

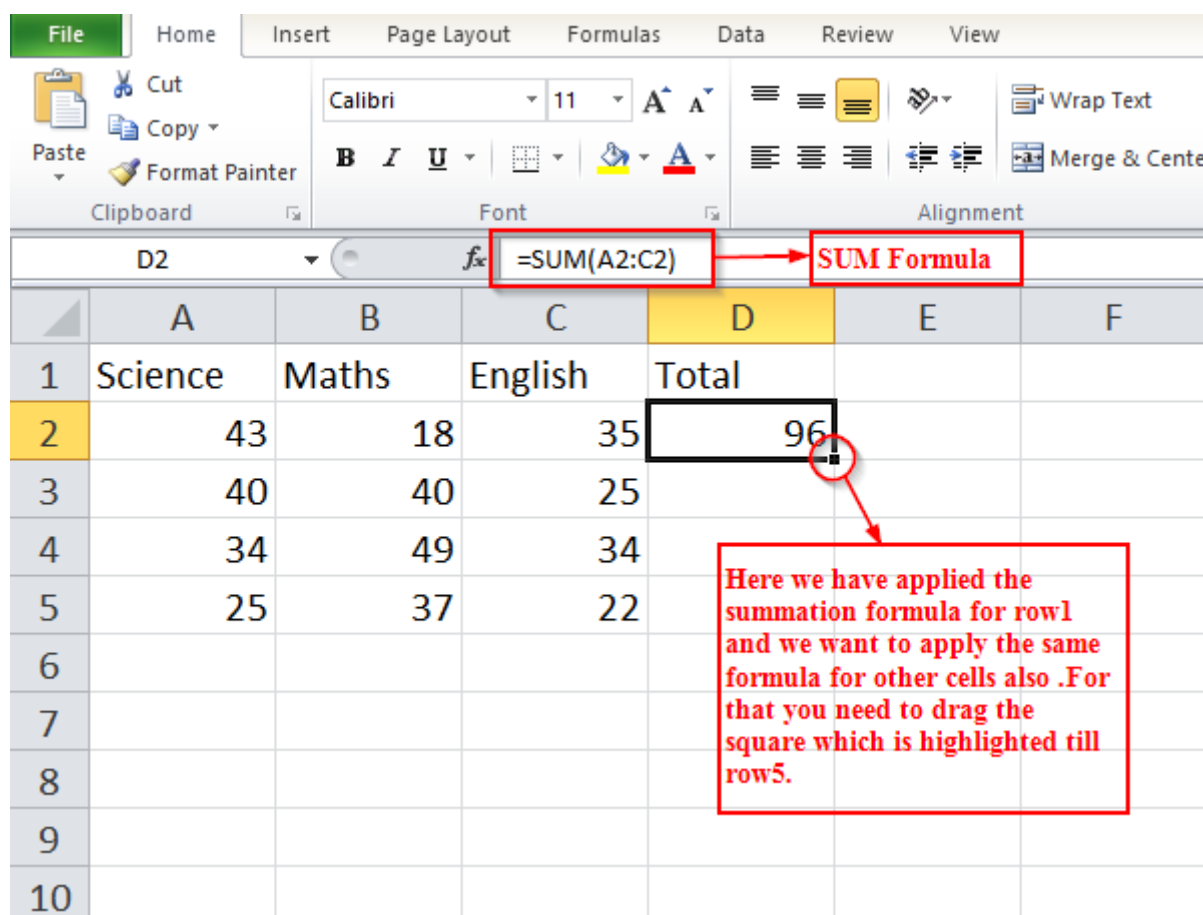
How to Provide proper cell reference in Excel?

Use absolute references to refer to cells that you don't want to change as the formula is copied. Relative reference is used to change the cell reference when copied into different cells. Mixed cell reference is a combination of relative and absolute cell reference.

How to use relative cell reference in excel?

Relative reference is used when we need to use the same formula on different cells. For example if the formula $A2+C2$ is copied in row 2 then it changes to $A3+C3$.

Example:



The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface. The formula bar displays $=SUM(A2:C2)$. A red box highlights the formula bar, and an arrow points to a red box labeled "SUM Formula". The spreadsheet shows columns A through F and rows 1 through 10. Column D is highlighted in yellow. The formula $=SUM(A2:C2)$ is applied to cell D2, resulting in the value 96. A red box highlights the cell D2, and an arrow points to a red box containing the following text: "Here we have applied the summation formula for row1 and we want to apply the same formula for other cells also .For that you need to drag the square which is highlighted till row5." The spreadsheet data is as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Science	Maths	English	Total		
2	43	18	35	96		
3	40	40	25			
4	34	49	34			
5	25	37	22			
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

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D2 f_x =SUM(A2:C2)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Science	Maths	English	Total		
2	43	18	35	96		
3	40	40	25	105		
4	34	49	34	117		
5	25	37	22	84		
6						
7						
8						
9						

After dragging it, the cell reference have relatively changed for all cells.

How to use absolute cell reference in excel?

Absolute reference is used when we don't want the cell reference to change when filling cells. Here the absolute references don't change when copied which is opposite to relative reference. e.g. \$A\$1 which means row number and column number are constant and does not change while copied to other cell.

In this example, we want to keep 10% discount (cell \$B\$7) as constant. but Price (Cell A2 to A5) will change. So we have used Relative reference.

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B2 f_x =(A2*\$B\$7)/100

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Price	Discount Price			
2	230	23			
3	450				
4	600				
5	700				
6					
7	Discount(%)	10			
8					
9					
10					
11					

Here the dollar sign is used to keep the row or column reference constant. Here drag the small square till row 5.

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B2 f_x =(A2*\$B\$7)/100

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Price	Discount Price				
2	230	23				
3	450	45				
4	600	60				
5	700	70				
6						
7	Discount(%)	10				
8						
9						
10						

As seen the cell value 10 remains constant throughout the cells after dragging the highlighted portion.

How to use mixed cell reference in excel?

Mixed cell reference is a combination of relative and absolute cell reference. This means that it is partly relative and partly absolute like \$A1 (Column number is fixed) or A\$1 (Row number is fixed).

Example: In the following example row number never changes.

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C2 f_x =((A2*B2)*B\$8)/100

	A	B	C	D
1	Price	Quantity	Amount deducted	
2	200	2	40	
3	300	1		
4	100	4		
5	400	3		
6				
7				
8	Discount	10		
9				
10				
11				

Here B\$8 means that the row number remains constant throughout. Drag the highlighted cell and observe it.

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Formula Bar: $=((A2*B2)*B\$8)/100$

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Price	Quantity	Amount deducted		
2	200	2	40		
3	300	1	30		
4	100	4	40		
5	400	3	120		
6					
7					
8	Discount	10			
9					
10					
11					

constant row no.

Here we can observe that the row no remains constant throughout after dragging it.

Example: In the following example the column no remains constant. As you copy the formula in different columns discount which in cell \$B3 remains constant.

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Clipboard Font Alignment

Formula Bar: $=((B1*B2)*\$B3)/100$

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Price	200	300	100	400	
2	Quantity	2	1	4	3	
3	Discount	10				
4	Amount Deducted	40				
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

Here \$B3 means that the column no remains constant throughout. Drag the highlighted cell and observe it.

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