Excel COLUMNS Function

The COLUMNS function returns the count of columns in a given reference. It's a simple but powerful tool for working with ranges in Excel.

by Excel Training London

Function Overview

1 **Purpose**

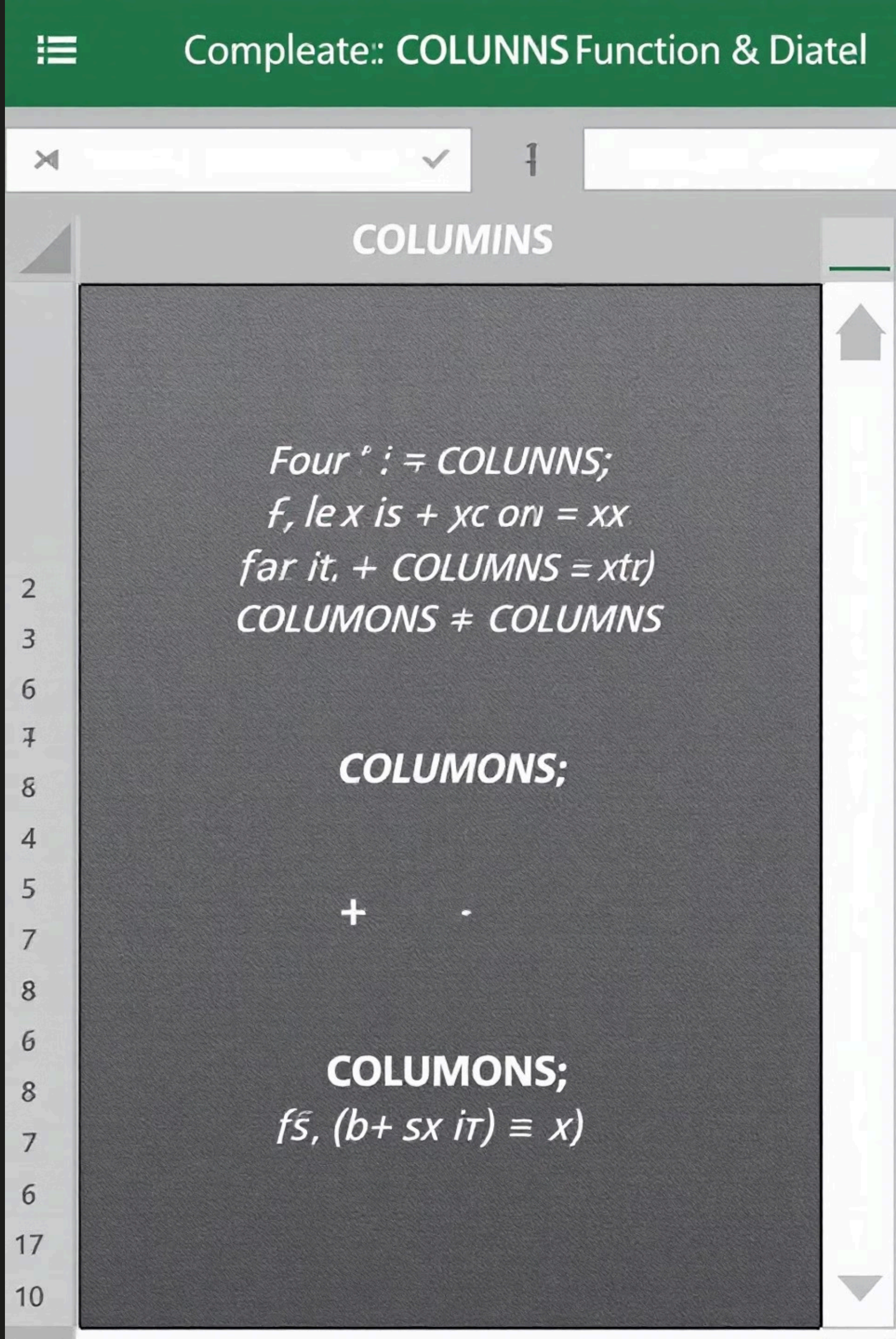
Get the number of columns in an array or reference.

