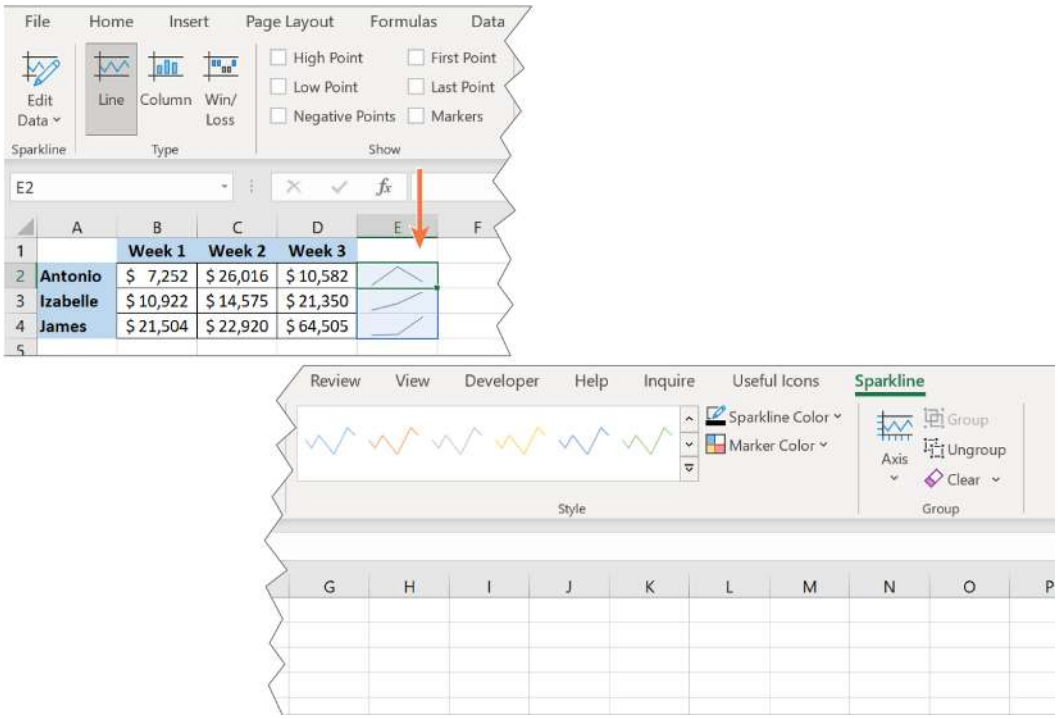


Figure 11.107: There are several design options for Sparklines. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Marimekko charts are a way to visually examine market share. They are used often in consulting and finance companies. You can also include different segments within an industry. Read this article to find out more about this special type of chart and how to create it in Excel.

This page titled 11.5: Data Analysis Charts is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

bar chart
horizontal column chart

benchmarking
tool that checks the validity of your data with similar datasets or a set standard

Calculated Field
tool that allows addition of columns of calculations to a PivotTable

categorical data
data that is grouped into categories based on attributes or characteristics

clustered column chart
column chart that includes multiple variables to show the comparison between the groups

combination chart
chart that combines two different chart types in one visual

continuous data
information that is measured and can take on an infinite set of values

Correlation
used to analyze the relationship between two variables

data validation
process of ensuring that data values fall within a predetermined range

data verification
process used to ensure that your data is accurate and reliable

discrete data
information that can only take on a specific set of values

histogram
chart that displays the number of occurrences of data within a defined range

line chart
chart used to show changes over time

numerical data
data that is quantitative and represents measures of the variables

qualitative data
categorical information that does not include numbers; if it does include numbers, they do not have a true mathematical meaning

quantitative data
data that involves numerical evaluations

scatter chart

chart used to show the relationship between two variables

slicer

visual, interactive way to filter data in a PivotTable

sparkline

small charts inserted into cells next to data that show changes over time

---

This page titled 11.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.7: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

11.1 Understanding Data, Data Validation, and Data Tables

- Data can be qualitative or quantitative.
- There are four levels of measurement for data.
- Data verification and the Data Validation tool can ensure the quality of data in your spreadsheets.
- Excel Data Tables can be used to quickly format information in a professional manner.
- Data Tables can be used to filter and better understand the information contained in a spreadsheet.

11.2 Statistical Functions

- Data analysis is critical for any business to be successful.
- Excel's built-in statistical functions, such as SUM, AVERAGE, MODE, RANGE, and MEDIAN, provide basic information about a dataset.
- The Analysis ToolPak add-in provides a collection of statistical tools for data analysis such as regression and ANOVA.
- Descriptive Statistics is a quick way to summarize a dataset by giving you values such as the average, the range, and the maximum number.
- Regression is used for forecasting and budgeting.
- The Solver add-in is used to find optimal solutions given a set of predetermined constraints.

11.3 What-If Analysis

- Scenario Manager and Goal Seek are part of the What-If Analysis tool group.
- The Scenario Manager is a tool that allows you to investigate the impact of various changes to input cells on target cells.
- The Scenario Manager can give you a summary of all scenarios to help with decision making.
- Goal Seek is used when you have a single input variable.
- Goal Seek is used to set a target value for a cell by changing the values in another cell.

11.4 PivotTables/Charts

- The PivotTable Analyze tab offers tools to make data analysis and filtering easier.
- Timelines can be inserted to filter the PivotTable data by date.
- Slicers can be used in PivotTables and Data Tables to filter data with visual buttons.
- Calculated fields can be added to PivotTables for additional analysis using formulas.
- The List Formulas tool creates a separate worksheet that includes all formulas used in the PivotTable. It is a valuable tool when there are multiple users of a single workbook.

11.5 Data Analysis Charts

- There are many types of charts to visually present your data.
- Some options for charts or graphs include bar charts, pie charts, column charts, line graphs, and scatter plots.
- A column chart can be used to show comparisons between groups.
- A line chart is useful to show changes over time.
- Scatter plots visually show the relationship between two variables and are often used with regression.
- Chart templates can be created for chart formats you use frequently such as those with company colors or logos.
- The Quick Analysis tool gives you access to several options such as conditional formatting, adding totals to the rows or columns, or quick links to creating a chart of the data.
- Sparklines added to your Data Table can be used to quickly assess trends.

This page titled 11.7: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
The distance from your home to the grocery store is an example of:

a. discrete data
b. qualitative data
c. continuous data
d. ordinal data

2 .
The Data Validation tool is found on which tab?

a. Home
b. Data
c. Insert
d. Review

3 .
Which level of measurement is appropriate for an opinion question with responses such as Disagree, Agree, or Neutral?

a. nominal
b. ratio
c. interval
d. ordinal

4 .
You would find the tool to format a selection as a table on which tab?

a. Home
b. Data
c. Insert
d. Page Layout

5 .
_____ is used to summarize data into certain ranges that you define in table format.

a. Regression
b. Descriptive Statistics
c. Correlation
d. A histogram

6 .
The _____ function returns the mean of a dataset with multiple criteria.

a. SUMIFS
b. AVERAGEIFS
c. TRIM
d. COUNT

7 .
Descriptive Statistics is found under which add-in?

a. Data Analysis
b. Solver
c. ANOVA
d. Data tab

8 .
Which test do you use when you have two groups of normal data to investigate statistical differences?

a. Regression

b. t-Test: Two Sample Assuming Unequal Variances
c. z-Test: Two Sample for Means
d. ANOVA

9 .
The Text to Columns tool is the opposite of the _____ function.

a. CONCATENATE
b. CORRELATION
c. TRIM
d. Solver

10 .
Which Excel tool can help you find an optimal solution when you have several variables?

a. ANOVA
b. Data Analysis
c. Solver
d. z-Test

11 .
Where is the Scenario Manager found?

a. Home tab > Analyze Data
b. Review tab
c. What-If Analysis tools
d. Formulas tab > Insert Function

12 .
Which tool is used to find a solution when changing a single variable?

a. Goal Seek
b. What-If Analysis
c. Scenario Manager
d. Solver

13 .
Choosing _____ creates a separate table of the results of the scenarios you created in Scenario Manager.

a. Goal Seek
b. Show
c. Edit
d. Summary

14 .
What-If Analysis tools are accessed from which tab?

a. Insert
b. Data
c. Home
d. Formulas

15 .
Calculated fields in a PivotTable are inserted from which tab?

a. Slicer
b. Formulas
c. PivotTable Analyze
d. Data

16 .
_____ are a more visual way to filter information in a PivotTable.

a. Slicers

b. Calculated fields
c. Timelines
d. Formulas

17 .
How do you remove a timeline in a PivotTable?

a. Click out of the PivotTable.
b. Choose a different year.
c. Right-click on the timeline scroll bar.
d. Use the Timeline tab.

18 .
Which chart is best to show trends over time?

a. column
b. bar
c. line
d. scatter

19 .
Small line charts inserted into worksheet cells are called _____.

a. Slicers
b. Sparklines
c. Icon sets
d. Data bars

20 .
Where do you find saved chart templates?

a. Home tab
b. Quick Access tool
c. Recommended Charts
d. Conditional formatting

This page titled 11.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

21 .

Go to the World Bank Data Catalog and find a dataset or topic that interests you, then download the Excel file. Format the data as a Data Table. Filter the data using one of the criteria. Change the Table Style. What information can be gleaned from the Data Table?

22 .

Using the data in the "mgmt_jobs" tab of the downloadable Chapter 11 data file, create a Data Table. Filter the data to find those rows that use the word “manager” and have median earnings greater than $50,000 per year.

23 .
Create a two-variable Data Table for profit for a product with a unit price of $25 and a cost per unit of $18. Investigate various levels of both the number of units sold and the price per unit.

24 .
Go to Kaggle to find a dataset that interests you. (Note: You may need to create an account.) Download the Excel file. Create the Correlation matrix for the dataset. You may need to adjust the data if nominal or ordinal data is included in the file. (Hint: Code the data using numbers.)

25 .
Using a dataset from Kaggle, get the Descriptive Statistics for the information.

26 .
Using a dataset from Kaggle, create a histogram with a chart for one of the key variables.

27 .
Using a dataset from Kaggle, use the Analyze Data tool to discover some additional ways to analyze the information.

28 .
Use Goal Seek to determine what grade you will need on a final exam in a class to get the grade you desire. You can use your grades from a class in which you are currently enrolled. You will need to know from the syllabus how your final grade is calculated.

29 .
Use the Scenario Manager to look at the different financing options for buying a car that you are interested in purchasing. Look at scenarios such as a lower interest rate or a shorter loan term. Create the summary table of the scenarios.

30 .
Using the data in the "grads" tab of the downloadable Chapter 11 data file, create a PivotTable of the information. Insert a slicer to filter the data by type of institution. Insert a calculated field to find the average number of independent and public institutions.

31 .
Go to Google Trends and choose a topic that interests you. Download a dataset and create a chart appropriate for the data.

32 .
Using the same dataset, use the Quick Analysis tool to add conditional formatting or sparklines to the Data Table.

33 .
Go to Google Trends and choose another topic that interests you. Download a dataset and create a chart appropriate for the data. Then, save that chart as a chart template.

This page titled 11.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

34 .
What is the difference between data verification and data validation?
35 .
Discuss the differences between discrete and continuous data.
36 .
What are some advantages of using the Excel Data Table tool?
37 .
List and briefly describe the four levels of measurement.
38 .
Imagine you work in the human resources department of a regional hospital. You would like to survey employees about their satisfaction with their job. Develop two survey questions that are categorical. Develop two questions that are numerical. How might this data be analyzed in Excel?
39 .
What Excel tool would you use if you wanted to get an overall summary of a dataset?
40 .
How can regression be used in business?
41 .
Describe a few of the functions useful for dealing with data imported into a spreadsheet.
42 .
Describe the difference between the three types of t-Tests in Excel.
43 .
How do you get the Solver add-in?
44 .
Imagine you are an entrepreneur and are interested in starting a coffee shop in your hometown. How might you envision Excel being useful for you as you research whether the coffee shop is a good idea for the city?
45 .
How does Goal Seek differ from Solver?
46 .
Discuss a few examples where Scenario Manager might be used.
47 .
When would you use the List Formulas tool?
48 .
Describe how to insert a slicer into a PivotTable.
49 .
How do you access the Quick Analysis tool?
50 .
How are the clustered column chart and the histogram different?
51 .
How do you create a chart template?

This page titled 11.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

11.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

52 .
Using the idea of starting a coffee shop (or another business idea you might have) in your hometown, find and summarize information from the U.S. Census Bureau that will help you gather information about the market for your business. Consider selecting a few surrounding counties and analyzing variables such as age, diversity, income, and education.
53 .
Go to the Contextures website and download the office supply data file. Create a chart of the total sales by region. Then, create a chart of units sold by item. What trends do you notice?
54 .
Using the same dataset, use the Quick Analysis tool to add totals and data bars to the Data Table.

This page titled 11.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

12: Using Excel in Accounting and Financial Reporting

12.0: Chapter Scenario
12.1: Basic Accounting
12.2: Financial Functions in Microsoft Excel
12.3: Integrating Microsoft Excel and Accounting Programs
12.4: Chapter Review - Key Terms
12.5: Chapter Review - Summary
12.6: Chapter Review - Review Questions
12.7: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
12.8: Chapter Review - Written Questions
12.9: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 12: Using Excel in Accounting and Financial Reporting is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.0: Chapter Scenario

WorldCorp has grown into a large, global corporation, requiring sophisticated and complex accounting. This also means that the company's overall finances must be handled by comprehensive accounting software. However, within WorldCorp, many departments need to understand and analyze information from the accounting software at the department, unit, or project levels, which they can do using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. Excel can be useful for calculating potential expenses for a new project or initiative and for projecting revenue for various scenarios.



Figure 12.1: Something as simple as buying a cup of coffee involves numerous financial calculations. The point-of-sale system uses standard calculations to determine tax on the purchase and change due for a cash payment. (credit: modification of "A Woman Receiving Money from the Customer" by RDNE Stock project/Pexels, CC0)

Having a sound understanding of the basics of accounting is a valuable asset for many workers, even if they are not directly or formally involved in the company's accounting processes. Being familiar with the basic concepts and terminology of accounting can help you understand financial decisions. This includes knowing common financial accounting formulas, relating expenses and revenue, being familiar with financial statements, and understanding which software applications are used for different levels of accounting. As another benefit, learning accounting principles can provide a valuable framework for understanding and managing personal finances.

This page titled 12.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.1: Basic Accounting

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Define accounting
- Distinguish between financial and managerial accounting
- Understand how accounting information is created and used by internal and external stakeholders of a business

Financial accounting information is mostly historical in nature—that is, accountants prepare financial reports that summarize what has already occurred in an organization. A business can use this financial accounting information as a predictive tool, but with limitations. Business involves a large amount of uncertainty, and accountants cannot predict how the organization will perform in the future. However, by observing historical financial information, users of the information can detect patterns or trends that may be useful for estimating the company's future financial performance. Collecting and analyzing a series of historical financial data can provide important information to both internal and external users. Microsoft Excel is a useful tool for this purpose.

What Is Accounting?

The process of organizing, analyzing, and communicating financial information that is used for decision making is accounting. Financial information is typically prepared by accountants—those trained in the specific techniques and practices of the profession. However, a solid understanding of how financial information is prepared and used can serve as a useful resource for many people in their workplace.

A traditional adage states that "accounting is the language of business." While that is true, you can also say that "accounting is the language of life" because, at some point, most people will make a decision that relies on accounting information. For example, you may have to decide whether it is better to lease or buy a vehicle. Likewise, a college graduate may have to decide whether it is better to take a higher-paying job in a big city with a high cost of living or a job in a smaller community where both the pay and cost of living may be lower.

In a professional setting like WorldCorp, an executive may want to know if the most recent product release was profitable. Similarly, a department head may want to know whether it is worthwhile to pay an employee to be "on call" for emergencies during off-hours and weekends. Whether personal or professional, accounting information plays a vital role in decisions like these.

Spotlight on Ethics: Financial Regulations

Individuals performing financial services such as accounting must ascribe to a set of rules and regulations prescribed by the government and other financial regulatory agencies. Various laws and regulations are passed on a regular basis, and it is important for accountants and other money handlers to keep up with changes and ensure they are compliant. Additionally, accountants must also ascribe to a strict set of ethical guidelines, such as ensuring confidentiality and completing a certain number of hours in professional development every year. Companies that fail to comply with these various rules and guidelines are at risk of heavy penalties, and even incarceration. Notable high-profile cases have contributed to the need for these rules, including Enron and Bernie Madoff. The Enron scandal, wherein Enron was found guilty of a number of fraudulent and otherwise questionable business and accounting practices leading to their demise in 2001, led to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which ushered in reforms in a number of business financial practices. Bernie Madoff, once the chair of NASDAQ, was sentenced to jail for running the biggest Ponzi scheme in the history of the United States, stealing over $64 billion from unsuspecting individuals, including several celebrities. His arrest led to a number of reforms put in place to protect individuals from fraud. Hence, it is the responsibility of those holding these positions to remain current and uphold the strictest of ethical and just business and accounting practices.

Financial and Managerial Accounting

Accounting is divided into two main areas: financial and managerial. In essence, financial accounting measures the financial performance of an organization using standard conventions to prepare and distribute financial reports. Financial accounting is used

to generate information for stakeholders *outside* of an organization, such as investors, loan officers, and governmental entities, such as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Financial accounting is also a foundation for understanding managerial accounting, which uses both financial and nonfinancial information as a basis for making decisions within an organization. The purpose is to equip decision makers with the information they need to set and evaluate business goals and to make other decisions for the business. Managerial accounting information tends to be used internally. Internal users include managers and other employees who use financial information to confirm past results and help make adjustments for future activities for such purposes as budgeting, pricing, and determining production costs.

Understanding financial and managerial accounting is valuable across a business. Management of WorldCorp's LCD screen manufacturing division, for example, would use both financial and managerial accounting information to help improve the business. Managers in the screen manufacturing division may want to know how much scrap is generated from a particular step in the manufacturing process. While identifying and improving the manufacturing process (i.e., reducing scrap) helps the company financially, it may also help other areas of the production process that are indirectly related, such as quality control and shipping efficiencies.

External users also use the historical pattern of an organization's financial performance as a predictive tool. For example, when deciding whether to loan money to an organization, a bank may require a certain number of years of financial statements and other financial information from the organization. An Excel spreadsheet can be used to analyze this data in greater detail. The bank will assess the historical performance in order to make an informed decision about the organization's ability to repay the loan and interest (the cost of borrowing money). Similarly, a potential investor may look at a business's past financial performance in order to assess whether or not to invest money in the company. In this scenario, the investor wants to know if the organization will provide a sufficient and consistent return on the investment.

How Accounting Information Is Created and Used

Organizations measure financial performance in monetary terms. In the United States, the dollar is used as the standard measurement basis. Measuring financial performance in monetary terms allows managers to compare the organization's performance to previous periods, to expectations, and to other organizations or industry standards. Accounting information is created by an accounting system and can be downloaded into Excel for further analysis.

Several financial calculations are standardized and used to make many business decisions such as forecasting sales or establishing sales goals. These include functions such as calculating interest rates, payments due, and asset depreciation, which is when something the company owns loses value over time because of the wear and tear of regular use. Financial Functions in Microsoft Excel will cover the most common financial equations used in Excel.

A company's financial information is generally gathered and kept in standard bookkeeping software rather than in Excel. The larger-scale financial data that is captured through the software helps to determine a company's current financial status and predict future financial health. That type of financial information is primarily communicated through financial statements. These financial statements ensure the information is consistent from one time period to another and generally comparable between organizations. Details about the statements are beyond the scope of this text, but you can find more information in a standard accounting textbook. The information contained in the statements can be downloaded into Excel for further examination and analysis.

Real-World Application: Your Personal Accounting Equation

The accounting equation is a basic principle used in accounting that states that a company's assets (what they own and the predicted value of the manufacturing, sales, or service they provide) are equal to its liabilities (debt) and equity (net worth of the company):

Assets = Liabilities + Equity

This concept is not just for business. It can be used to understand your personal finances as well. Try this exercise.

On a sheet of paper, use three columns to create your own accounting equation. In the first column, list all of the things you own (assets). In the second column, list any amounts owed (liabilities) for each asset. In the third column, using the accounting equation, calculate the net amount of the asset (equity) by subtracting the liability from the value of the asset. When you've finished with each asset, total the columns to determine your net worth. You can also do the calculations without determining

the equity of each asset. To do this, you only need two columns, one for assets and one for liabilities. Add up each column and then subtract the sum of all of your liabilities from the sum of all of your assets. This gives you your total equity.

Here is something else to consider: Is it possible to have negative equity? It sure is . . . ask any college student who has taken out loans. At first glance, there is no asset directly associated with the amount of the loan. But is that, in fact, the case? You might ask yourself why make an investment in a college education—what is the benefit (asset) of going to college? The answer lies in the difference in lifetime earnings with a college degree versus without a college degree. This is influenced by many things, including the supply and demand of jobs and employees. It is also influenced by the earnings for the type of college degree pursued. (Where do you think accounting ranks?)

Accountants often use computerized accounting systems to record and summarize the financial reports, which offer many benefits. The primary benefit of a computerized accounting system is the efficiency by which transactions can be recorded and summarized, and financial reports prepared. In addition, computerized accounting systems store data, which allows organizations to easily extract historical financial information to import into Excel for further analysis or sharing with other stakeholders.

Common computerized accounting systems include QuickBooks, which is designed for small organizations, and SAP (Systems, Applications, and Products) enterprise resource planning software, which is designed for large and/or multinational organizations. QuickBooks is popular with smaller, less complex entities, and you will learn more about it in Integrating Microsoft Excel and Accounting Programs. It is less expensive than more sophisticated software packages, such as Oracle or SAP, and incorporates many user-friendly features that can reduce both training time and costs spent on acclimating new employees to an employer's software system. While QuickBooks has many advantages, once a company's operations reach a certain level of complexity—such as with the global corporation WorldCorp—it will need a more robust software package or platform, such as Oracle or SAP, which is then customized to meet the unique informational needs of the entity. Some advanced capabilities include automation of invoicing and receiving payments, payroll services, and tracking and paying sales taxes.

This page titled 12.1: Basic Accounting is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.2: Financial Functions in Microsoft Excel

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Describe the use of financial functions
- Use common financial functions in Excel

WorldCorp and all other corporations all over the world use financial equations to manage their businesses. These equations can help business leaders understand the impact of taking out a loan to purchase equipment, the value of a particular financial investment, and other related decisions. Microsoft Excel has programmed many of the more common financial equations as functions so that you do not need to type a formula. Instead, you use the name of the function and the variables. This means that if you want to calculate the investment of a stock or bond, you may need to have three of the five financial variables in the time value of money theory. Similar to a financial calculator, you can use FV, PV, PMT, N, or I to figure out if an investment is worthwhile. You have already been briefly introduced to some of these functions in The Advantages of a Data Table.

In this section, you will learn how to use financial functions in Excel in the context of the time value of money theory and depreciation. These are common accounting principles that will be briefly discussed. More information on these concepts can be found in a standard accounting textbook.

Real-World Application: Add-ins

Excel comes with standard financial functions; however, many users are able to "add-in" other functions and utilities. Of course, the common user will find the preexisting functions more than sufficient for most of their needs; however, if you have any financial responsibilities at an organization, you may find a need for these additional functions or features to help speed up your work. You can find preset add-ins on the Insert tab under either My Add-ins for existing ones that you may have installed already or Get Add-ins for others available through Office or from other companies. You will find an interesting list of choices when searching for add-ins, such as data analytics, productivity, and financial connector. Under Financial Connector, some of the add-ins available include a stock connector, as well as additional financial analysis and financial analytics tools. These can serve as powerful features to further automate and keep current financial information you are using to populate your sheets.

Applications of Financial Functions

Financial functions are used for calculating a diverse set of common key performance indicators in a business, or for predicting the value of money through time. The time value of money theory states that money loses value as time passes. It is a simple concept that is ingrained in every business decision because it is important for a business to use financial instruments and investments to increase the value of their savings or idle cash. One way you can see this theory in practice is in the steady increase in the sales prices of goods over time.

Common Financial Functions in Practice

You were introduced to the Excel function PMT in The Advantages of a Data Table for determining the monthly (or yearly, daily, or quarterly) payment of an investment or loan. There are other important variables involved in the financial functions related to the time value of money theory, which can help a business determine profitability. This section will focus on an annual payment rather than a monthly payment. But keep in mind, many loans require monthly payments and the variables in the function will need to be adjusted accordingly.

There are five main time value of money variables (PMT, RATE, NPER, PV, and FV) used in these calculations. Table 12.1 lists these variables and what they represent in Excel. To find the answer to a time value of money problem, you must have the values of at least three of the five variables. There is an additional variable that you need to consider and that is "Type." In the functions, "Type" represents when payments are made. If they are made at the beginning of the term, use 1 in the function. If you do not enter anything, Excel will use the default of "0," meaning payments are made at the end of the term. The timing of the payments impacts the amount of interest paid.

One way to calculate any of these time value of money variables is to use a financial calculator, which works like a regular calculator, except that it has certain financial functions programmed into it. A financial calculator has a button associated with each of the time value of money variables. Excel also has these functions programmed into it.

Table 12.1: Time Value of Money Variables

Variable	Definition
PMT	The payment of an investment or loan per period (usually monthly)
RATE	The interest rate on an investment, loan, or bond yield
NPER	The number of periods in a calculation (usually years, quarters, or months)
PV	The initial investment of a business or security purchase
FV	The monetary value of a business or security investment at the end of all periods
Type	Whether payments are made at the beginning of the term or at the end of the term; the default is “0” or at the end of the term

PMT

To calculate PMT, you need at least three of the other variables. For this example, assume that WorldCorp is building a new manufacturing plant, at a cost of $4,743,542. To finance the investment, they will borrow the money from a bank, rather than use their savings. The bank terms are 5.6 percent for a twelve-year loan. You will use these variables to find the amount WorldCorp will pay each year for a loan. You know the loan term (NPER, which is the number of periods for the loan), the interest rate (RATE), and the original amount of the loan (PV). You do not know the future value (FV) or the yearly payment installment (PMT).

Excel performs these time value of money calculations using functions and the values of the known variables. First, construct a table that lists the five variables and the values you have. You can then use the Excel function to calculate PMT (Figure 12.2). Recall that this function can be found on the Formulas tab under Financial in the Function Library command group. You enter all of the values into the dialog box or in the Formula Bar using the cell references. Figure 12.2 shows the PMT function using the variables and the cell references.

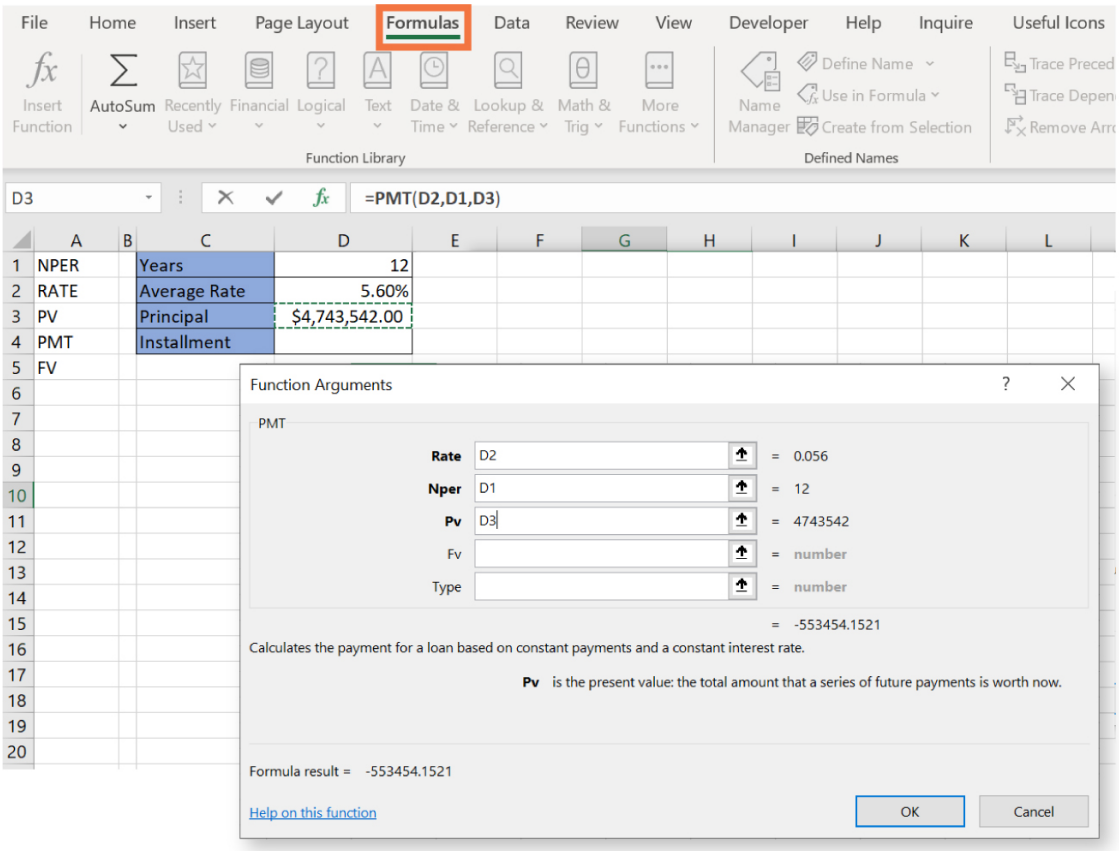


Figure 12.2: If you do not know the installment, but you know the periods, the interest, and the principal, you can calculate the installment. Excel will use the default of "0" for type. You do not need to enter anything for FV. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Figure 12.3a shows the yearly installment WorldCorp will have to pay on this loan. As was noted in The Advantages of a Data Table, Excel gives the PMT answer as a negative number by default. You can change this by putting a "-" sign in front of the PV cell reference or after the "=" in the formula in the Formula Bar (Figure 12.3b).

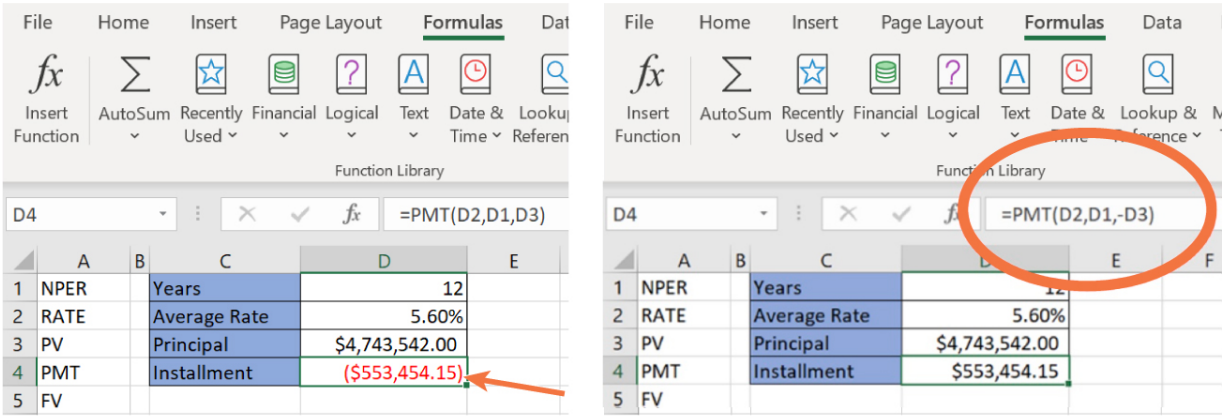


Figure 12.3: (a) Notice the final answer is negative (as indicated by "()" and red font. (b) The "-" in front of D3 changes the installment payment to a positive number. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Mac Tip

In the Mac version of Excel, using the functions for all of the time value of money variables does not open a dialog box, as it does in the Windows version. Instead, you must enter the values between the parentheses in the Formula Bar.

RATE

The RATE function works in the same way as the PMT function. Again, you can find the RATE function in the financial functions library. For this example, WorldCorp wants to open another manufacturing plant for making headphones. The cost of the site and the machinery is $3,843,974, but they will use a down payment of $450,000. The loan they would need then would be $3,393,974 (total cost − $450,000). The bank loan will be over twelve years, with yearly payments of $427,308.08. You need to determine the interest rate. Figure 12.4 shows the table of variables, but this time the interest rate is missing. You can then use the RATE function to determine the interest rate (Figure 12.5).

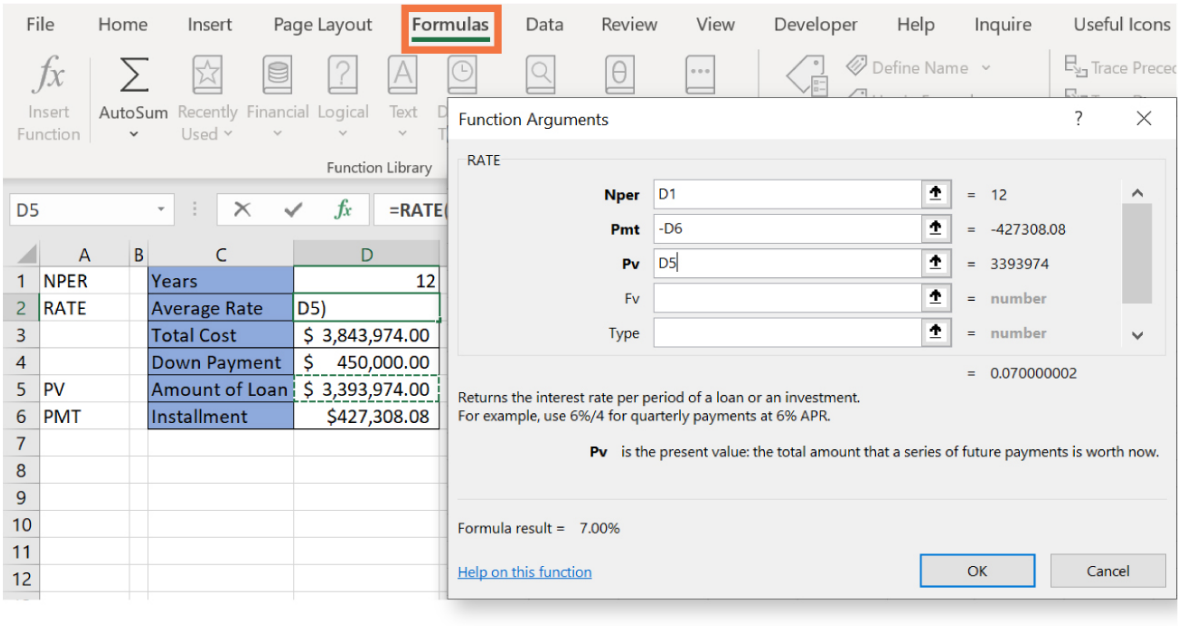


Figure 12.4: You can find the interest rate if you have the loan term, the loan amount, and the payment. Recall that you need at least three of the variables and be sure to enter a "-" in front of the PMT. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

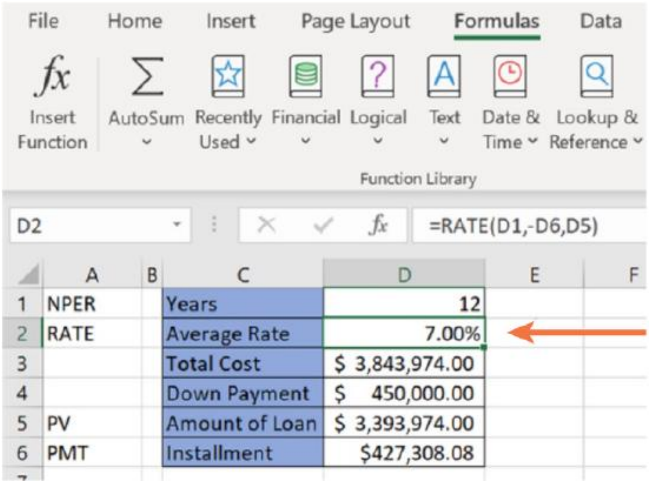


Figure 12.5: The function returns the interest rate based on the other variable values. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

NPER

You can use the NPER function in Excel in the same way as the other time value of money functions to determine the amount of time required to repay the loan. For this example, WorldCorp has decided to change the look of their retail stores. They asked you, a financial analyst, to find the best bank loan terms—the one that costs the company the least amount in total payment. The average cost of each store renovation is $64,757. Bank X offers an interest rate of 5.45 percent and Bank Y offers an interest rate of 6.55 percent. Bank Y is your current bank, and you have a great working relationship with the employees. You want to keep banking there, but want to understand the long-term impact of the higher interest rate for this loan. You have budgeted $1,500 each month

toward the loan for an annual payment of $18,000 ($1,500 × 12 months). You can use those values in the NPER function Figure 12.6 to determine the repayment time period for each loan Figure 12.7, which you can then use to determine the total payment of the loan. You would multiply the PMT by the NPER you just found.

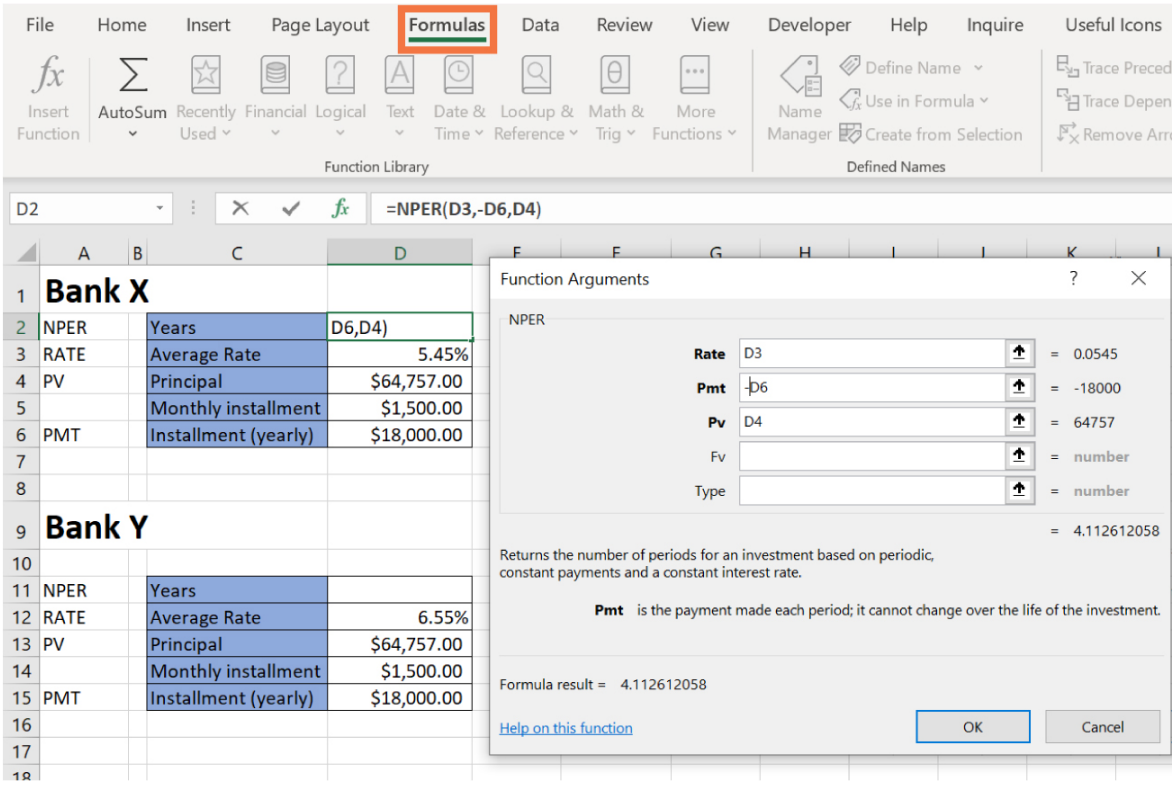


Figure 12.6: Bank X and Bank Y offer different interest rates. Use the NPER function to find the number of payment periods for Bank X. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

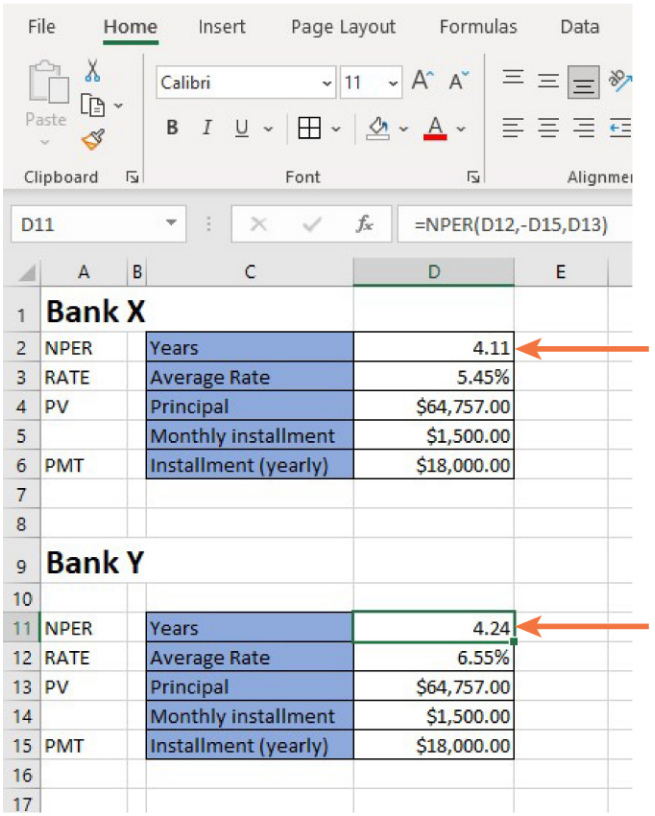


Figure 12.7: Repeat the NPER function for Bank Y. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The difference between the two options might not seem that significant: 4.11 years compared with 4.24 years. However, when you take that number and multiply it by the yearly installment, you can see the overall difference between the two loans. For Bank X, you will pay a total of $74,027.02 (= 4.11 × $1,800) and using the same process for Bank Y, the total cost is $76,239.91. It would save you more than $2,000 by going with Bank X. You will need to decide if that is enough savings to take the business away from your current bank. This example shows you that sometimes decisions are not always based on the numbers. Sometimes nonfinancial aspects must be considered when making decisions such as this.

Mac Tip

The Mac version requires the periods to be in months.

PV

Excel's PV function allows you to calculate the principal of a loan. Suppose you are WorldCorp's new financial analyst, and your supervisor asked you to track down all of the company's outstanding bank loans and their original principals. The first loan you find has a monthly payment of $8,673.38, a period of eight years and an annual interest rate of 6.55 percent. As with other examples, the first step is to set up your table of information. However, the table you have been using has the term set up in years, but the term of this loan is in months. You will need to multiply 8 years by 12 months to get NPER, and you will need to divide your annual interest (RATE) by 12 months (Figure 12.8) to get the monthly interest. Now that you have converted all of your figures to months, you can use the PV function from Excel to get the original principal of $646,743.00 (Figure 12.9).

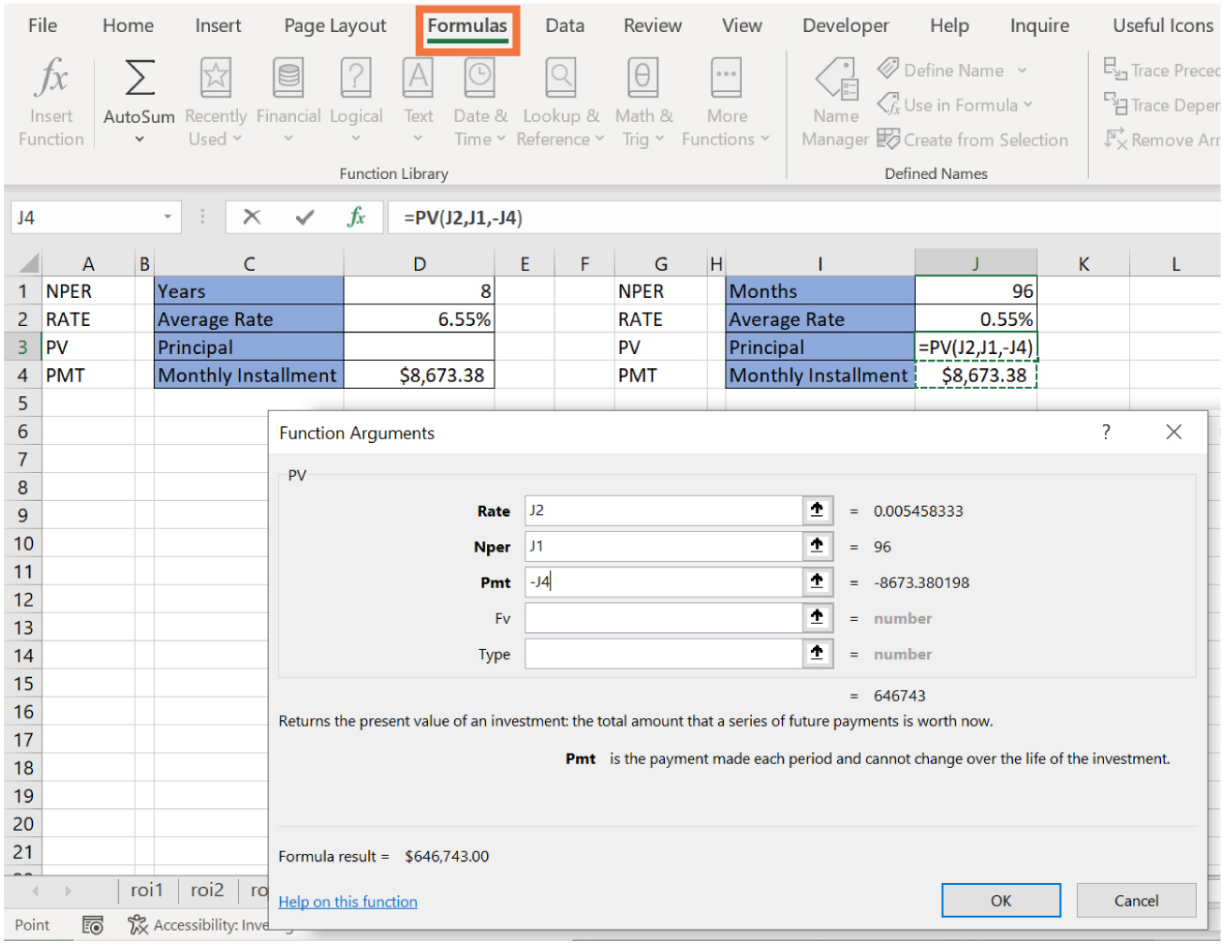


Figure 12.8: The financial functions in Excel are based on yearly information. The Excel function PV calculates the principal of a loan, but you need to convert yearly information to monthly information. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

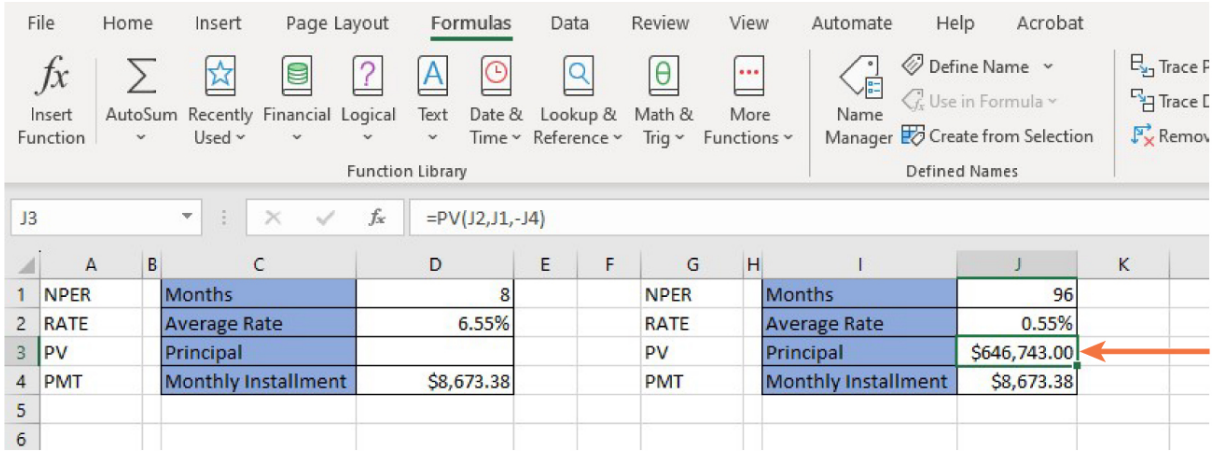


Figure 12.9: PV gives you the principal amount of the loan based on the interest rate and repayment period. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

An amortization schedule is a summary table of all the principal and interest payments made on a loan. This helps the borrower understand the impact of the interest rate and the timeline to pay back a loan such as one for a car or a home. Excel is a great tool for constructing such a table. Read this Ablebits tutorial about creating a loan amortization schedule in Excel to learn more about how to create a loan payment schedule.

FV

The final time value of money function you will use is for the future value, which the previous examples have not used. For this example, you will analyze a stock investment. As a financial analyst at WorldCorp, you need to assess the value of investments in a savings account to determine whether it would be better for WorldCorp to use this cash for buying stock of other companies to get a greater return. The stocks they are considering will increase in market value in the future, so you will need to calculate the amount WorldCorp will gain when they sell it. They have $5,456,254.00 in their savings account now. They are considering investing that savings in other company stocks that increase in value on average 6.57 percent per year, and they would plan to hold on to the stock for nine years. You would use the FV function, as shown in Figure 12.10 to determine this value. You can then compare that with what they would get if they just keep the funds in the savings account during that nine-year time period (Figure 12.11).

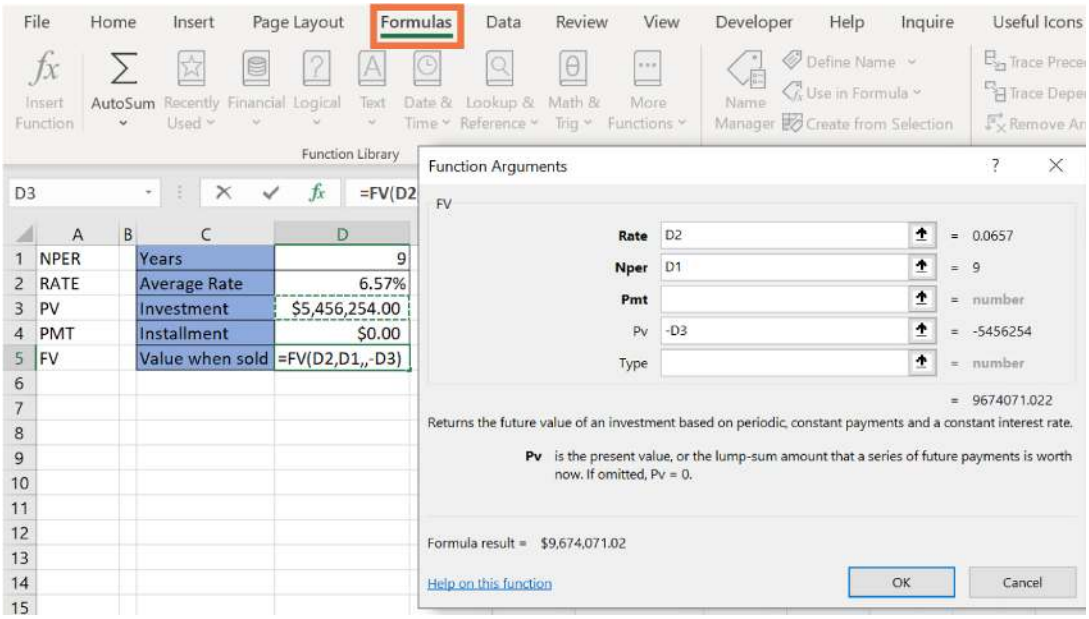


Figure 12.10: In this example, there is no annual payment you are making. Calculating the future value uses the FV function and three of the other four time value of money variables. Excel assumes PMT is “0” if no value is entered. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

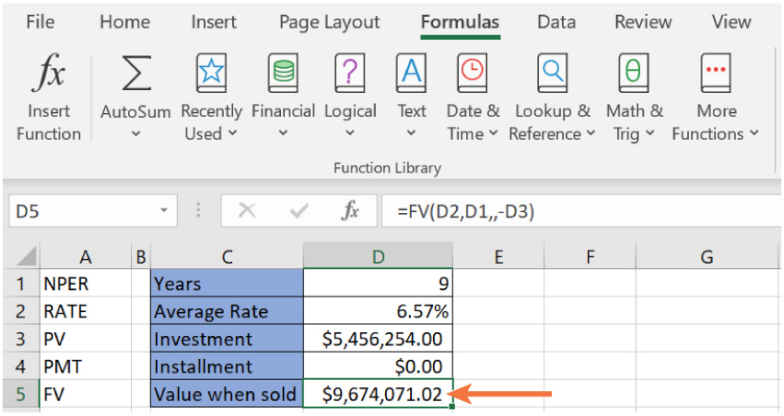


Figure 12.11: Again, like the other functions, the result will be negative if you do not add the “-” before the investment amount. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Depreciation

Depreciation is not one of the five variables used in time value of money theory, but it is an important function used in accounting. The steady decrease in value of an asset, such as a piece of equipment, over time is called depreciation. The IRS lets businesses calculate depreciation as an expenditure, which in turn reduces the total amount they are taxed each year. There are several different depreciation functions in Excel, but this section will focus on the DB (declining balance) function. This is one of the most

used methods of depreciation in accounting. With this function, you are essentially reducing the total value of the asset over a period of time.

The formula for depreciation takes into account the original price, the current market value of the item (or the salvage value), the years of use (or useful life), and the period. The years of use is the average lifespan of the machine. The period is the time that has passed since the purchase. The other variable in the function is Month. This can be used if the machine was purchased in the middle of the year. Excel will assume a normal twelve-month year for the first year if you leave this value blank. The number you enter here is the number of months the business owned the asset during a partial year. For this example, you will use the values in Figure 12.12, which shows the DB function. Figure 12.13 shows the depreciation of the asset. As shown, during period 2, the machine is $18,627.12 less than its original value, meaning that in year 2 the machine is worth $61,372.88 (or $80,000 − $18,627.12).

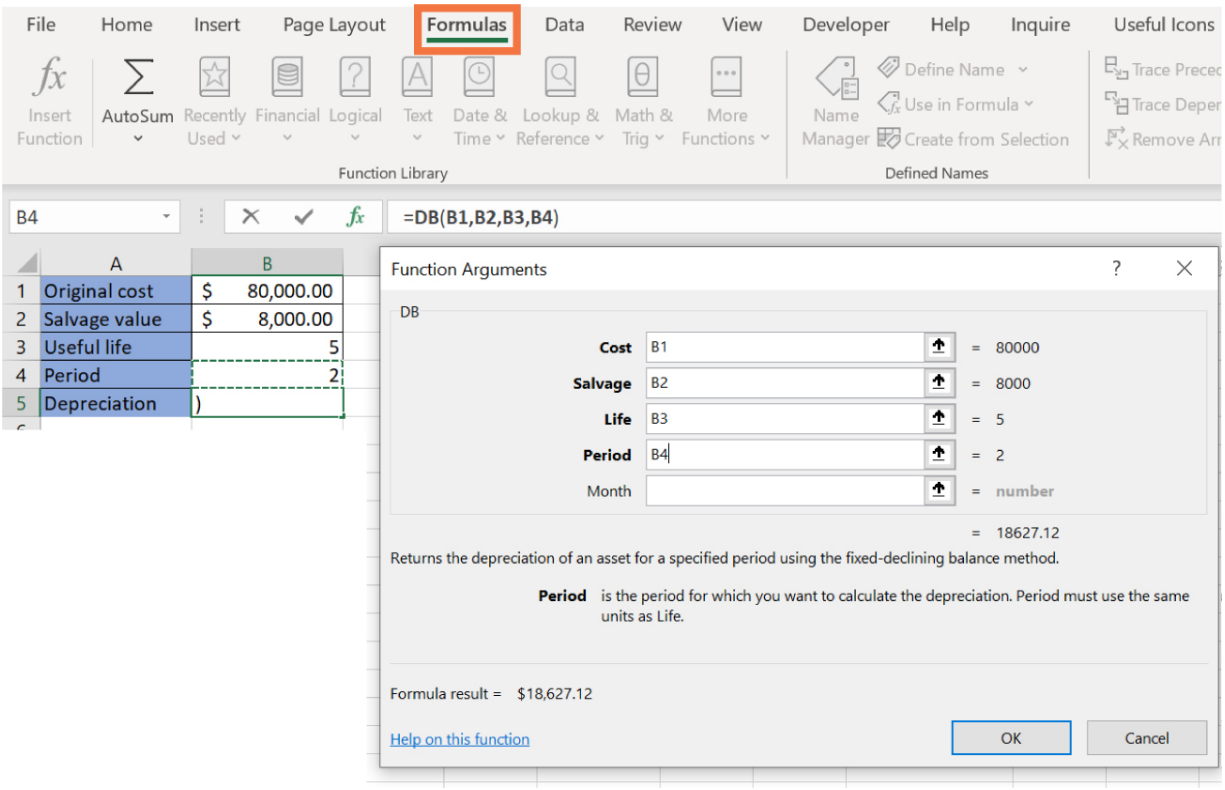


Figure 12.12: The salvage value is the worth of the asset if you were to sell it. The DB function calculates depreciation, which can reduce a company's taxes. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

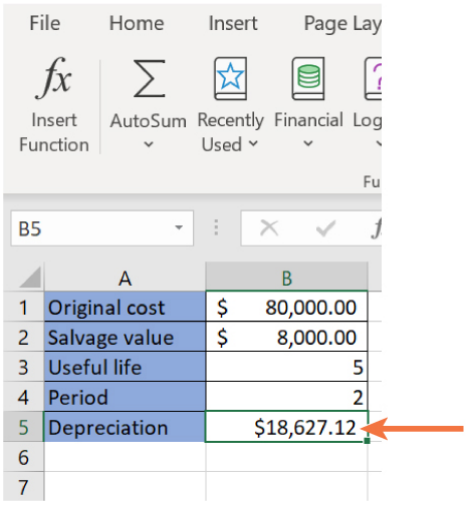


Figure 12.13: The resulting value is the annual depreciation of the asset to be deducted as an expense. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Spotlight on Ethics: Procedures and Reporting Standards

Financial accounting follows a set of standardized rules. All publicly traded corporations use Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures (GAAP) or International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) standards. There are options within GAAP that let the company report some accounts differently. For example, inventory can be valued as first in, first out (FIFO) or last in, first out (LIFO). It is important for a company to disclose all these optional changes to the GAAP in the financial statement notes, and in the annual report. For example, a company can explain how they calculated depreciation or value of inventory. Auditors use this information to ensure that the company has followed the appropriate accounting practices and that the financial statements are an accurate reflection of the company's financial health.

These notes also allow potential investors to consider them in an analysis of a company and in comparing the company with another company in the same industry. Without including full financial statement notes to explain variations in accounting principles, auditors and investors may not be able to determine the accuracy of a company's financial statement, which could lead to questioning a company's ethics and their adherence to GAAP or IFRS.

This page titled 12.2: Financial Functions in Microsoft Excel is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.3: Integrating Microsoft Excel and Accounting Programs

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Discuss the pros and cons of using Excel for accounting purposes
- Describe how Excel and QuickBooks can be integrated

WorldCorp uses Microsoft Excel for managerial accounting and data analysis, but they use an accounting software suite to handle the financial accounting. Excel can be used in conjunction with your accounting system, but it cannot replace the accounting system. Accounting software also allows for real-time acceptance and recording of transactions. That means that all purchases through a retail store using a cash register and printed receipts are also recorded in the accounting software at the same time. While all these transactions are happening all over the country and internationally, the financial statements are automatically updated. Accounting suites allow for more automation than Excel, but Excel can still be useful in data analysis. This section will compare Excel with accounting suites like QuickBooks and explain how to import or export data into and out of accounting software suites.

Pros and Cons of Using Excel for Accounting

Accounting principles are not programmed into Excel, so it does not perform automatic calculations or create documents in the same way accounting suites do. Accounting suites are designed specifically for accounting and bookkeeping, whereas Excel is a spreadsheet program that has broader uses than accounting, such as calculating mathematical equations using functions and formulas, building tables, and performing data analysis. You can use Excel as a tool for deeper analysis and comparison of decision alternatives by importing the information from the accounting-specific software programs. It can be used for analyzing any data in numerous disciplines, such as science, humanities, social sciences, and sports. It can create charts and graphs, which makes it easy to share information and collaborate using OneDrive or SharePoint, and thus it is very useful for managerial accounting.

Graphs, statistical tools, and charts offer insight and are used in reports and presentations. These Excel tools are not commonly found in financial accounting suites. Within Excel, these tools can build relatable visualizations using PivotTables to increase comprehension of data. This level of data analysis is not offered in financial accounting suites. You may find some of these features in larger accounting systems, but they are not typical. Also, as technology advances and user needs are incorporated into software updates, it is possible some additional data analysis capabilities could be added in accounting suites. But for now, data analysis of the accounting data is often done in Excel. You would need to extract the data and import it to Excel to make it visually impactful. You can also combine several accounts from the accounting software program in a single export file to Excel and analyze them together using a table or chart.

QuickBooks is one common accounting suite that is easy to use. Its interface has icons that represent the most common needs of business managers. The program is divided into the areas of vendors, customers, employees, companies, and banks. The vendor section is for handling billing and accounts payable and is also a central database for all vendors in the company. Having this list reduces the need for each department to have their own database of vendors. In the vendor section, you can manage the vendor information such as the contact email and the area of the company to which the vendor is assigned. The customer section is for generating invoices and handling accounts receivable and includes all the payment methods that customers may use. Just as the vendor section is used to manage vendors and create the database for the company, the same is true for the customer section. The customer section includes the master list of all customers in the company. The employee section is for handling the payroll. The company section is for organizing the Chart of Accounts and performing other similar functions. The banking section is for writing checks, tracking checks, recording deposits, and reconciling transactions.

The main advantage of an accounting suite compared with a spreadsheet is that it makes all needed tables and interconnections automatically. In Excel, you would have to build all tables from scratch and use cell references to make them communicate, which would be time-consuming. In an accounting suite, you can track transactions and costs without building tables like in Excel. QuickBooks even adds its own specialized features, such as scanning invoices from vendors automatically, without any typing.

Link to Learning

Running a small business is easier using an accounting suite like QuickBooks, but you should still consider using an accountant to help you with things like bookkeeping and taxes. Read this article on basic business accounting and the types of daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annual tasks you should be performing. Maintaining good bookkeeping will save you time and money; if you use QuickBooks, you will save on hourly CPA charges, as the consultant will have to work less. Using Excel for bookkeeping requires the CPA to work more hours to accomplish the same tasks.

Integrating Excel and QuickBooks

You have learned different situations in which a company may want to analyze accounting data in Excel, but you have also learned that Excel should not be used alone for a company's bookkeeping. Accounting suites allow for easy data export for analysis in Excel. For accounting in small- to medium-sized businesses, over two-thirds of the market has been held by Intuit's QuickBooks for many decades. QuickBooks is easy to use for most people comfortable with technology and data, and to use it, you don't have to be an accountant. You create a chart of accounts when you first install the software or sign up online and feed it with daily invoices and expenses. Once it's set up, it automatically forms your financial statements in real time. The application can generate tax-related reports such as the annual business tax filings or sales tax for submitting to government agencies.

Link to Learning

If you want a more visual tutorial on extracting data from QuickBooks to Excel, see this detailed guide that walks you through the steps in the desktop version.

Fortunately, Intuit and Microsoft have made their applications compatible. Excel also integrates well with QuickBooks and other accounting software. Both accounting applications readily accept importation of Excel files, and they both can export data to Excel. Excel opens their exported file with ease, and you can gather insights with these datasets by utilizing data analytics processes, forming data visualizations, and designing business intelligence queries. Most accounting programs have a tool or command button for importing Excel data into the program or for exporting the data to Excel for additional analysis. When the data is imported into the program, it is converted to that program's data file type. Importing data from Excel into these specialized programs can be helpful to check for errors and to uncover inconsistencies in financial data.

When starting to implement QuickBooks in your business, you may need to import a lot of data from Excel files. Maybe you have your listing of products in an Excel file. In QuickBooks, there is a quick, automated way to import this data. In the online version, you use the Import Data feature. This process lets you import many different types of data, as you can see in Figure 12.14. For importing customer data, you will need to make sure that the Excel spreadsheet matches the instructions provided in QuickBooks so that it can map the data (Figure 12.15). It may involve some formatting and cleaning up of your Excel spreadsheet. If you want to export from QuickBooks to Excel, you can easily filter out what kind of data you want to export (such as certain transaction types or a date range) and export it to Excel format (Figure 12.16).

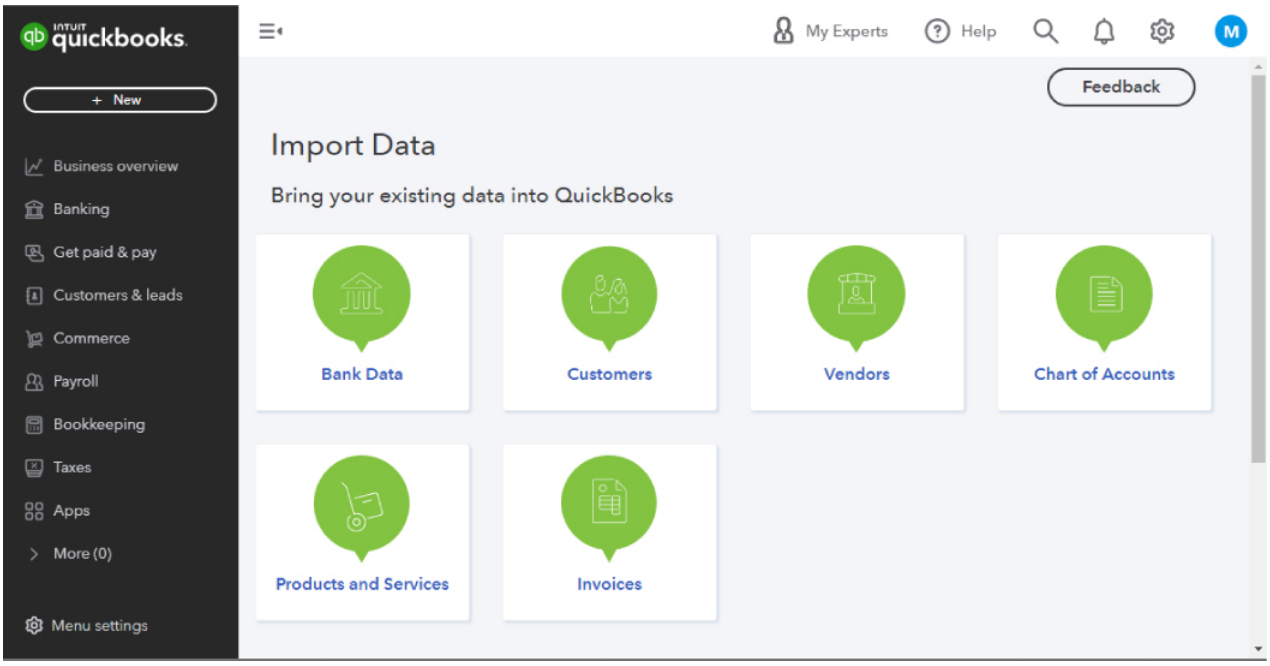


Figure 12.14: QuickBooks walks you through the process of selecting the type of data you want to import. (Reprinted with permission © Intuit Inc. All rights reserved.)

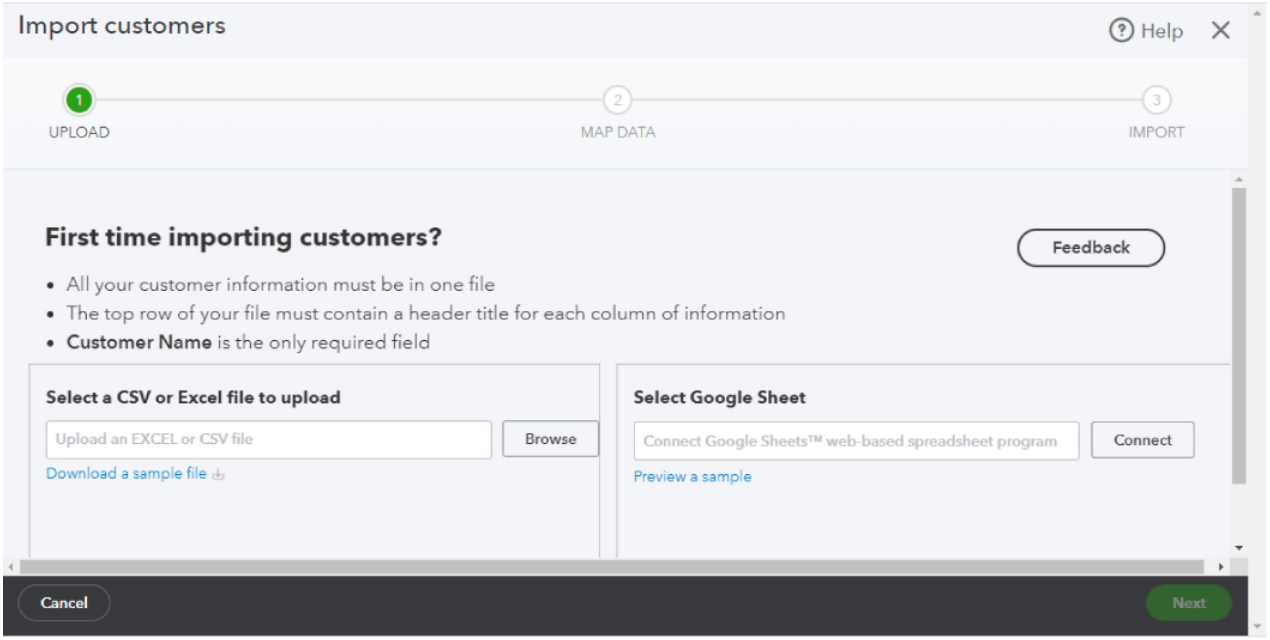


Figure 12.15: QuickBooks also walks you through choosing the file and ensuring the data is in the correct format. (Reprinted with permission © Intuit Inc. All rights reserved.)

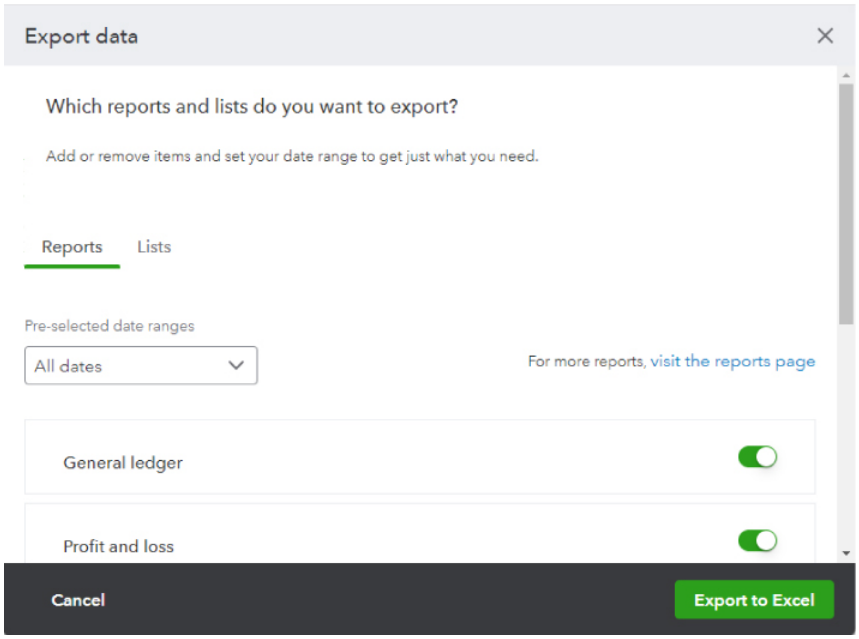


Figure 12.16: QuickBooks will ask what kind of data you want to export (such as certain transaction types or a date range) and export it to Excel format. (Reprinted with permission © Intuit Inc. All rights reserved.)

Spotlight on Ethics: Financial Auditing

The purpose of the financial audit is to ensure that the company is following the rules and governmental guidelines for managing and reporting financial information. It is also designed to assess the risk of the company for potential legal action for inaccuracies or wrongdoing. Audits are greatly facilitated with the use of software. It reduces human error and can even detect issues that might not be discoverable by the individual auditor. Deliberate manipulation of financial information can cost the company millions of dollars. In 2001, Enron was found to be inflating their company earnings by hiding debt. This results in Enron's shareholders losing billions of dollars and the share price collapsed. Enron employees were convicted of wrongdoing and the company eventually went bankrupt.

This page titled 12.3: Integrating Microsoft Excel and Accounting Programs is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.4: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

accounting
process of organizing, analyzing, reporting, and communicating financial information that is used for decision making

depreciation
steady decrease in value of an asset over time

financial accounting
measures the financial performance of an organization using standard conventions to prepare financial reports used by external entities

managerial accounting
process that uses both financial and nonfinancial information as a basis for making decisions within an organization

This page titled 12.4: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.5: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

12.1 Basic Accounting

- Accounting is the process of organizing, analyzing, and communicating financial information that is used for decision making.
- Financial accounting measures performance using financial reports and communicates results to those outside of the organization who may have an interest in the company's performance, such as investors and creditors.
- Managerial accounting uses both financial and nonfinancial information to aid in internal decision making.

12.2 Financial Functions in Microsoft Excel

- The time value of money theory, or the theory that money loses value as time passes, is the basis of many financial decisions and can be useful in helping decision makers understand the long-term impacts of their choices now.
- The time value of money variables are PV, RATE, NPER, PMT, and FV. They allow you to calculate the time value of money.
- Depreciation is a mathematical formula that allows business owners to quantify how much value an asset loses over time so that they can plan for replacing the asset.

12.3 Integrating Microsoft Excel and Accounting Programs

- QuickBooks is an accounting software suite. It is a different kind of software from Excel, and they both have their advantages and disadvantages for use in accounting.
- Accounting software programs can better keep track of revenues and expenditures and do so automatically and following IRS rules.
- Accounting software programs do not do well in data analysis, because the database is designed to be for financial analysis. You would have to export data from the program to an Excel file, then use Excel to further analyze the data.
- Excel's extensive data analysis capabilities meet the needs of managerial accounting. Excel also integrates well with accounting software programs.

This page titled 12.5: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.6: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
Accounting is sometimes called the “language of _____.”

a. Wall Street
b. business
c. assets and liabilities
d. financial statements

2 .
Financial accounting information _____.

a. should be incomplete in order to confuse competitors
b. should be prepared differently by each company
c. provides investors with guarantees about the future
d. summarizes business activities in the company that have already occurred

3 .
_____ is an example of an external user of financial accounting information.

a. A new employee to the company
b. The CEO
c. The marketing department of the company
d. A potential investor

4 .
Which groups typically create initial managerial accounting reports?

a. bankers
b. investors
c. competitors of the business
d. internal company decision makers

5 .
Which function input is used to determine the monetary value of an investment at the end of a time period?

a. PV
b. FV
c. NPER
d. Type

6 .
_____ is the decrease in value of an asset over time.

a. Future value
b. Time value of money
c. Depreciation
d. Present value

7 .
What is the underlying financial concept used to compare money balances for different periods?

a. time value of money
b. financial value of money
c. debt sorting
d. economic inflation theory

8 .
What is one advantage that Excel has over QuickBooks?

a. Making financial statements is easier.

b. Excel is better equipped to do analysis of the numbers.
c. Excel makes it easy to track payroll.
d. Excel can generate tax reports.

9 .
Which feature is available in accounting software programs such as QuickBooks?

a. analysis showing major spending categories by averages
b. forming graphs and charts of the information
c. determining which expenses are outside of the normal range
d. generating tax reports

This page titled 12.6: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.7: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

10 .
You have been saving $10 every week since you were five years old. Your parents put all of these savings into a mutual fund. Now, you are twenty-two. The mutual fund paid on average 5 percent each year. What function would you use to find out the value of the fund today? What is the value today?

11 .
You start saving for a condo that you plan to pay $80,000 for in four years. You have investments that will produce an estimated 7 percent return during the four years. How much do you need to save a year to reach your goal of $80,000?

12 .
You invested in two pre-owned cars for your business two years ago. You expect the cars to last ten years. The initial investment of both cars was about $45,000. The salvage value for the cars combined is $12,000. What is the annual depreciation for the vehicles? What is the current value to the business now?

13 .
Describe how WorldCorp might compare sales executives using Excel, QuickBooks, or both. What data will you use? How would you compare them (using what methodology, and what software)?

This page titled 12.7: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.8: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

14 .
Think about a recent significant purchase you made. Describe what financial and nonfinancial factors went into that purchase. Rank the factors from most important to least important and explain how you made the final decision to purchase the item.
15 .
Computerized accounting systems help businesses efficiently record and utilize financial information. QuickBooks is a popular software package for small businesses. Explore the QuickBooks website to learn more about this software. Select one of the QuickBooks plans and discuss some of the capabilities of the software. Taking the perspective of a small business owner, explain how this software might help the business.
16 .
Describe a situation in which you would use one of the five financial functions introduced in this chapter.
17 .
What is the purpose of the depreciation expenditure? Explain.
18 .
Why would you want to know the future value of an investment? Explain.
19 .
Why might you use Excel in conjunction with QuickBooks for accounting purposes?
20 .
What are the advantages of using QuickBooks for a small business owner?

This page titled 12.8: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

12.9: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

21 .

What other accounting software programs are on the market? Are they geared toward large businesses or small organizations? Provide a brief review of some of the leading accounting software programs.

This page titled 12.9: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

13: Understanding and Using Databases

13.0: Chapter Scenario
13.1: What Is a Database?
13.2: Microsoft Access- Main Features and Navigation
13.3: Querying a Database
13.4: Maintaining Records in a Database
13.5: Creating Reports in Microsoft Access
13.6: Creating Forms in Microsoft Access
13.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
13.8: Chapter Review - Summary
13.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
13.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
13.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
13.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 13: Understanding and Using Databases is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.0: Chapter Scenario

Welcome to the Business Analysis Department at WorldCorp. We are happy you will be working here. Your role as an analyst is to work with data professionals who support various teams within WorldCorp. Most of the time, you will be tasked with supporting the sales and marketing team, though you may also work with data from other areas of the company. To get started, you will learn what a database is and how to use its data, maintain its records, and create data reports. We focus on Microsoft Access in this chapter, but other database programs have similar features and functionality.



Figure 13.1: Warehouses like this one require complex systems to manage their inventory. Microsoft Access is designed to handle and report on large amounts of data. (credit: modification of “Man Standing in an Aisle of a Warehouse Carrying a Box” by Tiger Lily/Pexels, CC0)

This page titled 13.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.1: What Is a Database?

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Discuss how databases are used in organizations
- Compare and contrast the features of a relational database system with other types of databases and data storage
- Describe the objects in a relational database
- Evaluate applications of relational database management systems in organizations

Data—bits of information about people, places, and things—is a key part of the world of business and technology. It can take the form of words or numbers and is frequently collected without active individual involvement. For example, the internet is constantly collecting information on what consumers look at, click on, and read. This information is then often passed on to a database or even parsed out to several databases. Other technology, including sensors and the so-called Internet of Things, is also constantly recording and storing data for businesses to use in a myriad of ways.

One of the challenges of managing and analyzing data is understanding what data is, what it can be, and how it can transform the world around us. Data on its own is not valuable or actionable. To make a difference, data needs to be processed and organized to give it context. When this occurs, we have information. Then, knowledge is generated from data that has been transformed into information and then finally analyzed in a way to give meaning and draw conclusions about the data.

No matter how much data is collected, it is useless without organization and structure. Think about all the things you interact with in a typical day. If those things were collected but had no structure (imagine bits of paper with single words or numbers thrown into a pile), you would not be able to make sense of them. Since the value of data lies in its ability to inform decisions and help us understand the world, both past and present, the structure and storage of data are critical.

A database stores a large amount of data in an effective way that will allow for efficient retrieval in a computerized environment. Databases may be physical objects, such as address books or file folders, each of which provides a place to keep data in an organized fashion so we can quickly locate what we need. Physical storage has limits, however, because its structure is easily overwhelmed when datasets get too large, and retrieval of meaningful information becomes impossible.

A digital database is a computerized file that not only stores data in a structured or organized way but also allows users to make changes to transform data. Digital databases are often contained within a program such as Access on a desktop computer or Microsoft Azure or an structured query language (SQL) server at the companywide level. Digital databases add new features and capabilities to business decision-making by combining the power of analytics with the structure of tables and rows.

Mac Tip

Access is only available on desktops and laptops with a Windows operating system. It is not available on Mac, Chrome, or Linux devices. Mac has a comparable desktop/laptop database called FileMaker.

Digital databases provide structure, organization, and access. But unlike physical objects, they provide a flexible structure that enables us to capture, store, and organize large, complicated sets of data, and that also gives us options for retrieving and using information. Using digital databases enables users to transform data, creating new ways of informing decisions. Because businesses must make decisions based on data every day, the key to good decision-making is creating a database that contains accessible, organized, actionable data.

The Role of Databases in an Organization

Databases drive nearly all business functions in organizations throughout the world. Any business that uses the internet has a digital platform or foundational technology that is built on databases. A digital platform is a place where users can interact with and explore the products and services offered by a company. Digital platforms often come in the form of an app, website, or social media. The term *database* is ubiquitous in organizations, where you can assume that every function and every employee or customer are interacting with many databases.

Organizations use databases to store information about customers, employees, vendors, products, supply chain, transportation, maintenance, sales, inventory, and much more. Anywhere an organization is working with data, some type of database will be involved. Often the database is the foundation for the work, and the people who interact with the database may not even be aware that it is there.

Data in organizations comes from a variety of inputs, such as from direct input by employees or customers. Some examples include entering new customer information, recording human resources information, creating maintenance requests, purchasing goods for company use, and engaging in sales transactions. Data can also come from technology that records information related to the business—for example, technology that tracks items such as inventory levels, building management (temperature, air quality, occupancy), traffic patterns (employee use of resources), resource use by customers, and customer contact (frequency and method of contact, as well as the results).

Sales and marketing departments collect a great deal of data about their operations and customers. In addition to typical customer information and sales history, a business is also likely to look at daily performance data on marketing and sales operations. This can include sales force performance, customer service, and experience data; social media promotion; and web platform performance. Automatic data collection tends to generate a very large quantity of data that needs to be connected (or related) and then aggregated (or summarized) to be understandable and useful.

Businesses also capture public data from other sources. For example, sales and marketing departments need to look at public data, which is available from the government and other organizations. Public data includes demographics and financial information and may even include climate change and environmental data that affects how businesses work. These datasets are free, very large, constantly changing, and challenging to locate and use. A clear plan for identifying and using this data benefits a sales and marketing department.

All of this data has to go somewhere, and that is the digital platform and the databases it comprises. It is not enough to have data—data needs to be organized to be useful. Since data is key to decision-making and action in most organizations, the digital platform is mission critical.

Data Collection and Storage in Organizations

In a typical business, a production database contains live data that the business uses to produce transactions such as customer requests, inventory management, and sales transactions. Because production databases are in constant use, they should not be used for testing or analysis. Any change to a production database makes the system unavailable for some period of time, which is not desirable when the database is the interface between the company and its customers, suppliers, and other important people outside the company. Instead, when an organization needs to work with a production database, it moves its data to either a development database (used for testing) or an analytical database (used for analysis).

Spotlight on Ethics - Working with Live Data

One of the best practices for working with databases is that users do not work directly with the production system—that is, the production database containing the live data that actively run the business. But why? It seems that working directly with the production system would be the most efficient choice. In this case, however, following best practices prevents users from making mistakes that can seriously compromise the business. “Don’t work with the production system” is an ethical issue—part of the code of conduct that all analysts are expected to follow. Watch this video using a case study to discuss this problem to learn more about why this has become a standard in database work.

Access is a desktop-based relational database program that can be used to work with a wide variety of data quickly and easily, regardless of its source. Users can request data from the department in charge of the data warehouse, which is a type of data management system that businesses use, then download the dataset to work with to provide actionable information. Let’s see how this might look at WorldCorp.

John works as a data analyst for WorldCorp. The company has a robust data warehouse that stores vast amounts of customer data, sales records, and inventory information. The data warehouse is managed by the Data Management Department (DMD) within WorldCorp. (Other companies may choose to contract out their data management department to a third party.)

John is tasked with analyzing the sales trends of a particular product category to identify potential areas for improvement. To do so, he needs access to a specific dataset from the data warehouse. John follows the established procedure and sends a formal request to the DMD, specifying the dataset he requires and providing relevant details about his analysis objectives. The request outlines the specific parameters, such as the time frame, region, and product category of interest.

Upon receiving the request, the DMD acknowledges John's inquiry and begins processing it. They retrieve the requested dataset from the data warehouse, ensuring that it contains the relevant information needed by John to perform his analysis. After completing the data retrieval process, the DMD notifies John that the dataset is ready for download. John receives an email with a link to access the dataset securely.

John clicks on the provided link, which directs him to a secure portal where he can download the dataset. He verifies his credentials and proceeds to download the dataset onto his local machine. With the dataset now available on his computer, John starts working with the data using specialized analysis tools. He cleans the dataset, performs statistical analyses, and generates insightful visualizations to gain a better understanding of the sales trends in the specified product category.

After extensive analysis, John identifies certain regions where the product category is underperforming. He also discovers opportunities for strategic marketing campaigns and potential adjustments to the product assortment. John compiles his findings into a comprehensive report, highlighting actionable insights and recommendations based on the analysis of the downloaded dataset. He presents this report to the company's management team, enabling them to make informed decisions to improve the performance of the product category.

In this example, the user (John) requests data from the department in charge of the data warehouse (DMD), downloads the dataset, and uses it to generate actionable information through analysis.

Data can come in a variety of formats and configurations. The way in which data is stored can affect how the data can be used, so it is important that a business carefully consider how its data will be stored. There are advantages and disadvantages to each storage medium, but based on the type and volume of data being stored, some storage formats are more suitable than others.

Data Warehouses

When we discuss data storage, we are typically talking about the data warehouse—a data management system that stores and manages data, especially data related to business intelligence operations and activities. Data warehouses are built for storage, accessibility, and retrieval, as Figure 13.2 illustrates, and often integrate data from a variety of sources within the organization. You may also hear the term data mart, which is a subset of the data warehouse that is optimized for specific workgroups or functions. Typically, data flows into the warehouse on a predetermined schedule, adding to the existing data available for analytical work.

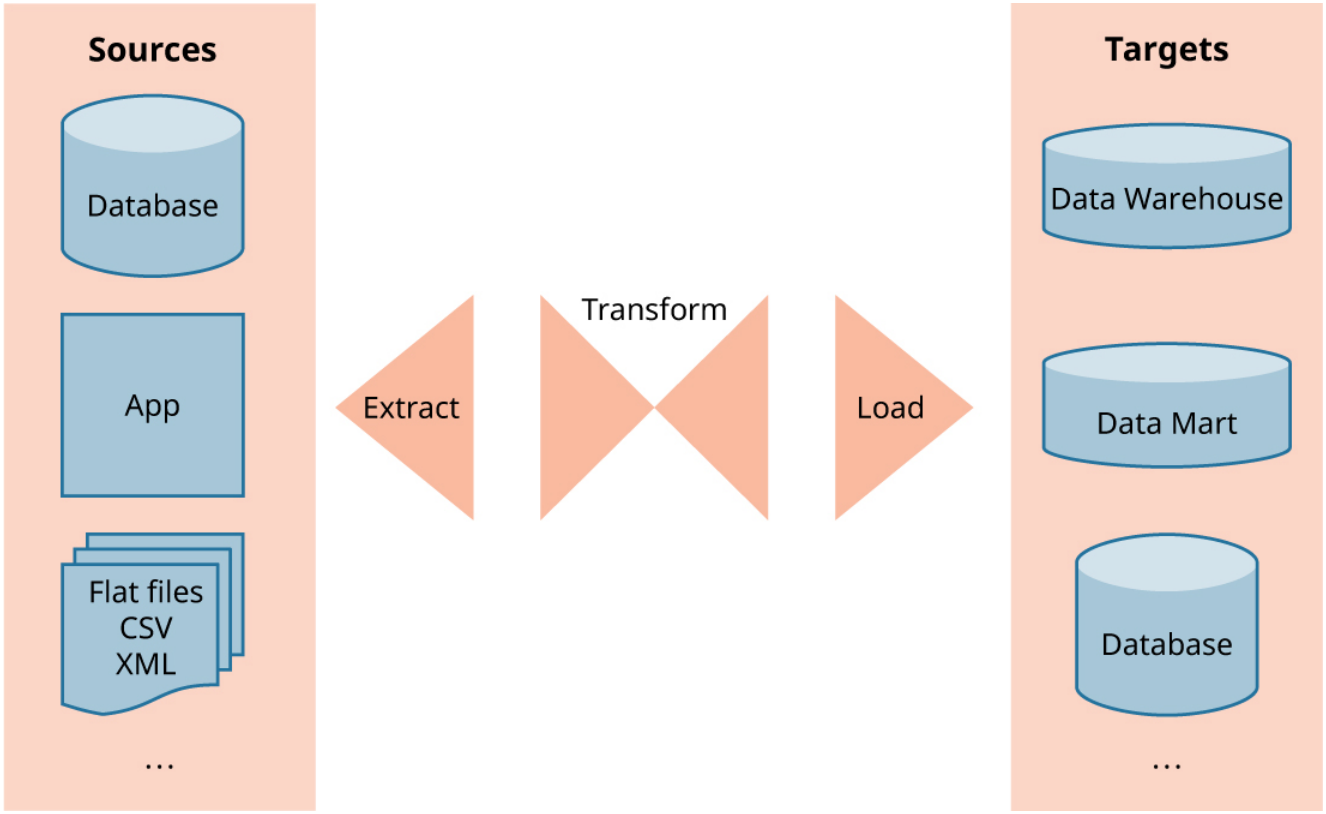


Figure 13.2: Data can be transformed in the database through organizing and processing. (credit: modification of "Extract, Transform, Load Data Flow Diagram" by Bamyers99/Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

A data warehouse is also a type of database, but it differs from the type of database you will use in Access. As an organization's central data repositories, data warehouses hold a lot of information and use a complex structure. Typically, a department or team will include someone who is trained to interact with the data warehouse, using business intelligence tools or other analytics technology. That employee can then use Microsoft products such as an Access database or an Excel spreadsheet for analysis and preparation for management to aid in decision-making.

Flat Files

Many businesses store their data in flat files—individual files that have a tabular structure, including single spreadsheets, other tables, and stand-alone lists of information. Flat files have no set links to other information. In fact, if there are any links, they will be obvious to employees but typically not in documents or parts of the file itself. Flat files tend to look like tables, with headers at the top and a row representing each record, as Figure 13.3 shows.

Flat File Model

	Route No.	Miles	Activity
Record 1	I-95	12	Overlay
Record 1	I-495	05	Patching
Record 1	SR-301	33	Crack seal

Figure 13.3: Flat files are mostly static repositories of data, usually represented in tables, that workers access directly as needed.

Flat files are easiest to use when datasets are small and when the individual using them understands the data well. But even flat files that are quite large, containing thousands or hundreds of thousands of records, can be usable if all records follow a consistent pattern. Flat files are typically created by departments and individual employees in the course of their work, and most organizations

have a huge number of these files, which are stored on personal computers and may not be updated or even available beyond the person who created them. In this way, they are a form of dark data—data that is not used or actionable for the organization.

Flat-file databases are also used in other ways, including the transfer of information from one system to another. For example, suppose a sales organization wants to examine inventory records from a warehouse. In this case, the warehouse may send them a flat-file database that follows a uniform pattern, with columns for fields and rows for records. This type of flat file merely stores information; it does not have an indexed system or any links to other systems, and it is typically in a text format. Common examples of file formats that contain plain text include CSV (comma-separated values, where data items are separated by commas), txt (text, where items are separated by space in the file), or tsv (tab-separated values, where items are separated by tabs). Often businesses must consider the other systems that their database will interact with before deciding on a data format. Plain text is one of the most universally supported formats for data, making it simple to move data between business systems.

Relational Database Management Systems

The power in a digital database comes from the ability to connect data from one area to another. A relational database management system (RDBMS) is software that houses, manages, accesses, and retrieves data in its database. The term *relational* refers to the way that data links together by creating relationships between the tables that hold the data itself. In this way, relational databases can hold much more information that is complex and yet easily accessible.

There are many different types of RDBMS in use today. Access is a desktop system that holds information that is typically generated in other, larger database systems running on dedicated database infrastructure servers. For example, a data analyst might use Access at their computer at their desk at headquarters but will pull the data from the more powerful relational database systems running in WorldCorp's dedicated data center. Still, Access is also an RDBMS, with the power to manage relationships between tables, making it possible to create complex reports.

A relational database is a type of database that stores and provides access to data. Relational databases hold a collection of items, with preset relationships between them. Sometimes people use data, database, and relational databases interchangeably, though you may need to pay attention to context to understand if a person is talking about the data, the database, or the system itself.

A relational database and RDBMS are designed to give structure to data and to ensure that data is stored and used effectively. Examples of large-scale RDBMS include MySQL, IBM DB2, Oracle DB, and Microsoft SQL Server. Although each of these larger databases support querying and generating reports, in many small to medium-sized businesses, data is often exported and brought into an Access relational database for further refinement, analysis, and reporting or brought into Microsoft Excel for more complex statistical analysis.

Relational databases, running in an RDBMS, allow us to join or connect tables, perform complex analysis, and run reports efficiently. A join is a function within an RDBMS that sets up the relationship between records in two tables. In a data warehouse environment, relationships (or joins) that connect tables make it possible to store vast quantities of data and still be able to retrieve them quickly and efficiently.

Access, as a desktop RDBMS, uses the same idea of connecting tables through joins to make data retrieval quick and efficient and has the added benefit of using a graphical user interface. To work with data in Access, you do not need to know a language such as Java, Python, R, or SQL. Since we often need to analyze information from a larger data store, like the data warehouse, being able to work with relationships makes it possible to efficiently access information from multiple parts of the database.

Storing Data in an RDBMS

An RDBMS stores data in a database, which is a series of connected tables. The RDBMS provides the software and system structure for the data; the database is the holding area of the data. In practice, the term *database* is usually used for both of these, but it is important to understand that the data is separate from the program housing it. As a result, you can move data from one software to another program, such as from Access to Outlook or Word for communication distribution.

A database can hold a variety of data types in its data tables. A relational database that uses structured data can recognize and process data based on its type; for example, it can understand the difference between text and numbers and process them accordingly. Data types in Access are shown in Table 13.1.

Table 13.1: Data Types in Access These are some data types typically housed in a relational database.

Data Type	Description
Text	Alphanumeric data (in either short or long format)
Number	Numerical data
Date/time	Date and time
Currency	Monetary data with four decimal places
Aut\nonumber	Unique value set by Access
Yes/No	Data stored as yes/no (true/false)
OLE object	Pictures, graphics, or other files that are stored
Hyperlink	Link to a document (online, local computer, or network)
Attachment	Full file attachment stored in the database
Calculated	Mathematical expression (or calculation)
Lookup Wizard	Field that uses the contents of another table to populate the field

Data Manipulation

One of the strengths of a database is that it enables users to manipulate data, changing it in a way that makes the data more useful and actionable. An example of data manipulation is the creation of new fields based on combining and calculating existing fields within the database. WorldCorp often manipulates its data as new products are added to its portfolio or old products are updated with new features. Data manipulation allows users to set up the data in a way that helps them and their audience make sense of it and transform it into business intelligence.

Objects and Relationships

Objects and relationships are key concepts in a database. Objects are the items that make up a database, including tables, queries, forms, and reports. Relationships link objects together in the database, as Figure 13.4 illustrates, which in turn improves the performance of the database itself.

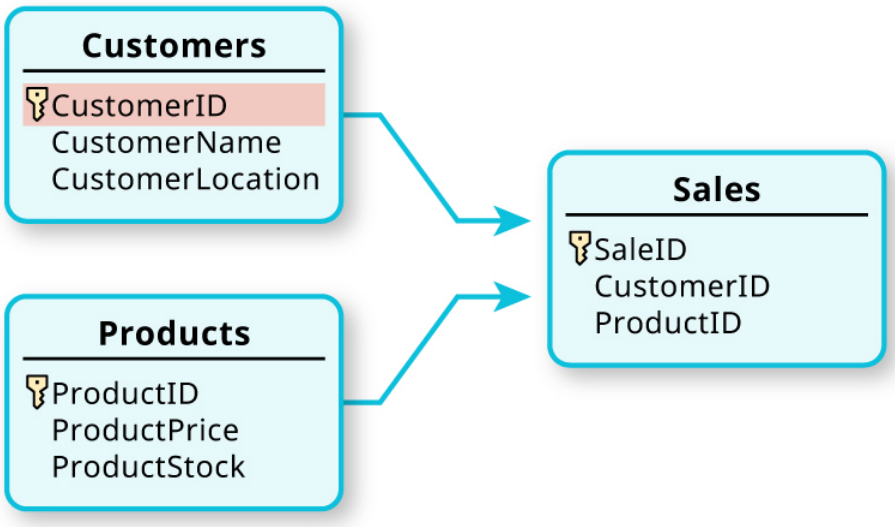


Figure 13.4: Relational databases use tables with defined relationships between them to organize and manage data, while flat-file databases typically do not have this level of relational structure.

