

RE: Help with a formula. Lookup? reference?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.worksheet.functions/2007-02/msg00252.html>

- *From:* JLatham <HelpFrom @ Jlathamsite.com.(removethis)>
 - *Date:* Sat, 3 Feb 2007 18:06:00 -0800
-

Don't worry about the tray – just be sure and holler if you're having troubles with all of this. There is always at least an attempt to help from HelpFrom @ jlathamsite.com (remove spaces)

"Joe" wrote:

ouch.....my head is swimming :))

I have printed them off and shall play with them both soon and see if I can make them work without getting too frustrated. I noticed the other day when looking at one of the lists, that the next open cell has a drop down list, alphabetically of all names already in that list. so i used that the other day so I didn't duplicate names for that year. But I too shall the other methods you both suggested and appreciate your courtesy. My new concern would be the size of the workbook when done. My offer still stands, if you send me an email through our work site for the keyboard trays.

"JLatham" wrote:

SongBear,

Thanks for the high praise – you're correct – I gave Joe the best that I could think of in what Excel offers through worksheet formulas. I also agree that a VBA solution is the easiest, surest way to do this. Very good of you to share a known, working code solution with him.

When Joe comes back (not sure he has yet), then he'll have a couple of choices of how to tackle his problem.

P.S. – Joe, no need for a tray for me. I do it just 'cause it's fun and every once in a while I actually manage to help someone.

"SongBear" wrote:

Joe,

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JLatham, one of the top professionals that helps people on this board has done the best that Excel formulas allow to provide exactly what you asked for, i.e. a formulaic way to get rid of duplicate data in a column. He deserves KUDOS and a check mark for the effort, but the function-based solution that you asked for still potentially leaves you with a considerable amount of work to do. This is the nature of the beast, Excel formulas and functions are not designed to do what you were asking for. Latham's solution is as close as I have seen and to see how difficult it is to get Excel to even pretend to do what you asked, consider that most questions to this board are answered within an hour or so, some with 4 or more replies. Latham's response came over 7 1/2 hours later.

I have had to solve the duplicate data problem a number of times; I gave up on formulaic solutions long ago. So while Latham gave you the closest formulaic answer to exactly what you specified in your question, I will share the method I have worked out in the past.

You need a macro to do what you really need to do. NOTE: I needed to re-create the macro and while I was researching the exact syntax for a term I found a better example of the code I was writing. The macro below is a fairly-well modified version (adjusted to fit this problem) of what I found in the Microsoft Excel VBA

Help files; to see the original code, search for "Delete Method" in Help from inside the Visual Basic Editor.

Warning: to start, make a copy of your workbook and work on the copy until you understand and are well practiced in the use of any macro that deletes data. It may take a couple of practice runs to get the whole picture of what you are doing. When you do understand, you will wonder

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how you lived without
VBA.

In your copy workbook, with a compiled data worksheet showing (such as "OVERALL 1965–1967", you should go to Tools|Macros|Visual Basic Editor and insert a module in your workbook; then paste the following code into the module:

```
*****  
Sub RidDups()  
  
Dim r1 As Range 'next row  
Dim r2 As Range 'current row  
Dim r3 As Range 'three cells to delete because of duplicate driver  
  
With ActiveSheet  
  
Set r2 = Selection.Range("A1")  
  
Do While Not IsEmpty(r2)  
Set r1 = r2.Offset(1, 0)  
If r1.Value = r2.Value Then  
Set r3 = r2.Offset(0, -1)  
r3.Resize(1, 3).Select  
Set r3 = Selection  
r3.Cells.Delete Shift:=xlShiftUp  
End If  
Set r2 = r1  
Loop  
  
End With  
  
End Sub  
*****
```

Don't bother to paste the stars.

NEXT:

Then go to the data compiling worksheet (in the example you posted this is:

"OVERALL 1965–1967".

Then go to a column of drivers where you have pasted new data. Work with one race type at a time.

The RidDups macro needs the drivers sorted, in the example workbook they were not perfectly sorted.