2 **Return Value**

Number of columns

3 **Syntax**

=COLUMNS(array)



How to Use COLUMNS

1

Select Range

Choose the cell range you want to count columns for.

2

Enter Formula

Type =COLUMNS(followed by your range reference.

3

Close Parenthesis

Add a closing parenthesis and press Enter.

Basic Examples

Single Row Range

=COLUMNS(A1:F1) returns 6

Multiple Row Range

=COLUMNS(A1:Z100) returns 26

Array Constant

=COLUMNS({1,2,3,4,5}) returns 5

Counting Cells in a Range

Formula

=COLUMNS(range)*ROWS(range)

Example

=COLUMNS(A1:Z100)*ROWS(A1:Z100) returns 2600

Important Notes

Array Types

COLUMNS works with ranges, cell groups, and array constants.

Related Functions

Use ROW for row counts and COLUMN for column numbers.

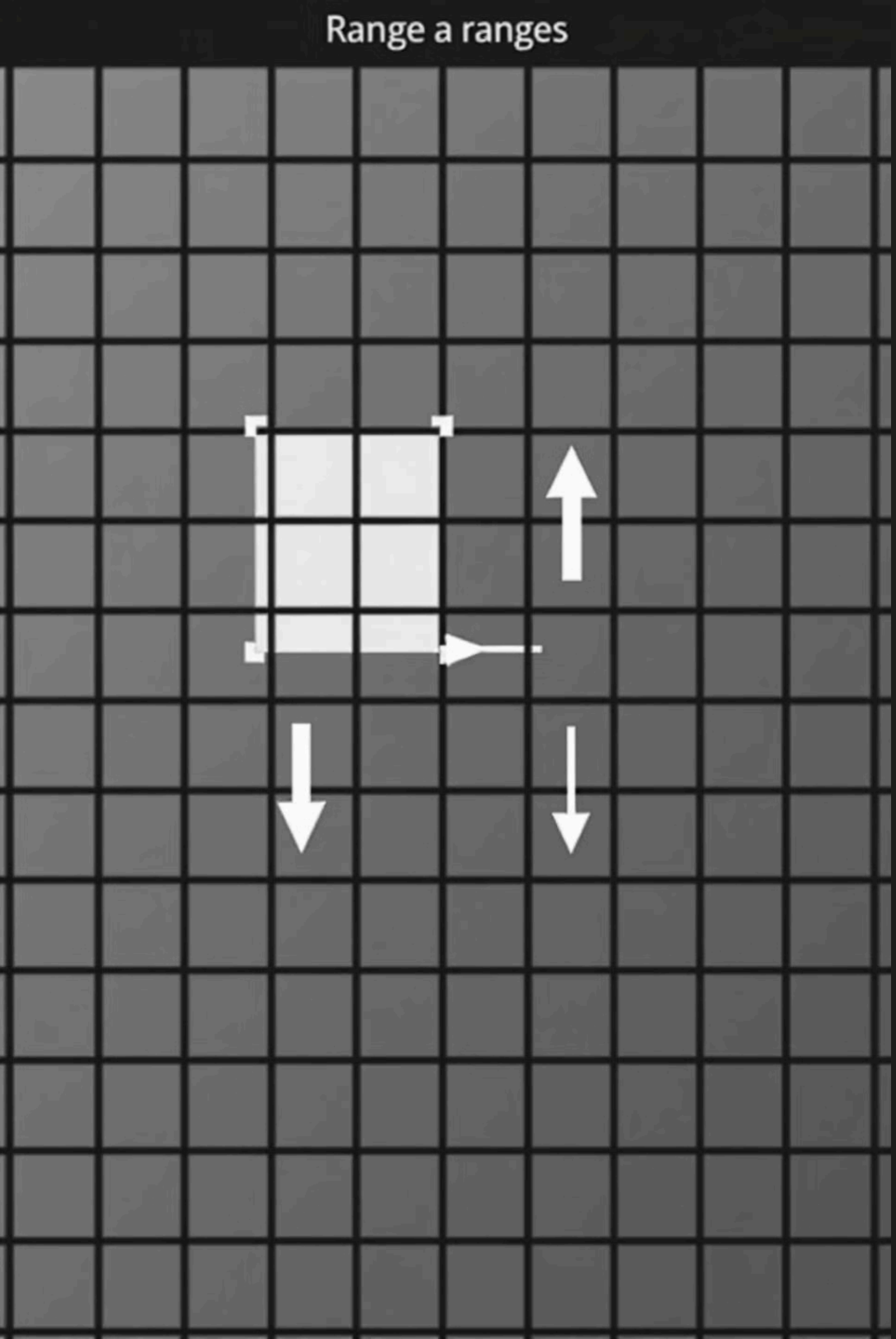
Lookup Alternative

For column lookups, consider the MATCH function.

Last Column Number

1. **COLUMN Function**
2. **Multiple Columns**
3. **Array of Numbers**
4. **MAX Function**

Use COLUMN with MAX to find the last column number in a range.



Combining Ranges

VSTACK

Combine ranges vertically

HSTACK

Combine ranges horizontally

COLUMNS

Count total columns after combining

Named Ranges and Tables

1. Define Named Range
2. Create Excel Table
3. Use COLUMNS Function
4. Get Dynamic Column Count

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1	2017 Canns	-	1,50%	0,77%	0,50%	0,51%	9,5%	
2	2017 Canus	-	60,4	60%	60%	15%	40%	
3	201 Fes	-	7%	7%	1%	25	1%	
4	2017 Canus	-	60,5	60.9	75%	50%	00%	
5	2018 Monogntien	-	05%	60%	01%	30%	0. %	
5	2017 Canus	-	14,05,5	16,73,5	14,13%	1,55%	15,05%	