A database object is used to store, reference, or interact with the database. There are four main types of objects in an Access database:

- Tables: the structures that hold individual data records
- Queries: structured data requests
- Forms: formatted screens for inputting or viewing data
- Reports: formatted summaries of specific information in the database

A relationship (also known as a join) tells the database that two records have a connection. This means we can break up a table into many tables, which in turn keeps screens manageable and speeds up processing. Relationships are created by using a key field, which is a field in a table that serves as a unique identifier for an individual record in a table. For example, in a database about employees, an employee ID number would be a key field and would act as the link between tables that hold employee information, payroll information, and even performance information in a sales department. Instead of trying to hold all this data in one extremely large table, we can have many smaller tables, each specializing in a particular type of data and linked to other tables by key fields, such as primary or foreign keys.

Tables

Tables hold the data within a database organized into rows and columns in two dimensions. A table consists of columns, each of which is a field, and rows, each of which is a record. The column or field names apply to each record in the table and create the structure the database uses to organize information. A database can include many tables that are joined together by relationships between fields. This structure makes relational databases fast and efficient when retrieving data.

Each table typically contains a key field. A primary key field is a unique field in the table, which serves as a unique identifier for the individual record you are looking at. A table can also have a foreign key field, which refers to the primary key field in another table. For example, an invoice number for a sales record is a primary key field—it is unique—but it can also appear as a foreign key field in other tables. In this way, the primary key field prevents duplication in a sales invoice table and also provides a link to the sales invoice list as a foreign key when it appears elsewhere in the database. In Access, primary key fields have an image of a key next to them when viewed in Design View, as shown in Figure 13.5.



Figure 13.5: The primary key is a unique identifier within a database table that ensures each record is distinct and provides a reliable way to access, reference, and link data across tables. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Key fields make it simple to gather useful information about a single data point from multiple tables. WorldCorp might use a model number as a key field in a database that stores the features, availability, and price of their products. In another database, WorldCorp can use a customer identification number to track various customer metrics such as location, purchase history, and contact information across various tables.

Queries

In a large database, it can be difficult or even impossible to find the information you need by simply scrolling through the records. It is even more difficult when a database contains many tables linked by joins. Instead, you can design or build a query, a structured request that allows you to set up criteria instructing the database to return what you are looking for.

For example, suppose your boss at WorldCorp asks you to gather sales transactions on a specific date or all transactions for a certain dollar amount. Or you might want to be more specific, asking for all sales of a specific product in a specified time period that exceeded a certain dollar amount. In each case, you can use queries to ask the database to provide the information you need. In many relational databases, structured query language (SQL) is used to create and run queries. SQL is a system of written commands used to manipulate data in a database; it was developed by IBM in the 1970s to allow its engineers to interface with database systems more efficiently. SQL is in Access; however, users can create queries without knowing SQL.

Forms

A form is a database object that simplifies the use of information within the database. A form creates a user interface—a way for individuals to interact with the database—without directly using the table, which can be slow, overwhelming, and risky (because data in the table can be inadvertently changed). A form can be used to input information into a database (e.g., new customer information that customers enter themselves). A form can also be used to retrieve information (e.g., when a customer service representative needs to look up a specific customer record to resolve an issue). Examples of sales forms include customer information, sales invoices, and sales records.

Reports

A report is a formatted output of a database, ready for use and action. A report summarizes data in a way that matches the needs of the audience. For example, a product listing on a website or in print is a format ready for presentation to a customer or someone else who needs to see all products at a glance. A listing of sales, summarized by month, is also ready for presentation if the audience needs to know monthly sales figures for a decision or action. Reports are typically one of the final outputs of a database, as they are directly linked to the actionable goal or business intelligence activities of a specific workgroup, team, or project. An example of a sales report may cover sales by product or sales over a time period, such as a month or year.

Applications of RDBMS

Databases offer unique functionality that goes beyond the calculations and statistics provided by other programs such as Excel. This is because of the RDBMS functionality. A relational database provides structure for data, includes relationships that connect pieces of data in meaningful ways, and allows controlled access through queries, forms, and reports. Because of this advanced functionality, RDBMSs are used in a variety of use cases across multiple industries.

As organizations work to transform themselves to meet the needs of the twenty-first century, companies are shifting how they view customers, employees, and work in general. Databases play an integral role in this shift. Digital transformation relies on data, and for companies to transform, they need not only good data but actionable data, available when they need it, where they need it. The core of this change is the data management system, and an organization's data landscape is a constantly growing and evolving part of the business plan. Since the digital transformation of a business or organization is about leveraging technology to change the way a business is run, an organization's collection and use of data is an ongoing process, with the focus on people—not technology—and how we enable people to be more innovative, responsive, and successful.

Large organizations typically collect data through transactions and sensors, which then store the data. Eventually, data is transferred to a data warehouse, which stores data for historical purposes. From the data warehouse, organizations can bring datasets to a relational database such as Access for analytics and use. Data warehouses and Access are built on relational database models, which provide benefits, including the following:

- Data accuracy: The use of primary and foreign keys improves accuracy.
- Easy access to data: Data is held in tables that are easily accessed through queries, improving speed and efficiency.
- Flexibility: A RDBMS easily scales to include more data and tables as needed by the organization, without affecting the existing structure or the data in the database.
- Security: Because data is held in separate tables, it is possible to create a variety of user roles and permissions, allowing individuals to access some data without needing full system access.
- Adaptability: Databases can be easily modified as business requirements change.

Because data in an organization is created in production systems and then brought to the analytical system for work, an RDBMS focuses on keeping the data organized and ready for retrieval. The RDBMS also allows the analyst to create database objects that make working with the data more accurate, effective, and efficient.

Examples of Database Use

How do companies apply the information they get from databases? They do so in many ways, most commonly through their marketing and customer service initiatives, for example. WorldCorp's Sales and Marketing Department depends on databases to inform marketing strategy and customer service processes and procedures and to understand sales trends and future opportunities.

Example: Marketing Strategy

Recall that WorldCorp manufactures health-care products. Its leadership has been looking at their online promotion of allergy medications. They have a variety of advertisements online, served by social media platforms. While they can easily look at the data to see the click-through rate (which is the number of times a consumer clicks an online ad in relation to how many times the ad is shown) and the purchase rate on specific partner sites, they also want to know if they can better understand the customers who are considering purchasing but have not yet done so.

Using the data warehouse, you as the WorldCorp employee can request a report of all shopping carts that were populated with a particular medication from an online shopping site partner. Since the data warehouse stores both the WorldCorp information and key information on sales from major partners, you are able to ask for a year's worth of sales data, with customer demographics including location, family structure, and other related purchase information such as, say, other antihistamine and allergy comfort items. You receive the data, import it into Access, analyze it to identify who was likely to add the item to the cart and what they did after placing it in the cart (purchase the item, purchase something else, or another action), and prepare this data for the strategy meeting.

Example: Customer Service

WorldCorp supplies medication to its vendor partners, including online distributors (both over-the-counter and online pharmacies) and physical distributors, as well as health-care organizations. They are looking to improve the customer experience for their vendors. Now you are the analyst working with the customer service team in the Sales and Marketing Department. You need to understand where vendor needs pain points are to prepare a report for the leadership team. You request a list of all vendor support contacts, which includes the vendor name and contact information, the request itself (including date, time, and method of request), and the resolution. You analyze them to determine the most common types of questions and requests, where these requests originate from, and how they were resolved. You use the dataset to create a report for the leadership team that summarizes and highlights the top issues over the past eighteen months.

Example: Sales Trends

Next, the sales team at WorldCorp is looking at where to focus their attention for the upcoming year in terms of promoting their medication for obstructive airway diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The team wants to identify areas in the world where their medications may be needed and prepare for the demand. Working with their public health experts, they know that obstructive airway diseases are more common in people who smoke or breathe in secondhand smoke or who live in areas with high pollution. They also learn that people are often over age 40 years when symptoms appear, that asthma increases the chances of developing these diseases, and that they occur more commonly in individuals with certain jobs or who have had a high number of respiratory infections in childhood.

You, again as the business analyst, want to identify the geographic areas that are most likely to increase the risk of obstructive airway diseases and look at sales trends in these areas over the past five years. You work with the Data Science Department to ensure that the public data that WorldCorp has available and the internal sales data (including the data from the vendor) are available. You then create reports that show specific geographic areas and risks and the sales trends for these areas over the past five years.

NoSQL Databases

In addition to Microsoft Access and other databases that define the relationships between data stored in them, which are the main topics of this chapter, there are other ways that organizations can capture and store data: nonrelational databases. A NoSQL database (NoSQL stands for "not only SQL") stores data in a different way than the databases we are discussing in this chapter. A NoSQL database, also known as a nonrelational database, is a type of database management system that provides a mechanism for storing and retrieving data that is different from traditional relational databases. Unlike relational databases, which store data in structured tables with predefined schemas, NoSQL databases store data in a variety of ways and are designed to handle large

volumes of unstructured or semistructured data. NoSQL databases have gained popularity due to their flexibility, scalability, and high performance.

NoSQL databases often store documents and images and manage large amounts of data in their original formats, rather than in tables; this is also known as unstructured data. NoSQL tends to be used when an organization needs to store huge volumes of both structured and unstructured data and also needs the ability to quickly develop and scale data initiatives. Scaling data initiatives is the process of expanding and advancing data-related projects, strategies, and operations to handle larger volumes of data, accommodate increased complexity, and support the growing needs of an organization. It involves implementing measures and techniques to effectively manage, process, and analyze data on a larger scale, often in terms of volume, velocity, and variety. For example, WorldCorp uses a NoSQL database to record logistics for shipping its products. Because the data involved with logistics has unique structure and is greatly varied, a NoSQL database is an ideal candidate for managing this data.

Data Lakes

You may also hear about data lakes in your organization. A data lake is a centralized repository that allows for the storage and analysis of vast amounts of diverse data in its original, raw, unprocessed format. A data lake can store both structured and unstructured data and make it available for use and analysis as needed. In a data lake, data is collected from various sources, such as databases, applications, sensors, social media feeds, and more, without the need for up-front structuring or transformation. This raw data is stored as is, preserving its original format and granularity. This includes structured data (e.g., relational tables), semistructured data (e.g., JSON, XML), and unstructured data (e.g., text documents, images, videos). Data lakes offer several advantages, including the ability to store and analyze large volumes of diverse data, support for flexible data exploration and discovery, and the potential to uncover valuable insights and patterns. However, they also present challenges related to data quality, data integration, and ensuring proper governance practices, as the raw, unstructured data may require additional effort for data preparation and cleansing.

Although many organizations use NoSQL databases and data lakes, RDBMSs are still the most common type of databases used to power transactional systems, such as managing and tracking customer profiles at WorldCorp. At present, Access does not have a built-in mechanism to directly interface with NoSQL systems or data lakes, although data that comes from a NoSQL database or data lake can be formatted and sent to you for analysis.

This page titled 13.1: What Is a Database? is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.2: Microsoft Access- Main Features and Navigation

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate navigation of the Microsoft Access screen interface
- Identify the main features of Access
- Understand how to close Access

The benefit of Microsoft Access is that its design and structure enable it to communicate with other systems that hold data. Unlike larger database systems that run on dedicated servers, Access runs on a regular desktop computer. Because it is a desktop database system, the user can work within the database without connecting to those larger systems.

As a Microsoft software package, Access follows many of the conventions of Microsoft Office. This provides a consistent, familiar interface for work and ensures that file transfer is seamless between Microsoft Office software, for example, between Access and Excel.

What Is Access?

Access is a RDBMS that can import and manipulate data from other systems on your desktop computer. While data science professionals work directly with the data warehouse and can create queries using programming languages such as R and Python, individuals who need to analyze data as part of their jobs within a department often find Access to be a user-friendly software package that has the power to access, retrieve, and report data using a Microsoft interface. Access also integrates well with Microsoft Excel, providing even more analytical and reporting power that can inform decision-making.

In small businesses and organizations, Access can act as the main data store; however, it is much more likely that you will use data that is collected and stored in other systems and then imported into Access for analysis.

The Role of Access in an Organization

Access is one of the many tools that make up an organization's data landscape—the entirety of data storage and sharing in an organization. An organization may have both production databases and analytical databases.

Production databases are systems that handle daily transactions related to an organization's core business functions, such as sales, inventory, human resources, payroll, and purchasing. Because production databases provide value to the organization, companies devote significant resources to ensure they remain online and active. Companies do not work directly with a production system when analyzing a business because this may interfere with regular operations for customer transactions; instead, companies use a data warehouse or analytical database for building new applications or testing new features. This type of database is entirely separate from the production database, so changes to the analytical database will not modify the production database until the developer is ready to push the changes to the production database after thorough testing.

Analytical databases (data warehouses) serve as an organization's single point of truth (SPOT) in which a primary copy of a data element is stored. Changes made to a data element outside of the data warehouse are not considered final until the primary data element in the data warehouse is also updated. These large databases contain a vast number of records, each of which stores historical information about the organization itself. A data warehouse is not a production system; rather, it is filled with data from the production system, collected over time and organized in a way that makes retrieval and use easier for business use. We can request information from the data warehouse, which is then exported to a file we can use in our analytical software, such as Access or Excel. The ultimate goal of using data is to make good decisions based on the data and not on emotions.

An organization's data landscape can also contain numerous flat files held within teams and workgroups, other systems that run on databases that should be connected to the data warehouse, and even information from vendors and public sources that can inform data. The data landscape may include information scraped from the web, downloaded and processed from public sources, and environmental data. The extent of an organization's data landscape is based on the size and role of the company; larger companies will often have more complex data landscapes, as will organizations that are undergoing digital transformation and either have or are building a core platform for all business functions.

Access and Excel

Access and Excel are both software packages in Microsoft Office. They are complementary: Although they have some functions in common, each package is designed for specific uses. Sometimes, the overlap or commonalities between them can make it difficult to know which is most useful. Both Access and Excel can store large amounts of data, run powerful queries, use analysis tools to manipulate data, and perform complex calculations. However, each software has its own strengths, and choosing the right software will make your work easier, as Table 13.2 outlines.

Table 13.2: Choosing Excel or Access Excel and Access each have different strengths when handling information.

Use Excel to:	Use Access when you:
Analyze a specific dataset	Need to track and record data regularly
Perform complex numerical calculations	Need to ensure data integrity
Work with a table for calculations	Expect data to be accessed by multiple users
Perform what-if analysis to run scenarios	Store data in multiple tables
Create advanced pivot tables and charts	Need to connect to other data sources to refresh data (either manually or on a schedule)
Create visualizations	Secure data at the user level (each user can have different roles and access to specific data)

Access and Excel can be used together. It is possible to move data from the data warehouse to Access and then, as necessary, query and export data from Access to Excel for further analysis and visualization. Transferring data from one program to another is one of the benefits of using a desktop database program; as part of the Microsoft suite of products, both Access and Excel can communicate effectively, so users can also import flat files from Excel and convert them to relational tables.

Features of Access

Access is a cost-effective database solution. It runs on a desktop computer and provides an easy-to-use interface that is familiar to users of other Microsoft software. Access interacts well with Excel for deeper analysis, with Word for reporting, and with PowerPoint for presentations. It can work with data from external sources, such as a data warehouse, or with exported files from the web and other systems.

Microsoft Access:

- Creates the framework or structure to store small bits of information (data) in a database
- Allows users to open tables and scroll through records
- Provides an easy-to-use interface for adding, modifying, and retrieving records
- Has a process for creating queries to select, combine, and calculate data from multiple tables
- Provides user-friendly screens and support for creating queries, forms, and reports that allow access and use of the data held in the database

One difference between Access and other Microsoft 365 software is in its introduction or opening screens. Access loads one database at a time, and all screens focus on the open database. When you first open Access, the screen will be blank, Figure 13.6 until you load a database. Once loaded, the screen shows all available commands.

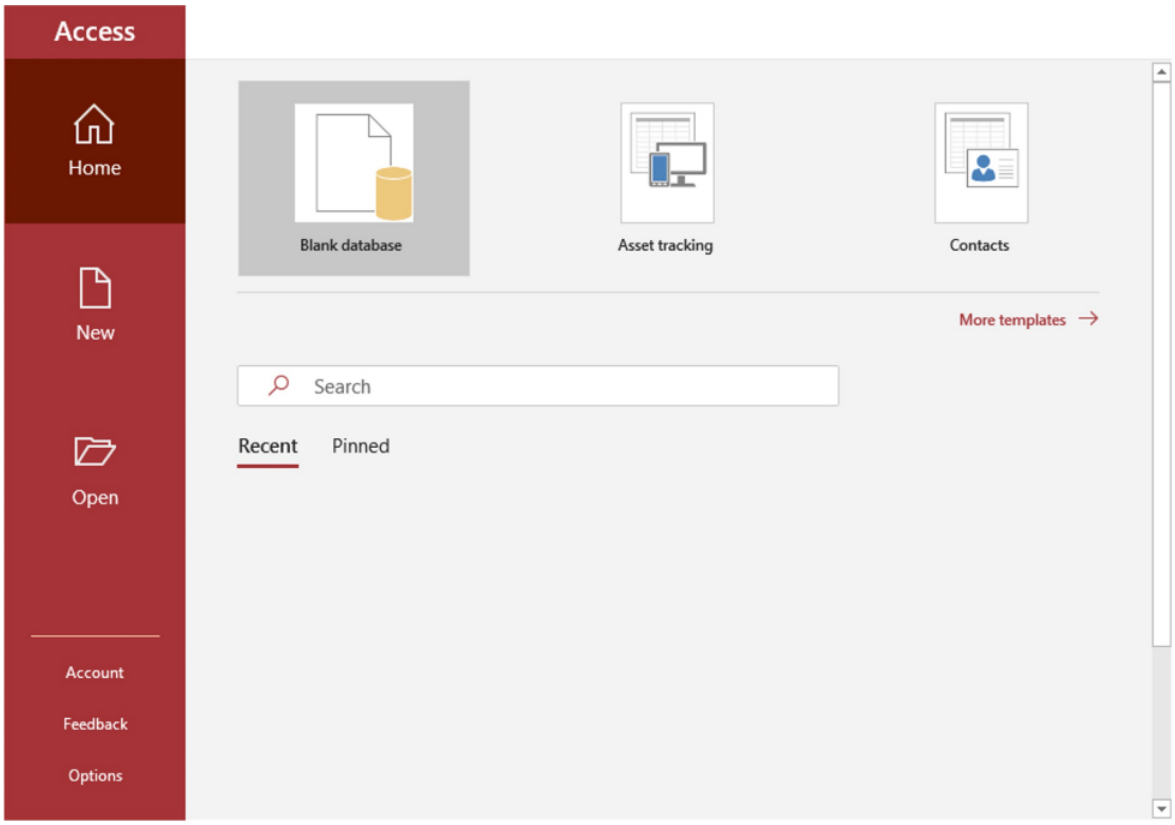


Figure 13.6: The Home screen will give you the options to create a new blank database, choose from preloaded templates provided by Access, or search for an existing database file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As you move through Access, different commands will become available based on the active objects. For example, you will see different commands when working in tables versus working with queries. The main working area in Access is the center of the screen, with navigation on the left and commands across the top.

The Opening Screen

When Access is open without a database, most commands either do not appear or are unavailable (grayed out). Without a database, the software is inactive. When a database is open on the screen, you will see commands available on the ribbon along the top (Figure 13.7) and a navigation area along the left edge of your screen (Figure 13.8). Only one database can be open at a time in Access, and all software is focused on supporting your open database.

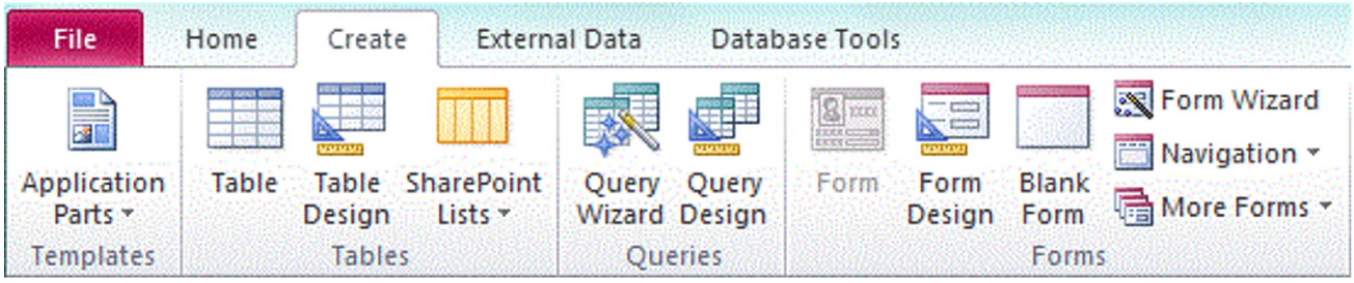


Figure 13.7: The Create tab provides tools and options for creating various database objects such as tables, forms, queries, reports, and macros to design and manage a database system. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

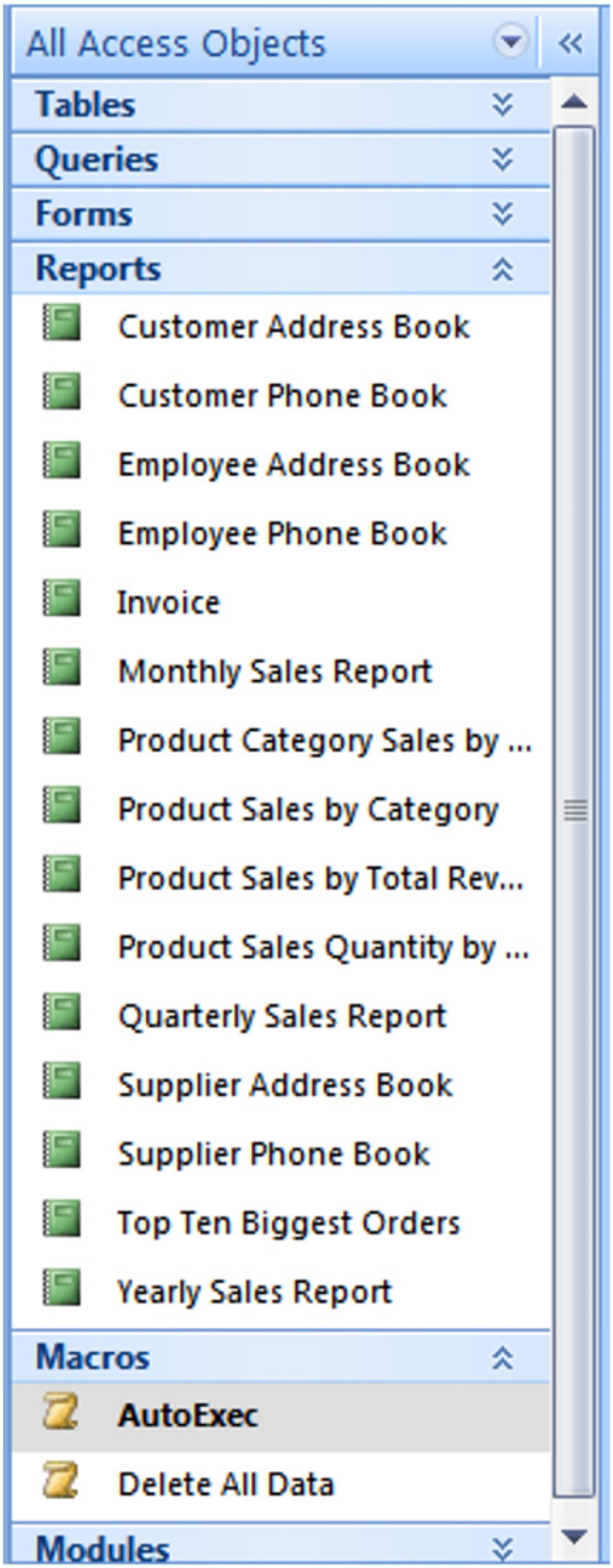


Figure 13.8: Access has many reports and models already built and modifiable; you might want to consider these before creating one from scratch. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As you click through the ribbon, notice that some commands are not available unless you have specific database objects open, and you can move between objects in your database by using the navigation area on the left side of your database screen.

Although there are many different database software programs in use, most of them have the same parts. Access, as a RDBMS, follows the typical database conventions, or standards, in use in all relational database systems.

You can think of Access as a container that holds database objects, which, recall, are items in a relational database. Each object plays a role in managing the database and the data it stores. Because the database is electronic, it can grow to hold many objects and can create links and new uses for each over time.

Like many databases, Access databases usually contain tables, forms, reports, and queries. (They can also contain macros and modules, which you will learn about in Advanced Database Use.)

Locating and Opening Database Objects

Once you open the database or the container that holds database the object, you will see a navigation area open on the left side of the screen. This area has headings for each type of object that is present in the database, followed by the names of each object you have. To open any object, double-click on its name, and it will open in the main work area on the right side of the screen (Figure 13.9). To close an object, click on the X next to the name of the object.

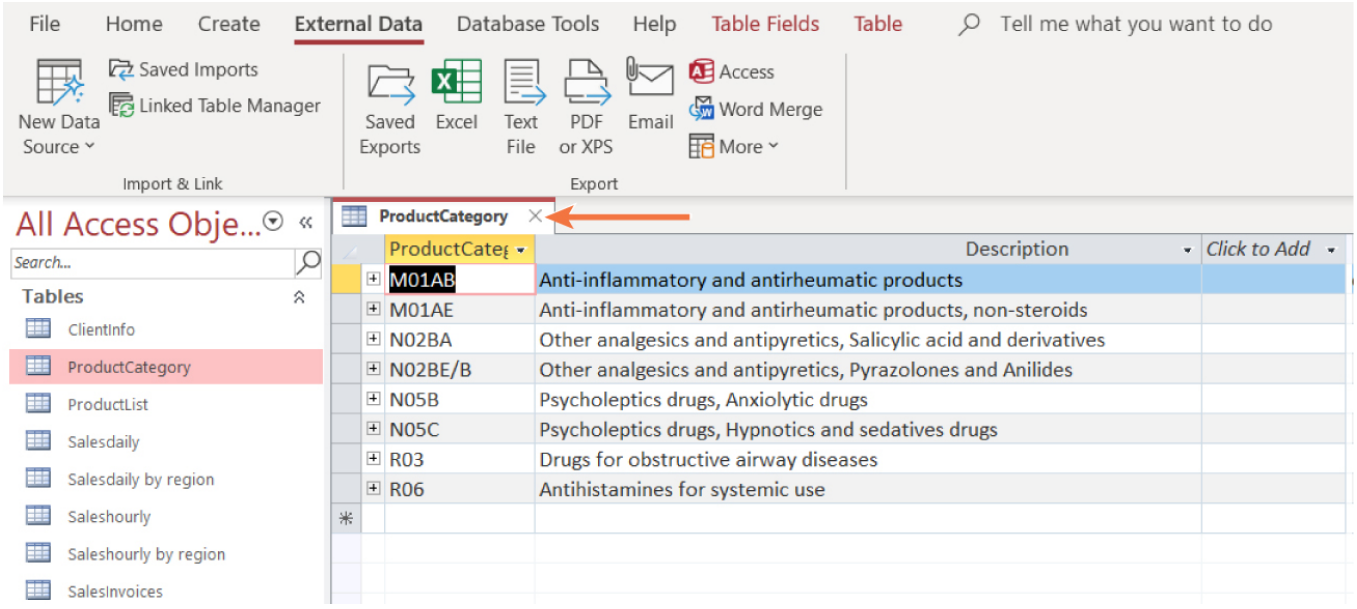


Figure 13.9: Open an object from a database in Access. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Tables

Tables hold the data in a database. One database can contain many tables, each of which holds a different record (or set of related information) or parts of a record. One benefit of a relational database is its ability to split large sets of information about a specific item, person, or idea over multiple tables. This action speeds up processing and gives the database a better organizational structure.

As you learned in What Is a Database?, tables are built with rows and columns. The rows of a table consist of individual records or lines of related data. The columns represent fields or headings referring to information that is likely to be included in all the records. This structure, which characterizes all relational databases, makes it possible to share datasets between different database software packages. An example of table structure is presented in Table 13.3.

Table 13.3: Table Structure This structure characterizes all relational databases, allowing the sharing of datasets between different database software packages.

ID	FirstName	LastName	MiddleInitial
1234	Mary	Nanas	A
2345	Jose	Garcia	I
3456	Andre	Williams	C
4567	Lisa	Estrich	J
5678	Pat	Johnson	E
6789	Stevie	Larose	Y

This small table contains four fields—ID, FirstName, LastName, MiddleInitial—and six records, which contain the information for each field for six different employees.

Queries

Queries are a way of asking questions of a dataset. Recall that a query is a structured request for information, allowing you to choose what information appears, the order in which it appears, and how it is organized. Queries can also be used to calculate information based on fields. Typically, when you interact with the database, you will be creating queries to satisfy business requirements.

Like other database objects, queries appear in the navigation area of the database. To open a query, double-click it, and it will appear in the work area of your screen. In Access, you can change how you view a query, choosing either Datasheet View, which shows the results of the query in table form, or Design View, which shows the structure of the query and allows you to modify it. You will learn more about these views in Querying a Database.

Reports

A report shows the results of a query, formatted in a business-friendly way. Creating a report allows you to choose the precise information you want to include and the format in which you would like your audience to view it. Since tables and queries typically return results in the form of tables, reports allow you to focus on the message your audience will need for decision-making, not on the data. One advantage of creating reports is that you can set up standard reports that you will need to run frequently (e.g., a report of sales totals) and then open them and view the latest results as often as necessary.

Like other objects, reports in Access can be created in a Wizard that walks you through the basics, and then you can adjust the report in Design View. Building a useful report can take time and care to ensure it summarizes and displays information in an actionable way that supports the work group's goals.

Forms

Recall that a form in a database allows users to work with records in an easy-to-use format. Forms limit the individual's view of the database to what is necessary for a specific task or information request. On most websites, we interact with forms that are built on the basis of queries: They request and present data taken from the underlying table and query structure. Forms are often based on predefined queries that run over and over again and, as with a search for a product, may prompt the user for a response.

Forms appear in the navigation area of the database and can be opened in Layout or Design View, which allows you to modify the form itself (Figure 13.10), or in Form View (ready for use) (Figure 13.11).

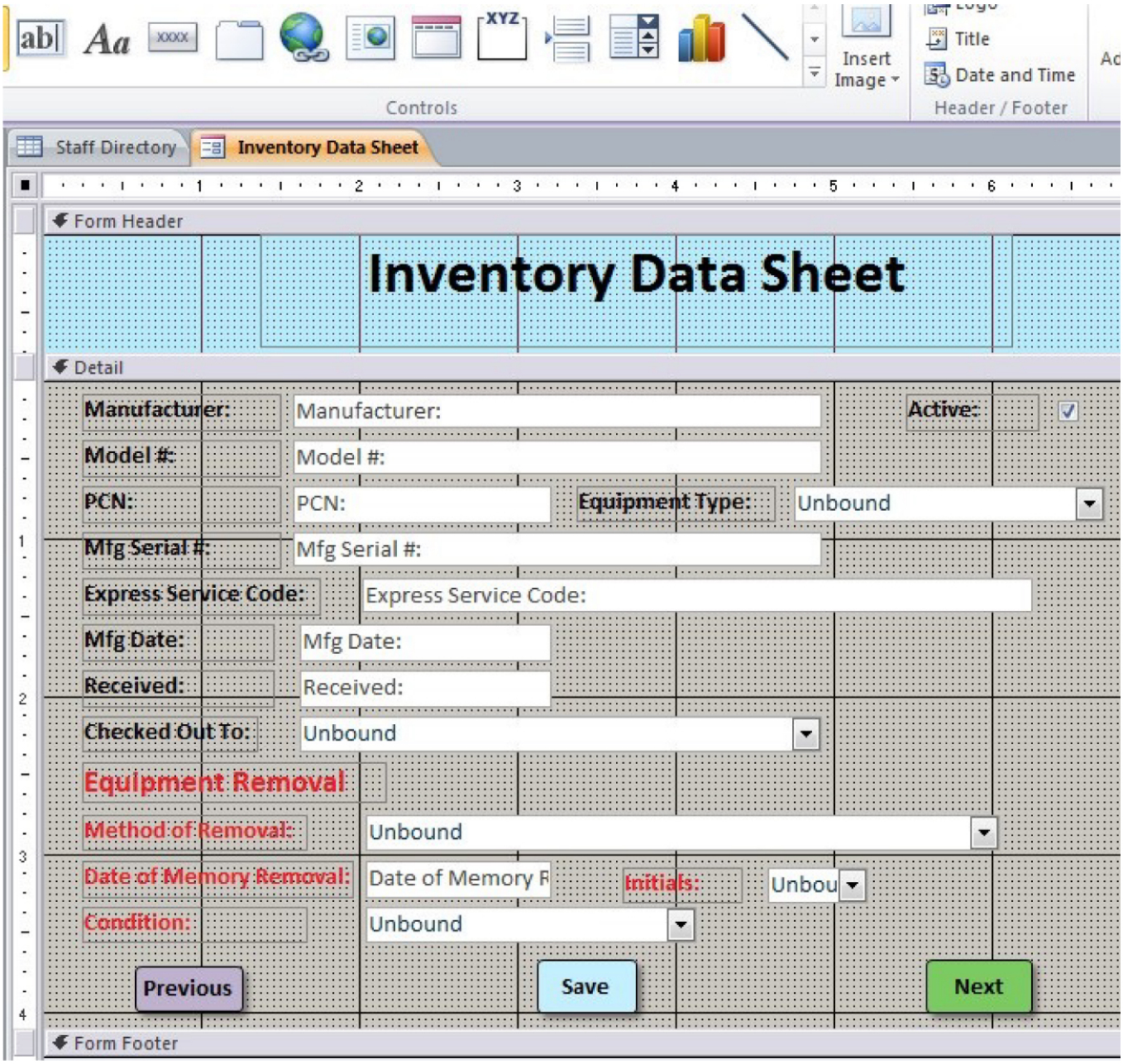


Figure 13.10: Design View allows users to modify and customize the structure and properties of database objects, such as tables, queries, forms, and reports, providing a detailed and precise way to design their database elements. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

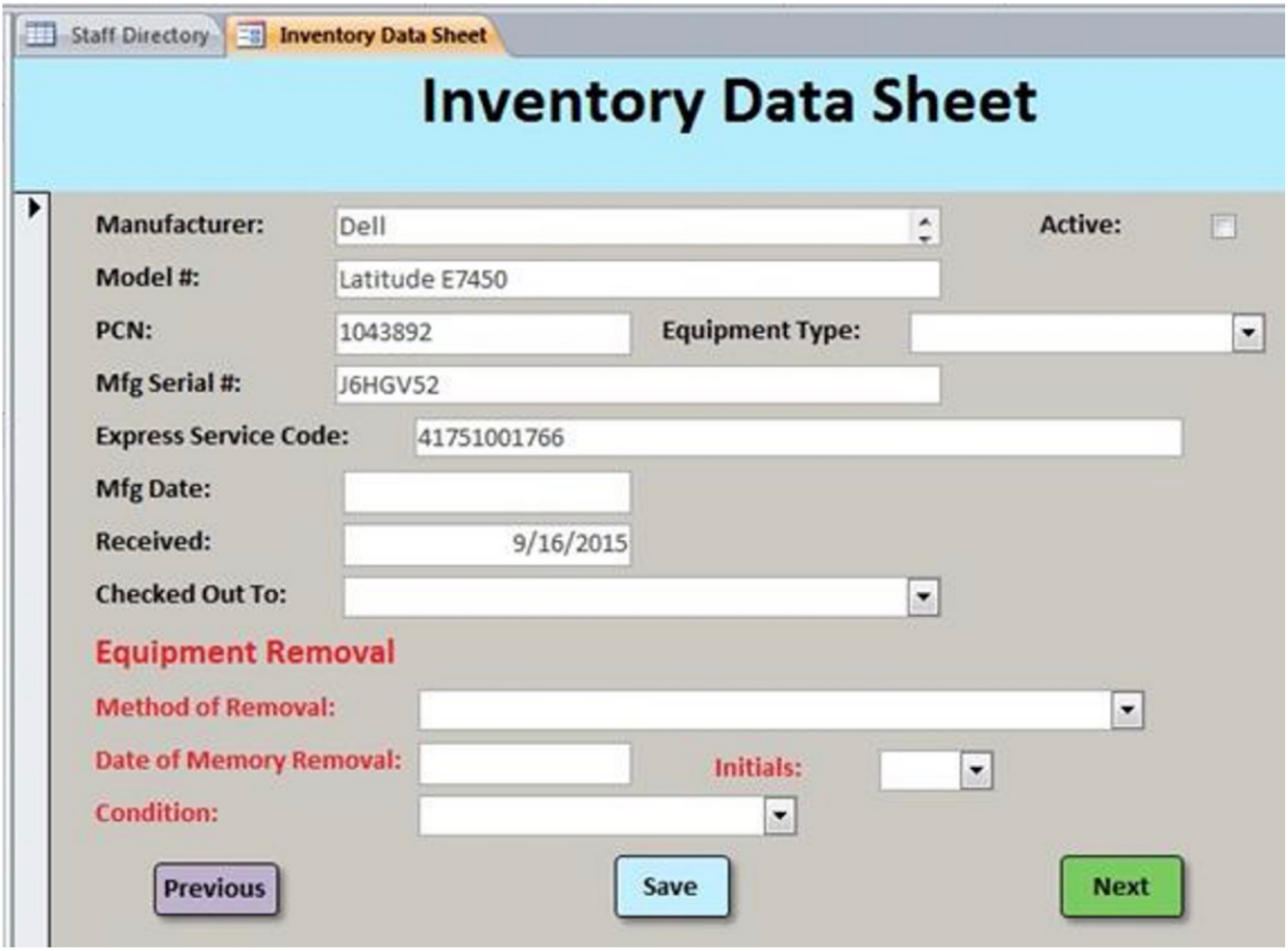


Figure 13.11: Form View is the user-friendly interface for interacting with and entering data into a database, presenting records in a user-readable format and allowing data input and editing. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Sometimes the best way to learn is to explore on your own. Visit Microsoft's featured Access templates page to choose a template and then download, open, and explore it in Access.

Closing Databases

In Access, only one database can be open at a time. As you work, all on-screen commands will focus on this open database, and you will need to close the database itself to end your working session. When you are ready to close the database, Access will either save objects automatically or prompt you to save objects before closing. In general, Access will automatically save records when you are done with them (i.e., when you leave the row) but will prompt you to save changes to objects, such as tables and queries, so you can decide whether you want to save them.

If you want to make sure an object is saved in Access before you close the database, you can use any typical Save command shortcut (e.g., File>Save, Ctrl+S) to request that Access save your changes. Access will prompt you if you need to take any additional steps.

When you are done working with your database, click on File>Close to close all objects and exit the Access software. Be sure to close your database every time you are done using it; this will ensure that all objects are closed and that data is correctly written to the records within the database.

This page titled 13.2: Microsoft Access- Main Features and Navigation is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

https://workforce.libretexts.org/@go/page/32841

13.3: Querying a Database

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain the uses of queries to explore data in a database
- Build and edit a query in Access through the query grid
- Establish a relationship between tables with a simple query

WorldCorp collects data constantly in all its departments. The Human Resources Department maintains employee records; the Maintenance Department monitors equipment, repair, and inspection records; and the Accounting Department keeps records on all purchases, to name just a few departments. The data collected in all of these areas can inform decisions, as long as it is accessible and analyzable.

The WorldCorp product and sales division constantly updates customer records, processes sales, and maintains inventory levels. It has a data warehouse that powers its transactions, which is continuously working in real time. This information is key to its success, but it cannot work with it directly because that would mean turning the system off. Instead of taking a production system offline for analysis, you will work with a dataset based on last week's work.

Working with a dataset can be complicated, and as the datasets get more complex with more records, you will need to be able to query or ask questions using Access. Because Access runs on your computer against a database file, it is quick and responsive and integrates well with other Microsoft programs like Excel for visualization and Word and PowerPoint for communication.

Understanding Queries

Queries allow you to ask questions of a database or take an action within a database. To write a query, you need to know the question you want to answer. For example, you might need a listing of all products sold over the past quarter, a list of equipment that needs to be inspected, or a list of products in the company's inventory. Once you establish what you want to know, you can then write a query that will ask the database to share the correct information.

A query is really a question written in computer syntax. The query collects data that meets your specifications by running against the table(s) in your database. A query can be simple—for example, returning all values in a field in the table, such as product ID number. A query can also be complex, limiting the dataset and results to precisely what you are looking for. Expressions that a database management system uses to limit the results of a query based on matching field values are called criteria. Adding criteria enables you to control what data you see so that you can identify the records you need and omit the ones that do not meet your needs. In turn, this makes it easier to answer questions and visualize the data you need.

Before you create a query in Access, you should have a strong understanding of what you want from your dataset. For example, WorldCorp could be interested in discovering how their latest product has been selling based on data in their transactional database. To accomplish this, you might need to look for sales that match certain criteria, such as sales for a specific product identification number. Knowing this in advance and putting it in writing will help you craft useful queries. When planning a query, you will want to identify the following:

- The fields you want
- The value(s) you expect in each field
- Any calculations or changes you want from the data
- How you want the data displayed (e.g., in order by date)

Although the steps are the same in building both simple and complex queries, the planning process becomes more important the more complex your queries are.

Queries can be designed for a single use or built for ongoing work. Ad hoc queries typically answer a specific question and are needed only at the moment you create them. Once you are done with an ad hoc query, you will not use it again, so it does not need to be stored or saved. Other queries, called predefined queries, are set up and saved. Predefined queries are used to automate data management tasks that meet specific organizational needs. An example of a predefined query is a sales report or top-selling product

report that you frequently run without change (or with only minor changes). In this case, you will want to save the query to make your work easier. You might even want to set up a screen with all of your predefined queries.

The Purpose of Queries in Databases

Queries are an essential part of making a database accessible. Imagine trying to make sense of hundreds, thousands, or even more records without a tool to help you. It is simply not possible. The more complex your dataset, the more important it is to use queries and reports to retrieve data. Most databases have too many records to work with unless you have well-written queries. A well-written query is specific, organized, and comprehensive, meaning that it contains everything you need.

Spotlight on Ethics - Protecting the Privacy of Data

The Target data breach in 2013 was a significant security incident, resulting in the theft of forty million credit and debit records and seventy million customer records. The breach demonstrated that such incidents can severely undermine customer trust and confidence in data security. Customers concerned about the potential leakage of their data became wary of Target, leading to decreased sales reputational damage.

The breach also highlighted the need for companies to ensure the security of their vendors. Target's compromise, for example, originated from a third-party vendor. Cybersecurity is a weakest link proposition: Organizations must consider the security of all parties involved in their data ecosystem.

Although Target's handling of the breach included prompt notification to customers, it was clear that additional precautions could have been taken that would have made the attack more challenging for cybercriminals. The incident highlights the need for proactive security measures and robust disaster preparedness plans. Furthermore, the breach had financial implications that went beyond the settlement costs; Target experienced reduced earnings and a decline in customer patronage. The ultimate cost of the breach was estimated to be well over $200 million.

The Target data breach serves as a reminder for organizations to prioritize data security, protect customer information, engage in proactive defenses, and have strategies in place to restore customer trust if a breach occurs.

See this coverage of the Target data breach and think about how your data may be stored and used by companies and websites *and* also about how you, as a professional, need to manage data to protect it and the people who have shared it with you and your company.

You are most likely to use queries to retrieve a specific record or set of records, but queries have other functions as well. For example, they can summarize data and perform calculations. You can even set up queries that show you the most current data in the database each time you refresh your records.

Designing Queries

Before building a query, you need to take some time to think through how the query will work and what it will accomplish. Start with a question, such as one of the following examples:

- What does inventory look like right now?
- What sales were made last week?
- What were the top products sold, based on volume, last quarter?

These questions demonstrate in detail how to structure the query. Once we have the question in mind, we can then consider other items that inform our query design: what data is available, where it is located, how it may need to be processed (e.g., sorted, filtered, or calculated) to get to the answer, and how the output should be organized (e.g., sorted by date).

This design, or model, tells you how to create the query in your software. Once you have created the query in Access, you will need to test it by running it a few times to make sure it returns the values you are looking for. You will likely revise your queries as you test them. Remember that the more complex a query is, the more revision and testing you will need to do.

A query based on your question or need for information contains specific components. In Access, these are as follows:

- The name of the query (if you will be saving it), which appears at the top of the query screen

- The field in which your data is stored
- The table in which the field is located
- Sort, which determines the column that will be used to sort the query (e.g., in numerical order by product ID)
- Criteria (text that can be used to limit the results of a query)
- Or, which allows you to create more complex statements

When you create a query in Access through the Query Wizard (Figure 13.12), these areas will be filled in by the wizard. If you need to modify a query or want to create one without using the wizard, you will use the query grid to set up the query. You learn more about this later in the section on Editing Queries with the QBE Grid and in the chapter on Advanced Database Use.

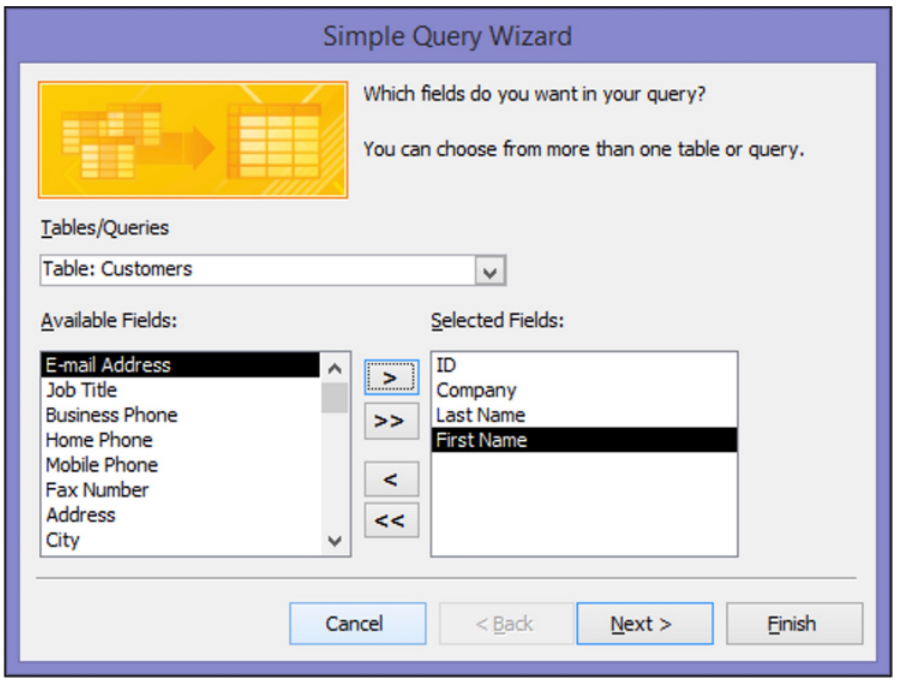


Figure 13.12: The Query Wizard guides users through the process of creating database queries step by step. It provides a graphical interface to help users select tables, fields, criteria, and sort options, making it easier to generate complex queries without writing code manually. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using these areas of the query allows you to accomplish multiple tasks, including choosing the data you want to include, omitting data that is not of interest to you, sorting data, and even combining data from multiple tables.

Running a Simple Query

A simple query is one that finds and displays information. Very simple queries may show all the data in the database, in columns, or all the information in one specific field or column. Once a query has been created and saved, you can run the query whenever it is needed to return the updated results. Each saved query has a name associated with it, and typically these names follow a specific pattern that helps you to differentiate between them. For example, a version of a customer list sorted by last name and the same list sorted by state would be named qryCustomerLastNameState.

In the Access database with queries, you will see a list of saved queries in the navigation section of your database. For example, in the database shown in Figure 13.13, you can see four queries under the Queries heading: ProductCategoryList, ProductList with client information, ProductsACTIVE, and ProductsALL. These simple queries are already created; to run them, simply double-click on the name of the query you want.

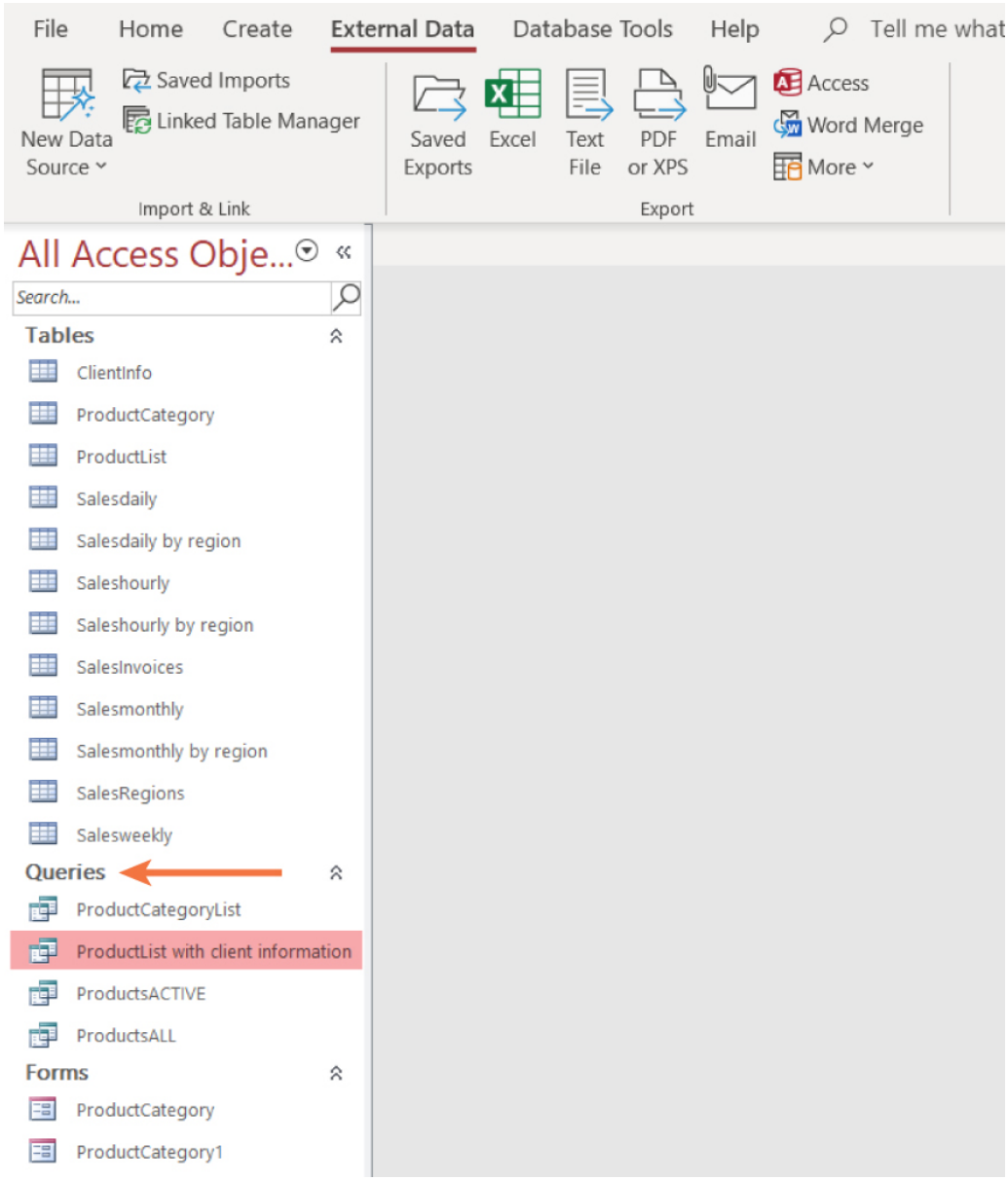


Figure 13.13: Use Saved Queries to prevent repetitive query design in Access. Here, the saved query ProductList with client information is selected. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Once you double-click on a query name, it will open and show you the results table. The query will generate updated results every time it is opened, allowing users to use a simple query over and over, even as data is refreshed in your database.

When queries—or any database objects—are open, you will see the name of the object on a tab above your work area. To close a query, click on the X to the right of the object's name.

Switching Views

Access can switch between the Design View of the query and the results of the query. For queries, you will frequently change views to move back and forth between the underlying query structure and the results of running the query. When you look at the structure in Layout View, you can modify how the query works. When you go to SQL View, you are also able to modify the query structure (see Figure 13.14).

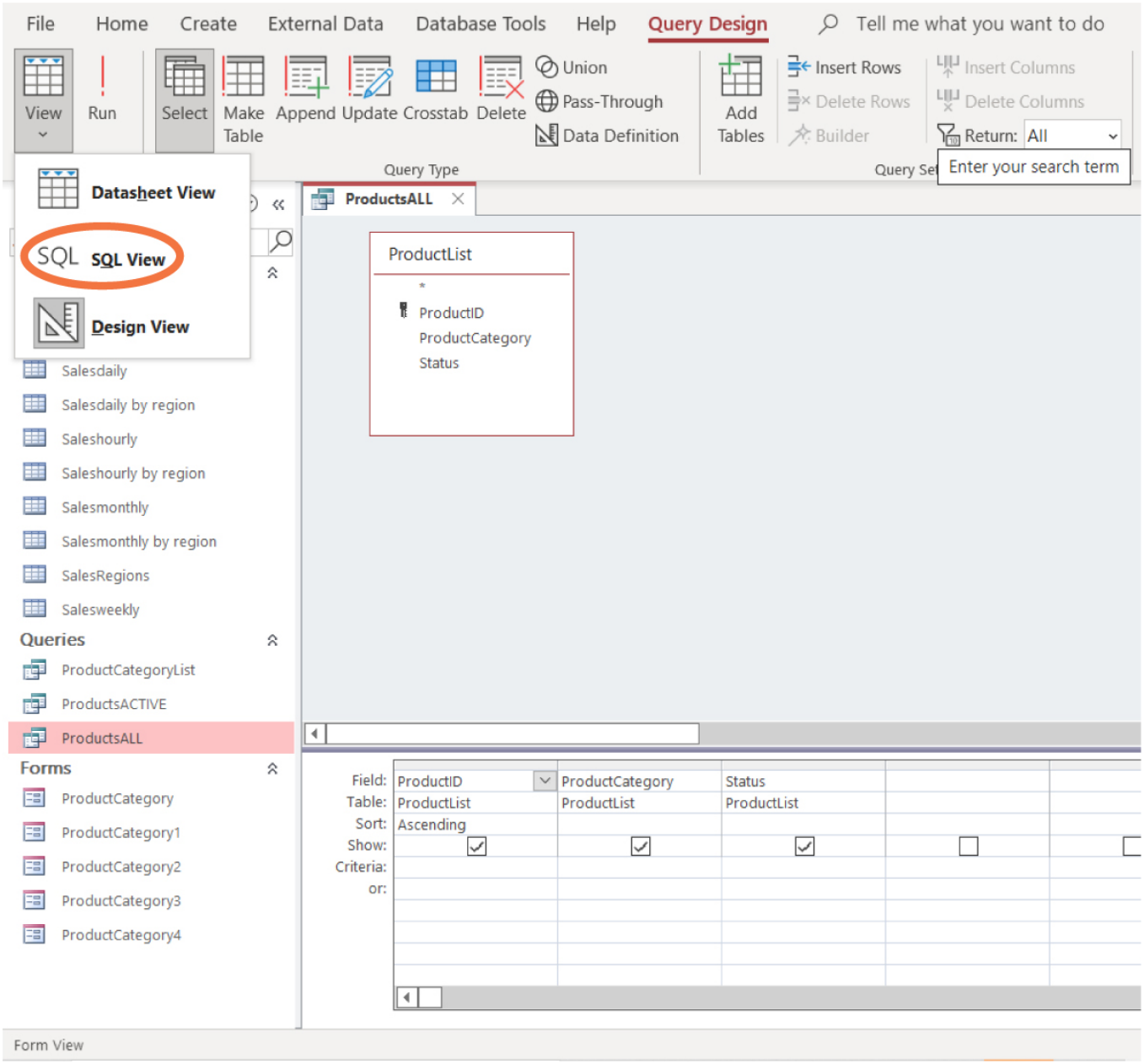


Figure 13.14: Viewing a query in SQL View allows you to see and edit the underlying SQL code that defines the query's structure and criteria. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To change views, first click on the View command on the ribbon, and then choose the view you would like to see. You can choose from three views:

- Datasheet View shows you the results of the query in table form.
- SQL View shows the query in structured query language form.
- Design View shows the query in the form of a QBE (query by example) grid.

Using these views, you can see your query in multiple ways, first visualizing the query and then seeing the results quickly.

Query Walkthrough

In today's fast-paced business landscape, staying ahead of the competition requires a deep understanding of your products and their performance. WorldCorp's state-of-the-art sales and marketing database is designed to maximize their sales potential. At the core of this powerful database lies the ability to perform queries that deliver invaluable insights. A query in WorldCorp's sales and

marketing database returns a list of products, including the product ID code, product category code, and notes (if any are present). Notice that there is only one table, called the Product List, and that all three fields are used in the query.

First, Figure 13.15 shows the query in Design View. Note that the list is sorted in ascending order based on the product ID. The result of the query is shown in Figure 13.16.

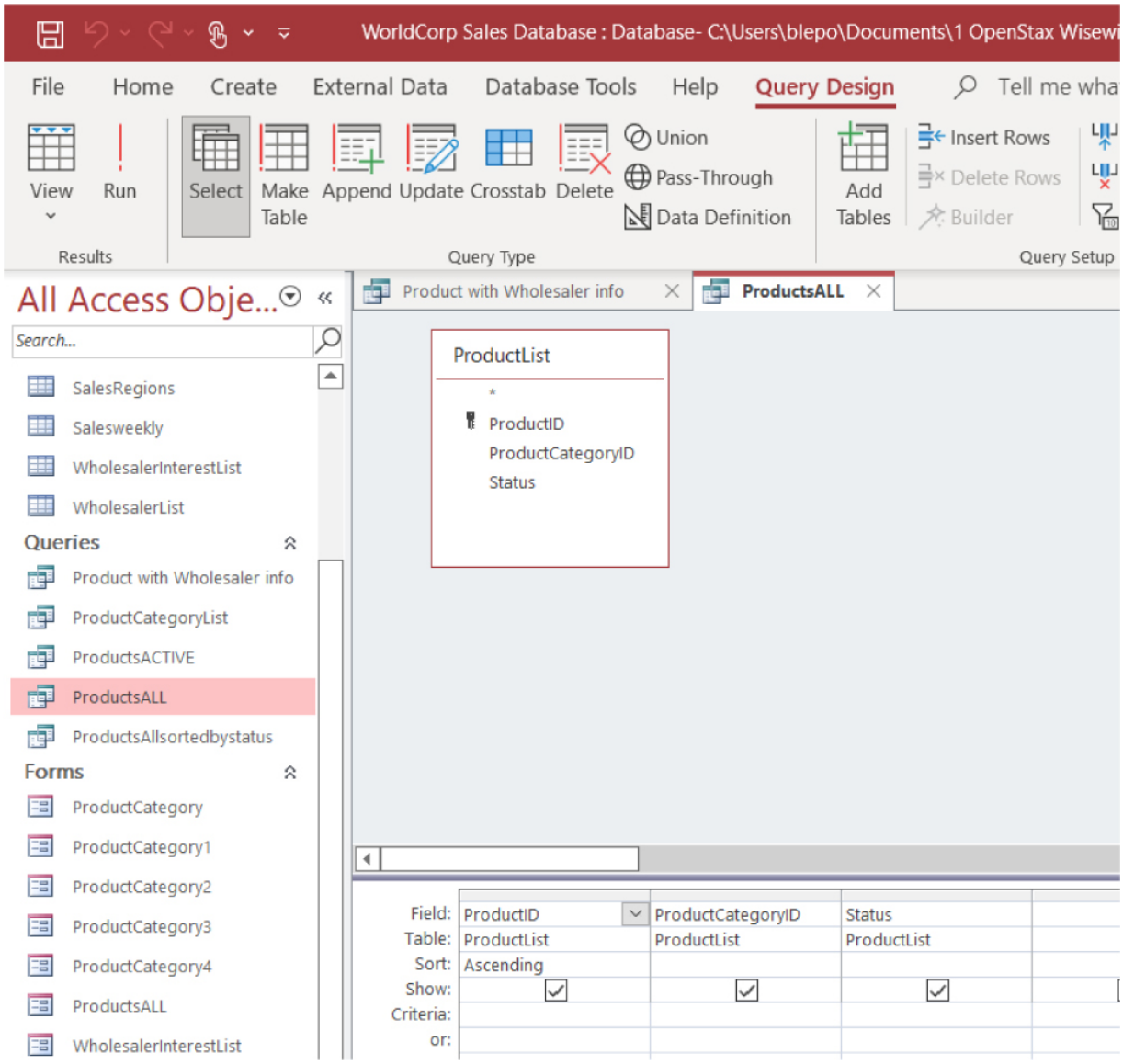


Figure 13.15: Using a query creates a list of all products found in a database. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

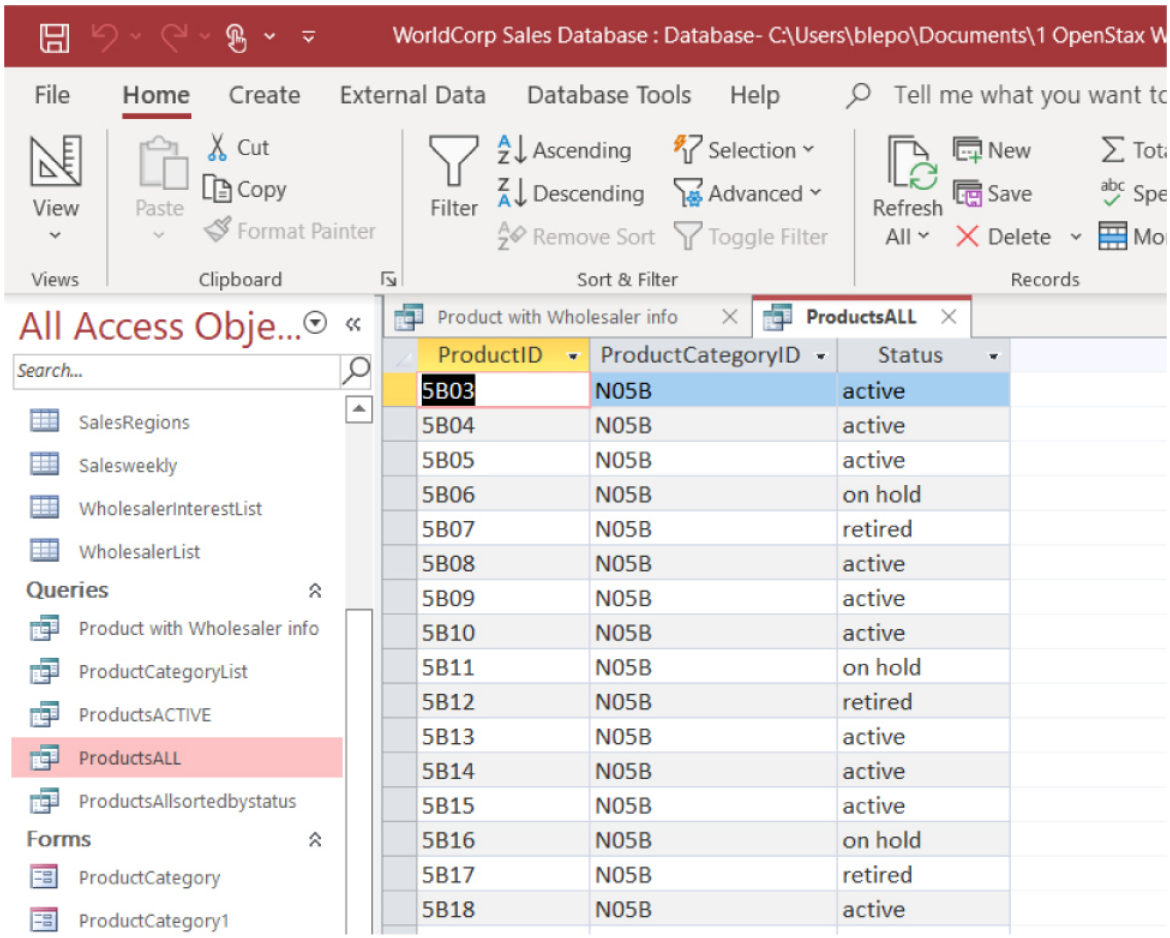


Figure 13.16: The result of the query will return everything in the database that fits the criteria you included in your query fields. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now, let's look at a query that uses more than one table. In this example, the query returns a list of products with information about wholesalers who have showed interest in those products. Three tables are used:

- ProductList: list of products that WorldCorp offers
- WholesalerList: list of wholesalers that WorldCorp works with
- WholesalerInterestList: table that includes ProductID (from ProductList) and WholesalerID (from WholesalerList)

See that the tables are joined by the fields ProductID and WholesalerID. If you used only the WholesalerInterestList table, you would not be able to display the product category or the wholesaler name—information needed to make the results of the query useful for the sales and marketing team. If you look at the grid in Figure 13.17, you will also see that the table uses sorting and an expression (a combination of two fields displayed together). The results are shown in Figure 13.18.

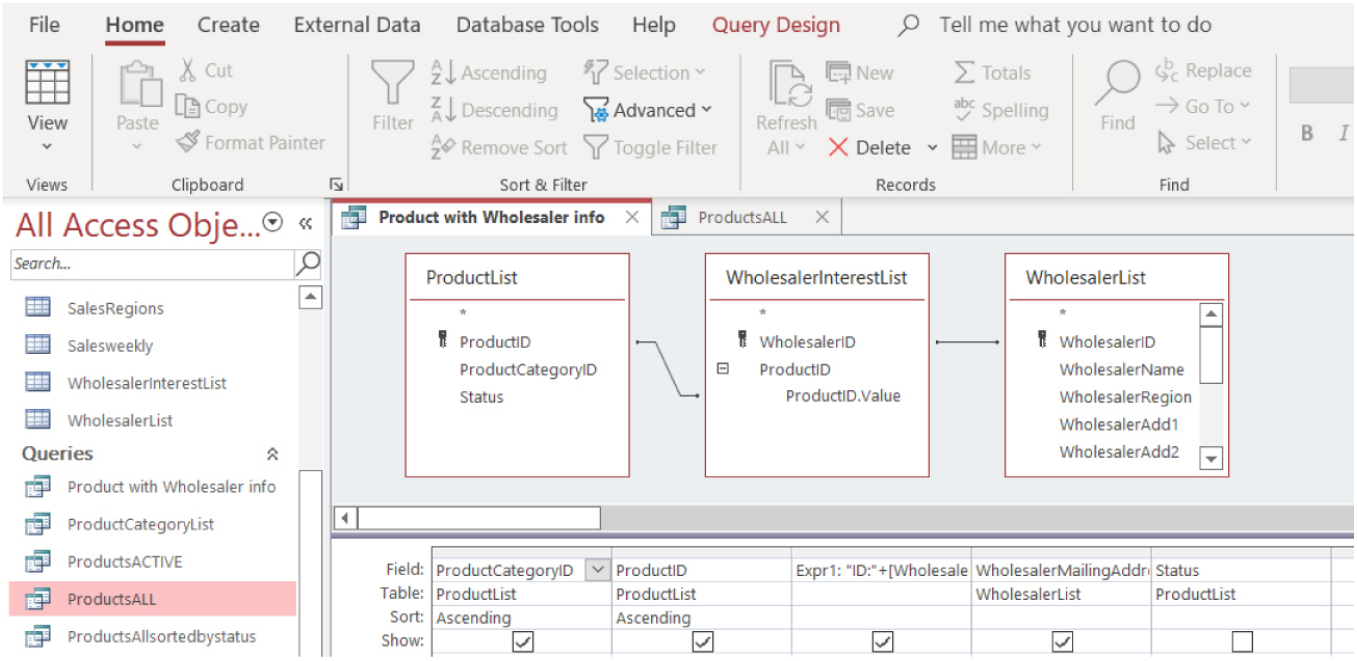


Figure 13.17: A query across several tables can create a sorted list of products from the database by combining data from more than one table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

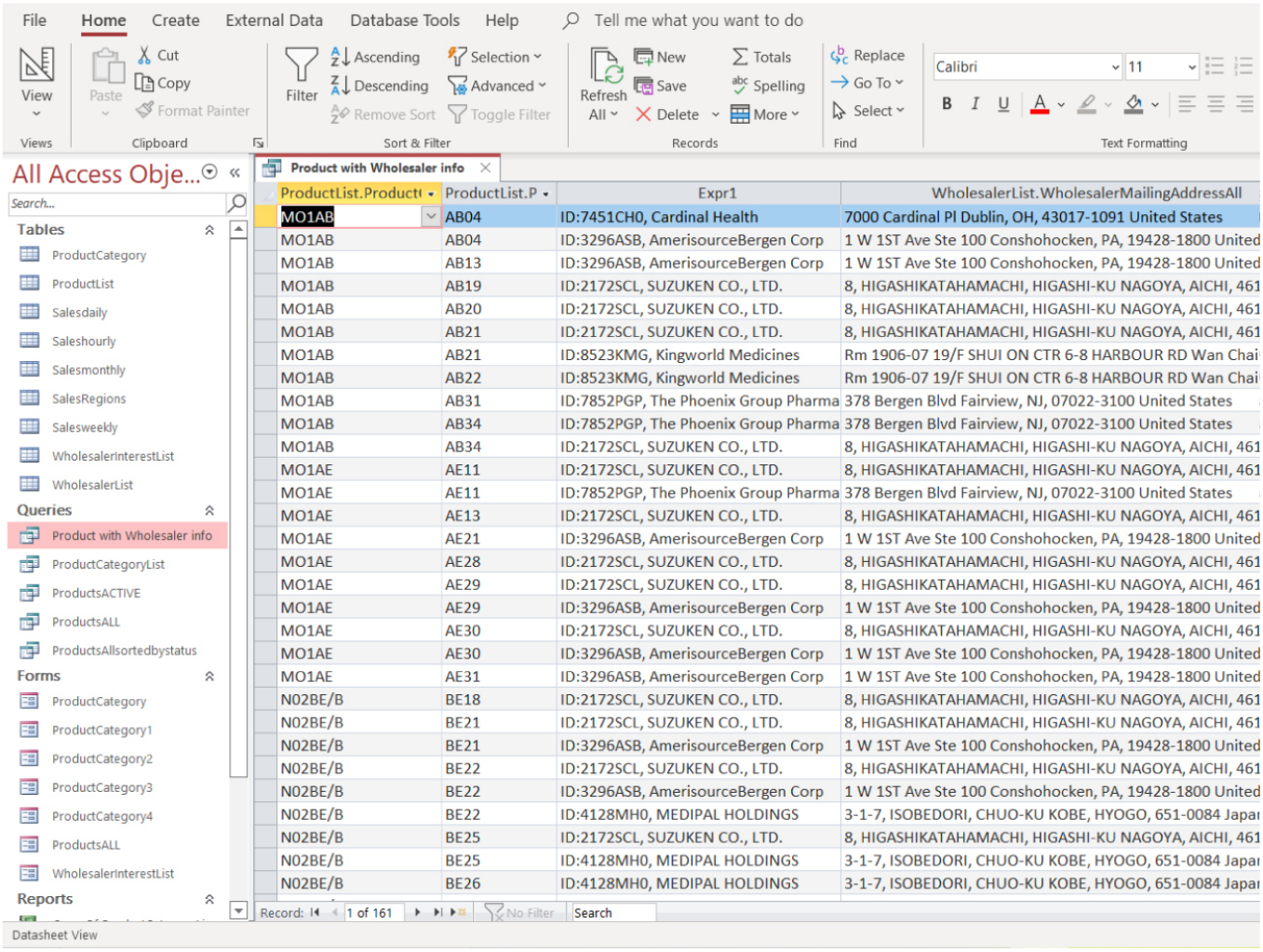


Figure 13.18: The results will display only the columns that you chose to show in your query. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Notice that this query combines several different techniques, including the use of multiple tables, sorting, criteria, and even an expression that combines fields in the query (in this case, the wholesaler ID and name). This is just a small demonstration of the power of queries.

Real-World Application - Using Data to Make Informed Decisions

Netflix collects and analyzes vast amounts of user data, including viewing history, ratings, and preferences, to drive their content strategy and personalized recommendations. By analyzing this data, Netflix can determine which TV shows and movies are popular among different segments of their user base, make data-driven decisions on content acquisition and production, and provide personalized recommendations that enhance the user experience. This data-driven approach has contributed to Netflix's success in delivering highly relevant and engaging content to their subscribers.

Netflix also uses data to make informed decisions in other aspects of its business, including the following:

- Content acquisition and production: Netflix analyzes viewership data, user preferences, and market trends to help it make informed decisions about acquiring rights to existing content or investing in original content production.
- Audience segmentation and targeting: Netflix leverages user data to segment its audience based on viewing habits, preferences, and demographics.
- Pricing and packaging strategies: Netflix analyzes data on user subscriptions, engagement levels, and pricing experiments to assess the impact of different pricing and packaging strategies.

- User experience and interface design: Netflix utilizes data on user interactions, browsing behavior, and feedback to continuously improve its user interface design and user experience. Netflix runs experiments, conducts A/B tests, and gathers user feedback to refine features, layout, and content presentation, ensuring an intuitive and engaging viewing experience.
- Customer service and support: Data analysis helps Netflix identify patterns and trends in customer support interactions, enabling it to improve response times, identify common issues, and enhance customer satisfaction. Netflix can also proactively address potential issues by analyzing data on streaming quality, buffering, and device compatibility.

Using this data-driven approach, Netflix can make informed decisions that drive customer acquisition, retention, and overall business growth, allowing it to stay ahead of the competition, continuously improve service, and deliver a highly personalized and satisfying entertainment experience to millions of subscribers worldwide.

Saving and Closing the Query

The first time you create a query, you need to give it a name. After that, if you modify the query, you will need to save it, and doing so will update the copy you have. To save the query, you can click on the Save icon on the quick access toolbar or use Ctrl+S on the keyboard. Access will also prompt you to save when you close a query that you modified.

If you do not plan on using a query again or if it is extremely straightforward, you may not want to save it, but if you are likely to reuse the query, you will want to give it a descriptive name. It makes sense to create a naming schema that you can continue. For example, if you are querying for a specific project team, you may start with the team name, like ProductTeam, to help you identify the query later on.

Building and Creating Queries

WorldCorp needs to quickly gather data related to sales records of their new health-care product in the market of Southeast Asia. Although you could design a query to gather relevant information from scratch, Access has a convenient wizard that can help you design a suitable query. Wizards are small programs that run within Access to help you set up the objects in your database. A wizard will prompt you to add the information you need. For example, the Query Wizard will ask questions that will help you decide what table (or tables) you want to work with, the fields you will use, and how you will display the output. Once you have created a query with the wizard, you can modify it however you like.

To access the Query Wizard in Access:

1. Click on the Create menu and locate the command for Query Wizard.
2. Choose the type of query you want to build. In this case, we choose the Simple Query Wizard, as you can see in Figure 13.19, which selects and displays specific records. This is the most commonly used query.

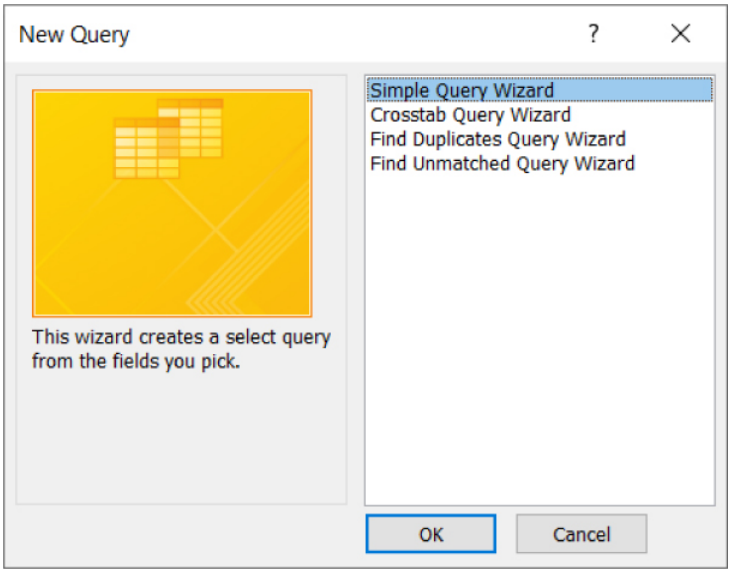


Figure 13.19: The Query Wizard can be used to create simple queries, crosstab queries, or queries to find duplicate or unmatched records. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

3. Use the ≫ button to choose the table or queries and the fields you want to use in the query. You can add from different tables or queries by changing the Table/Queries drop-down menu to choose a different object to work with. When you are finished, click Next to move to the next screen (see Figure 13.20).

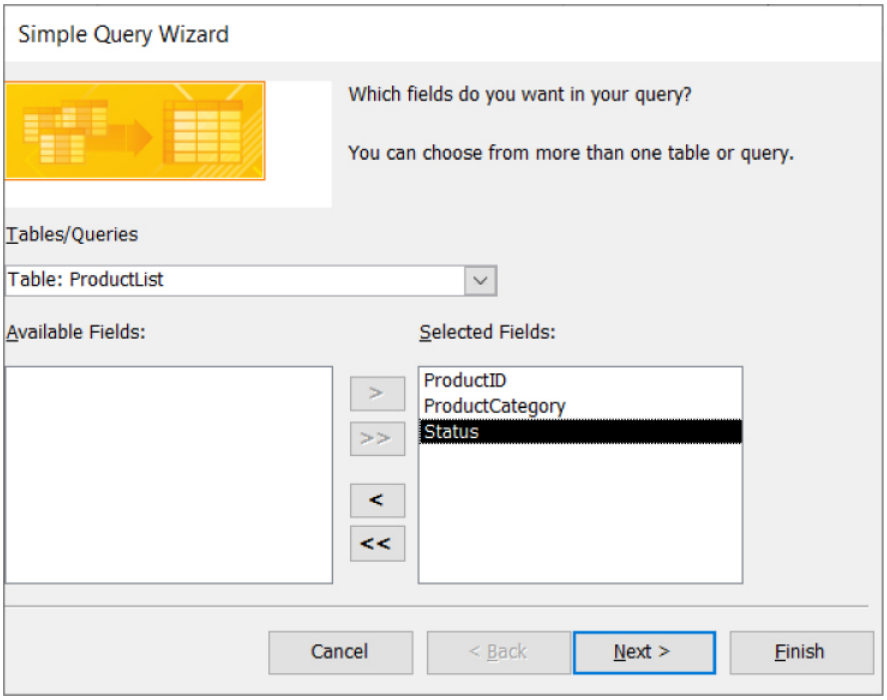


Figure 13.20: The Query Wizard allows you to select individual fields you want to include in your final query. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

4. Once you have set up your query, you can name it on the last screen and choose whether you would like to see the results of the query (View Information) or modify the design of the query (Modify Design). Then click Finish Figure 13.21 to build the query.

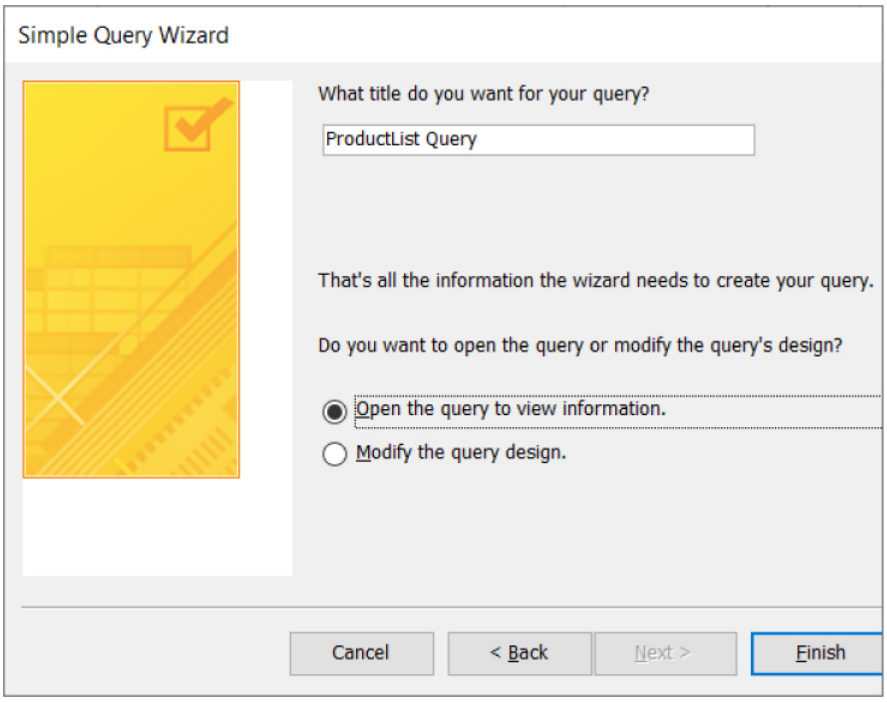


Figure 13.21: The Query Wizard allows you to title your query before finishing it. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Editing Queries with the QBE Grid

Once a query is built, you can edit it using the QBE grid, which gives you the ability to look at a query and rearrange, modify, and add to it, as well as the ability to run the query and see the results.

To open a query in the QBE grid, right-click the query in the navigation area of the screen, or to open the query, click on the View command, and choose Design View, as Figure 13.22 shows.

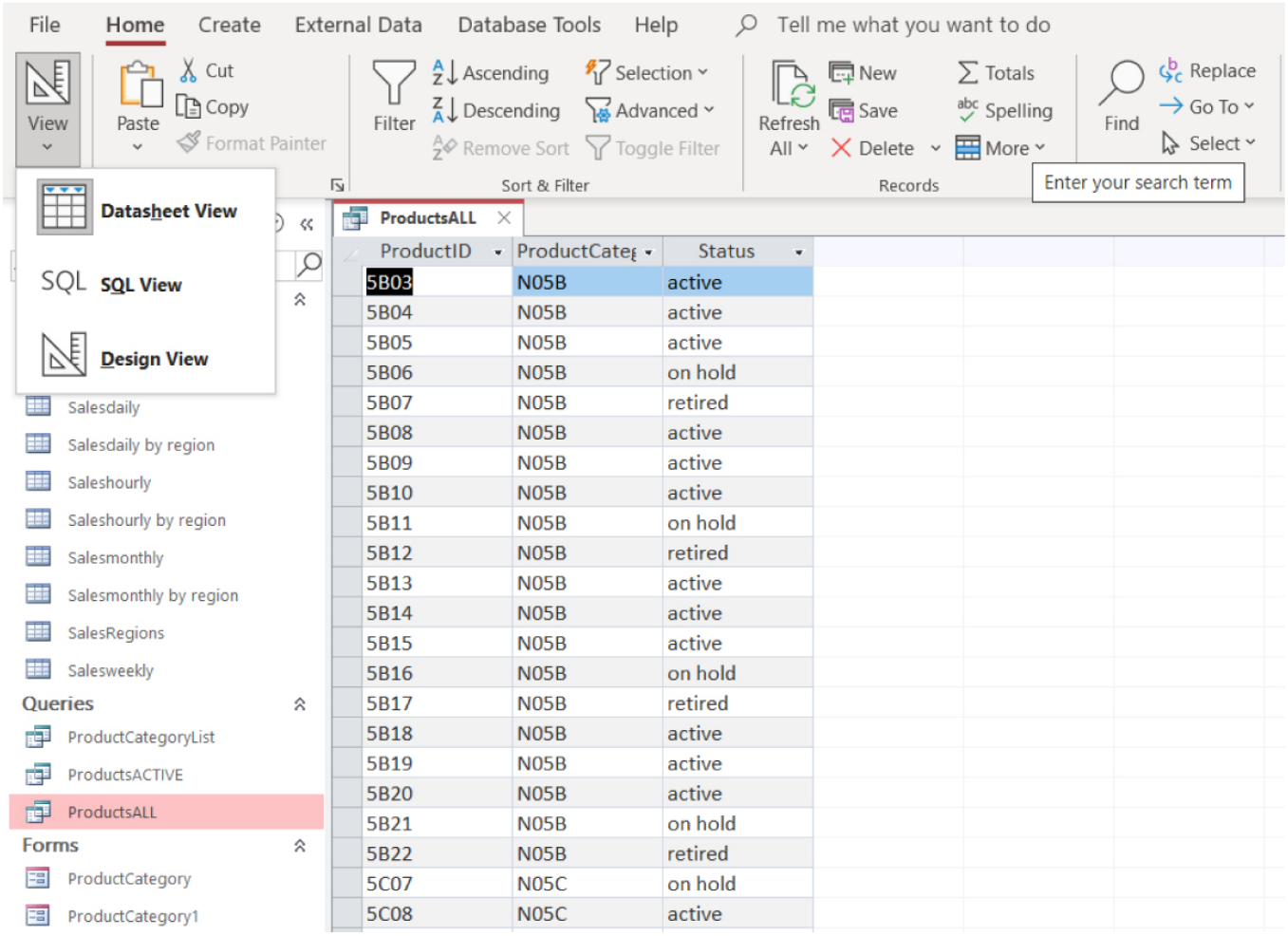


Figure 13.22: The View command gives you a few different options for viewing a query. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The QBE grid (Figure 13.23) allows you to interact with a query visually. It places the elements of the query on screen in order from left to right and gives you the ability to modify the format of the query. You can do the following using the QBE grid:

- View, add, or change the tables used in the query
- Add or reorder fields
- Sort values returned by the field
- Choose whether a field is shown in the query (e.g., you may want to sort or use a field but not have it appear in the results)
- Add criteria to limit the records returned by the query

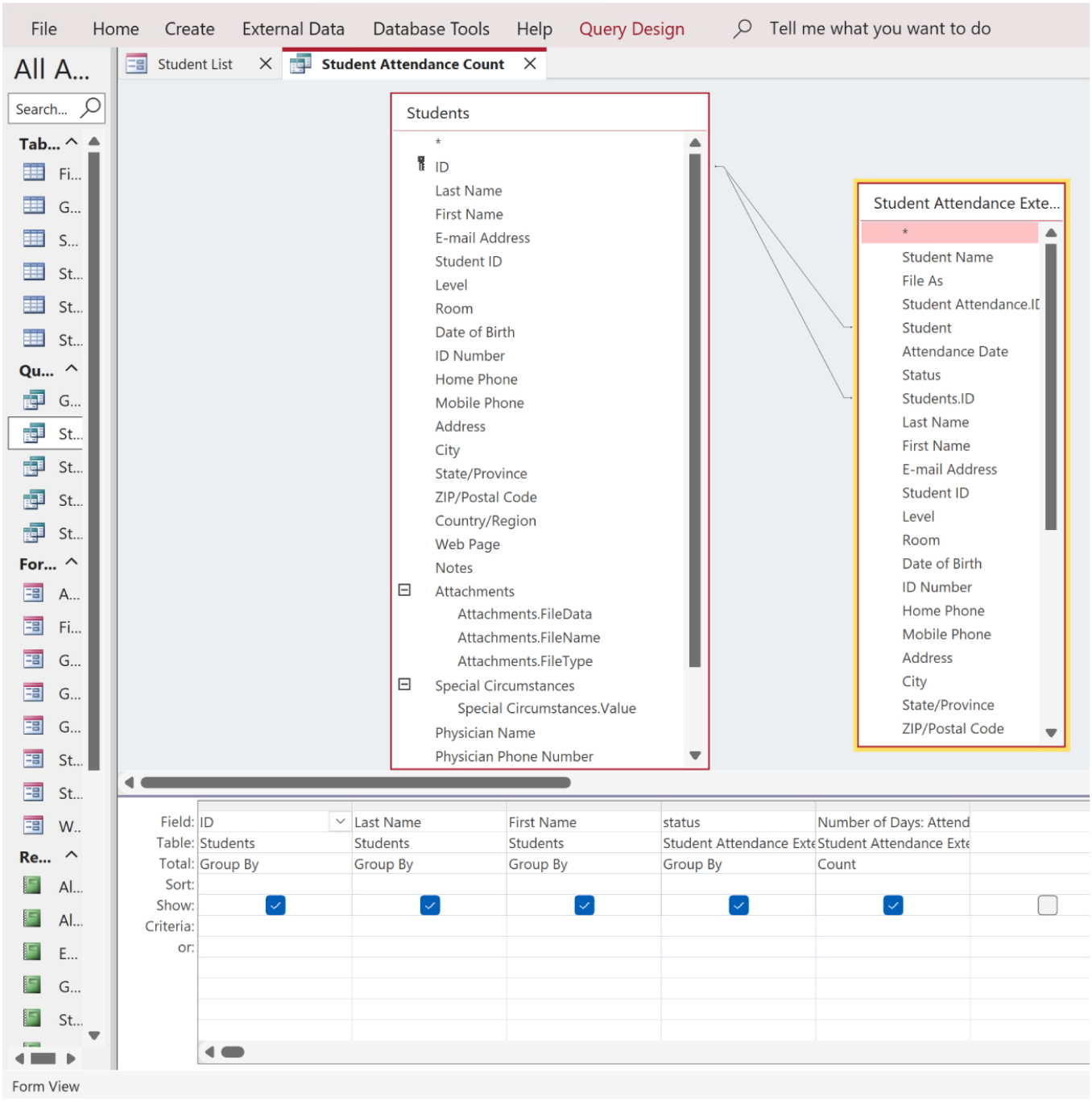


Figure 13.23: Use the QBE grid to interact with or modify a query. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Building a Query with the QBE Grid

Although the Query Wizard is a useful tool and a good way to quickly start a query, using the QBE grid gives you more options for building complex queries. The QBE grid consists of a table that makes commands available.

In setting up the query, follow these steps:

1. Add tables.
2. Choose fields, one per column header.
3. Choose the sorting criteria.
4. Run the criteria to see results.
5. Return to Layout View to continue working.

To set a sort order, which will control the order of records displayed in the query, follow these steps:

1. View the query in Design View.
2. Locate the column you want to sort.
3. Click on the down arrow in the Sort row and choose the sort order (ascending, descending, or not sorted). By default, the column is not sorted.

You can also set criteria here to control which records are displayed. Criteria are commands that are written using symbols together with a text string that tells Access what you want the query to do. A criterion statement has two parts: the criterion/operator and descriptive text. For example, in the criterion statement

= 100

the equals sign serves as the operator, and 100 is the descriptor.

There are several different criteria you can use within your queries. Some of the operations (criteria) are displayed in Table 13.4.

Table 13.4: Display Criteria Using criterion statements adds power to a query. They allow you to build complex queries that organize data in interesting and useful ways.

Criterion	Result
=	Returns values that are equal =99 will return all values that are 99
>	Returns values that are greater than >99 will return all values greater than 99
<	Returns values that are less than <99 will return all values less than 99
Is null	Returns records with empty cells (Note: “null” signifies empty, *not* 0)
“ ”	Return records that are an exact match to whatever is between the “ ”
Like	Returns records that contain the value between “ ” “Like gp” will return all values containing gp
Not	Returns values that do not match the criteria “Not 100” will return all values that are not 100

Databases can hold hundreds, thousands, and even hundreds of thousands of records. One way to limit the results to what is relevant to your project or to the decision you need to make is to use criteria to limit the data that a query returns. Limiting the results makes it easier for you to work with the data and helps ensure that your decisions are both accurate and effective.

Setting criteria can help you select specific items in an Access database by showing only items that match the criteria you have set in creating the query. Individual criteria can be used in expressions, or statements, that specify values to select or omit.

Using Tables in Queries

The query grid will open with a blank gray area, a blank table across the bottom of your screen, and a window in which you can add tables. To add a table to the screen to work with it, double-click the table name or click and drag it into the gray area (Figure 13.24).

You will likely want to work with more than one table at a time, as one of the reasons we use relational databases is to be able to split our data into multiple tables and then combine them as needed, giving us enhanced performance and flexibility. To work with multiple tables, drag them onto the screen or double-click them.

If you have a query open in the QBE grid, you can add tables to the screen by right-clicking anywhere in the table area and choosing the Show Table command.

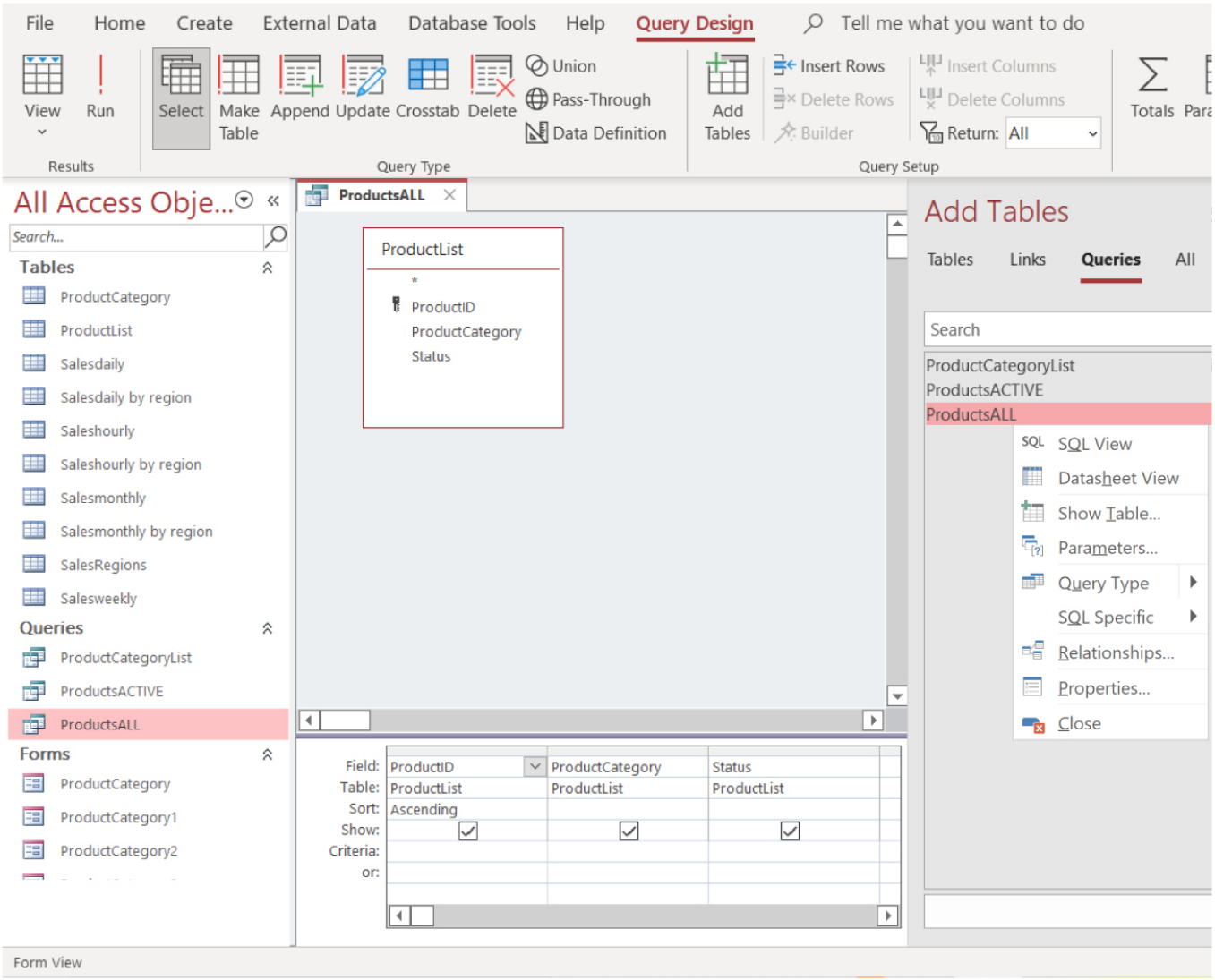


Figure 13.24: Adding an additional table to the query grid view allows you to create queries that involve multiple tables, enabling you to retrieve and analyze data from multiple sources simultaneously. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Joining Tables

Splitting data into tables in a relational database like Access enhances database performance, which is a key issue in working with very large datasets. It also increases flexibility by allowing us to chunk, or separate, our data into smaller sets, which are easier to work with. Splitting up the data also enables us to avoid creating many null (empty) fields. (Imagine using a single spreadsheet to manage all your information—it would not be useful, as it would have too many fields, and many of those fields would be blank.)

When using a relational database to separate data into smaller, ID-focused tables (e.g., a table including only salespersons, another for clients), you need to join these tables based on key fields. In this example, you would likely create a primary key, SalesRepID, on the sales rep table, and then include this same field as a foreign key on the client table. You can then create queries that will join these tables by making sure that Access understands the connection between the fields.

In fact, the ability to create and define relationships between tables is one of the most important functions of a relational database. If you consider a database a set of data tables with relationships between them, Access needs to be able to connect related fields between one table and another. It does so by means of the connection or relationship known as a join.

A primary key, or unique key, is a field that uniquely identifies a record. As with an ID number, no two records can have the same primary key. A foreign key field is a primary key field that appears in another table. We can join foreign keys to primary keys to create a relationship between the two fields.

Recall that a join refers to the relationship between two fields in different tables. Access will create a relationship or join when it sees a primary key field in one table and the same primary key used in another. This is because Access understands that these fields have a relationship.

Joins appear between two fields in two or more tables in the query design screen. They are shown as lines connecting the fields, which represent the relationship between the two tables as a one-to-one, one-to-many, or many-to-many join. Access will create a join automatically when it recognizes the same field in two tables. At times, however, Access will not recognize the relationship, or you may want to relate two fields for the purpose of a specific query. In these instances—when we realize that two fields are related but that Access does not automatically understand this—we can also create joins manually. For example, this happens when different field names apply to the same field: A person may realize that CustomerNumber and CustomerID are the same, but Access likely would not recognize this. In this case, it is our job to add the relationship, letting Access know that these fields should be joined when we perform a query, as Figure 13.25 and Figure 13.26 show.

