

Re: Completely baffled on what should be simple

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Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.misc/2006-10/msg02833.html>

- *From:* "Trevor Shuttleworth" <Trevor@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 21 Oct 2006 05:07:29 +0100
-

Pat

what error message ? If you got #VALUE!, I guess there are non-displaying alpha characters in the cells. I suspect that Pete's suggestion would give the same result if that's the case.

You didn't say where the data came from. Was it downloaded ?

If the data is left aligned, the cell has something other than numeric data in it.

Try putting: =LEN(A1) in cell C1 and dragging down. If the length of data is not the same as the visible number of digits, you've got some non-display characters in there.

Regards

Trevor

"Pat Hughes" <PatHughes@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:827BF6FD-F273-4150-BBFF-07C8889C918D@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Thanks Trevor,
It didn't work. I am in Excell 2000. I tried putting cell B1 as =--A1
but
I just got an error message. I tried B1 as =-A1 but the same results.
We've
tried changing the format for the numbers to be all text and all numbers
but
that didn't work.

Pat

"Trevor Shuttleworth" wrote:

Pat

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where did the data come from ? It sounds like some are true numbers and some are text values that look like numbers.

Depending on the version of Excel, I would have thought you'd see a warning asking if you want to sort everything as numbers

Assuming your data is in column A starting in row 1, try:

cell B1: =--A1

and drag down. With a bit of luck you'll end up with column B having a list of true numbers.

Now sort on column B. You could Copy and Paste Special | Values if you want to lose the formulae.

Regards

Trevor

"Pat Hughes" <PatHughes@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:956CE19B-619D-410A-A77F-C80DCAD92326@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

A friend of mine is trying to sort 1 column in a spreadsheet. The numbers are 4 digit extension #'s. There are 707 numbers, rows, and only the 1 column. Nothing fancy. When we try to sort only the first 397 rows. The header, Ext, is in the first row. Starting with the 398 row the sorting starts all over again from there. We can't get them to sort all of the 707 extension numbers. We have tried changing everything. I added another column with misc. numbers using the same number of digits and everything. That row sorted fine with all 707 numbers. I tried sorting the 2 columns together but only the bogus column sorted the whole column but the

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extension
numbers column only sorted up to the 397 row. This seems
so silly and
should
be easy. We've checked and unchecked lock to see if that had
anything
to
do
with it but nothing.

Thanks,
Pat