8	2015 Cannes	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8	2017 Canns	-	25,8	20%	21%	15%	11%	
5	2017 Canus	-	1,27%	1,10%	1,77%	1,25%	1,60%	
5	2018 Cannes	-	-	50%	-	2%	50%	
6	2017 Canus	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10	2017 Cenhes	-	17%	9%	17%	2%	17%	
17	2017 Canus	-	-	-	-	-	-	
19	2018 Cennes	-	28%	35%	22%	47%	25%	
19	2017 Canus	-	-	,50%	,71%	-	25%	
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14	2014 Canus	-	-	1,55%	61%	-	1,5%	
13	2026 Cennes	-	-	-	-	-	-	
15	2017 Canus	-	-	-	-	-	-	
16	2024 Cannes	-	-	-	-	-	-	
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19	2016 Canus	-	-	-	-	-	0.%	
15	2013 Cannes	-	07%	80%	60%	-	00%	
17	2014 Canus	-	1,0%	-	-	-	11,00%	
14	2015 Cannes	-	87%	82%	92%	12%	90%	
15	2017 Canus	-	-	-	-	1	1,01%	
15	2018 Cennes	-	-	-	-	-	15%	
13	2013 Canus	-	-	-	-	-	0.%	
15	2013 Cannes	-	-	-	-	-	03%	
15	2017 Canns	-	-	-	-	-	0.%	
15	2016 Cenus	-	1,55%	1,00%	1,00%	1,10%	1,46%	
16	2017 Canus	-	1.1%	1,99%	1,557	100%	1,64%	

Relative Column Numbers

Formula

=COLUMN(range) - COLUMN(range_start) + 1

Purpose

Get column positions relative to start of range

Advanced Applications

1

Average Last N Columns

Use COLUMNS with OFFSET for dynamic averaging

2

Multiple Matches to Columns

Restructure data using COLUMNS and INDEX

3

XLOOKUP Across Columns

Search multiple columns efficiently

Key Takeaways

Versatility

COLUMNS works with various range types

Efficiency

Quickly count columns in large datasets

Combinations

Powerful when used with other functions

Dynamic Formulas

Create flexible, auto-updating calculations