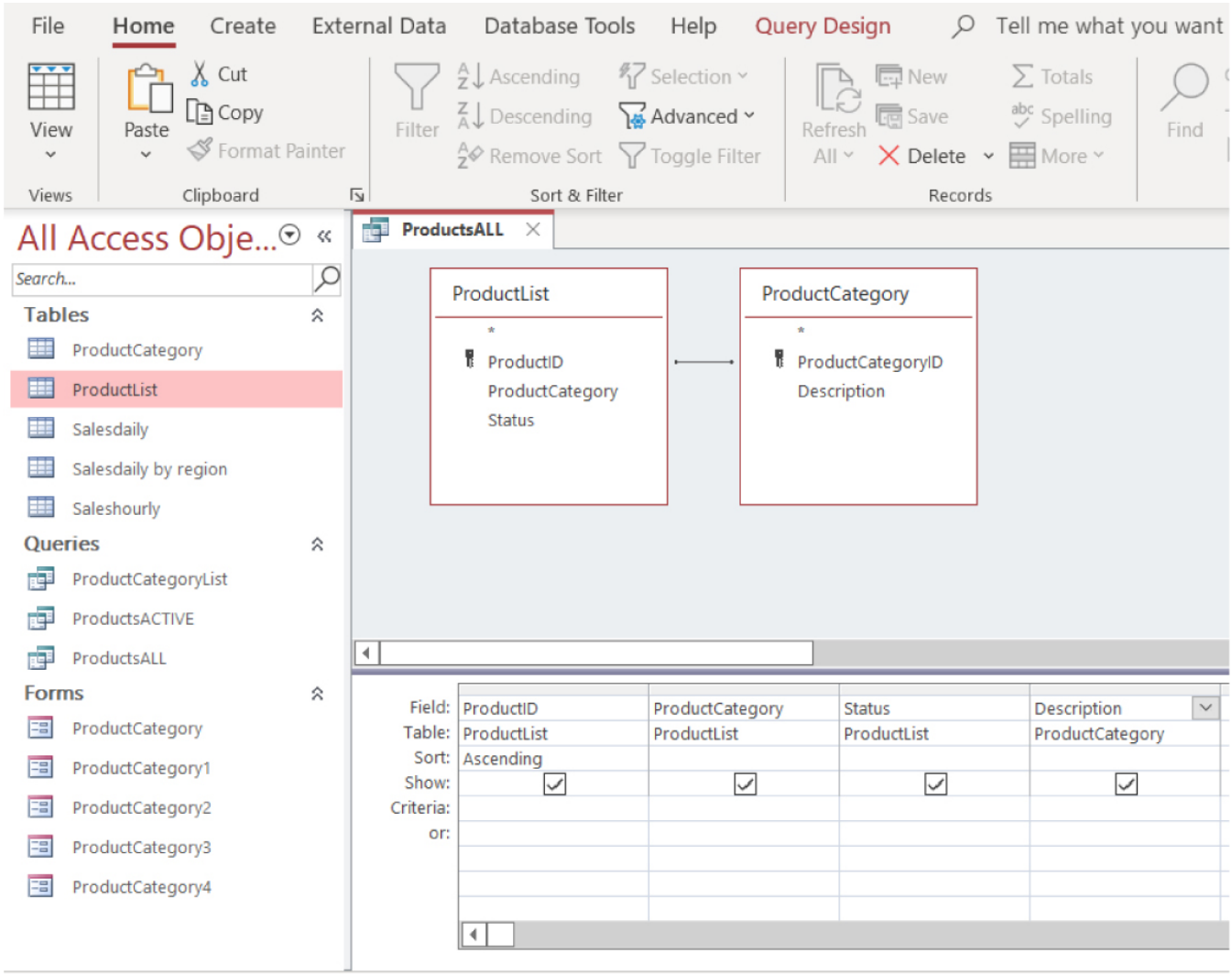


Figure 13.25: Using joins in a query allows you to establish connections between fields in different database tables, enabling you to retrieve and display related data by specifying how the tables are linked based on shared values or keys. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

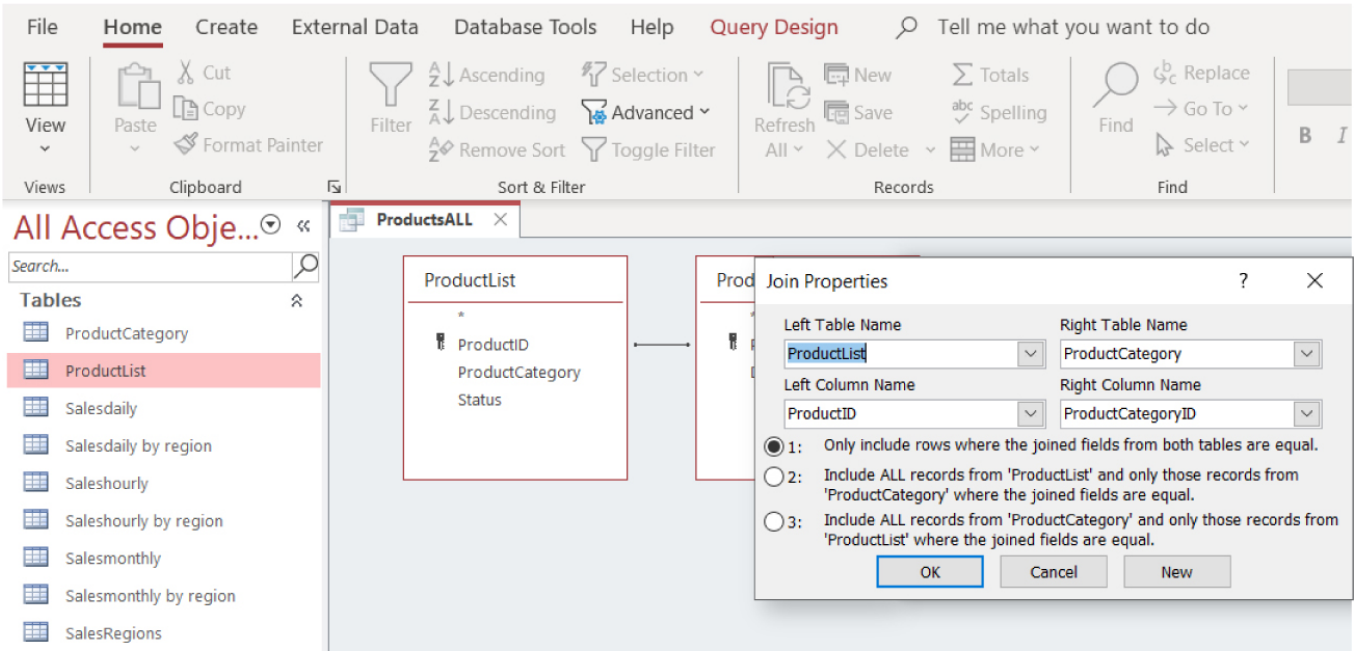


Figure 13.26: The Join Properties dialog box enables users to specify the type and criteria for joining tables in a database query, defining how records from multiple tables are related and included in the query results. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Types of Joins

There are two main types of joins: inner and outer. The type of join controls what data will display when the query runs. In an inner join, Access looks at the common fields and data between the two tables and only displays the matches, omitting any records from either table that do not match. The inner join is the most common type of join and is the default type for Access.

In an outer join, Access looks at the common fields and displays the related (matched) data plus the rest of the records from a single specified table. You can use the Join Properties box to choose which table will have all its records displayed.

As an example of an inner join, the sales and marketing database has a table with client information and a table with sales invoices. Both tables include the field ClientID. These tables are related using the default join type, the inner join.

Suppose the team at WorldCorp needs to see a list of all products with the clients that have purchased them so they can share new sales information appropriately. The tables in Figure 13.27 include the fields ClientInfo and SalesInvoices.



Figure 13.27: Access uses lines between tables to denote that a relationship exists between them. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

After looking at what the team actually needs for the process, you decide to add the fields from ClientInfo, including ClientID, ClientName, and ClientMailingAddressAll, and to use two SalesInvoices table fields—ClientID and ProductID—to narrow the results to just the clients who have purchased specific products.

After creating a new query and adding both tables to the grid, you realize that Access did not automatically create the join. You drag ClientID from the Client table to the matching ClientID in the SalesInvoice table. This creates an inner join, which will return only the details for the records that match.

You then add the fields for the query into the query grid. Add the ProductID field first because it should appear first on the screen. Then add the ClientID field, followed by ClientName and ClientMailingAddressAll.

Using these fields, as Figure 13.28 shows, you created a query that returns a list of each product, followed by the clients that purchased it. By adding ClientID, ClientName, and ClientMailingAddressAll, the team can send the correct mailings to the customers that have purchased these specific products in the past.

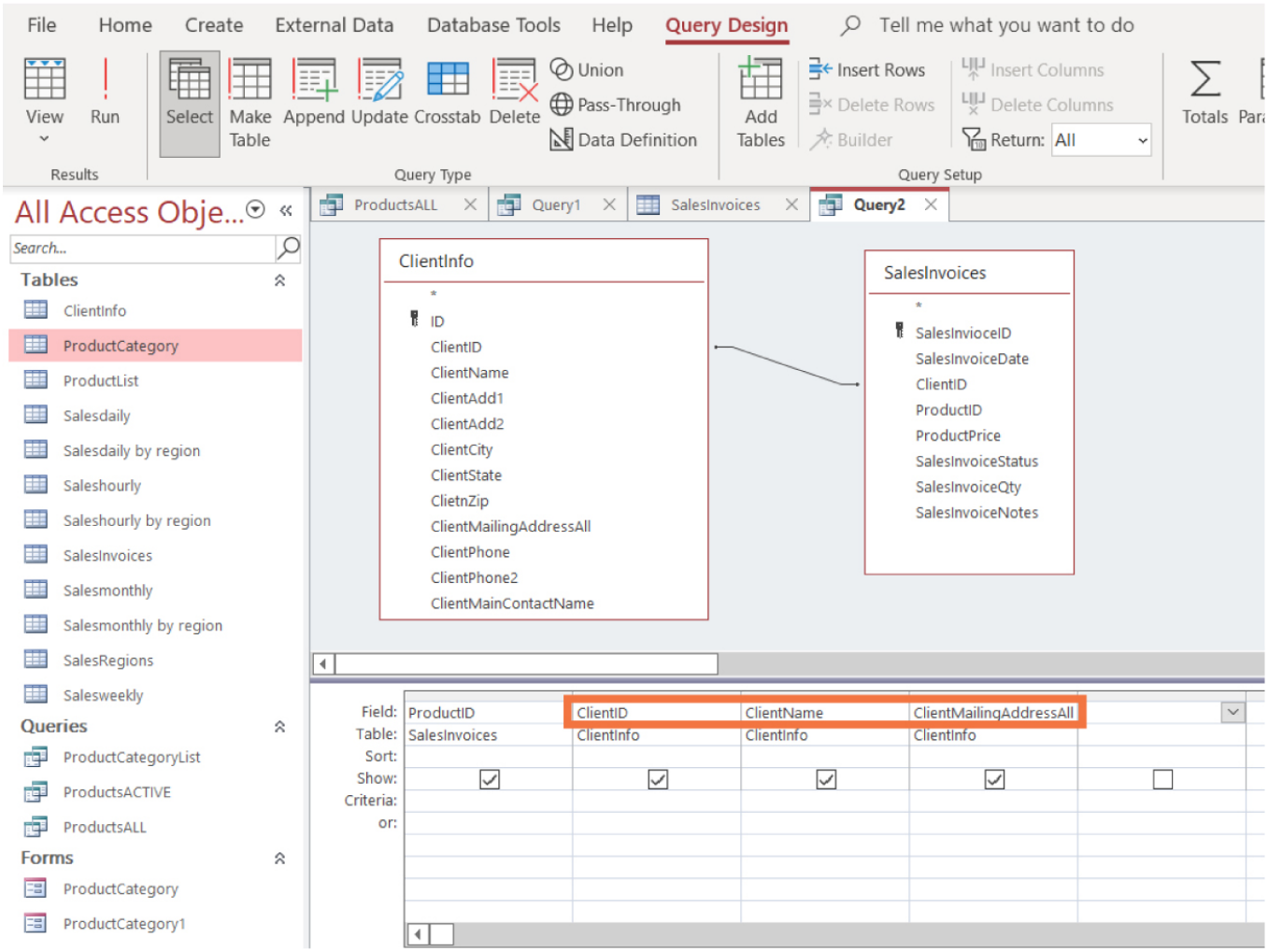


Figure 13.28: A query can use joins to return lists with data from multiple tables. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Creating Joins

To create a join in Access, you need to have both tables open on the query design screen. With the tables open, click on the field you want to join in one table and drag it to the matching field on the other table. Access will usually create an inner join, displaying only the records that match on both tables.

If you want to display the data differently, you can double-click the join line and change the type of join. To change a join, double-click on the join itself in the query grid. The Join Properties box (Figure 13.29) will open. In the box, you can change the tables or columns of the join and can also change the type of join relationship. Sometimes it is helpful to modify the join on a dataset to see

the results. The Join Properties box is helpful because it gives you a quick reminder of the results you can expect from the join, using the names of your tables.

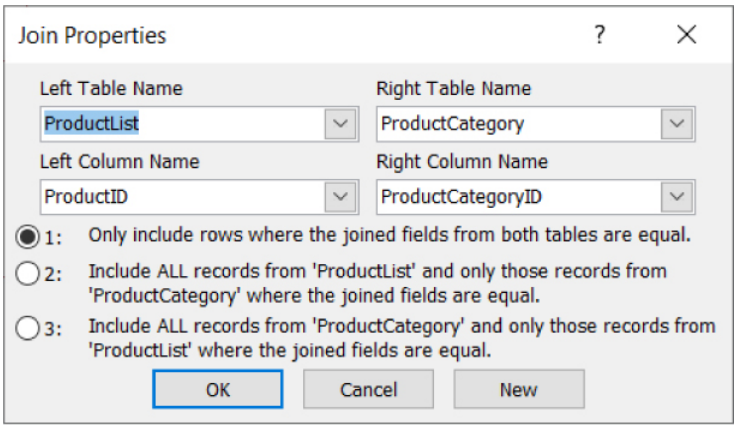


Figure 13.29: You can change a join in the Join Properties box. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If you decide you do not want or need a join for any reason, you can click on the join line in the query layout view and click Del on your keyboard. The join will be removed.

This page titled 13.3: Querying a Database is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.4: Maintaining Records in a Database

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Examine existing records in a database
- Construct new records to add to a database
- Update existing records in a database
- Demonstrate the process to delete records from a database

Most of the time, when employees maintain and work with a database, they access data that has been provided to them from another data storage area, such as the company's data warehouse. The tasks in the analysis are to import the data, review the data to ensure that it is brought into the database correctly, and then use the data. Sometimes, however, users need to complete other tasks to ensure that the database processes the data correctly.

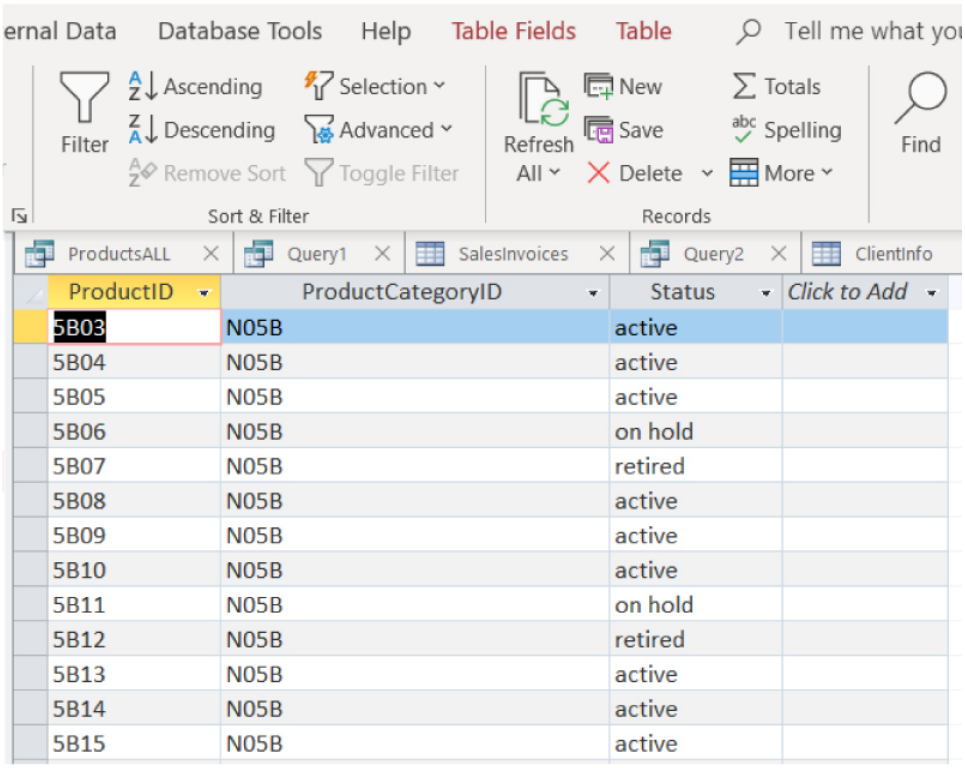
Link to Learning

Data integrity is a cornerstone of the digital organization. Without data that can be trusted, companies cannot transform themselves to be successful in the digital world. Transformation comes with two data-related problems—how companies store and access data and the quality of that data. For an overview of these issues, read this article on data integrity in business and think about the ethical requirements for the data professional and organizational leadership and how they need to balance the quality, security, and accessibility of data within the organization.

Reviewing Records in a Database

It is possible to view records in database tables but be sure to not change the records.

In a table, records are shown on a datasheet, with each column equaling a field name (a value that all records have) and each row representing an individual record. On the datasheet, there are commands that let you move between records. You can also use the scroll bars to look at different parts of the table. Although using the datasheet to view records can be useful in limited situations, databases typically hold a great deal of data, so in general, querying the table will be a much more efficient way of finding the records you need (Figure 13.30).



ProductID	ProductCategoryID	Status	Click to Add
5B03	N05B	active	
5B04	N05B	active	
5B05	N05B	active	
5B06	N05B	on hold	
5B07	N05B	retired	
5B08	N05B	active	
5B09	N05B	active	
5B10	N05B	active	
5B11	N05B	on hold	
5B12	N05B	retired	
5B13	N05B	active	
5B14	N05B	active	
5B15	N05B	active	

Figure 13.30: Reviewing records in a datasheet provides a broad overview of the data, while querying allows you to filter and retrieve specific information that answers particular questions or meets specific criteria. Queries are used to extract precise and targeted data from a database, whereas a datasheet presents a more comprehensive view of the data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Real-World Application - Data Flow Processes

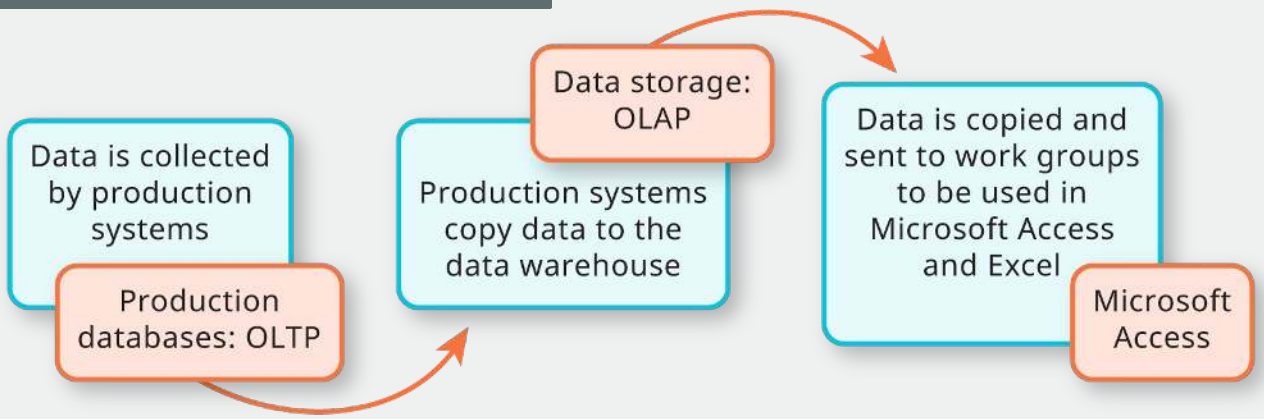


Figure 13.31: Data flows through an organization's information systems from collection to analysis.

Data moves across the data landscape from transactional production databases, including sales, customer service, human resources, and other systems, to storage databases such as the data warehouse, which can hold historical information (online transaction processing (OLTP)). Once housed in a data store, datasets can be made available to databases like Access and spreadsheets like Excel for local use and analysis (online analytical processing (OLAP)). Why would it be important to keep in mind how and when data was collected from a production system when performing analysis on that data in Access?

If you need to look at records in Datasheet View, there are commands at the bottom of the screen that will help you move between them. When a datasheet view is open, these commands appear automatically in Access, on the bottom left side of the screen.

The record navigation buttons open any time that records are shown. As you work in the database, you will see these buttons in Datasheet View and in certain form views. The command buttons include jumping to the first or last record in the series, navigating

one record ahead or back, and adding a new record, as you can see in Figure 13.32. You can also add a filter or use the search feature to find a specific field value.

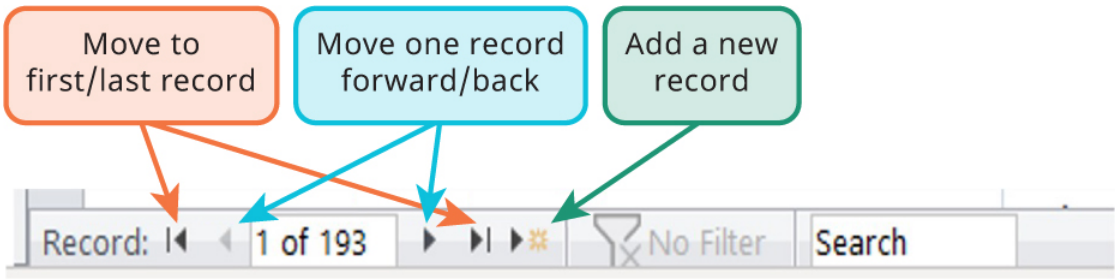


Figure 13.32: Using the record navigation buttons to progress through a datasheet can save you a lot of time. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Constructing New Records

Databases are historical in that they record past details about an organization, but they also need to be updated as time goes on. There are a variety of ways to update a database, including both manual and automated updates. Most of the time, when you use Access, you will import a dataset or file from another system, such as the organization's data warehouse.

Adding a Record Manually

If you need to add a record into a database, you can either add the record to the table manually or import it from another database. To add a record manually:

1. Open the table in Datasheet View.
2. On the Home tab, click the command New in the Records group.
3. Fill in the information, using Tab or the left and right arrow keys to move through the record.
4. Once you are done, use Tab or the up and down arrows to move to the next record, or press Shift+Enter (or any version of Save that saves a record).

Importing a Record

Creating files that can be imported to other systems is a hallmark of a digital organization. When working with Access, we are likely to import files from other, larger systems. Data is collected in business units across an organization, and using that data is key to an effective business. Business units routinely transfer files between systems, which in turn lets units analyze and create actionable information.

Most systems can create comma-delimited (CSV) files, which use commas as delimiters or breakpoints to tell Access (or any other program) where data should be separated. CSV files can be read into most Microsoft products and other popular software packages. There are also other formats designed for importing and exporting files, which use another type of formatting to delimit, or separate, data.

Access can import a variety of file types, including Excel, CSV, and XML, as well as files specific to databases and other systems or software products. Even so, CSV is one of the most common formats for data importing (Figure 13.33).

Before importing a file, be familiar with the file and its contents. To make the import process easier, you may want to rename fields so that they match in the file and the database.

Once your file is ready, you will likely want to import it to a new table so you can catch and correct any errors without corrupting the data in your other data tables. Depending on the specific type of work you are doing, you can either set up a table ahead of time or import the data into a new table.

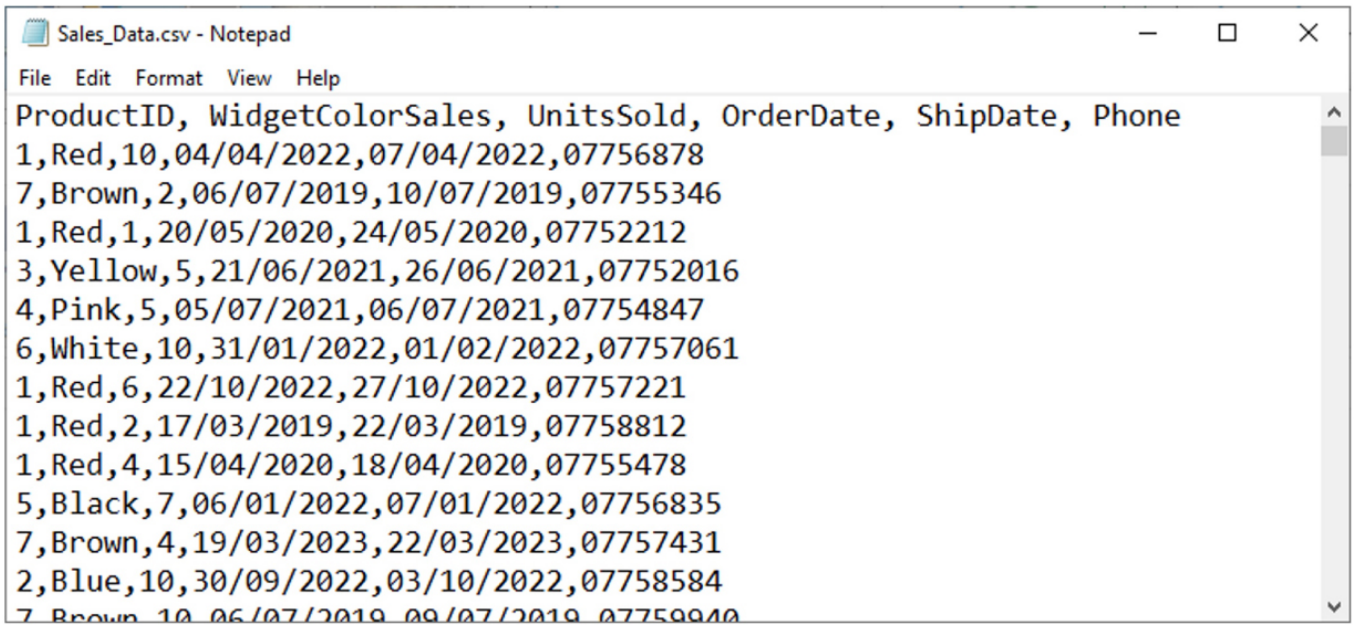


Figure 13.33: A CSV (comma-separated values) file is a plaintext file format commonly used for storing tabular data, such as spreadsheets or databases. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Note: Access has the ability to import data directly into existing tables manually through the Import command and by connecting automatically with a database or system.

Follow these steps in importing a file:

1. With your database open, select the External Data tab in Access.
2. Choose the New Data Source button.
3. Choose the file type you want to work with—for example, text. A dialog box will open.
4. Select the file you want to import.
5. Choose the import type that fits best with your project. If you are concerned about an import, try importing the data into a new table to be sure you have all of the fields and parameters set correctly.
6. Click on OK; the import screen will open (see Figure 13.34).

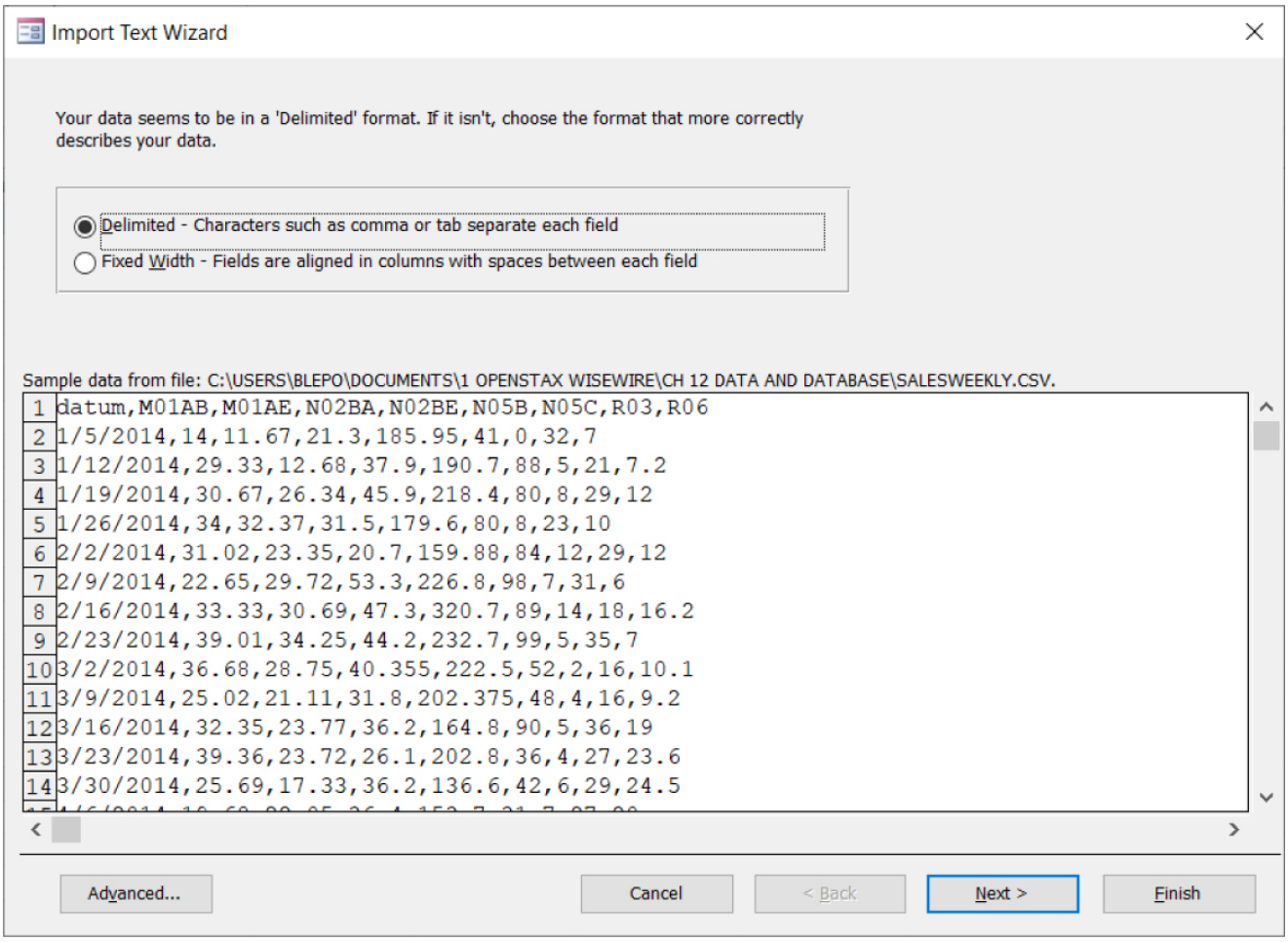


Figure 13.34: Importing a file using the Import Text Wizard allows the user to select the correct format for their file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

7. The Import Wizard, which is a part of the import process, will open and ask you to choose how your text file is structured. (Hint: Most text files are delimited, and CSV files use commas as the delimiting or separating character.) Once you choose whether the file is delimited or fixed width (broken up based on a certain number of characters), click Next to continue.
8. On the next screen, set your delimiter (comma for a CSV file) and click the first row that contains field names (assuming your first row is titles or labels). Then preview the data and, when you are sure it is correct, click Next to move to the next screen. See Figure 13.35.

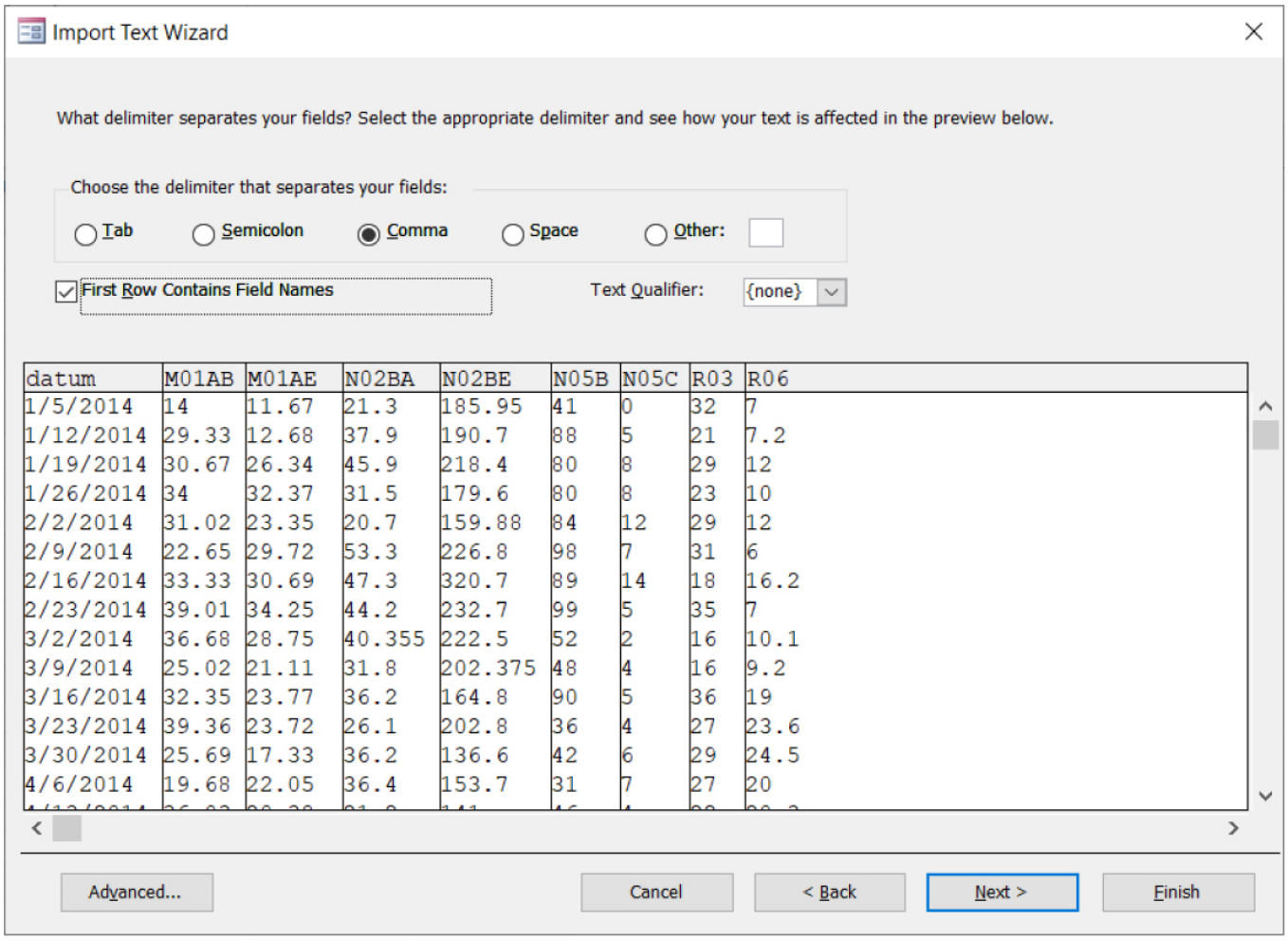


Figure 13.35: For files that use a delimiter, the Import Text Wizard requires that the user define which delimiting character is used. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In the screen that appears, you can change field names and data types, if necessary (Figure 13.36). Once you are ready, click Next to continue.

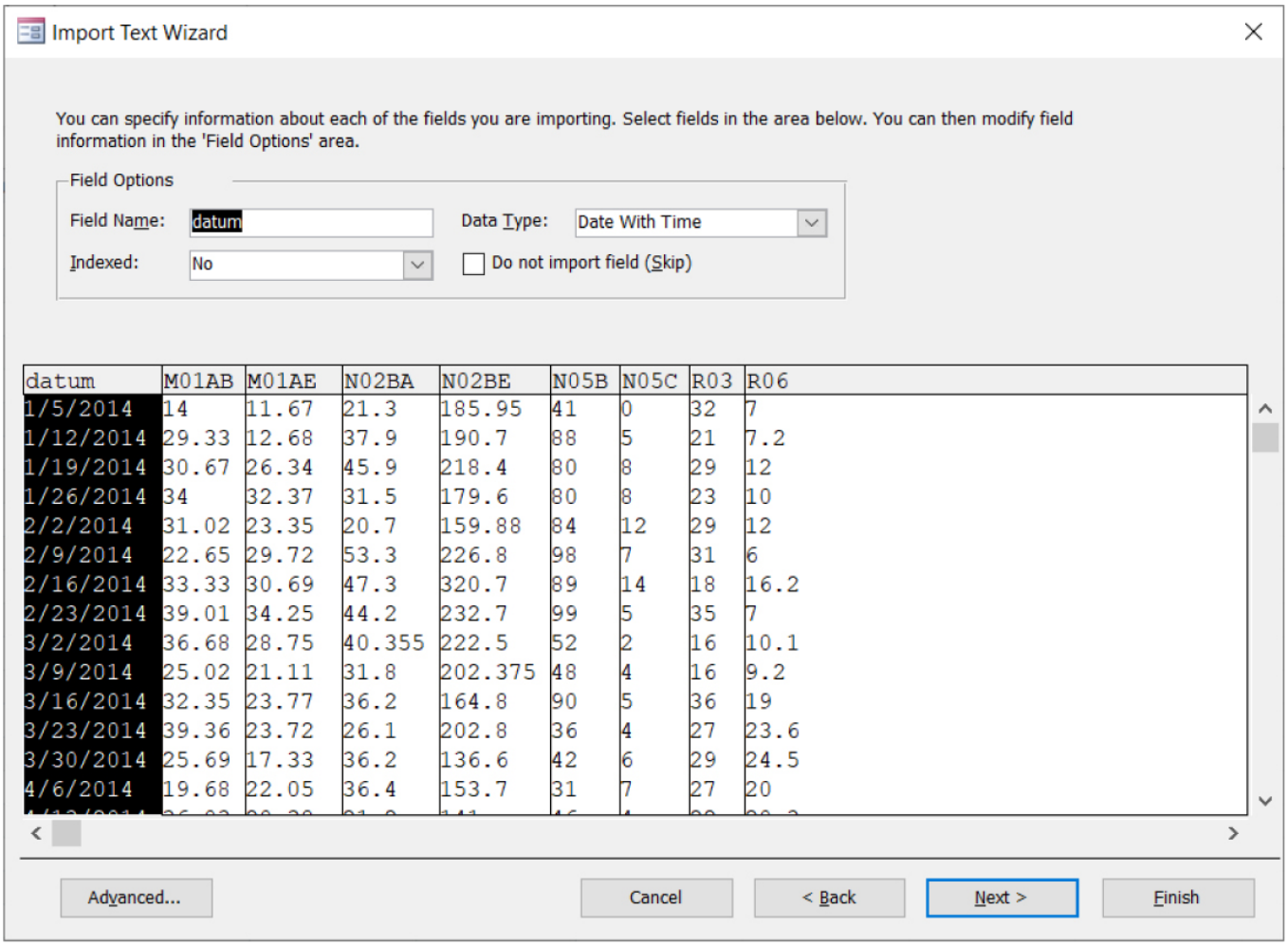


Figure 13.36: The Import Text Wizard allows you to specify various field properties, such as name and data type, before importing the file to Access. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Import Wizard will ask if you would like to set a primary key or have Access set it for you. Make your choice, as seen in Figure 13.37, and click Next to continue.

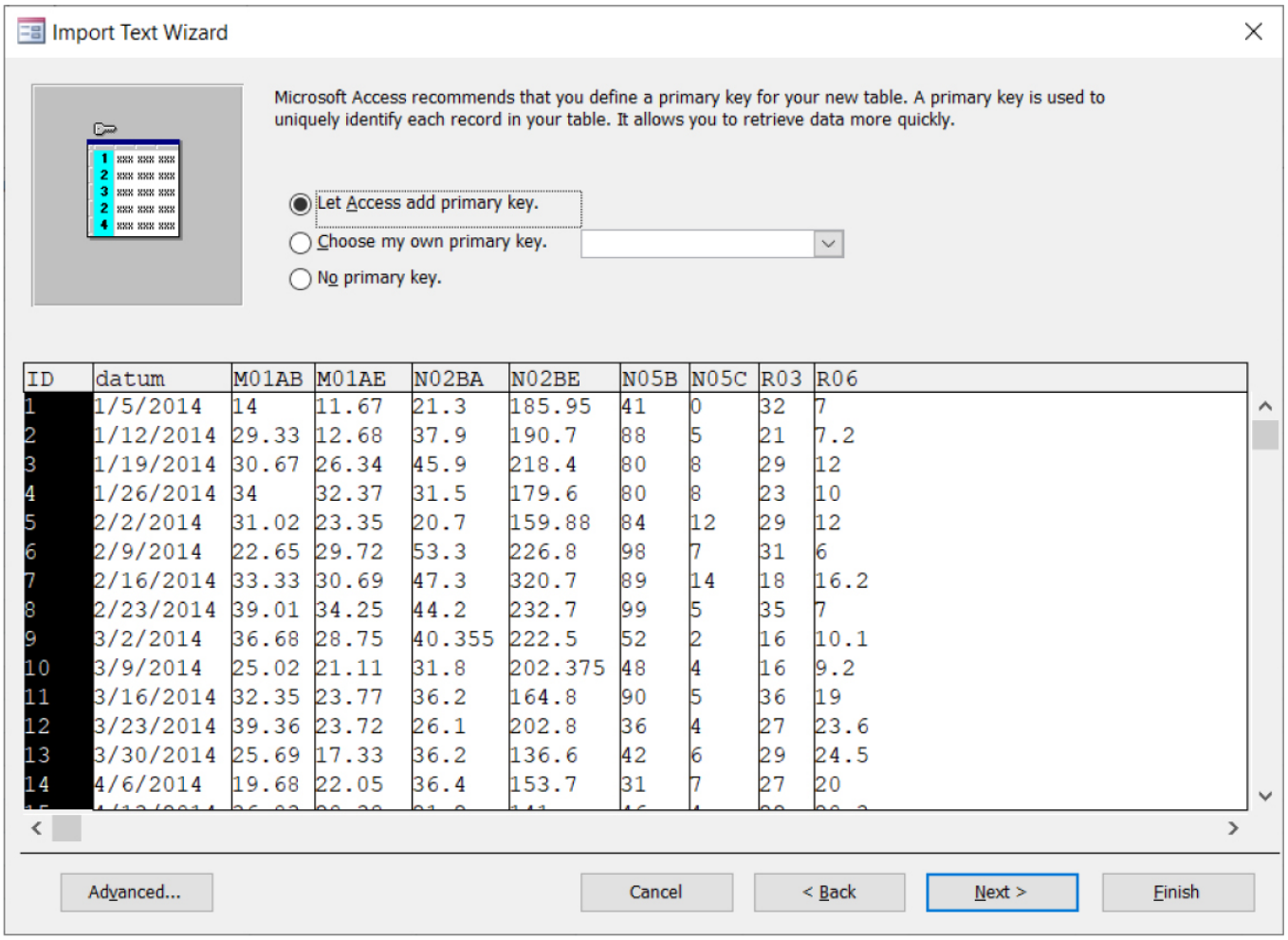


Figure 13.37: You should select a primary key for any imported tables. This primary key can serve as a unique identifier for each record in your database. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The final Import Wizard screen will allow you to name your new table. Be sure to use a descriptive name that distinguishes it from the tables you already have in the database.

When you are done, click Finish to view your new table. If your table has errors (e.g., if data cannot be imported because of mismatches in the field type), a new table containing the errors will appear in your list, as Figure 13.38 shows. If you find any errors, you may want to delete your imported tables and walk through these steps again.

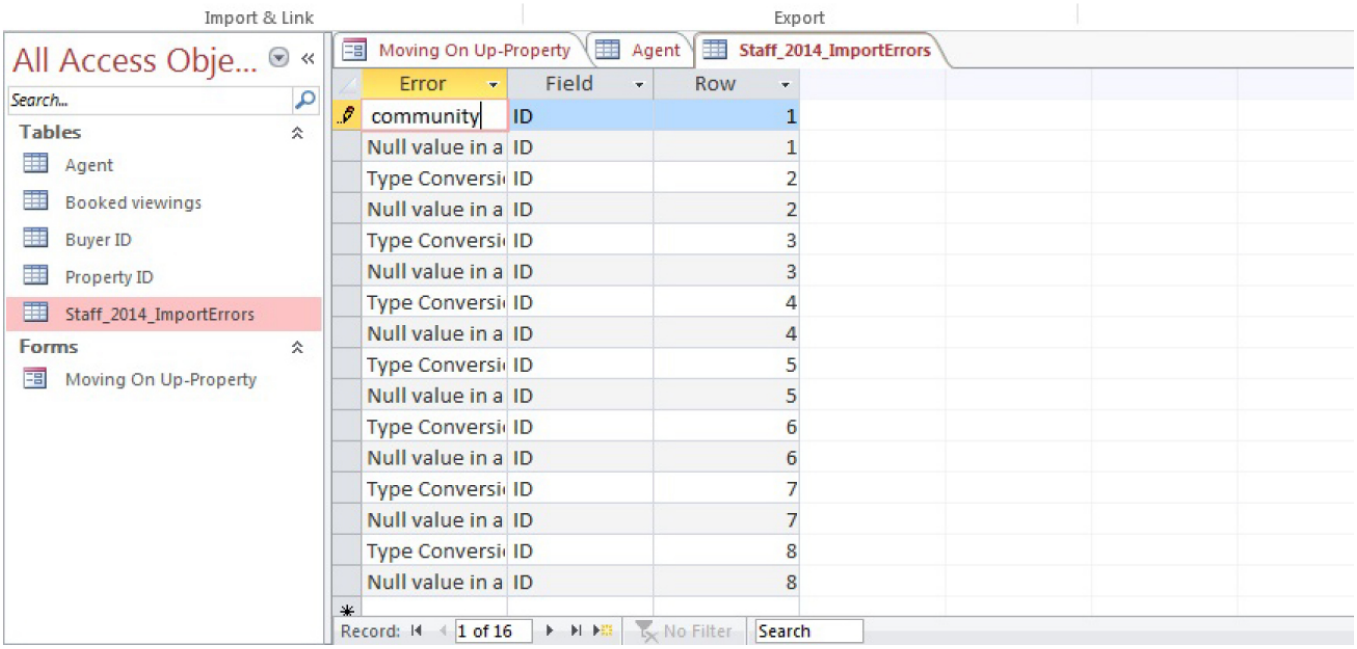


Figure 13.38: A table with errors will still be imported, but the errors will be identified in a new table with the phrase "ImportErrors" in the title. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Data management is a bigger concern than just tables and fields—data professionals at all levels need to understand the data landscape and how organizations can manage it. This article on data lineage provides an overview of some of the challenges and considerations in data management.

Editing or Deleting an Existing Record

Once you locate the record you want to update, you can edit it. To edit a record:

1. Open the table in Datasheet View (or Form View).
2. Click on the field you would like to edit.
3. Place your cursor where you want the information to appear.
4. Enter your text.
5. Use Tab to move across your record.

As you work, Access will save your changes whenever you move your cursor from one field to another. If you want to save the record manually to be sure your data is saved, you can either click the Home tab then click Save in the Records group, or press Shift+Enter on the keyboard.

When you are updating a record, you may see symbols appear that share the status of that record, as Figure 13.39 shows. As you manually edit records, pay attention to these data entry symbols.

Symbol	Description
	Record that is being edited and is currently saved
	Record that is being edited and is not saved
	New record ready for information
	Primary key field
	Locked record; cannot be edited (often due to being in use already)

Figure 13.39: These are some of the common icons you will use in data entry. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Deleting a Record

If you need to delete a record or set of records for any reason, you can do so through either the datasheet or the form.

1. Open the table in Datasheet View or Form View.
2. Select the record by clicking on the record selector. To select multiple records, either click and drag across record selectors or use Ctrl+Click.
3. Press Delete or select Home>Records>Delete.

This page titled 13.4: Maintaining Records in a Database is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.5: Creating Reports in Microsoft Access

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Understand why reports are useful
- Create and edit a report using the Report Wizard
- Customize a report by adding images and text

Databases are useful only if they enable us to transform data into information that will be ready for use when it is needed. Although queries are helpful in extracting the data that we need and even transforming it into actionable information, most decision-makers will need more refinement, formatting, and preparation before the data is ready for use.

Recall that a report is a formatted display of information designed for a specific use case or project. Reports do more than summarize information; they also create the foundation for making sound decisions. When we combine queries with formatting, we create reports that we can use in our work.

Using Reports in a Database

Reports are a cornerstone for business decisions. We can generate reports within a database for a specific request, and we can also set up reports to provide summaries and information that we will need on an ongoing basis. Access enables us to set up reports (e.g., a financial, sales, or summary report) that we can then access as necessary for decision-making. Companies routinely run reports on key performance indicators (KPIs) that show an organization's effectiveness, efficiency, quality, economics, project performance, resource use, and personnel and workforce performance. Companies also routinely look at revenue, profit, and customer and employee satisfaction. Because tables filled with data do not adequately describe KPIs, businesses rely on reports as part of their evidence-based decision-making.

Tables are extremely efficient ways of storing data, and using a relational database with connections across tables is an effective way of building information storage. Unfortunately, however, tables do not display information in ways that people easily understand. We can manage this by creating reports—formatted, attractive displays of information. Reports use combinations of labels, values, and even graphics to present the results of a query in a way that supports action. Once designed, a report can easily be reused or copied and revised. Like other objects such as queries and forms, reports will show the most up-to-date information each time the database changes. Among the many reasons to generate reports are the need to create summary reports, to save snapshots of data, and to provide detail about specific customers or products.

Consider this example. Anna, an analyst in the sales and marketing group at WorldCorp, has been asked to get data ready for a meeting with sales representatives. The meeting will focus on products that are on hold, and the representatives will need to identify wholesale companies that may be interested in these products. Anna begins by determining what the sales representatives will need for the meeting and the level of detail they will want to have available for decision-making. She then looks at the available data and decides how to create the report. Anna's final report includes two sets of information—the list of on-hold products and the list of wholesalers who have shown an interest in those products. Therefore, she creates two versions of the report:

- List of on-hold products with a list of interested wholesalers for each product
- List of wholesalers with a list of on-hold products that may be of interest to each wholesaler

Anna sends the final report to the person in charge of the meeting for review and comment.

Tips for Effective Reports

The way you design a report will depend on the data it will include, the audience that will use the report for decision-making, and the way the data will be used. Reports can be as brief as a few lines of summary text, or they can be highly detailed spreadsheets or within datasheets with many rows of records. The key to building a useful report is communication—your communication with the audience that needs the report, so you understand them, and the communication of the information to the audience so they can use it.

Effective reports should utilize the headers and footers of a report and its pages to aid the reader when navigating the report. Headers and footers should contain useful information such as the report title, author, and page numbers. This makes it easier for a report reader to quickly find the information they are looking for across multiple reports.

Link to Learning

Data is only good to the extent that it is both accurate and actionable. Raw data without any use is just clutter. With this in mind, watch this video on how to make data actionable and consider how reports can summarize large amounts of data and make that data actionable.

The goal of a report is to eliminate as many individual lines of information as possible and to simplify information through summary wherever you can. In general, consider the following when preparing effective reports:

- Minimize line-by-line data
- Use labels to explain the data that is shown on the report
- Use formatting to designate titles and other labels
- Incorporate white space to ensure readability
- Test with possible audience members to be sure the report makes sense to the final audience
- Focus on answering specific business questions generated by the person or people who request the report

Organizing a Report

A report can be flat, with one record per line, or you can use grouping to further organize the data. When designing a report, think about organizing your data as follows:

- Sorting to order your data by an important field (e.g., Name), when you are discussing customers or sales region
- Grouping records based on a field, such as active versus inactive products, regions that met specific targets versus those that are lagging in meeting goals, or geographical area
- Totaling groups of data, such as sales figures, to show both the detailed figures (e.g., an individual salesperson's sales figures) and the figures for the overall region

Access will allow you to quickly add and preview sorting, groups, and totals to ensure the report communicates what you need it to for the audience you are working with.

Creating and Editing Reports with the Report Wizard

WorldCorp is interested in creating a summary of their recent sales data for their latest product line. The report should include useful information such as which products have the highest total sales, which products have the highest net profit, and which customers are purchasing the most products. WorldCorp could create this report from a blank canvas, but it would be much easier to generate a report using the Report Wizard. This is a small program that will walk you through the steps of setting up a report, which you can then modify to meet your needs.

Using the Report Wizard is usually an efficient and easy way to start a report. Most reports will need some form of customization, but the Wizard will provide a good starting point and will save steps by adding fields that are bound to the database.

Creating a Report

To start a report with the Report Wizard, click on the Create menu in the ribbon and then choose the Report Wizard command from the reports section. The Wizard will walk you through each question before creating your report.

Step 1: In step 1 (Figure 13.40), you can set the table(s) and/or queries you want to work on within the report. This gives you flexibility, as you can use data from more than one table or query in your work. (Hint: Consider setting up a query for your report before starting the report. This will enable you to check the data before setting it up for display.) Once you have chosen and added tables, queries, and fields to the report (use the >> button to move fields to the selection box), click Next to move to the next screen in the Wizard.

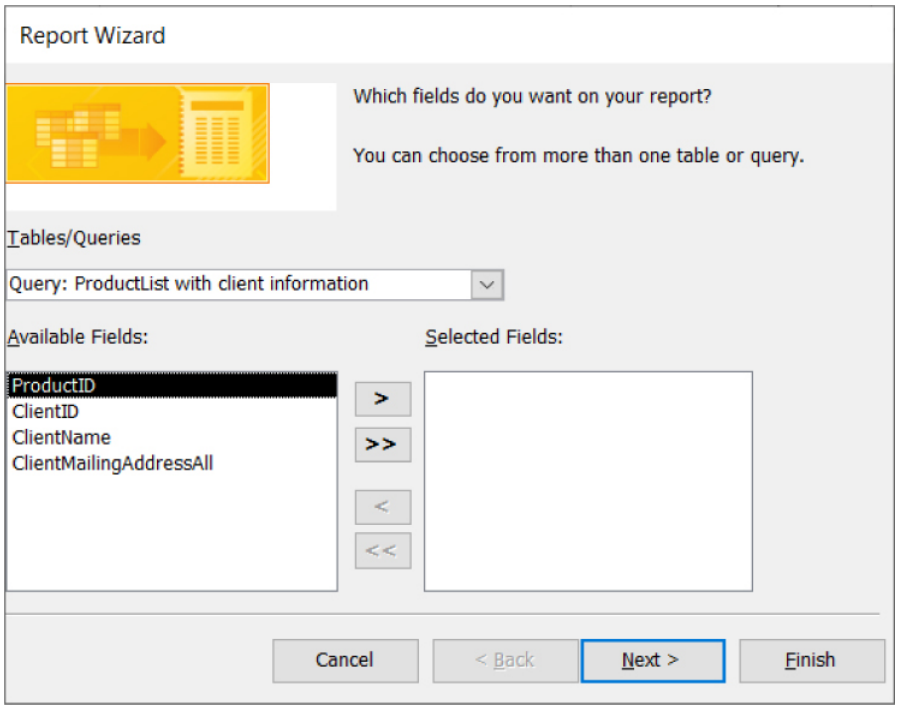


Figure 13.40: The Report Wizard allows you to select fields to include in the report. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Step 2: In step 2 (Figure 13.41), you can choose grouping for your report. (Skip this step if grouping does not make sense for your report.) A group is a heading that organizes data with something in common. For example, you might group data based on the region a customer is assigned to. When used as a group, all customers belonging to a specific region will appear together. Once you set up grouping, you can click Next to continue.

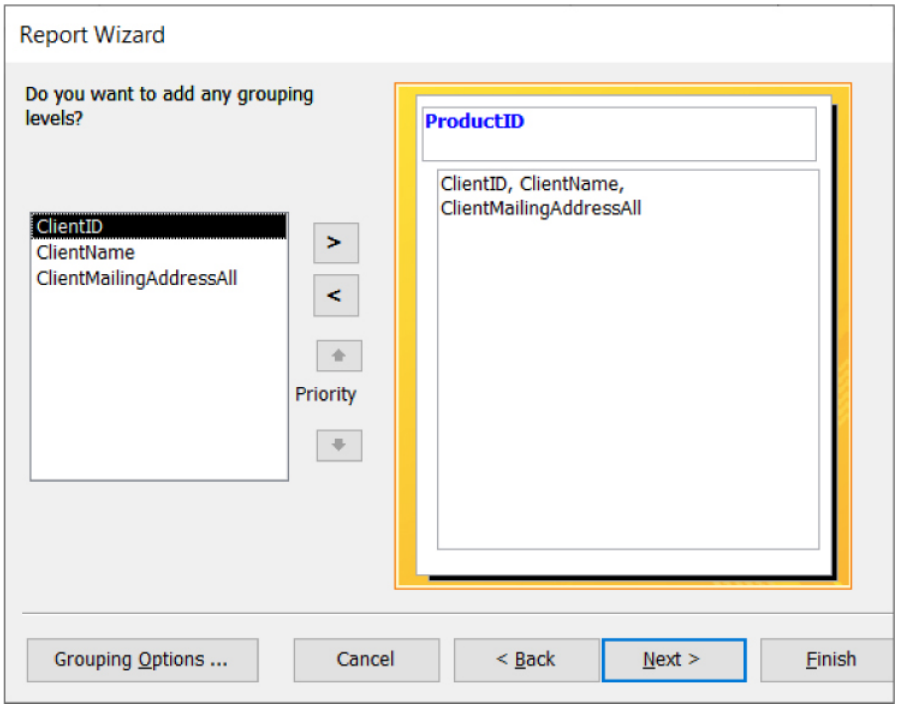


Figure 13.41: In this example, grouping by product ID has been used, creating a report that first lists each product, with the client info of every client who has purchased that product listed under the ProductID. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Step 3: Step 3 of the Report Wizard asks how you want to sort your records, as Figure 13.42 shows. Access allows you to sort by up to four fields in the designated order. For example, to create a report that fits the needs of your audience, you may want to sort a

set of records by sales region in alphabetical order and then sort further by product ID. Once you set up sorting, you can move to the next step in the Wizard.

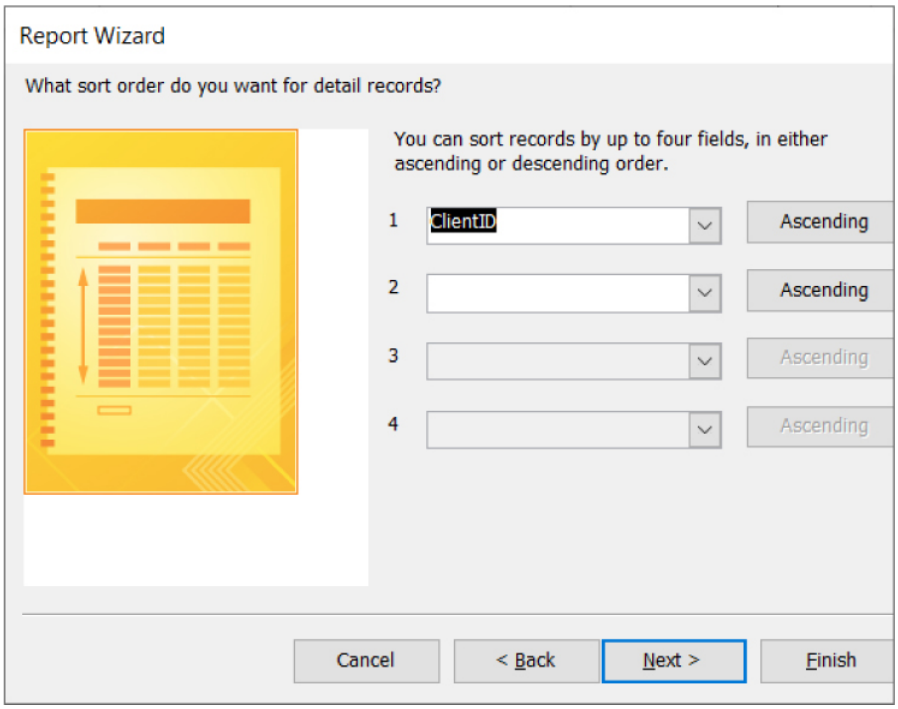


Figure 13.42: Using the ClientID field with the Report Wizard allows you to sort records in ascending order, from smallest to largest or from A to Z. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Step 4: After you have set the sort order, the Wizard will ask you to choose the layout for your report (Figure 13.43). You can also set the orientation and ask Access to adjust all fields to make sure they fit on a page.

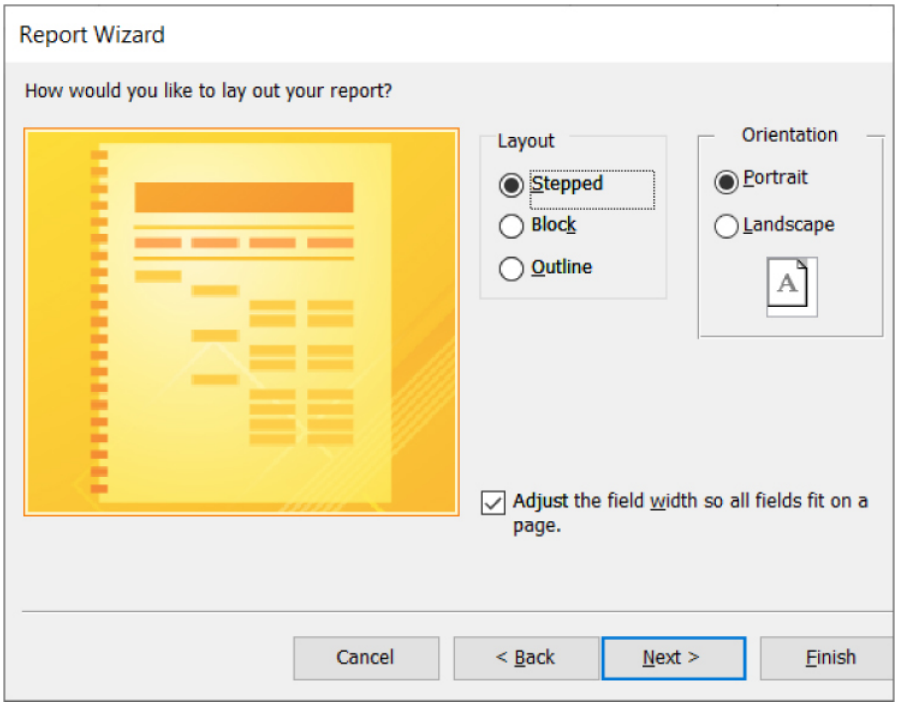


Figure 13.43: Setting the report layout in the Report Wizard allows for limited customization of the final report. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Step 5: The final step in the Wizard allows you to set a unique title for your report and then choose whether you want to provide the results or go into design to modify the report (Figure 13.44). Usually, viewing the report will be useful, as it will show you what

you want to change. When you are done, click Finish to continue the work.

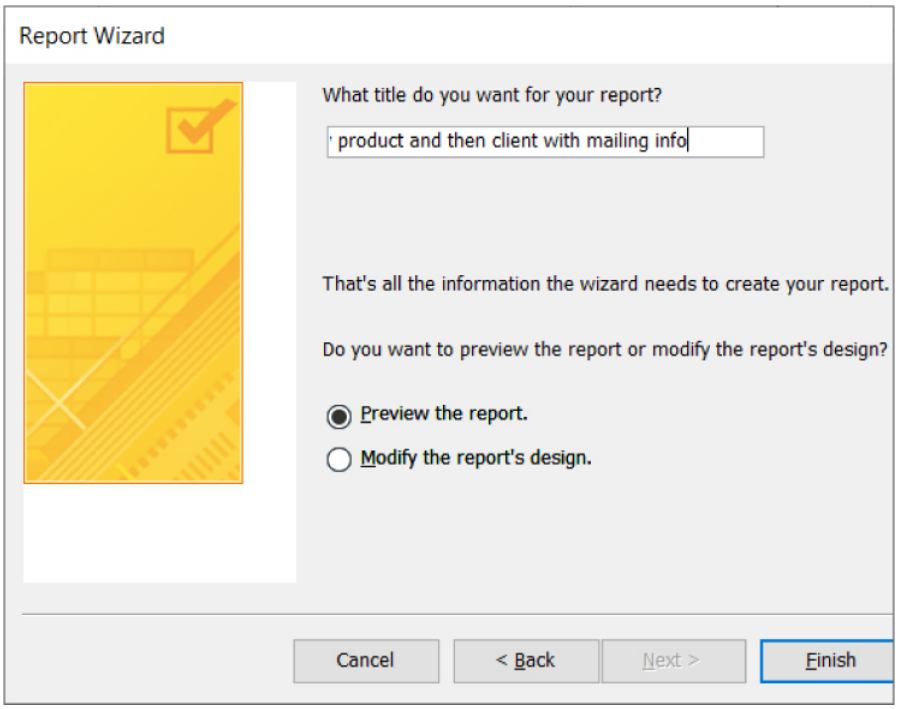


Figure 13.44: Setting a name for the report is the final step before Report Wizard generates a preliminary report. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Reviewing a Report

When you double-click on a report in the navigation area, the report will open with current data displayed. Let's look at a simple report in Figure 13.45: a listing of all product categories.

This report, named ProductCategoryList, was created quickly by clicking on Create and then Report.

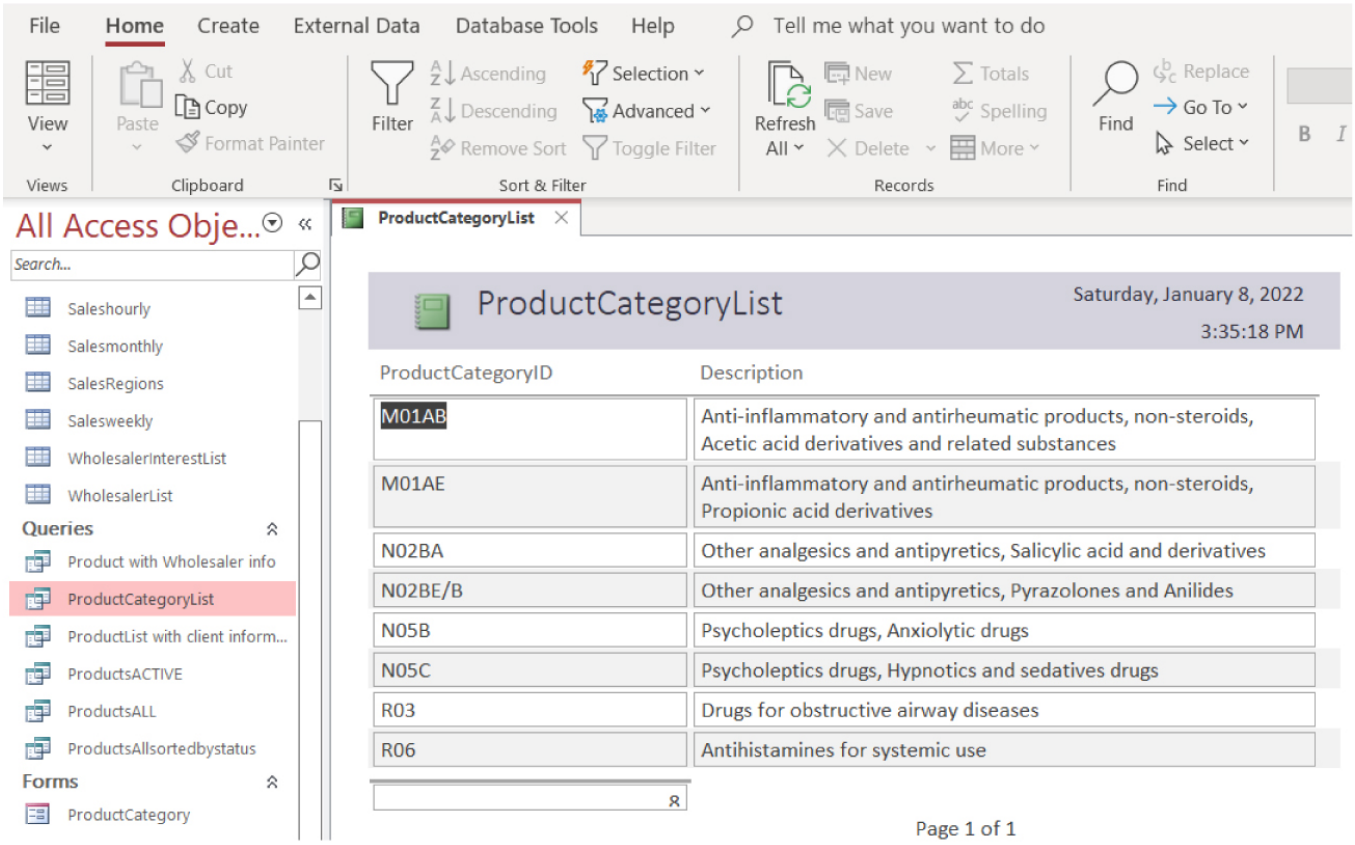


Figure 13.45: The report generated by the Report Wizard is well organized and easy to read. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The title at the top of the report shows the date the report was run, followed by two columns that list the product category ID and the description. This report is set up by Access and has not been modified. In Design View (Figure 13.46), this report appears differently, with the design and grid available for modification. This report is usable as is but taking a few minutes to customize it will make it more useful for your audience.

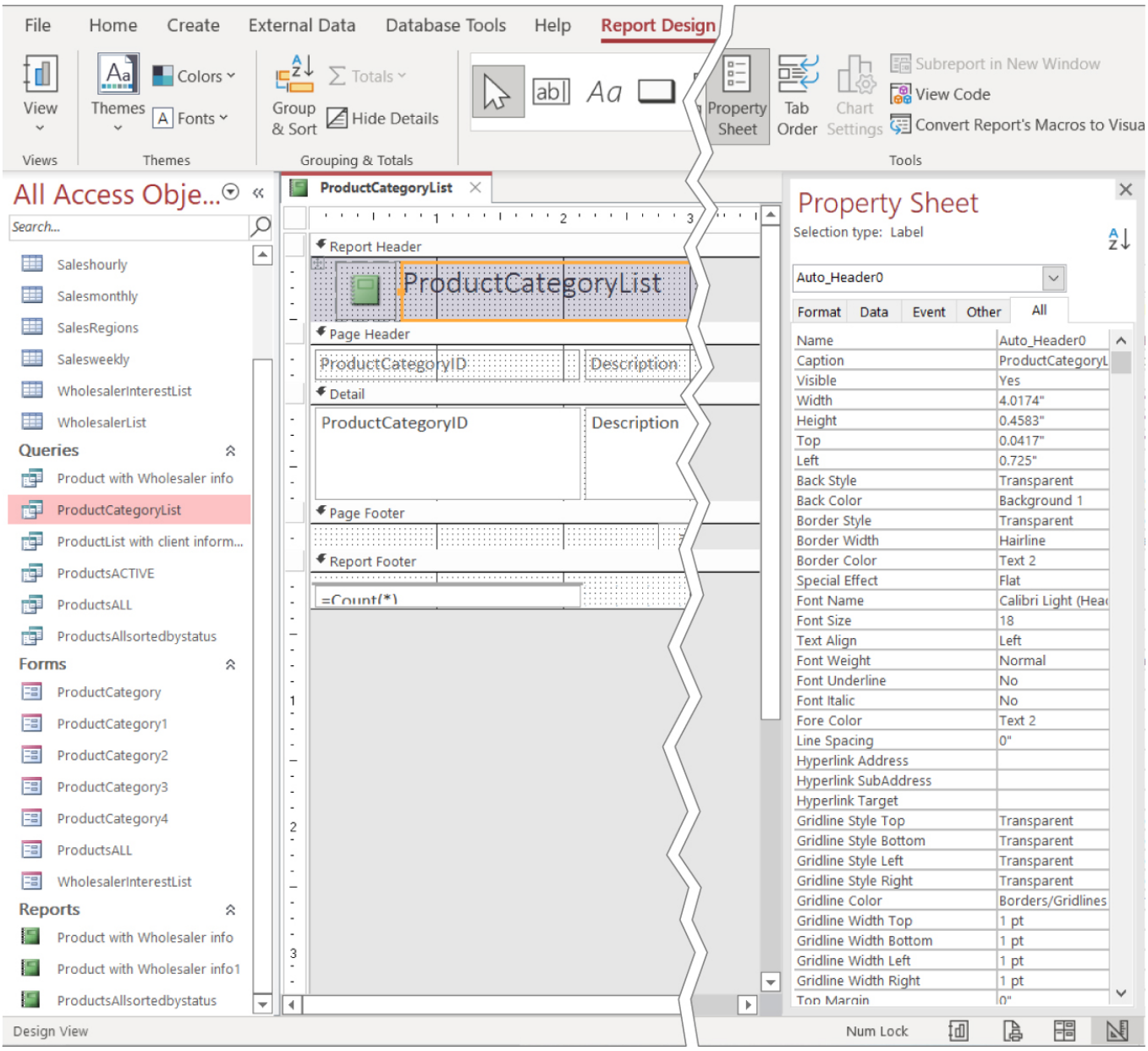


Figure 13.46: Access allows you to fully customize the layout and content of a report depending on your specific needs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In Design View, the report header appears on the first page and includes the title and dates of the report. This is followed by the page header which appears on each page and includes information useful to the report user, such as page number or report author. The report detail is the area where data from the database is displayed for each record. Each record will show the product category ID and description. The report has a page footer, which displays useful information, such as the page number, and appears on each page. The report footer shares the number of pages in the entire report. As you build reports, you will likely switch back and forth between the Report View and Design View to change elements such as spacing and formatting so that your report is useful for your audience.

Link to Learning

Personal and company data needs to be safeguarded, and reports that summarize data related to projects and goals also need to be protected. Therefore, one of the responsibilities of anyone dealing with data and reports is data security. To this end, governments have put laws and procedures in place to guide how organizations manage data and reporting. This article on data privacy laws provides an overview of some of the laws in this area.

Customizing Reports

Although Access does a nice job of starting a report, you will likely want to modify reports before using them. Following are some of the changes you may want to make:

- Changing the size of fields (e.g., shortening them)
- Formatting the text of the report (e.g., by adding boldface)
- Shifting text boxes to lay the screen out more effectively

Page Layout View

Page layout view gives you a simple way to make changes to the overall appearance of a report. Changes made to a field in page layout view will be applied to all fields of the same type (e.g., if you boldface a field, all fields of the same type will also be bold). Page layout view displays live data while you make your changes, which makes decision-making easier.

To enter Layout View, click on the View command on the Home tab while you have a report open on the screen. You can preview the report by changing to the report view. When you are finished working, save and close your report.

Design View

The Design View screen has more options for customizing your report. To switch to Design View, use the View command on the ribbon.

Design View gives you a layout grid for your form and the ability to move each label and field independently, change the formatting of the text, and even change the attributes for each element on the report.

A common change in Design View is modifying the size of the field on the screen. For example, you may find that Access cuts off some of the label or content in a field. You can modify the size of the field or label by clicking on the element and then using the selection handles on the left and right sides to stretch or shrink the element.

You can also move elements manually by clicking and dragging them or by clicking on multiple items and using the commands on the Arrange tab on the ribbon. These commands allow you to move items up or down, arrange them together, or control how the elements are arranged on the report itself.

Adding an Image or Custom Text

You may want to include a logo or even a disclaimer as an image in a report. These images can add information or (as in the example of a logo) provide identification. Images typically appear at the top or bottom of a report. Remember that if you place an image in the detail section of the report, it will repeat for every line. (This is useful when you want to have each line start with a symbol or logo.)

To add an image in Design View, click on the Form Layout Design tab and choose the image that you want to add. You can also add any image to the page by clicking Insert Image (see Figure 13.47) and then locating the image file. Again, be aware that when images are placed in the detail section of the form, they will repeat for every line. If you would like the image to appear only at the top or bottom of a page, place the image in the page header or footer.

You may want to add elements that are not strictly images but display on the report (e.g., titles, dates, and times). Note that these items will be displayed on the report but will not be stored in the database; they will change each time you open the form.

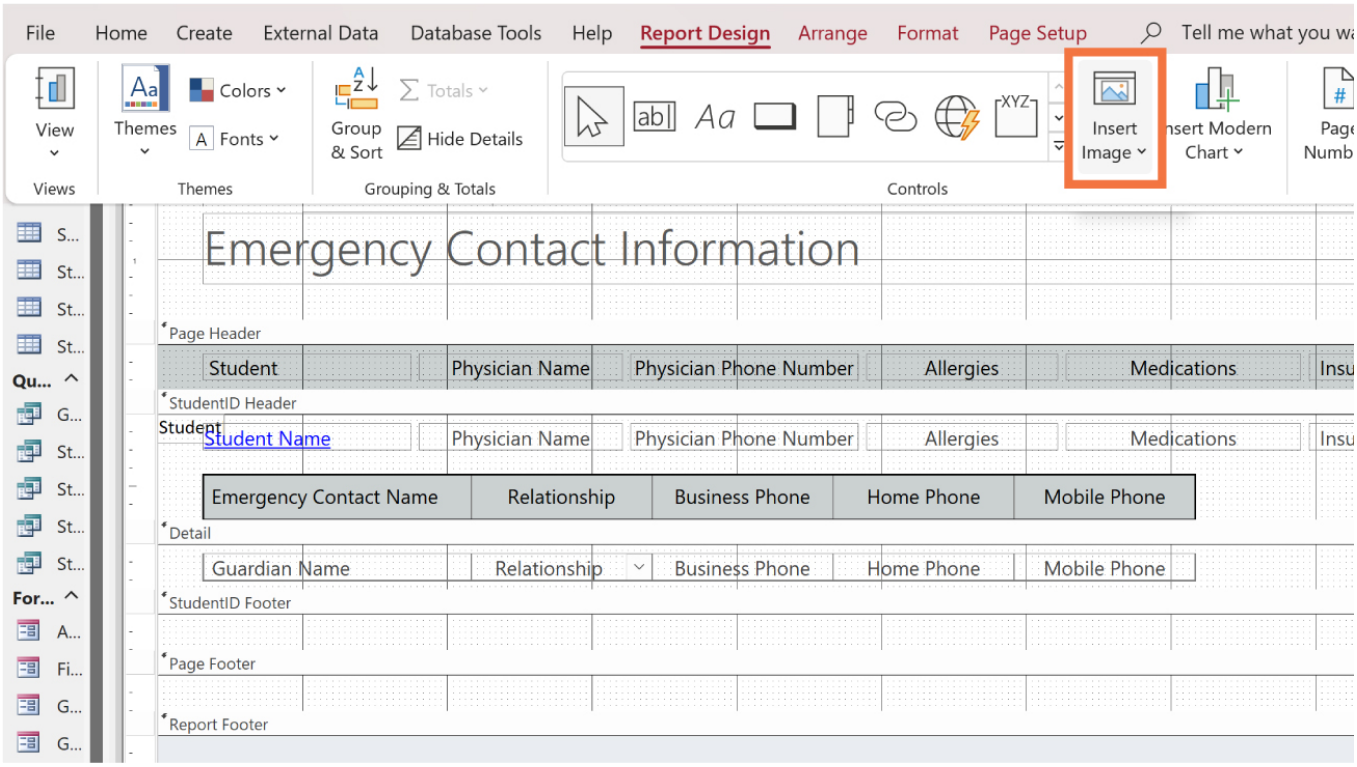


Figure 13.47: You can export selected Access objects to an Excel worksheet. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you create and modify a report, Access will prompt you to name and save it. Each time you modify an existing report and close it, Access should prompt you to save it. You can save manually by right-clicking on the name of the tab in the work area and choosing the Save command.

To close a report that is open in the work area, click on the X next to the tab name.

This page titled 13.5: Creating Reports in Microsoft Access is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.6: Creating Forms in Microsoft Access

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Understand why forms are useful
- Create and edit a form using the Form Wizard
- Customize a form by adding images and text

Relational databases are built on a structure of tables; each table is made up of columns, which hold fields, and rows, which hold the information for each field for a specific record. This is an effective structure for the organization, but as the database becomes more complex and we use joins in queries to create relationships between data across tables, we need an easier and more manageable way to work with the database. Using forms to interact with our database tables has two benefits:

- Forms provide an easy way to interact with the database.
- Forms protect the data and underlying table structure from accidental changes.

Most websites are based on databases and use forms to connect to the database. In fact, online shopping sites use a combination of forms, preset queries, and reports to create a positive user experience. Forms are the pages themselves, which allow us to search and retrieve information (e.g., a product listing) by running preset queries and returning detail in either a form or report format. When we look at a website, we do not see the underlying data tables; we see forms and the results of queries based on forms or formatted as results.

Using Forms in a Database

Forms are objects that are positioned between the data and the individual user. When individuals work with a database using forms, they do not see the table structure with thousands or hundreds of thousands of records. Instead, they see only a specific view designed to make the data accessible and useful for them. Forms are typically bound to the database, which means that the fields within the forms are the same fields as in the database, and any changes in either the form or the table are reflected in the other.

You can also create an unbound form containing buttons and commands that allow an individual to access the database but that does not display any information. An unbound form is likely to be used as an interface to the database and can create a “home page” that makes it possible for someone unfamiliar with the database to easily access and use what they need.

If you were going to build a database that was simple and used only by you, you might not need a form. Even so, a form would make it easier for you to navigate, interact with, and complete tasks. You could build a form that would let you automate tasks that you perform often, like updating inventory. For a single person accessing a database, forms make work more efficient, although they may not be critical to success.

When a database needs to be used by many people, including some who are relatively unfamiliar with the database or with database technology, forms are a critical tool. They provide both an interface to the database and a way to navigate and access data that is pleasant to use, makes sense, is designed for the specific use case, and enables anyone to use the database while ensuring data integrity and security.

The sales and marketing group at WorldCorp has asked you to set up a database that the team can use to look at sales figures for different time periods based on products. The team is not familiar with Access or with databases in general and does not want to spend time learning the technology. Instead, they want an easy-to-use interface that will allow them to search and retrieve summary data. You already have a database with all this information that is ready for use, but it was not designed for the sales and marketing team. You decide to create a form that will allow the team to add a date range and a product type, then return a summarized report showing the necessary sales.

You build a form with this function and then add text that explains the purpose of the form and how to use it. Once the form is finished, you create a dashboard for the team that allows the team to choose this specific form by clicking a labeled button. After you have built and tested the forms, you alert them to the new function. This gives them a powerful new way of looking at sales

data and retrieving the information they need, when they need it, in a format that works for them—all without needing to modify the database or its objects.

Spotlight on Ethics - Addressing Data Security Risks

Employees who work with data need to be aware of data security and able to manage security issues. Nevertheless, many employees may not be aware of the risks that their behavior poses to personal and business data. Even as we work to increase technical security, employees' irresponsible or unethical behaviors may put their own, their coworkers, and even the organization's data at risk. According to *Forbes*, risks to consider include the following:

- Social engineering vulnerabilities: The risk of employees being tricked into revealing credentials or installing malware through tactics like phishing attacks.
- Unmanaged IoT devices: The challenges posed by the increasing number of unmanaged Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which lack proper policies and controls.
- Lack of awareness: The risk associated with employees' inability to detect frauds, scams, and phishing emails, emphasizing the need for strong security awareness training.
- Data loss: The importance of adopting a data-centric approach and implementing data loss prevention measures to safeguard data and ensure compliance.
- Personal data accessibility: The need to ensure that customer data is only accessed by authorized individuals through proper security protocols.
- Managing the increasingly complex digital business environment: The difficulty in consistently following security rules in a growing and complex digital landscape.
- Insider threats: The significance of paying attention to insider threats and ensuring that employees and other individuals with access to corporate data do not misuse their privileges.
- Insecure applications: The risk associated with applications storing and transmitting sensitive data, especially through insecure application programming interfaces and third-party channels.
- Untrained end users: The vulnerabilities arising from employees who fall prey to phishing emails, download malware, or mishandle confidential data, emphasizing the importance of ongoing training.
- Consumer trust in data repositories: The impact of data breaches on consumer trust and the need for comprehensive asset audits and robust segmentation to mitigate such threats.
- Third-party risk: The importance of evaluating and securing third-party relationships to prevent data from being exposed to a wider network.
- Overestimating the ability of network defenses to ensure data security: The need to protect data within applications through encryption, authentication, and secure key management, rather than relying solely on network defenses.
- Misconfigured cloud servers: The risks associated with misconfigured servers in cloud environments and the need for automated security solutions to identify and remediate misconfigurations.
- Lack of data access oversight: The risk posed by granting employees and contractors excessive data access privileges, necessitating continuous data classification and auditing efforts.

Addressing these risks is crucial for businesses to protect their data, minimize potential financial losses, and maintain customer trust and confidence.

Types of Forms

As mentioned, you might decide to create a form as a user interface or a form that accesses and displays information. A form that acts as an interface is likely to be unbound (meaning it is not connected to any specific table or database query) and to include a combination of text, images, and command buttons that access certain objects in the database. These forms can also include search fields if that function is valuable to your audience.

In a bound form, the fields are linked directly to objects in the database. We use bound forms when we want to access data in tables or through queries. Remember, any modification to a field value in a form also updates the underlying data in the table.

Here are some common forms that you can create in Access:

- Simple form: a form that displays and allows editing of a single record at a time.
- Split form: a form that has two functions; for example, it might display a single record as well as a view of the datasheet in which the record is held. A split form is useful when you need to see the larger set of data but work with only one record at a time.
- Multiple-item form: a form that displays information about more than one record or item at a time. It appears like a datasheet but allows you to add commands, format text, and add other controls.
- Navigation form: a form that allows you to add formatting, text, and commands to act as an interface, or navigation area, for your database. (These are typically unbounded forms.)

Tips for Effective Forms

Creating useful and effective forms requires a clear understanding of the data you have, the audience that will use the form, and the use case for the data. Good forms are more than just boxes on a screen; they demonstrate an awareness of how people will interact with the data and use it on a daily basis. A good form should anticipate user expectations and adapt to meet them. For example, using white spaces to separate information into useful blocks can make it easier for the reader to quickly navigate the form. In addition, you can use the form to control what users can enter into fields. Customers should not be able to enter in numbers as their name for example. To ensure data integrity, you should consider restrictions on what can be entered into forms. If you are using free-form fields, those filling out the form could really put in anything they want, resulting in unusable data for your organization.

Here are some tips for creating effective forms:

- Label your fields (to the left or above the point where data will be entered or viewed).
- Do not use spacing in field names.
- Stack your fields on top of one another to increase readability.
- Mark required fields with an asterisk (*).
- When there are more than five or six choices, use a drop-down menu.
- Break forms into steps if you have many fields to fill in.
- Adjust field size based on the length of the answer.
- Keep related areas on the form together (e.g., all name fields should be together).
- Offer ways for people to get help (including instructions, email addresses, and phone numbers).
- Keep the form as brief as possible; make sure the size fits the use of the form.
- Use white space (blank space) on your form to help your users understand and work with the form comfortably.
- Test your form with different people in the target workgroup and on different technology when possible.
- Do test prints with PDF files to see if records will be visually attractive if saved.

Creating and Editing Forms with the Form Wizard

You have several options for creating forms in Access. You can use the Form Wizard, which walks you through the steps to set up a simple form. Alternatively, you can use a preset form, or you can work entirely in Design View, where you have complete control over your layout and contents. Each method has its benefits, and many people use a variety of techniques (e.g., starting with the Wizard or another type of form, then customizing your form in Layout or Design View).

The Form Wizard gives you a quick way to create a form that you can later modify as needed. Like other Microsoft Office Wizards, the Form Wizard asks you a series of questions and uses your responses to format the desired object.

Creating a Form

To start the Wizard, click on the Create tab. Then, in the Forms group, click on Form Wizard. Once the Wizard opens, walk through each screen, making choices at each step to design and complete your form.

Step 1: Choose the table(s) and fields you want to appear on the form. Move fields to the form by clicking on the >> button. Note: To use fields from more than one table, switch tables while on this screen and move the appropriate fields to the right using the >> button (see Figure 13.48).

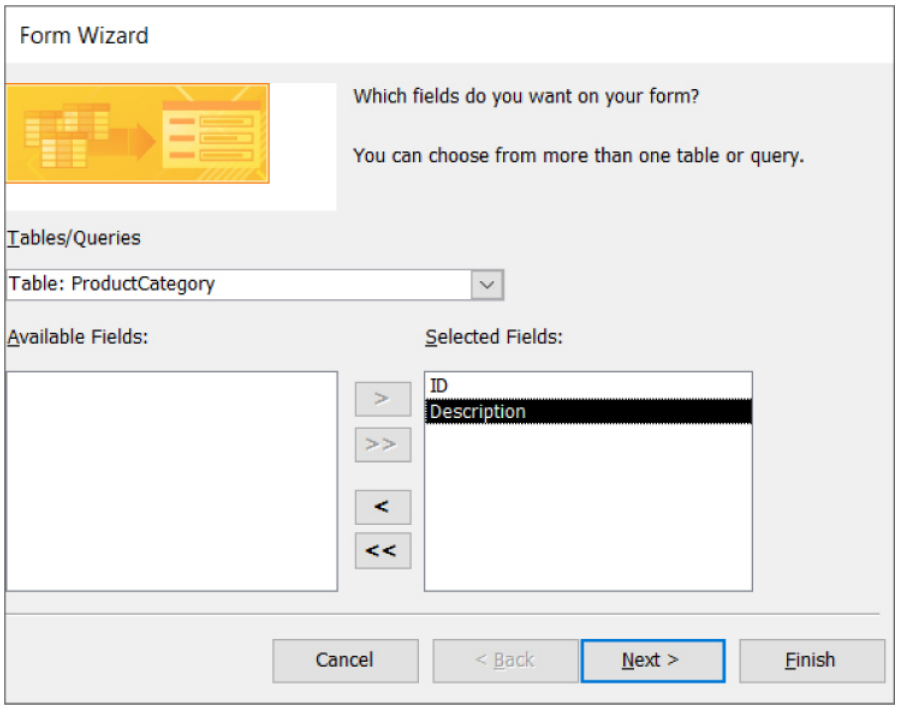


Figure 13.48: Using the Form Wizard, you can select fields to include in your form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Step 2: Choose the layout you want for the form and click Next:

- Columnar layout shows a single record set up on the screen.
- Tabular layout creates a listing of all records in columns, similar to a datasheet (but formatted differently).
- Datasheet layout gives you a list of records as they would appear in a datasheet.
- Justified layout creates a record-by-record form, arranged across the screen.

Once the form is built, you can modify it to ensure it looks the way you feel is best for your data and audience (see Figure 13.49).

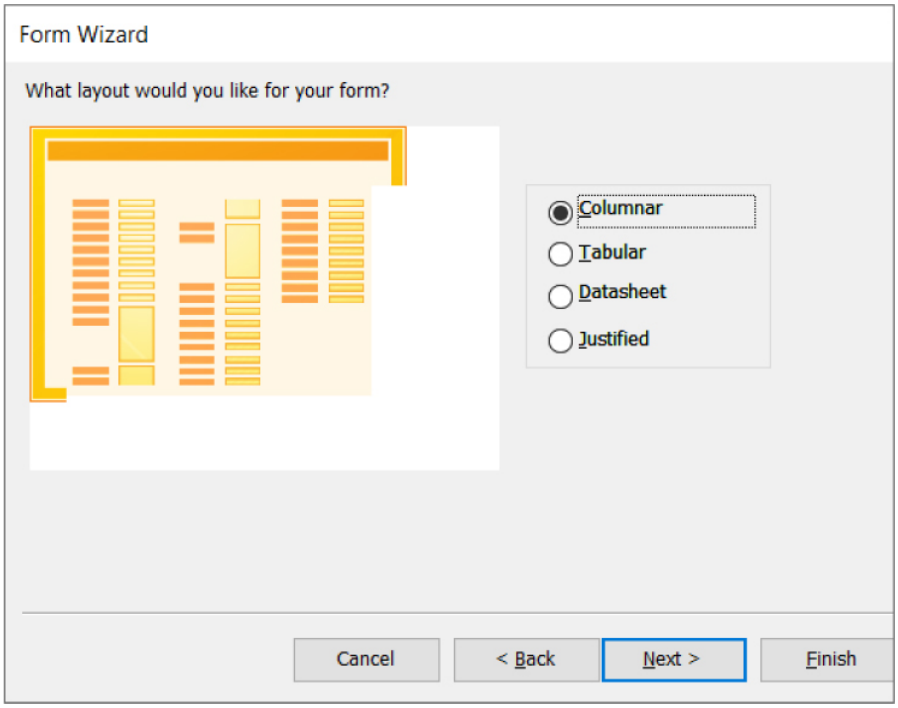


Figure 13.49: You can modify the layout of a form using the Form Wizard. Some data will lend itself to one format over another. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Step 3: Enter a unique name for the form and choose whether you want to see the form in design or view mode. Click Finish to create the form.

Forms can also be built from any table or query or a combination of both. One way to streamline setting up a form is to set up a specific query with the fields you want to be displayed on the form. Once the query is ready, you can do the following:

1. Click on the table or query from which you want to build the form.
2. Click on the Create menu, then click the Form command. Access will create a form and open it in Layout View for review and modification.

Using the More Forms Command

If a simple form does not provide what you need for your database, consider using the More Forms command on the Create menu. This command offers four form types, built directly on the table or query you click on in the navigation pane.

To use the More Forms command:

1. Click on the table or query on which you want to base your form in the All Access Objects navigation area.
2. Click on the Create menu and then the More Forms command under the Forms section.
3. Choose the type of form you want to work with. Access will immediately create the form, which you can then modify to suit your needs (see Figure 13.50).

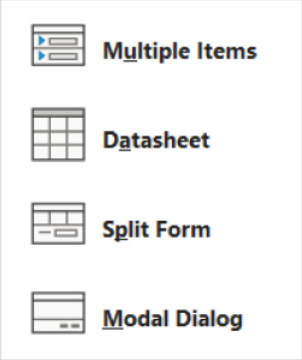


Figure 13.50: You can select the type of form you wish to create using the More Forms command. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Reviewing a Form

Regardless of the method you use, once your form is created you can view it either in view mode (which shows how your audience will view the form) or in Layout View or Design View, which allows you to modify the form (see Figure 13.51). To change your view, click on the Home tab and then on the View command. Under the View command, choose one of the following:

- Form View: to see how the audience will view the form
- Layout View: to modify the layout and formatting of the form
- Design View: to modify any and all attributes of the form

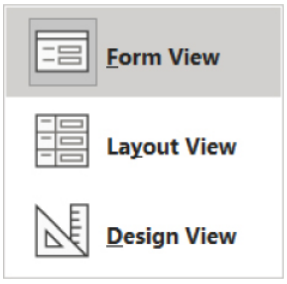


Figure 13.51: As with viewing reports, there are three different options for viewing a form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The forms that Access builds can be used as is, but you will often want to add to a form or slightly adjust its formatting. You can do this in two views: in Layout View, which allows you to change the overall layout and formatting, and in Design View, which allows

you to change any attributes in the form.

When you edit a form in either Layout View or Design View, you will have the ability to work with fields and controls. Fields are columns within the database where data is stored. You can add and remove fields from your form to ensure that you display the data you need to your audience when they work with the form. Fields in the form reference field values in the database and display information from the database. When you are in Layout View, you can see this as you work; in Design View, you will see the design elements but not values.

You can also add controls to a form. Controls are items that are part of your form and can enhance its usability. Bound controls are connected (or bound) to a specific field, table, or query in your database. Unbound controls are not tied to the database but exist only in your form, where they run a specific command or action or display specific information.

Some common controls in Access include text boxes (see Figure 13.52), labels, buttons, and links. Each of these controls adds functionality to your form. You can add a command to open a form in Design View by clicking on the specific command in the Controls group on the Form Design tab in the ribbon.

Depending on the control you add, you may need to work with the Control Wizard, complete a screen, adjust properties, or complete the control on screen. When you begin working with forms in Access, you may work with the Control Wizard and then preview the form in the View menu to see how the control works in practice.

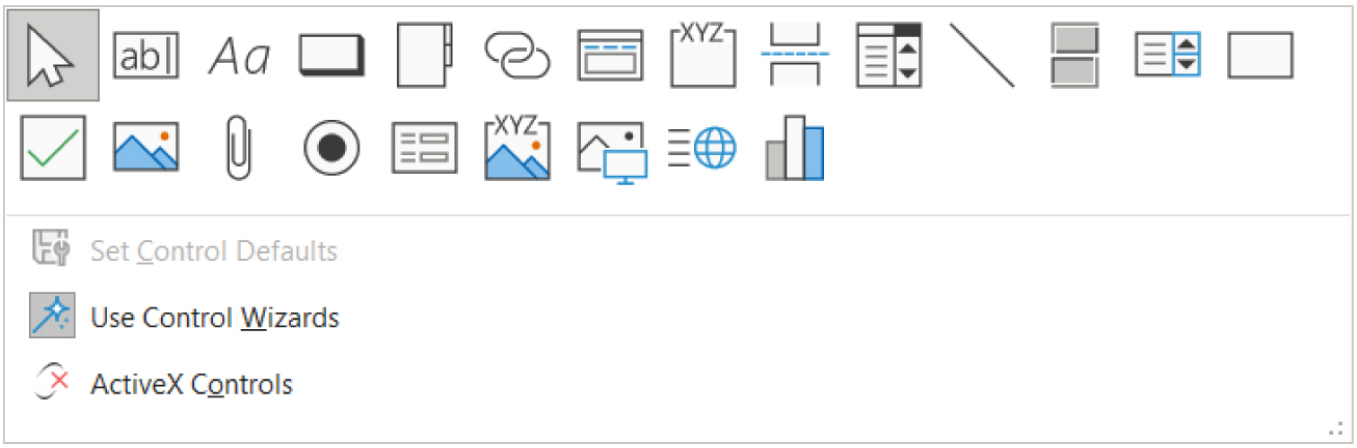


Figure 13.52: Adding controls to a form can be easily done with the Control Wizard. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Note that in Access, a text box is typically linked to a field in a database. To add static text to a form, you should instead use a label. Labels do not change on the form based on the data within the database, unlike text boxes.

Customizing Forms

In both the Layout View and the Design View, you can customize elements of the forms to meet your needed. This goes beyond simply adding, reordering, or removing fields from your form. You can change the size of the field and the caption that the users see for that field. In the Design View, you can change the size of the fields by simply clicking on the field box and resizing the box. To change the caption for the field, double-click on the text in the field, and the Property Sheet screen will appear on the right side of the screen. Conversely, you can simply click on the Property Sheet tool in the Tools command group on the Form Design tab to change the captions. Through the Property Sheet tool, you can also adjust items such as the font, color, background color, and border of the fields in the form. You can adjust these settings for each field independently. This means that one field could have different settings than another field. More is covered about the Property Sheet options in the following section.

You might want to add header or footer information to your form. Typical information contained in a form header would be specific company details such as the company logo, address, and contact information. WorldCorp has standard header information that should be included on all files as was covered in previous chapters. This information is customized on the form through the Form Design tab and the Header/Footer command group. You can have text, images, and the date and time added to the header. This information can also be added in the same manner to the header. To adjust the text, simply click on the existing text in the header or footer and replace with the text you want to include. Note that Access will give a header to the form based on the name of the table used to create the form. You will likely want to replace this header with something more descriptive. For example, if you are

creating a form based on a table called “Sales Data,” the form header will be “Sales Data” as well. You could replace that with something like “Sales Data for Region 3, 2023.”

In summary, customizing forms in Access is similar to customizing reports, which we covered earlier in this chapter. You can generally customize just about every aspect of the form from the font, to colors, to adding images, and other related aspects.

Layout View

The Layout View screen gives you a good look at your form, with real data showing on the screen. This enables you to modify the screen’s visual appearance, including the size and placement of controls. Not all tasks are available in Layout View; depending on your goal, you may find that you need to change to Design View.

To modify a form in Layout View, start by opening the form in Layout View. Then, proceed as follows:

1. To add a field, click on the Format tab in the Controls group; then click Add existing fields and drag the field to the form.
2. To move a control, click on any instance of the control and drag it to a new location. (Note: You will have limited options for moving a control.)
3. To resize a control, click on the control, select its border, and click and drag until it is sized properly.
4. To add an image to the page, click on the Insert Image command on the Controls group and choose the file. Once the image is on the form, you can move and resize it.

These are only a few of the options available to you in Layout View; to see more options for customizing your form, hover over the command on the ribbon and read the description. Remember, what you see on screen in Layout View reflects the final form, making it easier to set up a form that meets your needs and has the appearance you feel works best for your data and your audience.

Design View

If you find that you need to make changes to a complex form, you will likely want to switch from Layout View to Design View. The Design View screen gives you complete control over the appearance of the form but is more complex to use. You may want to use Design View for tasks such as moving elements and controls, adding images, adding simple controls, and changing form properties.

In Design View, you will see tabs that control how you lay out the form. You may also see floating menus and boxes that appear depending on the items you click on:

- The Design tab contains commands that control the overall design scheme (colors and fonts), controls you can add to the form, and commands that allow you to insert items and change properties of items on the form.
- The Arrange tab contains commands that allow you to line up items; insert, move, and arrange items; and manage the layout of items on the page. (Note: This tab may not be available unless you select more than one item, such as an image or a control.)
- The Format tab contains commands that let you format the text on the form and add background images and formatting.

To move items manually, click and drag them or click on multiple items and use the commands on the Arrange tab on the ribbon. To move a single item (control, image, text), click and drag the item. To move more than one item, hold down Control, click on each item, and then move all of them at once.

Adding an Image

It can be beneficial to add an image, such as a logo, to a form for customization. You may also create a text explanation or block of text in a graphics program and then insert it into the database as an image.

To add an image in Design View, click on the Form Design tab and choose the image that you would like to add. You can add any image to the page by clicking on Insert Image and locating the file (be aware that if you insert an image in the detail section of the form, it will repeat in each row). To add a logo, click on Logo in the Header/Footer group and the image will appear at the top of your form, in the header.

In addition to images, you can also add a title or date and time in the header/footer section of the form. These items will be displayed for your users but will not be stored as data in the database.

Changing Form Properties

Properties describe how a form control or field acts in a form. Form controls determine how the form works. There is a long list of properties that you can control; initially, you will likely only change basic properties such as the width of a screen or the addition of scroll bars (see Figure 13.53).

To change a form property:

1. In the open form, click on the command Property Sheet (Form Design, Tools group). The property sheet will open.
2. In the property sheet, verify that Form shows as the selection type.
3. Modify the properties you would like to change, and click on the category of property you would like to work with (e.g., you might want to format items on the form).

Here are a few examples:

- To add a caption to the form, click on the Format tab within the property sheet and add caption text.
- To change the default view, click on the default view and switch the type of form.
- To control the width of the form, set the width in the width row.

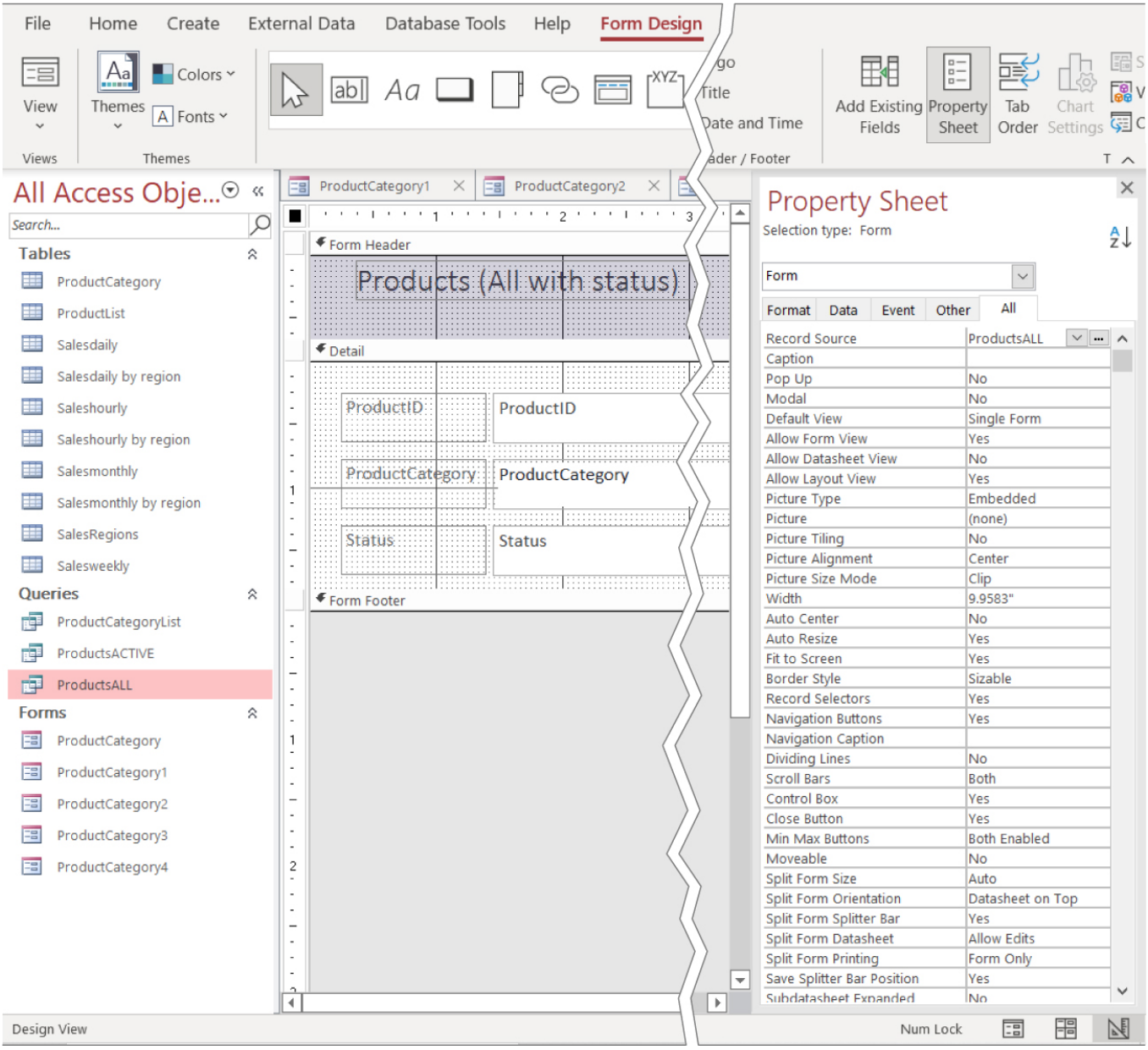


Figure 13.53: Each form contains a number of properties that can be edited and customized depending on the purpose of the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you create a form or modify an existing form, Access will prompt you to name and save it. You can save manually by right-clicking on the name of the tab in the work area and choosing the Save command. To close a form that is open in the work area, click on the X next to the tab name.

This page titled 13.6: Creating Forms in Microsoft Access is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

analytical database
a database used by an organization for analytics and decision-making

columnar layout
a form layout that shows a single record

criteria
expressions that a database management system uses to limit the results of a query based on matching field values

dark data
data that is typically not used for analysis and therefore may or may not be valuable to an organization

data lake
a place to store data that keeps raw copies of the original documents

data landscape
the entirety of data storage and sharing in an organization

data mart
a subset of a data warehouse, optimized for specific workgroups or functions

data warehouse
a large store of data within an organization, often holding historical information and used for decision-making

database
a structured set of data stored in a way that allows us to make use of it

datasheet layout
a form layout that lists all records as they would appear in a datasheet

Datasheet View
view that shows the result of a query in table form

Design View
view that shows a query in the form of a QBE (query by example) grid

development database
a database used for experimental testing so that problems can be found and resolved before being pushed to the production database

digital database
a computerized file that stores data in a structured or organized way and also allows users to make changes to transform data

digital platform
a place where users can interact with and explore the products and services offered by a company

flat files
individual digital files that have a tabular structure, such as spreadsheets, tables, and lists

group

heading that organizes data items that have something in common

join
a clause used to create a relationship or connection between two records in a table

justified layout
a layout showing a record-by-record form, arranged across the screen

key field
a field in a table that serves as a unique identifier for an individual record in a table

multiple-item form
a form that displays information about more than one record or item at a time

navigation form
a form that allows you to add formatting, text, and commands to act as an interface, or navigation area, for your database

NoSQL database
database that stores large amounts of data, including documents and images, in their original format, not in tables

object
an item in a relational database

page footer
the bottom section of a document page, which typically repeats across pages and contains information useful to the report reader

page header
the top section of a document page, which typically repeats across pages and contains information useful to the report reader

predefined queries
queries used to answer frequently asked questions that meet specific organizational needs

production database
a database that runs transactions related to an organization’s core business functions

query
a structured data request

record navigation buttons
options that open whenever records are shown, enabling users to execute commands in a database

relational database
a database whose design and structure enable it to communicate with other systems that hold data

relational database management system (RDBMS)
computer software that provides the functions for a relational database

relationship
the association between two or more tables based on common fields or columns. It represents the way data is related and connected across different tables within the database

report
formatted summary of specific information in a database

report detail
the area where data from the Access database is displayed for each record

report footer
the bottom section of a report that does not typically repeat across pages and contains the name and dates of the report

report header
the bottom section of a report that does not typically repeat across pages and contains the number of pages in the entire report

simple form
a form that displays and allows editing of a single record at a time

single point of truth (SPOT)
the idea that there is one place storing information that all business units agree is factual

split form
a form that has two functions; for example, it might display a single record as well as a view of the datasheet in which the record is held

SQL View
a view that shows a query in structured query language form

structured query language (SQL)
language used to create and run queries in many relational databases

table
the structure that holds individual data records in a database

tabular layout
a form layout that shows all records listed in columns, similar to a datasheet

---

This page titled 13.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.8: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

13.1 What Is a Database?

- Databases are storage areas for data, small bits of information that are collected all around us. Organizations typically have production systems, which run and store the transactions necessary for the organization itself, and analytical systems, which store historical data that can be analyzed and used for business intelligence.
- Databases consist of objects, including tables, queries, forms, and reports. These objects can be used for data manipulation and for applications within a business.

13.2 Microsoft Access: Main Features and Navigation

- Access is a relational database management system that can work with other systems.
- Access contains typical database objects such as tables, queries, forms, and reports.
- Closing and saving your work in Access is an important process, as only one database can be open at a time.

13.3 Querying a Database

- Queries can return data from one or more tables and can sort, limit, or calculate values from tables. SQL is a universal language used for queries; however, it is not necessary in Access.
- Access queries can be set up using either the Query Wizard or the QBE grid.
- Joins, representing relationships between fields across tables, can be created, changed, or removed.

13.4 Maintaining Records in a Database

- Microsoft Access can be used to locate and review records.
- You will likely add records to a database by importing from other data sources.
- It is possible to edit or delete records in a database, but these functions are less common.

13.5 Creating Reports in Microsoft Access

- Reports compile and summarize data in actionable, useful formats that can be used for business decision-making. Reports update with current information each time we open them and can be modified to show only the information most useful to a reader.
- We can use the Report Wizard to create new reports that we can later customize.
- Reports can be customized to include images and custom text, like logos.

13.6 Creating Forms in Microsoft Access

- Forms provide an easy-to-use interface with a database. Most websites use forms for inputting, requesting, and accessing information.
- Forms can be created and edited using the Form Wizard.
- Forms can be customized in either Layout View or Design View.

This page titled 13.8: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
Data must be _____ to be useful for digital transformation.

a. unorganized
b. inaccessible
c. actionable
d. live

2 .
The most common type of database used to power transactional systems is _____.

a. NoSQL
b. RDBMS
c. SQL
d. analytical database

3 .
_____ link objects together.

a. Relationships
b. Flat files
c. Joins
d. Queries

4 .
Which database system should be used for testing and experimentation?

a. production database
b. development database
c. transactional database
d. relational database

5 .
Which object in Access stores data for use?

a. report
b. query
c. table
d. form

6 .
When would you use Access instead of Excel?

a. to store data in multiple tables
b. to perform complex numerical analysis
c. to create visualizations
d. to create a pivot table

7 .
How many databases can be open in Access at one time?

a. one
b. two
c. three
d. four

8 .
Queries are used in databases to _____.

a. access and prepare records

b. raise questions in business discussions
c. manage simple datasets
d. write questions for presentations

9 .
In a(n) _____ join, the common fields and data between the two tables are looked at and only displays the matches.

a. QBE
b. outer
c. foreign key field
d. inner

10 .
The parts of an Access query include _____.

a. field names and criteria only
b. table names, field names, and other detail
c. table names, field names, and sort order
d. criteria and sort questions only

11 .
When would you navigate through a database using the navigation buttons on the datasheet?

a. when you have many records to look at
b. when you want to see thousands of records at a glance
c. when you do not want to take the time to create a query
d. when you are looking at a small set of records (e.g., from a query)

12 .
Which statement best explains the process of manually adding a record to a database?

a. You never add a record manually to a database because this is not a function in Access.
b. You are unlikely to add a record manually but can do so when necessary.
c. You are likely to add records to ensure that the database matches the production database.
d. You will scan records but will not manually input them to update the production database.

13 .
What is the keyboard shortcut to save a record manually?

a. Ctrl+Enter
b. Shift+Enter
c. Ctrl+S
d. There is no shortcut, you have to use the Home tab.

14 .
Why should you use reports when working with a database?

a. because data is confusing
b. because data is ugly
c. because reports are attractive
d. because reports provide data in a more usable form

15 .
If you want an image to show up at the top of each page of the report, where do you put it?

a. detail section
b. in the page header
c. in the footer
d. in the report header

16 .
Reports in Access are best used to summarize what type of information?

a. record detail

b. header code
c. total code
d. summary header

17 .
Which tab may not be available unless you select multiple items in the form?

a. Form Design
b. Format
c. Arrange
d. Create

18 .
What tool provides an efficient way to create a form?

a. Form Wizard
b. Form Code
c. Form Grid
d. Form SQL

19 .
Forms can be created based on _____.

a. reports or other forms
b. tables or queries
c. tables or reports
d. queries or other forms

This page titled 13.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

20 .
In a browser, navigate to Kaggle Datasets and find a dataset that catches your eye. Make sure that the dataset you select is relatively small (<50 MB), and click Download. Open the data file in Excel or a text editor like Notepad. Note the kind of data included in your data file and how it is structured. What kind of data does your file include? How does your file organize individual items of data? What kind of company or organization might this data be useful for?
21 .
Imagine that you are setting up a database to support a company's human resources function. Explain the benefits of using Access to a leadership team that is considering what software your department will need.
22 .
The foundation of a digital organization is its data platform. Choose a business that provides products or services and consider the organization's data landscape and what types of databases are likely in use. Use evidence from the company's website and marketing materials to support your prediction.
23 .

Build a simple database and create a query that joins information. You are currently working with information about the sales and marketing team. You want to keep track of the team members and the regions they work with. Set up a database with the following tables (remember, you would separate this data into at least two tables to make the database more efficient and easy to work with):

Table:TeamMember
TMID
TMFirstName
TMLastName
TMPhone
TMEmail
Table:SalesRegion
SalesRegionName
SalesRegionNotes
Table:SalesRecord
TMID
SalesRegion

Once you have set up the tables, create a query that returns the team member's first and last names and the sales region they are assigned to. Add any fields you think are necessary to create a list of team members' names with their region. You may want to try sorting to improve the query output.

24 .
Imagine that you are conducting a human resources analysis. You have a table containing all the names and personal information for a team of employees. You have another table that contains the learning records for all training and certifications that individuals have completed. Both tables have a field called EMPLID, which stores the employee ID. Design a query that returns the EMPLID, employee name, location, and all training or learning activities they have completed. After you design the query, write it in SQL. (Use Microsoft's Access SQL support page for assistance with the code.)
Table: EMPLInfo
EmplID
EmplFirstName
EmplLastName
EmplAddress
EmplCity
EmplState
EmplZip
Table: EMPLLearning
EmplID
TrainingName
TrainingDate
25 .

Importing records is an important function when working with a database like Access. Complete the following steps to create a database from scratch:

1. Create a blank database using Access and then import the colors.csv file from the LEGO Database found on Kaggle.
2. Then use your navigation buttons to do the following:
    a. Add a record with the values:
    ID: 2000
    Name: Vivid burgundy
    RGBN: 990033
    is_trans: f
    b. Modify the record to say “dragon-scale burgundy.”
    c. Delete the record.
    d. Undo the change.

26 .
LEGO has decided to stop offering the following colors: Sand Purple, Dark Green, Light Salmon, Metallic Gold, and Lavender. They have tasked you with removing these colors from their database. Using your database with the imported colors.csv file from the LEGO Database on Kaggle, locate and delete all records for the colors listed.
27 .
WorldCorp leadership would like a visually attractive list of all employees that can be used in a publication. They would like the WorldCorp logo to appear on the file and would like to display each employee’s first and last name, alphabetized by last name. Please create a report that meets these criteria using the Human Resources Data Set from the Kaggle website.
28 .

The WorldCorp Human Resources Department has asked you to create reports to support the following inquiries using the Human Resources Data Set from the Kaggle website. Before creating the reports, look at the type of data available and decide what data needs to be included or omitted. Which fields should be considered to answer these inquiries?

- Which employees have high performance scores? Low performance scores?
- Which departments are currently the most diverse?
- How has the company acquired its most diverse employees to date?
- Is pay equitable across all divisions and positions in the company?

29 .
Imagine that you are the human resources manager for the Northeast WorldCorp region. You have a dataset of employees from the region, and you would like to be able to look through employee records to identify employees who may be unhappy in their position so you can offer support and intervention. Using the Human Resources Data Set from Kaggle, import the data and create a form that will allow you to navigate between employee records to look at employee performance, satisfaction, and other data you think would be useful in determining whom you can assist.
30 .
Using the Human Resources Data Set from Kaggle (or the database you built in Exercise 1), create forms that support the following business functions:

- Evaluating employee performance (including attendance and lateness)
- Understanding employee roles (including position, department, location)
- Reviewing employee hiring information (including recruitment and position)

31 .
The internet runs on forms. Most of the websites you interact with are based on databases using forms for what you see. Look at a website you use frequently and identify which screens are likely forms that show you data from the underlying website database. Using the form you have identified, determine what the table(s) under it likely hold. Draw the table and explain your rationale, including a screen capture of the form you based your work on.

This page titled 13.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

32 .
A business sells its products online through its website. What type of database powers the website?
33 .
A business needs to analyze its sales figures for the past two years. What type of system holds the historical data that could be used in analytics?
34 .
Why is it advantageous for a database to be able to model real-world relationships in data, such as the relationship between a customer and their purchase history?
35 .
Describe the similarities between Access and Excel.
36 .
Describe the main features of Access.
37 .
Why would you use Access in a business environment?
38 .
How does the query grid (as opposed to using the Query Wizard) help you build and edit queries?
39 .
What is a query, and how can queries help a user understand their data?
40 .
How are relationships used in queries?
41 .
Why is it important to have the ability to add new records to an imported dataset?
42 .
Why should an Access user pay attention to the data entry symbols when changing records in a dataset?
43 .
Give an example of a case in which it may be more efficient to use the Datasheet View of a table instead of using queries to examine records.
44 .
Why is it important to review and customize reports even after Access automatically generates them?
45 .
When might it be more appropriate to use Layout View rather than Design View in creating a new form?

This page titled 13.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

13.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

46 .

Like many digital service companies today, Spotify, a music streaming platform, routinely tracks user consumption of content on its app and website. Spotify can use this data to spot music trends, improve recommendations, and drive consumer engagement with its product. Using the Top Hits Spotify from 2000–2019 dataset from Kaggle, import the data for top song hits into Access. Design some simple queries that will allow you to examine the data more closely in this database. Do you see any patterns from your cursory review? For example, are there specific genres that tend to have higher popularity, or are there some artists that have multiple top hits? How might more advanced analysis of a database like this be useful for a company like Spotify?

47 .

One use for forms in Access is to create an interface that makes it easier for casual users to interact with and find information from your database. Serving a similar function is Google Trends which is an interface that enables Google users to explore data that the company has collected based on its database of historical search trends. Try searching for a specific term, such as “World Cup,” and look over the results. Note that the results are conveniently displayed in several graphical images, such as search term interest over time. You can also download a CSV file containing the data that is presented to you. Download and open the “interest over time” data for the term that you searched. Which format do you think is easiest for a casual user to interpret? How might including images and other graphics help improve Access forms?

This page titled 13.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

14: Advanced Database Use

14.0: Chapter Scenario
14.1: Advanced Queries in Microsoft Access
14.2: Multiple Table Forms
14.3: Customizing Forms
14.4: Customizing Reports
14.5: Using Macros
14.6: Data Analysis and Integration
14.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms
14.8: Chapter Review - Summary
14.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions
14.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
14.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions
14.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

This page titled 14: Advanced Database Use is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.0: Chapter Scenario

Now it is time to discuss advanced database applications at WorldCorp. As you continue to grow with the company, we will expect you to dive deeper into what is possible with data analysis. Your role will continue to advance as an analyst working with data professionals supporting various teams within WorldCorp.

WorldCorp wants to grow and expand into its independent retail locations to better serve its vast customer base. It still needs to create a database to manage inventory for these new locations. This would involve more complex database design and querying, as well as the use of advanced features in Microsoft Access.



Figure 14.1: As businesses grow, they often need to use more advanced features in Microsoft Access for complex database design and querying to help with tasks like managing inventory. (credit: modification of “Man in Black and Gray Plaid Dress Shirt Holding Black Smartphone” by Tiger Lily/Pexels, CC0)

First, we want to determine the data WorldCorp might need to store. We can start by identifying the key elements to track—potential product names, SKU numbers, locations, quantity on hand, and likely reorder points—and designing a table structure to best serve each type of data. For example, you could create a “Products” table with fields for product name, SKU number, description, and unit cost, as well as a “Locations” table with fields for location name and address.

WorldCorp would need a user interface to enter the data for each product and location into their respective tables. We will walk through some advanced steps in Access queries to retrieve specific sets of data from specific tables—for example, a query to find all products with a quantity on hand below the reorder point, or to find all products located in a specific store. You will also learn how to create reports to help keep track of inventory by summarizing and displaying data in a user-friendly format. For example, you could create a report that shows inventory levels by location, or one that shows sales trends by product category.

This page titled 14.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.1: Advanced Queries in Microsoft Access

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create a query with multiple criteria
- Create queries that use operators and expressions
- Design queries that select, aggregate, and run actions

As your database continues to evolve, the incorporation of advanced queries aids in the management and manipulation of the exact data of interest. For example, at WorldCorp, you might need to collect all types of information on customers (e.g., email, phone, address, demographics, shopping history). This information often needs to be stored across multiple tables for both speed and efficiency. As an example, a new customer's basic information will be stored in one table. We assume this information doesn't change often—only when the customer moves to a different location or makes a major life change. In addition to contact and location, basic information could include demographic information, which may never change in our records.

In a separate table, we would store a record of each time the customer makes a transaction. Transactions may happen often and are usually unique, as each one has a particular time/date, exact location of purchase, and possible coupons or rewards points added. Additionally, a customer's purchase may be for a single item, several items, or perhaps 100 or more different items (think of a trip to the grocery store) on the same transaction.

By using an advanced query, you can isolate both customer information and purchasing information at the same time from both tables. For example, suppose you want to know how many customers shop for a particular service or item at locations at least twenty miles from their homes. Determining this would require enforcing multiple criteria across multiple tables and using advanced features in query design to find the exact data requested. The design tools available in Access allow for this level of advanced database design and function.

Queries with Multiple Criteria

A query criterion is a kind of formula used in Access to filter the records based on values in fields of interest to determine whether to include the record in your query results. Criteria may take the form of a number, full or partial text, or any combination of data points within a table, such as "Red" or "=>5". You can include criteria for each field, as shown in Figure 14.2. Only items that match all the criteria you enter will appear in the query results.

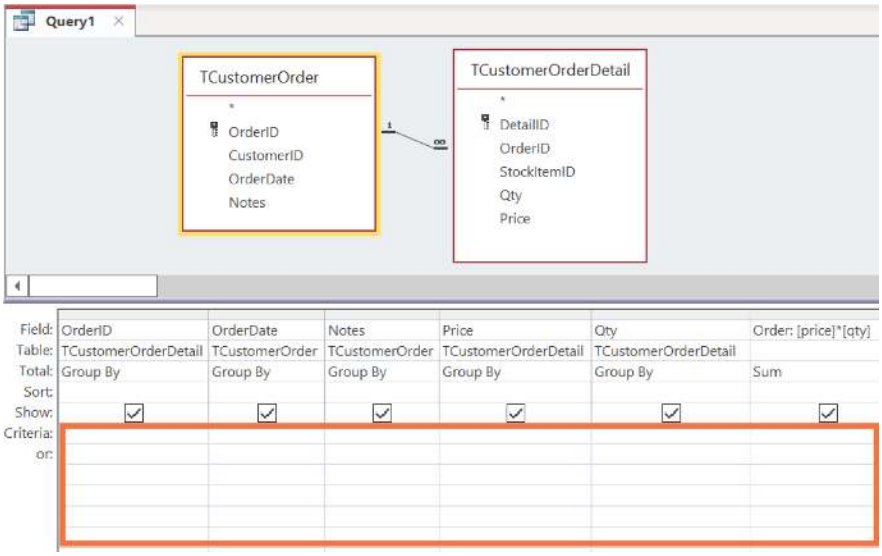


Figure 14.2: Access data can be filtered and sorted using criterion such as customer or order date. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Types of Criteria

Listed are the different types of criteria that can be used in an Access query:

Simple criteria: This type of criteria involves specifying an exact value or expression to filter the results. For example, when building out the inventory database for our potential freestanding retail locations, you could use simple criteria to specify which exact type of inventory you want to isolate.

Comparison operator: Comparison operators are used to compare two values or expressions. Examples include =, <>, <, >, <=, and >=. The < operator can be helpful to find out what inventory has less than a specified quantity on hand.

Wildcard: Wildcards are used to represent unknown characters in a search string. The two most common wildcards in Access are the asterisk (*) and the question mark (?). For example, a wildcard can be used to find all customers whose last name starts with a particular letter. Table 14.1 shows the most common wildcard symbols and a description of how they can be used when you have incomplete information or unknown characters.

Table 14.1: Wildcard Characters Wildcard characters are useful when filtering where data could lack uniformity or you have incomplete information.

Symbol	Description	Example
*	Identifies zero or more characters. Often used as the first or last character in the character string.	“ba*” finds ba, bat, ball, and balloon
?	Finds any single alphabetic character.	“w?ll” finds will and well
[ ]	Matches any character found within the brackets.	“T[ae]m” finds Tam and Tem, but not Tim
!	Identifies all characters not in the brackets.	“B[!ai]d” finds bed and bold, but not bad or bid
-	Ties any one of a range of characters. Users must specify the range in ascending order (A to Z, not Z to A).	“c[a-c]t” finds cat, cbt, and cct
#	Finds any single numeric character.	“5#4” finds 504, 514, and 524

Range criteria: Range criteria are used to specify a range of values for a field. As an example, a vender that we buy from to resell in our new retail locations may want to know all of the orders we have sold of theirs within a specific date range that have been taken out of our inventory. Rather than waiting for our next order, our vender could receive critical information on how much we may be looking to order in the near future.

Null criteria: Null criteria are used to find records that have a null value in a particular field. For example, you could use null criteria to find any inventory labels that do not include product descriptions.

Logical operator: Logical operators are used to combine multiple criteria in a query. The two most common logical operators in Access are AND and OR. For example, you could use the AND operator to find all orders with a total greater than $100 and placed by a specific customer. Table 14.2 summarizes common logical operators.

Table 14.2: Logical Operators Logical operators are used often with databases to allow you to filter information with multiple criteria such as several locations, specific customers, or noncontiguous date ranges.

Logical Operator	Description	Example
AND	Returns TRUE if both operands are true, and FALSE otherwise. It is represented by the symbol &.	[quantity] > 100 AND [location] = Philadelphia
OR	Returns FALSE if at least one of the operands is true, and FALSE otherwise. It is represented by the symbol |.	[quantity] > 100 OR [location] = Philadelphia
EQV	Returns TRUE if both operands are either true or false, and FALSE otherwise. It is represented by the symbol <=>.	[quantity] <=> 25 OR [location] = Philadelphia
NOT	Returns TRUE if both operands are false, and FALSE otherwise. It is represented by the symbol ~|.	NOT ([quantity] > 10 OR [location] = Philadelphia)
XOR	Returns TRUE if exactly one of the operands is true, and FALSE otherwise. It is represented by the symbol ^.	([quantity] > 10) ^ (quantity] > 100)
IMP	Returns FALSE if the first operand is true and the second operand is false, and TRUE otherwise. It is represented by the symbol ->.	[location] = Philadelphia -> [quantity] > 100

By using these different types of criteria in an Access query, you can create powerful and flexible queries that can help you analyze and manipulate your data effectively.

Figure 14.3 displays a few sample criteria, shown in the highlighted box, and explains how they work with operators.

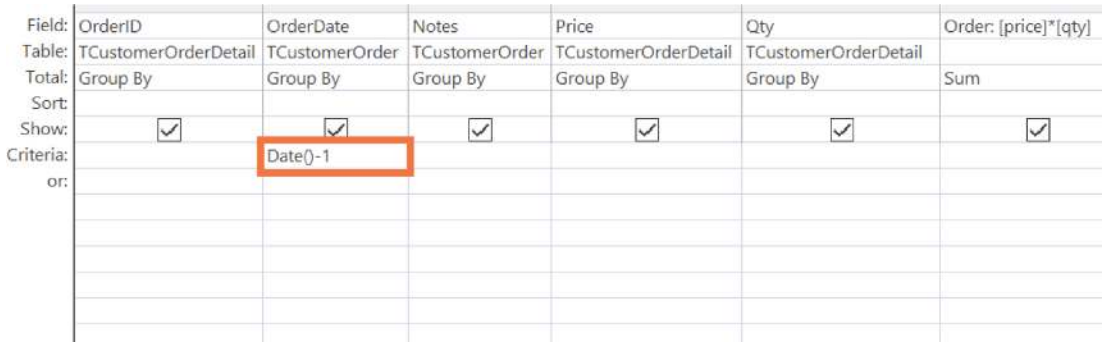


Figure 14.3: When delimiters are used to filter a database you will notice the criteria listed under the field column. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

At WorldCorp, you may need to isolate orders that took place during a certain time frame. For example, how did our marketing campaign do in sales over a particular time period for our retail locations? How many orders did we do over the past week? How many did we do over the past month? You might need this information to help schedule orders for our retail locations. This example returns items with yesterday's date (Date()–1). Thus, if the current date is 5/12/2024, you will see only items for the previous day, 5/11/2024.

In addition to the Date() function, there is also a Now() function to consider in Access. Both Date() and Now() are used to retrieve the current date and time, but they have different purposes and applications. The Date() function returns only the current date, without any time component. It is useful for calculating dates and time intervals, such as the number of days between two dates, or for filtering data based on a specific date. On the other hand, the Now() function returns both the current date and time, including

the hours, minutes, and seconds. It is useful for tracking events that occur at a specific date and time, such as recording the time that a delivery showed up in inventory at a retail location.

Some reasons why you might choose to use the Now() function instead of the Date() function in Access can include the need to record time stamps. If you need to keep track of when events occur, such as the time of day when items are most likely to sell, the Now() function can be used to record the time stamp accurately. In addition, if you want to filter records based on a specific time range, such as all transactions that occurred within the last hour, then you will make use of the Now() function. In designing tables, note that it is important to use the correct format for each field used in the table you are pulling from in the query so that the unique expressions can be applied to that field.

In the example shown in Figure 14.4, the field labeled Order has a criterion of less than 50, so you will see only amounts that are less than $50 from what our customers spent at WorldCorp. The amount found in this field is calculated by multiplying two fields (price and qty) and grouping the results by sum for a total of all unique Order ID numbers. Greater-than (>), less-than (<), equal-to (=), greater-than-equal-to (=>), less-than-equal-to (=<), and other mathematical expressions can be used to query all fields that are formatted as numbers, including currency, integers, aut\nonumbers, and calculated fields.

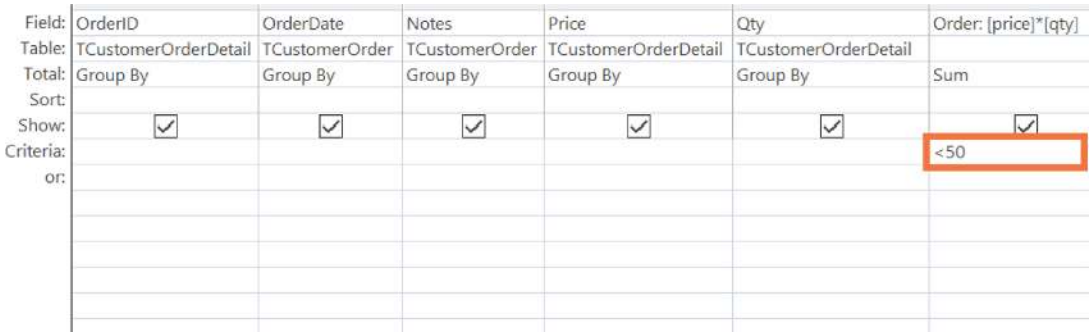


Figure 14.4: A logical operator is used for order price to only display orders that are less than $50. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In the example shown in Figure 14.5, the Notes field in a query is based on a table that stores notes from sales orders that are formatted as long-text. A note can contain any amount of text, ranging from no words to a few words or even multiple paragraphs, depending on the order and the customer's requirements. This criterion isolates all notes that contain the string Express, signifying the customer's urgent need for the product. The key word "Express" can be extracted from all of the text logged in the Notes field, regardless of the order or length of the note.

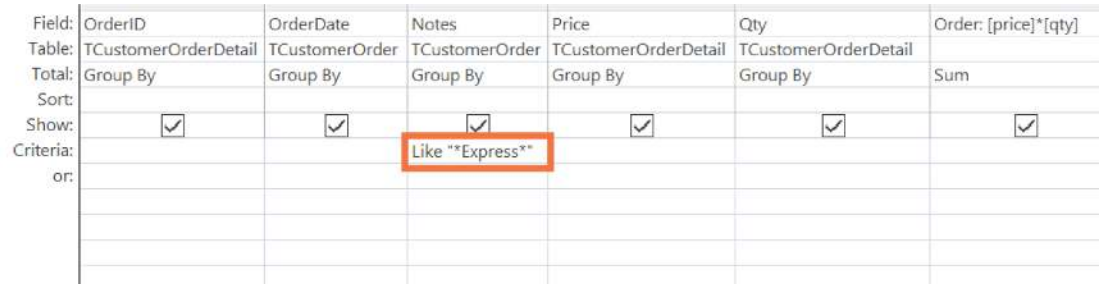


Figure 14.5: Notice the asterisk following the word "Express" as a wildcard to filter the data where the word in any form appears in the notes section. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Depending on how you format the data, your next task is to select the appropriate expression to extract the data. Yes/No, OLE objects, hyperlinks, and attachments all have unique expressions to help optimize Access's ability to match your desired outcome. Again, formatting the data within tables is key to developing successful criteria expressions.

Building a Query with Criteria

When you create or modify a query in Access, you will be identifying/creating fields of data to isolate. These fields will represent the data you want to include, omit data that is not of interest to you, sort the data, and even combine data from multiple tables, as Figure 14.6 shows.

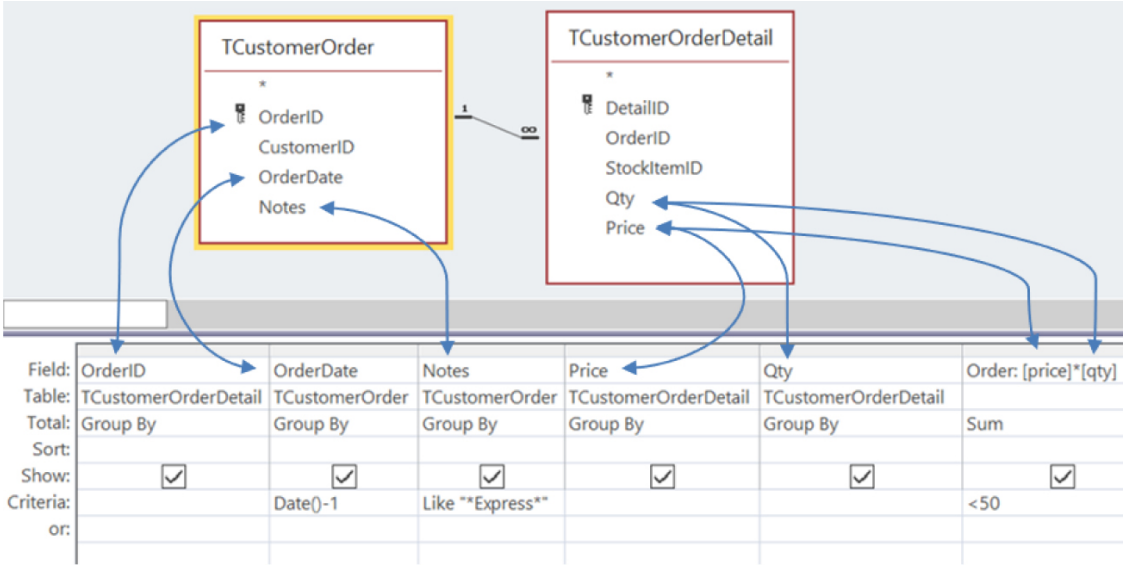


Figure 14.6: Several layers of filtering can be used in one query to build a customized list to meet specific needs. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The example shown in Figure 14.6 of a query at WorldCorp combines two tables and isolates five fields from the related tables. The tables are related by the OrderID field. When a new order comes in, a unique OrderID is created in the TCustomerOrder table. Then, the order details are created in the TCustomerOrder table. The two tables are related by OrderID. This means that every order can have multiple sales items on the order. In short, every order is uniquely related to a customer. However, every order can have multiple sales items on the order. Those items are stored as a list in a separate table. Every customer, every order, and every list of order details need their own tables.

This example's five fields to review are: OrderID, Order Date, Notes, Price, and Qty. Because running this query would yield every order, it may not be useful unless you create criteria to isolate a particular question.

Within Query Design tab, choose the column of the field to which you want to apply a criterion. Click in the box below the field name in the Criteria row for that field. Type in your first expression or right-click in the Criteria box and choose "Build" to utilize the Criteria Wizard. Repeat these steps for each field for which you want criteria that help answer the question at hand question. For instance, if you are concerned about offering free next-day shipping on all orders because of the rising costs of shipping, you might want to look at low-dollar purchases to see how often customers are asking for express shipping. One option is to review only those orders from yesterday (criterion #1), that were less than $50 (criterion #2), and also had the string "Express" in the notes (criterion #3) on the receipt. The following criteria would be typed out or built through the wizard for each field highlighted, in order, as Figure 14.7 shows.

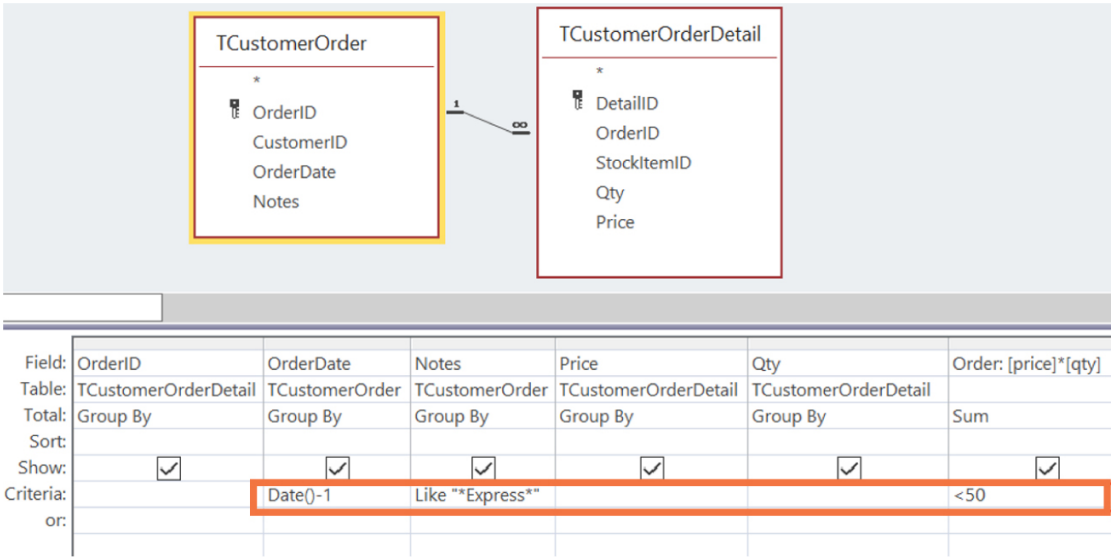


Figure 14.7: The Criteria Wizard can assist you in building a more complex query, or you can also type criteria directly into the query if you are familiar with the appropriate syntax needed. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

Have you ever wondered how books made into movies do in theaters? And if it is a series of books such as *Harry Potter* or *The Hunger Games*, which book/movie is more popular? Databases can be used to find out these answers. The power of a relational database lies in its ability to efficiently manage and organize large amounts of data in a structured and flexible way. To find answers—for a person, an organization, or society as a whole—data needs to be processed in a way that helps transform it into useful information. To learn more, watch this video discussing how to build a query with basic criteria using data points using the *Harry Potter* movies for reference.

Using Operators and Expressions

As you develop an inventory system for WorldCorp's future retail locations, inventory becomes tied with POS (point of sale) systems. The actual sales amount for each inventory item has not been calculated yet. Taxes, discounts, and price corrections all have to be considered for a total. Expressions become an important element to know and understand.

You might want to use expressions to create a formula to calculate a total order amount. The order amount is calculated by multiplying the price-per-item in stock to the quantity ordered of each item. As discussed in the previous example, or any number of other requests, if the number can be calculated, there may not be a need to store it in a table. In the previous example, the field "Order" has no associated table syntax is important to consider and be aware of when writing expressions in Access because it defines the rules and structure for how the expression is written. The set of rules by which the words and symbols in an expression are correctly combined is called syntax. Access uses a specific syntax to understand and interpret expressions, and any deviation from that syntax can result in errors or unexpected results. Proper syntax ensures that the expression is written in a way that Access can understand and process it correctly. It helps to avoid errors such as syntax errors, calculation errors, or incorrect results. Additionally, consistent use of syntax can make the expression more readable and understandable to other users or developers who may need to review or modify the expressions you create in the future.

Overall, understanding and using proper syntax is crucial for writing accurate and efficient expressions in Access (see Figure 14.8). Many of the expressions that are used in tables and forms are also applicable to writing/building expressions as criteria in queries. An expression is a combination of operators, identifiers, functions, and constants that are used to perform a calculation or to produce a result. An expression can be used in a variety of contexts, such as in queries, forms, reports, or macros.

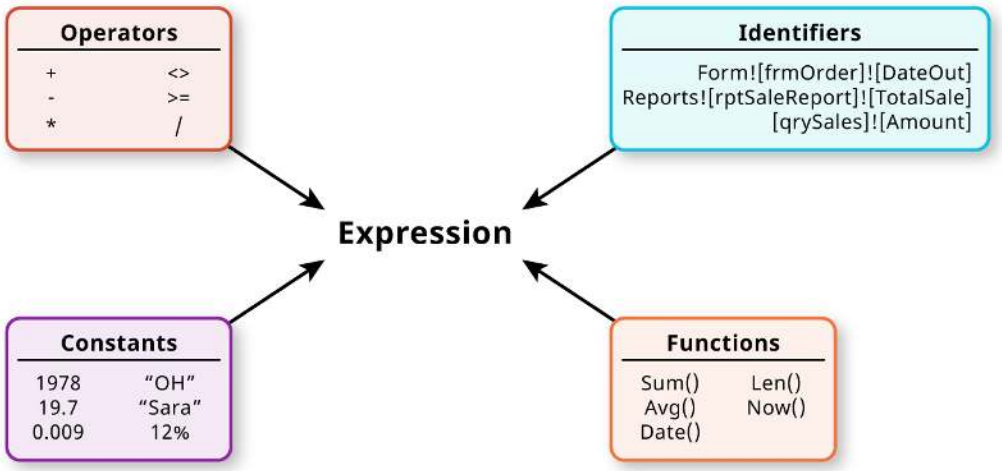


Figure 14.8: Through expressions, you can restrict queries based on text, numbers, and also perform functions. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To be a valid expression in Access, an expression must contain the following elements:

- Values: Every expression must contain constants that include one or more values, such as a number, string, or date. Values may be constants, which are entered directly into the expression. Values may also be retrieved from fields or controls in a table or form.
- Operators: Operators are required symbols or keywords used to perform mathematical and/or logical operations on values.
- Functions: Functions are predefined calculations or operations that can be used in an expression, but are not required. Access includes a wide range of built-in functions to perform such tasks as calculating totals, formatting values, and manipulating text.
- Parentheses: Parentheses are used to group parts of an expression and control the order in which calculations are performed. Following the rules of mathematics, expressions within parentheses are evaluated first.
- Identifiers: Identifiers are names used to refer to tables, fields, and other objects in an Access database. Identifiers must follow specific naming conventions, such as not containing spaces or special characters, and must be enclosed in square brackets to work within expressions.
- Commas: Commas are used to separate multiple arguments in a function or expression.

In addition to containing these elements, keep in mind that correct syntax is established and maintained.

Understanding Operators and Expressions

The two most common logical operators used in building an expression for criteria in a query are AND and OR. These are assumed depending on where you place the expression in query design. Any expression placed in line with the Criteria line is defined as an AND operator. Our last example used all AND operators for the three expressions. See Figure 14.9 as an example.

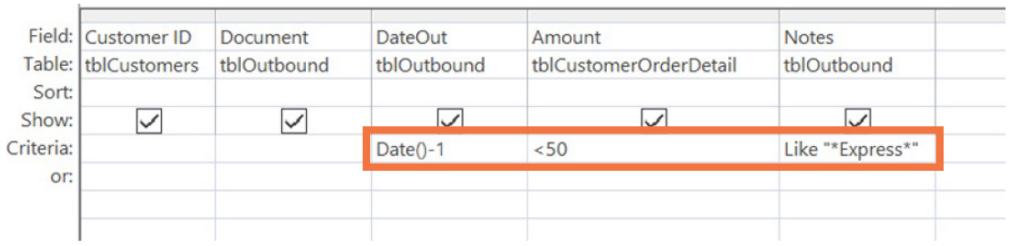


Figure 14.9: By default, when criteria are added to more than one field, those criteria will be used simultaneously in the query using the "AND" operator. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Placing all three criteria on the same line means that the query will display only those items that are from yesterday *and* are less than $50 *and* contain the string Express. If you want the query to look for any of the three criteria, that is yesterday, *or* less than $50, *or* containing the string Express each needs to be on a separate line. Date()-1 would be in the criteria row, <50 in the or row, and then place Like Express in the row below the *or* row. Rather than a dataset needing to match all three criteria or to match either of the two requirements, it can now match any of the criteria.

Any expression placed below the Criteria line is then defined as an OR logical operator. If we change our last example by rearranging the placement of the expressions, it operates very differently, as Figure 14.10 shows.

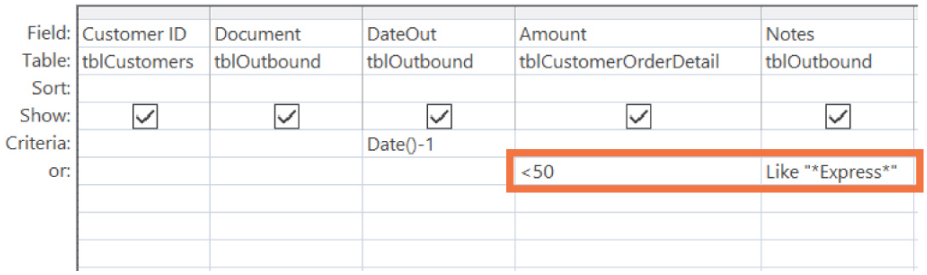


Figure 14.10: To query using the “OR” operator, the selected criteria should be moved one line below to the “or:” line. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Placing the second and third expressions on the line below the first criterion means that the query will now yield those items that are from yesterday “or” are less than $50 “and” contain the string “Express.” Rather than a dataset needing to match all three criteria, it now needs to match either of the two requirements.

Common Operators

In both Excel and Access, the most common operators are arithmetic, comparison, and logical. Each has its own function and returns different results.

- An arithmetic operator is used to calculate a value from two or more numbers or to change the sign of a number from positive to negative or vice versa (Table 14.3).

Table 14.3: Arithmetic Operators A mathematical operator could be used to combine data such as getting the total sales amount for two or more company purchases.

Operator	Description
-	Subtraction (2-1=1)
*	Multiplication (2*3=6)
/	Division (12/4=3)
\	Integer division (6\4=1)
+	Addition (15+4=19)

- A comparison operator is used to compare values and return a result that is true, false, or null (Table 14.4).

Table 14.4: Comparison Operators To compare one customer’s sales to another, you can use comparison operators such as greater than or less than.

Operator	Description
<	Less than
<=	Less than or equal to
<>	Not equal to
=	Equal to
>=	Greater than or equal to
>	Greater than
Between “Value1” And “Value2”	Between two values, inclusive (for example, “Between 1 And 3” would return 1, 2, 3)

- A logical operator is used to combine two Boolean values and return a true, false, or null result. There are three main logical operators that are commonly used in Access:
  - AND operator: This is used to combine two or more expressions and returns TRUE only if all the expressions are true. For example, the expression ‘sizes > 8 AND Color = 'Blue'’ will return TRUE only if the size of a shirt is greater than 8 and the color is blue.
  - OR operator: This is used to combine two or more expressions and returns TRUE if any one of the expressions is true. For example, the expression “Size > 8 OR Color = 'Red'” will return TRUE if either the size is greater than 8 or the color of the shirt in inventory is red.
  - NOT operator: This is used to reverse the logical value of an expression. It returns TRUE if the expression is false and FALSE if the expression is true. For example, the expression “NOT (size > 8)” will return TRUE if the size of the shirt is less than or equal to 8.

These logical operators can be used in combination with comparison operators such as =, <, >, <=, >=, and <> to create complex expressions that evaluate to true or false (Table 14.5).

Table 14.5: Logical Operators Queries that filter using several layers might involve logical operators to extract information from a large database.

Operator	Description
AND	Both elements of an expression must be true.
NOT	The expression must evaluate as false.
OR	At least one element of an expression must be true.
XOR	Exactly one element of an expression must be true, not both.

The next example, shown in Figure 14.11, is a query designed to help create a report—in this case, you need to generate an invoice after a customer places a new order with WorldCorp. Invoices for customer sales include items such as the customer information, the date, the products ordered, price for each product, and total for the entire invoice. Refer to the chapter on Advanced Document Preparation for examples of invoices. For the report to work properly, two different criteria must be used with the logical operator AND. The first expression is [Forms]![frmOutBound2]![Document], which uses identifiers to isolate which document number the report will generate. In essence, this expression uses identifiers to query only the exact document number that is in use on the frmOutBound2 form, which is used to place all new orders from customers. By identifying the form number, the invoice will generate the exact order and only the called-upon order.

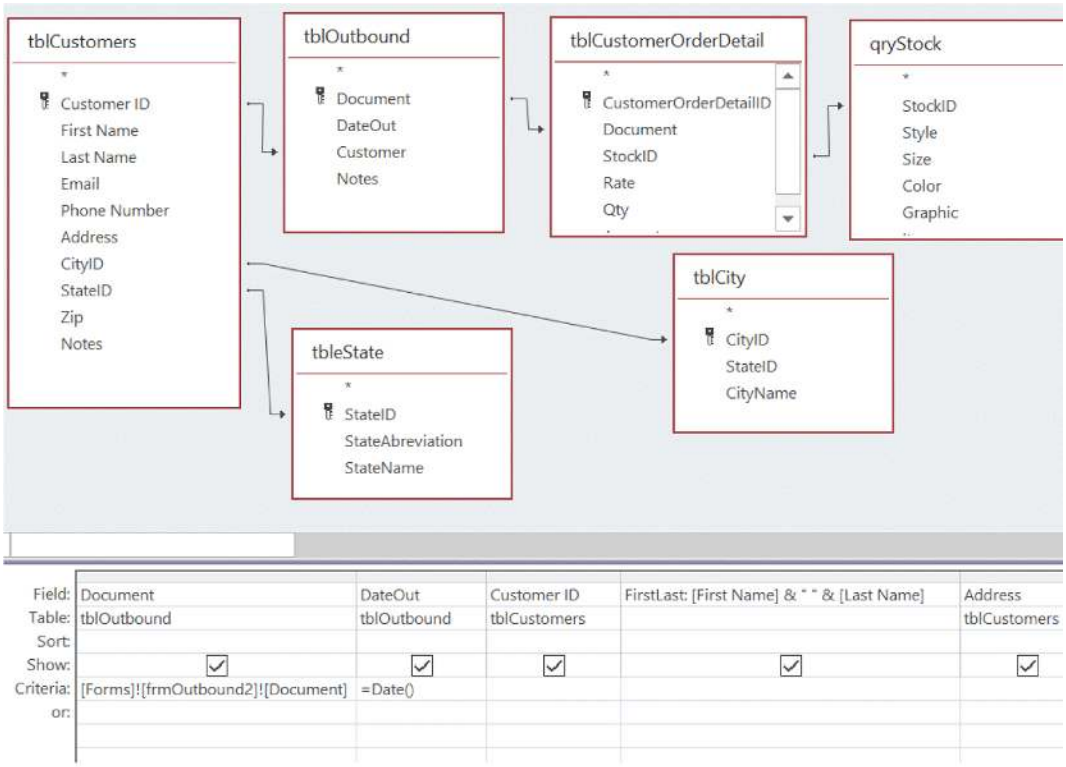


Figure 14.11: Access not only lists the fields in text, but also provides a visual representation of how elements are connected in the database. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The second criterion is a function expression that isolates the order date to today, and today only, ensuring that the query only creates new invoices that represent new orders from today (see Figure 14.12).

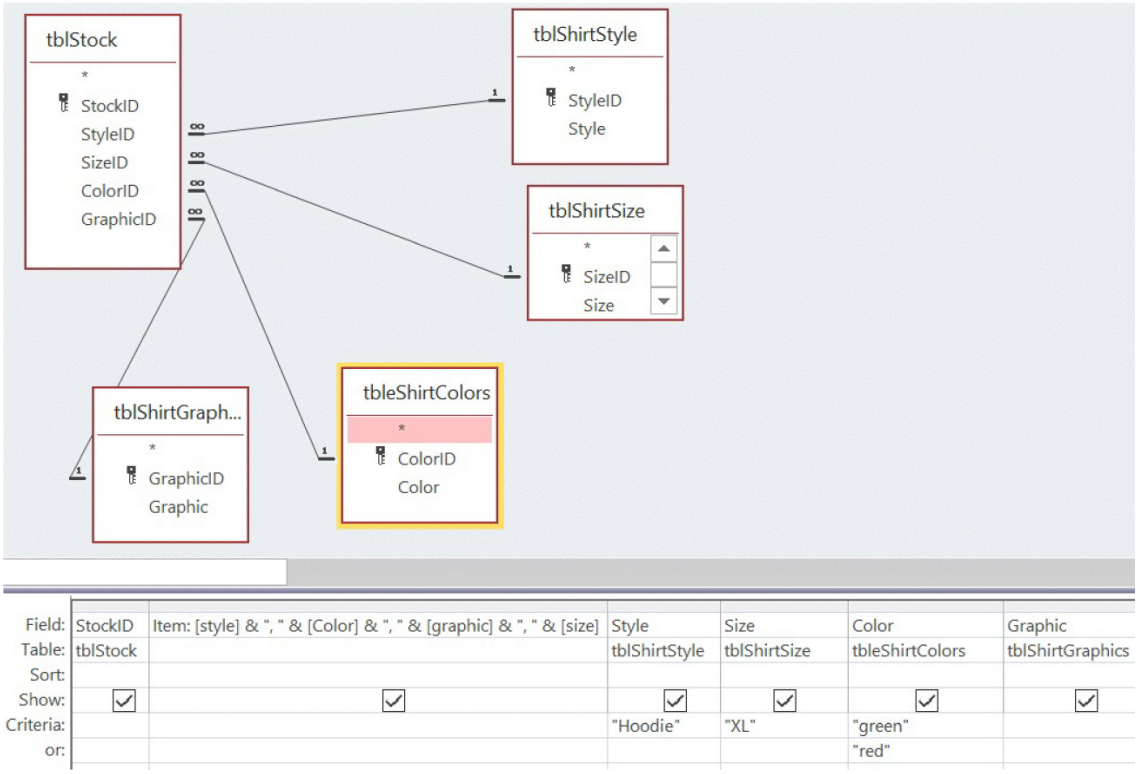


Figure 14.12: Notice how several fields are used to perform the query using logical operators. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This example shows a query designed to help show which items a T-shirt design company has in stock. Each stock item has four fields that collectively describe the piece of clothing: style, size, primary color, and graphic design on the item. In this example, a customer wants to know what graphic designs are available on a hoodie that is size XL and has a base color of green or red. These criteria combine both constants and logical operators to help isolate the data requested by the customer.

Guidelines for Using Criteria

There are best practices to follow when using criteria:

- Keep it simple. Do not try to do too much with any one query to get an answer. A query can do a great deal, one strategy is to copy previously designed queries and rename before making small changes to each copied query for a very specific purpose.
- To stay organized, be consistent in how your queries are named. When you first learn the syntax used in creating criteria, it is tempting to try to use all of the syntax in a single query. When creating a query, however, it is more important to keep the main purpose of the query in mind. If you have several questions, don't be afraid to create multiple queries—a separate one for each question or task.
- Be sure to create tables carefully, using the correct format for each field within each table. Using good naming practices is important: A key reason that queries won't run is likely to be the formatting of the fields rather than incorrect syntax.
- Develop a list of expressions that you know and can use for future projects. Often, these can be repeated in various queries for various uses.

Designing Queries to Run Actions

Now that you know how to build a query, let's look at the different types of queries in Access. There are five types of queries, each with a unique function and use: (1) select queries, (2) action queries, (3) parameter queries, (4) crosstab queries, and (5) SQL (structured query language) queries.

Select query is the most common type of query and the easiest to use. They retrieve data from one or more tables and display the result in a datasheet. Select queries are also used to group records and calculate averages, sums, counts, and other types of totals. As an example, a select query might be used to group customers by state to see which states have the highest demand.

Action query specifies a particular action, such as creating a new table, deleting rows, updating records, or creating new records. Action queries are very popular in data management because they allow for many records to be changed at one time. For example, suppose you need to update your records to reflect a new state tax rate that affects numerous types of transactions. Creating an action query can help update records across various tables.

There are four types of action queries:

1. Append query: Adds records from one or more tables to the end of one or more tables.
2. Update query: Makes global changes to a group of records in one or more tables. For example, you can use an update query to increase the prices on your menu by 25 percent for products within certain categories.
3. Delete query: Deletes a group of records from one or more tables. For example, you can use a delete query to remove products that have been discontinued or for which there are no orders.
4. Make-table query: Creates a new table and populates it with data from one or more existing tables. When you create a make-table query, you specify the fields and criteria that you want to include in the new table. Access then creates a new table and copies the selected data from the existing table(s) into the new table. The new table will have the same field names and data types as the original table(s). These queries can be useful in a variety of situations, such as creating an archive or backup of data. You can use a make-table query to create a backup copy of important data before making changes to it. In addition, simplifying complex data can be very helpful. As an example, if you have a table with many fields or complex relationships, you can use a make-table query to create a simplified version of the data that is easier to work with on a different project. Also, aggregating data can be accomplished. You can use the query to aggregate data from multiple tables into a single table, which can be useful for reporting or analysis purposes.

Parameter query is a type of query that prompts the user for input values when it is run. The input values are used to filter the data that is returned by the query, based on the specified criteria. Parameter queries are useful when you want to create a query that can be easily customized to return different results based on specific criteria. For example, this query can be used in building a form

that asks users which employee is logging into the Main Menu screen to start a transaction at WorldCorp; you type [Which User?] on the Criteria line. When the query runs, Access will prompt the WorldCorp employee for the answer to your question.

Crosstab query calculates and restructures data for easier analysis when looking for trends or patterns. Much like the PivotTable option in Excel, Crosstab queries calculate a sum, average, count, or other type of total for data that is grouped according to two different types of information. For example, total sales for WorldCorp might be grouped in two ways: by salesperson, listed down the left side of the datasheet, and also by month and year, listed across the top of the datasheet, which now shows total sales for each salesperson by month and year.

SQL query is created by using an SQL statement. When you create a query in Query Design View, Access builds the equivalent SQL statements for you behind the scenes. You can view or edit the SQL statement in SQL View. Upon viewing any of the created statements by Access, you can edit or add to the statement. This creates additional options for you that are often more efficient than using the Query Design View options.

Building a Query that Aggregates

Aggregate query lets you carry out calculations on record groups rather than performing individual operations. An aggregate query considers the total, subset, or gross amount of records.

Aggregation is a powerful tool because of the nature of relational data. By looking across the connected tables and through the built-in relationships, these can be accounted for when performing complex data searches and totals among a vast area of applications.

Often, the first step in building an aggregate query is to turn on the Totals tool that is found within the Query Design tab, as seen in Figure 14.13.



Figure 14.13: The Totals tool is found in the Show/Hide command group when you are designing a query. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

After you select Total from the menu, a new row, labeled Total, appears just below the field names, with an option area in the Access query, as seen in Figure 14.14.

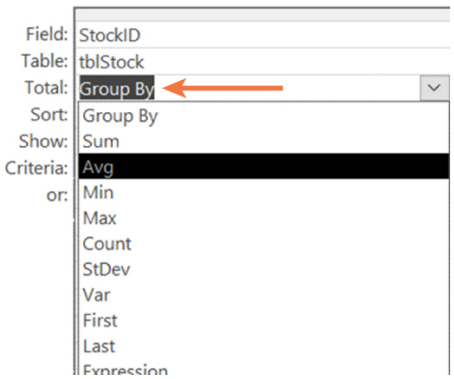


Figure 14.14: Although the word “Total” is used, you can choose to get values other than just the sum of the numbers such as the average or the maximum number in the field. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The default option is Group By, which groups all identical data items in the field. For example, if you wanted to know which stock item in your company’s inventory sold the most units, you could use the StockID in two ways:

1. Create a field for StockID in the query, and list the Totals as Group By. This will provide a list of each type of item you have sold.
2. Create another field, also with the StockID, but this time, choose the Sum function of the Total to provide a complete sales count for each unique item. Both fields together provide a report on which items have sold the most and the least.

Examples of Aggregate Queries

Scenario #1: You have an online business that has customers from around the country, and you want to find out which states have the fewest customers. You decide to create an aggregate query to summarize the list of states and count the number of instances in which each state appears among your current customers. Selecting the Totals option creates the following query from the customer table, as Figure 14.15 shows: Group By StateName and Count StateName.

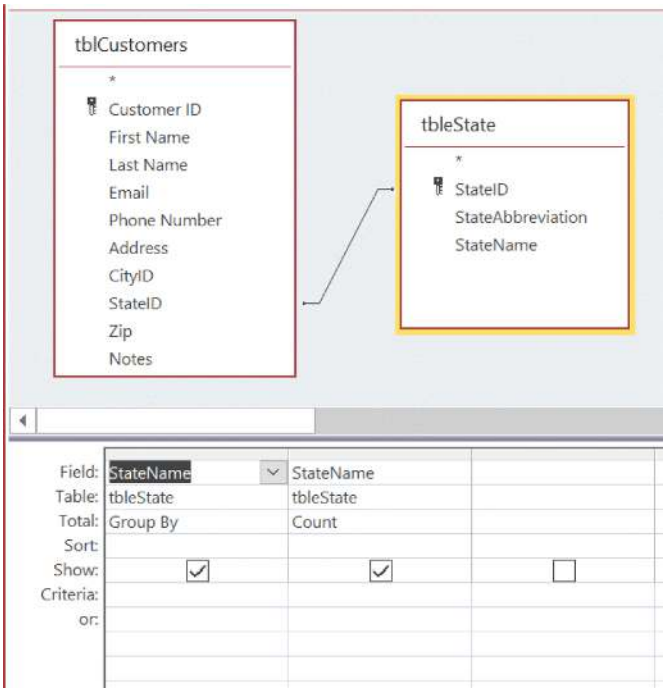


Figure 14.15: This query will give a summary of the total number of customers in each state using the "Count" operator. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Scenario #2: You receive two free tickets to the Super Bowl. Unfortunately, you cannot attend this year's game, so you want to give the tickets away as a thank-you gift to the customer with whom you have done business the longest. To determine the recipient, you decide to do an aggregate query on customer orders, using date ranges to identify the longest-standing customer. The following aggregate query (shown in Figure 14.16) is then created by grouping the customer ID, using DateOut as the minimum total (first order) and then using DateOut as a maximum total to establish the last sale the customer made (last order).

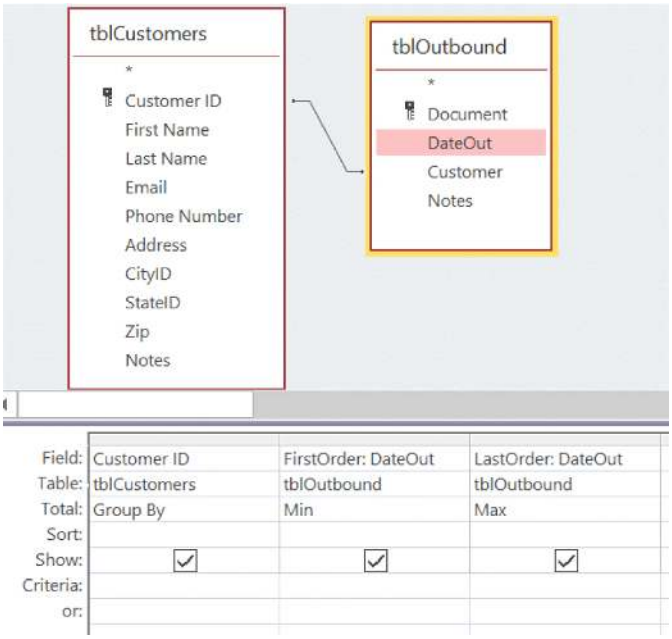


Figure 14.16: More complex queries can be constructed to compare dates or other fields using the Total tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In this scenario, it would be best to build an additional query to calculate the length of time between FirstOrder and LastOrder, as determined in the original aggregate query. The query has to solve both totals before it can calculate the difference in time between the two fields using the Min and Max functions.

This page titled 14.1: Advanced Queries in Microsoft Access is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.2: Multiple Table Forms

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create a form that uses data from two different tables
- Create a form that contains subforms

Much like any global manufacturing corporation, we have an extensive list of assets that include company vehicles, equipment, and facilities to operate and manage. At WorldCorp, when you work with relational data, it is often convenient to be able to view multiple tables on the same form. For example, suppose you are reviewing a fleet of vehicles for one of our manufacturing facilities in Germany. Initially, you built a form that lists all the vehicles in use and enables you to add and subtract vehicles. You also built a form to create service records for each vehicle that WorldCorp owns.

When a new vehicle is added to the fleet, it receives an initial oil change and fresh fluids, and these service records are logged. You want to create a form that will make it easy to add a new vehicle and simultaneously add the initial maintenance and repair notes for that vehicle. To do this, you need to add a vehicle to a list of fleet vehicles on one table and, at the same time, add information about the maintenance/repair that has been done to the vehicle on another table. To accomplish this goal, you may want to combine data from two tables in one form or create subforms. This section presents several methods to help you create advanced forms.

Adding Data from Two Tables in a Single Form

If you want to add data across multiple tables in one form, this could help with efficiency when managing a fleet of vehicles at WorldCorp. Primarily, it can speed data entry while maintaining the organization of tables, fields, and records.

To effectively create forms that feed into multiple tables, you should use a query as a critical building block. Recall from the chapter on Understanding and Using Databases that a query is an Access object used to view, analyze, or modify data. The query design determines which fields and records you see and their sort order. Using the example of our manufacturing facility fleet vehicle program, you can review how the query is designed, how to adjust it for user experience, and how to use the Form Wizard to build a form that can add data to two tables.

Using Queries for a Form

First, a query needs to be designed to build a relational database for the fleet vehicle program. In this example, you have two tables of information, as seen in Figure 14.17: tblVehicle and tblMaintenance.

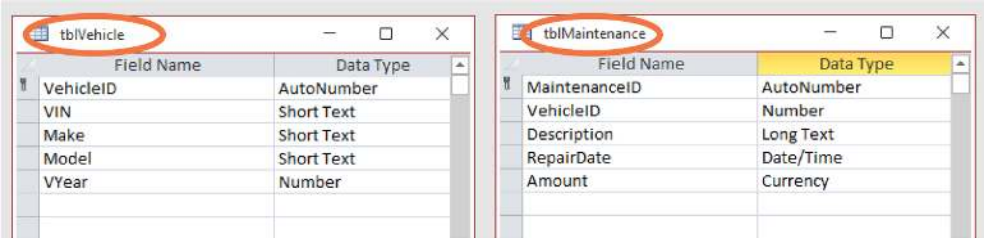


Figure 14.17: Forms are used in a variety of ways in organizations and using Access collects the data automatically into a table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The tblVehicle table represents each unique car/truck the company owns. The tblMaintenance table represents every maintenance record (oil changes, new tires, chipped glass repair, inspections, etc.) on all vehicles. In this section, you will see how to design a form that can add information to both tables simultaneously.

Remember that the ultimate goal of the new form is to add a new vehicle to the fleet *and* to include that vehicle's initial service information (oil change, safety inspection, cleaning, company decals, etc.) so that WorldCorp does not lose track or misuse valued assets. The new form will serve as a quick form for all new vehicles. For the query to be effective, a clear relationship needs to be established between the two tables.

In this example, VehicleID is the primary key of tblVehicle and is listed as a required field of tblMaintenance. Recall from the chapter Understanding and Using Databases that a primary key is a field or set of fields with values that are unique throughout a table. Values of the primary key can be used to refer to entire records because each record has a different value for the key, as shown in Figure 14.18.

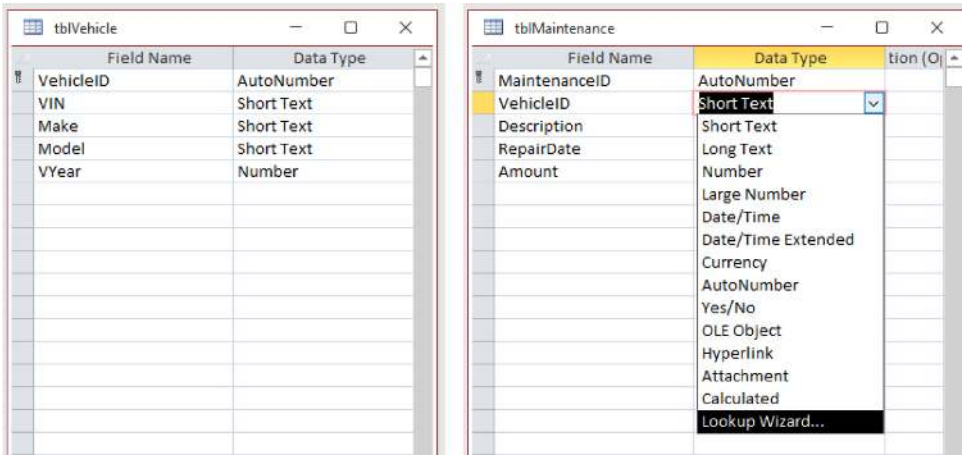


Figure 14.18: Similar to defining the number type in Excel, when you create fields you can determine the type of information in that field. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Access provides different data types for formatting field names. Rather than setting the VehicleID field in the tblMaintenance to short text, aut\nonumber, or number, you can use the Lookup Wizard to build a relationship between tables. The example, shown in a series of screenshots (Figure 14.19, Figure 14.20, Figure 14.21, Figure 14.22, Figure 14.23, and Figure 14.24) will walk through the use of the Lookup Wizard steps that are used to create a relationship.

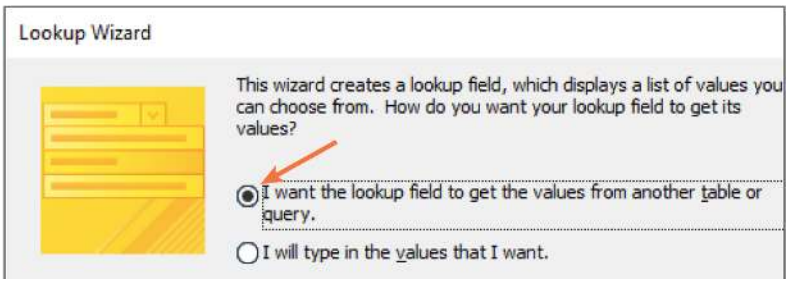


Figure 14.19: The Lookup Wizard can be used to create fields in a table in a step by step fashion either from an existing table or you can create a new table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Figure 14.20: If you choose to pull fields from an existing table in the database, you will need to identify the specific table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

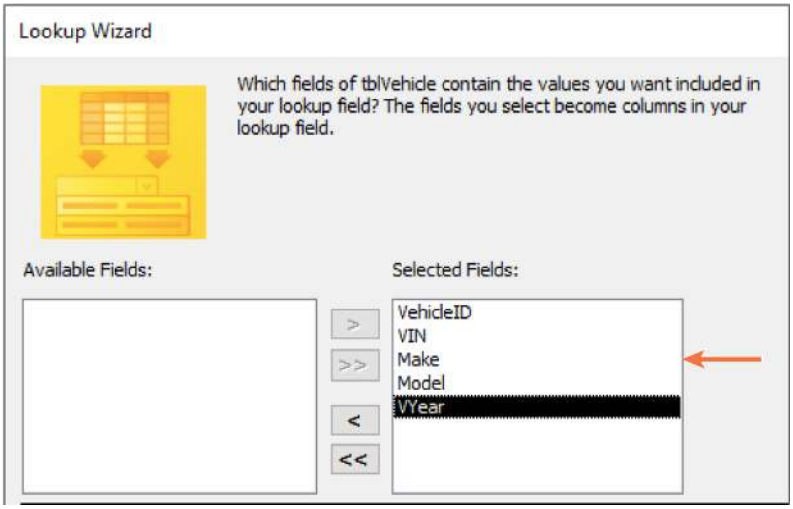


Figure 14.21: Only fields contained in the table you select will be listed. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

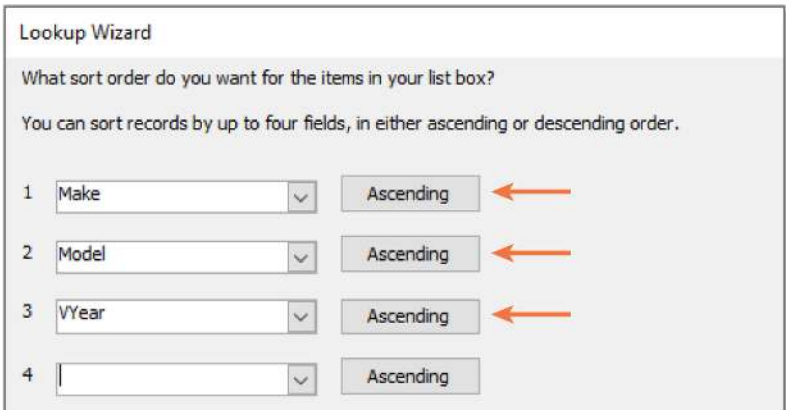


Figure 14.22: Sort the information using a logical field such as the specific car details. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

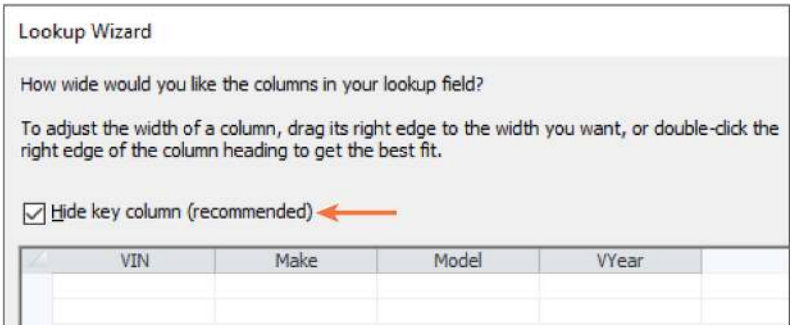


Figure 14.23: Recall the primary key is the field that ties the tables together. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

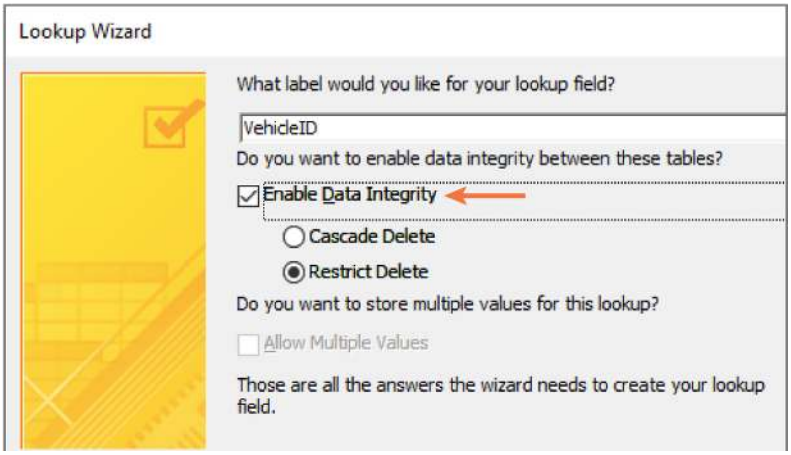
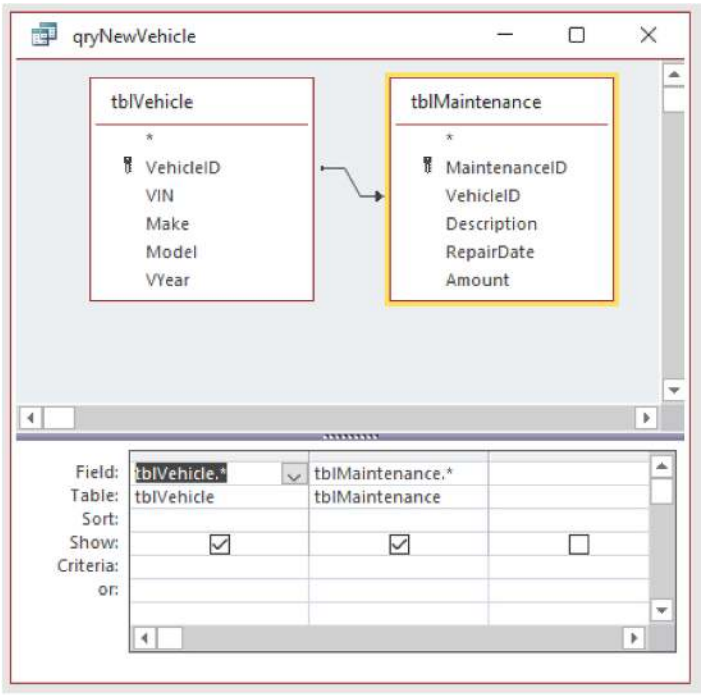
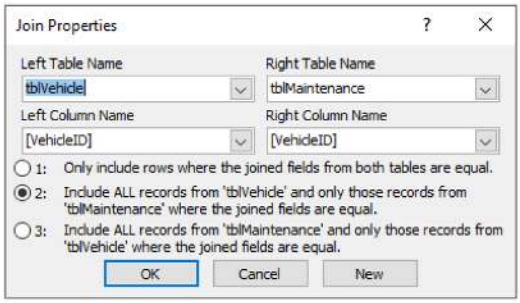


Figure 14.24: Enabling data integrity is a good idea if you are collaborating with others in the same database file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that you have created a relationship between the tables, build a query that joins the fields from the two tables together. To start, go to Query Design and bring in all the fields from both tables. In this example, the query will be saved as qryNewVehicles, as it will be the driver for the New Vehicle form to use in the vehicle fleet program (see Figure 14.25).



(a)



(b)

Figure 14.25: (a) In the query view you can see the primary keys identified in each table. (b) Define the relationship between the two tables and which records are created in the new table created from the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Select qryNewVehicle from the list of All Access Objects to create the form “fromNewVehicle” (see Figure 14.26). Access will create the form automatically. This form allows the user to enter both the new vehicle that is part of the fleet and the initial check-in service performed on the vehicle.

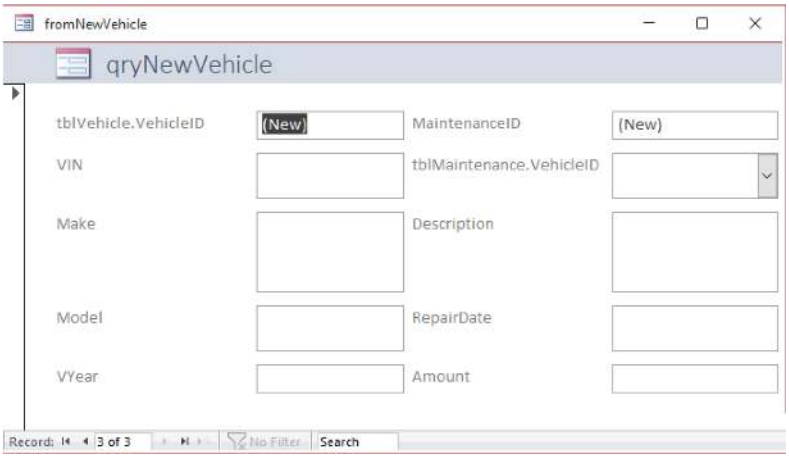


Figure 14.26: Because relationships were created previously between the two tables using the Wizard, when data is entered into the form, both tables are populated with the information. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using Subforms

A subform is a form that is inserted in another form (known as the main form). A form/subform combination may be referred to as a hierarchical form, a master/detail form, or a parent/child form. Subforms are generally used whenever you want to display data from multiple tables where there is a one-to-many relationship.

In a one-to-one relationship, each record in one table has no more than one related record in another table. This type of relationship is not common, as most information related in this way would be in one table, so there would be no need for a second table.

By contrast, a one-to-many relationship is the most common type of relationship. In a one-to-many relationship, a record in one table can have many matching records in another table, and the opposite is true as well.

For example, suppose you have two tables in your database, one called Employees and another called Employee Details. The Employees table contains basic information about each employee, such as their name, ID number, and job title. The Employee Details table contains additional details about each employee, such as their address, phone number, and emergency contact information. Because each employee has only one set of details, there is a one-to-one relationship between the Employees and Employee Details tables. To view and edit this information on the same form, you can use a subform.

To do this, you could create a main form based on the Employees table, with fields for Employee ID, First Name, Last Name, and other relevant information. Then, you could add a subform based on the Employee Details table, with fields for Address, Phone Number, Emergency Contact, and other relevant information. By embedding the Employee Details subform within the Employees main form, you can easily view and edit data for both the employee and their details on the same screen. You can navigate between records in the Employees table and see the corresponding details in the subform, or you can add a new employee and their details at the same time.

A many-to-many relationship means that for each record in one table, there can be many records in another table; likewise, for each record in the second table, there can be many in the first. Many-to-many relationships cannot be directly represented in relational database programs; they have to be built by using two or more one-to-many relationships. For example, for any business, a many-to-many relationship exists between customers and products. Customers can purchase various products and various amounts of a product, and products can be purchased by many different customers. A third table is required to create the relationship between customers (many) and products (many).

Understanding How Subforms and Relationships Work

Using subforms is an effective way to create one-to-many relationships and offers unlimited options for business use. In this type of association between two tables, the primary key value of each record in the primary table corresponds to the value in the matching field or fields of many records in the related table.

For example, if you want to display an order with all of its details, you will use a subform. The order information would display on the "main" form (one detail), and the order details would display on the subform (many details). The data in the CustomerOrder table in Figure 14.27 is the "one" side of the relationship in this example. It creates a Document number for the transaction,

identifies the Customer, provides room for Notes (delivery instructions, special handling, etc.), and date-stamps the transaction. In contrast, the data in the OrderDetails table is the “many” side of the relationship, showing an unlimited list of items purchased in a transaction.

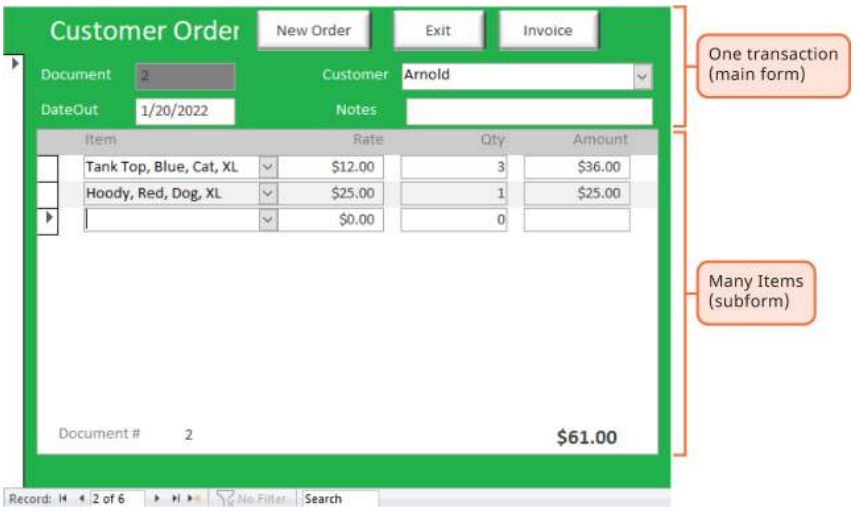


Figure 14.27: The main form provides the lookup values to determine what to populate in the subform, which lists the items ordered. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The main form and subform are linked so that the subform displays only records that are related to the current record in the main form. For example, when the main form displays a Customer Order by Arnold on 1/20/22, as shown, the subform then displays items that were included on Arnold’s #2 order only. If the form and subform were unlinked, the subform would display all the items that Arnold ever ordered, not just those ordered on 1/20/22, on Document #2.

Adding a Subform through the Subform Wizard

There are two common ways to add a subform to a main form. The quickest way is to simply open a form in Design View and then drag and drop a form (from your list of completed forms) that you want to be the “many” as your subform. However, using the Form Wizard can ensure that the correct relationships are established when creating the advanced form. The following example will walk you through the use of the Form/Subform Wizard to track your time away from the WorldCorp office on the golf course.

Start by designing a query that helps ensure that relationships between the tables are created. To help you think through the query design, you might consider sketching it out on paper or in another app with boxes and arrows to show how fields are connected. Then you can take this plan and use it as your work through the queries when designing a form. Using the Form/Subform Wizard can also make designing the queries and the form easier. In this example, shown in Figure 14.28, you will design a golfing relational database that keeps track of individual scores and rounds. It may sound like a complicated task to create for a weekend activity, but with the wizard, it can take just a few minutes to have a great application in place for your out-of-office recreation.

First, create four tables to help keep track of (1) the different courses (tblCourseID), (2) the different players (tblPlayer), (3) each round played (tblRound), and (4) the score shot on each hole played per round (TblScore). Then, create a query that will bring together all four tables with all the fields from each table using the skills covered earlier in the chapter. The goal is to make tblPlayer the main form; with tblRound and tblScore listed as subforms.

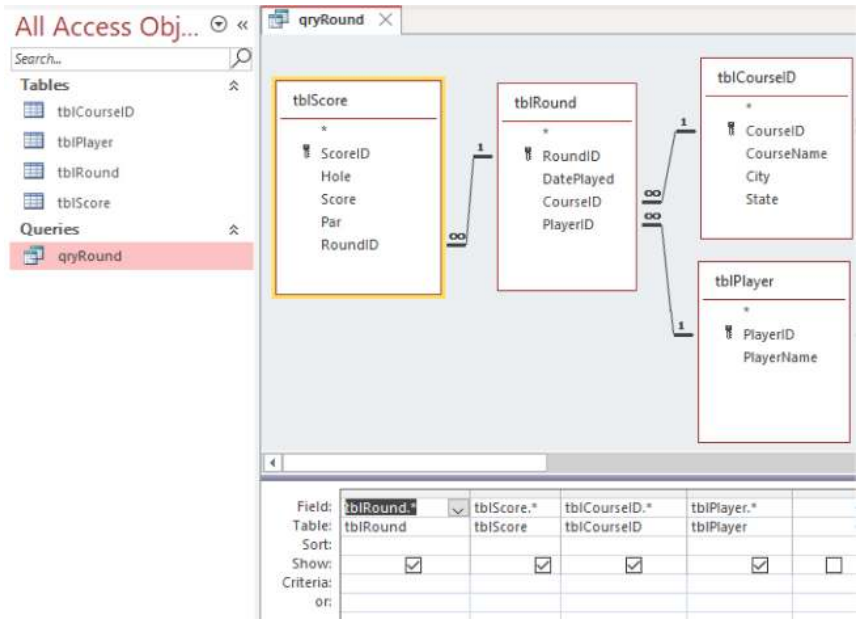


Figure 14.28: Four tables are joined in this query to create the main form and two subforms. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that you have created a query, save and close it. The next step, shown in Figure 14.29, is to select the Form Wizard from the Create tab in Access.

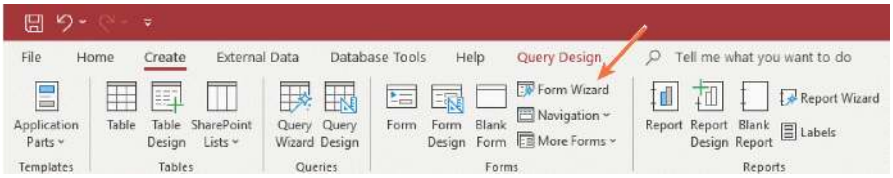


Figure 14.29: The query established the relationships between the tables and the Form Wizard found on the Create tab is used to create the form from the query. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The following sequence of figures walks through the different options in the wizard. Once you have used the wizard a few times, you will find it easier to plan future forms and subforms for data management (see Figure 14.30, Figure 14.31, Figure 14.32, and Figure 14.33). Remember that we also used the Form Wizard in Understanding and Using Databases.

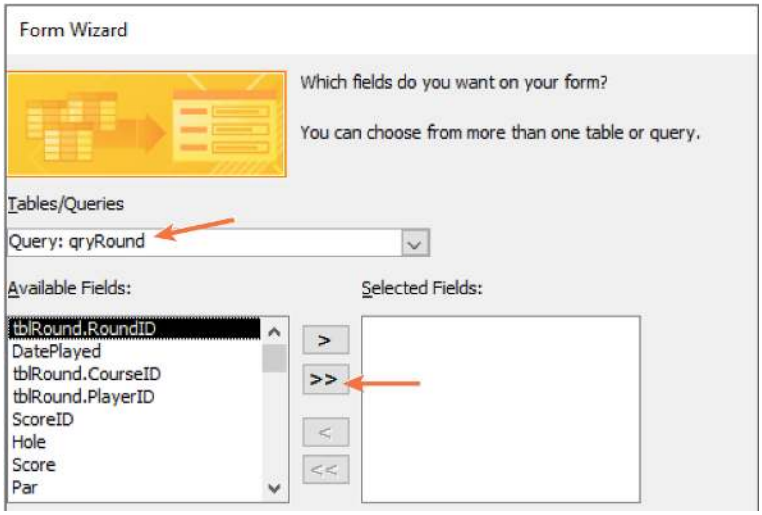


Figure 14.30: The Form Wizard begins with determining the fields that will be used in the form and from which tables those fields come from. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

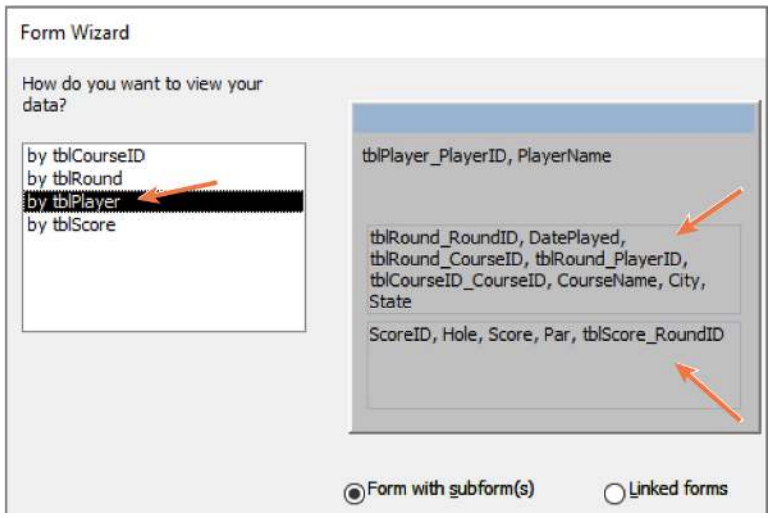


Figure 14.31: Rather than creating a form with a subform, you can instead create two separate forms and link them together. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

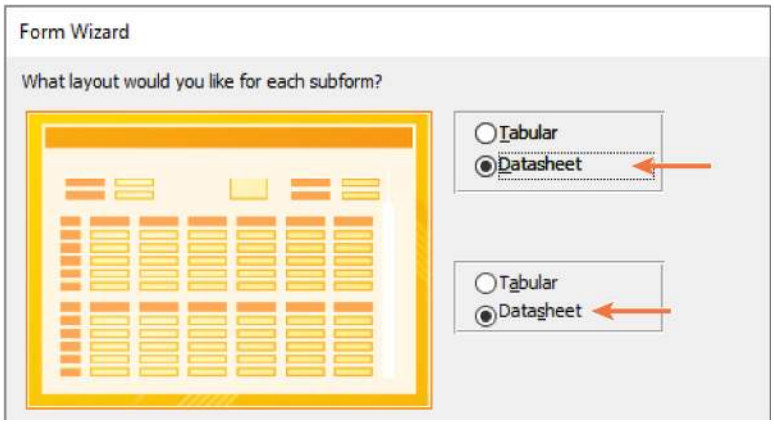


Figure 14.32: Each subform can be displayed differently on the main form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

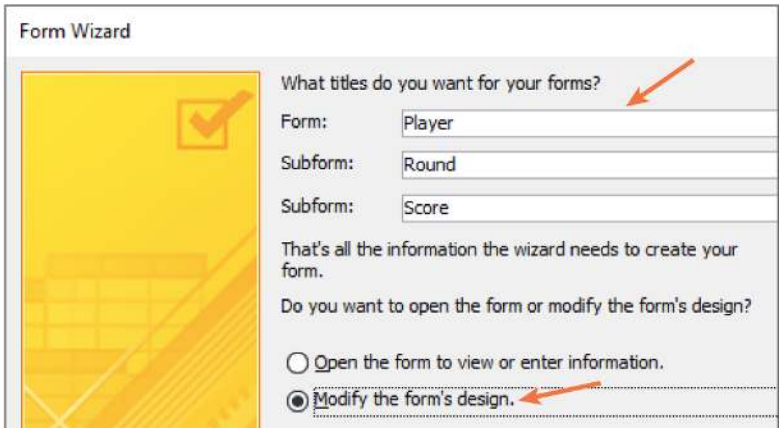


Figure 14.33: Choose Modify to preview the form before using it to collect data. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

After you select Finish in the wizard, the following form is created Figure 14.34. This database, built with four tables, one query, and three forms, will provide a way to keep track of weekend golf performance for years to come.

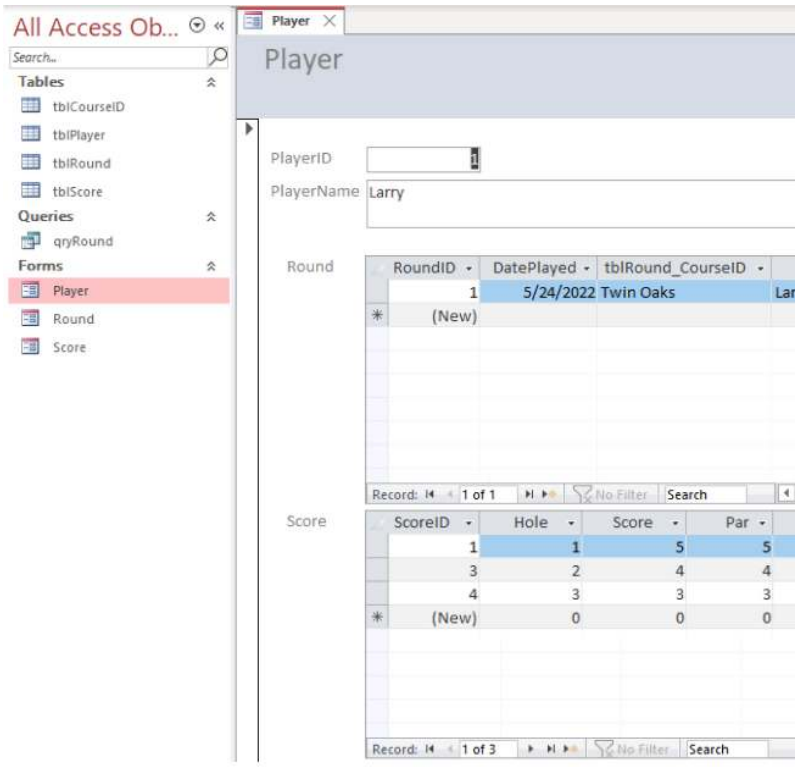


Figure 14.34: This form was designed as a training aid to demonstrate how the Form Wizard can be used to create subforms. The subform to collect the scores is displayed in a tabular form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To review, the Form Wizard created three forms, as shown in the All Access Objects section: Player, Round, and Score. When you open the Player form, it will display all three forms. In this example, Larry is the selected player on the main form—PlayerID #1. The subforms will display information related to only Larry. He is currently playing his first round at Twin Oaks on 5/24/22. We know this because the information displayed within the Round subform is clearly highlighted in blue. Round is set to be a subform of Player. Additionally, Larry has just entered his score on hole #3 of his first round. His score was a 3, and he also marked that the hole was listed as a par 3; Larry shot par!

Score is a subform of Round, so only scores for the selected round will be stored. As Larry continues his round, he can simply add additional rows of data from each hole he plays on the Score subform. These scores will both be saved under RoundID #1 and kept as Larry's unique scores. If Larry is playing against another player, you would navigate to the correct player on the main form and enter their round/score as well.

Larry can use this simple yet powerful form to keep track of unlimited rounds of golf. In the office, he might apply these steps to developing a way to keep track of a variety of business tasks or projects. For example, each of his employees could have an assigned project with numerous unique details concerning each project. The employee would be the main form, while the project names and project details could be the subforms.

Adjusting a Subform in Design View

Subforms are difficult to change and update within Design View of the main form that they are sitting on. A much easier way to alter a subform is to open that form separately (first making sure the main form has been closed). Using the previous golf example, if you want to add details to the Round subform (for example, add a place for notes on weather or course conditions), it is best to open up the Round form by itself and make the changes. Once the changes have been made, you can save and close the form, then reopen the main form (in this example, Player) to see whether you need to adjust the size. After making any changes, always make sure the subform displays the new information within the main form.

This page titled 14.2: Multiple Table Forms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.3: Customizing Forms

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Use the tools to build a custom form
- Modify and add controls to a form
- Customize the appearance of a form by including images and modifying fonts

WorldCorp has manufacturing locations in the United States, China, and Germany, with headquarters in key metropolitan areas in those same countries. Smaller functional units are located in offices around the world, and there is an established international remote workforce. As you continue to develop an inventory database for potential retail locations its customers experience, forms will help users add data records to fields within tables. Those working in the new retail locations become the users of forms. As they receive shipments of inventory or create sales transactions for customers, their input is what truly creates the data. Above all, a form should be functional for them. Beyond functionality, a form that is customized in a way that makes it easier and faster to use will create a more enjoyable user experience. Consider our diverse workforce around the world. Knowing how to customize a form for cultural business practices is crucial in supporting the user. This will be no different as you develop and design an inventory database for a potential booming retail arm of WorldCorp.

Typically, one of the first forms all users experience is the Main Menu at WorldCorp, which helps them navigate through all the other forms available to them in the database. Rather than scrolling through the entire list, the user can go to the Main Menu, a starting point for all navigation.

Link to Learning

A quick way to prioritize a Main Menu for any graphical user interface is to manage its settings. A Main Menu can be created either all at once quickly or over time, and the process can be creative and fun. Be sure to set the Display Form option to Main Menu so that when the database is first opened, the Main Menu form is opened up and ready for the user.

This video on creating a menu GUI in Access 2013 discusses the basic steps in creating a Main Menu and, most important, walks through the display options.

Building a Custom Form

In general, using the Form Wizard will be the quickest and most efficient way to create a custom form. We covered how to do that in Understanding and Using Databases. Here, however, we will walk through the steps of building a form from scratch, in Design View, to demonstrate all of the possibilities. Start by selecting the Query Design option under the Create tab in Access, and you will create a blank form in which you can start working. Figure 14.35 shows the Detail section that appears when you create a blank form.

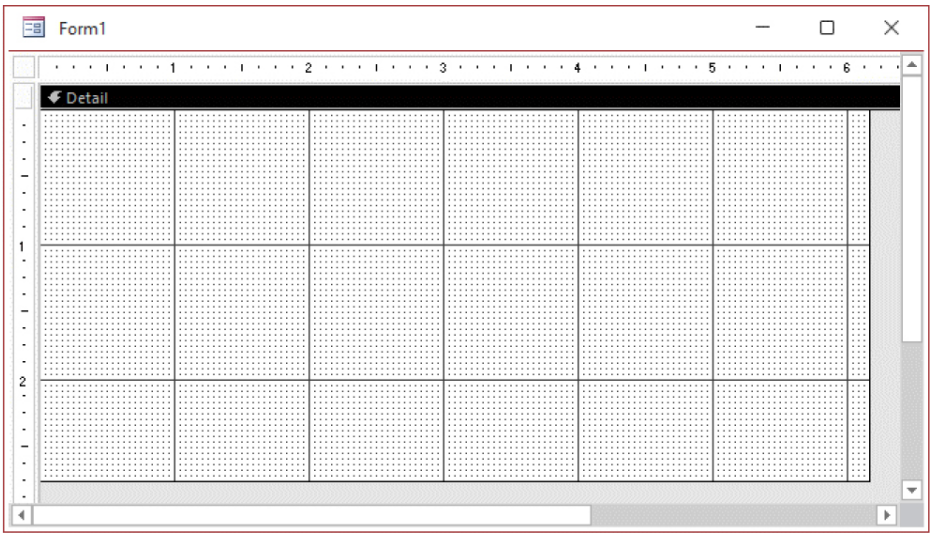


Figure 14.35: From the Create tab, choose Form Design to create the form from scratch. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The next step is to save the form (frmMainMenu) and start planning how you want the Main Menu to look and operate.

Form Views and Tools

Right-click on the top of the form to see the list of options, as Figure 14.36 shows. Here, we will review the four ways to view a form: Form View, Layout View, Design View, and Datasheet View.

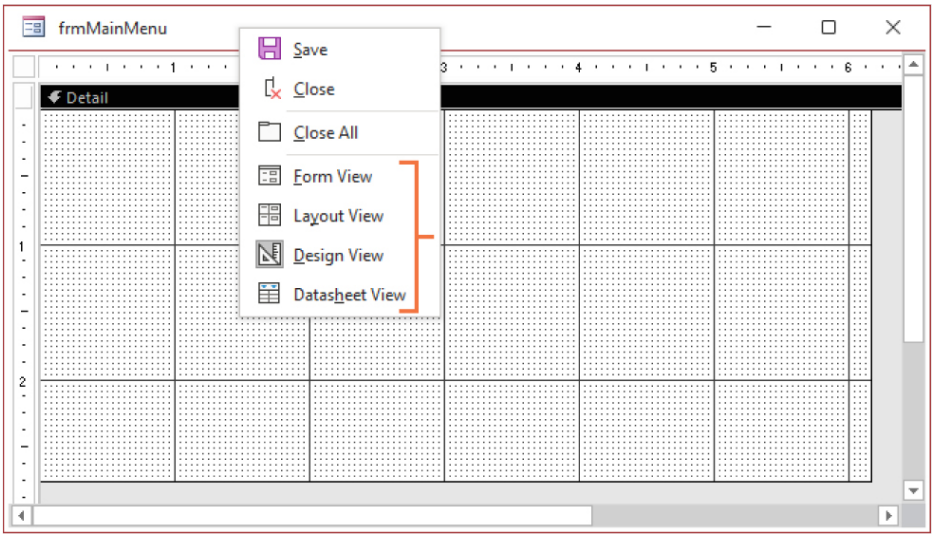


Figure 14.36: To begin a new form, you must first save it. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Form View

Form View shows us what the form will look like for the user. Data can be changed in Form View, but formatting cannot be changed. Whenever a form is launched, it will first be displayed in Form View. It is recommended to continually check the Form View while creating a form to make sure that the final version of the form displays all of the desired options.

Layout View

Layout View is a feature that allows us to design and customize the layout of forms and reports visually, by dragging and dropping fields and other objects onto the design surface. It is helpful for inexperienced users because it provides a more intuitive and user-friendly way to create forms and reports than the traditional Design View. In Layout View, you can see how your form or report will look as you design it, and you can easily move fields and other objects around to create the desired layout.

For example, let's say you want to create a form to enter data about damaged items that need to be removed from inventory. In Layout View, you can drag and drop fields such as Item Name, UPC Code, Quantity, Description of Damage, and Date onto the

form, and then arrange them in a way that makes sense for your users. You can also add other objects such as labels, images, and buttons to make the form more user-friendly. Overall, Layout View is a helpful tool for creating forms and reports in Access, particularly for the least experienced users, who may not be familiar with the intricacies of Design View.

Design View

Design View is a feature that allows us to create and modify the structure of tables, queries, forms, and reports in a more detailed and precise way. Similar to Layout View, in Design View for forms and reports, you can add and arrange fields, labels, buttons, and other objects, and set their properties to control their behavior and appearance. However, Design View provides a more granular level of control over the structure and properties of your database objects, allowing you to create more complex and customized solutions. It also allows you to view and modify the underlying SQL code that Access generates for your objects, which can be helpful for troubleshooting and advanced customization.

Design view is a powerful tool for creating and customizing the structure and functionality of tables, queries, forms, and reports in Access, and is helpful for naive users who want to create more complex and customized solutions.

Datasheet View

Datasheet View is similar to what you might see in a spreadsheet program. The data is in a table grid like Excel. This allows you to interact with the information in a form similar to how you would work in Excel. You can add or delete records (rows) and add or delete fields (columns) easily in this view. You can also use some of the common keyboard shortcuts for copy and paste.

Having this view option can depend on which version of Access you are using. As of 2021, Datasheet View was removed from forms in Access. So, if you are using a new version of the app, you will likely not have the Datasheet View option.

Using the Form Tool

A list of form tools is available within the Form Design tab on the right side of the ribbon. To add existing fields to a form, click the Add Existing Fields command (see Figure 14.37). The Field List pane will appear, and you can select a field or fields to add to your form.

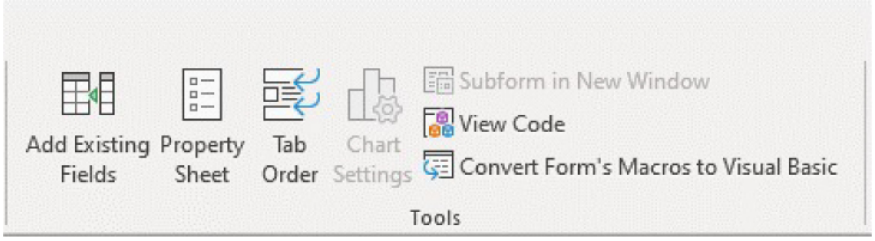


Figure 14.37: You can begin to add elements to your form such as fields using the Tools command group. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

An option set in Design View on the property sheet is called a form property. These options control how the form looks, works, and interacts with the rest of the database. Use the tabs to find the specific property you want to set, and use the help available to you in the bottom-left corner of the Access window to learn the function of each property setting. In many cases, the default setting may be adequate for getting started.

You can use tab order to help control which section of the form the cursor moves to next. This feature provides ease-of-use for gathering data in a user-friendly way. When adjusting tab order, always consider the layout of the form: What is the first thing the user will do, what is next, and so on? Also consider omitting any fields the user will simply tab through—for example, aut\nonumber fields. These types of fields can be omitted altogether for a better user interface experience.

Using the Split Form Tool

After building a table, you can create a split form. Select the table from the All Access Objects list and then go to the Create tab. Under More Forms, select Split Form. In this example, Figure 14.38, you can collect a list of your favorite jokes. The split form shows the datasheet (a running list of jokes) in the lower section, outlined in yellow, while allowing access to the single-form information outlined at the top.

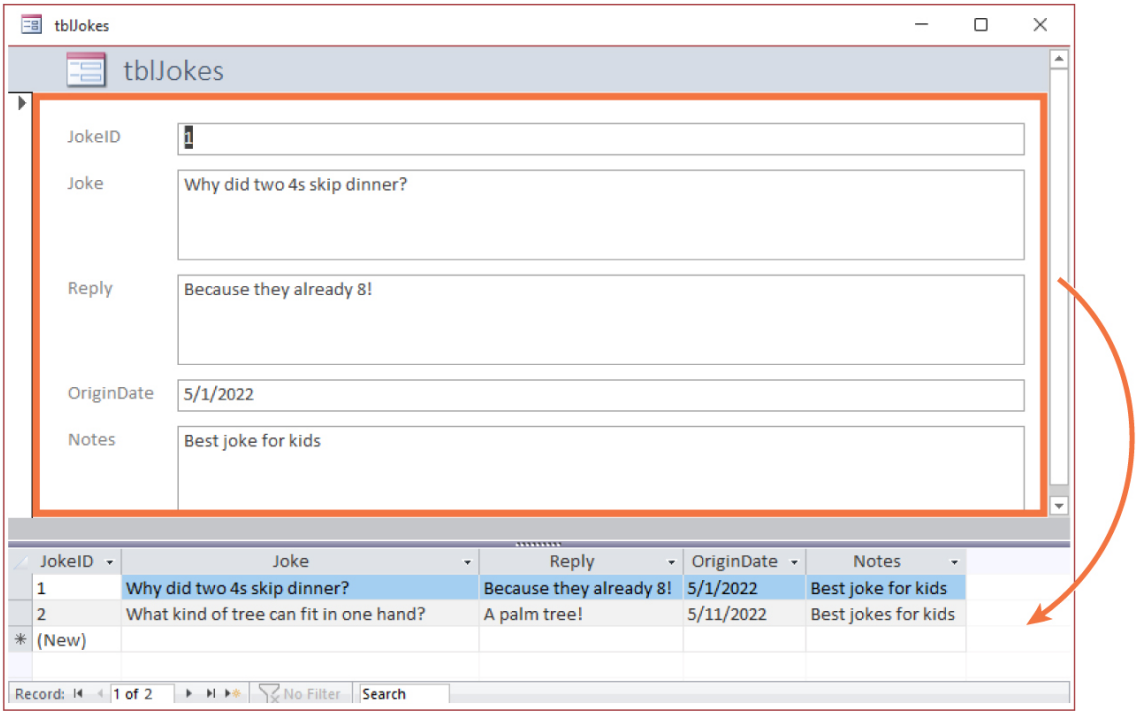


Figure 14.38: Split form view allows you to the information as it would look in the form as well as the tabular view showing each record in the table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using a split form may be helpful when you are scrolling through a datasheet to make changes, because it enables you to highlight a row of data in the single-form view. As you have seen, a common theme in form design is making the process easy and intuitive for the user.

Adding Controls to a Form

A form control is the part of a form that is used to enter, edit, or display data. Remember that controls can be bound, unbound, or calculated. In Understanding and Using Databases, we covered how to use the Control Wizard to walk you through adding controls to your form. Here, we will go into more detail about the different types of controls you can add, and how to add them without the wizard.

As an example of adding controls, start by creating a Main Menu for a multiuser-friendly database, using the example of a carpeting business, as Figure 14.39 shows.

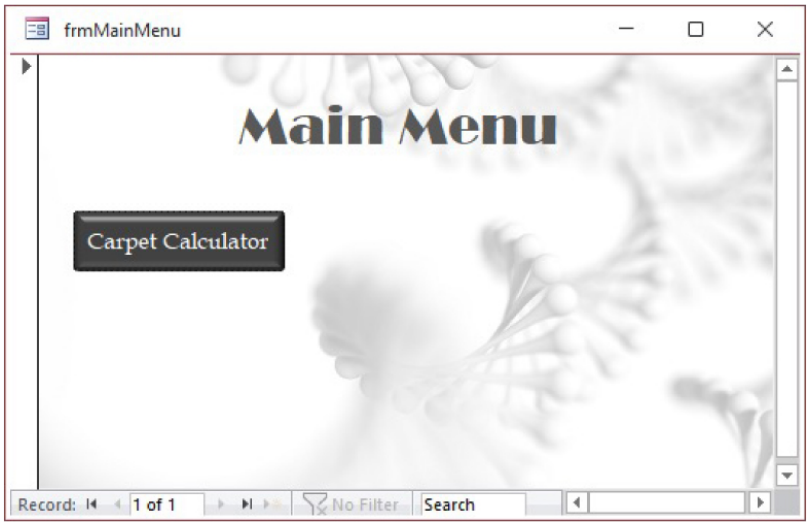


Figure 14.39: Controls are used to customize the form by inserting images, text boxes for titles, and other related elements. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When helping a customer, an agent of the business would begin by opening the Main Menu form. Notice that a form control, Carpet Calculator, has been added to the Main Menu as the first control. To respond to a customer's call, the agent will most likely need a form to calculate a potential quote for a project. The form control that was added is a button, one of many options available in the Controls section of Form Design.

Common Controls

Controls can be placed on forms to add to their functionality. This section walks you through the procedure for adding several common controls.

The command control is used to start an action or a set of actions. For example, the button in Figure 14.39 is designed to open the Carpet Calculator form. The Command Button Wizard shown in Figure 14.40 appears automatically when you add a button to a form in Design View. When you select Form Operations within the Categories field, followed by Open Form within the Actions list, the wizard records a macro or event procedure and attaches it to the command button's On Click property.

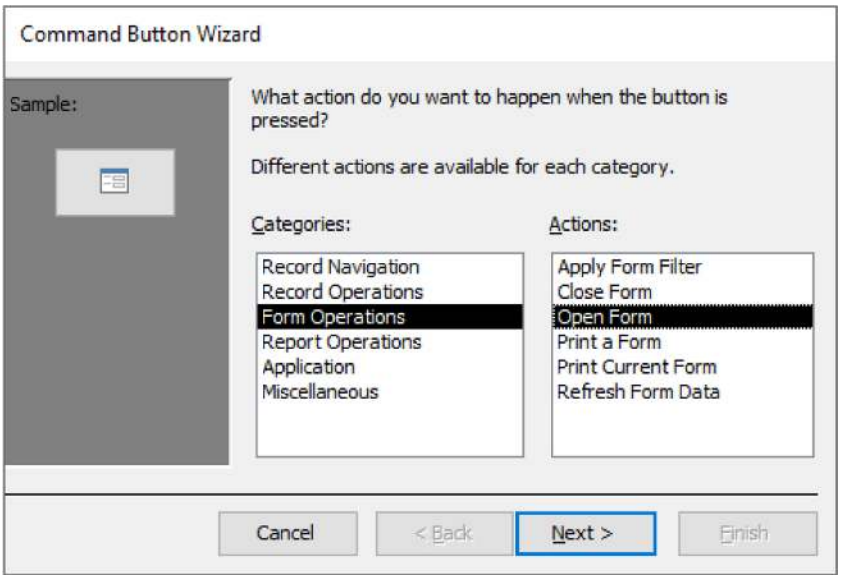


Figure 14.40: You can further customize the form by adding a command button to perform a specific task such as closing or printing the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Text Boxes

Text boxes are great items to elevate the use and function of any form. They can be bound to a field or unbound. You can use an unbound text box to display the results of a calculation or to accept input that you don't want to store directly in a table, such as the current date and time—information that is not connected to a field in a table or query.

It is easiest to add an unbound text box in Design View. On the Design tab, in the Controls group, click Text Box. Position the pointer where you want the text box to be placed on the form or report, and then click to insert the text box (outlined in yellow in Figure 14.41). In this example, the expression =Now() was added to the unbound text box within the property sheet (circled). (Note that Access also places a label to the left of the text box. In this example, the label was deleted, as the current date and time do not require a label.)

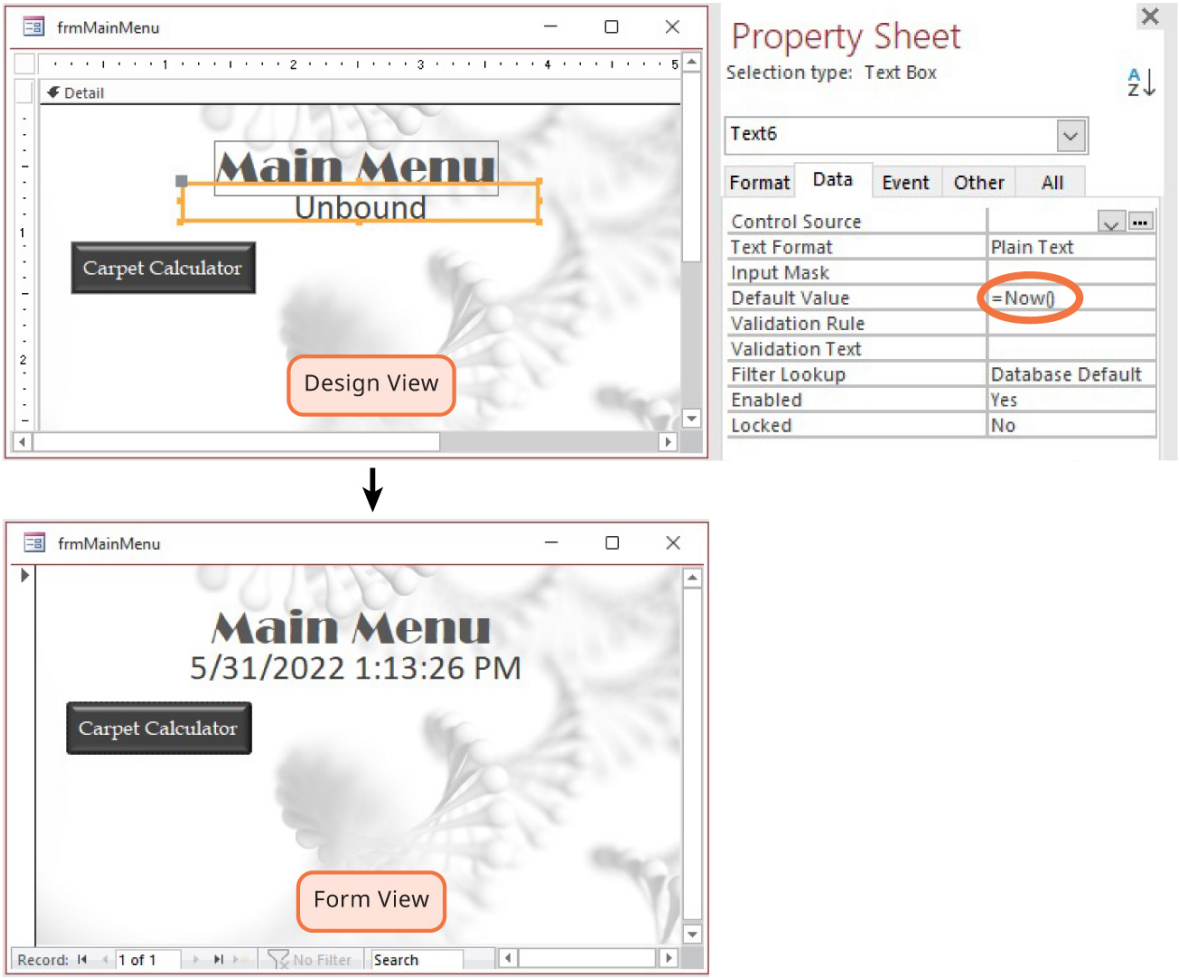


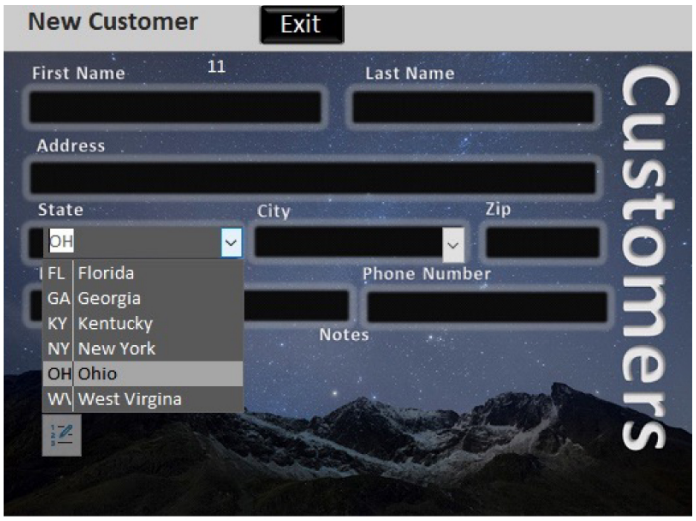
Figure 14.41: Elements such as the date and time can be added to text boxes when inserted into the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Combo Boxes

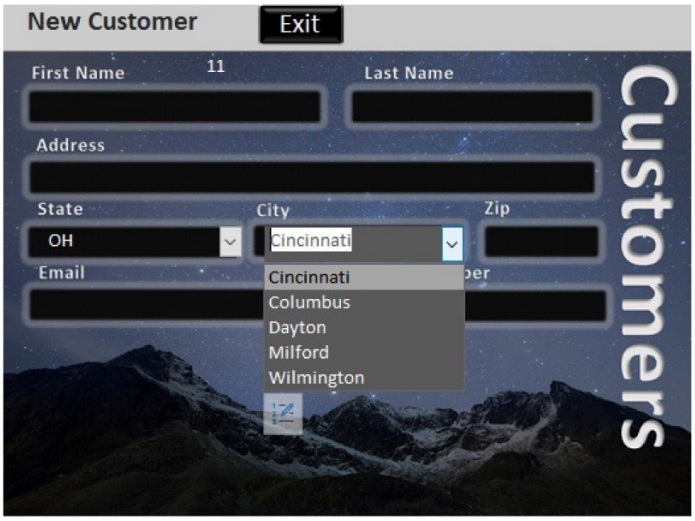
A combo box is an object or control that you can also place on a form. It displays a list of values from which a user can quickly select. The values displayed within a combo box can be populated by a table/query, value list, or field list. Combo boxes are commonly used in forms to provide users with a list of choices to select from, while also allowing them to enter a new value if none of the predefined options meet their needs.

Combo boxes are helpful for numerous reasons. As an example, they can simplify data entry by providing users with a list of predefined options to choose from, which can help reduce errors and ensure data consistency. In addition, combo boxes can be set up to validate the data entered by users, such as by checking if the input matches a specific format or if it exists in a related table. This helps ensure the data entered into the database is accurate and complete. In consideration of your users in retail, combo boxes can increase efficiency by allowing retail associates to quickly select from a list of options, rather than having to manually enter the information every time they handle any of the inventory.

In the example shown in Figure 14.42, a New Customer form is designed with two combo boxes: one for State and the other for City. These two combo boxes were designed differently. The State combo box was built from a table of state names and abbreviations, while the City combo box was built from a query of city and state names. The query is set to display only the conditions selected by the State combo box.



(a)



(b)

Figure 14.42: Drop-down menus can be helpful to reduce the amount of information the user needs to type manually into the form. These menus can be formatted and built in different ways, as evidenced by the State combo box in (a) and the City combo box in (b). (Used with permission from Microsoft)

An additional option that can be added to any combo box is the ability to update the list provided in the combo box. In the example, only a couple of states and cities are listed, so you may want to include a shortcut for adding a new state or city to the table. Combo boxes maintain spelling integrity.

In this example (see Figure 14.43, frmState (circled) is a form designed to update the tblState table. This form was then added to the List Items Edit Form criteria on the associated property. Users can select List Items Edit Form option, located in the property sheet, which launches the frmState form to update the table.

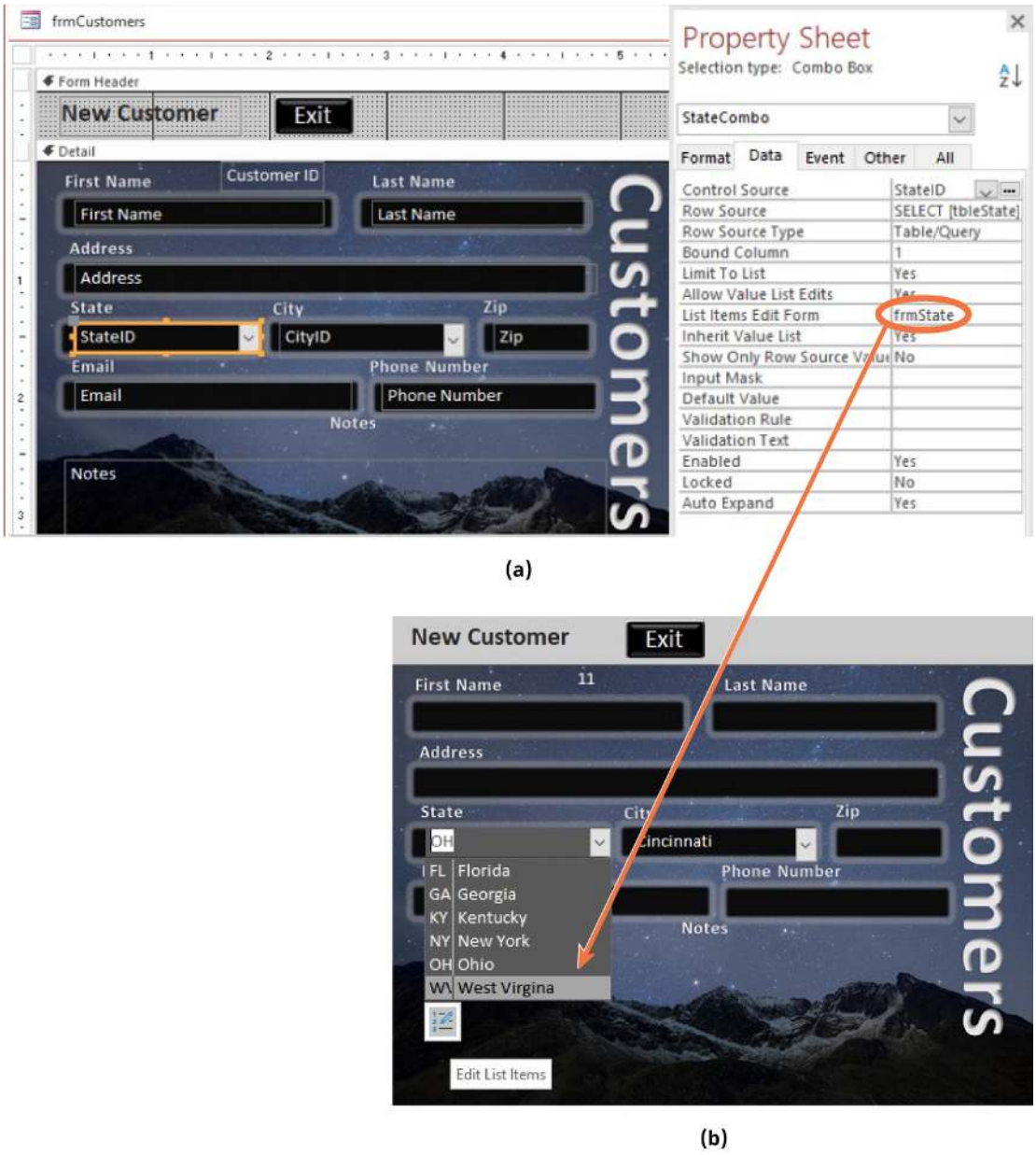


Figure 14.43: A table in the database (a) can be used to populate the options in the combo box so that if edited, (b) the form is automatically updated as well. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Changing the Appearance of a Form

This section discusses changes that make a form easier to use and more appealing overall, and that will allow for personalization of the project, including company branding.

Before you start to manipulate the appearance of a form, consider creating a template for both primary default views: Single Form View and Continuous Form View. It is important to have a starting point to build from if you anticipate creating numerous forms for the project, all of which will require formatting changes. In this section, you will learn how to add headers and footers, add a title, modify text, control colors, and, finally, add logos and custom imagery. This will be the starting point for you to explore your creativity.

Adding and Modifying Headers and Footers

Adding Header and Footer sections to a form in Access takes just a few simple steps. Start by displaying the form in Design View (see Figure 14.44). Right-click on the grid area on the design surface and select Form Header/Footer from the shortcut menu.

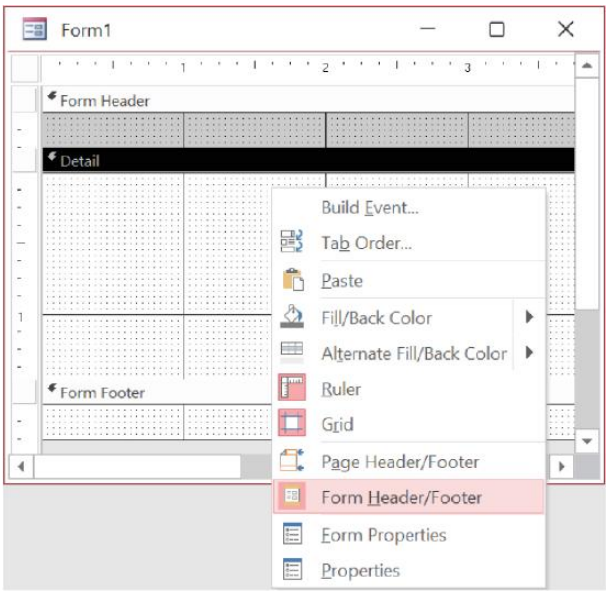


Figure 14.44: You can include company information or logos to each page of the form by adding a header. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding a Title to the Form

A clear and descriptive title can help users quickly identify the purpose of the form and understand how it relates to the overall database. This may be the very first thing they see when the form opens. A well-crafted title can communicate important information about the form, such as the type of data it contains, the purpose of the form, or the specific function it serves within the database. This can help users understand how the form fits into the larger context of the database and improve their overall understanding of the system. In addition, consistent use of titles can help maintain a cohesive and organized database structure, making it easier for users to locate specific forms and navigate the database overall. In consideration that you're a WorldCorp employee, adding a title to a form can add a level of professionalism to the database and make it look more polished and organized. This can improve the overall perception of the database.

Often, the original form design is built around the title. When you envision a WorldCorp user interacting with a form you designed, consider the title placement, size, and font selections in correlation with the company branding.

As shown in Figure 14.45, you can add a title from Design View, on the Form Design Tools tab in the Header/Footer command group. Select Title (circled) to add a text box to the Header section of the form (Figure 14.46).

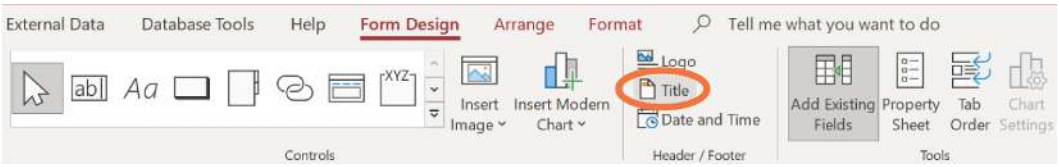


Figure 14.45: Including the date and time in the header could be helpful especially when sorting or tracking information from completed forms. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

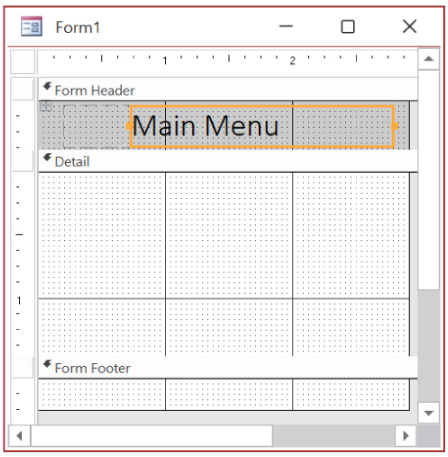


Figure 14.46: The title of the form should be descriptive of the data you will collect in the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding and Formatting Text

In today's modern world with information at our fingertips, marketing toolkits (MTs) are often available and are expected to be used when available. Numerous company websites now have highly detailed information on their branding. As an example, Tennessee Tech is one of many institutes that make branding information available to both employees (faculty and staff) and customers (students). This enables their current workforce and stakeholders to post on social media, post flyers, or add branding information to newsletters as a way of promoting the company culture. MTs provide users with the various elements the company requires—all promotion, training, and public relation materials. From the color scheme to the font to the logo placement, expectations in design are being elevated every year.

In the current example, make sure to select the text box that you want to format. If you want to apply the same formatting to multiple text boxes, click and hold Control on the keyboard to select multiple text boxes before you apply the desired formatting (see Figure 14.47).

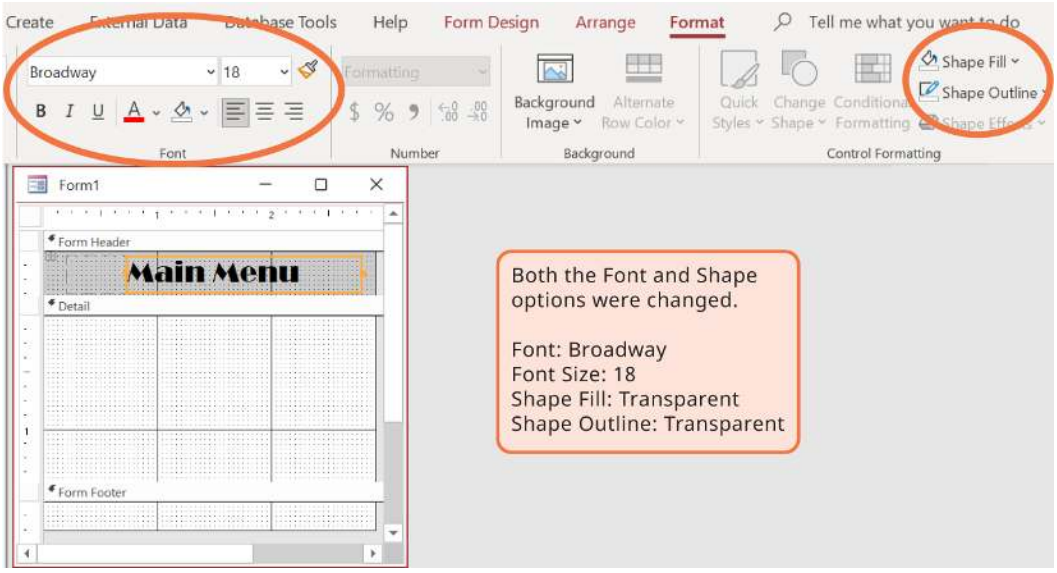


Figure 14.47: The tools to customize the header are similar to the text formatting tools in other Microsoft apps. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you are working in Design View, remember to return to Form View to preview your results. You may need to repeat this several times to achieve your desired formatting.

Adding Logos and Images

Logos and images are important elements to add to forms for several reasons. They can be used to reinforce the WorldCorp branding and create a consistent visual identity across all aspects of our databases, including forms. They can enhance the visual appeal of a form, leading to a more engaging and attractive experience for the user. They can also be helpful in communicating information to users—for example, highlighting important points, guiding users through a process, or providing visual cues for navigation. Consider the rapid rise of self-ordering screens at your local fast-food restaurant. Images help a diverse group of users identify what they would like to order from the menu.

In addition, logos and images can evoke emotional responses in users, creating a more positive overall experience. For example, using images of happy customers can help create a more positive association with the database and improve user satisfaction while helping a customer in a retail location. Adding logos and images can improve the overall user experience and encourage users to use the database more frequently.

To insert a logo from Design View, select the text box that was created when inserting the title. Then, select Logo (Figure 14.48). The Windows folder will open, allowing you to select a picture file to be inserted as a logo (Figure 14.49).

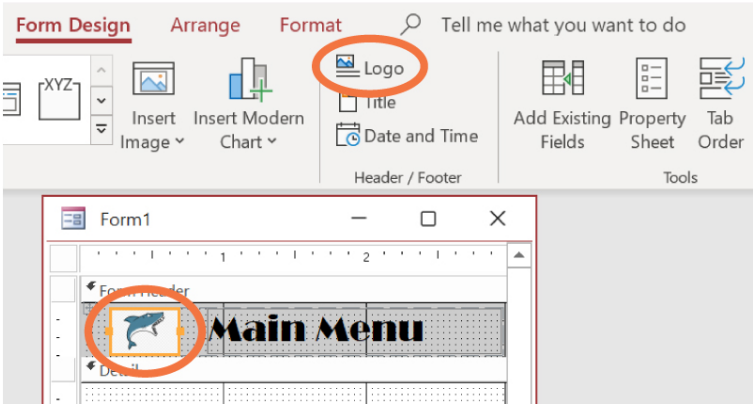


Figure 14.48: Insert your company logo in the header to customize the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

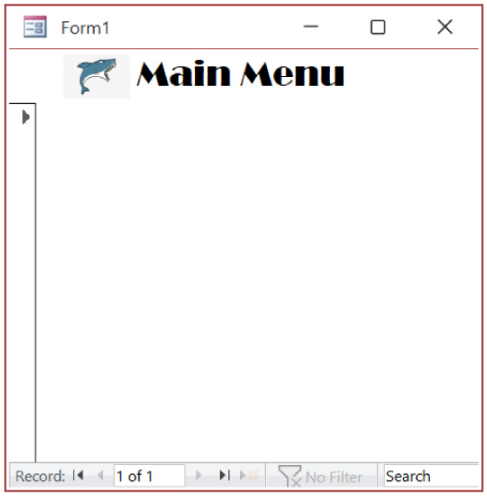


Figure 14.49: After you have added elements such as the company logo, you can preview what users will see using the Form View from Form Design tab. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Formatting a form can be an enjoyable and creative process. It is satisfying to invest the time needed to craft the most visually pleasing form. Once you are satisfied with a design, consider creating a template of it that you can copy and paste as a starting point for additional forms. That way, you can avoid duplicating the effort that you have put into perfecting your form design.

This page titled 14.3: Customizing Forms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.4: Customizing Reports

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create a customized report
- Modify what appears on a report
- Change the appearance of a report

Reports offer a way to view, format, and summarize the information in your Access database. For example, at WorldCorp, you can create an invoice for all your sales, or a summary of total sales across different regions and time periods depending on which corporate business unit on WorldCorp you are surveying. In the chapter on Understanding and Using Databases, you learned about how to create and modify reports using the Report Wizard. In this chapter, we will go deeper into creating and modifying reports.

Building a Custom Report

The Report Wizard does provide a quick and efficient way to create reports. At times, however, you will need to make a report from scratch. Understanding the section types enables you to use them to their fullest potential.

Often, queries are used to combine tables and define fields that will be included in a report at WorldCorp. As with creating a form, queries become the primary building block for developing a desired report that meets the current demands of the ever-changing WorldCorp objectives.

A report is divided into sections that can be seen in Design View. To create professional-looking reports, you will need to understand how each section works. For example, the section in which you choose to place a calculated control determines how Access calculates the results. What you want on the cover page of the report may be very different than what you want at the top of the pages that follow.

In addition to the report header, page header, report footer, and page footer, which we covered in Understanding and Using Databases, there are other sections in the report that you should know:

- Group Header: This section appears at the beginning of each group in the report and is used to display summary information about each group.
- Detail: This section is where the actual data from the report is displayed. It appears for each record in the report.
- Group Footer: This section appears at the end of each group and is used to display summary information about the group.

Using these sections allows you to create a well-organized, easy-to-read report that contains all the necessary information.

Modifying a Report

There are several tools and views that you can use to create, format, and customize reports. The different views allow you to see and preview your report in different ways, each of which may be useful to you at times. We reviewed these different views and some of these tools in Understanding and Using Databases, but here, we will go into more depth.

Layout View

Layout View is a great way to see the print preview grid lines, with the ability to change the size and placement of all labels, text boxes, and design elements. Right-clicking and selecting Layout View shows how much of the report will fit on a page. In Layout View, each control on the report displays real data, making this a useful view for setting the size of controls or performing tasks that affect the report's appearance and usability, as Figure 14.50 shows.

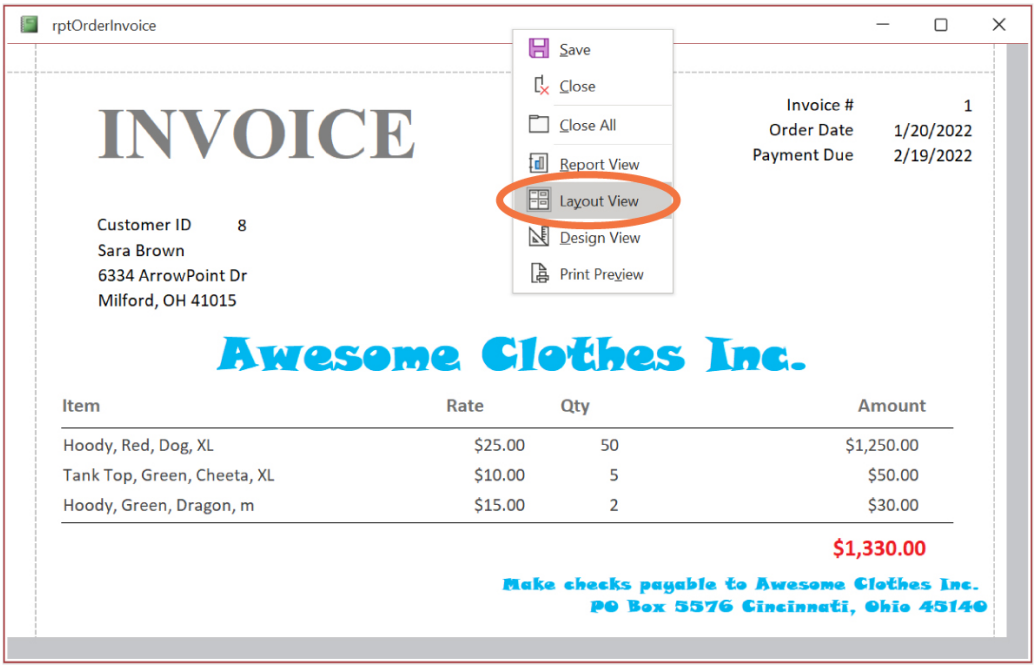


Figure 14.50: In the Layout View, you can make changes while viewing the form to see how the user will see the form with data included. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Design View

In Access, Design View is a view that allows you to create and customize the layout and structure of a report. Design View is an important feature for creating professional-looking reports, as it allows you to customize the design and appearance of the report to suit your needs.

When you open a report in Design View, you'll see a grid that represents the layout of the report. The report is divided into several sections, including the Report Header, Page Header, Group Header, Detail, Group Footer, Page Footer, and Report Footer. Each section has its own set of properties that you can modify to change the appearance and behavior of the section. You can also add various types of controls to the report, including text boxes, labels, buttons, and images in this view. Grouping and sorting options to the report can help organize and display the data in a meaningful way.

Design View also allows you to set properties for the entire report, such as its orientation, margins, and page size. You can also add themes and styles to give the report a consistent and professional appearance. Overall, this view allows you to create custom reports that suit your needs in inventory management and retail store operations while at WorldCorp. By taking advantage of the many customization options available in Design View, you can create reports that are both informative and visually appealing.

As you can see in Figure 14.51, the Design View includes all sections of the report.



Figure 14.51: The gridlines in Design View are helpful to keep the form looking professional by lining up controls and sizing elements appropriately for the fields. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Grouping and Sorting in a Report

Tools that can group and sort your information will be of utmost importance when organizing your report. Information is often easier to understand when it is divided into groups. For example, in the invoice for Awesome Clothes Inc., the sections are used to group the details and relevant information. In addition, placing a total (a sum of all Amounts) in the Report Footer section can replace a lot of manual interaction with a calculator. The customer can quickly see the total of the grouped sections, showing the amount owed.

Grouping and sorting are important features in Access reports that allow you to organize data in a meaningful way. Additional considerations why you might want to use grouping and sorting in your Access reports are endless. Grouping and sorting can make it easier for users to read and understand the data in a report. By grouping related data together and sorting it in a logical order, you can help users quickly identify patterns and trends. It also allows you to summarize data by creating subtotals or totals for each group. Sorting can help you identify outliers or anomalies in your data. For example, if you're sorting a list of customers by purchase amount, you might notice that one customer has made an unusually large purchase, which could indicate a potential sales opportunity or a data entry error.

Grouping and sorting can help you make more informed decisions by presenting the data in a clear way. By using these tools in different ways, you can analyze the data from multiple perspectives and identify opportunities for improvement. By using these features, you can create reports that are more informative and easier to understand, which can ultimately help you make better business decisions that affect our success at WorldCorp.

Filtering Records

Another useful tool in Access is the filtering tool. This gives you the ability to filter a report prior to printing or presenting the information. There are just a couple quick steps you can take every time to ensure the information that is obtained in the report is correctly filtered to the desired data points.

To start, open the report in Design View. Click on the Sorting and Grouping button in the Grouping & Totals section of the Design tab on the ribbon. In the Sorting and Grouping dialog box, select the field that you want to filter by. Simply click on the "..." button next to the Filter property. In the Filter dialog box, select the criteria that you want to use for the filter. You can select from a variety of options, including Equals, Not Equals, Contains, Does Not Contain, Between, and more.

Enter the value or values that you want to use for the filter. You can enter a single value, multiple values separated by commas, or a range of values. Next, click the OK button to close the Filter dialog box and save and close the report. Open the report in Print Preview or Report View to see the filtered results. Note that you can also apply filters to a report while viewing the report in Print Preview or Report View. To do this, click on the Filter button in the Sort & Filter section of the Home tab on the ribbon, and then select the criteria that you want to use for the filter.

To use an actual example, let's filter our customers living in Ohio. Simply right-click on states listed as OH, and click Text Filters - Equals OH (see Figure 14.52).

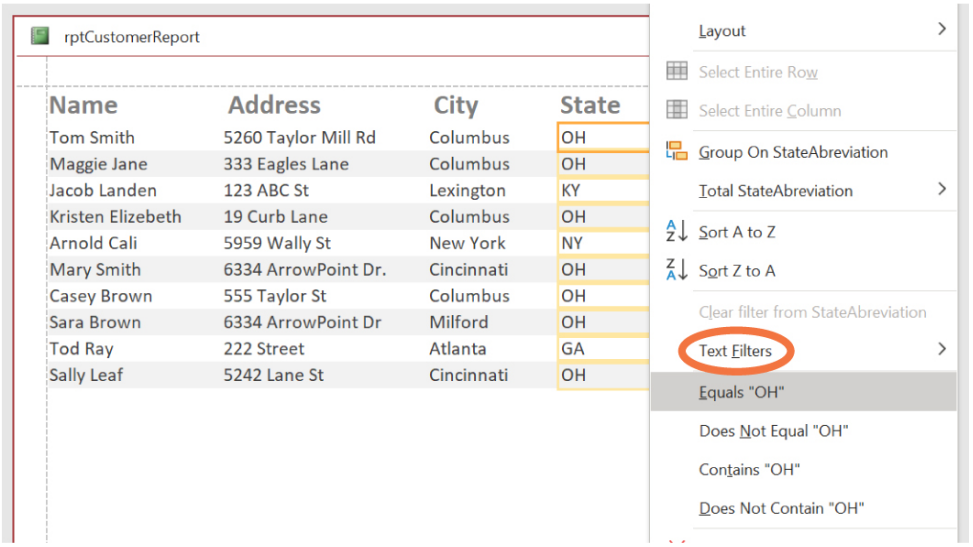


Figure 14.52: A report of information gathered from data entered into the form can be sorted and filtered by text or by fields. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In Figure 14.53, Access applies the filter, and you can now print the report including only the data selected from the filter.

Name	Address	City	State	Zip
Tom Smith	5260 Taylor Mill Rd	Columbus	OH	41015
Maggie Jane	333 Eagles Lane	Columbus	OH	45140
Kristen Elizebeth	19 Curb Lane	Columbus	OH	45211
Mary Smith	6334 ArrowPoint Dr.	Cincinnati	OH	45140
Casey Brown	555 Taylor St	Columbus	OH	45140
Sara Brown	6334 ArrowPoint Dr	Milford	OH	41015
Sally Leaf	5242 Lane St	Cincinnati	OH	41015

Figure 14.53: The report will only display the information based on the filter; the remaining information will be hidden but is still contained in the table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Totals and Subtotals

Adding totals and subtotals to a report in Microsoft Access is useful for summarizing data and providing meaningful insights to numerous activities at WorldCorp. A few reasons why you might want to add totals and subtotals to your report could include summarizing data, grouping data, identifying outliers, and comparing datasets.

Totals and subtotals allow you to summarize data in a report by providing aggregate values such as sum, average, count, minimum, maximum, and more. This can help users quickly understand the overall trends in the data. Grouping data by a particular field or criteria, such as by department or product category is very useful for subtotals by allowing users to analyze the data from different perspectives. Totals can be used to identify outliers or anomalies in the data. For example, if the total sales for a particular product are much higher than the other products, it may indicate that there is a potential opportunity for growth. In addition, they can be used to compare data across different time periods, geographic locations, or other criteria. This can help users identify trends and patterns in the data that may not be immediately apparent. Layout View be used to add totals or averages to a report.

To add a total in a report, start by opening the report in Design View. Click on the field where you want to add the total. Then, in the Properties window, scroll down to the Total property and select the type of total you want to add. See Figure 14.54 for the available options. Finally, save the report and reopen it in Print Preview or Report View to see the total.

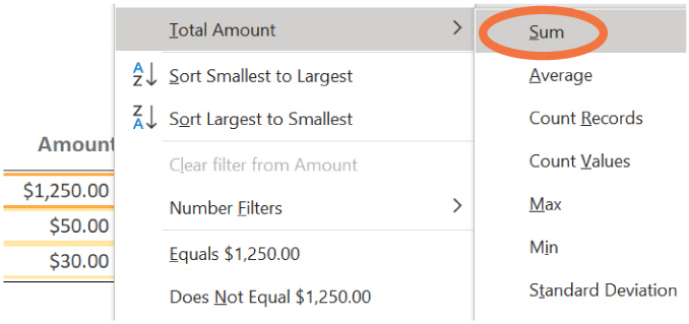


Figure 14.54: Access provides some tools to help you analyze information, although not to the extent that you can do data analysis in Excel. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Fields to a Report

To add fields to a report in Access, start by opening the report in Design View. Select the Add Existing Fields button in the Controls section of the Design tab on the ribbon. In the Add Existing Fields dialog box, select the table or query that contains the fields that you want to add to the report. Select the fields that you want to add to the report by checking the boxes next to their names. Click the Add button to add the selected fields to the report.

In addition, you can drag the fields to the desired location on the report once they are added. You can also resize the fields by dragging the edges of the control box. Make sure to save the report. Once you are done adding the fields to the report, you can customize their appearance and formatting by adjusting the properties in the Properties window.

As an example, we will review how text boxes can be added to a report to improve its ability to communicate information at WorldCorp. Start by opening your report in Layout View or Design View. Note: If your database does not contain any tables, the Field List pane will be empty. When you find the field(s) you want to add, double-click the field and then drag it from the Field List pane to the form or report, as Figure 14.55 shows.

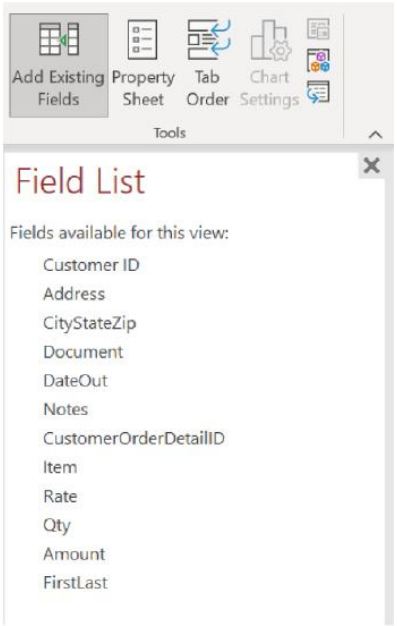


Figure 14.55: From the Report Layout Design tab you can add additional fields to the report from the Tools command group. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Time and Date

One area that is very important on an invoice is the invoice date and due date. In addition to the original purchase date, it can be helpful to calculate a due date or add a mailing date. In the following example, we will see the procedure for adding three dates: origin date, due date, and mailing date. This custom build will clearly explain to the customer the payment due date parameters.

Start in Layout View or Design View. The DateOut field, as shown in Figure 14.56 was included in the field list. This information can be presented on the report and used later in calculating the additional information.

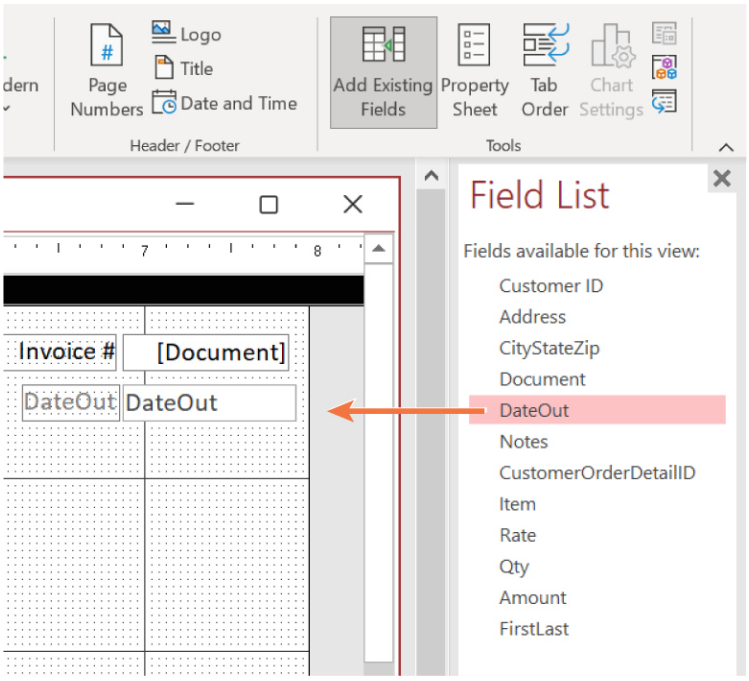


Figure 14.56: Choose the field you want added to the report and place in the report in the desired location. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Formatting a text box prior to copying it is highly recommended to save time and keep attributes alike. In the example shown in Figure 14.57, copy and paste the label and text box twice, pasting the second instance directly below the first. Then, change the labels to represent the three dates the customer should see: Purchase date, Invoice date, and Due Date (Figure 14.58). For appearance, the borders on each label were changed to transparent.

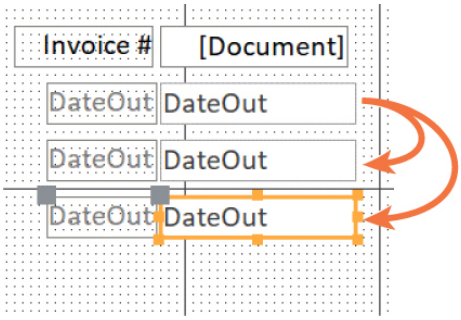


Figure 14.57: If you are using a similar layout for multiple fields in the report, you can insert once and copy and paste for the additional fields. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

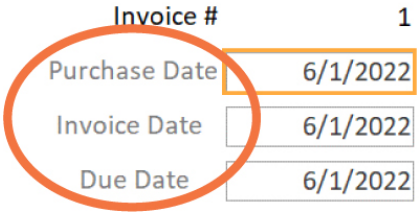


Figure 14.58: Descriptive titles are needed for each field in the report. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Next, open the property sheet and select the Invoice Date text box. Change the control source to =Date()—a quick change that will provide the current date for the text box, as shown in Figure 14.59.

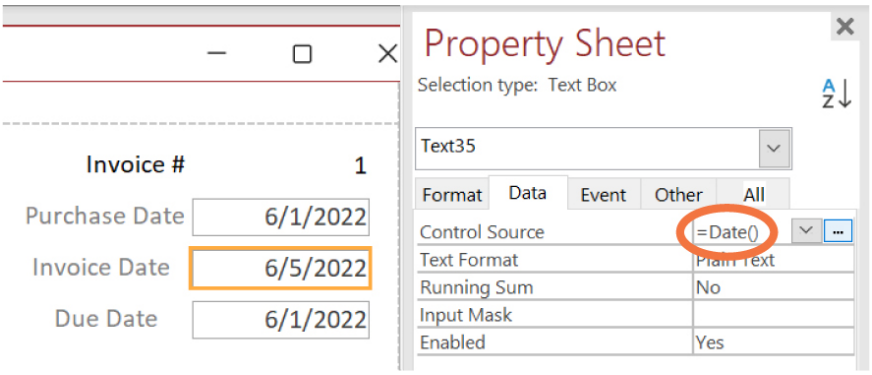


Figure 14.59: By changing the properties for the inserted field, you can add formulas to automatically populate certain aspects of the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Select the Due Date text box and open the property sheet. Change the control source to =[DateOut] + 30. The control source is the field to which your text box is linked; it will display the data in that field and any updates you make to the field. This sample expression makes a calculation: It takes the field DateOut and adds 30 days to the field. The text box will display the expected due date of the invoice, as you can see in Figure 14.60. As this is probably the most important date in the report for the customer, change the font to red and make it boldface. This subtle change will help direct the customer's eyes to the important due date field.

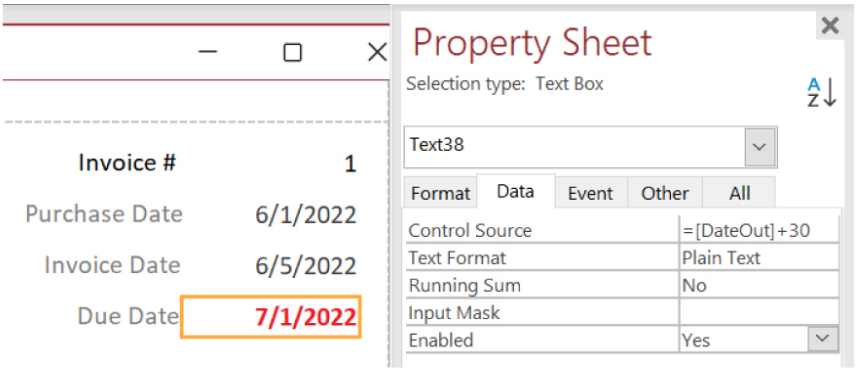


Figure 14.60: Mathematical operators can be utilized in field properties to modify dates as needed. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Changing the Appearance of a Report

In Understanding and Using Databases, we briefly covered how to add images and custom text to your report. Here, we will go into detail about further customizing the appearance of your report.

Adding and Formatting Text

Many companies require particular directions when they invoice their customers. Terms and conditions are required and standardized through contracts. Placement, size, and accessibility are important, especially for current or future customers. In the example of the customer invoice, suppose you want to include a direction in the Page Footer section to instruct the customer on how to make a payment. In the following example, a label is used in the Report Footer section as direction for making payment. It provides information on how to direct the payment and where to send it. In designing this label, you will need to know how to set the size, font, and color to meet company guidelines or standards.

To do this, open the report in Layout View and select the Label option from the Report Layout Design Controls (see Figure 14.61). Draw the label in the Footer section and proceed to enter the payment directions.



Figure 14.61: The tools available to customize a report look very similar to those used to customize a form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

While still on the label, select the Label option Format and adjust the font, size, and color within the font section. Within the label, font styles, sizes, and colors can be changed from the ribbon, as in all Microsoft Office products (Figure 14.62).

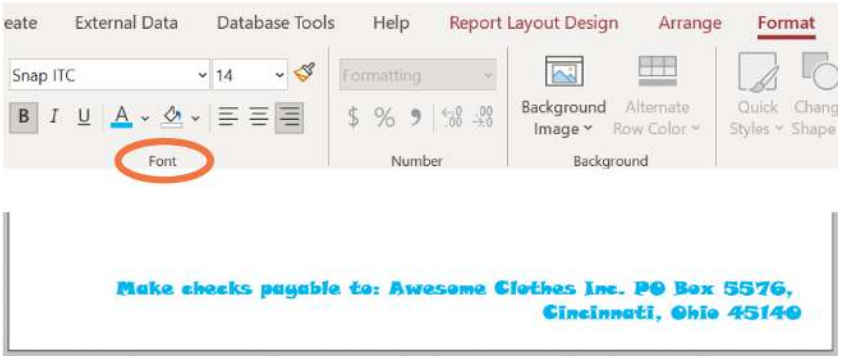
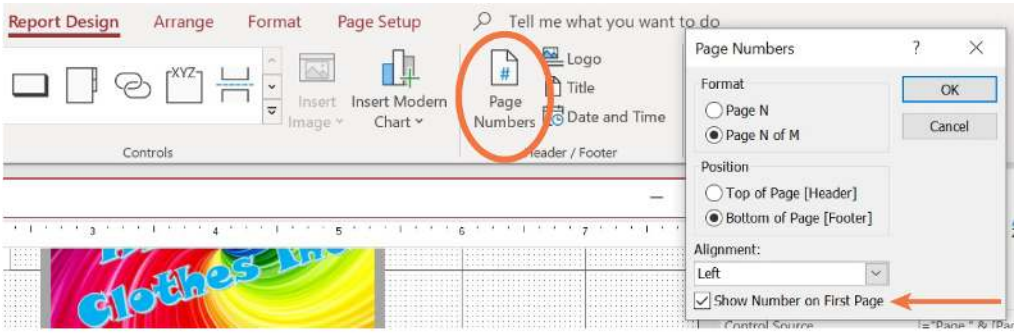


Figure 14.62: Text contained on a form can be adjusted by size, font type, and others similar to changing fonts in Word. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

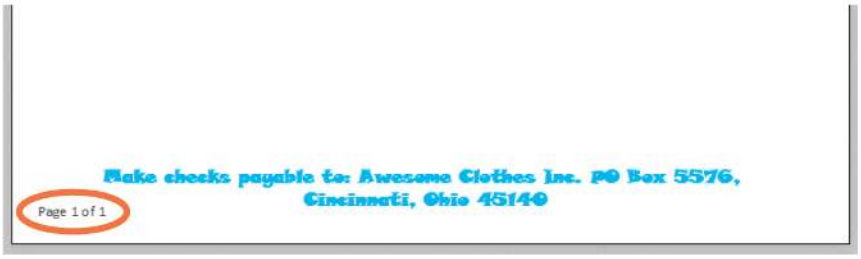
Once complete, review the report in Print Preview View. Make sure the message is displayed in the correct position and with the correct formatting. You can repeat these steps for any other information that may be standardized on the report (e.g., contract guidelines or customer service contact information).

Adding Page Numbers

Open the report in Design View or Layout View. On the Design tab, in the Header/Footer group, click Page Numbers. When the Page Numbers dialog box appears, choose the format, position, and alignment that you want (Figure 14.63). Note: If you do not want a number to appear on the first page of the report, be sure to uncheck the option to clear the Show Number on the First page checkbox. When you are done, click OK, and the page numbers will be added to the report. (To see how the page numbers will look when the report is run, switch to Print Preview.)



(a)



(b)

Figure 14.63: (a) In the Header/Footer command group, page numbers can be added to multi-page reports. (b) Just as in Word, you can determine the formatting and location of the page number on the report. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Adding Logos and Images

In the example of the customer invoice, a company logo helps clearly represent the company's ownership and brand. Beyond simply using font styles and colors to distinguish your company, a company logo can make reports look professional. Note: Before finalizing a report that may go out to a large audience, be sure to check with your company's guidelines on placement, size, and color guidelines for logos. Larger companies often offer a marketing toolkit to help guide employees in the use of logos.

To better understand the use of logos, we will walk through steps for adding and modifying a static image on a form, using our clothing company example.

First, choose the image that you want to use as the logo for the clothing company. Ideally, this image has been given to you or made available. Company logos are usually saved as a JPEG or PNG file type. Open the report in Design View when you are ready to add the logo. Select the Image button in the Controls section of the Design tab on the ribbon. This will add an image control to the report.

Resize the image control to the desired size by dragging the edges of the control box. Right-click on the image control and select Properties from the context menu. In the Properties window, go to the Picture property and click on the ellipsis button (...) to select the image file that is the saved logo.

In the Picture Size Mode property, choose the Clip option to ensure that the image is displayed at its original size. Save the report once complete. You can also modify the appearance of the image by adjusting the properties in the Properties window. For example, you can change the border style, color, and thickness, as well as the background color of the control box. In this example, shown in Figure 14.64, the logo was placed in the center of the invoice header section, replacing the company name.

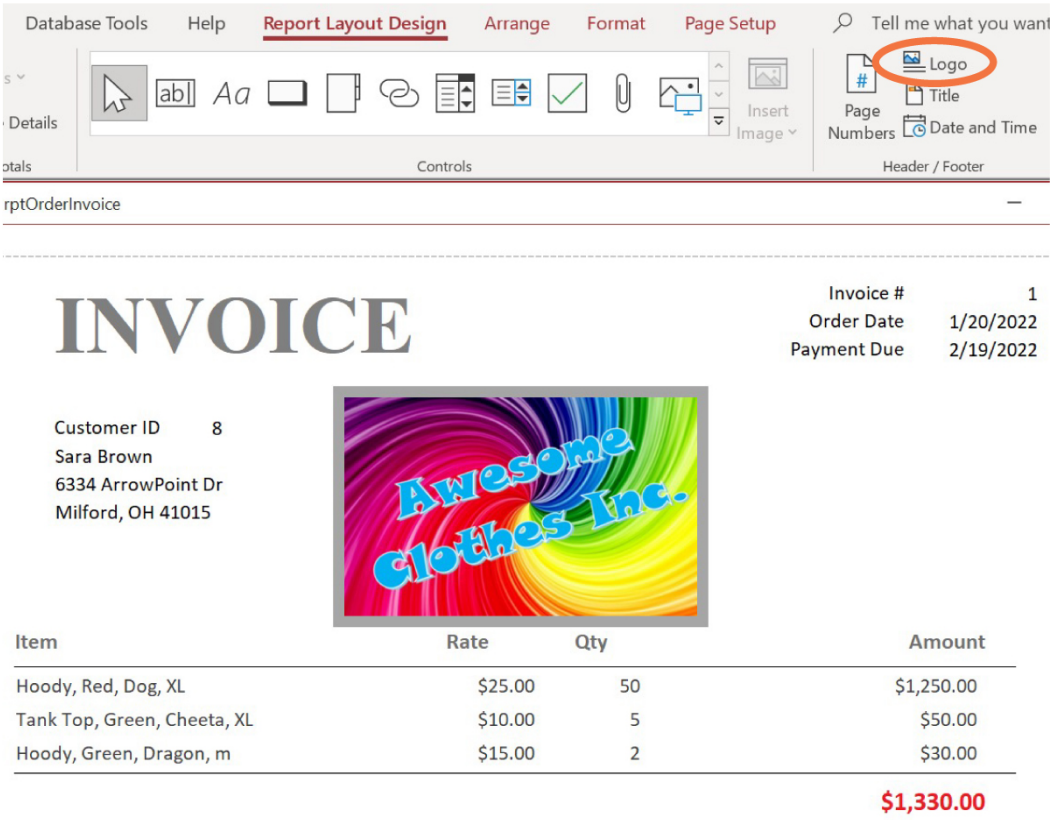


Figure 14.64: Company logos are an important part of reports such as invoices sent customers and are easily added in the header. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now it is time to print your report. Before you do, make sure you are happy with the final version. Remember that although forms are designed for users, reports are for audiences and stakeholders. It's important to consider whether your message and data are clearly presented and whether the report meets all company guidelines for publication.

Spotlight on Ethics - Privacy in Two Acts: FERPA and HIPPA

Personal information such as addresses, work history, and in some cases medical history, could be contained in a variety of different databases and with a variety of different organizations or companies. Our personal information is regularly exchanged and sold to entities to solicit sales, send mailers, or for political purposes just to name a few examples. More and more people are becoming concerned with the use and privacy of their information.

Two areas of particular concern are medical data and academic/educational data. You might be familiar with FERPA – The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. This piece of legislation was passed to protect your academic records. The Act also gives protections to individuals for how their educational records are used by government agencies such as the Department of Education. Your right to keep those records private is part of the legislation. In addition, you have the right to request your records at any time. The data essentially belongs to you. There are certain provisions that allow usage of the data for reporting and auditing purposes. But when the data is used, personally identifiable information is generally not disclosed.

In a similar manner, HIPPA, or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1995, protects your medical information. Your specific medical information is kept private under most circumstances. Information such as treatment plans or medication might be shared with insurance companies but that information is protected through the insurance companies from outside entities under the same HIPPA legislation.

In general, under both legislative acts, unless there is a justifiable compelling reason to disclose your personal information, it is kept private. Both acts give options for you to disclose to certain entities. For example, you can decide to allow your parents access to your educational records or your spouse/partner have access to your medical records. Signed approval for such disclosure is needed to release the information to someone other than yourself.

This page titled 14.4: Customizing Reports is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.5: Using Macros

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Record a macro that automates a common task
- Record a macro that enhances database functions
- Demonstrate some understanding of macro code

A macro is a set of instructions that can automate repetitive tasks or perform complex operations with a single click. Macros can be created using the Macro Builder, which provides a graphical interface for creating and editing macros. Examples of how a macro can be used in Microsoft Access are many.

As an example, your database under construction that tracks inventory for retail stores that WorldCorp would like to launch has numerous options to consider. Each time a new transaction is entered, you need to generate an invoice for the customer that includes their name, the date of the sale, and a list of the items bought. To automate this process, you can create a macro that performs the following tasks:

1. Open the Orders table and find the most recent order.
2. Get the customer's name from the Customers table.
3. Get the date of the order.
4. Get a list of the items ordered from the Order Details table.
5. Create a new record in the Invoices table.
6. Populate the new record with the customer's name, the date of the order, and the list of items ordered.
7. Save the new invoice record.

Once you have created this macro, you can run it whenever you need to generate a new receipt. Access will automatically perform all the necessary steps, saving you time and reducing the risk of errors. Macros provide the ability to automate repetitive tasks, improve productivity, and reduce errors in database management.

Creating and Recording Macros

Macros can make tasks that you routinely perform in Access quicker through automation. Macros are built using computer coding language to perform specific tasks such as running reports, printing forms, or copying data from one table into another table.

To begin using macros, open the macro design builder, located under the Create tab. This will create a blank macro builder, which can be saved and stored for later use in the All Access Objects area. The Macro Designer on the right side (Figure 14.65) contains the Action Catalog, where all of your actions will be stored in folders. You have Data Entry options, Data Import/Export, and so on, and on the left in the main area you have a blank canvas to start building your macro.

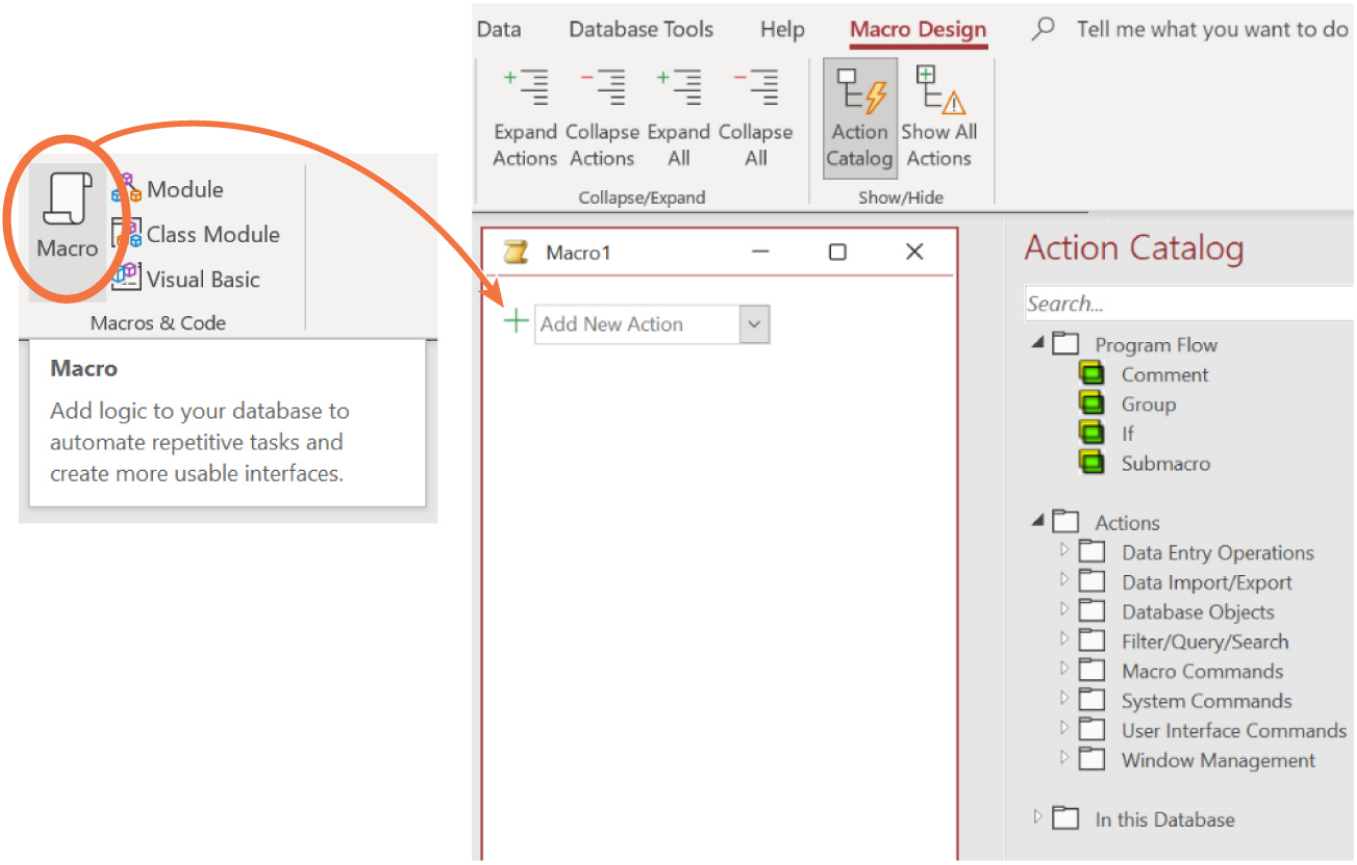


Figure 14.65: Macros are computer code written within the program to tell the app an action or actions to perform. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Recording a Macro to Automate Common Tasks

Recording a macro to automate tasks in Access is a common way to save time and increase productivity. When you record a macro in Access, you essentially create a set of instructions that Access can use to automatically perform a sequence of tasks.

Let's say you frequently need to create a report that shows the total sales for each region of the country in the growing area of retail sales. You can use the Macro Recorder to automate this process. First, select the Create tab in the ribbon and select Macro. In the Macro Builder, click the Record button to start recording the macro. Perform the actions you want the macro to automate. For example, you could select the fields you want to include in the report, specify the criteria for grouping the data by region, and apply formatting to the report.

When you have finished performing the actions, click the Stop Recording button in the Macro Builder. Give the macro a descriptive name and save it. Now, whenever you need to create a report that shows the total sales for each retail store, you can simply run the macro you recorded (Figure 14.66). Access will automatically perform all the steps you recorded, saving you time and reducing the risk of errors.

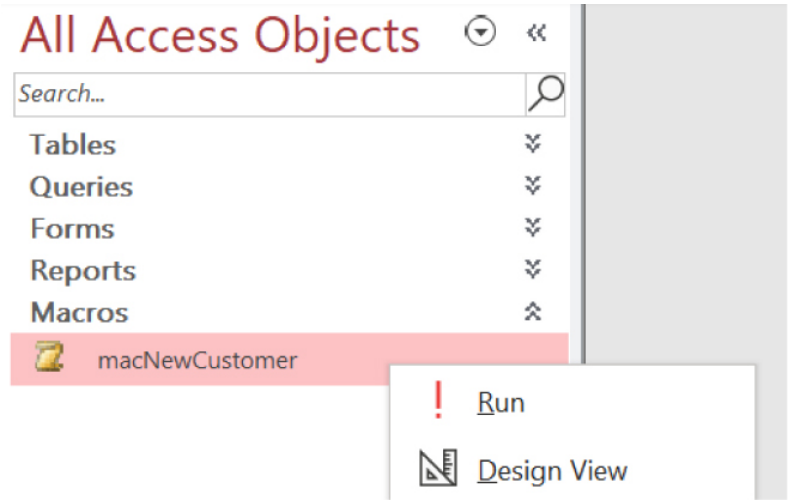


Figure 14.66: Recording a macro is an easy way to automate a task such as running a report or printing a form that you perform regularly. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

A common use of macros is to add a button to a form. In the previous section, we discussed how a Main Menu form can help improve user experience by creating a navigation map. Buttons can have macros embedded that open and close certain forms; they can also control what record source is displayed.

For example, suppose you want to add your customer form to the Main Menu. The original goal is to add a button that will open the customer form. However, if you want to add a button that will add a new customer, you can create a macro that will open the customer form and move the record to the new source. The open form is shown in Figure 14.67.

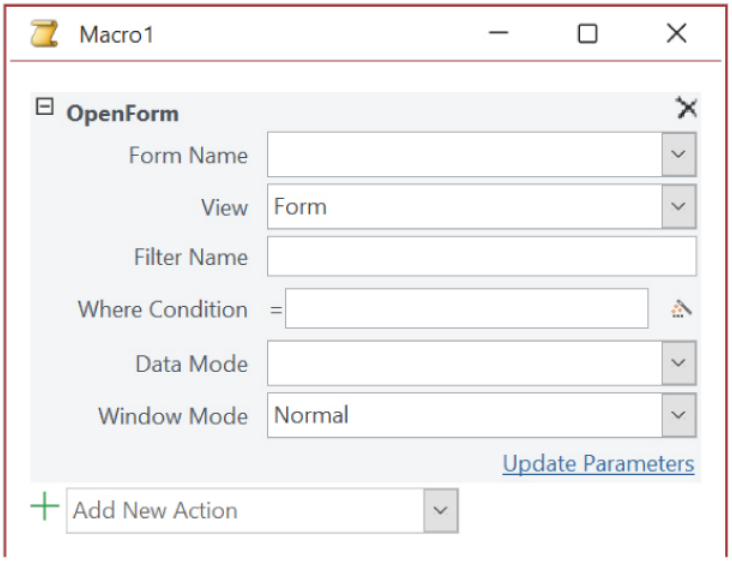


Figure 14.67: Macros can be added to forms through buttons and can be programmed to perform a wide variety of actions such as adding a new field. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You will see the form name with a drop-down arrow, which will show you the forms available in your database. For each form, there is a View option, which will allow you to open the form in Form View, Design View, or Print Preview View. You also can apply a filter name or a condition. In Figure 14.68, the macNewCustomer macro that was created centered on finding particular records. You will notice this option is available to modify.

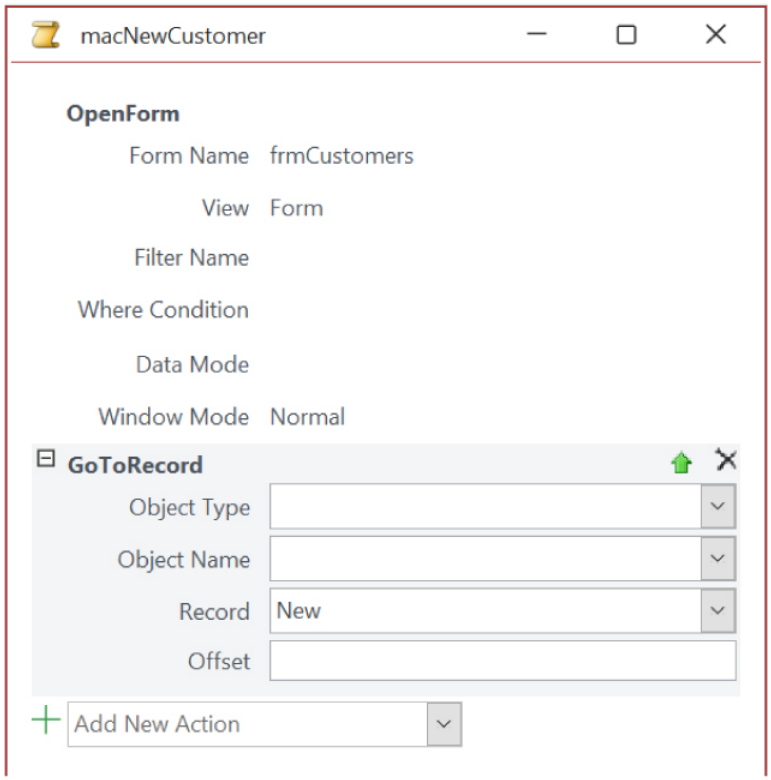


Figure 14.68: The drop-down menus give you options such as adding or deleting records in the form. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Recording a Macro to Enhance Database Functions

By customizing your database with macros, you can create a system for accomplishing many similar operations easily and efficiently. Two common applications for macros are displaying message boxes and validating data:

- Displaying a message box: You can use the MsgBox action to display alerts, warnings, and other useful information. The MsgBox action has four arguments: Message, Beep, Type, and Title.
- Data validation: Often used in Microsoft Excel, data validation is an extremely helpful step to take prior to adding the data to the database. To ensure that only valid data is entered in a form, you can specify a validation rule for the control in the form or set record and field validation rules in the underlying table design. For more complex data validation, you can use a macro or an event procedure to specify the rule.

As another example, you can use the RunApplication macro to run a Microsoft Windows-based application, such as Excel, Word, or PowerPoint, from within Microsoft 365. For example, you may want to paste Excel spreadsheet data into your Access database. This can greatly enhance your database's ability to work with imported data.

Reviewing Completed Macros

One of the easiest ways to review a macro is to simply run the macro and see if the desired outcome occurs. At any point, a macro can be edited to better serve the database developer's goal for how it will function.

To review completed macros in Access that have been developed, you can start by opening the database that contains the macros you want to review. Go to the Navigation Pane on the left side of the screen and select the Macros option. This will display a list of all the macros in the database.

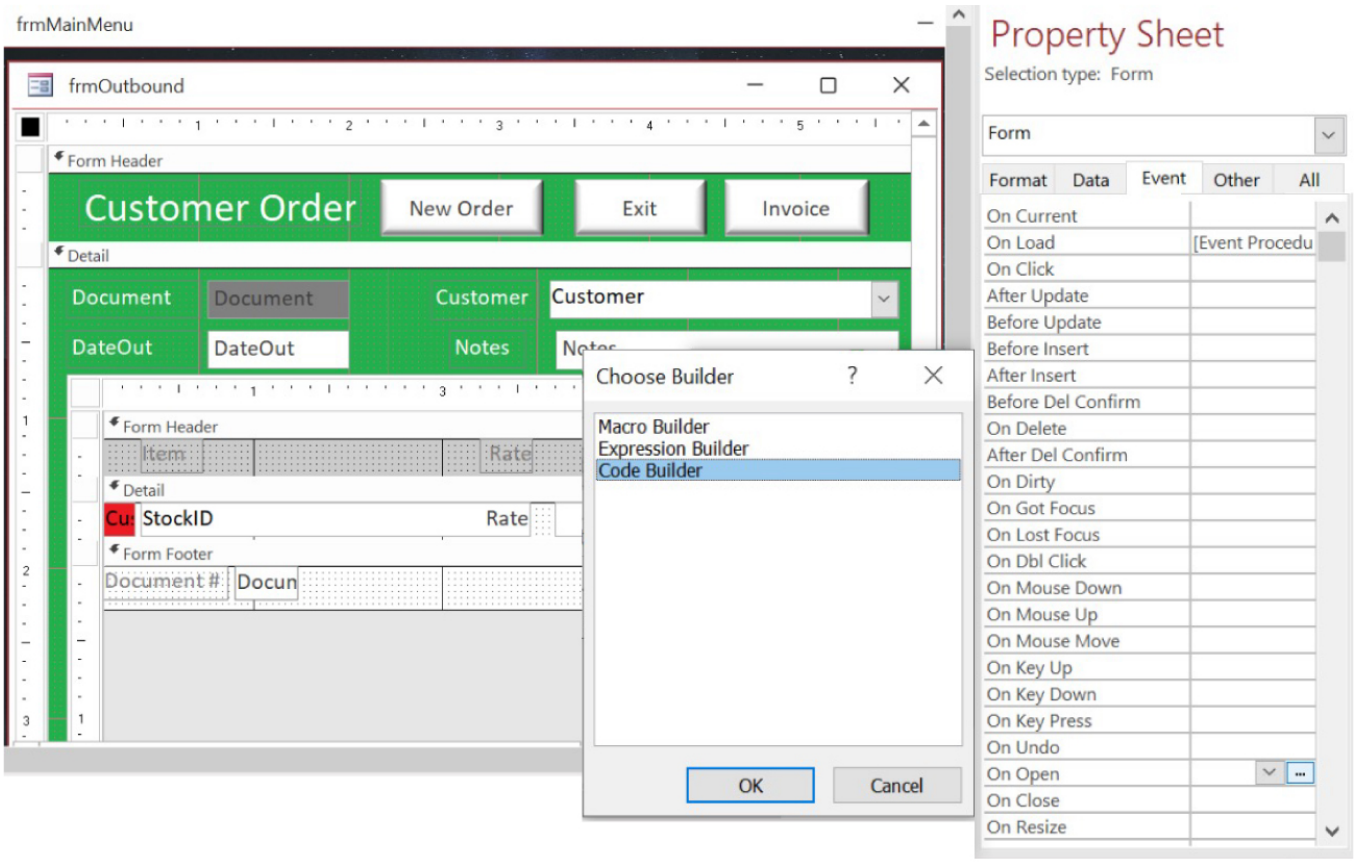
Double-click on the macro you want to review. This will open the macro in Design View. In this view, you can see all the actions and conditions that make up the macro. You can review each action to ensure that it performs the intended task and that it is configured correctly.

To run the macro and test its functionality, click the Run button in the Macros tab of the ribbon. This will execute the macro and perform all the actions defined within it. If you encounter any issues or errors while running the macro, you can use the Debug

mode to review the code and identify the problem. To exit the Design View of the macro, click the Close button in the top-right corner of the screen. By reviewing completed macros in Access, you can ensure that they function as intended. Additionally, you can use the insights gained from reviewing completed macros to improve future developments with your overall programming skills. These are big steps are mastering relationship databases.

Understanding Macro Code

Figure 14.69a shows how to add code to an event procedure. Although there is a steep learning curve for understanding the syntax, its applications are unlimited. In this example, we want to create a message box that will appear when a user opens the form. The code is written out just below the comments (shown in green in Figure 14.69b) that were added. Whenever you add new code, either directly or by using a macro, be sure to include a comment. If there is a problem or a future need for a change, comments can help clarify what the code was designed to accomplish.



(a)

```
Private Sub Form_Load()
DoCmd.GoToRecord , , acNewRec

End Sub

Private Sub Form_Open(Cancel As Integer)
'This code runs before the new customer form opens to remind the customer service agent to ask how they heard about us
    MsgBox "Ask how they heard about us!", vbInformation, "NewCustomer"
End Sub
```

(b)

Figure 14.69: (a) Using the Code Builder tool you can write the computer code to perform specific actions in Access. (b) The Code Builder tool adds in the specific requirements for the computer code to work such as “ “ and commands. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

After opening the builder options menu, select Code Builder. This will open a new window, as shown, that will allow the developer to type in the desired code directly. This code can be broken into four sections.

First, MsgBox has been identified as the action. Because it is placed in the event procedure On Open, a message box will appear when it opens.

Second, text for the message box—in this example, “Ask how they heard about us!”—is included to remind associates to ask the customer this basic engaging question while taking a new customer order.

Finally, there is a request for which form to open after the message box appears. The following message box shown in Figure 14.70 was created through the code.

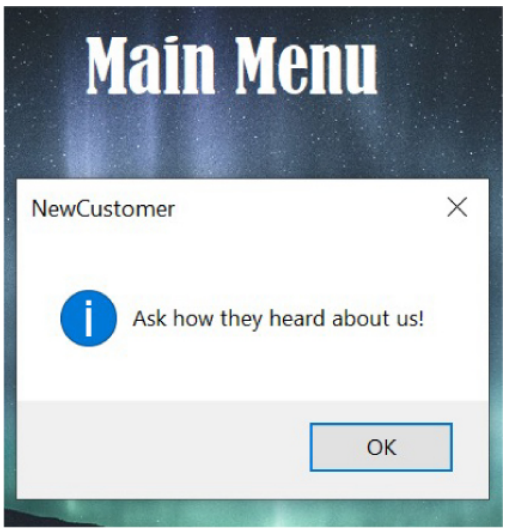


Figure 14.70: Message boxes can be added to forms to give users specific instructions. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Understanding Visual Basic

Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) is a programming language that is integrated into Access, allowing you to create custom solutions for data management, reporting, and other tasks. VBA provides a powerful set of tools for developers to create robust and scalable applications within Access.

Some examples of how VBA can help developers in Access include automating repetitive tasks. With VBA, developers can create macros and scripts to automate repetitive tasks, such as importing data, running reports, or updating records. This can save time and reduce errors by eliminating the need for manual data entry.

Customizing user interfaces can be written in VBA and can be used to create custom forms and dialog boxes to provide a user-friendly interface for working with data. Developers can add buttons, menus, and other controls to simplify complex tasks and make the application more intuitive. VBA can also create custom functions and algorithms for analyzing data within Access. Developers can create advanced data models and calculations to help gain insight data. One of the keys to VBA is opening up the ability to integrate with other applications. It can be used to integrate Access with other applications, such as Excel or Outlook. This allows developers to create custom workflows and exchange data between applications.

VBA can be used to create custom reports within Access, including dynamic reports that update based on user input or other data sources. In summary, VBA is a powerful tool that seems to offer endless abilities and functionality in Access. It provides a wide range of features and capabilities for creating custom solutions to meet the specific needs of users and organizations. With VBA, you can automate repetitive tasks, customize user interfaces, enhance data analysis, integrate with other applications, and create custom reports, and that is just scratching the surface of possibilities.

Link to Learning

Using VBA will take some practice as you are essentially writing computer code. VBA has a wide variety of applications to assist you in working Access and also in Excel. Most users can record macros to meet most of their automation needs in Access. However, if you have more advanced needs and are familiar with computer coding, VBA can be quite powerful. The best way to show how VBA can expand the power and agility of Access is by providing a demonstration. Please view this video tutorial on how to use VBA to create databases within Access to learn more.

This page titled 14.5: Using Macros is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.6: Data Analysis and Integration

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Integrate data from outside sources
- Export data from Access to other applications
- Build a form to serve as a dashboard that is updated automatically

Now that you are comfortable with building and maintaining databases, it is time to start talking about integration. Suppose you have one database that controls all accounting functions and another that simply focuses on operations. Integration allows you to share information between these two databases to provide comprehensive information about the company.

The simplest way to bring data from one Access database into another is by copying and pasting; however, this method does not support the updating of information, but for better control and flexibility, you may want to use importing and linking instead. When you import data from one database into another, Access creates a copy of the data in the destination database without altering the source. During the import operation, you can choose the objects you want to copy, control how tables and queries are imported, and specify whether relationships between tables should be imported. Relational databases have many layers and details baked into the cake. Making sure the details are captured is important.

You may want to import data to create a table or tables that are similar to tables that already exist in another database. You may want to copy the entire table or you may just need to import the table definitions so you can avoid the need to manually design each table. When you import only the table definition, the fields and field properties are copied to the destination database, but not the data in the table. The result is an empty table, which you can populate with your data.

If your goal is to add records from one database to an existing table in another database, you should consider importing the records to a new table and then creating an append query. You cannot append records to an existing table during an import operation.

Integrating Data from Outside Sources

Data stored outside the current database is called external data. External data may be data that you store in another Access database, or it may be data that you store in a multitude of other file formats. The first step in bringing outside data from Excel or other applications is to prepare the external data. An administrator may need to create an account and provide permissions to ensure that the right people have access to the data and that the data does not end up in the wrong hands. (For example, employees' confidential information must be kept absolutely confidential.) In an external database, the administrator may also want to create specific tables, views, queries, and so on to limit the results to only what is needed.

Access provides a powerful and effective means of presenting data, even data from external sources. When you access external data, you can either import the data into an Access database or you can link to the data from an Access database. Importing the data, though optimal, is not always possible. If you can't import external data, you should link to external files because Access maintains information about these linked files that will optimize performance when manipulating the external files.

Importing Data

The first step is to decide what you want to import and how it will join with your existing data. Normally, data is stored in various formats, files, and locations, which makes it hard to get and use it. If you have data in a spreadsheet, a SharePoint list, or some other format, you can import it into an Access database with just a few steps, making it much more easily available in Access. On the External Data tab, there are a number of tools for importing and linking to data in the Import & Link command group (Figure 14.71).

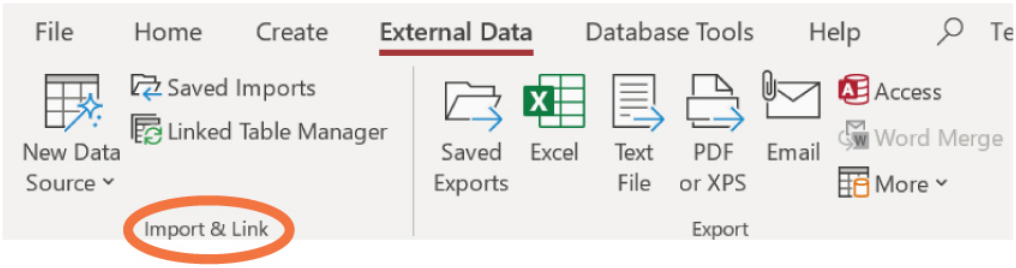


Figure 14.71: Data may often be stored in other programs but can generally be imported into or linked to an Access database. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Linking to external data is quite different from importing data. Linked data remains in its native format. By establishing a link to the external data, you can build queries, forms, and reports that present the data. Once you have created a link to external data, the link remains permanently established unless you explicitly remove it. The linked table appears in the Navigation Pane just like any other Access table, but with a different icon. In fact, if the data source permits multiuser access, the users of an application can modify the data, just as users of applications written in the data source's native database format are able to do. The main difference between a linked table and a native table is that you cannot modify a linked table's structure from within Access.

There are two circumstances in which you should import (rather than linking to) external data:

1. If you are migrating an existing system into Access
2. If you want to use external data to run a large volume of queries and reports, and you do not intend to update the data.

In either case, you would choose the import option because it gives you the added performance that native Access data provides.

Steps for Importing

Now you are ready to take the steps to import data from another source. Often, data analytics seems to grow in Excel. More and more, we see far too much data being stored in Excel. Luckily, the following steps can help move the data into Access for you.

Open the database into which you want to import objects. You will only be able to import tables and queries from other Access databases; you can't import forms, reports, macros, or modules. The location of the Import Wizard will vary slightly depending on your version of Access. On the External Data tab, in the Import & Link command group, click New Data Source (Figure 14.72). Follow the wizard directions to add the imported records.

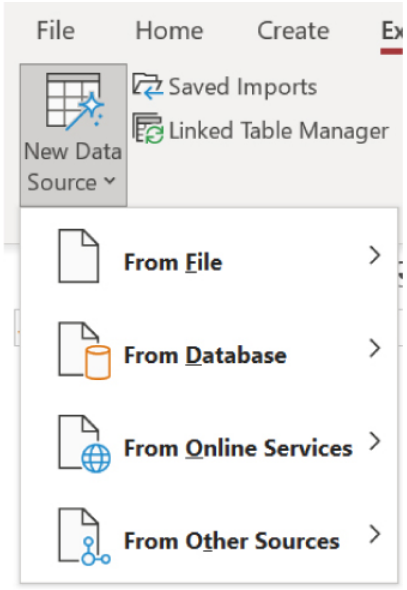


Figure 14.72: Access can accommodate importing data from a variety of different sources and file types. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As an example, suppose that once a month your local distributor sends you an updated list of wines to sell at your restaurant. The distributor emails you an Excel file that includes both the updated list of names of wines and their updated prices. The wines listed

will not change often, but the prices will reflect supply-and-demand changes in the industry. Because the list is extensive, it will be helpful for you to know how to import the list into Access and then how to make changes as needed.

You will need a table that contains both its own product ID and a corresponding Stock Number—the number the distributor uses to identify each type of bottle. Figure 14.73 shows an example of the Excel sheet a wine distributor might send.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Stock Number**	**Region**	**Wine**	**Vintage**	**Price**
2	5287341	bdxr	Carruades de Lafite, Pauillac	2007	$1,173
3	4701496	bdxr	Carruades de Lafite, Pauillac	2018	$1,572
4	9177244	bdxr	Chateau Angelus Premier Grand Cru Classe B, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru	2011	$1,692
5	2273553	bdxr	Chateau Cheval Blanc Premier Grand Cru Classe A, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru	2018	$1,130
6	8814798	bdxr	Chateau Figeac Premier Grand Cru Classe B, Saint-Emilion Grand Cru	2016	$399
7	3712988	bdxr	Chateau Haut-Brion Premier Cru Classe, Pessac-Leognan	2000	$1,987
8	2851294	bdxr	Chateau L'Eglise-Clinet, Pomerol	2010	$1,715
9	6230705	bdxr	Chateau L'Evangile, Pomerol	2009	$22
10	929357	bgnr	Domaine de la Vougeraie, Musigny Grand Cru	2019	$1,019
11	4014430	bgnr	Domaine Faiveley, Musigny Grand Cru	2013	$2,165
12	4048255	bgnw	Domaine Fontaine-Gagnard, Criots-Batard-Montrachet Grand Cru	2019	$1,315
13	9303424	Rhone	Domaine Isabel Ferrando, Chateauneuf-du-Pape, Colombis	2007	$449
14	3600581	Rhone	E. Guigal, Cote Rotie, La Turque	2016	$1,279
15	1055140	ger	Egon Muller, Scharzhofberger Riesling Spatlese, Mosel	2020	$1,424
16	9231681	bgnw	Jean-Claude Ramonet, Chassagne-Montrachet Premier Cru, Morgeot Blanc	2017	$1,134
17	9088420	bgnr	Joseph Drouhin, Musigny Grand Cru	2018	$502
18	9210632	bgnr	Laurent Ponsot, Chambertin-Clos de Beze Grand Cru, Cuvee du Frene	2018	$1,601
19	4151373	bdxr	Liber Pater, Denarius, Graves	2018	$773
20	3447526	bgnw	Maison Louis Jadot, Chevalier-Montrachet Grand Cru, Les Demoiselles	2019	$2,040
21	1349380	bgnr	Serafin Pere et Fils, Gevrey-Chambertin Premier Cru, Fonteny	2015	$537
22					
23					
24					
25					

Sheet1

Figure 14.73: Data is often contained in Excel spreadsheets that might contain formulas or links to other spreadsheets. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In this example, start by adding a new data source from the saved file on your computer. The Import Wizard dialog box will appear, asking several questions to help you import the Excel data (Figure 14.74). Rather than just importing the Excel sheet, you can go ahead and link the sheet, knowing that the distributor will update the Excel sheet continuously.

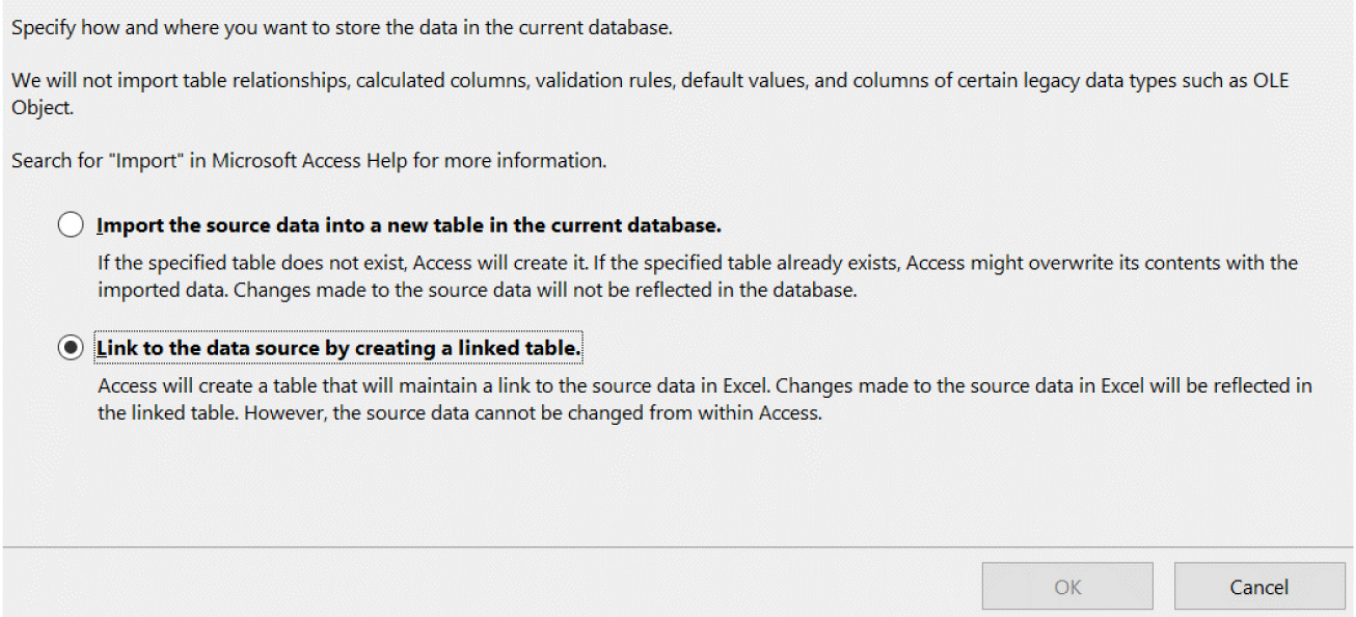


Figure 14.74: You can import data into the database you have open as a new table currently or you can instead link it to an existing table. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

After the link is made, a permanent object is created in the All Access Objects list. The example shown in Figure 14.75 has the WineList table from Excel linked. It will automatically display any changes that have been made to the Excel file. The Excel table that is now visible in Access is easy to work with and functions much like a table.

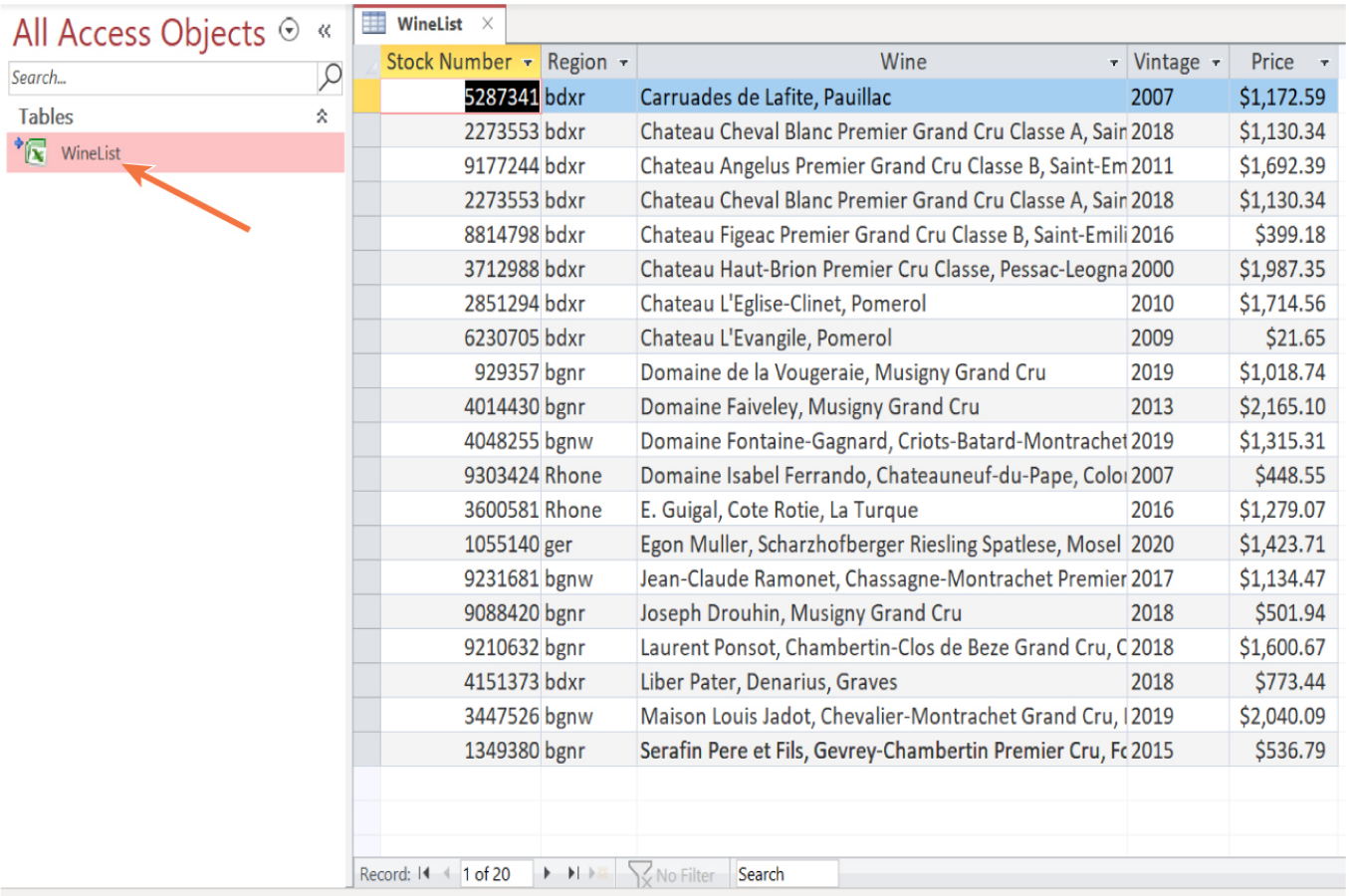


Figure 14.75: The imported data file looks very similar in format to the Excel spreadsheet using the column titles. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Link to Learning

One of the challenges of managing and analyzing data is understanding what to do when data contains errors. Read this article discussing data cleaning and what to consider when cleaning data to learn more. It will help you understand the importance of cleaning data as you plan your future data projects.

Exporting Data

To export data from Access, first select the table or other database object to export in the Navigation Pane. Click the External Data tab in the ribbon, and then click the button in the Export button group for the file format to which you want to export the object. This will open the Export Wizard for the type of export you want to perform.

The specific steps shown in each wizard will vary slightly, depending on the file type to which you are exporting. In most cases, you must select a name and file location for the exported object. You also often need to set additional parameters for the export routine. You will be prompted to save your export routine, if desired.

The Export Wizard enables you to export data from an Access database to a file format that can be read by Excel. When you export data to Excel, Access creates a copy of the selected data and then stores the copied data in a file that can be opened in Excel. If you copy data from Access to Excel frequently, you can save the details of the export operation for future use and can even schedule the export operation to run automatically at set intervals.

Typically, your department or work group will use both Access and Excel to work with data. You store the data in Access databases, but you use Excel to analyze the data and to distribute the results of your analysis. As another example, you may be a longtime user of Access, but your manager or another colleague prefers to work with data in Excel.

Building a Dashboard with Navigation Forms

Dashboards provide a visual interface for users to interact with when using forms. The Dashboard provides a listing of buttons that direct the user to specific forms or reports. The first thing you see on opening many Access databases is a dashboard, a form populated with navigation forms that will be accessed through clicking on the specific command button. Using these provides the means for the user to navigate the database, opening forms, reports, and so on. The key for the user is a way to navigate. Traditionally, a dashboard is a graphical interface that allows a quick view of visualized data, as shown in Figure 14.76. In Access, however, we can build a dashboard from a form that will let us easily run queries and pull up reports. This section will demonstrate how to upgrade a Main Menu form that has only buttons and labels into a full dashboard of information for your company to use.



Figure 14.76: A dashboard is a menu of buttons that allows users to access other forms and subforms that you have created. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Planning Your Dashboard

There are four general subtypes of dashboards:

1. Strategic dashboard: focused on long-term strategies and high-level metrics
2. Operational dashboard: shows shorter time frames and operational processes
3. Analytical dashboard: contains vast amounts of data created by analysts
4. Tactical dashboard: used by middle management to track performance

In the following example, imagine that you are a mid-level sales manager who wants to track a basic sales summary. A tactical dashboard seems like the best fit for your situation. Business intelligence has evolved into smart solutions that provide effective data management—from extracting, monitoring, analyzing, and deriving actionable insights needed to stay competitive in the market, to powerful visualizations created with a dashboard builder, which enable business users to interact with the specific bits and pieces of information they may need at any time. In this simple example, you want to record and track total orders and number of customers. Adding these elements to your Main Menu is a good place to start.

Building Your Dashboard

It is often helpful to first make a listing of the forms that will need to be regularly accessed by users. The forms could vary by department but there might be a group of forms that are routinely used company-wide. At WorldCorp, key performance indicators (KPIs) are critical to monitor for the success of their strategies. A dashboard that contains navigation options, as well as KPIs, can help manage the business. Figure 14.77 shows an example of this.

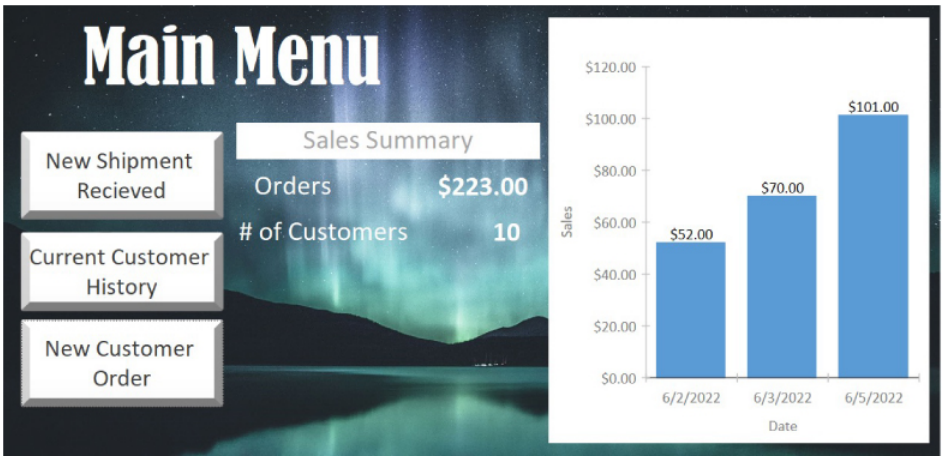


Figure 14.77: Dashboards can include not only navigation buttons but also summary information for tracking purposes. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

DSum and DCount expressions can add both a sales total and a customer count to your dashboard. These have been added to text boxes that were unbound to the form. Each text box was then formatted to fit the theme of the form. Under form design, Insert Modern Form was selected. This is a simple yet powerful way to add context to a sale. Additionally, your team can review the form and see the results as they are updated after each launch of the form. Note that there is an option to Refresh All on the Home tab, which will update the text box and charts.

Real-World Application - Relational Databases in the Cultural World

Many industries use relational databases. They are often hard at work in the background compiling data, gathering customer information, optimizing inventory, or organizing content for decision making. Database usage is more evident in industries such as banking, airlines and transportation, manufacturing, and retail.

In recent years, the usage of relational databases in unexpected industries has surged. One example is in libraries and historical preservation. Libraries and museums have utilized new technologies to make their collections of archives and artifacts available digitally for a much larger audience to enjoy, appreciate, and use for their own research. Wilmington College, a four-year liberal arts college in Ohio that was founded by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), has done just that. Through the generosity of a significant peace activist and donor to the institution, the college has extensive collection of artifacts related to Hiroshima and the impacts of nuclear weapons held at its Peace Resource Center (PRC).

> *The PRC archives is the most extensive collection of interdisciplinary materials related to the legacy of nuclear war in the United States. Each year, the PRC BRMA receives between 400-450 visitors, including researchers, students, and members of the public. The archives holds documents; creative responses to the atomic bombings, such as poetry, plays, and artistic works; historic poster collections; historic photos; slides; scrapbooks; photo albums; 16-mm films; reel-to-reel audio; cassette tapes; and artifacts among others.*
>
> *—the Barbara Reynolds Memorial Archivese*

Through the use of digital archiving and cataloging in an extensive database, this collection is available online to the broader public. The searchable, relational database is linked to several research libraries and contains digital images of the archives and artifacts held in the college's collection. Many other such databases of items of historical significance exist across the world such as through the Smithsonian and the United States National Archives. Historians and archivists have taken advantage of these technological tools to make history more accessible without compromising the integrity of the artifacts.

This page titled 14.6: Data Analysis and Integration is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

action query
query that specifies a particular action, such as creating a new table, deleting a row or rows from a table, updating records, or creating new records

aggregate query
instruction that carries out calculations on a group of records rather than on individual records

append query
query that adds records from one or more tables to the end of another table or tables

arithmetic operator
used to calculate a value from two or more numbers or to change the sign of a number from positive to negative, or vice versa

command control
tool that is used to start an action or a set of actions

comparison operator
used to compare values and return a result that is true, false, or null

control source
area in the property sheet that controls which data is displayed in a particular field, as well as any updates you make to the field

crosstab query
instructions that calculate and restructure data for easier identification of trends or patterns

dashboard
allows users to view account activity at a glance and quickly find records and reports

data validation
process of ensuring that data is entered correctly into a form by specifying a validation rule for the control in the form

delete query
query that deletes a group of records from one or more tables

Detail section
information that appears once for every row in the record source that is being referenced

external data
data stored outside the current database

form control
part of a form used to enter, edit, or display data; controls can be bound, unbound, or calculated

form property
option that is set in Design View on the property sheet; they control how the form looks, works, and interacts with the rest of the database

Group Footer
area where summary information appears at the end of each group of records

Group Header
area that displays names at the beginning of each new group of records

logical operator
used to combine two Boolean values and return a true, false, or null result; also known as Boolean operators

macro
tool that allows you to automate tasks and add functionality to your forms, reports, and controls

make-table query
query that creates a new table from all or part of the data in one or more existing tables

many-to-many relationship
relationship in which each record in one table can have many related records in another table, and vice versa; this type of relationship, which really consists of two one-to-many relationships, is made possible only by defining a table

message box
used to display alerts, warnings, and other useful information

null criteria
query used to find records that have a null value in a particular field

one-to-many relationship
relationship in which each record in one table has one or more related records in another table, but a record in the second table has only one matching record in the first table

one-to-one relationship
relationship in which each record in one table has at most one related record in another table

parameter query
query that allows you to prompt users whenever a query runs

query criterion
expression that Access compares with query field values to determine whether to include the record that contains each value

range criteria
query used to specify a range of values for a field

select query
query that retrieves data from one or more tables and displays the result in a datasheet

simple criteria
query that specifies an exact value or expression to filter results

SQL query
query created by using a statement in SQL, a programming language designed to manage data stored in relational databases

subform
form that is inserted into another form (the main form)

syntax
set of rules by which the words and symbols in an expression are correctly combined

tab order
helps control which section of the form the curser moves to next

update query

query that makes global changes to a group of records in one or more tables

Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)

event-driven programming language and environment from Microsoft that provides a graphical user interface (GUI), which allows programmers to modify code by simply dragging and dropping objects and defining their behavior and appearance

wildcard

symbol used to represent an unknown character in a search string

---

This page titled 14.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.8: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

14.1 Advanced Queries in Microsoft Access

- Queries can handle multiple types of criteria to help isolate data.
- Learning how to build/record expressions through correct syntax can help control numerous operators in a query. Using multiple criteria in a single query can help drill down when asking questions about data records.
- Creating an aggregate within a query can help find totals and groupings within data.

14.2 Multiple Table Forms

- Adding data from two tables to a single specialized form can be an efficient way to reduce steps and enhance user experience. Queries are the bedrock of building and designing relational forms.
- Using the Form/Subform Wizard in Access can help ensure the creation of proper relationships. Understanding how subforms and relationships work opens the door to form design.

14.3 Customizing Forms

- Through the tools in Access, you can add and arrange fields, labels, buttons, and other objects, and set their properties to control their behavior and appearance in the form. These tools allow you to create more complex and customized forms.
- Controls are the parts of a form that are used to enter, edit, or display data Adding controls such as command buttons or combo boxes are added to manage how form looks, works, and interacts with the rest of the database.
- Elements such as headers and footers, titles, modifications to the text and colors, logos can be used to customize the form to company specific standards.

14.4 Customizing Reports

- Use report tools to build a custom report in both Layout View and Design View.
- Use report tools to group and sort in a report, filter records, and add totals and subtotals to a report.
- Use report tools to change the appearance of a report by adding fields with time and date, formatting text, adding page numbers to a report, and adding logos and images to a report.

14.5 Using Macros

- Macros can make tasks that you routinely perform in Access quicker through automation. Macros are built using computer coding language to perform specific tasks such as running reports, printing forms, or copying data from one table into another table
- By customizing your database with macros, you can create a system for accomplishing many similar operations easily and efficiently. Two common applications for macros are displaying message boxes and validating data.
- VBA is a programming language that is integrated into Access, allowing you to create custom solutions for data management, reporting, and other tasks. Using the Code Builder tool, you can add specialized macros to forms and reports.

14.6 Data Analysis and Integration

- Integrating data from outside sources may take some planning.
- Steps for importing and exporting data were reviewed.
- Building a dashboard with navigation forms helps drive business. Plan and build your dashboard around forms are used most often in the organization.

This page titled 14.8: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
You need to review a database and identify orders placed by a specific customer for more than $50. What type of criteria should you use for this Access query?

a. wildcards
b. simple criteria
c. logical operators
d. null criteria

2 .
What kind of action query would you use to make global changes to a group of records in a table that needs updating?

a. Action query
b. Update query
c. Crosstab query
d. Delete query

3 .
_____ let you carry out calculations on record groups rather than performing individual operations.

a. Append queries
b. Update queries
c. Aggregate queries
d. Delete queries

4 .
What can help build and ensure a relationship between two tables?

a. Dropdown Wizard
b. Lookup Wizard
c. Table Wizard
d. Microsoft Wizard

5 .
What kind of form is inserted into another form (known as the primary form)?

a. query form
b. auto-form
c. subform
d. drop-down form

6 .
The most visually intuitive view to use for form modification is _____.

a. Design View
b. Print View
c. Layout View
d. Form View

7 .
Which feature helps the developer control which section of the form the curser moves to next?

a. Report Wizard
b. tab order
c. property sheet
d. Field list

8 .

Some customers may find that predefined options on a form do not meet their needs. Which control provides customers with the option of entering a new value on a form?

a. Text Box
b. Command
c. Combo Box
d. Tab order

9 .
Which section of a report do you use for information that might normally appear on a cover page, such as a logo, title, or date?

a. Report Header
b. Page Header
c. Group Header
d. Page Footer

10 .
What is the primary purpose of grouping and sorting in Access reports?

a. to display the report title and general information clearly
b. to organize data into sections such as Report Header and Footer
c. to help users quickly identify patterns and trends in the data
d. to format the report with different font styles and colors

11 .
In Access, which view should you use to review a report and see how it will look when you run it?

a. Design View
b. Layout View
c. Form View
d. Print Preview

12 .
What is a macro in the context of Access?

a. a type of database table used to store user data
b. a graphical representation of a database schema
c. a set of instructions for automating tasks or performing operations
d. a programming language used for creating web applications

13 .
How does recording a macro in Access help enhance database functions?

a. It creates queries with multiple criteria.
b. It enables the building of queries that aggregate.
c. It optimizes the Form Wizard to allow users to build a custom form.
d. It creates a system to accomplish similar operations easily and efficiently.

14 .
How can Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) enhance the capabilities of Access for developers?

a. by providing advanced graphic design tools for creating visually appealing forms
b. by automatically generating complex SQL queries for data analysis
c. by offering integration with external databases and servers
d. by allowing developers to automate tasks, create custom interfaces, analyze data, integrate with other applications, and generate custom reports

15 .
When you import data into Access from an external source, what happens to the source data?

a. Importing data always alters the source data.
b. Importing data is not as flexible as copying and pasting.
c. Importing data allows you to modify the structure of linked tables that contain the source data.

d. Importing data creates a copy of the data in the destination database without altering the source data.

16 .

When you export data from Access to Excel, what does the Export Wizard do?

a. Exporting data from Access to Excel is a manual process that requires copying and pasting.

b. The Export Wizard in Access allows you to import data from Excel to Access databases.

c. Access creates a link between the data in Access and Excel when exporting data.

d. The Export Wizard allows you to save the export routine for future use and automate the export operation.

17 .

Which type of dashboard is focused on tracking short-term operational processes and metrics?

a. strategic dashboard

b. analytical dashboard

c. operational dashboard

d. tactical dashboard

This page titled 14.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

18 .
Go to this sample database from Durham University. Open the database and create an aggregate query that sums the Cost field of the Asset Items table. What is the total cost of the Asset Items?

19 .
Imagine that you are a human resources (HR) professional responsible for reducing tardiness in the workplace. You have a database table listing all of the company's employees, with corresponding details about each employee. How would you create a form that will keep track of clocking-in after each change in the *HR Employee Handbook*? The form should include the employees' new clock-in times, date of test, and any notes taken about the HR changes.

20 .
Build a simple Main Menu form and create a text box for the current date and time, along with a label that reads "Main Menu." Format the text box to Broadway font, centered, and in bright red. Try to center the label and also to center the text box directly below the label.

21 .

Create a custom sales report, following these steps:

1. Open Access and create a new report.
2. Use Design View to add the following sections to your report: Report Header, Page Header, Group Header, Detail, Group Footer, Page Footer, and Report Footer.
3. In the Page Header section, add the column headings for Product Name, Quantity Sold, and Total Sales.
4. Group the report by Product Category in the Group Header section.
5. In the Detail section, display the product name, quantity sold, and total sales for each product.
6. Calculate the sum of total sales for each product category and display it in the Group Footer section.
7. Add page numbers to the Page Footer section.
8. In the Report Footer section, calculate and display the overall total sales for the entire report.

22 .

You're responsible for creating an invoice report for WorldCorp. Customize the report, following these steps:

1. Create a new report in Access.
2. Add a logo of WorldCorp to the Report Header section.
3. Format the logo to ensure it fits well and looks professional.
4. In the Page Header section, add the company name, address, and contact information.
5. Design the Detail section to show the invoice details, including item name, quantity, price, and subtotal.
6. Add a calculated field to calculate the total amount for each item.
7. Display the due date of the invoice in the Page Footer section.
8. Format the report to use a consistent font style and size throughout.

23 .
You are working on a database that tracks inventory for a retail store chain. Whenever a new transaction is entered, you need to generate an invoice for the customer that includes their name, the date of the sale, and a list of the items bought. Create a new macro that has multiple steps and save it with a descriptive name. Then, run the macro to verify that it generates an invoice.

24 .
You are working on a database that tracks employee information for WorldCorp. You want to enhance the user experience by using macros to display custom messages and validate data entry. Create a macro that displays a message box when the user enters certain data. Then, run the macro to make sure it displays everything correctly.

25 .
Go to the Contextures website and select some sample data to work with. First, create an Excel table, using the data you have selected. Then, try to link the Excel table into Access. Make changes in the Excel file to see if the changes are captured in Access.

26 .
Go to the Contextures website and select one of the sample sets of sales data to work with. Create a tactical sales dashboard using Access. This dashboard should provide a quick overview of key sales metrics and allow you to navigate to detailed reports.

This page titled 14.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

27 .
You have an online business that pulls in customers from around the world. You want to find out which countries are the sources of the largest number of orders. Which type of query should you create?

28 .
Explain why creating one-to-one relationships between tables in a database is not useful.

29 .
Imagine that you are setting up a database to support a company's marketing function. The marketing department wants to use a multiple-choice question to learn how new customers first heard about the company. Explain the benefits of using a one-to-many relationship when creating a form to collect the desired information.

30 .
You developed a well-designed form that works as intended. But users do not understand the purpose of the form nor how it relates to your overall database. To resolve this issue, what feature should you add to the form and what steps should you follow to add this feature?

31 .
Explain the key differences between Design View and Layout View in Access when working with reports. How can these views help you customize the appearance and layout of your reports?

32 .
Explain how the Report Wizard and Design View contribute to creating customized reports in Access. Compare the advantages and limitations of using the Report Wizard versus manually designing a report in Design View.

33 .
Explain the steps in making sure that a report is useful and readable.

34 .
Describe the process of recording a macro in Access to automate tasks.

35 .
Explain the process for importing an Excel file into an Access database. Describe the steps you would take, the decisions you would make during the import, and how you would ensure that the data remains up to date in your database.

36 .
Apart from Excel, name two other file formats to which you can export data from Access using the Export Wizard. Provide a brief explanation of when it might be appropriate to use each of these file formats.

This page titled 14.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

14.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises

Case Exercises

37 .

You are a data analyst at WorldCorp. Your supervisor has assigned you the task of creating a comprehensive sales report for the past quarter. The report will provide insights into sales performance, product categories, and regional sales distribution. You are required to use Access to design and customize the report. Follow these steps to complete the task:

Report setup: Use the Report Wizard to choose the appropriate data source (e.g., the Sales table) and fields for the report. Include fields such as SalesDate, ProductCategory, ProductName, QuantitySold, and TotalSales.
Customize the report layout: Add the company logo to the Report Header section. Format the logo for an appropriate size and position. In the Page Header section, add the report title, current date, and your name as the report creator.
Group, sort, and filter the report: Group the report by ProductCategory in the Group Header section. Display the product category name and a brief description. In the Detail section, display product details including product name, quantity sold, and total sales. Add a calculated field to calculate the average price per unit for each product. Apply a filter to show data for sales within the past quarter (e.g., between April 1 and June 30). Calculate and display the total sales for each product category in the Group Footer section. Add a grand total at the end of the report to display the overall total sales for the quarter.
Formatting and design: Format the text boxes with consistent font style, size, and color. Apply alternating row colors to improve readability in the Detail section. Use appropriate borders and spacing to enhance the visual appeal of the report. Add page numbers to the Page Footer section. Review the entire report in Print Preview to ensure proper formatting and data accuracy. Save the report with a meaningful name.

38 .

You have been tasked with enhancing the efficiency of WorldCorp's database by implementing macros for automating common tasks and enhancing database functions. Your goal is to create macros that streamline inventory tracking and reporting processes.

Task 1: Automating Inventory Tracking

WorldCorp needs a way to automate the process of updating inventory quantities whenever new products are received or sold. Create a macro that performs the following tasks:

1. Open the Inventory table and find the product for which the inventory needs to be updated.
2. Update the inventory quantity based on whether products are received or sold.
3. Save the changes to the Inventory table.

Task 2: Enhancing Inventory Reporting

To improve inventory reporting, WorldCorp wants a macro that generates a report showing low-stock items. Create a macro that does the following:

1. Open the Inventory table and filter products with low stock quantities (e.g., less than 10 units).
2. Create a new report with the filtered data, including product name, current quantity, and reorder information.
3. Save and display the generated report for review.

Task 3: Implementing Custom Message Boxes

WorldCorp would like to enhance the user experience by adding custom message boxes to the database. Create a macro that does the following:

1. Displays a message box when a new product is added to the Products table, asking the user to confirm the addition
2. Provides options to proceed with adding the product or cancel the operation

Task 4: Reviewing Completed Macros

After implementing the macros for automation and enhancement, review and test each macro's functionality. Open the macros you've created and ensure they perform the intended tasks accurately.

Task 5: Reflecting on Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)

Write a short reflection on how VBA could further enhance the automation and functionality of the macros you've created. Identify at least two scenarios where incorporating VBA code could provide additional benefits to the macros.

This page titled 14.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

15: Integrating Applications

15.0: Chapter Scenario
15.1: Microsoft 365- Collaboration and Integration
15.2: Microsoft Word- Integration with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access
15.3: Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration
15.4: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration
15.5: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access Integration
15.6: Integrating Data from Other Programs into Google Workspace
15.7: New Developments- The Role of Artificial Intelligence
15.8: Mastering Workplace Software Skills- A Project
15.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms
15.10: Chapter Review - Summary
15.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions
15.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises
15.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions

This page titled 15: Integrating Applications is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.0: Chapter Scenario

We looked at WorldCorp's business from a wide variety of perspectives. We examined sales data, marketing data, accounting information, and other relevant items that are essential to their business. Looking at so many different types and sources of data is a commonplace practice for many companies. Nearly all organizations, regardless of the type or industry, have different departments or areas that work together and share information.

For example, at WorldCorp, the sales department might need information from accounting on the price point and cost of items they are selling to customers. Upper management needs to understand how goals are being met in each of the sales regions. And outside vendors might need to know projections for the next quarter to evaluate the impact on their profits. This information can be shared in a wide variety of ways, such as a narrative report or a spreadsheet—or maybe even both, combined in one file to be shared with several people.



Figure 15.1: Using different programs to meet your business needs is a common practice. Many programs are designed to work together. (credit: modification of "Team Having a Meeting" by Mikael Blomkvist/Pexels, CC0)

In previous chapters, we briefly discussed the ways the programs can work together to meet the needs of the organization. This chapter focuses specifically on how the programs can be integrated to combine information in a professional and meaningful way for the users. The goal is to think broadly about using the programs together to best get your ideas across to the intended audience. Remember, you need to keep in mind the needs of the audience as you prepare the information to be shared. This capstone chapter gives you the opportunity to practice the skills you learned in previous chapters as well as integrate information from the various software programs. Referring to the book's table of contents can help you find supporting content in this text should you need a refresher.

This page titled 15.0: Chapter Scenario is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.1: Microsoft 365- Collaboration and Integration

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Explain how Microsoft 365 supports collaboration
- Explain integration across Microsoft 365 apps
- Link and embed objects in Microsoft 365 apps
- Import a PDF using Microsoft 365 apps

WorldCorp is preparing for its annual meeting. Businesses often have a large, yearly meeting to summarize the organization's performance over the last year. Publicly traded companies (those that sell stock) are actually required to hold this kind of meeting each year. Key stakeholders are invited to this meeting, and important documents and performance metrics are shared in both formal presentations and documents. These key stakeholders can include a wide variety of constituents, such as the owners of the company, important customers, vendors, and upper management. This is WorldCorp's chance to showcase its successes and highlight goals for the next year. There is a good deal of preparation that goes into the meeting, including determining the agenda, creating the presentations, and formatting the documents to be distributed. You not only want the information conveyed to be accurate, but you also want to share the information in a way that is engaging and easy to follow.

Collaboration in Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365 (more commonly known by its former longtime name, Microsoft Office) gives users the ability to collaborate on almost any platform. You can access and often edit files on a wide variety of devices through the downloaded apps. Organizations rely on collaborating to achieve their goals. This, of course, will vary by industry and type of organization, but most would agree that working with others both within and outside of the business occurs on a regular, if not daily, basis.

Today we often hear the phrase collaborative workspace. Collaborative workspaces are secure virtual environments that allow users access to company files, programs, and apps from any location. These workspaces allow employees to work remotely, and many companies today incorporate such workspaces into their overall company strategy. By offering employees options to work remotely, companies can meet the diverse needs of their employees and in some cases have seen an increase in productivity. For example, one study found that 40 percent of employees indicate they work more hours when working remotely than when in the office. Employees also indicated they felt less stress. The workspace does not have to be exclusively virtual but does need to be organized in such a way to foster teamwork and productivity with access to the needed information and tools to accomplish the company goals.

Programs such as the Microsoft suite facilitate incorporating collaborative workspaces into the company structure. Through applications such as Microsoft Teams and Microsoft SharePoint, users can share files, manage schedules, create team folders, meet virtually, and edit documents in real time. Using these features of Microsoft allows employees located in different parts of the world to work together on a project, even if they are never in the same physical location. Technological advances have changed how organizations function, saving them money while aiding employee job satisfaction and work-life balance.

Real-World Application - Remote and Hybrid Workplaces

Drift, a technology firm in Boston, Massachusetts, was founded in 2015 as a traditional, in-person workplace. As the company grew to include additional offices and employees, collaborating virtually became a high priority. Like many companies, Drift was forced to move to a fully remote workplace during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. After the initial transition to establish expectations and common practices for collaboration and acquire the needed technology, the company decided to remain a fully remote workplace, which has allowed employees to relocate to be closer to family and make life choices, such as marriage or having children, a bit easier. This has also enhanced the diversity within the company.

Drift's Chief People Officer Dena Upton said the company took what is called a Digital First approach:

"It means that our primary work spaces are our homes. The bulk of individual work will happen there. When the team does come together, we'll do so in 'Conversation Spaces,' or our repurposed offices. Everywhere we currently have a physical space

—Boston, San Francisco, and Tampa—we're creating collaboration outposts for group work."

This is just one example of a company that is realizing the benefits of a remote workplace, at both company and employee levels. There are, of course, many others, and when employees are given the chance, they choose remote work. According to a McKinsey & Company American Opportunity Survey, which tracks the public's views on economic issues, 87 percent of workers who are offered the chance to work remotely take the offer.

Not every company, however, is on board with a fully remote workforce. In fact, some high-profile companies such as Goldman Sachs and Netflix have called employees back into the physical office full time. To track these trends, visit Hubble, which specializes in helping companies set up hybrid and remote solutions. It maintains and updates a list it calls The Official List of Every Company's Back-to-Office Strategy.

Integration in Microsoft 365

When applications that serve different purposes work together in a seamless, functional way, this is called integration. One key feature of Office that fosters integration across applications is the common user interface. Each application has a similar format and structure. When you open Microsoft Word, for example, you will notice many of the same functions and tabs that you will see in Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Outlook. Additionally, the keyboard shortcuts are common among the Microsoft applications. As an example, Ctrl+C (Command+C for Mac) is the keyboard shortcut for "copy," and this shortcut works in all Office (and Google) applications. This commonality between functions, tools, and tabs allows users to easily switch between applications.

Microsoft SharePoint and Microsoft OneDrive are two other features of Office that help with integration of the applications. Company files can be stored and shared where all employees can access the information. You can also manage who can access and edit files in the shared folders. You can think of SharePoint and/or OneDrive as the main repository of company files. Generally, SharePoint is accessed across the enterprise, while OneDrive is usually accessed by individual users. These files can be accessed within individual applications, such as Excel or Teams, or easily emailed as attachments. Files can also be accessed and often edited on a wide variety of devices.

Microsoft has designed their applications to work together to serve the various informational needs of individuals and business organizations. Users can see real-time edits to documents, collaborate on creating a presentation, or efficiently schedule a meeting using the calendar features. Files can be attached to meeting invitations, files can be shared via Microsoft Teams, and Excel spreadsheets can be embedded in Word documents. These are just a few examples of how the Microsoft applications are integrated with each other.

Linking and Embedding Objects

Information from any of the Microsoft programs can be integrated into another program in a few ways. With integration, you are putting information from one file type into another file type. In previous Excel chapters, you learned how to copy a table and paste that into Word or PowerPoint. Copying and pasting information allows you to include the information in your Word or PowerPoint file, but as a static version of the object. This means that if you changed the information in Excel, it would not be changed in the Word or PowerPoint file. To update the table in your other file, you would need to copy and paste the table again. This simple process may be acceptable in some cases, but it can be time consuming and repetitive. Other options for integrating content from another source include linking and embedding objects.

Linking and embedding items in applications files are useful tools when adding information or objects from one program to another. The information that you are linking or embedding into another program comes from the source file. You bring information from the source file to move to another program. For example, you can bring a table from an existing Excel file (the source file) into a PowerPoint slide (the destination).

Linking items means creating a direct, dynamic connection between the source file and the destination file. When an object is linked, the information is stored in the original application (the source file) but just displayed in the other application (the destination file). A link allows the user to work with the information in the source file and have it update automatically in the destination file. For example, when data from an Excel spreadsheet is linked to a Word document, the Excel data is stored in the Excel spreadsheet but displayed in the Word document. This can be a useful function when information from one department is stored separately from another department, such as in a separate SharePoint folder. You might not want someone outside of the department to have access to all the files in the departmental folder, but they might need access to selected information. Note that

when linking files together, you need to be sure that all users have access to both files at least to view the files. For example, if you link a Word document and an Excel file and would like a coworker to be able to make changes to the linked data, they will need to have access to both the source file and the destination file.

Embedding an object in another program is much like using the copy-and-paste functions, except that you do not have to open the other file. Embedding will place a copy of the information from the source file into the destination file, where it becomes part of the destination file. This creates a static copy, just like copying and pasting does. It also means that if the information is changed in the source file, it will not be updated in the destination file where it is embedded. Furthermore, once information is embedded into the destination file, that information becomes part of the file size of the destination file. For example, embedding a video into a Word document will increase the file size of the Word document, because it now contains a copy of the video.

To link or embed information from another file, go to the Insert tab and to the Text command group (see Figure 15.2). Choose the Object function to open the drop-down menu. Because the ribbons are similar across programs, you should be able to do this in Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

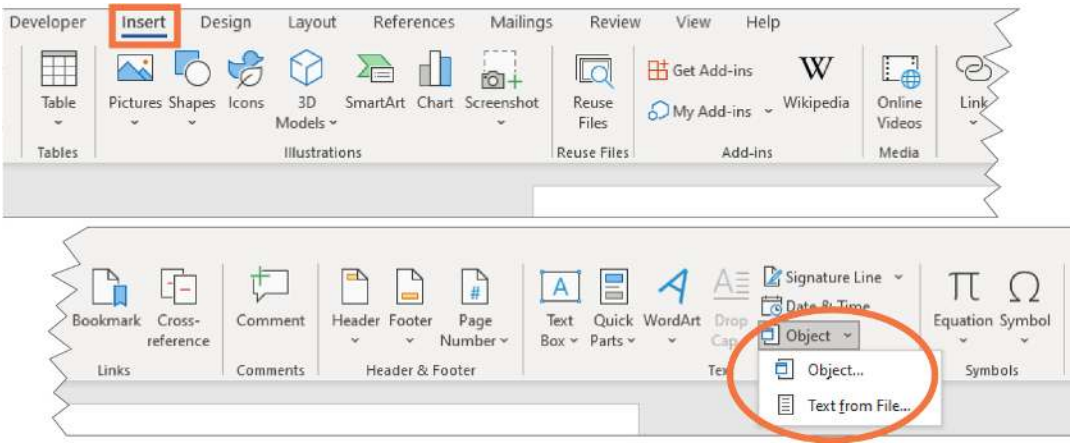


Figure 15.2: Other options in the Text command group include inserting a signature and the date/time. This is the Insert tab from Word. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Notice that there are two options in the Object menu: Object and Text from File. Using the Object function, you can either link or embed another file into your current file.

When you first select the Object function, you will see two options (see Figure 15.3): you can create a different file type from scratch (Create New), or you can get information from an existing file (Create from File).

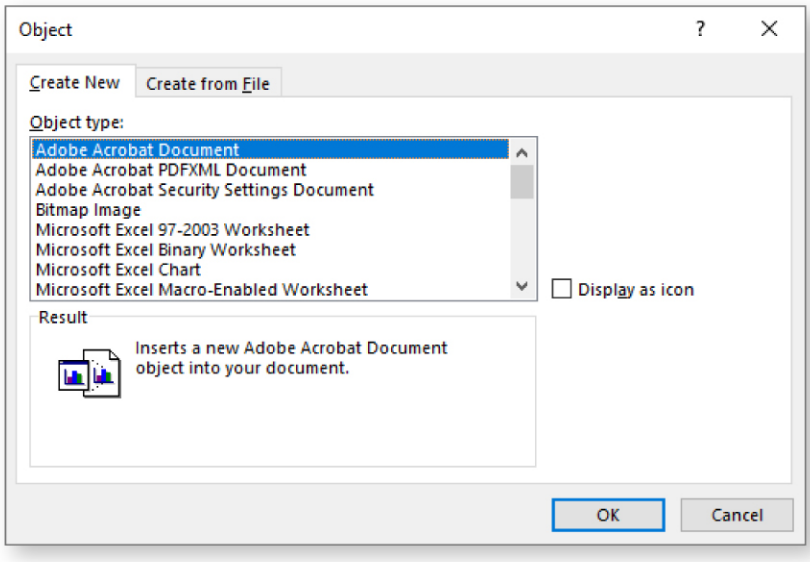


Figure 15.3: You can use the Insert Object function to insert a wide variety of file types, including PDF files and images. Here, an Adobe file is highlighted to select, but if you scroll through the list, you will see many other choices. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Linking to Objects

When you want to link to a file, you probably already have a file in mind. Select the Create from File in the Object dialog window, then use the Browse button to search for the file where the information is saved. Tick the box called Link to file (Figure 15.4).

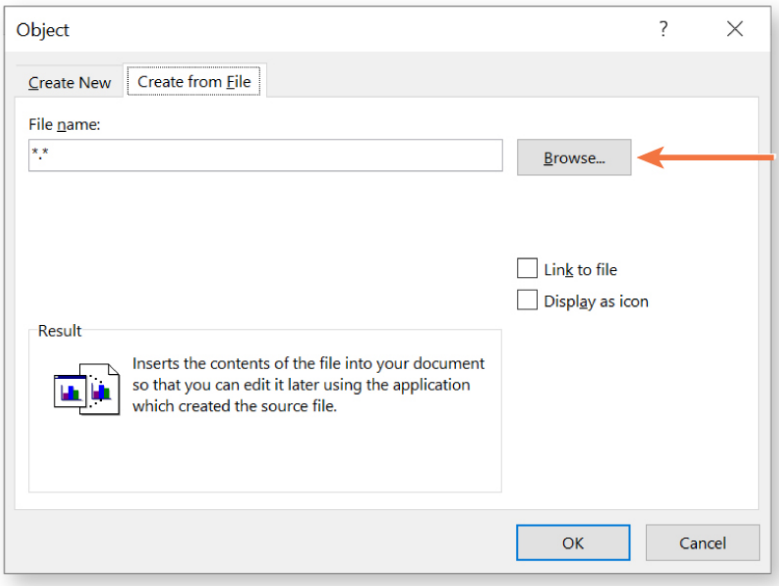


Figure 15.4: Click on the Browse button to search for the saved file you would like to integrate into the current file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Link to file option places a link to the file location in the current file. When you link a source file to the current file, you establish a connection between the two files. You can then access the source file by double-clicking on the link. Linking to a source file also ensures that any information that is changed in the source file will also be changed in the current file. For example, let's say you want to insert a dynamic link to an Excel worksheet into a Word document. If any information is changed in that Excel file, that change will be reflected when you click on the link in the Word document.

However, keep in mind that there is one drawback to linking a source file to another file: If you change the location where that source file is saved, the link will no longer be valid. Continuing with our previous example, let's say that the Excel file that you linked to was saved on your desktop. Later, you move that Excel file to your OneDrive. If you click on the link in the Word document, the link will no longer work. You would have to insert the link again using the new location of the source file.

You can also insert links to other files directly from the Insert tab, from the Links command group (see Figure 15.5). When you choose this option, the file name, underlined and in blue font, will be used to show the linkage. Choosing the Link option directly from the Insert tab will give you a listing of your most recently used files. If the file that you wish to link is not in the list, you can browse for the file by choosing Insert Link from the bottom of the drop-down menu.

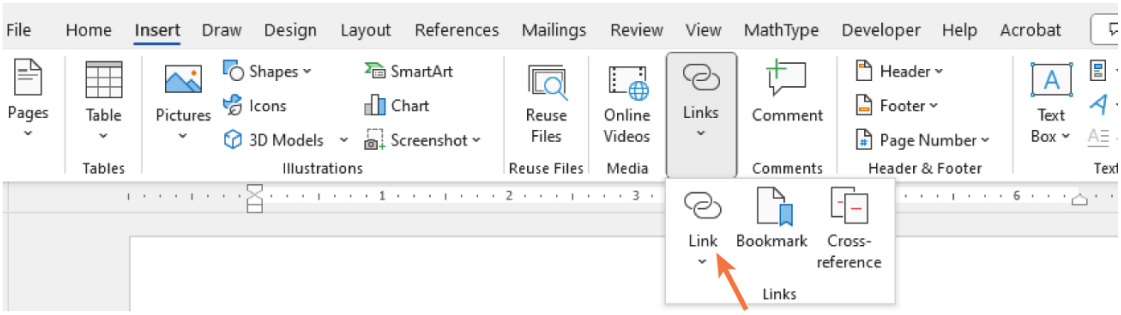


Figure 15.5: Inserting a link to another file uses the same command group as inserting a link to a bookmark or a cross-reference. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Embedding Objects

You can also use the same Object function, located in the Insert tab, to embed a file. Let's return to the Insert Object dialog window, as shown in Figure 15.3. Let's choose "Microsoft Excel Chart" from the Object type list. This will insert two Excel worksheets into our destination file: one worksheet containing the chart and the other containing the data used to build that chart. (We learn more about inserting Excel charts into Word documents in Inserting Microsoft Excel Charts into Microsoft Word Documents.) You would then add the data for the chart as you would if you were working in Excel (Figure 15.6).

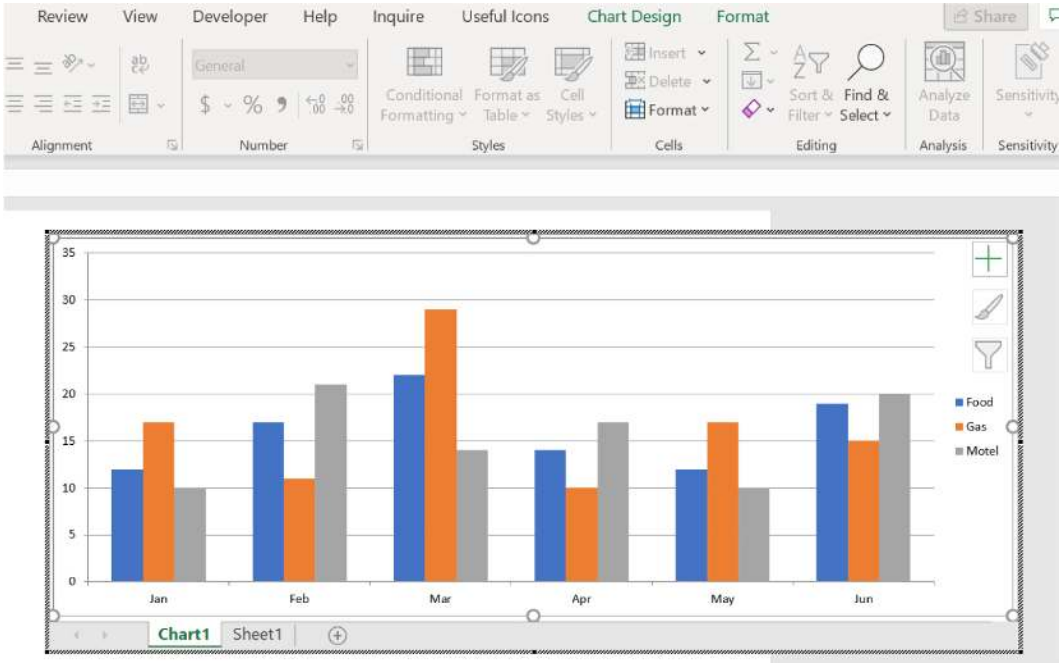


Figure 15.6: To navigate to the data you will use to build the chart, click on Sheet1 just as you would in Excel. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In the Insert Object dialog box, you can also choose the checkbox Display as icon (Figure 15.7). This will insert an icon for the appropriate program that will allow the user to click on it to insert the object (as in Figure 15.8).

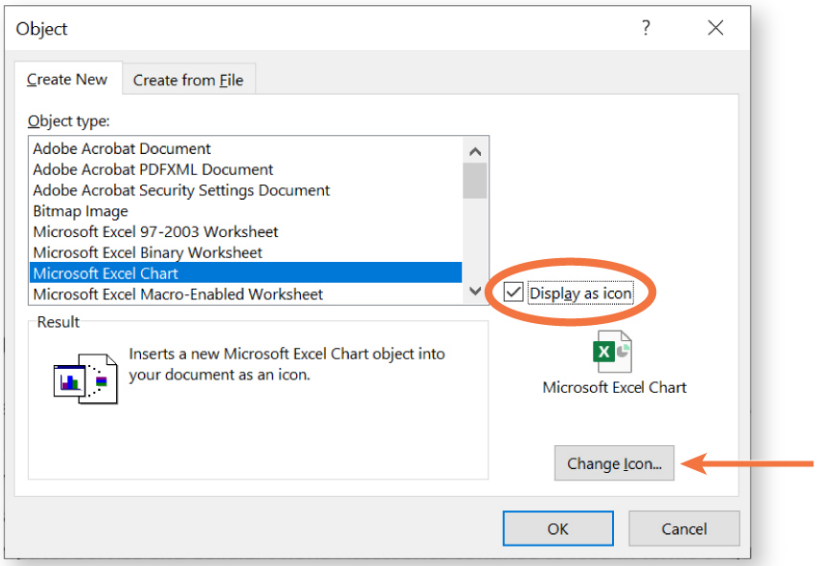


Figure 15.7: Choosing Change Icon gives you the option to change the icon to something other than the default setting. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



Figure 15.8: To access the object, simply click on the icon that has been inserted into the file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Remember, embedding is similar to copy and paste except that you do not have to actually open the source file. When embedding information from another file, the application will insert a snapshot of the file where it was last saved.

For example, if you last saved your Excel worksheet with your cursor on a cell in Sheet4, then essentially Sheet4 is the selected worksheet. The data on Sheet4 will be embedded into the other file showing the image of Sheet4. If you are on slide 5 in your PowerPoint presentation when you save the presentation, then slide 5 will be displayed in the new file. You can double-click on the embedded object, and it will open the source file type so that you can view the other slides and worksheets if they are present. If you embed an Excel chart, it will open as Excel where you can make changes. However, these changes will not change the source file. It will only change the information in the file you are working with currently. The source files will not change when they are embedded.

Inserting Text from a File

You may recall from Figure 15.2 that there were two options available when inserting an Object from the Text command group: Object, and Text from File. This option, which allows you to insert text from another file into the current file, is often used as a shortcut to combine information contained in multiple Word documents. The Text from File function is available only in Word. It is not an option when inserting objects in Excel or PowerPoint. And although the source file can be of any type, it is generally easiest to use Word, PowerPoint, or PDF files because these file types are more textual. If you try to insert text from an Excel file, you may find that the information is not formatted properly.

Importing a PDF File

There are a few different ways to handle importing content from a PDF file into a Word document. You can copy and paste the text from within the PDF, try to convert the PDF by opening it with Word, or insert the PDF into your document as an object.

The copy-and-paste solution is the most straightforward, but this method copies only the text from the PDF. To use this method, first open the PDF file in Adobe Acrobat (or another PDF viewer), press Ctrl+A to select all, press Ctrl+C to copy, and then go to your Word document and press Ctrl+V to paste the selected text into Word. You can also use the other copy-and-paste methods you learned earlier in this book. Double-check to make sure all the text has copied correctly. If it didn't, try to select smaller areas instead of the whole document. Using the copy-and-paste option with PDFs often leaves you with inaccurate line breaks, odd characters, and other errors to fix, which can be time consuming.

You can also try to open the PDF file using Word's conversion tools. To do this, locate the PDF file and right-click to activate your system's contextual menu, then go to Open with . . . and select Word as the app. This will effectively convert the PDF to a .docx file, while keeping the images and the text intact. Unfortunately, this conversion process is not always successful.

As an example, let's open a graphics-heavy file, such as a report with images on the first page. As shown in Figure 15.9, Word warns that the file may not look the same after it has been converted to a .docx file. You can see in Figure 15.10 that the conversion resulted in a number of changes to the text and images on the page. Therefore, the Word conversion tool may be a better choice for simpler files that do not contain many images or special formatting, such as section breaks or tables.

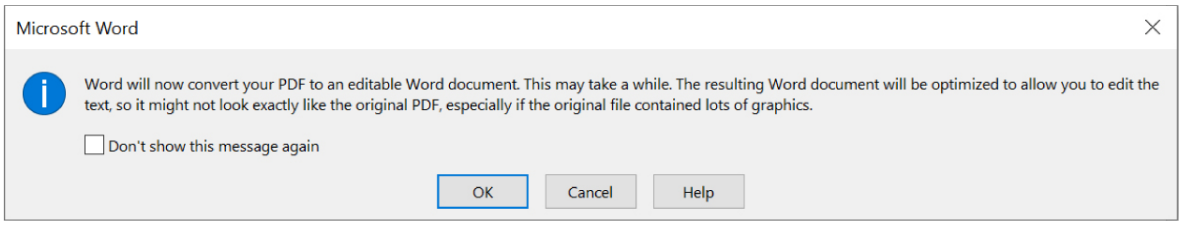
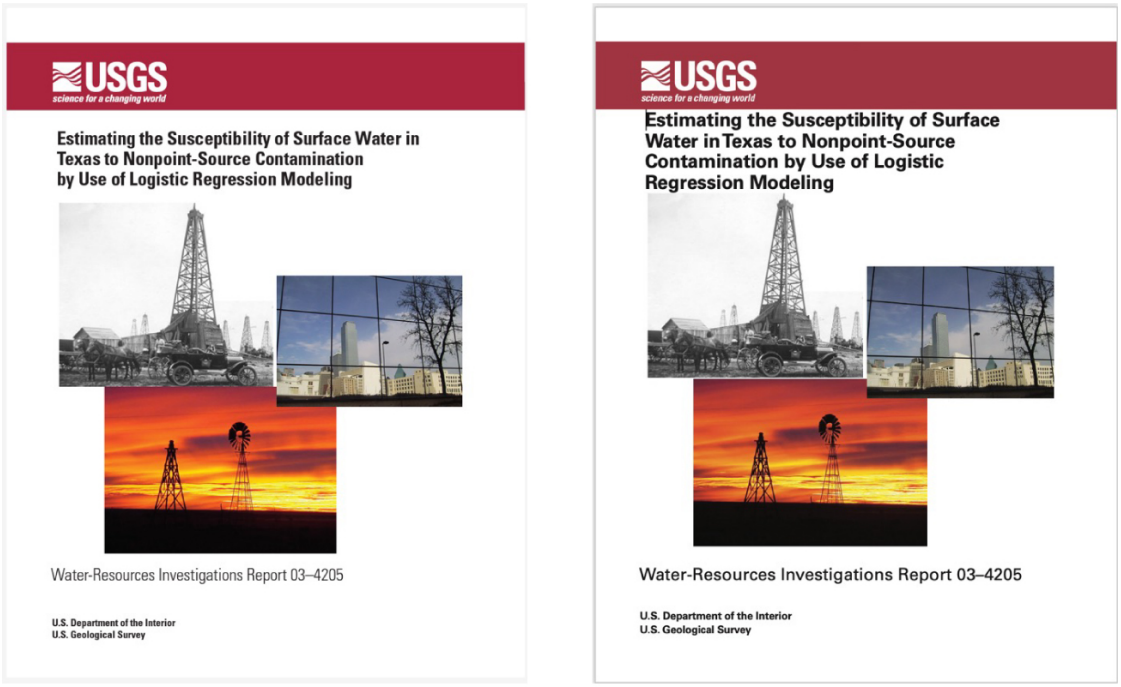


Figure 15.9: Opening a PDF file in Word is an option, but it has some limitations. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



(a) **(b)**

Figure 15.10: (a) The original PDF file had a lot of images. (b) When converted to a Word file, the images remained intact but shifted on the page. There are also changes to the font style, size, line spacing, and colors.

Finally, you can also insert your source document into Word as a linked object, following the same steps you used for Excel object insertion. Go to the Insert tab and select the Object drop-down command, then click Object to open the Object dialog box. On the second tab, Create from File, browse to the PDF file's folder location and select the file. Then select the Link to File checkbox and choose OK. Now the item's first page has been inserted as an object in the Word document. This is a link to the PDF file, so if you double-click it, the PDF file will open. To make this first page smaller, hover over one of the corners and, as the mouse pointer changes from a symbol to arrows, use the mouse to reduce the size of the page.

Link to Learning

Microsoft continues to improve the features of their programs to facilitate real-time collaboration. This is an increasingly important capability as more people are working remotely at least part of the time. Additionally, collaborative features can foster team building and enhanced productivity in an organization, whether the members are physically in the same location or not. In the future, more businesses may use Microsoft's technology to move to a fully or primarily remote business model. Watch this video about some of the advanced features of the Microsoft suite to learn more.

This page titled 15.1: Microsoft 365- Collaboration and Integration is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.2: Microsoft Word- Integration with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Integrate Word documents into Excel worksheets
- Link Excel worksheets to Word documents
- Insert Excel charts into Word documents
- Embed Access data into Word documents

One key advantage of a suite like Microsoft 365 (Office) is that it enables you to insert information from other file types into its applications. For example, suppose you want to connect a file with a more narrative structure to explain your analysis in an Excel worksheet. You can use file integration to include notes that detail the specific calculations or data sources in Excel. Conversely, in a company-wide report, it may be helpful to include chart visuals to illustrate how sales have changed over the last quarter. These are just a few examples of the value of integrating Word and Excel when conveying information to a broad audience.

Integrating Microsoft Word Documents into Microsoft Excel Worksheets

The previous section provided a general overview of linking and embedding in Microsoft. Now we look specifically at the process for linking and embedding Word files into Excel worksheets. Keep in mind that Excel is a spreadsheet program. It is not designed to handle large amounts of text. It is a good idea to spend a little time thinking through the best approach before you try to integrate a lengthy Word document into an Excel workbook.

Here is an example scenario: You have just finished summarizing information from three of WorldCorp's top sales agents for the past month. You have created a Monthly Report memo in Word and an Excel worksheet that includes a PivotTable. Because the memo is rather short, you decide to incorporate it into your Excel worksheet rather than sharing two separate files with your team. This makes the most sense because you want others to be able to manipulate the PivotTable and analyze the information to best meet their needs. Figure 15.11 shows the Excel file with the PivotTable and chart of the summarized data and Figure 15.12 shows the memo created in Word.

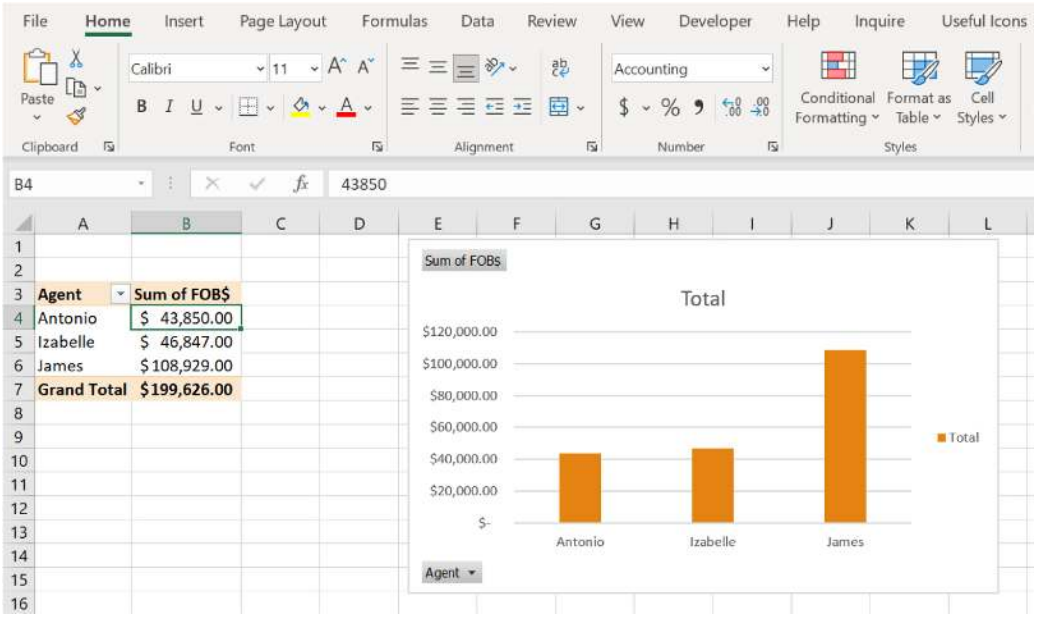


Figure 15.11: The summarized data is contained in an Excel file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

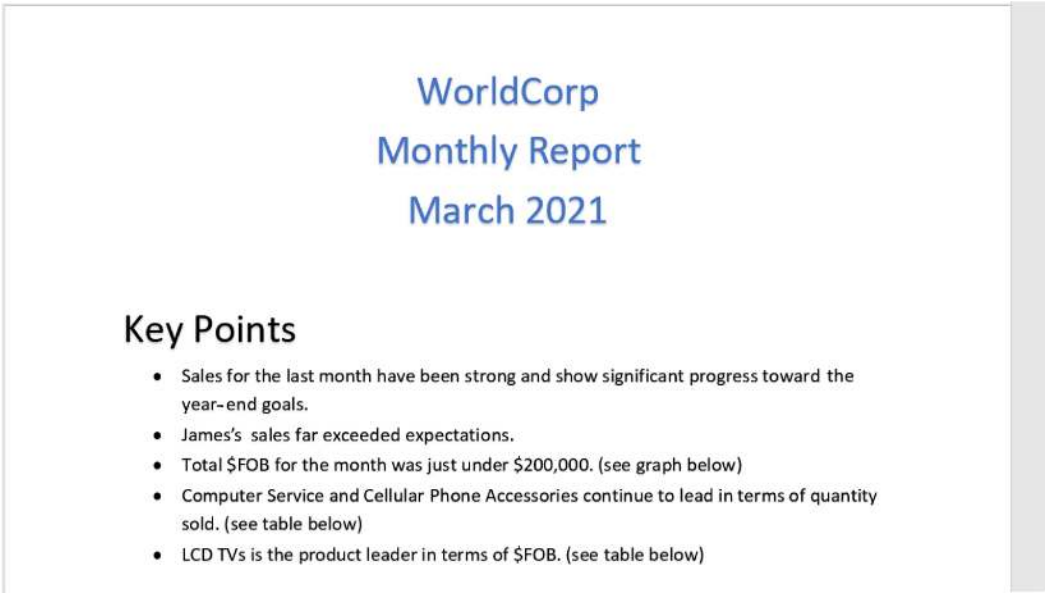


Figure 15.12: The summary memo is in a Word file that can be incorporated into the Excel file by using the Insert Object function. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using the Insert Object function in Excel, you can integrate the Word document into the file. First, place your cursor where you would like to have the memo information placed in the Excel document. In this example, let's choose cell A10. The object will be inserted into the selected cell. Note that you will be able to move and resize the object once you have placed it on the worksheet, but it is easier to manipulate the object if you insert it in the general location where you would like it to be. Also note that resizing an object can compromise its readability—another reason to be cautious about placing large amounts of text in Excel.

As covered in Microsoft 365: Collaboration and Integration, go to the Insert tab and the Text command group, and choose Object (Figure 15.13). From there, you have two options: Create New or Create from File. Select Create from File (see Figure 15.14).

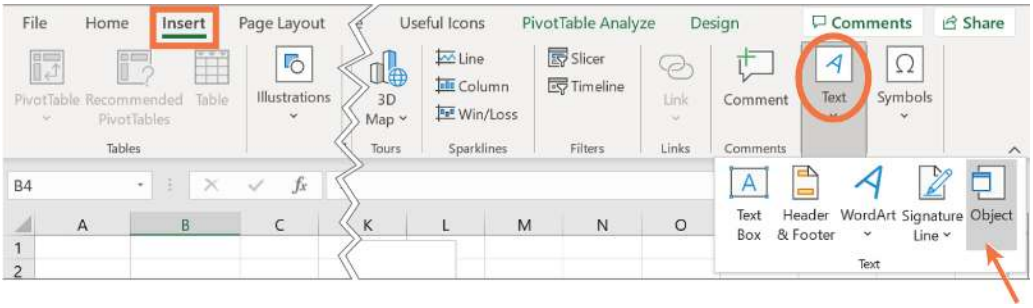


Figure 15.13: Excel considers inserting a file into an existing workbook as inserting an Object. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

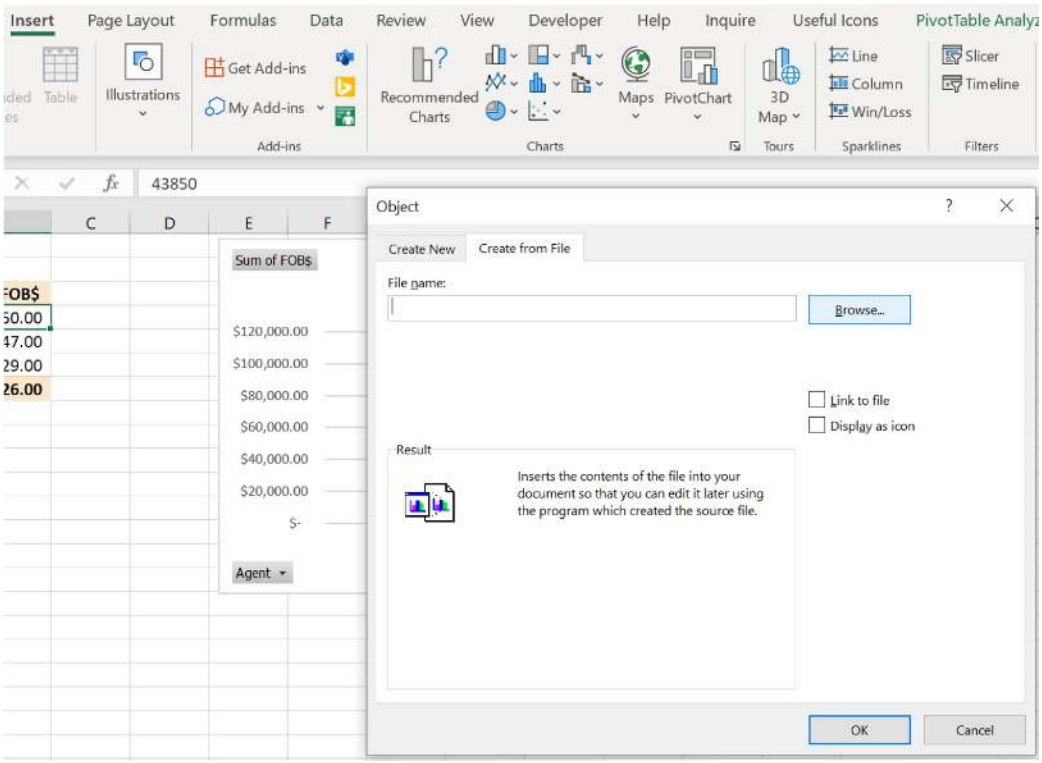


Figure 15.14: Remember to choose Create from File when you have the information already saved in another file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The Word file was previously created and saved as Monthly Report. Choose this file and click OK. If the file you are trying to insert is open, you will get an error message indicating that the file is in use. (Only one person can be working in a shared file at the same time. Once the person is finished and has closed the file, it will become available for others to edit.) In that case, simply close the file and insert the object again. Notice that the Link to File and Display as icon options are available here as well. The information from the Word document is now in the Excel file (Figure 15.15). Because we did not choose Link to File, the Word memo is embedded in the Excel worksheet and has become part of the Excel file. This means that if you make any changes in the Word document (the source file), they will not be reflected in the Excel file. Notice in the formula bar you see "=EMBED("Document","). Excel automatically adds this to indicate that an object has been embedded (or more specifically is now a part of) into the Excel file. In this case, we embedded a Word document, so you see the word "Document" in the formula. This will be inserted when you choose to embed an object or file. You should not edit or change this formula.

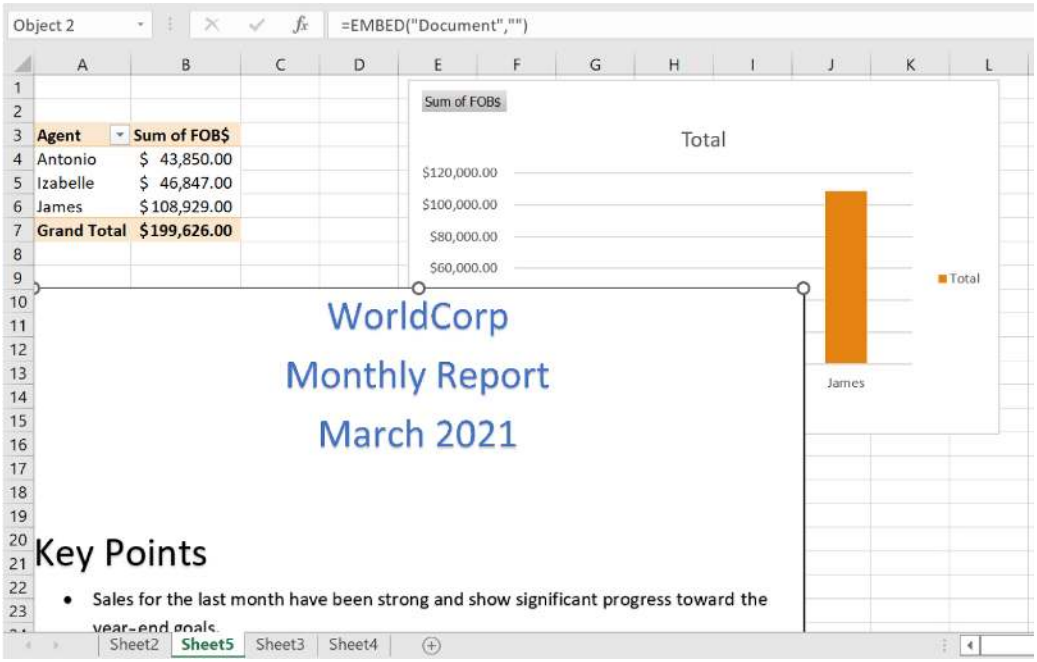


Figure 15.15: The memo was inserted into cell A10. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Note that although we selected cell A10 as the cell to insert the memo into, the memo takes up much more space than this. The cell we select is simply where the top left corner of the object will be, but the object itself may cover many other cells. This is why resizing is important (Figure 15.16).

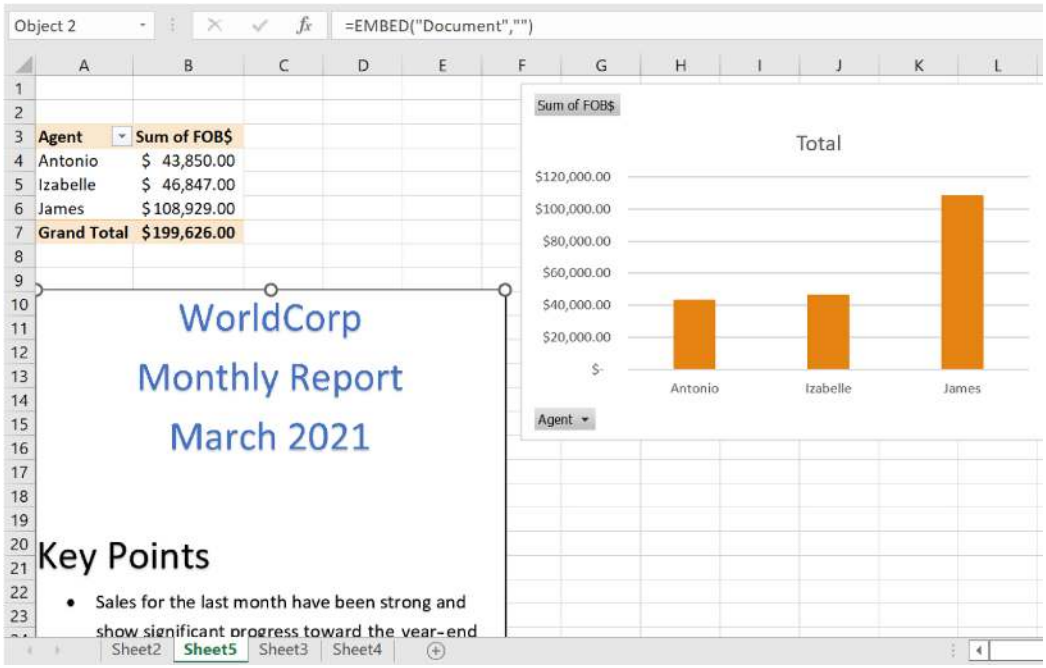


Figure 15.16: Resizing the object enables you to fit it into the space next to the chart, but this also makes the text a bit harder to read. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As an alternative to placing the actual text into the worksheet, you can choose to insert the information as an icon. Adding the icon to the spreadsheet creates a link rather than embedding the text into the Excel file. The user simply double-clicks on the icon to access the Word file. By choosing Display as icon, you can avoid some of the drawbacks of inserting blocks of text into a worksheet and have a direct link to the source file. To do this, select the Display as icon option. Remember that you can change the look of the icon that will be inserted by choosing Change Icon (Figure 15.17).

When the icon is placed in the worksheet, it will contain the file name, “monthly report.docx” in this case. However, because the file name has a space in it, the program will insert the Unicode for a space, which is “%20”. (Note: Unicode was discussed in Document Preparation.) Notice that the icon displays the file name with the “%20” where the space was located. This is a quirk of the program that cannot be avoided.

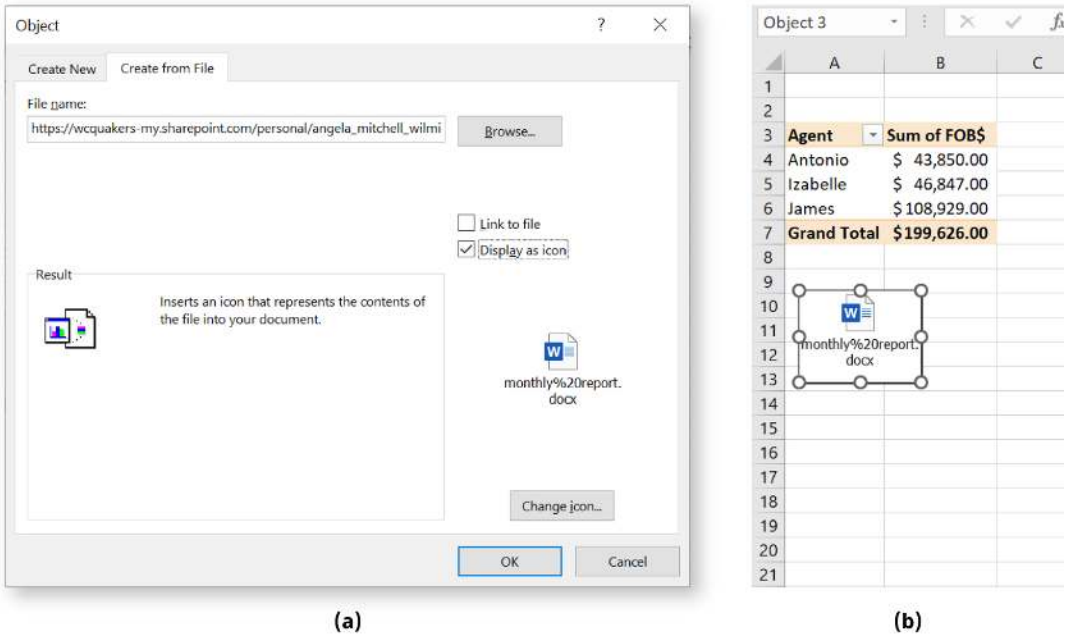


Figure 15.17: (a) Make sure there is a check in the Display as icon box if you want to insert an icon rather than the actual text in the Word file. (b) The icon appears much smaller than the embedded memo content. The Word icon makes it clear that the file is a Word document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

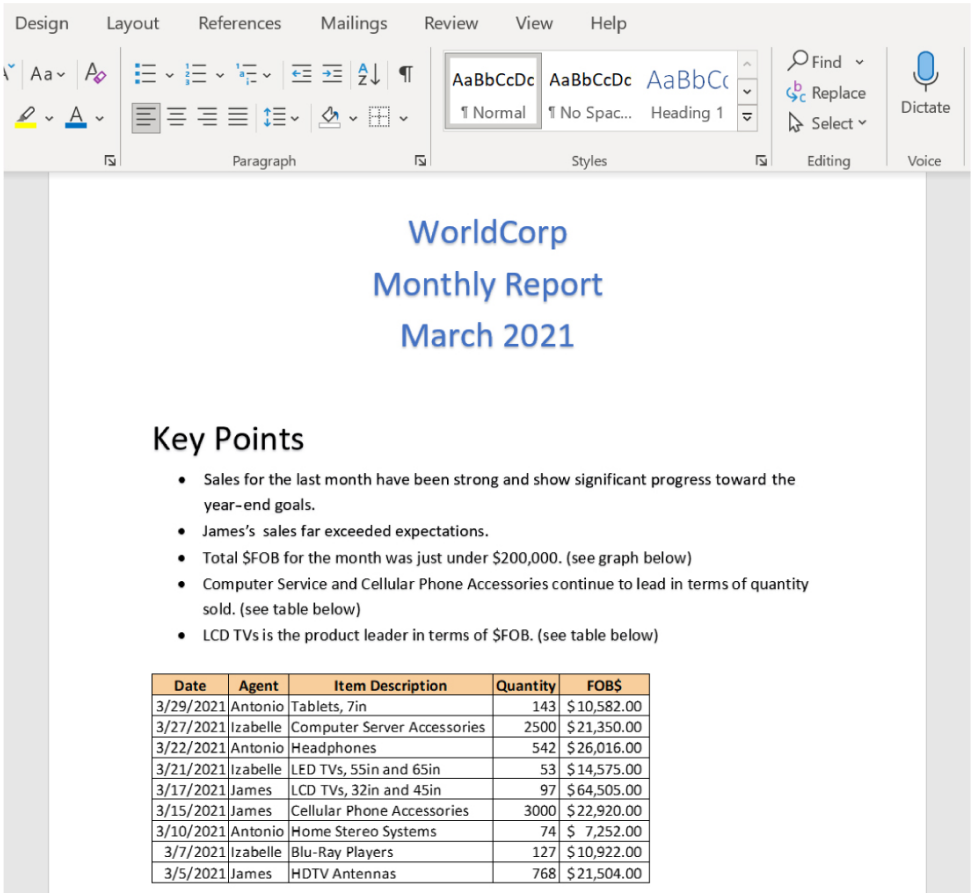
Finally, you can choose to link the Word document and the Excel spreadsheet using the Link to File option. This provides a dynamic link to the file so that any changes made in the Word file will also be reflected in the Excel file. To insert a link to the file, tick the checkbox, Link to File, and click OK. Generally speaking, providing a link is the preferred option unless you are certain that the source file is not going to change. However, remember that if the file path (where the source file is saved on your computer or in your cloud drive) changes, you will need to insert the link again into your Excel worksheet.

Integrating Microsoft Excel Worksheets into Microsoft Word Documents

Now we look at integrating an Excel file into Word. This is quite common in organizations when preparing summary reports that include data. Excel is used to summarize, analyze, and prepare visuals such as charts of the data. Word is then used to provide some textual context and additional information. We follow steps similar to those that have previously been discussed for integrating Excel worksheets into Word documents.

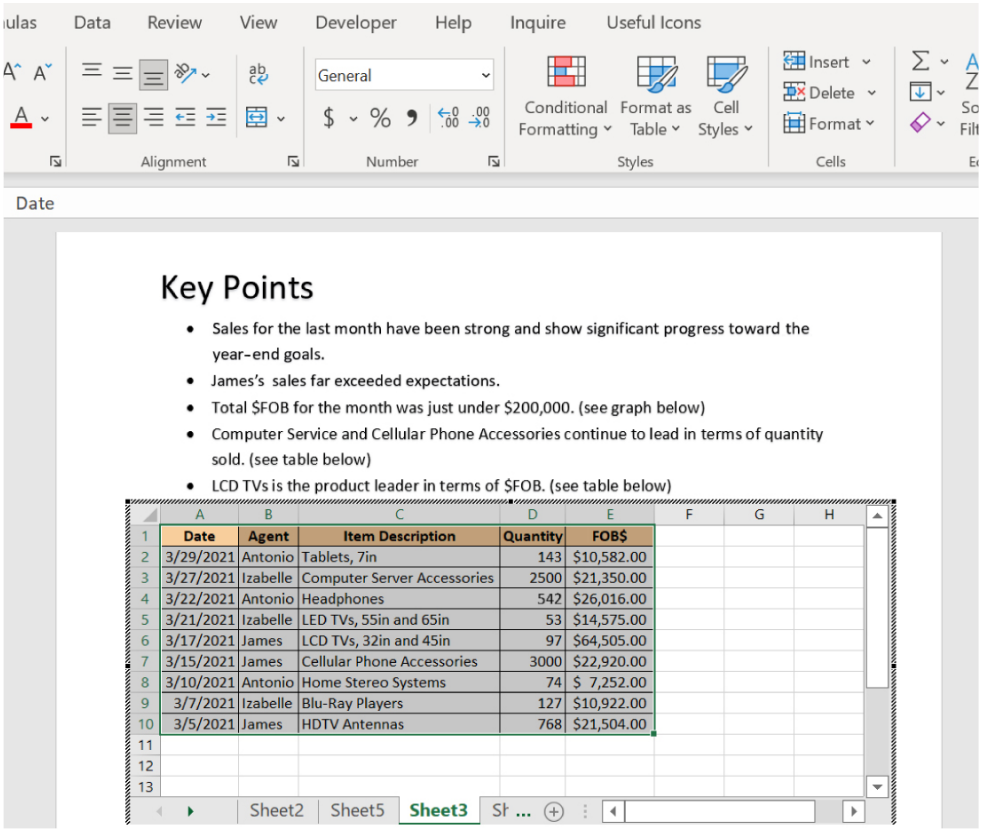
Let’s go back to the WorldCorp Monthly Report example. The management team would like to include information from the sales department in their monthly report. The monthly report is created in Word and ideally would include some text, the data tables, and any charts or graphs that help summarize the data. The report is distributed to all members of the management team to keep them updated on the company’s progress toward year-end goals. You want to include the data from the Excel worksheet in the document.

We start by embedding the summary table from the March sales data in the Excel file into the monthly report file created in Word. First, open the Word document and determine where you would like to display the Excel information. The information will be embedded at the cursor location in the Word file. Go to the Insert tab, then the Text command group, then Object. Follow the same procedure we used previously. The Excel data will insert as a clean table into your Word document (Figure 15.18). If your Excel file has multiple worksheets, you will have to double-click on the table to see those other worksheets. You can also use this double-click functionality to access the Excel data and edit it directly in Word (Figure 15.19). Remember, the Excel file must not be open when using the Insert Object tool. Also remember that you are embedding this into the Word document. If any information in the source file (the Excel file) changes, it will not be updated in the Word file.



Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$
3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00
3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00
3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00
3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00
3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00
3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00
3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00
3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00
3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00

Figure 15.18: The table from the current worksheet in the Excel file will be embedded into the Word document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



Date	Agent	Item Description	Quantity	FOB$
3/29/2021	Antonio	Tablets, 7in	143	$10,582.00
3/27/2021	Izabelle	Computer Server Accessories	2500	$21,350.00
3/22/2021	Antonio	Headphones	542	$26,016.00
3/21/2021	Izabelle	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	53	$14,575.00
3/17/2021	James	LCD TVs, 32in and 45in	97	$64,505.00
3/15/2021	James	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	$22,920.00
3/10/2021	Antonio	Home Stereo Systems	74	$ 7,252.00
3/7/2021	Izabelle	Blu-Ray Players	127	$10,922.00
3/5/2021	James	HDTV Antennas	768	$21,504.00

Figure 15.19: Double-clicking on the table will give you Excel functionality to make changes to the table. You can also see the other tabs when you do this. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

At this point, the report is still a draft, so you anticipate changes to the data. You want to be sure that the report reflects accurate information when it is distributed, so you would like to replace the embedded information with a link. Linking to the Excel file means that information that is changed in the source Excel file will also be updated in the Word file. Choose the Link to File option to create the connection between the two files of different types. Visually, the result will look the same in the Word document, but any changes that are made to the source will be automatically reflected in the table in the Word document. Double-clicking on the table will open a new Excel window of the source file. Finally, you again have the option to include an icon instead of the actual table.

Another available method for inserting Excel content into a Word document is to use the Insert tab to place an Excel workbook into a Word file, allowing you to work in that interface as you normally would in Excel. To do this, go to the Insert tab, then select the Table drop-down menu and choose Excel Spreadsheet, as shown in Figure 15.20a. A blank Excel object will appear in Word, as shown in Figure 15.20b. (Note that this option is not available to Mac users.) You can then paste the copied table onto this blank document or add new data and create the table. This table will not be linked. This method gives you the same functionality for sizing columns, sorting, and inserting formulas as you would have in Excel. The Excel worksheet is simply placed inside the Word file. Keep in mind that when you choose this option, the Excel file you create inside the Word document does not stand alone but becomes part of the Word file. Therefore, to make changes to the Excel spreadsheet, you need to access the Word file. As a result, this option is not very practical if you need to create a large dataset. You might need to make changes to the Excel file, and working in Excel as an object in a Word file can be cumbersome. However, it can be useful as a quick and easy way of providing others with access to Excel data without sending multiple files.

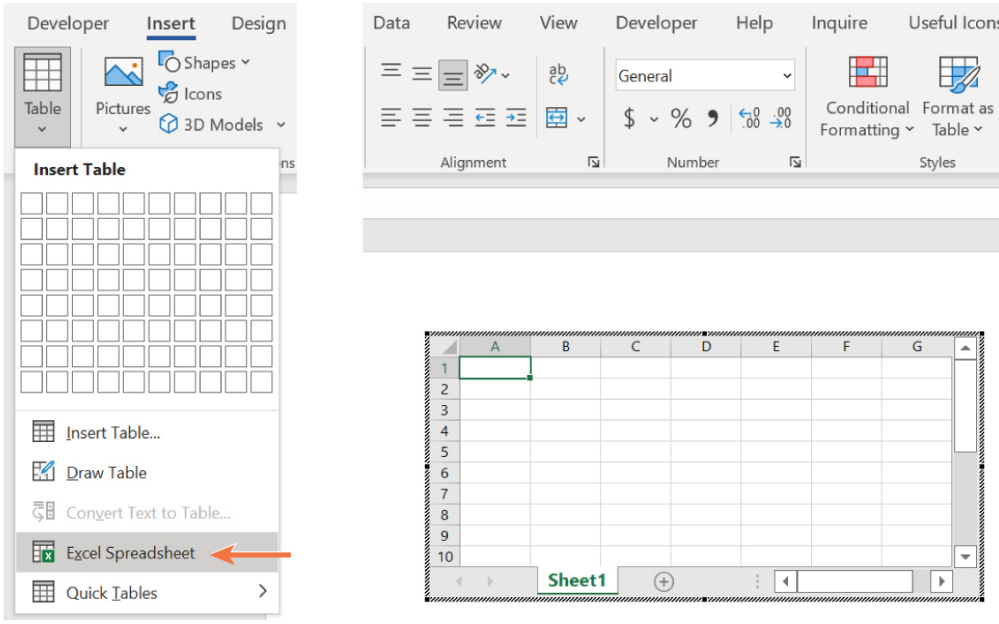


Figure 15.20: (a) You can insert an Excel spreadsheet as an object in a Word file. This option is under the Insert Table drop-down, rather than the Insert Object drop-down menu. (b) You will now have an Excel window within the Word document that you can use to add data, make charts, and calculate formulas. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Finally, you can always copy and paste Excel information into the Word file. To do this, go to the Paste drop-down menu, accessible from the Home tab. This drop-down menu gives you six options, as seen in Figure 15.21.

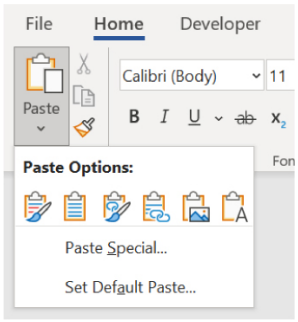


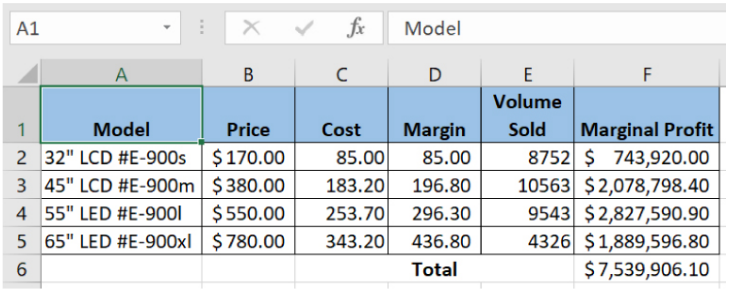
Figure 15.21: When copying an Excel table to be inserted into a Word document, you have several options for pasting the table into the document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You begin by selecting a table in the worksheet in Excel and copying it with Ctrl+C or by using the Copy tool from the Home tab. Then head to Word to paste the table into the document file. The table shown lists the different options for pasting the Excel information into the Word file Figure 15.22.

Icon						
Callout text	Keep Source Formatting	Use Destination Styles	Link & Keep Source Formatting	Link & Use Destination Styles	Picture	Text only
Explanation	This choice will copy the Excel table, unlinked, and will use the original formatting of the table.	This choice will copy the table, unlinked, and will use the Word formatting. Since there is no theme or styles in the Word file, the formatting is simple, with no cell fill colors.	This is essentially the same as the first command, "Keep source formatting," except that it is linked. It will keep the original formatting, and it will be updated if the original Excel file changes. It is not an embedded object.	This is essentially the same as the second command, "Use destination styles," except that it is linked. It will keep the Word file's formatting, and it will be updated if the original Excel file changes. It is not an embedded object.	This will convert the table into a screen capture, and it will be the most exact copy of the original, in regard to formatting. It is not linked to the original Excel file. It is also not editable.	This will paste only the text from the table, with no lines, formatting, table borders, or cells. It will simply appear as text.

Figure 15.22: There are six copy-and-paste methods you can use when importing from Excel. Each one will result in a different appearance on the page. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Let's look at an example of each copy-and-paste option. Figure 15.23 shows an example Excel table, as it appears in Excel. Notice the differences between the copy-and-paste options; you may have to adjust the Excel table to get it to look the way it is supposed to.



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Model**	**Price**	**Cost**	**Margin**	**Volume Sold**	**Marginal Profit**
2	32" LCD #E-900s	$170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00
3	45" LCD #E-900m	$380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$2,078,798.40
4	55" LED #E-900l	$550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$2,827,590.90
5	65" LED #E-900xl	$780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$1,889,596.80
6				**Total**		$7,539,906.10

Figure 15.23: Notice the formatting of the original Excel table. The cells are a certain width, and the text is aligned in a certain way in each cell. You will see some differences once you copy and paste this data into Word. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

For example, using the Keep Source Formatting option (Figure 15.24) keeps the font and cell background colors, but you will need to adjust some of the column widths to display the dollar values correctly. Note that the option Link & Keep Source Formatting will appear the same, except that the data will be a link, not an embedded object.

Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00
45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$ 2,078,798.40
55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$ 2,827,590.90
65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$ 1,889,596.80
			Total		$ 7,539,906.10

(Ctrl)

Figure 15.24: Notice that the "Price" and "Marginal Profit" columns are not wide enough to fit the whole amount on one line, which makes it hard to read. You will need to manually adjust the column widths. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In Figure 15.25, you can see the result of the Use Destination Styles option. In this case, our "destination style" is the style of the Word document we are pasting into, which of course does not contain any cell background colors or special formatting. As a result, you will lose some of the formatting, such as the blue fill color. Note that the option Link & Use Destination Styles will appear the same except that the data will be a link, not an embedded object.

Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00
45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$ 2,078,798.40
55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$ 2,827,590.90
65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$ 1,889,596.80
		Total			$ 7,539,906.10

(Ctrl)

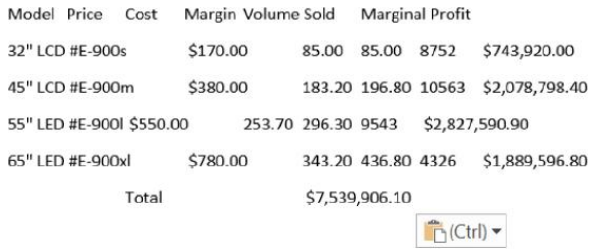
Figure 15.25: The Use Destination Styles option can be useful if you want the Excel data to match the rest of the Word document, instead of maintaining its original formatting. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The option to copy and paste the Excel data as a Picture will result in the cleanest appearance (see Figure 15.26). The inserted picture will appear exactly how the original Excel table appears; note that there are no issues with the column widths or the cell background color. However, the picture is static and cannot be edited.

Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00
45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$ 2,078,798.40
55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$ 2,827,590.90
65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$ 1,889,596.80
			Total		$ 7,539,906.10

Figure 15.26: The option to copy and paste the Excel data as a picture results in a snapshot of the Excel table that can be resized and modified like an image. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Last, there is the Text Only copy-and-paste option. This option is exactly as it sounds: it pastes only the text of the Excel table and does not include any formatting, cell borders, or background colors. The issue with this is that much information in Excel is represented in cell format, so once the cell borders are gone, it becomes difficult to parse the information. You can see in Figure 15.27 how difficult this is to read. This option is useful only when you need to strip out all formatting and manipulate the text on its own.



Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit	
32" LCD #E-900s	$170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$743,920.00	
45" LCD #E-900m	$380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$2,078,798.40	
55" LED #E-900l	$550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$2,827,590.90	
65" LED #E-900xl	$780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$1,889,596.80	
	Total		$7,539,906.10			

(Ctrl)

Figure 15.27: The Text Only option typically results in unreadable text, as the columns are no longer aligned, and it is not clear how the information should be parsed. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You also have the option to use the Paste Special tool and choose the Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) option. Paste Special gives you some options in addition to the shortcuts shown as icons on the drop-down menu. (Several of the options we already discussed are included in the list as well.) Go to the same Paste drop-down command (in Figure 15.21), but this time choose Paste Special. This will open a new dialog box that will give you additional choices, as seen in Figure 15.28. Select the first option, Microsoft Excel Worksheet Object. If you have Paste selected (on the left side of the dialog box), the OLE Excel object will not be linked to the original, meaning that it will be static; it will not update if the original file changes. If you have Paste link selected, the object will look the same, but it will be updated if the original file changes. Both options will result in a similar image; however, the Paste link option will simply result in a linked file. You can see the result in Figure 15.29.

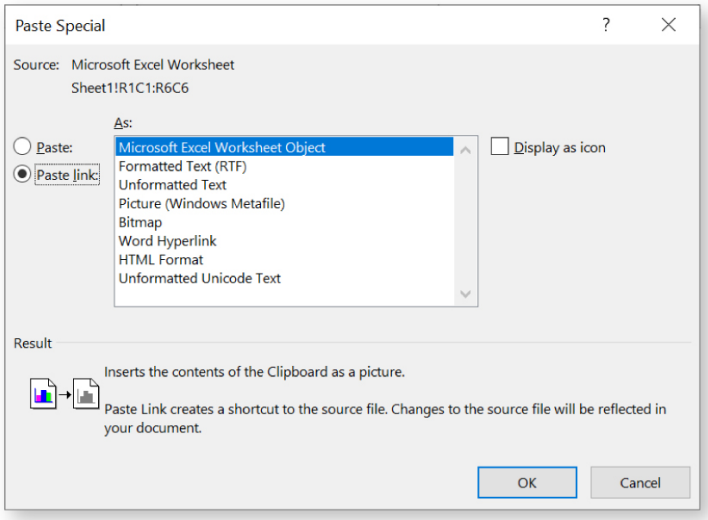
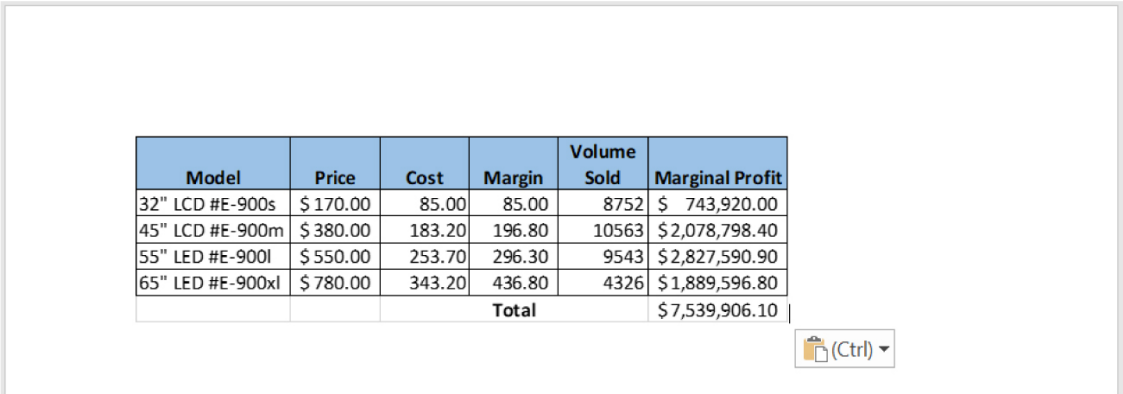


Figure 15.28: The Paste Special tool has additional options beyond the shortcuts in the Paste menu. (Used with permission from Microsoft)



Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit
32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00
45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$ 2,078,798.40
55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$ 2,827,590.90
65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$ 1,889,596.80
			Total		$ 7,539,906.10

(Ctrl)

Figure 15.29: You can embed or link an Excel table to your Word document using the Paste Special tool, just like you can with the Insert Object tool. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Inserting Microsoft Excel Charts into Microsoft Word Documents

To integrate charts into Word documents, you simply follow the same procedure as outlined previously for inserting objects. Here, we are looking at ways to directly integrate the two file types rather than simply copying and pasting the information from one to the other. The concepts in this chapter are particularly useful when collaborating with others on workbooks or documents. Multiple users can make changes to either file, or those with access to files will see those changes in real time.

There are a few options when integrating Excel charts into Word documents, all of which use the same methods for inserting that you already learned in this section. You can include the chart as a picture, or you can choose to embed or link the chart into the Word document. Finally, if you also want to include the Excel data along with the chart, you can use the Insert Object tool. However, if you just want to include the chart and not the spreadsheet data, linking or embedding will be the best option.

Think about the differences between linking and embedding when you determine which option is appropriate. Let's look at the same example of the sales data broken down by agent (refer to Figure 15.11). What do we do if we only want to include the chart in a Word document, and not the PivotTable?

First, we copy the chart. Then we open our Word document—the Monthly Report—and determine where we would like to include the chart in the file. In this example, let's include the chart below the table of data we integrated in the previous section. Be sure to have the cursor at the location where you want the chart to be placed. Use the Paste Special function on the Home tab to either link or embed the chart into the Word file, selecting "Microsoft Excel Chart Object," similar to what we did in Figure 15.28. See Figure 15.30 to see the different options that appear in this dialog box when you have a chart as your source file.

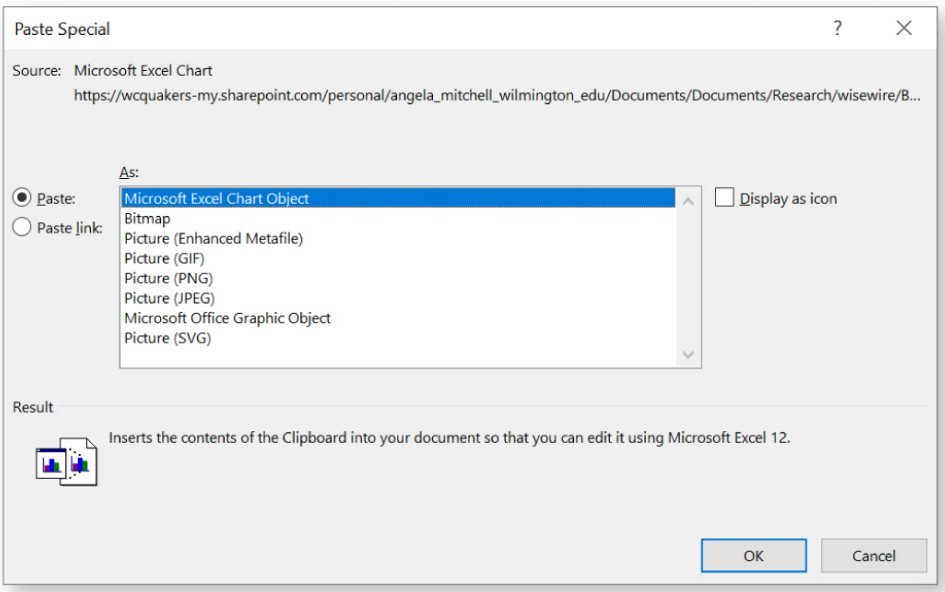


Figure 15.30: You have the option to Display as icon rather than including the actual chart. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To embed the chart, choose Microsoft Excel Chart Object and click OK. If you would prefer to link the chart, choose Microsoft Excel Chart Object and check the option Paste link. This will establish the link rather than embedding the chart. The final chart should appear as it does in Excel and may need to be resized to fit on your Word page (Figure 15.31).

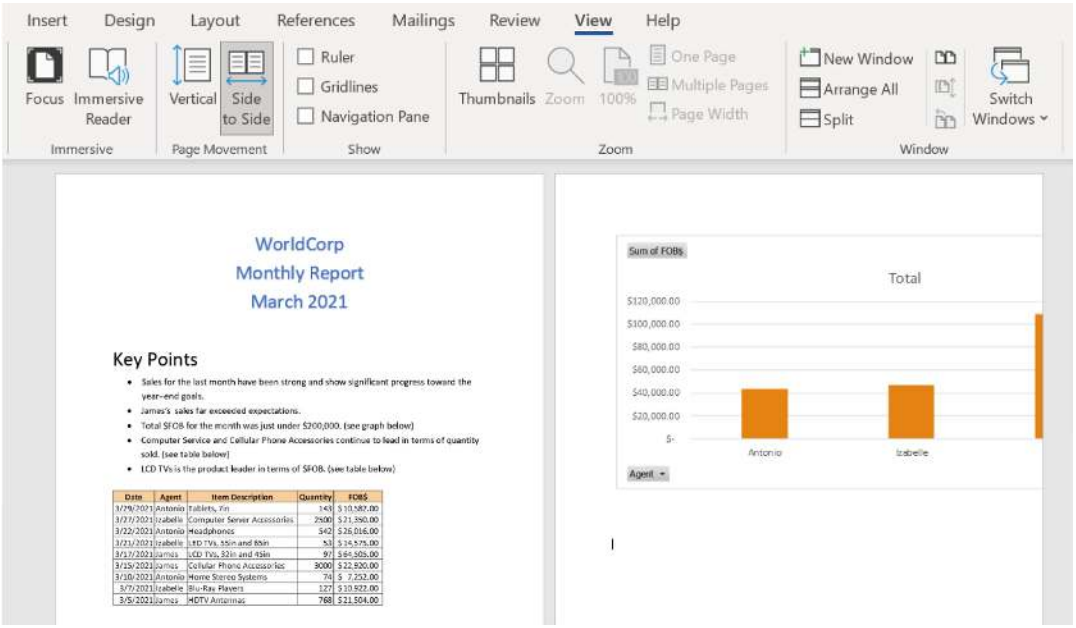


Figure 15.31: You will likely need to resize the chart when embedding it into the Word document. You can do this by simply grabbing one of the corners of the chart and dragging it to where you would like it to be, as you would with an image. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If you linked the chart to your Word document, the chart should automatically update when you alter the source data in the original Excel file. Let's walk through an example of changing information in the Excel file to see how this affects the chart. We will change Izabelle's Sum of FOB$ from the current value of $46,847 to a new value of $26,847 (Figure 15.32).

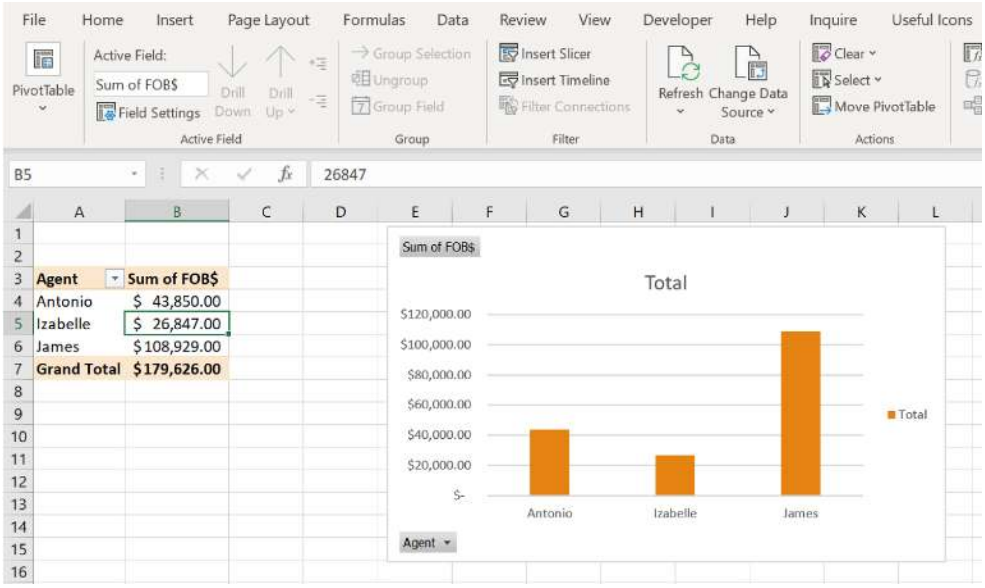


Figure 15.32: This is the PivotTable and chart as they appear in the Excel source file. Notice the chart reflects the decrease in Izabelle's FOB$. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When you open the Monthly Report Word file again, these values will be automatically updated in the chart. You will be presented with a window asking if you would like to update the linked information. Choose Yes to update the linked Excel chart. As an alternative, if you are already working in the Word file, you can right-click on the chart and choose Update Link to automatically update the chart with the new Excel chart, as Figure 15.33 shows.

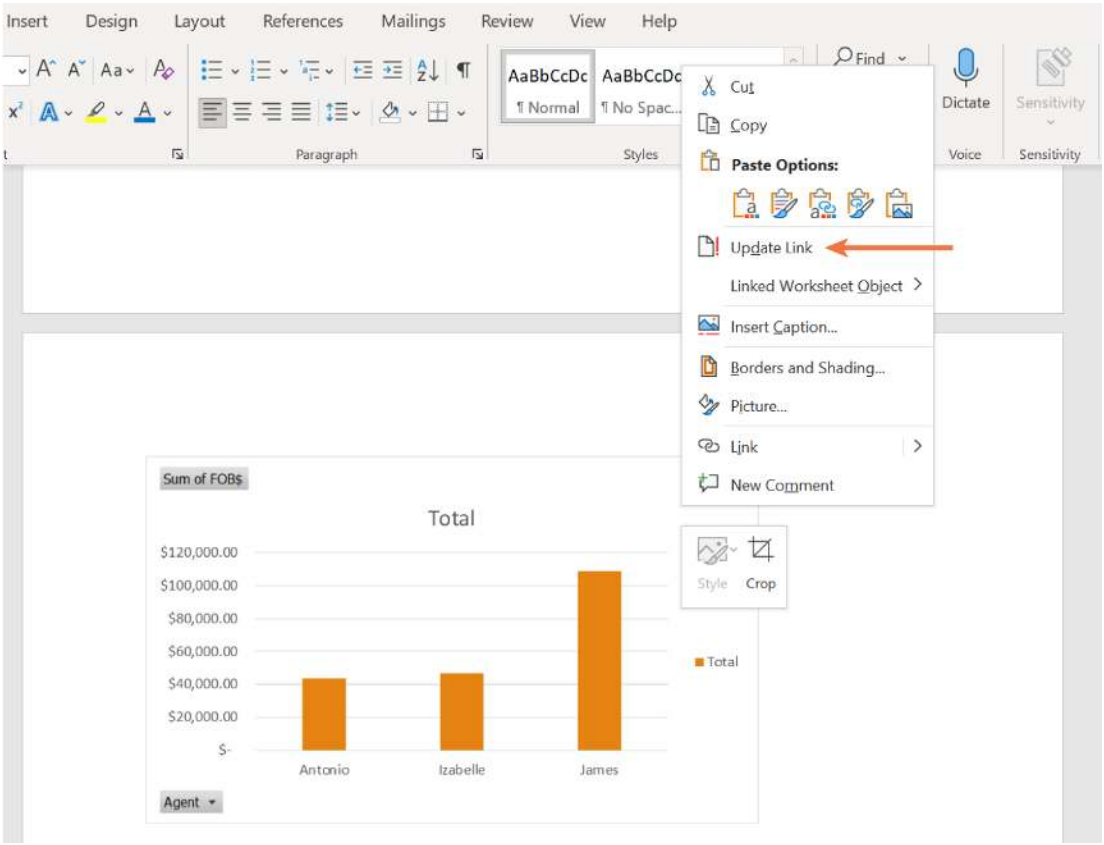


Figure 15.33: If you already have the Word file open, you can update the link by right-clicking on the chart and choosing Update Link. Notice that the chart is now updated to reflect the decrease in Izabelle's FOB$. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Embed Microsoft Access Data into Microsoft Word Documents

The process for importing data from Access is similar to what we just did with Excel. You can use the classic copy and paste, or you can choose Paste Special options. You can also add exported data from Access to Word. Because Access files can be very lengthy databases, it may not always make sense to integrate them with Word files. In some cases, however, you may want to integrate these files. For example, you may want to integrate an Access database into a Word document to make it easier to print customer lists or product sales in a full document. You also may want to use portions of a database to create mailing labels or product summary cards for sales personnel.

This page titled 15.2: Microsoft Word- Integration with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.3: Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Add Word documents to PowerPoint slides
- Integrate PowerPoint slides into Word documents

At this point, you probably have noticed the similarities in integrating Microsoft 365 applications together. This is a key feature of the Microsoft suite that makes it especially well-suited for both collaborative workspaces and a traditional workplace in an office building. The ease of integrating Word and Excel, Excel and PowerPoint, and PowerPoint and Word facilitate communication and teamwork at all levels in an organization. Large corporations to small entrepreneurial ventures can find value in utilizing an integrative suite such as Microsoft.

In this section, we focus on Word and PowerPoint. This integration can be particularly useful when preparing materials for a presentation or meeting, for which there may be a need to have information at the ready. This information may take the form of a handout or memo, created in Word, while also having a slideshow presentation as a supplement to the meeting discussions. There are times when it can be useful to show the slideshow material on the handout or add a link to a Word document to a PowerPoint. Let's explore some different options for integrating these two programs.

Add Microsoft Word Documents to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides

Many of the techniques you have learned in this and previous chapters on Word and PowerPoint can be applied when integrating Word and PowerPoint. When integrating the two applications, just as with other integrations, consider first whether linking or embedding is the best option. Use embedding if you can be assured the source document will not change and that you will not need access to the source files. Choose linking if you expect updates and want to be able to access the source document if needed.

Let's revisit the example of sales data and the Monthly Report for March. Not only do you have the data in an Excel workbook, but you have also created a memo to be distributed to key managers within WorldCorp. You have now been asked to prepare a presentation of the material to be presented in the monthly sales meeting. You need the information in the monthly report to include in the presentation. Rather than retyping the information into PowerPoint, it is easier to either embed or link the Word document you already created.

To begin, create a new presentation for the monthly sales meeting. You could work from a template or open a previous presentation rather than starting from scratch. (These topics were covered in the PowerPoint chapters.) Determine where in the presentation (i.e., on which slide) you want the information from the Word document to be placed. As with other applications, the information from the source file will be placed at the cursor location. Navigate to the Insert tab, then to the Text command group, then to Object. The function window is similar to that of other Microsoft programs, except that instead of having different tabs for Create New and Create from File, there are option buttons to choose between, on the left side (Figure 15.34). Since we already created the monthly report memo in Word, choose Create from File. You still have the options to link and display as an icon.

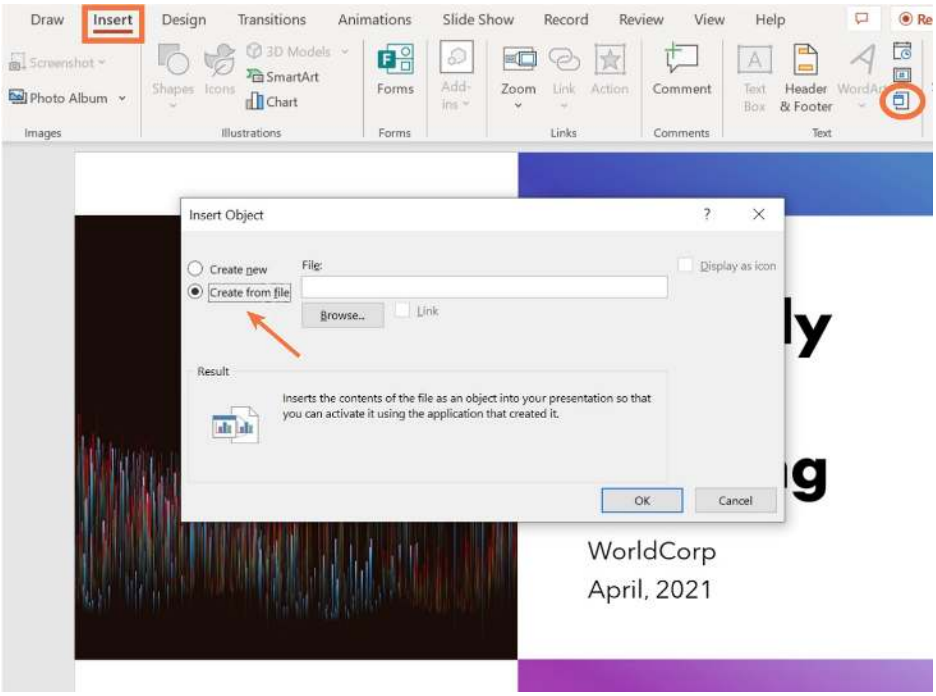


Figure 15.34: The handy Result section at the bottom of the window explains what will happen when you select each option. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Using the Browse button, find the Word file for the monthly report. If you wish to create a linkage between the Word and PowerPoint files, be sure to check the Link box. When the Word document is linked, a picture of the information will be inserted into the slide. Double-clicking on the picture will open Word, where you can edit the document if needed. If you don't choose the Link box, the information from the Word document will be embedded into the slide rather than linked. (Be sure that the monthly report document is not open; if the file is open, an error message will appear.) When you are done, click OK. The information from the report will now be on the slide, as Figure 15.35 shows. If you need to make changes to the text, double-click on the object. This will essentially open a Word environment on the slide itself where you can make the needed changes.

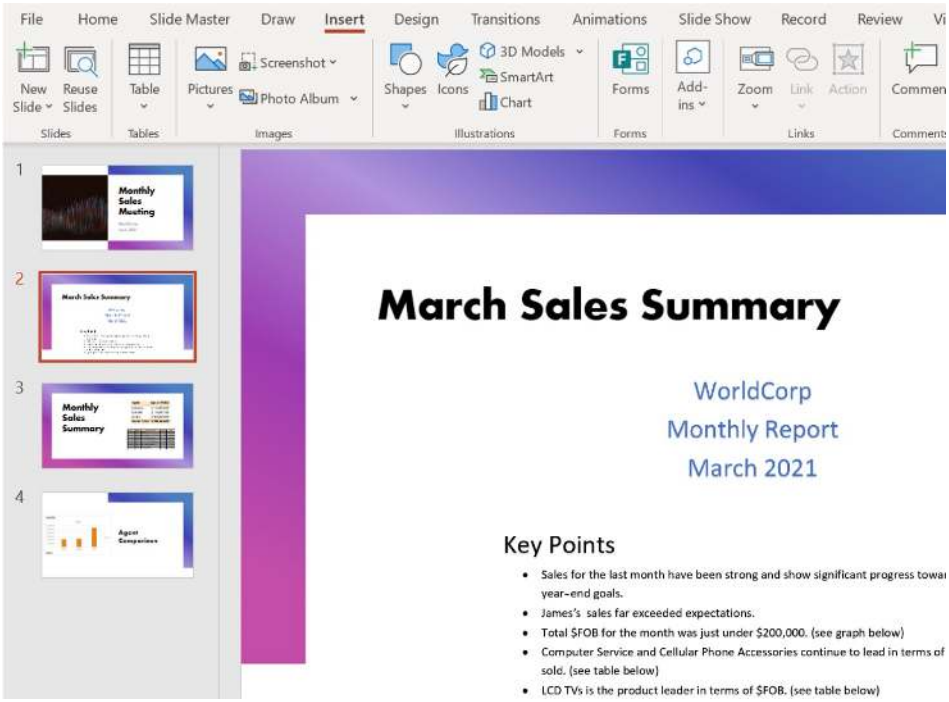


Figure 15.35: The information is embedded or linked into the slide where the cursor was located. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Integrate Microsoft PowerPoint Slides into Microsoft Word Documents

Suppose you decide that you would like to provide access to the PowerPoint slides for those who cannot attend the in-person monthly sales meeting. However, you do not want to send multiple files. Instead, you want to integrate the presentation into the Monthly Report you already prepared.

First, you need to decide whether you want to integrate the entire presentation or just a few slides into the Word file. If you want the user to see all the slides in the Word file without having to double-click on the inserted object, it is better to use the cut-and-paste skills you learned about in an earlier chapter. You would need to cut and paste each slide individually to see them all in the Word document. Through linking or embedding, you can give the user access to some or all of the slides in the presentation, although they will not appear on the screen as individual slides, as with copying and pasting. With linking and embedding, the user will see an image of only one slide and will then need to double-click on that image to access the other slides you have integrated. Determine if linking or embedding is appropriate for your needs based on whether you expect updates to the source file. Then determine if you want the entire presentation or only selected slides to be integrated. If you want to integrate the entire presentation, go to the Insert tab, then go to the Text command group, then select the Object function to embed or link the PowerPoint file to your Word document.

If you want to include only a few of the slides, you will need to use Paste Special after copying the slides you wish to use. To begin, select a slide in the presentation from the preview thumbnail in the PowerPoint file (Figure 15.36). To select multiple slides, you will need to use Ctrl or Shift when you click on the additional slides. (As usual, if you are on a Mac, you would use the Command key instead of the Ctrl key to select a slide.) If the slides are not contiguous—that is, if you'd like to select slides 1, 3, and 5—use Ctrl to individually select each one. To select a group of slides that are contiguous (e.g., slides 2 through 4), simply click on the first slide, hold Shift, and click on the last slide in the grouping you wish to select. For this example, let's include slide 2 and slide 4 only. We select slide 2 by clicking on the thumbnail, then hold Ctrl and click on slide 4 to select this slide as well.

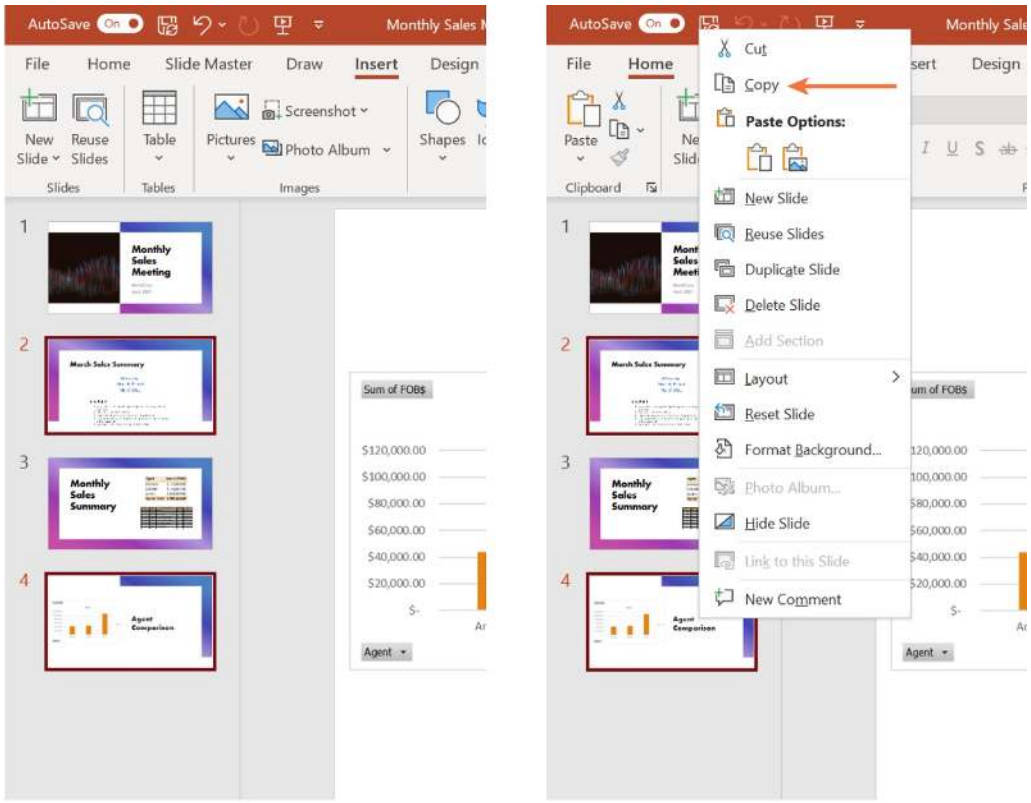
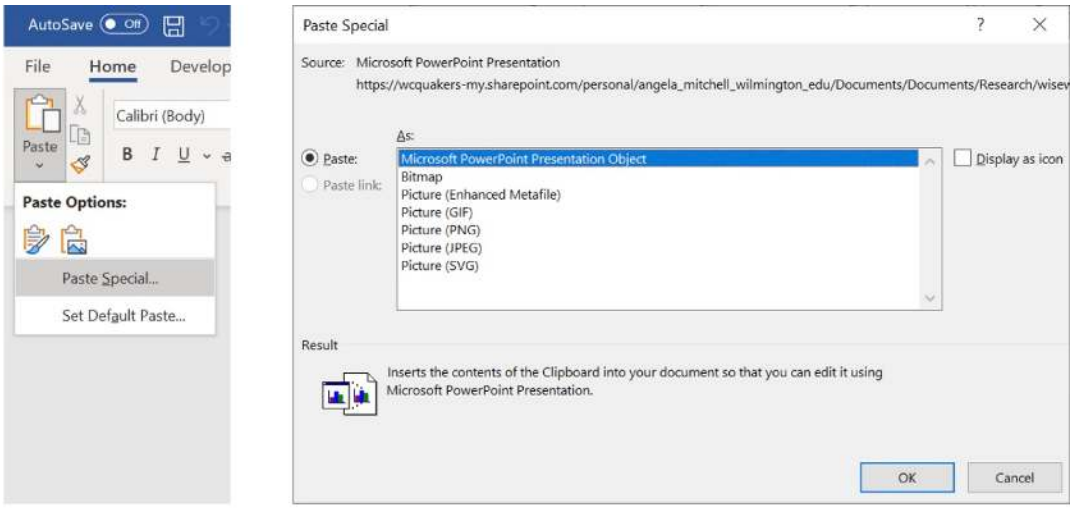


Figure 15.36: (a) Notice the border around slides 2 and 4 indicating that those are the selected slides. (b) Choose Copy from the Home tab or by right-clicking anywhere on the thumbnails to bring up the shortcut window. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To integrate the selected slides into Word, go to the Word document and place the cursor where you would like the object inserted. Then choose Paste Special from the Paste drop-down menu (in the Clipboard command group) on the Home tab (Figure 15.37).

When prompted, choose Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation Object and click OK.



(a) (b)

Figure 15.37: (a) After you copy the selected slides, go to the Word file and choose Paste Special. This will open up the Paste Special dialog window that gives you a number of options on how you would like to insert the object. (b) You have the option to display the slides as an icon rather than an image of the slide. You can also choose from a number of different file formats. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The slides will be embedded into the Word document (Figure 15.38). You do not have the option to link the PowerPoint file in this case because you are not including the entire file, only a few selected slides. By double-clicking on the slide image, the user will see the other embedded slides in the Word document. The slides will open in a PowerPoint view screen so that you can scroll through to see the rest of the slides. (Note that sometimes embedded PowerPoint slides look blurry when placed in a Word document. This is normal; they do not always translate clearly.)

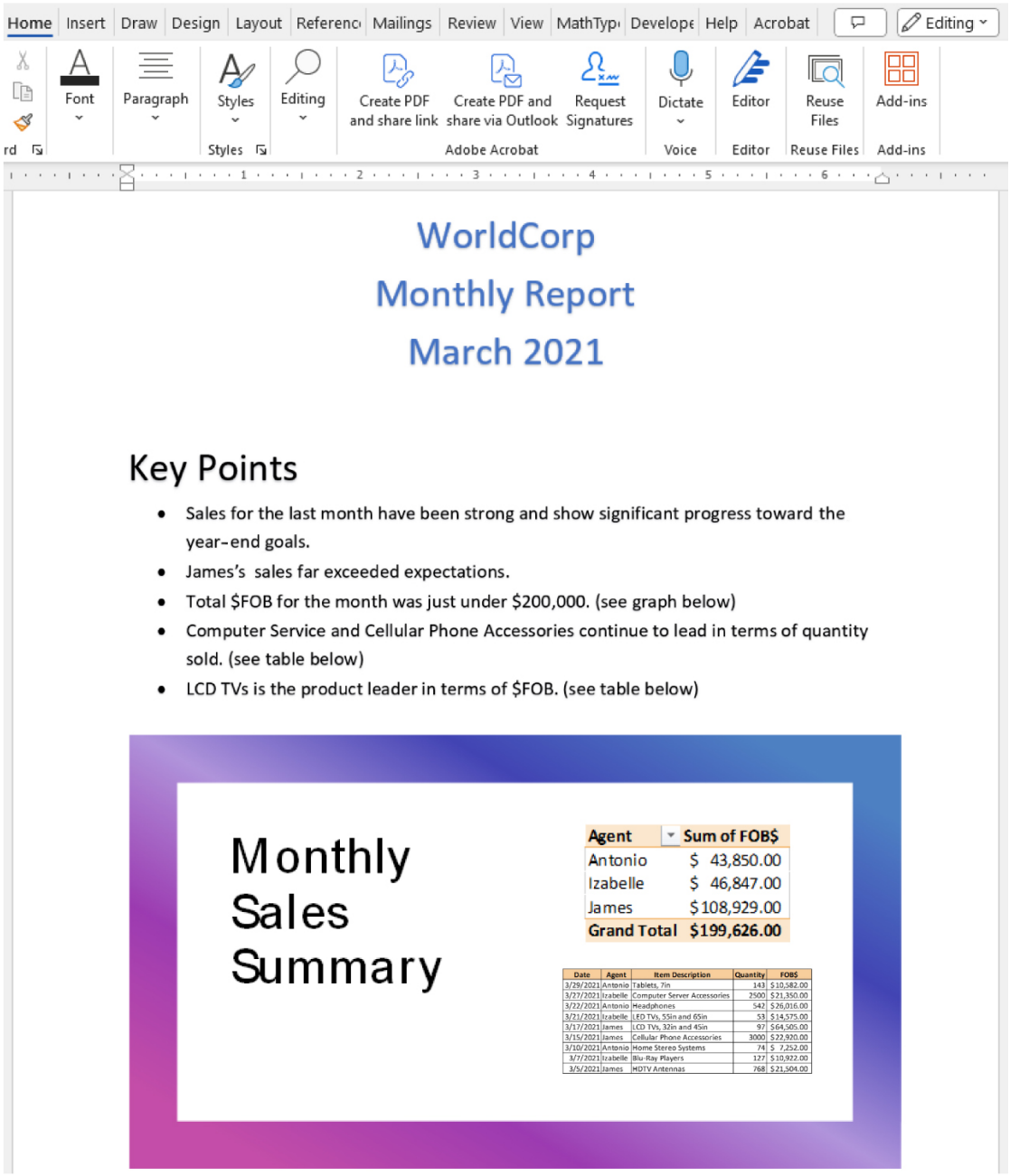


Figure 15.38: Only the first slide in the selection will be displayed in the Word document. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can also access the other embedded slides by right-clicking on the image of the slide. You will then choose Presentation Object and Show to see the other slides. This option shows the first embedded slide as full screen, then to move to the next slide, use the Page down key on the keyboard. Or, you can right-click and choose Next or See All Slides to look at all embedded slides. To get back to the Word document, hit ESC on your keyboard. You can also right-click and choose End Show to get back to the Word document. Other options available are Edit, Open, and Convert. With the Edit function, you can edit the slides in a PowerPoint environment within the Word file. Choosing Open will open the object in PowerPoint. Finally, Convert enables you to convert the object into another file type. You can also invite your readers to add comments to the PowerPoint by using the Add Comment tool in this menu (Figure 15.39). This can be a great way to encourage collaboration and feedback on your PowerPoint file without having to send multiple files.

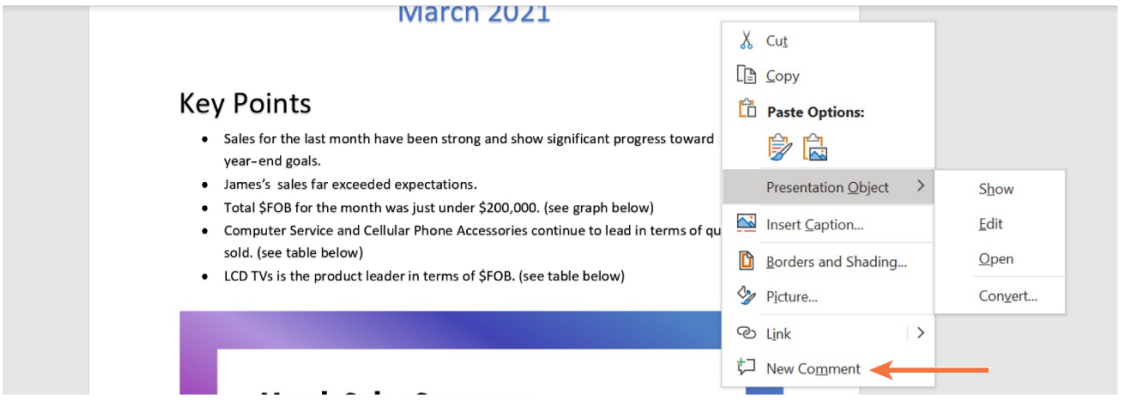


Figure 15.39: When you right-click on the integrated PowerPoint object, you can include a comment to the slideshow. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 15.3: Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.4: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Add PowerPoint slides to Excel worksheets
- Incorporate Excel worksheets into PowerPoint slides
- Integrate Excel charts into PowerPoint slides

WorldCorp shares information in a variety of ways and with multiple audiences. Integrating Excel and PowerPoint data is simply another way of presenting information to others in a streamlined format, often eliminating the need for sending multiple files. For example, you may need to share some key financial data with an external stakeholder, but you only wish to share some of that data as well as provide some context for it. A PowerPoint presentation that includes Excel charts and data tables can be a useful and visually interesting way of sharing this type of information. Using many of the same approaches covered in earlier sections, integrating Excel and PowerPoint is quite simple.

Add Microsoft PowerPoint Slides to Microsoft Excel Worksheets

The accounting department at WorldCorp has prepared a summary of recent transactions and saved that information in an Excel file. They also created a short PowerPoint presentation to explain the data and analysis. A formal meeting will not be held, but the department felt that including the presentation as part of the spreadsheet would be helpful when distributing the information to other departments. The presentation and Excel files have been created, but now we need to integrate the presentation into the Excel file so that it can be distributed to others.

The workbook is arranged into three sheets, with the first sheet being a brief summary of the data (Figure 15.40). We will integrate the PowerPoint file on the summary sheet. The first step is to select a cell where the slides will be integrated into Excel. We selected cell F1.

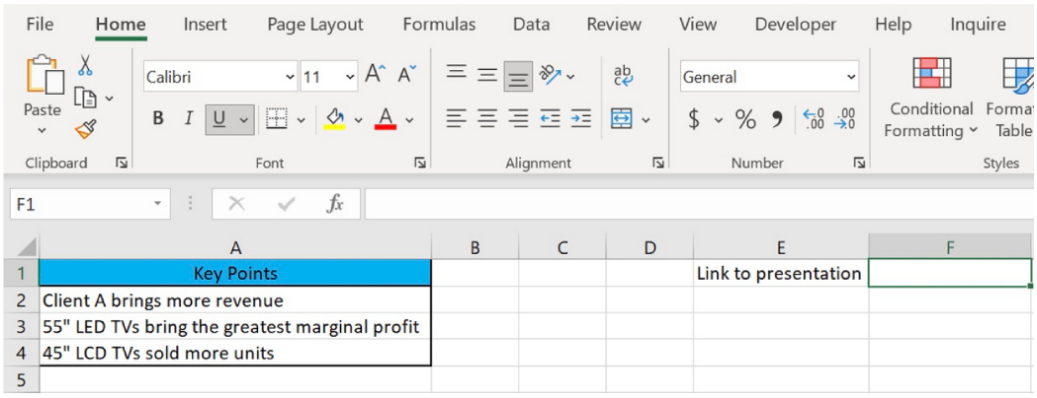


Figure 15.40: It is helpful to include a statement indicating that the presentation is linked. This helps users understand what they are looking at. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

As with other applications, you can either embed or link the file in Excel. Be aware that embedding the slideshow file, which makes it a part of the Excel file, can increase the size of the file considerably, especially if your presentation includes many graphics. You should have no problems sharing such a file via OneDrive, but you may experience some challenges if you need to email the large file to others, as some email systems restrict the size of files you can attach and send. Instead, you may want to choose linking, which simply establishes the connection between the two files. Let's link the PowerPoint to our Excel file and display it as an icon rather than an image of the first slide in the slideshow.

We follow a similar path as in previous examples: Insert tab, then Text command group, then Object (Figure 15.41).

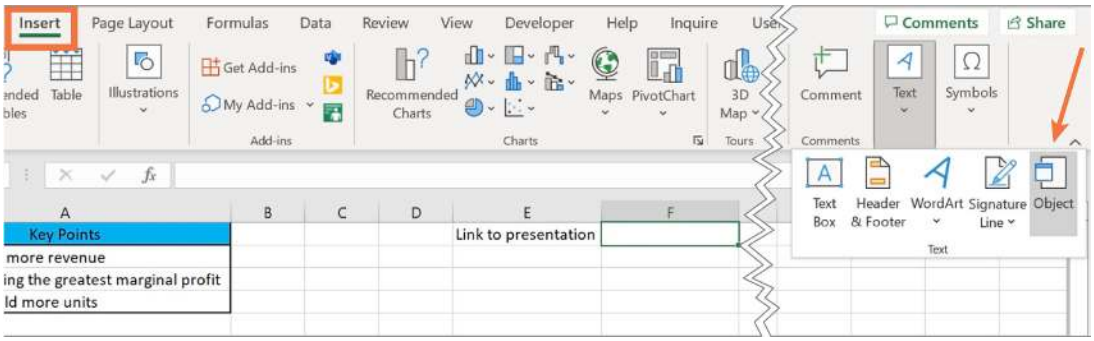


Figure 15.41: In Excel, the text command group is all the way on the right side of the ribbon. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

In the Insert Object dialog window that appears, select Create from File and find the PowerPoint file name (in this case, AccountingReport.pptx). Be sure to select Link to File and Display as Icon, then click OK (Figure 15.42). The icon that was displayed in the Insert Object window will be inserted into cell F1. You can resize and move the icon if desired. Also remember, you can change the icon to a different picture by clicking Change Icon. You can access the PowerPoint presentation by either double-clicking on the icon or right-clicking and choosing one of the options listed.

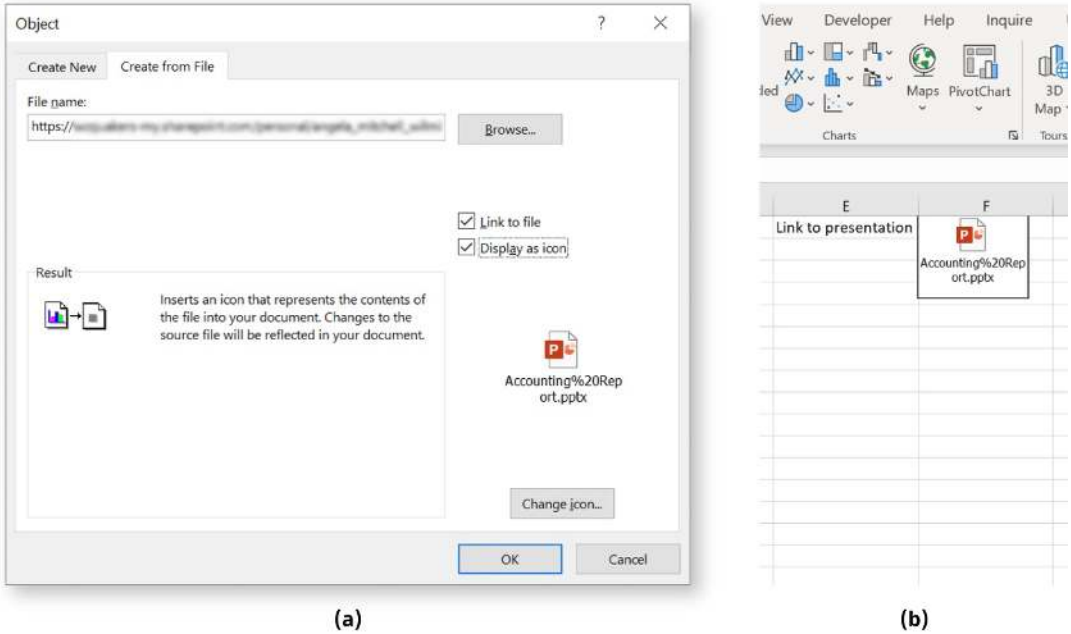


Figure 15.42: (a) To embed the PowerPoint file, click the Link to file box. (b) The icon clearly indicates that the file is a PowerPoint file. It uses the standard PowerPoint red color and shows the letter “P” so that users know what kind of file they are opening. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Remember the shortcut on the Insert tab for linking a file. If you choose this option, you will get a drop-down list of the files you used most recently. You can also Browse to find the file you want to link by choosing Insert Link from the bottom of the drop-down list. When you click on the file name, a link with the name of the file will be inserted into the cell, as Figure 15.43 shows. You do not have an option to embed or display as an icon. Instead, the file name (Accounting Report) will be displayed. When you click on the link, the PowerPoint file will be opened in the PowerPoint application rather than within the Excel worksheet environment.

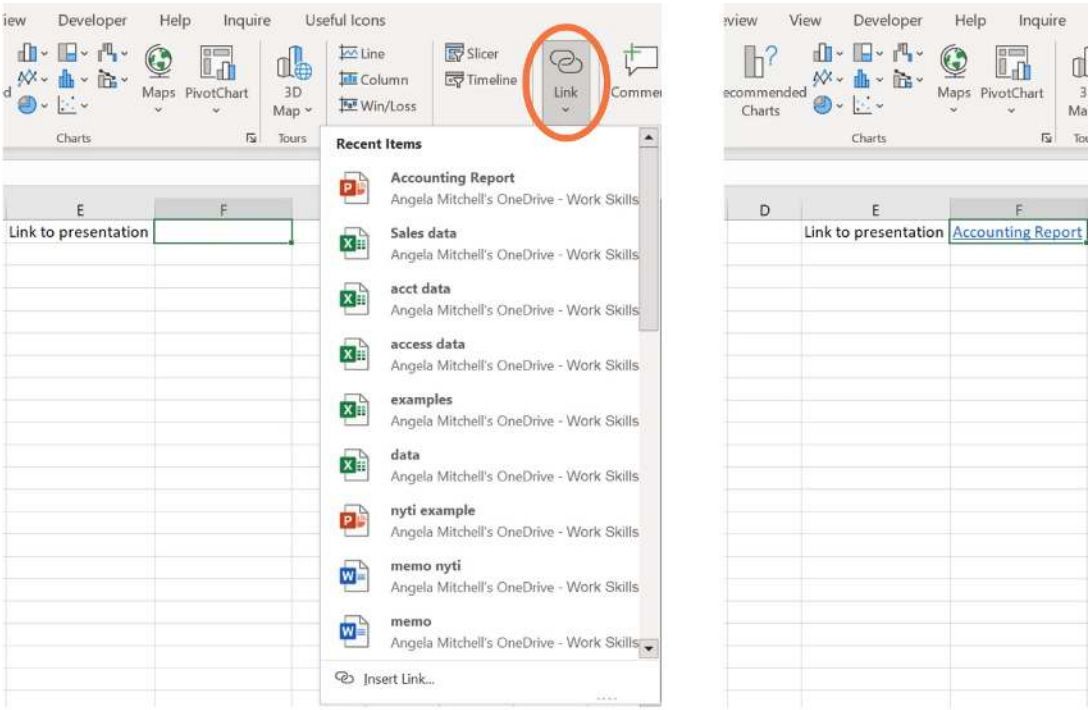


Figure 15.43: (a) If the file you want to link is not in the Recent list, you can browse to find it. (b) Click on the link to access the PowerPoint file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Incorporate Microsoft Excel Worksheets into Microsoft PowerPoint Slides

Recall that you can use copy and paste to insert individual tables or charts into slides. Here we discuss going a bit further than simply copying and pasting. We are integrating the entire Excel file or specific parts of the Excel file into another application. We do this by either linking or embedding.

First, let us look at linking or embedding the entire Excel file into the PowerPoint file. To begin, open the slideshow file; in this example, it is called AccountingReport.pptx. The accounting department would like the recipients of the slideshow to also have access to the actual data file. This will enable the recipients to do their own data analysis. Choose the location to include the embedded or linked object in the presentation. In this example, let's include an embedded object on the last slide and display it as an icon (see Figure 15.44). Click on the slide where you would like to insert the Excel object and complete the usual steps for inserting an object. The icon will then appear on the slide (Figure 15.45). It may be helpful to give the user some text indicating whether the Excel file is linked or embedded.

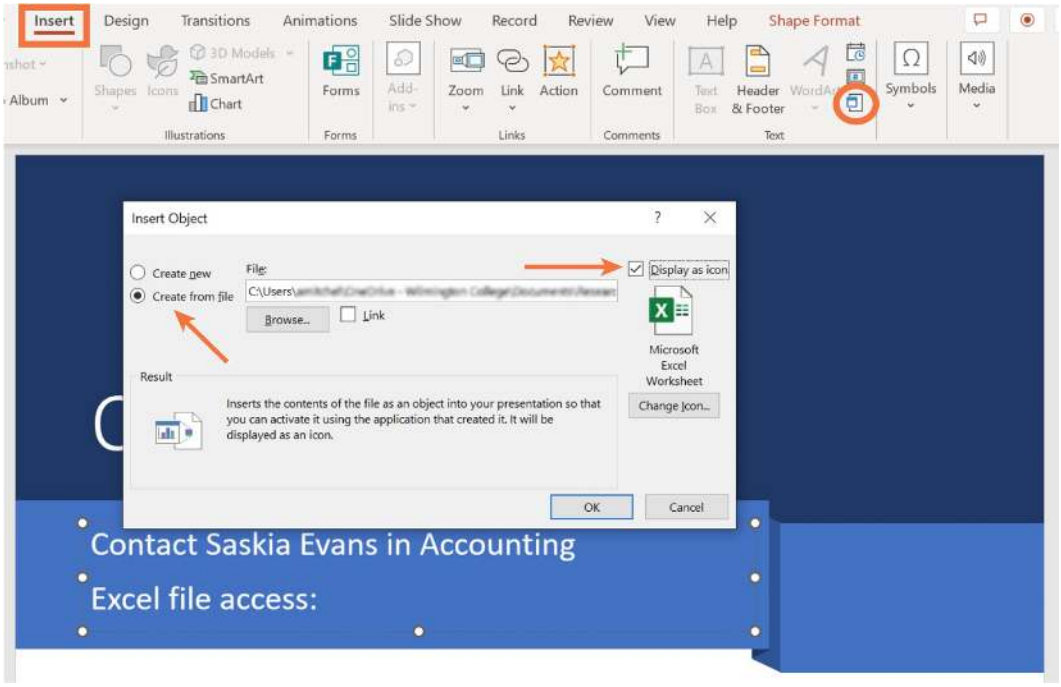


Figure 15.44: Note that we added a text box to the bottom of the last slide, explaining who to contact with questions and showing exactly where the linked icon will be. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

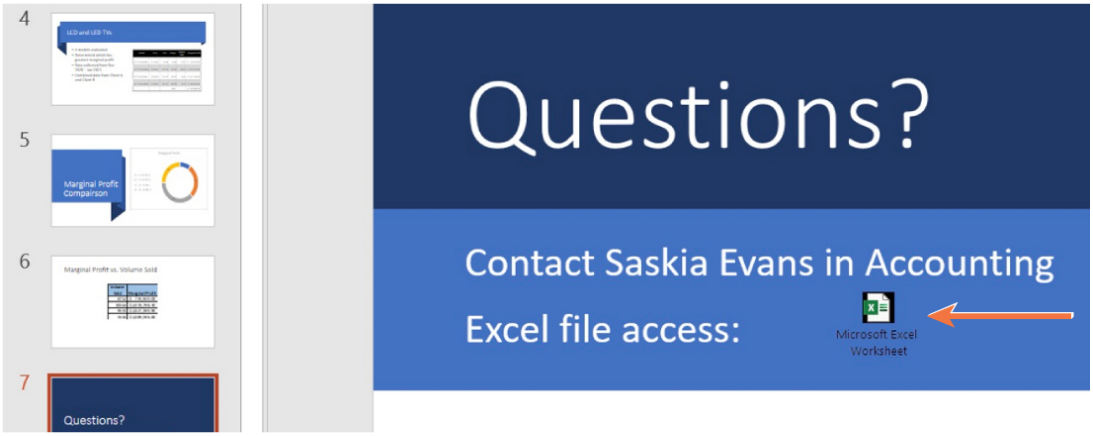


Figure 15.45: You can move and resize the icon if desired. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

To access the Excel file, double-click on the icon and the file will open in Excel. You can also right-click on the icon and choose Worksheet Object and then Open.

Just as in Excel, there is a shortcut on the Insert tab to link a file directly. The file will be linked with the file name displayed as in the example covered earlier in the chapter. Choose the drop-down menu from Link on the Insert tab to see a list of the most recent files. Remember, you can also browse for files, choosing the option at the bottom of the drop-down menu. When the file is linked in your slideshow, the font color will be light blue—a default setting in Office for indicating a linked file. It is possible that this color may not work well with your slide design, as you can see in Figure 15.46. In that case, simply select the file name text and change the font color and/or size to meet your needs. Refer to previous chapters to review the process for changing font colors, styles, and size in PowerPoint.

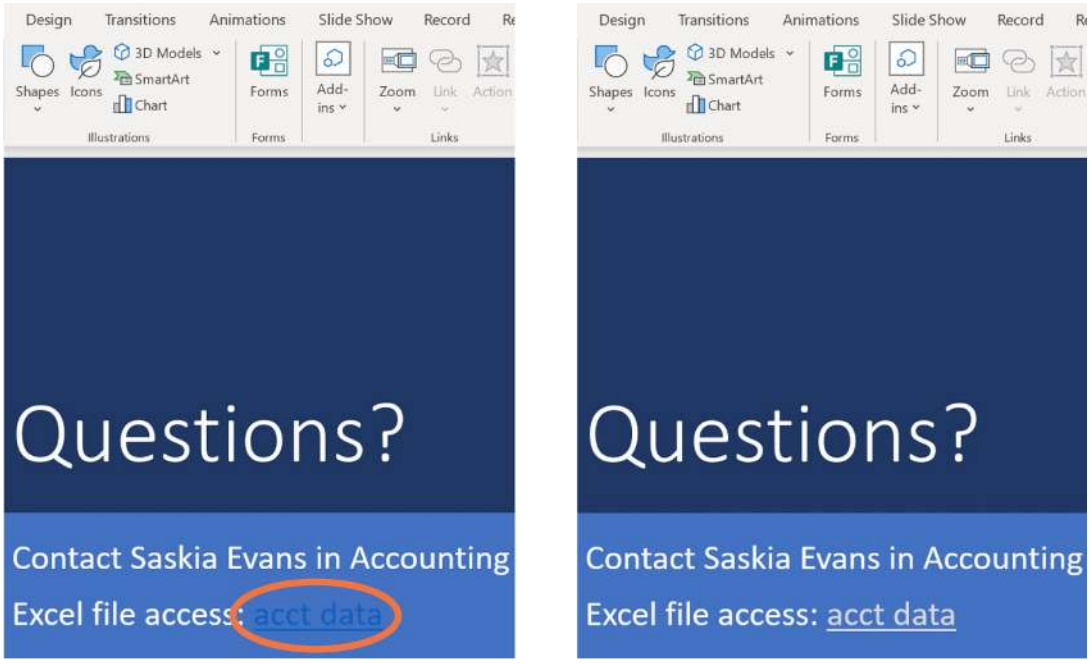


Figure 15.46: (a) The default for inserted file links is a light blue font with underlining. (b) You can change the font size and color to make it more visible against the blue background. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

If you would like to link only some of the information contained in the Excel file, you will need to use the Paste Special approach. You can also use the standard copy-and-paste approach, but this may alter the formatting or will not be updated if you make changes to the table. Therefore, using Paste Special is a better approach as it offers you more options for preserving formatting. One thing to note is that the columns/rows must be adjacent to each other when making your selection; you cannot copy rows or columns that are noncontiguous (not immediately adjacent to each other).

For this example, let's link only the Volume Sold and Marginal Profit columns to our PowerPoint slide. First select the two columns you want to link, then copy those columns using either the Copy icon on the Home tab or right-click, then Copy (Figure 15.47). Determine where in the slideshow you would like the link to the Excel information to appear (Figure 15.48). Then choose Paste Special from the Paste options in the Clipboard command group. Choose Paste Link and click OK. The two columns are now linked in the PowerPoint file and should appear neatly, with their formatting preserved, on your slide (Figure 15.49).

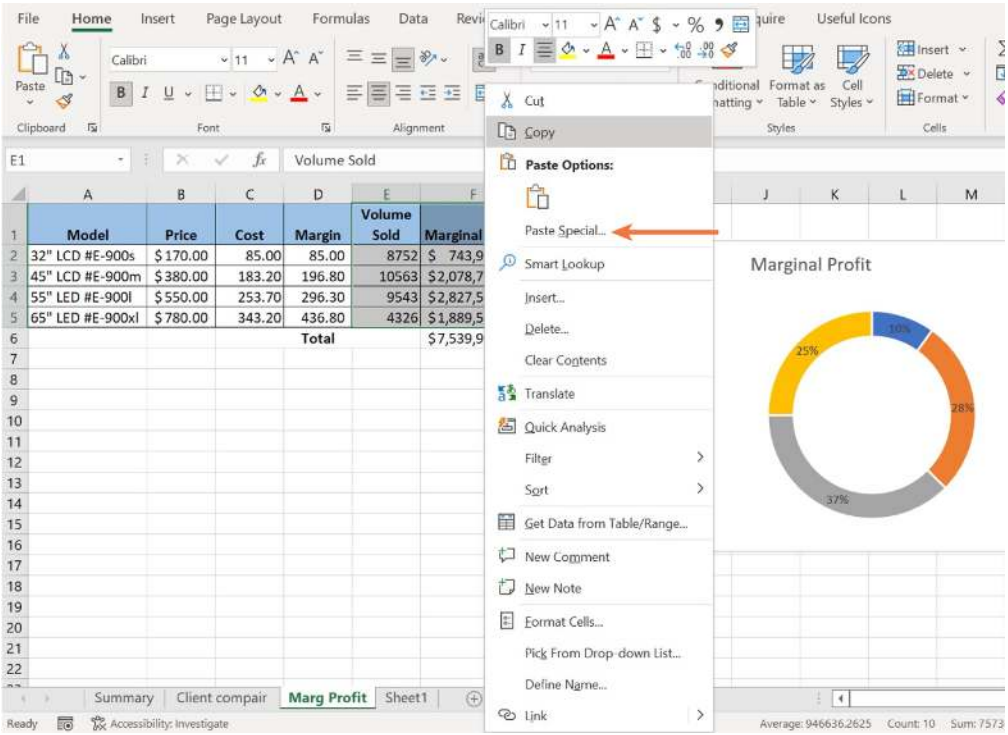


Figure 15.47: You need to first manually select and copy the cells you wish to link or embed into the PowerPoint file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

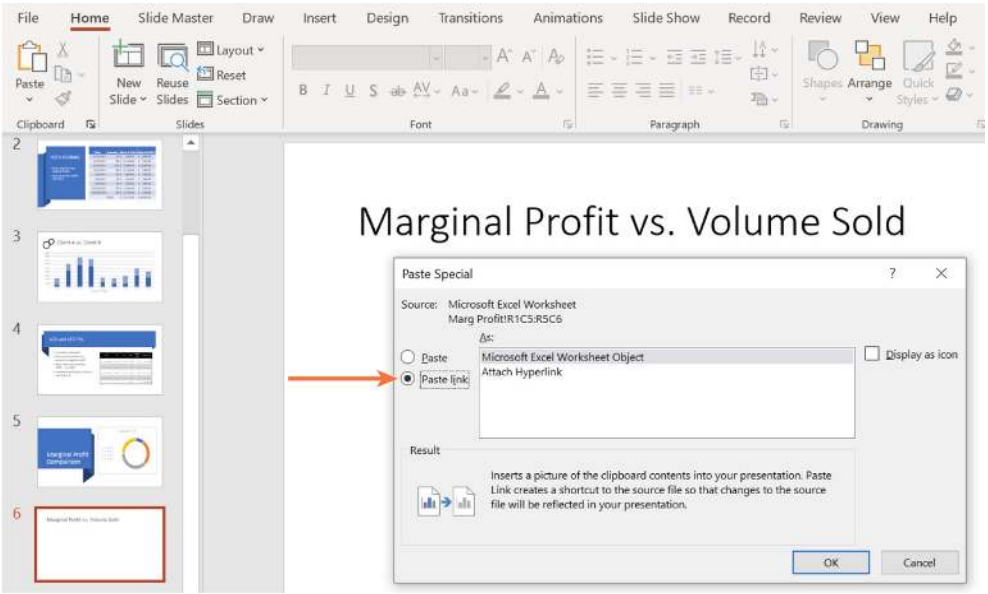


Figure 15.48: Notice that the slide we want the link to appear in is selected in the lefthand thumbnail pane. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

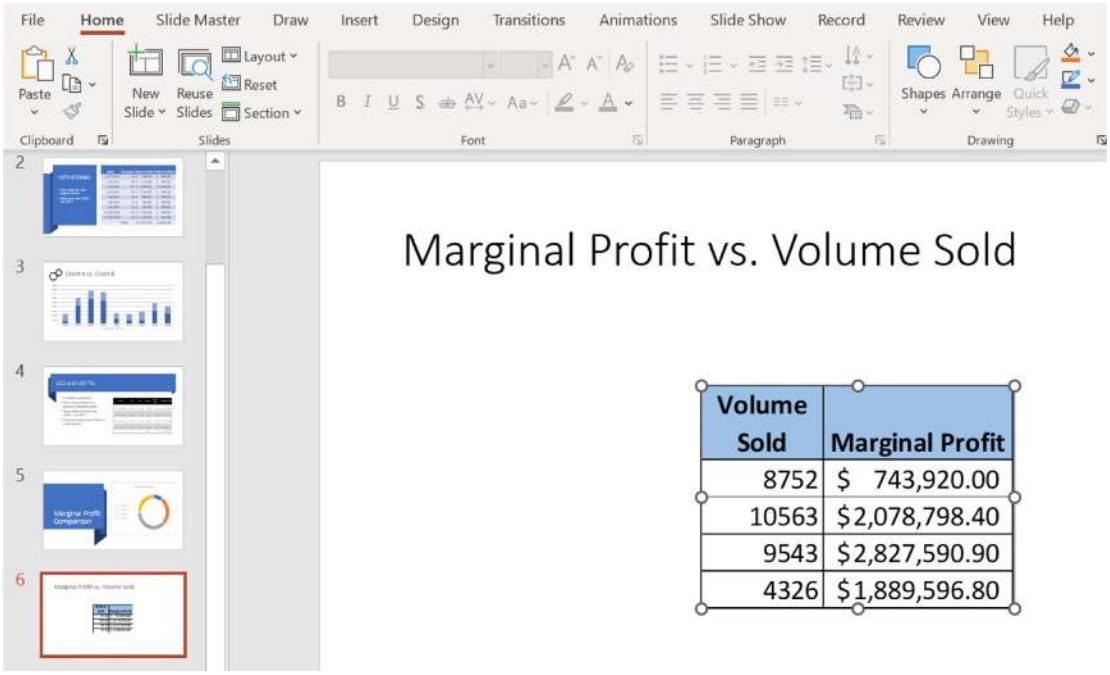


Figure 15.49: You can resize and reposition the table if desired. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Integrate Microsoft Excel Charts into Microsoft PowerPoint Slides

Integrating Excel charts into PowerPoint slides is similar to the process of selecting and integrating parts of a table. You will use the Copy, then Paste Special approach to either link or embed charts into the PowerPoint slideshow. Returning to our example slideshow, let's embed the Marginal Profit donut chart in the PowerPoint file. First go to the Excel file and select the chart you wish to integrate. Then copy the chart using one of the two approaches for copying information: right-click, then copy; or select Copy from the Home tab. Determine the placement of the chart in the PowerPoint slide. Then, from the Home tab, select Paste, then Paste Special.

Notice there are several options for integrating the chart into the slide, as Figure 15.50 shows. We choose to embed the chart as a Microsoft Excel Chart Object to integrate the information. The other options, many of which allow you to insert the chart as if it were an image (e.g., the JPEG and PNG file formats), will not embed or link. They will simply place a copy of the Excel chart into the file (see Figure 15.51). Then click OK. The image can then be resized like usual.

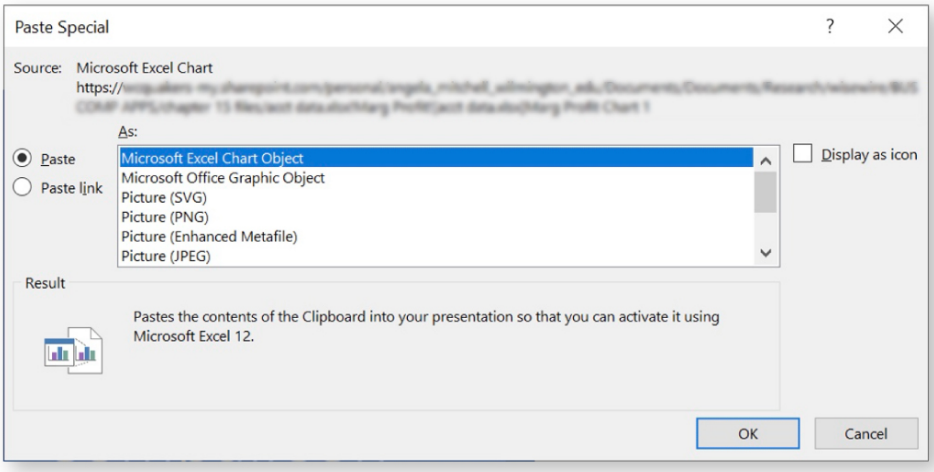


Figure 15.50: The file path for the copied information is at the top of the Paste Special window. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

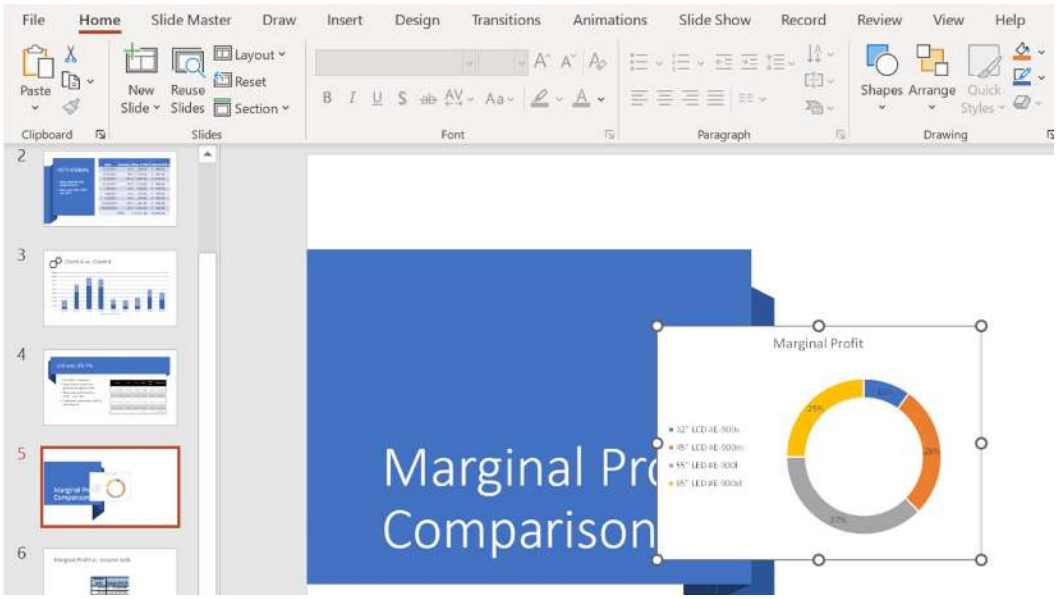


Figure 15.51: You will most likely need to resize and move the integrated chart. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

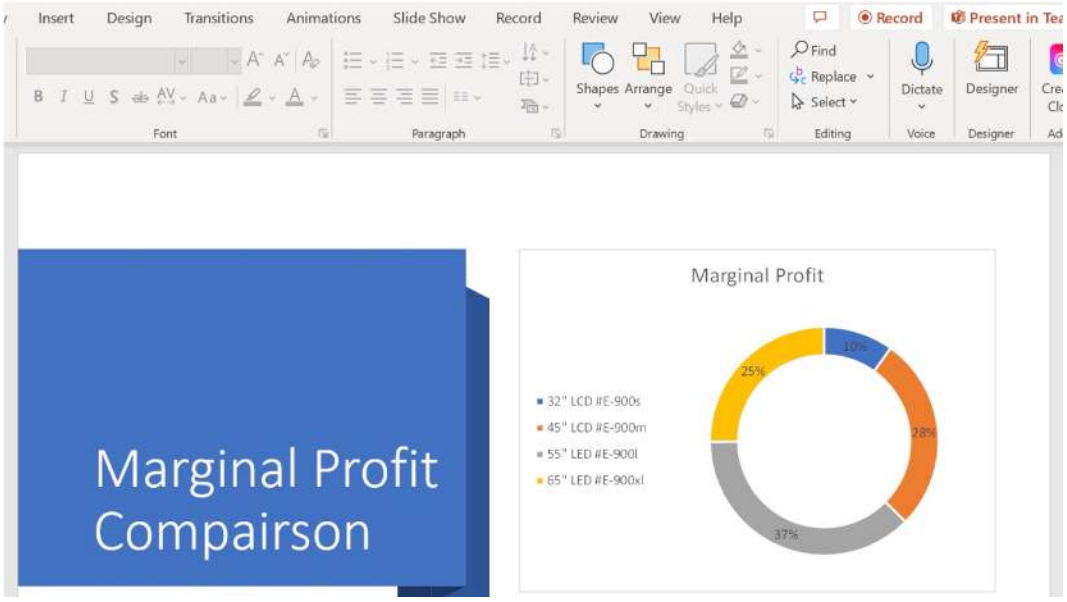


Figure 15.52: Select the image and move or resize it to fit the design of the slide. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 15.4: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.5: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access Integration

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create Access tables from Excel worksheets
- Create Excel worksheets from Access tables

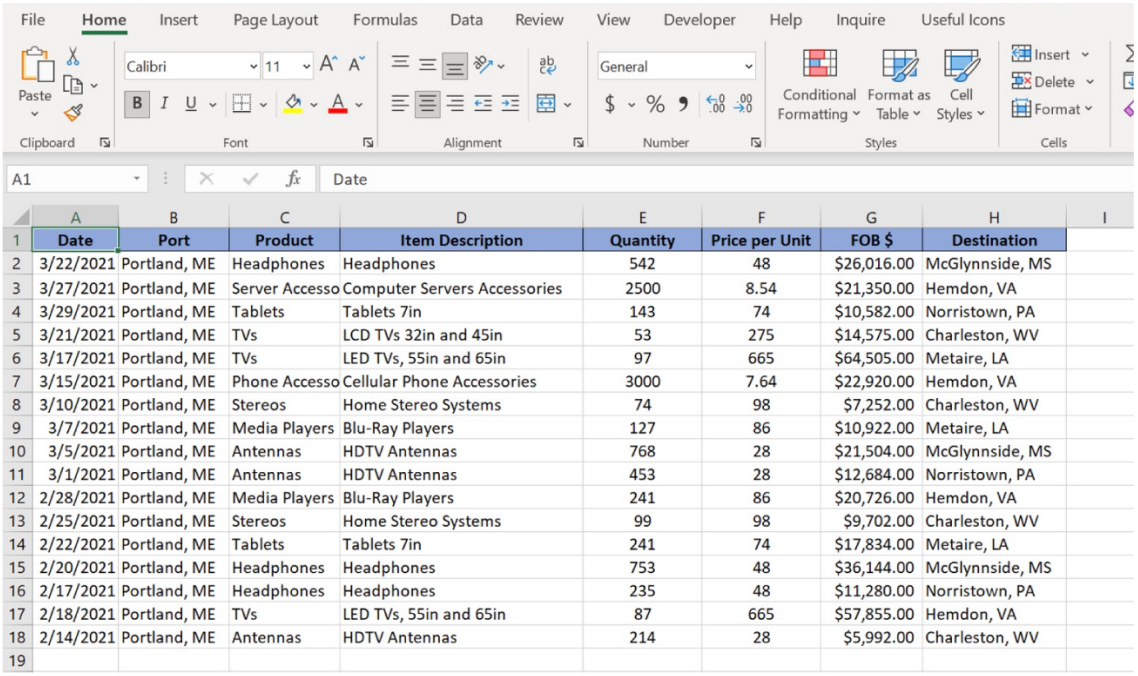
Different Microsoft applications, such as Access and Word, have different requirements when it comes to integrating information into other applications. Access is a program designed to manage and store data. Unlike Excel, it is not designed to analyze data and perform complex calculations. However, you can integrate Excel data into Access and vice versa. Some of these concepts were covered in the chapters on databases. Revisit those chapters to refresh your memory on the functionality and purpose of Access as an application for managing information.

Note that the terminology used for integrating Excel and Access is *importing* and *exporting* rather than linking or embedding. You can import Excel data into Access and export Access information into Excel. Note also that Access does not work on computers with macOS.

Creating Microsoft Access Tables from Microsoft Excel Worksheets

You may find that Access tables are created from existing information. The existing information can be from other software programs, a customer database, or information from an accounting software program. When you want to create an Access table from an Excel file, you need to import that Excel information into Access.

Let’s consider a possible scenario in which you might want to import an Excel file into Access. WorldCorp would like to create a database of sales information that is currently in an Excel file. Each month, new information from sales will be added to the database. Moving the sales data to Access will allow the sales team greater functionality for sorting, filtering, grouping, and other customizations, which will enable them to gauge progress toward the company’s annual goals. (Remember, Excel is best used as a data analysis program, not as a database solution.) The Access database will be shared with the sales team through OneDrive at WorldCorp. Currently, the Excel file contains two months of sales data. The information is organized by date, product, product category, and item (Figure 15.53). Note that before you consider importing anything from Excel into Access, you need to first clean up and organize your Excel file. Make sure the headers in your Excel file are in the first row of the table. Before completing the import, you will get a preview of the data from Excel so you can double-check that it is being imported correctly.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Price per Unit	FOB $	Destination
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	48	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, MS
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accesso	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
4	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	143	74	$10,582.00	Norristown, PA
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	53	275	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	97	665	$64,505.00	Metaire, LA
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accesso	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	7.64	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	74	98	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
9	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	127	86	$10,922.00	Metaire, LA
10	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	768	28	$21,504.00	McGlynnside, MS
11	3/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	453	28	$12,684.00	Norristown, PA
12	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	241	86	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
13	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	99	98	$9,702.00	Charleston, WV
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	241	74	$17,834.00	Metaire, LA
15	2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	753	48	$36,144.00	McGlynnside, MS
16	2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	235	48	$11,280.00	Norristown, PA
17	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	87	665	$57,855.00	Hemdon, VA
18	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	28	$5,992.00	Charleston, WV
19								

Figure 15.53: Note that the table is formatted with headers to make importing into Access easier. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Now that your Excel data is cleaned, open Access and create a blank database. Save it with an appropriate file name, such as “Sales Data.” At this point, the database contains no data. We will import the data from the Excel file into this blank database. Go to the External Data tab, then select New Data Source, then From File. From there, choose Excel (Figure 15.54). Find the name for the Excel file that you are importing into Access (Figure 15.55).

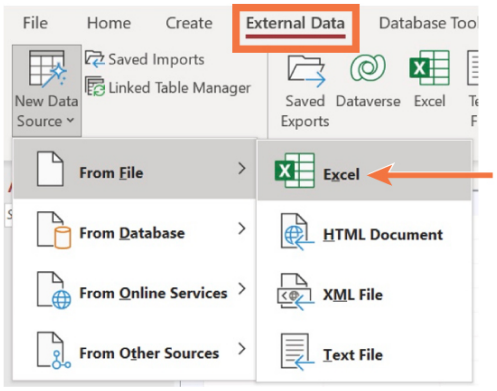


Figure 15.54: You can import data from several different sources, including online sources. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

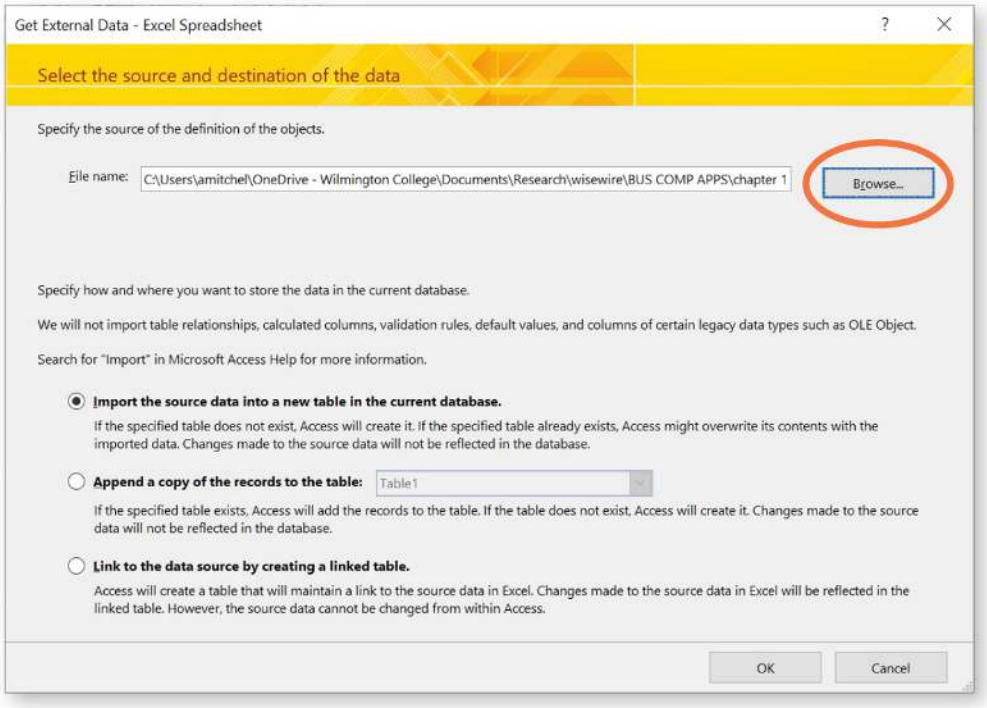


Figure 15.55: Use Browse to find the file location for the Excel file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

When importing information into Access, you have a couple of options. You can import the information into the current database you have open as a new table, you can add the information to an existing table in a database you have open, or finally, you can link the Excel information to the database, so that any changes made in the linked Excel file will automatically be updated in the Access file. However, unlike integration with other programs such as PowerPoint or Word when you could double-click on the image to access the actual Excel file, you cannot edit the Excel file from Access.

For this example, we choose to import into a new table in the current database. When you click OK, you get a preview of the data separated into columns, as seen in Figure 15.56. If it appears as it should, click Next. If your table has headers, make sure the box is checked; Access will use these headers for the database columns.

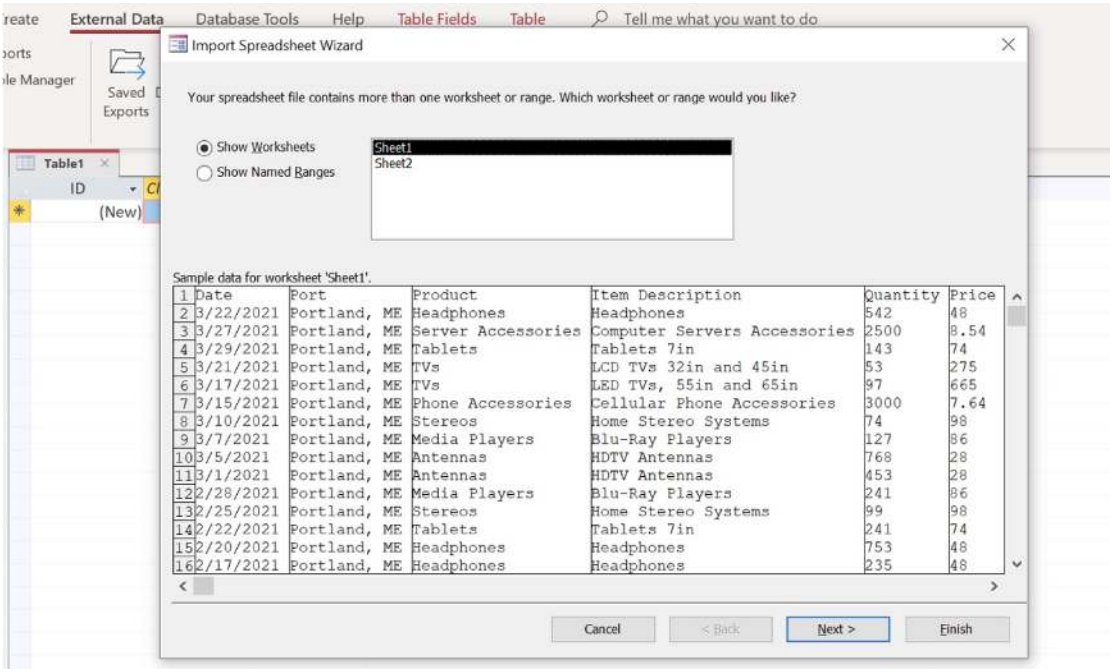


Figure 15.56: You can import data from other worksheets. Select the sheet you want to import from the selection window. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You can modify aspects of the fields (columns) you are importing by selecting Next, which enables you to change the data type or the field name and also allows you to choose not to import a specific column. Once you are satisfied with the field settings, click Next. Remember, you can always modify the field settings once the database is created. You will be prompted to either name the table or use the default assigned by Access (Figure 15.57).

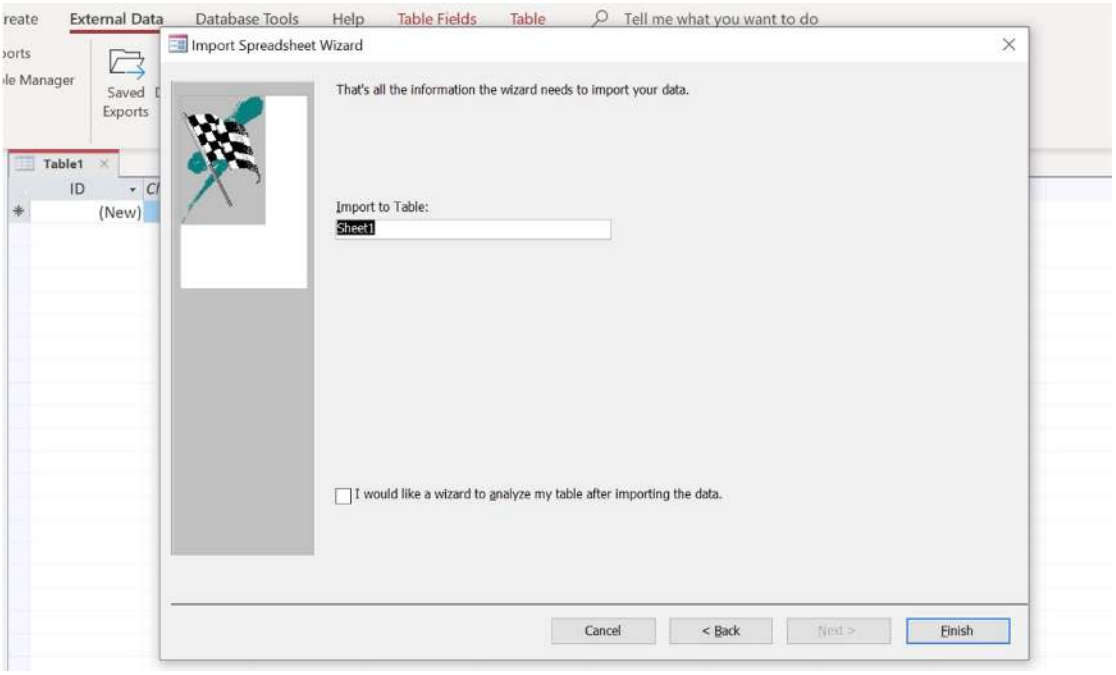
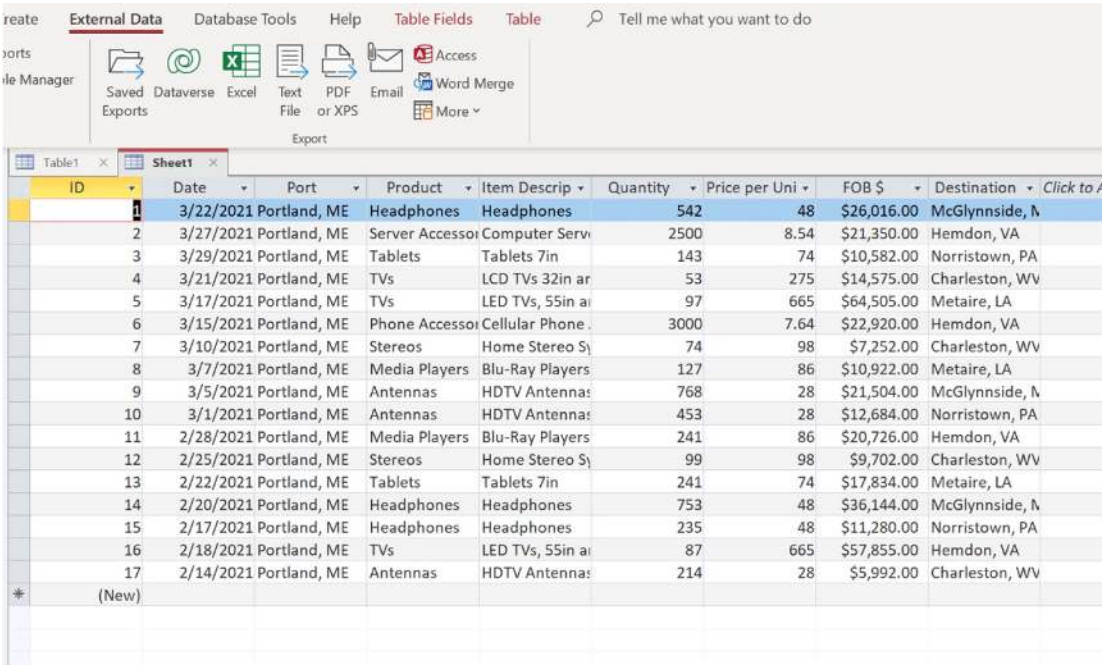


Figure 15.57: Choose an appropriate name for the database table. You can have multiple tables in one Access file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

The information is now imported into the database and ready to use, as Figure 15.58 shows.



ID	Date	Port	Product	Item Descrip	Quantity	Price per Uni	FOB $	Destination
1	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	48	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, N
2	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accesso	Computer Serv	2500	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
3	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	143	74	$10,582.00	Norristown, PA
4	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in ar	53	275	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
5	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in a	97	665	$64,505.00	Metaire, LA
6	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accesso	Cellular Phone	3000	7.64	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
7	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Sy	74	98	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
8	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	127	86	$10,922.00	Metaire, LA
9	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	768	28	$21,504.00	McGlynnside, N
10	3/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	453	28	$12,684.00	Norristown, PA
11	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	241	86	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
12	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Sy	99	98	$9,702.00	Charleston, WV
13	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	241	74	$17,834.00	Metaire, LA
14	2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	753	48	$36,144.00	McGlynnside, N
15	2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	235	48	$11,280.00	Norristown, PA
16	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in a	87	665	$57,855.00	Hemdon, VA
17	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	28	$5,992.00	Charleston, WV
(New)								

Figure 15.58: The Excel data imported into Access looks fairly similar to the original table in Excel. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

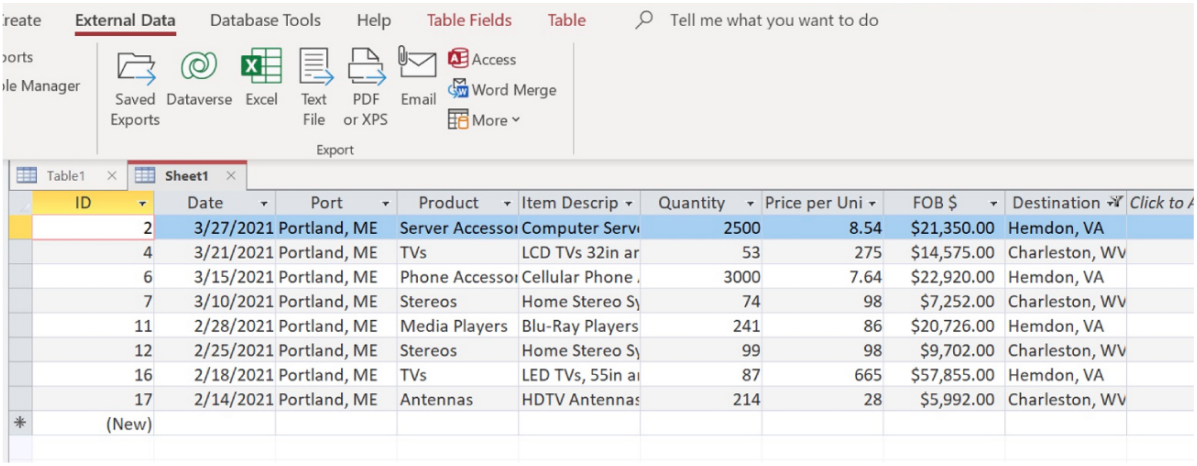
Link to Learning

Sometimes when importing information from Excel into Access, you can encounter problems. These could be a result of formatting within the Excel worksheet, because of complex calculations included in the data, or other related issues. Other issues can arise when importing multiple sheets from a single Excel file. Read this article on how to successfully import Excel data into Access to learn more about how to make sure your Excel file is ready to be imported into Access.

Create Microsoft Excel Worksheets from Microsoft Access Tables

You can also export information from an Access table into an Excel worksheet. This can be useful when you would like to do further data analysis with the information stored in your database, or if you would like to share some database information with an external stakeholder.

Let's consider a scenario in which WorldCorp would like to send information from their central sales database to some of the members of the sales team. The database has been filtered to include only two specific locations—Virginia and West Virginia. This information will be shared with the regional sales team for their quarterly meeting. The team members are more familiar with Excel than with Access, and WorldCorp management would prefer to restrict access to the Access database to key personnel. So, they wish to send the information from the table to the sales force in an Excel format. The data in the Access table has been filtered by the criteria as shown in Figure 15.59. Refer to the chapters on databases for additional information on sorting, filtering, and information in Access tables.



ID	Date	Port	Product	Item Descrip	Quantity	Price per Uni	FOB $	Destination
2	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accesso	Computer Serv	2500	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
4	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in ar	53	275	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
6	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accesso	Cellular Phone	3000	7.64	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
7	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Sy	74	98	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
11	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	241	86	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
12	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Sy	99	98	$9,702.00	Charleston, WV
16	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in a	87	665	$57,855.00	Hemdon, VA
17	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	28	$5,992.00	Charleston, WV
(New)								

Figure 15.59: The data is filtered to show only certain rows. You can see the small funnel icon at the top of the Destination column that indicates that this column is being filtered. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

Once the information from the database has been filtered, you can easily export it to Excel. Go to the External Data tab and the Export command group. Choose the Excel icon from the group (Figure 15.60).

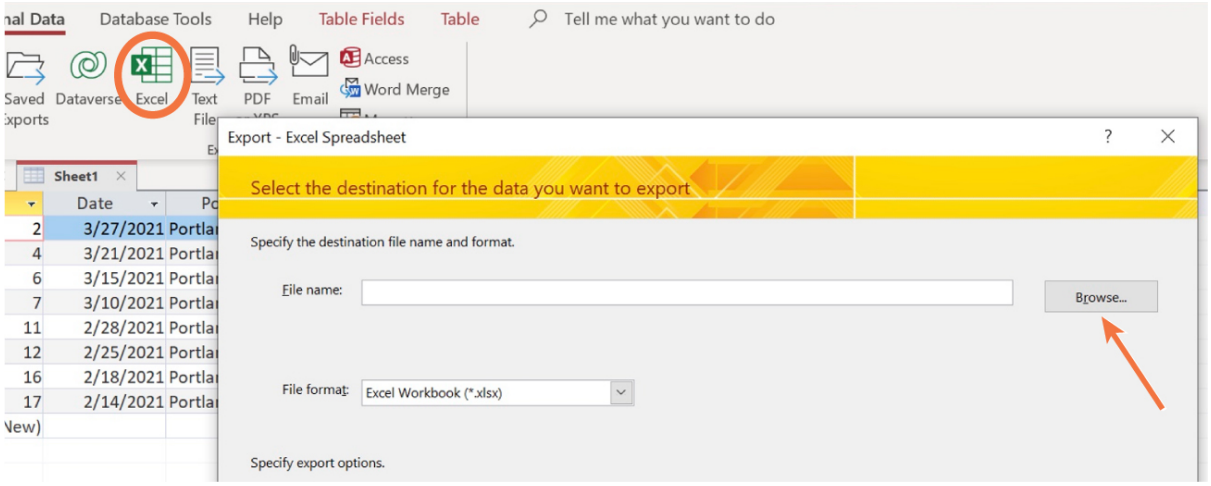
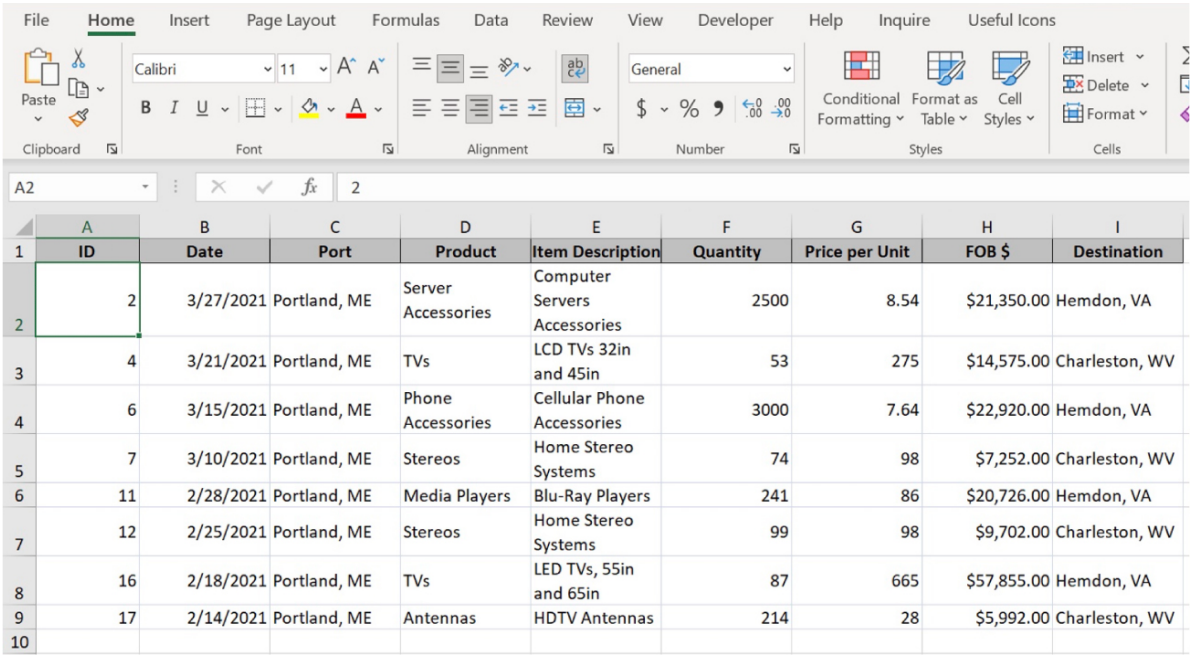


Figure 15.60: Use the Browse button to determine the file location and name for the exported file. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

You will need to tell Access where to export the file to and give it a file name. You can choose a new file or use an existing Excel file. You can also change the file format if needed. Finally, you can choose to export the entire table or just selected columns, whether to keep the formatting in the table, and whether to automatically open the file in Excel when the export is finished. The formatting will be similar to what you see in Access but may not be identical. You may need to adjust the column width and colors in Excel (Figure 15.61).



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	ID	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Price per Unit	FOB $	Destination
2	2	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accessories	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
3	4	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	53	275	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
4	6	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accessories	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	7.64	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
5	7	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	74	98	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
6	11	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	241	86	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
7	12	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	99	98	$9,702.00	Charleston, WV
8	16	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	87	665	$57,855.00	Hemdon, VA
9	17	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	28	$5,992.00	Charleston, WV
10									

Figure 15.61: Notice that because the data was filtered in Access, only the filtered rows (records) were exported to Excel. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

This page titled 15.5: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access Integration is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.6: Integrating Data from Other Programs into Google Workspace

Learning Objectives

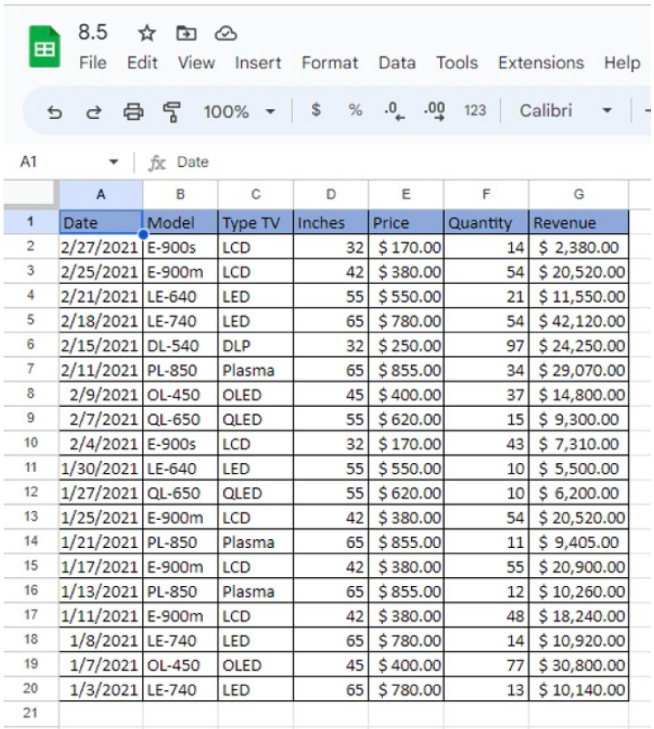
By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Integrate data from Google Sheets into a Google Doc
- Integrate information from Microsoft programs into a Google program

You may wish to integrate data from a spreadsheet or other program into a Google Doc for the reasons we addressed earlier in this chapter. Linked data will update automatically, turning your Google Doc into a live document with the latest information. Or you might want to copy and paste data from other programs into Google Docs and match its style. You may also use Excel to make tables and graphs, and then import those into Google Sheets. Using these tools can improve the quality of the infographics in your document as well as help to convert your file into a more shareable, collaborative format.

Integrating Data from Google Sheets into a Google Doc

There are two ways to import Google Sheets tables into Google Docs. The first option is copy and paste, similar to the process we used in Excel and Word. To do this, go to the table you want to copy in Sheets and select the cells that are contained in it, as seen in Figure 15.62. Press Ctrl+C (Command+C on Mac) on the keyboard to copy it or use another copy method. Then go to the Docs file, place the cursor where you want the table to be pasted, and paste using Ctrl+V or another paste method. Immediately after pressing these keys, a Paste Table dialog box will appear, as seen in Figure 15.63, asking you if you want to link the table or paste a static table.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2	2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
3	2/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
4	2/21/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00
5	2/18/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00
6	2/15/2021	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
7	2/11/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
8	2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00
9	2/7/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00
10	2/4/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00
11	1/30/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00
12	1/27/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00
13	1/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
14	1/21/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	11	$ 9,405.00
15	1/17/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	55	$ 20,900.00
16	1/13/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	12	$ 10,260.00
17	1/11/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	48	$ 18,240.00
18	1/8/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	14	$ 10,920.00
19	1/7/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	77	$ 30,800.00
20	1/3/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	13	$ 10,140.00
21							

Figure 15.62: Select the cells from the Google Sheets file to be integrated into the Google Doc. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

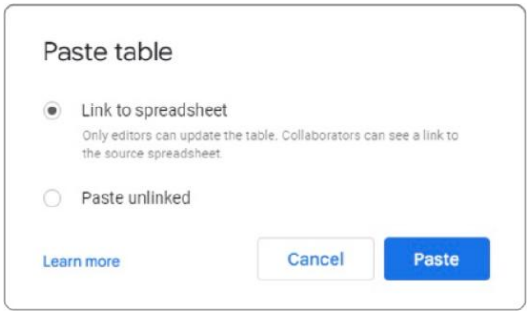


Figure 15.63: Linking will update the table in the Google Doc when changes are made in the Sheets file. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

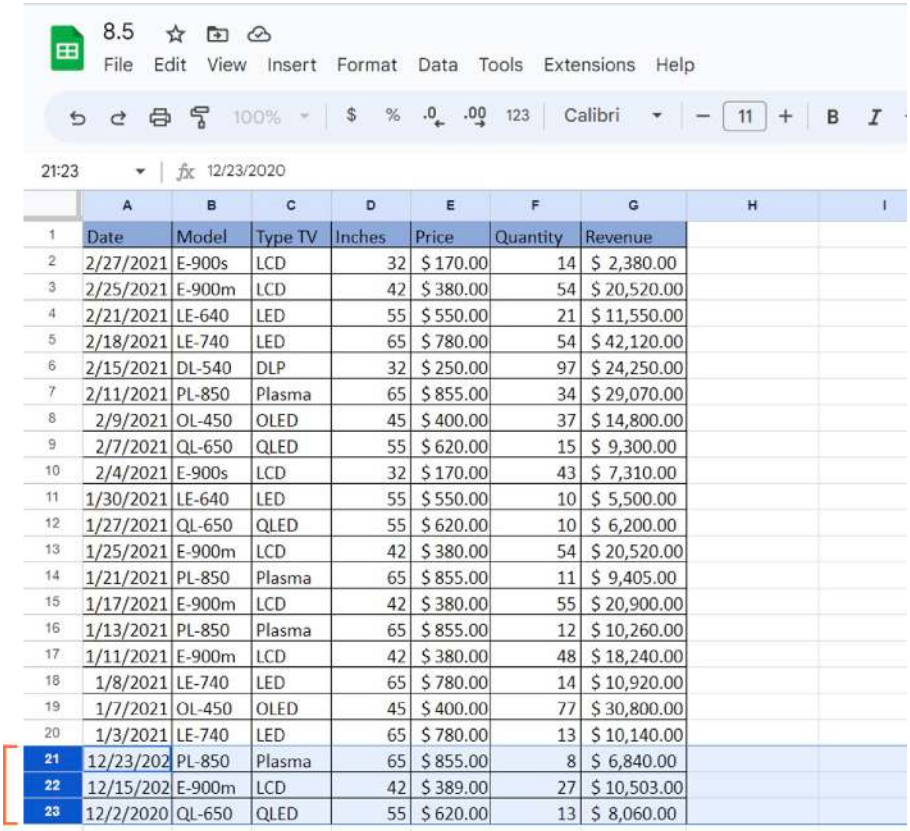
Linked tables or graphs, as discussed earlier, will update automatically in your Doc when the data in the source sheet is updated. Remember, a static table will simply paste the content and will not update automatically. In our example, we chose to have our table linked, so we left the Link to Spreadsheet on, and chose Paste. In Figure 15.64, we can see the pasted table.



Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
2/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
2/21/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00
2/18/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00
2/15/2021	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
2/11/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00
2/7/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00
2/4/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00
1/30/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00
1/27/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00
1/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
1/21/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	11	$ 9,405.00
1/17/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	55	$ 20,900.00
1/13/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	12	$ 10,260.00
1/11/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	48	$ 18,240.00
1/8/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	14	$ 10,920.00
1/7/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	77	$ 30,800.00
1/3/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	13	$ 10,140.00

Figure 15.64: You may need to adjust column widths to give the table a professional appearance. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

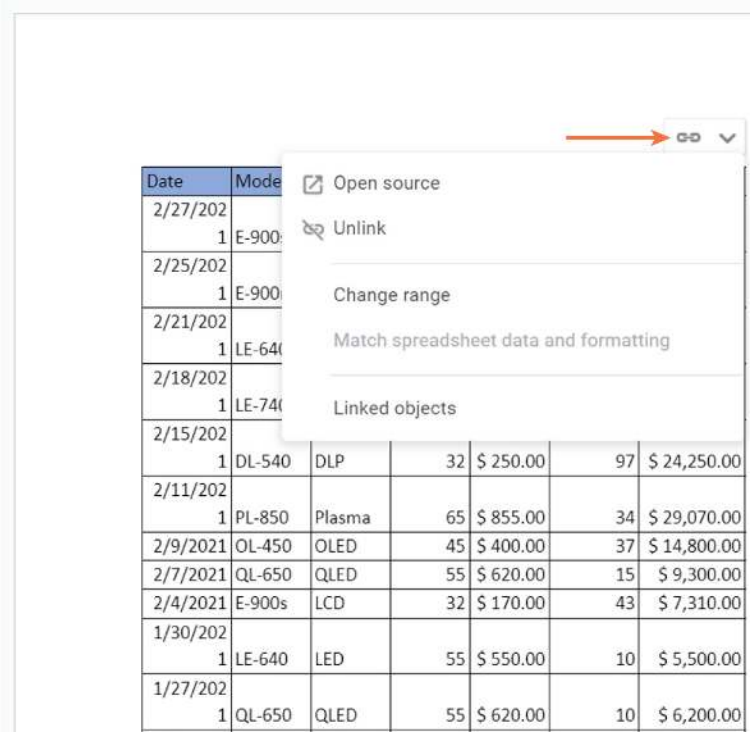
Linking data from Sheets is not always straightforward. When you edit the original source document—the Google Sheet—you need to make sure that the settings are correct in your Doc so that it will update properly. Let's assume that we will add rows to the client order list (our Google Sheet) as shown in Figure 15.65. This means that the original Sheets table will grow three new rows; this will not immediately be updated in our Google Doc.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue		
2	2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00		
3	2/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00		
4	2/21/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00		
5	2/18/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00		
6	2/15/2021	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00		
7	2/11/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00		
8	2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00		
9	2/7/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00		
10	2/4/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00		
11	1/30/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00		
12	1/27/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00		
13	1/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00		
14	1/21/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	11	$ 9,405.00		
15	1/17/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	55	$ 20,900.00		
16	1/13/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	12	$ 10,260.00		
17	1/11/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	48	$ 18,240.00		
18	1/8/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	14	$ 10,920.00		
19	1/7/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	77	$ 30,800.00		
20	1/3/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	13	$ 10,140.00		
21	12/23/202	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	8	$ 6,840.00		
22	12/15/202	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 389.00	27	$ 10,503.00		
23	12/2/2020	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	13	$ 8,060.00		

Figure 15.65: When you make changes to a linked table in a Google Doc, you need to take an extra step to make sure those changes are reflected in the Doc file. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The table has increased in size; therefore, we need to make sure that our Google Doc knows how large the table is supposed to be. To do this, go to the linked table in the Doc and hover over the Linked Table Options icon in the upper right of the table, as shown in Figure 15.66. Choose Change Range.



Date	Mode					
2/27/202 1	E-900					
2/25/202 1	E-900					
2/21/202 1	LE-64(					
2/18/202 1	LE-74(					
2/15/202 1	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
2/11/202 1	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00
2/7/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00
2/4/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00
1/30/202 1	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00
1/27/202 1	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00

Figure 15.66: Use the Linked Table options to access the tools for the linked table. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

A dialog box will appear, and we see that the current range is A1 to G14, but we want it to be A1 to G23, as in Figure 15.67. Type the new range, select OK, and the table will be updated.

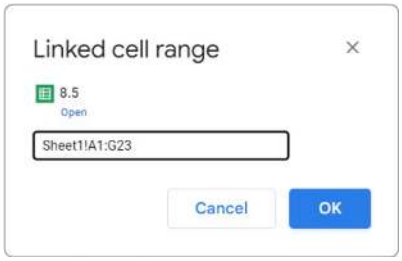


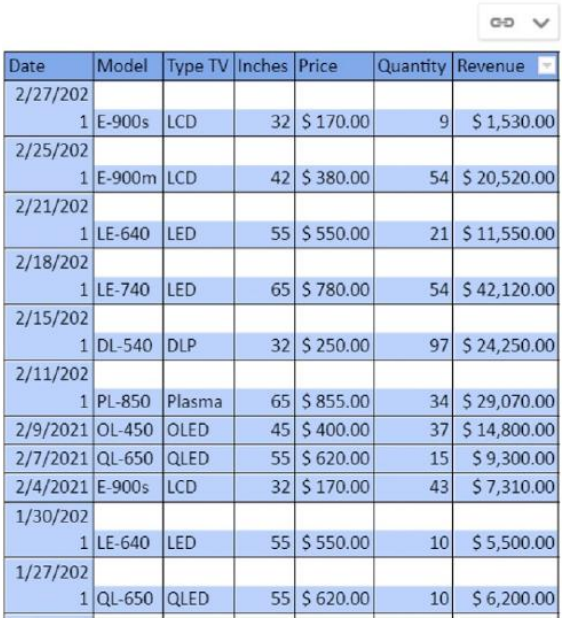
Figure 15.67: If you add or remove cells from the Sheets table, you will need to update the cell references in Docs. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you are just updating information in existing cells, and not adding or deleting columns or rows, you will need to tell Google to update the table. For example, let's say we made a mistake in row 2, and the quantity is supposed to be nine instead of fourteen (Figure 15.65). Change the quantity in the Sheets file, then go to the Doc file. Notice you now have a button at the top of the table that says Update, as Figure 15.68 shows. Select Update, and the table will now be updated with the revised information (Figure 15.69).



Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	14	$ 2,380.00
2/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
2/21/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00
2/18/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00
2/15/2021	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
2/11/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00
2/7/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00
2/4/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00
1/30/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00
1/27/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00

Figure 15.68: When you make changes that do not involve increasing or decreasing the size of the linked table, you will need to update the Google Doc. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)



Date	Model	Type TV	Inches	Price	Quantity	Revenue
2/27/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	9	$ 1,530.00
2/25/2021	E-900m	LCD	42	$ 380.00	54	$ 20,520.00
2/21/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	21	$ 11,550.00
2/18/2021	LE-740	LED	65	$ 780.00	54	$ 42,120.00
2/15/2021	DL-540	DLP	32	$ 250.00	97	$ 24,250.00
2/11/2021	PL-850	Plasma	65	$ 855.00	34	$ 29,070.00
2/9/2021	OL-450	OLED	45	$ 400.00	37	$ 14,800.00
2/7/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	15	$ 9,300.00
2/4/2021	E-900s	LCD	32	$ 170.00	43	$ 7,310.00
1/30/2021	LE-640	LED	55	$ 550.00	10	$ 5,500.00
1/27/2021	QL-650	QLED	55	$ 620.00	10	$ 6,200.00

Figure 15.69: Notice that the quantity of the first item changed from 14 to 9. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To unlink the tables and graphs, simply select Unlink from the Linked Table options, and the table will become static, as Figure 15.70 shows.

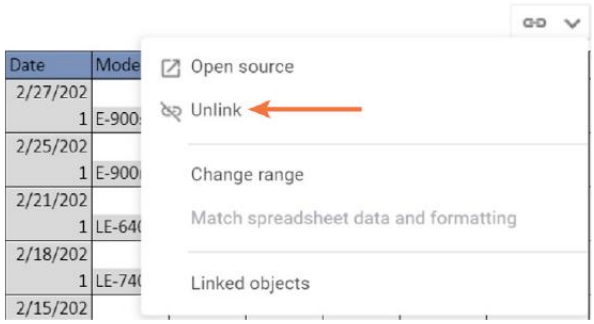


Figure 15.70: If you unlink a table in a Google Doc, it becomes static and will not be updated if changes are made in the Sheets file. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Google Docs also enables you to insert a chart or graph that exists in a Google Sheet directly into your Google Doc. A chart or graph that is linked in this way will automatically update when the contents of the Google Sheet update. Using the skills learned in previous chapters, let's create a summary chart of Quantity Sold per product in your linked table. To incorporate this chart into the Google Doc, put your cursor at the point where you want the chart to be placed in the document. Next, go to the Insert menu and hover over the Chart command. This will open a drop-down menu; select From Sheets, as shown in Figure 15.71. This, in turn, will open a dialog box that shows your recent Sheets files.

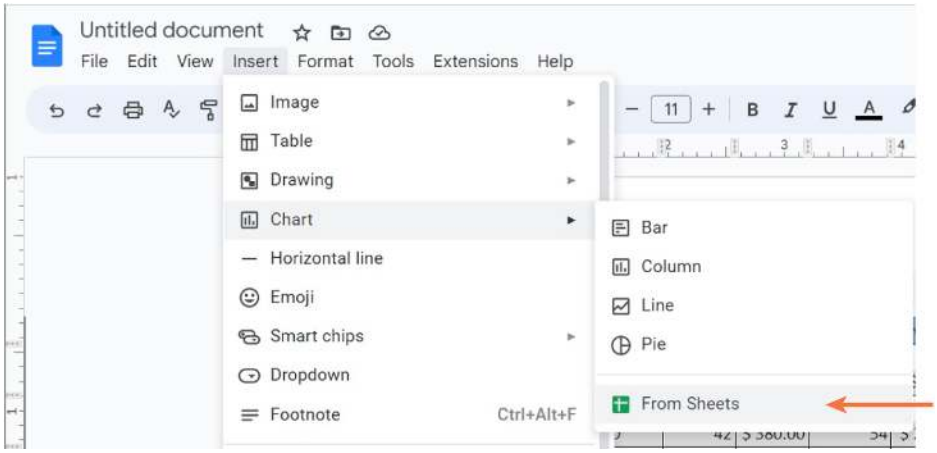


Figure 15.71: Although you can insert a chart directly into your Doc, as shown in the menu, sometimes it is more convenient to use an existing chart from a Sheet. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

You can also use the Search tool to find a specific file. Select the one that has the information you want in your chart—in our example, this file is called Sales Data (Figure 15.72). Click Select.

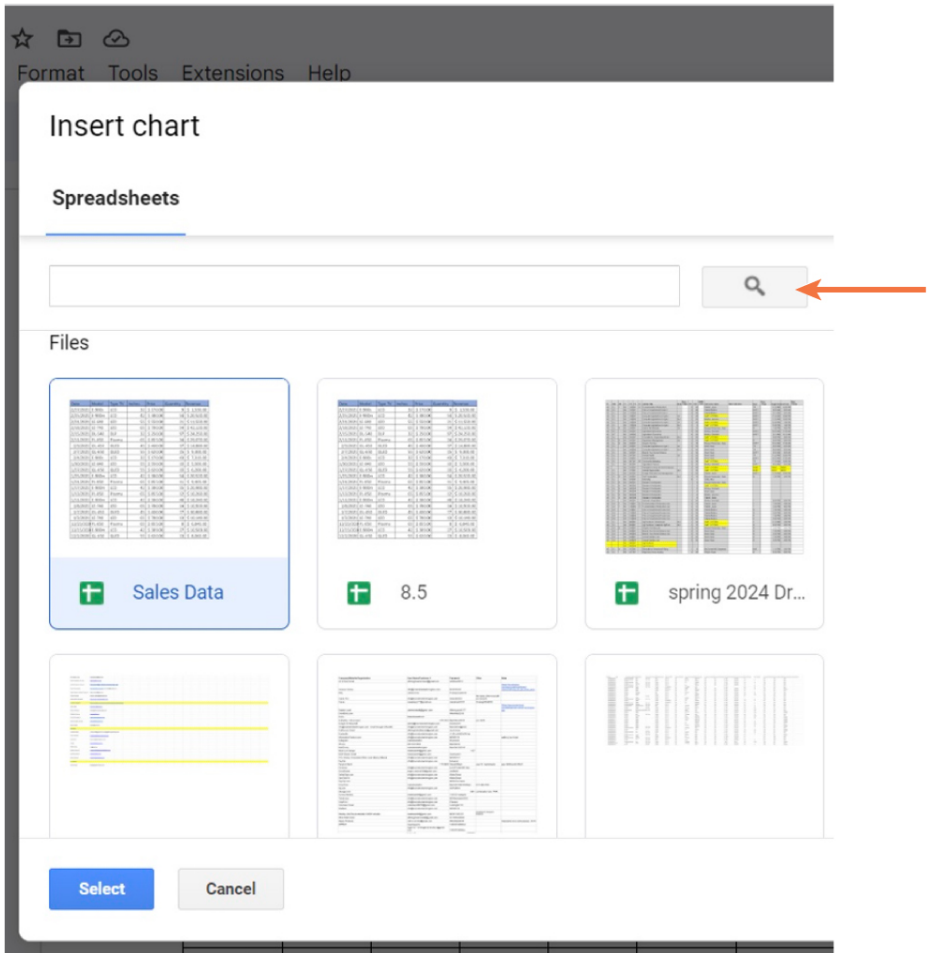


Figure 15.72: From the window, choose the Sheets file where the charts or graphs are located. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

The next screen gives you a preview of the graph (Figure 15.73). If you have more than one chart or graph created in the Sheets file, as in this example, you will see all of them in the preview and can select the ones you want to include.

When you have selected the charts or graphs to include, choose Import. To ensure that the chart stays updated, tick the checkbox labeled Link to spreadsheet.

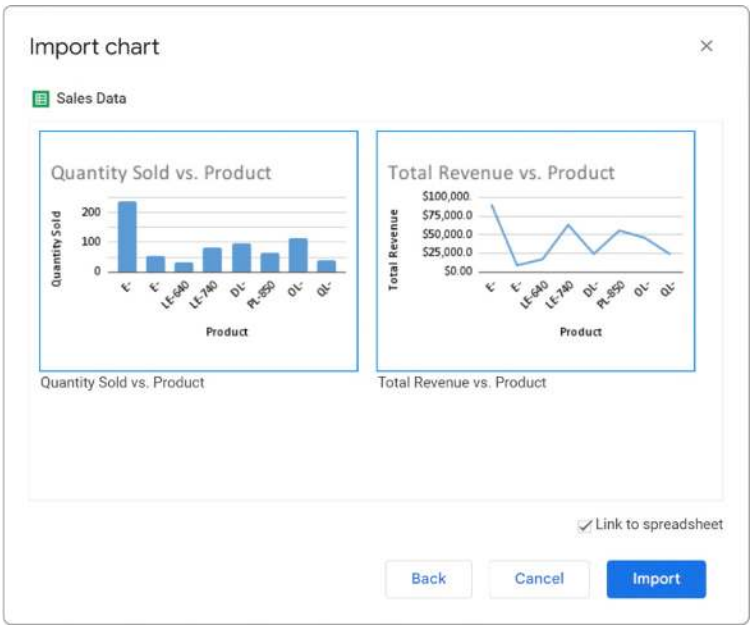


Figure 15.73: Click on any or all of the charts that you wish to insert into the Doc. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Again, if you want to update the chart to reflect changed values in the existing table, just click on the Update button. But if the number of rows or columns has changed, so that the table is no longer the same size, you will need to select the range for the linked table as we did previously. If there are no changes to the size of the table, but only changes in values in existing cells, you can use the Update button. Figure 15.74 shows the result of the integrated charts.

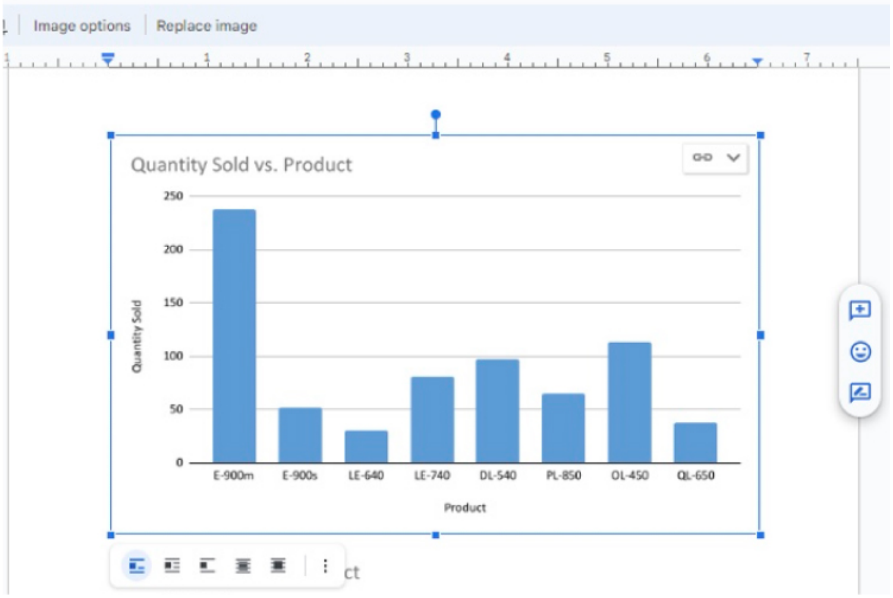


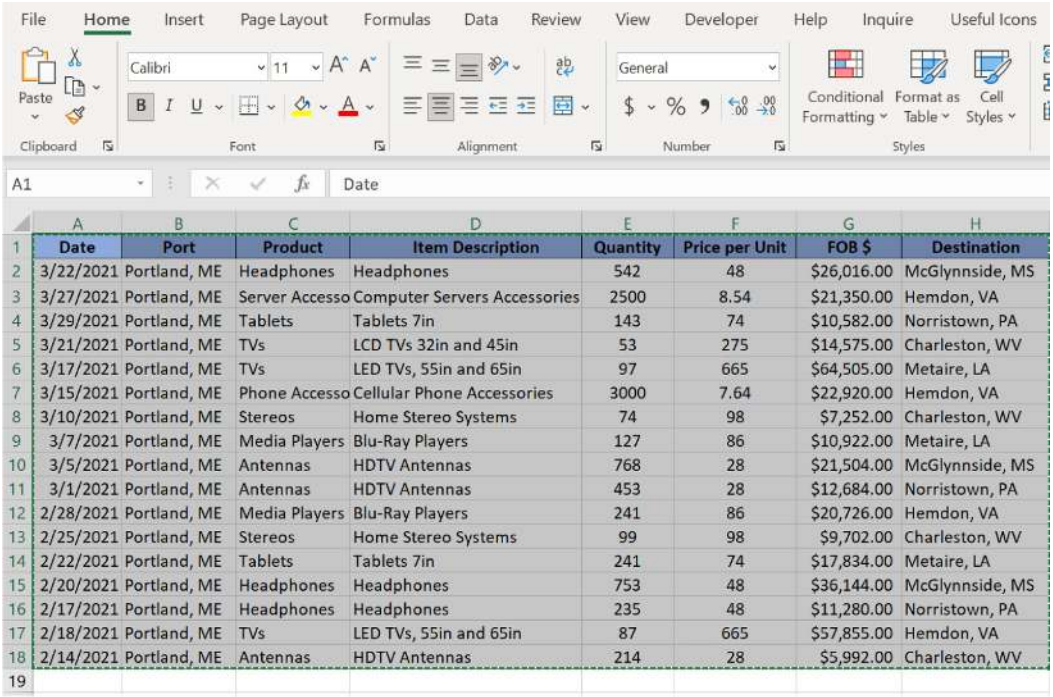
Figure 15.74: You may need to resize and move the charts and graphs to fit the needs of the document you are creating. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Integrating Data from Microsoft Programs into a Google Program

To add data from Microsoft 365 (Office) apps to your Google Workspace programs, simply upload the files to Google Drive. Then you have the choice of keeping them as .docx (Word) or .xlsx (Excel) files or converting them to .gdocx (Google Doc) or .gxlsx (Google Sheets), respectively. To convert Microsoft files to Google files, you must open the document and manually choose to save it as a Google Doc or Sheet. When choosing this option, you may have to adjust some of the formatting of your Doc or Sheets, but generally, this is a straightforward approach to bringing files from Microsoft programs into Google.

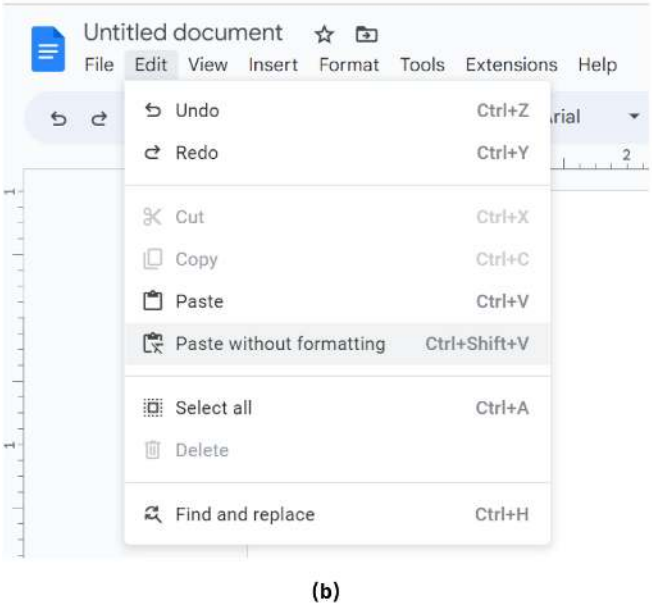
Data from Microsoft Excel

You can integrate data from Excel into any of the Google applications. First, let's discuss how to bring Excel information into a Google Doc. If your tables and graphs were created in Excel rather than in Sheets, you can use one of the copy-and-paste methods used when placing Excel tables into a Word file. Select the table, copy it using your preferred method, and then paste it into the Doc using either Paste or Paste Without Formatting (Figure 15.75). Notice that much of your Excel formatting is lost when you use the copy-and-paste method.



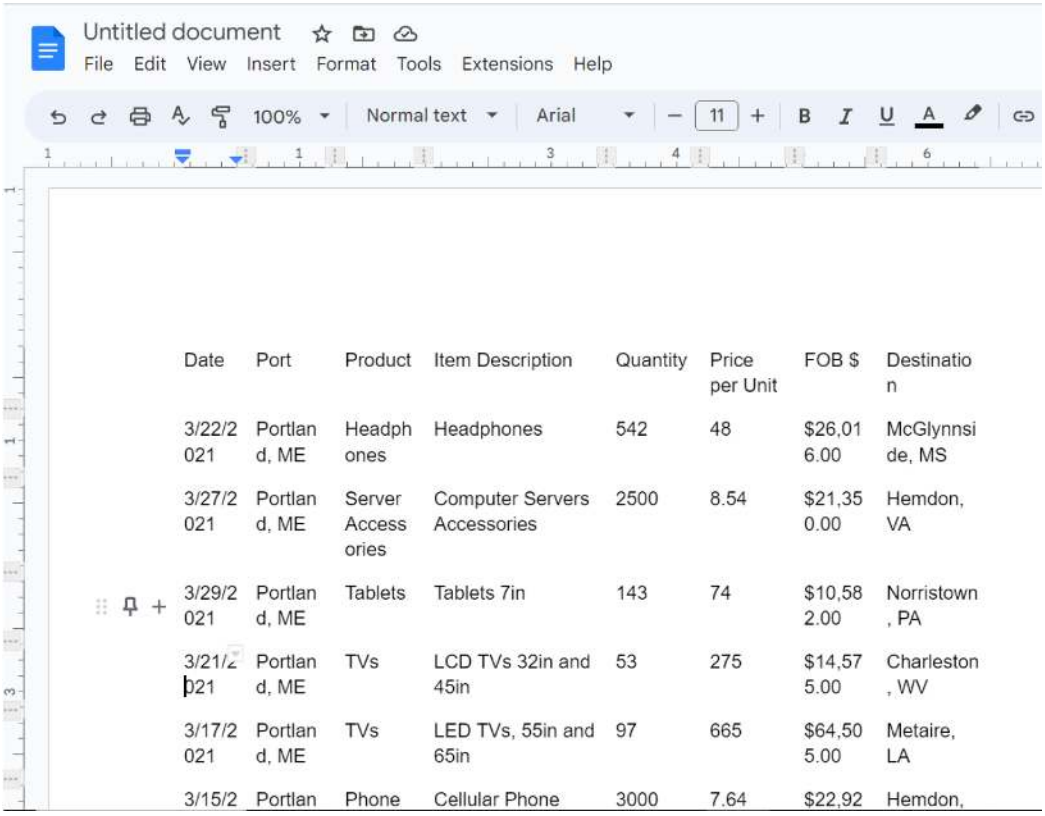
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Price per Unit	FOB $	Destination
2	3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	48	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, MS
3	3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accesso	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
4	3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	143	74	$10,582.00	Norristown, PA
5	3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	53	275	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
6	3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	97	665	$64,505.00	Metaire, LA
7	3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accesso	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	7.64	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
8	3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	74	98	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
9	3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	127	86	$10,922.00	Metaire, LA
10	3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	768	28	$21,504.00	McGlynnside, MS
11	3/1/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	453	28	$12,684.00	Norristown, PA
12	2/28/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	241	86	$20,726.00	Hemdon, VA
13	2/25/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	99	98	$9,702.00	Charleston, WV
14	2/22/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	241	74	$17,834.00	Metaire, LA
15	2/20/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	753	48	$36,144.00	McGlynnside, MS
16	2/17/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	235	48	$11,280.00	Norristown, PA
17	2/18/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	87	665	$57,855.00	Hemdon, VA
18	2/14/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	214	28	$5,992.00	Charleston, WV
19								

(a)



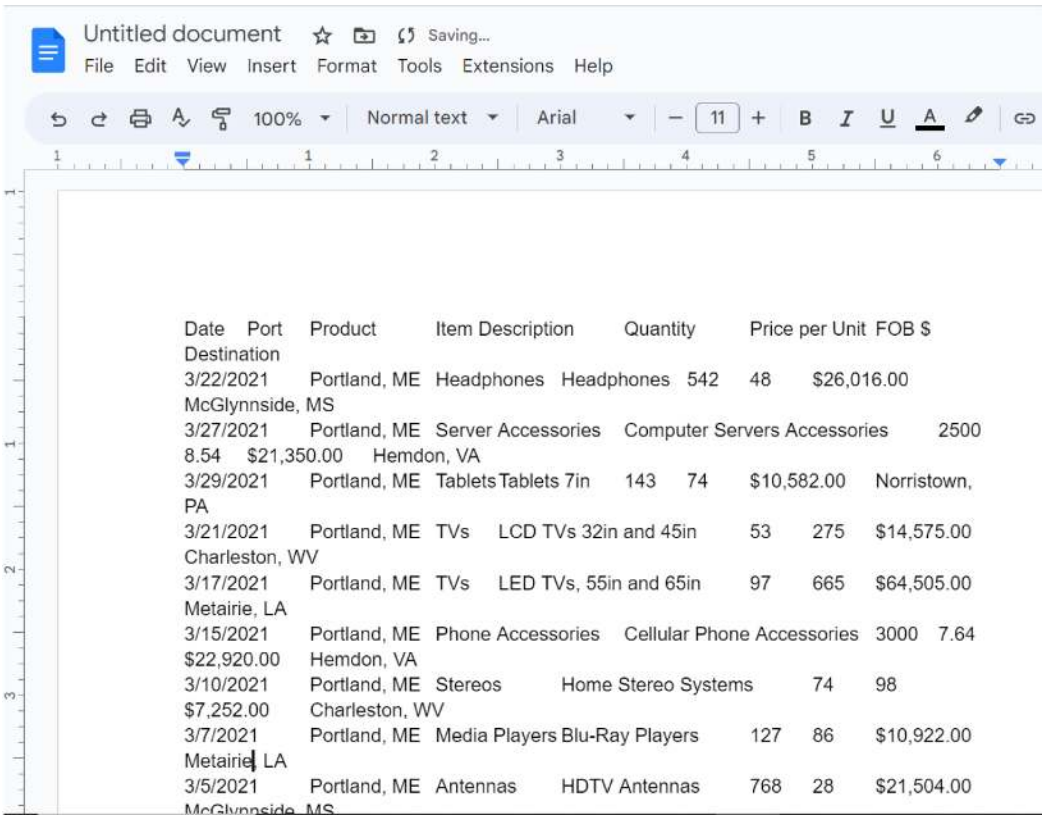
(b)

Figure 15.75: (a) The table in Excel is formatted with shading and borders. (b) When copying into Google Docs, you have only two options. (Part a: Used with permission from Microsoft; Part b: Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)



Date	Port	Product	Item Description	Quantity	Price per Unit	FOB $	Destination
3/22/2021	Portland, ME	Headphones	Headphones	542	48	$26,016.00	McGlynnside, MS
3/27/2021	Portland, ME	Server Accessories	Computer Servers Accessories	2500	8.54	$21,350.00	Hemdon, VA
3/29/2021	Portland, ME	Tablets	Tablets 7in	143	74	$10,582.00	Norristown, PA
3/21/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LCD TVs 32in and 45in	53	275	$14,575.00	Charleston, WV
3/17/2021	Portland, ME	TVs	LED TVs, 55in and 65in	97	665	$64,505.00	Metairie, LA
3/15/2021	Portland, ME	Phone Accessories	Cellular Phone Accessories	3000	7.64	$22,920.00	Hemdon, VA
3/10/2021	Portland, ME	Stereos	Home Stereo Systems	74	98	$7,252.00	Charleston, WV
3/7/2021	Portland, ME	Media Players	Blu-Ray Players	127	86	$10,922.00	Metairie, LA
3/5/2021	Portland, ME	Antennas	HDTV Antennas	768	28	$21,504.00	McGlynnside, MS

Figure 15.76: The Paste option gives you the data in a table, but it is not formatted in the same way it was in Excel. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)



Date Port Product Item Description Quantity Price per Unit FOB $ Destination
3/22/2021 Portland, ME Headphones Headphones 542 48 $26,016.00 McGlynnside, MS
3/27/2021 Portland, ME Server Accessories Computer Servers Accessories 2500 8.54 $21,350.00 Hemdon, VA
3/29/2021 Portland, ME Tablets Tablets 7in 143 74 $10,582.00 Norristown, PA
3/21/2021 Portland, ME TVs LCD TVs 32in and 45in 53 275 $14,575.00 Charleston, WV
3/17/2021 Portland, ME TVs LED TVs, 55in and 65in 97 665 $64,505.00 Metairie, LA
3/15/2021 Portland, ME Phone Accessories Cellular Phone Accessories 3000 7.64 $22,920.00 Hemdon, VA
3/10/2021 Portland, ME Stereos Home Stereo Systems 74 98 $7,252.00 Charleston, WV
3/7/2021 Portland, ME Media Players Blu-Ray Players 127 86 $10,922.00 Metairie, LA
3/5/2021 Portland, ME Antennas HDTV Antennas 768 28 $21,504.00 McGlynnside, MS

Figure 15.77: The Paste Without Formatting option simply pastes the information as text, not in a tabular form. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

To ensure that the Excel data gets inserted into your Google Doc in a manner that is closer to what you have in Excel, you need to first upload the Excel file into your Google Drive and open it in Google Sheets.

First, upload the file into your Google Drive. Then, find the file in the Drive and right-click on it. Choose Open with Google Sheets, as in Figure 15.78. This will open the file using the Google Sheets app, but remember, it will not be saved as a Google Sheet until you manually choose to do so. After opening the file in Sheets, go to the File window menu and then choose Save as Google Sheets, as shown in Figure 15.79.

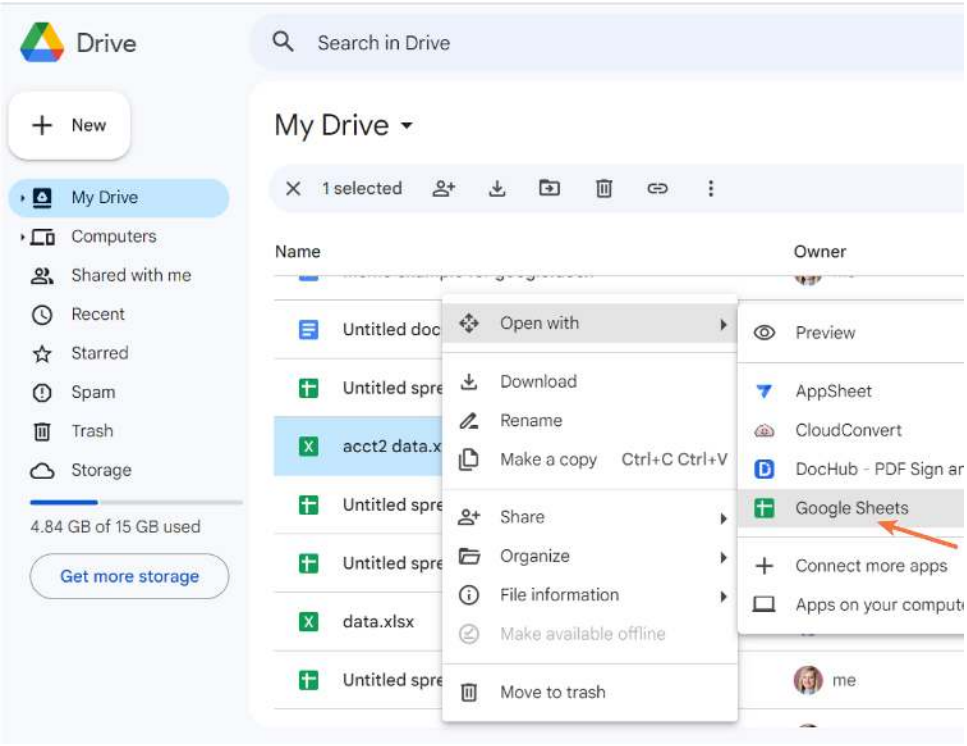


Figure 15.78: Opening your Excel file in Google Sheets preserves most of its formatting. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

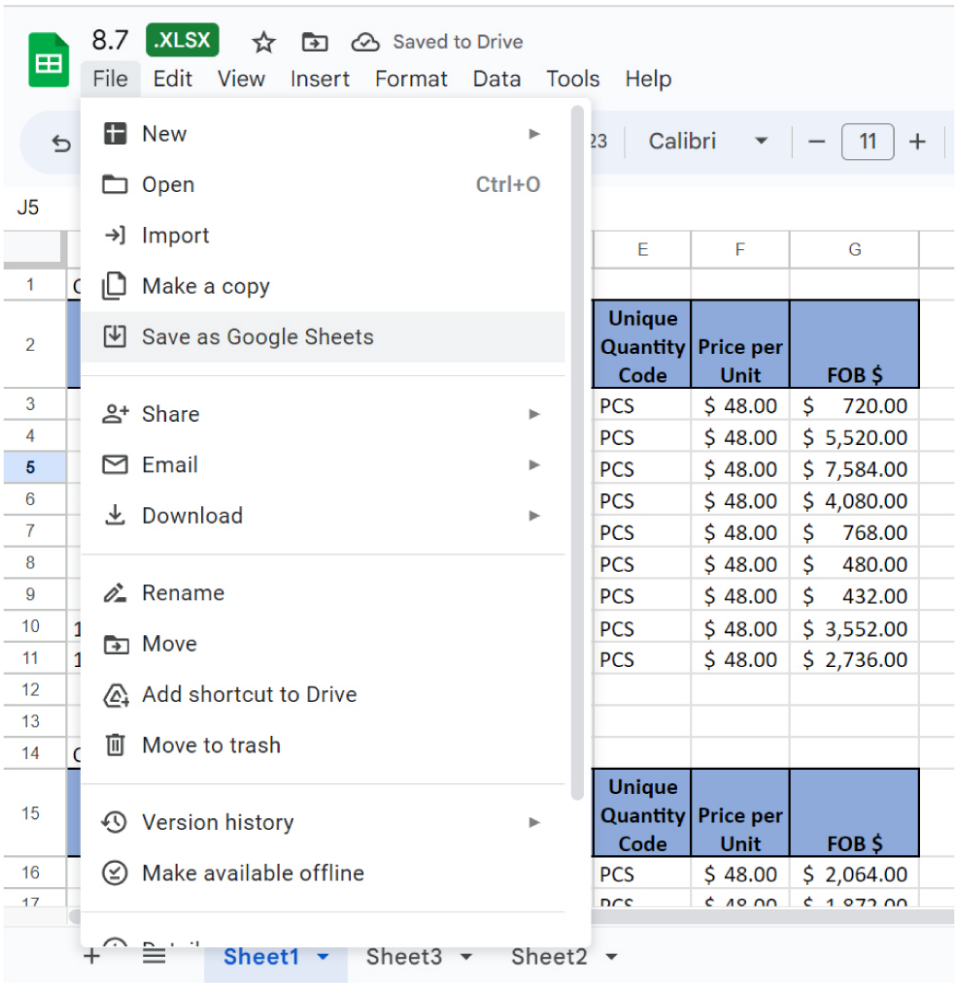


Figure 15.79: The file will be saved in your Drive as an Excel file unless you specifically save it as a Google Sheets file. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Another option is to import the Excel information into a new Sheets file. This too will preserve much of your formatting. However, if you have charts or graphs created in the Excel file that are not available in Google, the charts or graphs will not import. Only the data will be imported. Then you can create a chart from within Sheets. This is one limitation of Google: it does not have as many options for creating graphs and charts as you will find in Microsoft. Most of the graph and chart formats available in Google are very basic, such as simple line graphs and bar charts. You will not see some of the more advanced formats, such as the 3D options, as you do in Microsoft.

Additionally, when you import an Excel file into a Sheets file, you might notice that any links you established between that Excel file and another Excel file may not be preserved. If your Excel sheet contains formulas, make sure these are accurate once imported. Importing works well, but the result may need some editing to resolve compatibility issues. It is important to be aware of this limitation when importing Excel information into Sheets.

Finally, once you have imported the data into a Sheets file, you can integrate that information into a Doc if desired. This approach is likely to do a better job of retaining your formatting than the copy-and-paste method.

To begin importing Excel into Sheets, create a new blank worksheet in Sheets. Then, while in Sheets, go to the File window menu and choose Import (Figure 15.80). If the Excel sheet has already been uploaded to the Drive as an .xlsx document, you can get the Excel file from the My Drive tab, as seen in Figure 15.81. If the file is not in your Google Drive, choose the Upload tab to locate it. A new dialog box will appear, as shown in Figure 15.82, asking what you want to do next: create a new spreadsheet, insert a new sheet, or replace the spreadsheet. Select Replace Spreadsheet and then choose Import Data. This will move the entire contents of the Excel spreadsheet into the new Google Sheet you just created (Figure 15.83).

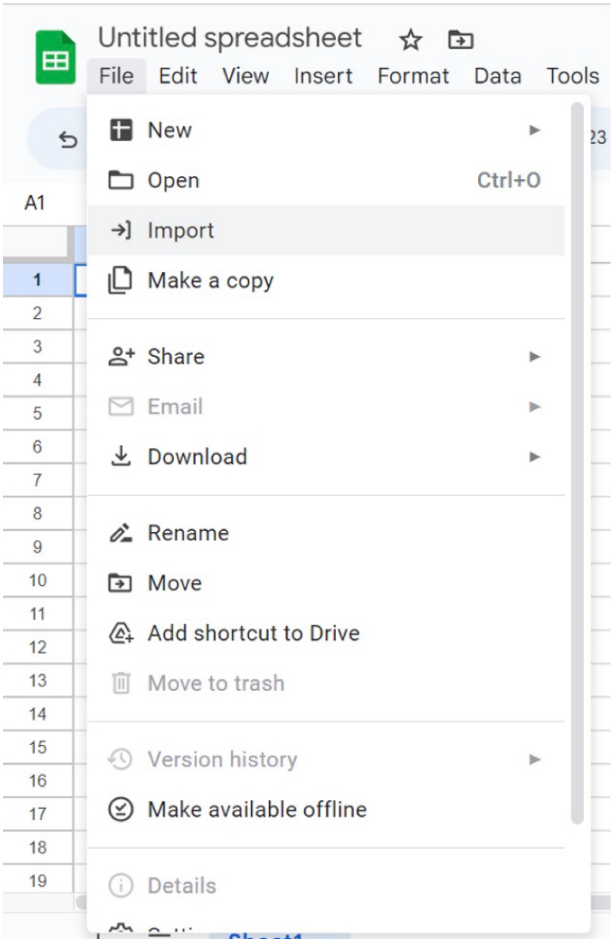


Figure 15.80: Add the Excel file to your Google Drive to make importing easier. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

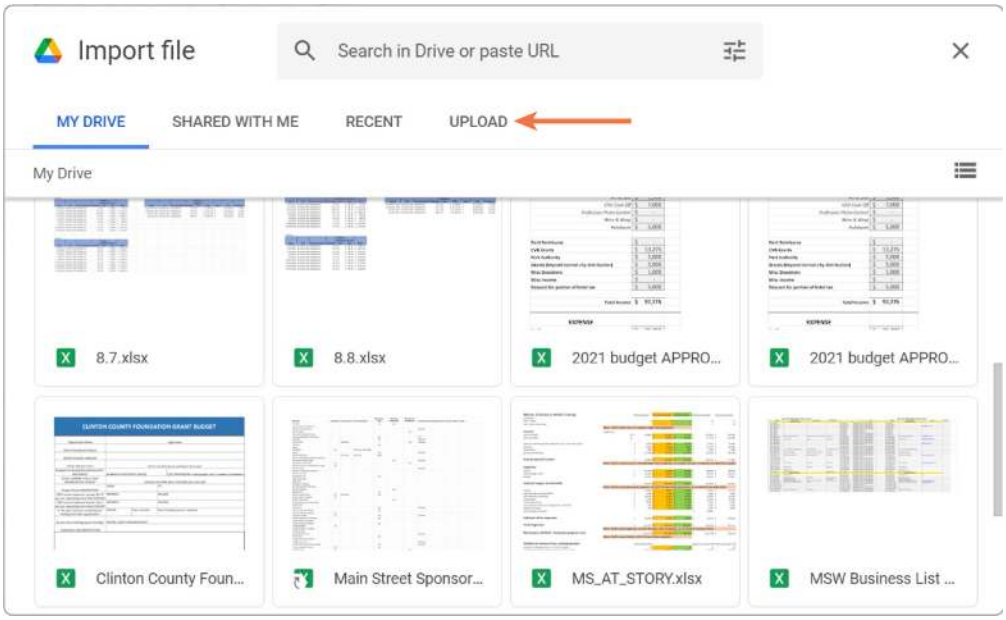


Figure 15.81: You will see your file in My Drive if the Excel file has already been uploaded into your Google Drive. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

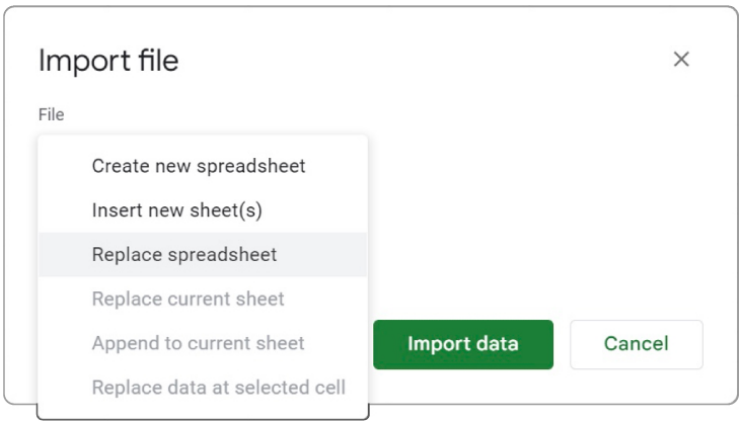
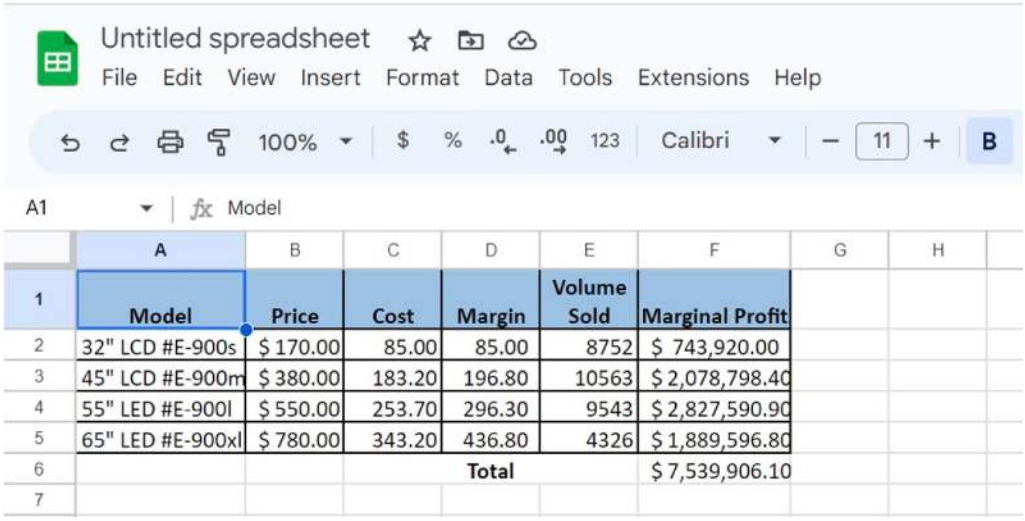


Figure 15.82: You can create a new spreadsheet in Sheets using imported Excel data. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Model	Price	Cost	Margin	Volume Sold	Marginal Profit		
2	32" LCD #E-900s	$ 170.00	85.00	85.00	8752	$ 743,920.00		
3	45" LCD #E-900m	$ 380.00	183.20	196.80	10563	$ 2,078,798.40		
4	55" LED #E-900l	$ 550.00	253.70	296.30	9543	$ 2,827,590.90		
5	65" LED #E-900xl	$ 780.00	343.20	436.80	4326	$ 1,889,596.80		
6				Total		$ 7,539,906.10		
7								

Figure 15.83: The data will be imported in Sheets with the same formatting as you had in the Excel file. (Google Sheets is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Another option for bringing Microsoft files into Google is to change your settings in Google Drive. As a word of caution, when you change your Google Workspace settings, you will change the settings for the entire Google Drive and all files that are stored in the Drive.

First, go to the Settings icon at the top right of your Drive (Figure 15.84).

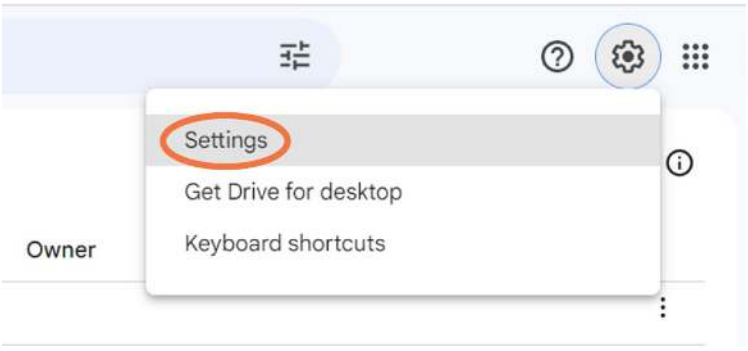


Figure 15.84: Access the settings in your Google Drive to edit how non-Google files are managed. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

In the General tab, go to the option that says Convert Uploads and check the box Convert uploads to Google Docs editor format. Tick on the checkbox as shown in Figure 15.85. Then click on Done. Again, be careful with changing these settings, however, since this will change the process for your whole Google Drive, and not just one file or folder.

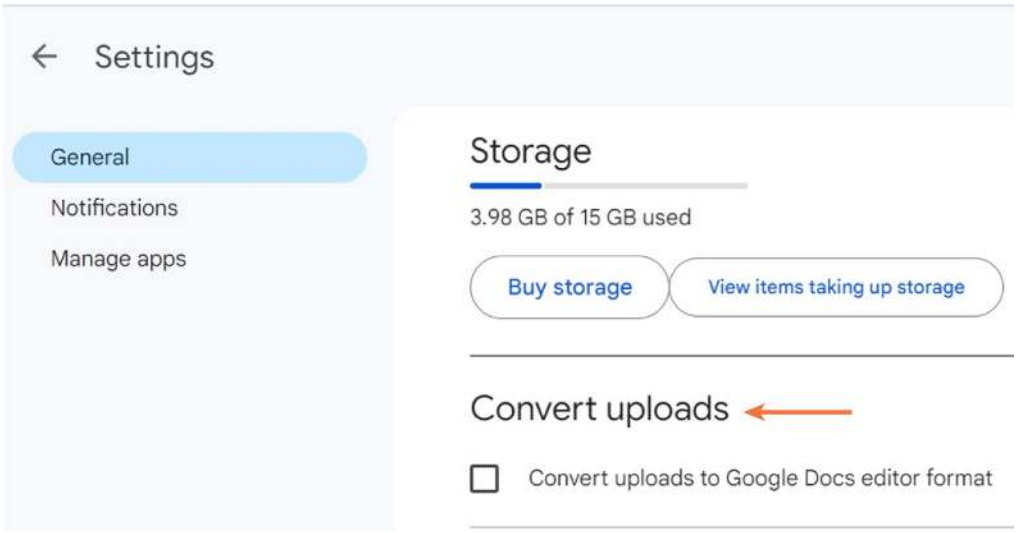


Figure 15.85: Choosing to convert all uploads to Google Docs editor format will change the setting for all files that are uploaded into your Drive. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

Information from Microsoft Word

To import an entire Word document into Google Docs, follow the same steps that you used to import an Excel document into Google Sheets: you can either upload the file into Google Drive, then Open it in Google Docs (Figure 15.86); or, if the file is already in your Google Drive, right-click on the file and hover to Open with Google Docs. Again, the file will not be a Google Doc file right away; it will remain a Word file unless you deliberately choose to save it as a Google Doc. This is the same as the procedure for saving an Excel file as a Google Sheet.

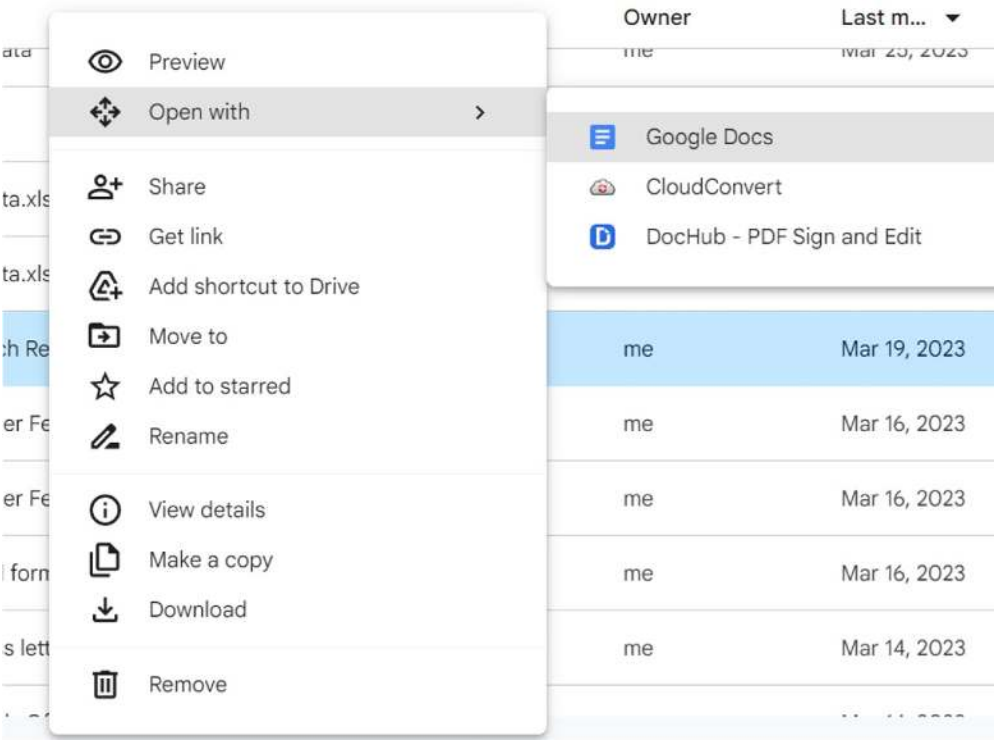


Figure 15.86: For files that are in your Drive, you can choose to open them with Google Docs. But they will not be Docs files unless you then save them as a Google Docs file. (Google Drive is a trademark of Google LLC.)

If you want to bring in certain portions of a Word document into Google Docs, you can use the copy-and-paste method. For example, to bring just the title and this bulleted list from the report into a new Google Docs, you would first select and copy the

information from Word (Figure 15.87). In the new Google Doc, you can either use Paste or Paste without formatting to insert the text. Figure 15.88 and Figure 15.89 show the difference between using these paste options.

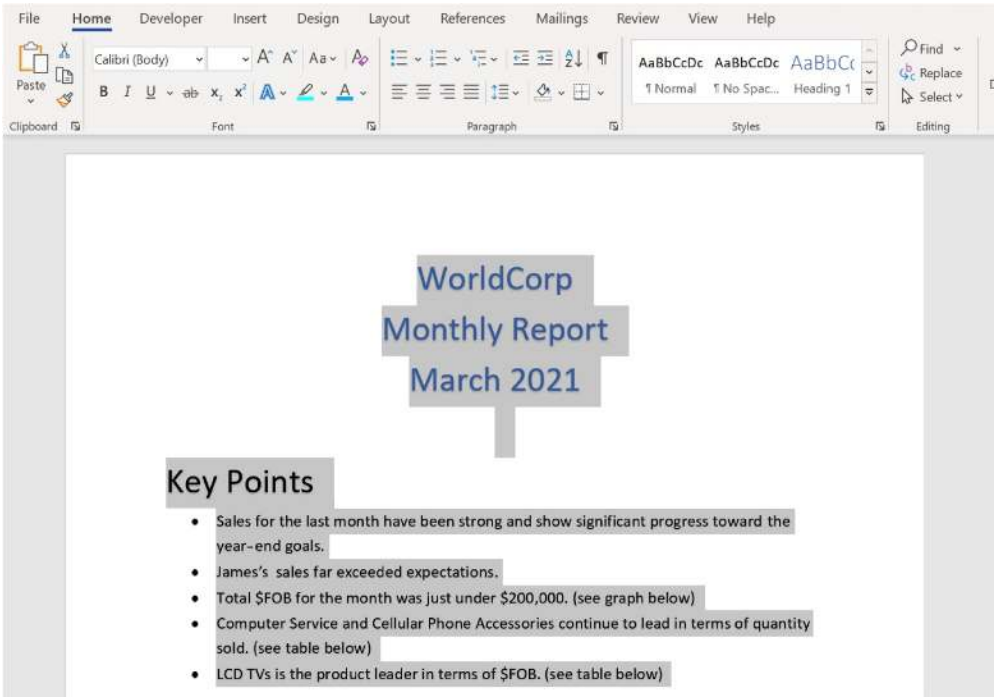


Figure 15.87: First, copy the information from the Word document that you want to paste into a Google Doc. (Used with permission from Microsoft)

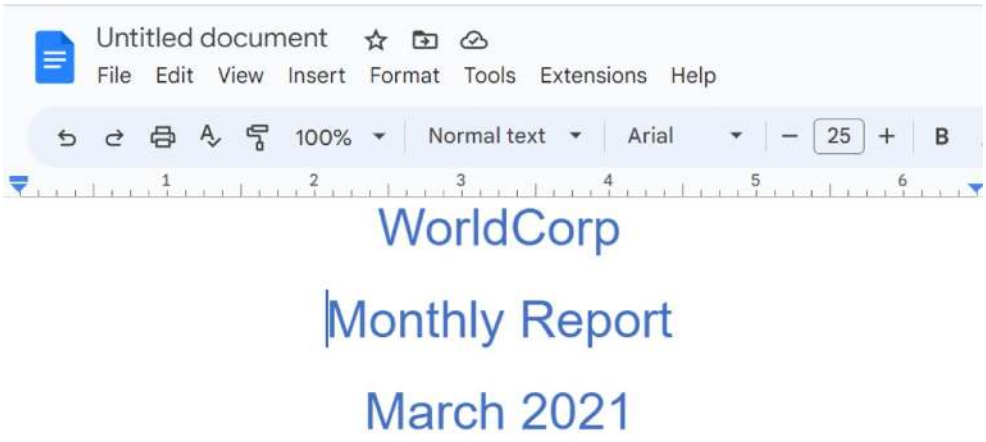


Figure 15.88: Even with the normal Paste tool, some of your formatting will be lost when you bring information from Word into Docs. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

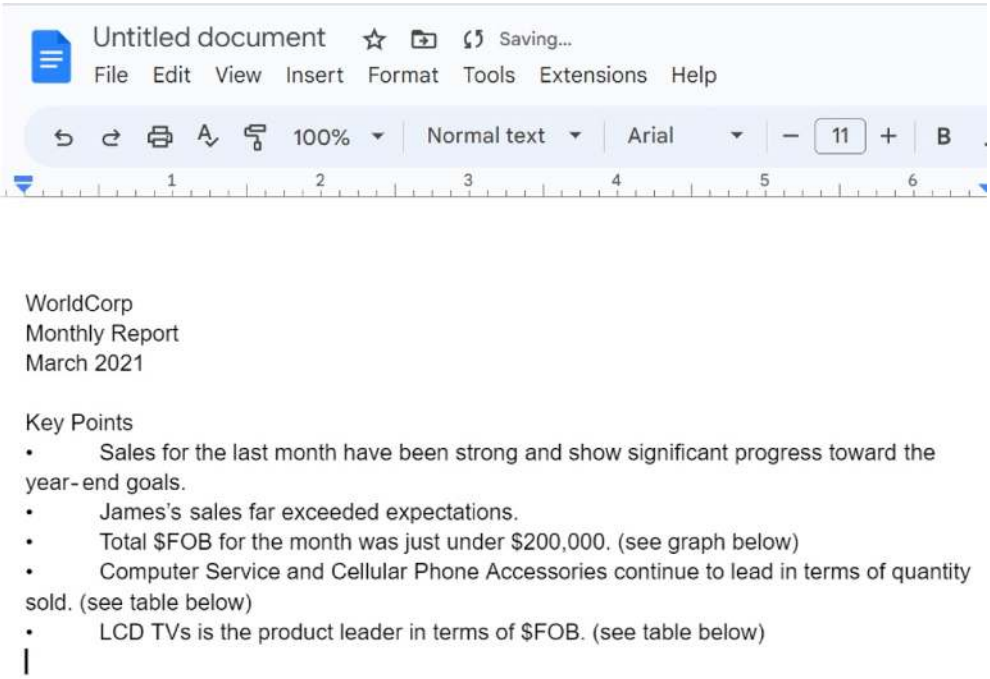


Figure 15.89: When you use the Paste without formatting tool, the information will be pasted as plain text and will not preserve any formatting, like font style or color. (Google Docs is a trademark of Google LLC.)

As with Sheets and Excel, there are some known compatibility issues between Docs and Word: The footer and header may not be shown the same, some blank pages may be added in Docs that were not in the Word version of the file, some fonts may not be recognized, the text may have alignment or indent issues, word-wrapped pictures in Word may be out of place, and line spacing may be a little off. You will need to experiment and use the programs consistently to get a better understanding of these compatibility issues and how they might affect your document.

This page titled 15.6: Integrating Data from Other Programs into Google Workspace is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.7: New Developments- The Role of Artificial Intelligence

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Understand the role of AI in applications
- Describe generative AI

Throughout the text, we looked at the basic and advanced capabilities of the Microsoft and Google applications. We also discussed other key programs that you may encounter in your career. But these programs are just the tip of the iceberg. These companies are constantly developing and improving their products. In addition, with new advances in technology emerging nearly on a daily basis, these applications will evolve. Specifically, advances in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) have found their way into many aspects of our day-to-day lives. These technologies are evolving quickly, so it is worth keeping updated on them as you move through your career. You can go to Microsoft or Google's website to investigate the current state of AI integration in their applications. Here we discuss just a few of the recent developments.

Artificial Intelligence in Applications

A number of programs have AI embedded in their applications, a feature that is expected to increase as AI technology advances. AI has also been integrated into search engines such as Bing and Microsoft Edge. Both Microsoft and Google have introduced AI into their applications. Microsoft is incorporating AI into all of its Microsoft 365 applications, including Outlook. This product, called Copilot, will provide enhanced abilities to summarize documents, add animations to slides in PowerPoint, and create stories in Word. As of this writing, Copilot is still in the developmental stage with a small group of test users. It is being marketed as a tool to improve employee efficiency by automating time-consuming tasks such as composing or reading long emails or summarizing datasets in Excel.

Link to Learning

Some analysts and others who use Excel also need the capabilities provided by the Python computer programming language. Microsoft recently announced the addition of Python to Excel, giving users the power of Python combined with Excel's flexibility. With teams in mind, Microsoft designed Python in Excel to work with no setup required; as of this writing, Microsoft has made it available to a select group of Microsoft users, with plans to expand to a larger group in the future.

In a comparable way, Google is testing incorporating AI into its Workspace applications. Google's tool, called Bard, is designed to do many of the same things as Microsoft's Copilot. The program uses machine learning to generate emails, draft documents, and summarize data trends, among many other functions. Keep in mind that as AI continues to evolve, governments will seek to regulate its use and application.

For both Microsoft and Google, the goal is to use AI technology to enhance worker productivity. Adding automation to routine, time-consuming tasks can free up employees to focus on more pressing and impactful tasks that will contribute to their companies in a greater way. Although both Microsoft's Copilot and Google's Bard are not widely available to all users at present, we can expect to see more AI in these programs with time.

Generative AI

Generative AI is a type of computer programming and machine learning technology that builds and generates content itself. The computer is "trained" using complex programming that searches the internet for relevant information. Then, based on the information found, the program can generate new content such as text or audio.

For example, using a generative AI application, you can have a research essay constructed that will use existing information to write the essay for you based on specific parameters, such as its length and topic. As another example, parts of separate audio files can be combined into a new musical piece based on a certain genre of music.

Recently, an innovative technology has emerged that is one of the most sophisticated generative AI programs to date. This program, called ChatGPT, is designed to mimic conversational language. It is programmed to respond to inquiries, ask clarifying questions, and even highlight its own mistakes. ChatGPT uses many sources, including textbooks and websites, to train the program to use a natural tone when responding, in contrast to the more rigid, less engaging, and often robotic responses typical of previous AI programs.

This program can be used to create original poems or music in a certain style. It can also be used to draft research papers or articles on specific topics. You will start seeing the application of ChatGPT in customer service applications. Even now, if you have a problem with an order you placed online, you can often access a chat feature on the website to get help on the issue. It is likely that ChatGPT will be used in this context, as it is more conversational, giving the impression that the user is conversing with a human, not a computer.

Link to Learning

No doubt you have heard of ChatGPT outside of this text. Some of the coverage about this program can be overwhelming to digest. Visit the OpenAI website to learn more. Here you can create an account and enjoy a free trial of ChatGPT.

This page titled 15.7: New Developments- The Role of Artificial Intelligence is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.8: Mastering Workplace Software Skills- A Project

Learning Objectives

By the end of this section, you will be able to:

- Create an annual report and presentation using either Microsoft or Google programs
- Present the annual report summary

Throughout this text, you have seen the capabilities of various programs in Microsoft 365 (Office) and Google Workspace. Along the way, you have learned new skills and refined existing knowledge. You are well on your way to mastering the programs discussed in this book. Now, let's put those skills to the test. In this final section, you are tasked with developing an annual report for a subsidiary of WorldCorp, Lewis Enterprises, as well as creating an accompanying presentation. While creating these files, you will need to make tables and charts in a spreadsheet program. This comprehensive project will give you more practice of the major concepts covered in the text. You can create the files in either Microsoft or Google. You could even challenge yourself and create the files using both sets of programs. It is a good idea for you to be familiar with both Microsoft and Google programs, as you are likely to encounter both of them during your career. Follow the general outline that follows to create the annual report and presentation. Refer to the text for help along the way, as needed.

The Company

The company you are working with is called Lewis Enterprises (LE). LE is a U.S. regional company that was established fifteen years ago and has recently been bought by WorldCorp. LE specializes in computer software and hardware for small independent pharmacies. The company serves the Midwest region and has a strong customer base of independent pharmacies. They have had steady growth over the past several years. Each year, management in the company provides a summary of the company's performance over the last three years and distributes it to all employees. This summary includes a document with accompanying discussion of the results as well as a presentation. The presentation is generally given during the company's annual meeting that most employees attend. However, not all employees are able to attend the in-person meeting. The report and presentation must be done in a way that is accessible for employees who receive the information in other ways, including by video, electronically, and even as paper copies of the information.

The Assignment

What you are being asked to prepare is an internal annual report prepared for employees of the company, rather than for distribution to the public. Generally, internal annual reports tend to be less formal than annual reports prepared for stockholders and the public. The general purpose of an internal annual report is to help managers and employees understand how well the organization performed over the previous year or set of years, including successes, failures, and areas that need improvement. Internal annual reports are also critical tools for providing information needed for decision-making and forecasting. Keep this purpose in mind, and ensure that the report is prepared in a way that meets this purpose.

To prepare the annual report, you are given a file of sales data for 2020–2023 with forecasts for 2024 as well. Following the tasks outlined in the following sections, prepare the files for the annual meeting. As you work through the tasks, review the capabilities of the programs and practice ways to enhance the files with some of the tools available. For example, how might you incorporate WordArt or embed a video into the files? There are many ways to create the materials for the annual report while conveying the key points and delivering a professional, high-quality product.

Task 1: Preparing the Report

1. Create a shared folder that includes the data file and share with at least one other person.
2. Either use a template or create from scratch a shell of the annual report document with the following elements/headings:
    - Cover Page
    - Table of Contents
    - Introduction
    - Historical Performance

- Year Overview
- Data Analysis
- Discussion of Results
- Conclusions

3. Be sure to include page numbers in your file and format headings appropriately so that you can add a table of contents later.
4. Put the shell for the annual report in the shared folder.

Task 2: Formatting Data Files and Tables for the Report

1. Using the data in the downloadable Annual Report Sales Data worksheet, summarize the sales data by year, by quarter, and by product.
2. Create charts, graphs, and tables that you feel are appropriate to visually convey the trends you notice.
3. Format the charts, graphs, and tables using a professional theme.

Task 3: Integrating Files for the Report

1. Integrate the charts, graphs, and tables you created into the appropriate section in the document file.
2. If necessary, format content for readability.
3. Include other data as appropriate to create the picture of trends in the data.
4. Be sure to add labels to your charts, graphs, and tables.

Task 4: Preparing the Presentation

1. Create the shell of the presentation using a template or from scratch using appropriate slide layouts and titles. Be sure to include a title slide.
2. Choose a professional theme for the presentation.
3. Select images or objects to enhance the slides.

Task 5: Integrating Files for the Presentation

1. Integrate the information from the document (report) and spreadsheet file into the presentation file.
2. If necessary, format content for readability.

Task 6: Finalizing Files

1. Thoroughly proofread all files and make edits.
2. Add and format the table of contents.
3. Include speaker's notes to the presentation file.
4. Prepare a handout of the key points to be distributed at the annual meeting.
5. Link the data file to the document file and presentation file.
6. Add finalized files to the shared folder and grant editing privileges to at least one collaborator.
7. Share the files with your instructor with the appropriate editing privileges.

This page titled 15.8: Mastering Workplace Software Skills- A Project is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms

Key Terms

collaborative workspace

a virtual environment designed to enable programs and users of those programs to work together

Generative AI

technology that uses computer programming and machine learning to create content

integration

occurs when software programs that serve different purposes are able to work together to support the transfer of information from one program to another program

source file

the file that contains the information that you want to put into another program

---

This page titled 15.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.10: Chapter Review - Summary

Summary

15.1 Microsoft 365: Collaboration and Integration

- Collaborative workspaces allow users from various physical locations to work together efficiently.
- Office is designed to allow easy integration between applications.
- We discuss two types of integration—embedding and linking. Embedded information becomes a part of the other file and is not updated if the source file is updated. Linked information is kept separate; a connection between the two files is made, but it does not become part of the other file.
- Certain PDF files can be opened by Word by using the default conversion tool. Because the programs generally have the same layout, there are common paths to take information from one program into another program.

15.2 Microsoft Word: Integration with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access

- Integrating Word into Excel has some drawbacks as Excel is meant more for data rather than text.
- However, methods for importing Excel content into Word files include many copy-and-paste options, as well as the ability to insert a linked object.
- The process for linking or embedding Excel charts into a Word file is similar to linking or embedding tables of data. You can choose to display the information as an icon in the Word document rather than showing an image of the linked or embedded information.
- You can import Access tables into Word, but this is typically not advised, as Access databases can be quite lengthy.

15.3 Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration

- The quickest way to link to a Word file in PowerPoint is to use the Link tool on the Insert tab.
- Linking a PowerPoint presentation to a summary report created in Word can enhance the overall message.

15.4 Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration

- PowerPoint files can be linked or embedded directly into Excel files.
- You can link or embed entire Excel files into a PowerPoint presentation or choose only certain selections. Linking and embedding Excel information into PowerPoint files is similar to the process used to link and embed Excel into Word.
- Integrating Excel tables and charts into PowerPoint presentations can enhance a presentation by showing relevant data and visuals to explain trends.

15.5 Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access Integration

- Access and Excel are commonly integrated. Many databases start with information from Excel.
- Information manipulated in an Access table is easily exported into Excel for additional analysis.

15.6 Integrating Data from Other Programs into Google Workspace

- Data from Google Sheets can be imported into a Google Doc using a few different methods.
- Microsoft files, such as Excel tables and charts, Excel worksheets, and Word documents, can be imported into Google Sheets, which can then be imported into Google Docs by using the copy-and-paste method or the Chart command in the Insert window menu. Converted files in both Sheets and Docs will not be identical to the original Excel and Word documents.

15.7 New Developments: The Role of Artificial Intelligence

- Microsoft and Google have both incorporated AI into their applications. These application enhancements are intended to increase employee productivity on more value-added tasks.
- ChatGPT is one type of generative AI that offers enhanced text generation that is more conversational in style than previous versions of computer-generated text.

This page titled 15.10: Chapter Review - Summary is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions

Review Questions

1 .
Why are collaborative workspaces important?

a. They promote teamwork and increase productivity during in-office meetings.
b. They enable employees to work independently.
c. They enable organizations to meet the diverse needs of their employees through remote work options.
d. They make it more efficient for organizations to gather the information and resources needed to complete their work.

2 .
What is one way to convert a PDF file to a .docx file?

a. Open the PDF with Word.
b. Drag the file from your desktop to your Word document.
c. Insert it as a linked object into your Word document.
d. Copy and paste the text into your Word document.

3 .
Office’s common user interface fosters integration. What does this mean?

a. The common user interface enables collaborative workspaces.
b. The common user interface makes remote work possible.
c. The common user interface allows users to share files, edit documents, and have virtual meetings in real time.
d. The common user interface has a similar format and structure in different applications.

4 .
Which function is similar to cut and paste?

a. linking
b. embedding
c. converting
d. integrating

5 .
What happens to the content of an Excel worksheet when it is integrated into a Word document?

a. When information in the Excel source file changes, if the file is integrated properly, the information will also be updated in the Word file.
b. When information in the Excel source file changes, the information will not be updated in the Word file.
c. The Excel data will insert into your Word document as a link.
d. The Excel data will insert into your Word document as textual content.

6 .
What steps should you use to integrate a Word document into an Excel file?

a. Select the Layout tab and use Page Setup.
b. Select the Review tab and use the Changes command.
c. Select the Insert Object function and put your cursor where the information should be placed in your Excel document.
d. Select the Get Data function and click on the Query Options.

7 .
Where will an Excel table be inserted when embedding it into a Word document?

a. at the cursor location
b. at the top of the document
c. at the bottom of the document
d. as an icon in the heading

8 .
How do you embed Access data into Word documents?

b. Use Paste Special, and the table will be embedded if you click that option.
c. Choose References followed by Insert Table of Figures.
d. Use Insert followed by SmartArt, and the table will be embedded if you click that option.

9 .
How do you access all of the slides that have been integrated into a Word document?

a. from the Review tab
b. by double-clicking on the slide image in the document
c. by pressing Page down
d. by using Ctrl+Click

10 .
When adding Word documents to PowerPoint slides, what happens if you don't choose the Link box?

a. The Word document will be embedded into the slide, rather than linked.
b. The Word document will be linked, but you will be unable to make any changes to it.
c. The Word document will be embedded, with a picture of the information inserted into the PowerPoint slide.
d. The Word document will be linked, but you will have to retype some of the information to make it display properly in PowerPoint.

11 .
_____ makes the PowerPoint file part of the Excel file and increases its file size.

a. linking
b. embedding
c. inserting as a picture
d. display as icon

12 .
What approach should you use to link only certain information from an Excel file into a PowerPoint slide?

a. Use the Insert tab, Choose Link approach.
b. Use the standard copy-and-paste approach.
c. Use the Paste Special approach.
d. Use the Display as icon approach.

13 .
What is the disadvantage of inserting an Excel chart into a PowerPoint slide as a JPEG or PNG image?

a. The image is simply a copy that cannot be moved around once it is inserted into a PowerPoint slide.
b. The image is simply a copy that cannot be integrated.
c. The image is simply a copy that cannot be duplicated to use on more than one slide.
d. The image is simply a copy that cannot be updated.

14 .
To easily export Access data to Excel, what should you do to the database information?

a. Format the information.
b. Convert the information to a JPEG file.
c. Filter the information.
d. Drop the information into a table in a Word document.

15 .
What is required to import an Excel file into an Access database?

a. header text with appropriate spaces
b. a blank database
c. a JPEG image that can be double-clicked to edit the Excel file from Access
d. a table from a Word document that can integrate the Excel information

16 .
What is one way to insert a chart from Google Sheets into Google Docs?

a. You can go to the Insert window menu and use the mouse to choose Chart and then From Sheets.
b. You can drag the chart from Google Sheets to Google Docs, as long as they are in separate windows.
c. You can use the mouse to select the browser window where Google Sheets is located and then insert the browser window on Google Docs.
d. You can use the Print Screen key on the keyboard to copy the chart and then press Ctrl+V at the position where you want to place the chart in Google Docs.

17 .
Which option will preserve much of your formatting in an Excel sheet when bringing it into Sheets?

a. Import command
b. copy and paste
c. copy and paste without formatting
d. Preview

This page titled 15.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises

Practice Exercises

18 .

Your manager at WorldCorp has asked you to summarize information for various models of one of the company's products. You are given the following information:

Model	Price	Units Sold
RX-500	$17.99	5000
RX-600	$25.99	4000
RX-700	$35.99	3000
RS-99	$99.00	2000
RS-100	$114.99	1000
Total Revenue		$ 614,870.00

Using this data and the skills learned in this and previous chapters, construct a short email/informal memo to your manager. Include a link to the Excel chart that summarizes the information provided.

19 .

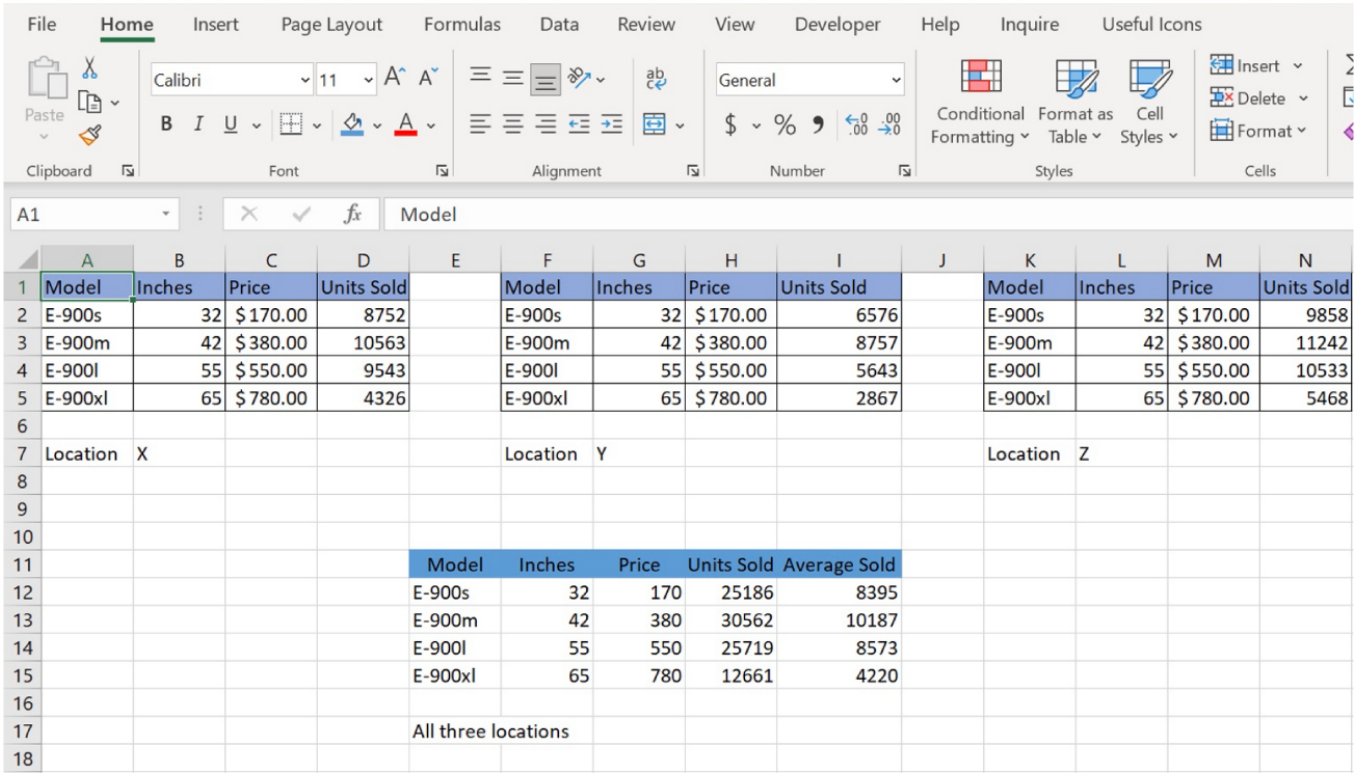
Create a table and chart in Excel showing your income and expenses over the last month. Use the skills learned in previous chapters to format the table and to select the appropriate chart for the data. Now create a Word document summarizing the key points evaluating your spending habits over the last month, along with strategies for the next month if appropriate. Integrate the Excel table and chart into the Word document.

20 .

Select one of the Contextures sample data files presented. Download and open the file in Excel, and paste it into Word using the various options covered in this section. Which paste option gives you the best result?

21 .

Using the information on TV sales in the Excel worksheet that follows, create a short memo (in Word) summarizing the data. Then create a brief PowerPoint presentation of two or three slides to supplement the memo. Integrate the slideshow into your Word document.



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
1	Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold		Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold		Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold
2	E-900s	32	$170.00	8752		E-900s	32	$170.00	6576		E-900s	32	$170.00	9858
3	E-900m	42	$380.00	10563		E-900m	42	$380.00	8757		E-900m	42	$380.00	11242
4	E-900l	55	$550.00	9543		E-900l	55	$550.00	5643		E-900l	55	$550.00	10533
5	E-900xl	65	$780.00	4326		E-900xl	65	$780.00	2867		E-900xl	65	$780.00	5468
6														
7	Location	X				Location	Y				Location	Z		
8														
9														
10														
11					Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold	Average Sold					
12					E-900s	32	170	25186	8395					
13					E-900m	42	380	30562	10187					
14					E-900l	55	550	25719	8573					
15					E-900xl	65	780	12661	4220					
16														
17					All three locations									
18														

22 .

Using the Excel information that follows, embed the summary table from all three locations into a PowerPoint slide.

Model	Inches	Price	Units Sold	Avg Sold
E-900s	32	170	25186	$ 8,395.33
E-900m	42	380	30562	$10,187.33
E-900l	55	550	25719	$ 8,573.00
E-900xl	65	780	12661	$ 4,220.33
All three locations				

23 .

Select one of the Contextures sample data files presented. Download the file, open it in Excel, and create a chart of the data in Excel. Create a short PowerPoint presentation about the data. Integrate the Excel information into the slides. Link the PowerPoint presentation into the Excel file.

24 .

Using the information in the downloadable Practice Exercise worksheet, create an Excel table of the data. Import the data into Access. Filter the data by Home Stereo Systems. Export the filtered table to Excel.

25 .

Go to the Microsoft 365 site to search for free templates. Search for an Excel template that includes data and a chart. Save the template to your computer. Go to your Google Drive and practice uploading the Excel file into the Drive. Now open the file in Google Sheets. Did the template import into Sheets to look like it did in Excel? Explain what happened.

26 .

Go to Microsoft 365 site to search for free templates. Search for an Excel template that includes data and a chart. Open the template in Excel, and practice copying and pasting using the various options discussed in this section. Which paste option was the best to maintain the elements of the original template?

This page titled 15.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

15.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions

Written Questions

27 .
What are collaborative workspaces? What are some aspects of Microsoft 365 that foster collaboration?
28 .
Describe the difference between linking and embedding. What are some advantages/disadvantages of each?
29 .
Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of integrating Excel and Word information.
30 .
What is the main difference between a standard copy and paste and a linked paste of an Excel table?
31 .
What is the benefit of embedding a Word document in an Excel spreadsheet? Is it better to link or embed an Excel chart in a Word document?
32 .
When integrating Word and PowerPoint, how do you determine whether linking or embedding is the best option?
33 .
Why is it useful to integrate PowerPoint slides into a Word document?
34 .
For files that you will share with others electronically, what should you consider when deciding whether to use embedding versus linking?
35 .
Why is it useful to integrate PowerPoint slides into Excel spreadsheets, and vice versa? What purpose does this serve?
36 .
Why would a company want to integrate Excel and Access?
37 .
List at least three things that you must remember when integrating data from Google Sheets into a Google Doc.
38 .
Describe the difference between copying and pasting information from Excel into Google Sheets, versus opening an Excel as a Google Sheets file.
39 .
What are the names of Microsoft and Google's AI tools, and how will these be used in Microsoft and Google applications?
40 .
What is ChatGPT, and how can it be used in the workplace?

This page titled 15.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions is shared under a CC BY 4.0 license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by OpenStax via source content that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.

Index

D

dire

Detailed Licensing

Overview

Title: Workplace Software and Skills (OpenStax)

Webpages: 218

All licenses found:

- CC BY 4.0: 99.1% (216 pages)
- Undeclared: 0.9% (2 pages)

By Page

- Workplace Software and Skills (OpenStax) - *CC BY 4.0*
  - Front Matter - *CC BY 4.0*
    - TitlePage - *CC BY 4.0*
    - InfoPage - *CC BY 4.0*
    - Table of Contents - *Undeclared*
    - Licensing - *CC BY 4.0*
  - 1: Technology in Everyday Life and Business - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.1: Computing from Inception to Today - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.2: Computer Hardware and Networks - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.3: The Internet, Cloud Computing, and the Internet of Things - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.4: Safety, Security, Privacy, and the Ethical Use of Technology - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.6: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 1.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
  - 2: Essentials of Software Applications for Business - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.1: Software Basics - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.2: Files and Folders - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.3: Communication and Calendar Applications - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.4: Essentials of Microsoft 365 - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.5: Essentials of Google Workspace - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.6: Collaboration - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.8: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 2.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
  - 3: Creating and Working in Documents - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.1: Navigating Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.2: Formatting Document Layout in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.3: Formatting Document Content in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.4: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.5: Document Design - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.6: Navigating Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.7: Formatting Layout and Content in Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.8: Collaborative Editing and Reviewing in Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.9: Versions and Version History - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.10: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.11: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.12: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.13: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.14: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 3.15: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
  - 4: Document Preparation - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 4.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 4.1: Microsoft Word- Advanced Formatting Features - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 4.2: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
    - 4.3: Managing Long Documents in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*

- 4.4: Google Docs- Enhanced Formatting Features - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.5: Working with Graphics and Text Tools in Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.6: Managing Long Documents in Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.8: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 4.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

5: Advanced Document Preparation - *CC BY 4.0*

- 5.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.1: Creating Different Document Types in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.2: Mail Merge in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.3: Creating Forms in Microsoft Word - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.4: Creating Different Document Types in Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.5: Creating Forms in Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.6: Advanced Collaboration in Google Docs - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.8: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 5.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

6: Preparing Presentations - *CC BY 4.0*

- 6.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.1: Presentation and Design Essentials - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.2: Designing a Presentation in Microsoft PowerPoint - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.3: Formatting Microsoft PowerPoint Slides- Layout and Design Principles - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.4: Adding Visuals and Features to Microsoft PowerPoint Slides - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.5: Designing a Presentation in Google Slides - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.6: Creating Google Slides- Layout and Text - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.7: Adding Visuals and Features to Google Slides - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.8: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.9: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.10: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.11: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.12: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 6.13: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

7: Advanced Presentation Skills - *CC BY 4.0*

- 7.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.1: Effective Presentation Skills - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.2: Finalizing a Slide Collection - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.3: Preparing a Microsoft PowerPoint Collection for Presentation - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.4: Preparing a Google Slides Collection for Presentation - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.5: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.6: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.7: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.8: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.9: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 7.10: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

8: Content Management Systems and Social Media in Business - *CC BY 4.0*

- 8.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.1: What Are Content Management Systems? - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.2: Common Content Management Systems - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.3: Creating Content with a Content Management System - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.4: Search Engine Optimization - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.5: Social Media in Business - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.7: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 8.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

9: Working with Spreadsheets - *CC BY 4.0*

- 9.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.1: Microsoft Excel Basics - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.2: Text and Numbers in Microsoft Excel - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.3: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Microsoft Excel - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.4: Formatting and Templates in Microsoft Excel - *CC BY 4.0*

- 9.5: Google Sheets Basics - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.6: Text and Numbers in Google Sheets - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.7: Calculations and Basic Formulas in Google Sheets - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.8: Formatting and Templates in Google Sheets - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.10: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 9.14: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

10: Advanced Excel Formulas, Functions, and Techniques - *CC BY 4.0*

- 10.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.1: Data Tables and Ranges - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.2: More About Formulas - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.3: Using Arithmetic, Statistical, and Logical Functions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.4: PivotTables - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.5: Auditing Formulas and Fixing Errors - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.6: Advanced Formatting Techniques - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.8: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 10.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

11: Advanced Excel Spreadsheets- Statistical and Data Analysis - *CC BY 4.0*

- 11.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.1: Understanding Data, Data Validation, and Data Tables - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.2: Statistical Functions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.3: What-If Analysis - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.4: PivotTables/Charts - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.5: Data Analysis Charts - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.6: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.7: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.8: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.9: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.10: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 11.11: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

12: Using Excel in Accounting and Financial Reporting - *CC BY 4.0*

- 12.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.1: Basic Accounting - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.2: Financial Functions in Microsoft Excel - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.3: Integrating Microsoft Excel and Accounting Programs - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.4: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.5: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.6: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.7: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.8: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 12.9: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

13: Understanding and Using Databases - *CC BY 4.0*

- 13.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.1: What Is a Database? - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.2: Microsoft Access- Main Features and Navigation - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.3: Querying a Database - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.4: Maintaining Records in a Database - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.5: Creating Reports in Microsoft Access - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.6: Creating Forms in Microsoft Access - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.8: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 13.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

14: Advanced Database Use - *CC BY 4.0*

- 14.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.1: Advanced Queries in Microsoft Access - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.2: Multiple Table Forms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.3: Customizing Forms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.4: Customizing Reports - *CC BY 4.0*

- 14.5: Using Macros - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.6: Data Analysis and Integration - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.7: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.8: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.9: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.10: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.11: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 14.12: Chapter Review - Case Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*

○ 15: Integrating Applications - *CC BY 4.0*

- 15.0: Chapter Scenario - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.1: Microsoft 365- Collaboration and Integration - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.2: Microsoft Word- Integration with Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.3: Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.4: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint Integration - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.5: Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access Integration - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.6: Integrating Data from Other Programs into Google Workspace - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.7: New Developments- The Role of Artificial Intelligence - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.8: Mastering Workplace Software Skills- A Project - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.9: Chapter Review - Key Terms - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.10: Chapter Review - Summary - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.11: Chapter Review - Review Questions - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.12: Chapter Review - Practice Exercises - *CC BY 4.0*
- 15.13: Chapter Review - Written Questions - *CC BY 4.0*

○ Back Matter - *CC BY 4.0*

- Index - *CC BY 4.0*
- Glossary - *CC BY 4.0*
- Detailed Licensing - *Undeclared*