Sort the 3 adjacent columns (rank, driver, wins) according to

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only the driver column, descending. To do so, just select (click on) the word 'Rank' at the top of the chosen list, then go to Data|Sort|"Driver"|Ascending. Excel will select the three columns for you. Note: This may temporarily discombobulate your formulas, they will be quickly fixed at the end. After sorting, NEXT: Select just the drivers in the middle column, all the way down. Click on the driver's name in the top cell of the list, then press the control/shift/down keys. With that selection still darkened, go to Tools|Macros|This Workbook Only|RidDups|Run. That will compare each name with the next and delete the duplicates, VERY quickly.

NOTE: If you get tired of the screen flashing while the macro is running, modify the code by putting two new

lines in it:
Right after the three 'Dim' statements, type this new line:
Application.ScreenUpdating = False
Then right after the 'End With' statement, type this new line:
Application.ScreenUpdating = True
These lines will make the screen stop flickering and flashing while the code is running and will speed up execution. I should wait until you are comfortable with the operation of the macro first.

After deleting the duplicates using the Macro; NEXT:
Check your list for the few remaining data problems, for instance, there might or might not be both of each

of these:
BILL DENNIGER
BILL DENNINGER
BILL HEENEY
BILL HENNEY
DON QUACKENBUSH
DON QUAKENBUSH
HURAM LOCKWOOD
HURAN LOCKWOOD

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JIM GREASLEY
JIM GRESLEY
JOHN LOGAN
JOHNNY LOGAN
LEON WEISKE
LEON WIESKE

These may all be legitimate, or some may be misspellings/nicknames. As you can see, the amount of work to fix the list is much less after running the macro; these are the only potential duplicates left in the list that I tested it on, as far as i can tell. Also NOTE: Jim Gresely's name has a space in front it. If it doesn't appear exactly like that in each winners list on each data-feeding worksheet, then your 'wins' formula will not be able to find him and he will always show zero wins.

NEXT:

Fix the formulas in the wins column by finding a good copy of the formula left over (there will be a bunch of good ones left in the list, just a few may be messed up or missing) and then drag-copying the good formula up and down the remaining list.

NEXT:

Data|Sort the entire list again, this time according to Wins|Decending /Drivers|Acending. This puts the winningest drivers back on top and the tied drivers in alphabetical order.

NEXT:

Your rank numbers will now be somewhat messed up, no worries, it was already somewhat messed up to begin with. You may want to give them a true ranking, taking into account ties. To do this, go to the first driver.

In the example sheet I worked on the Pre-LIM Wins set of data, so I went to BOB SENNEKER with 38 wins. Select the cell for BOB's rank, cell I6 (EYE SIX, not Sixteen).

In i6, type the formula:
=IF(K6<>K5,COUNTA(\$J\$6:J6),I5)

Read this formula as, {IF This driver's wins are not equal to

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the previous
driver's wins (both in column K),
THEN Count all drivers to this point (In column J),
ELSE This driver's rank is tied (equal to) the previous
driver's rank (In
column eye).}

Note the Dollar-signs in the first term inside the COUNTA
function, this
locks all of the formulas in the column to the top cell while
the second term
is adjusted by Excel to match where you copy it.
Copy that formula all the way down the Rank column.
This formula will make the drivers with the same amount of
wins tied in
rank, and the next driver with less wins will pick up the
correct next number
(in the example worksheet in the PRE-LIMS WINS data
table, there are three
drivers with 16 wins who are tied at fourth, the next two
drivers have 10
wins and are tied for seventh,
towards the bottom of the list a whole bunch with 2 wins are
all tied at
44th, and the 1-win "wild" bunch are tied at 74th.)

Please let us know if any of this helped. Certainly Latham
deserves a check
in the was this helpful/did this answer your question check
box because he
really did answer your question.

SongBear

"Joe" wrote:

Some back ground. I am compiling stats for
my favorite racetrack and have
already started on the project. I have a
worksheet for every year, 57 of
them; which totals the wins, Fast qualiferiers
and pre-lim wins for that
year. I have a worksheet for every class
(such as late model, hobby stock,
super mods) that has run in those 57 years,
also totaling wins, FQ and
pre-lims. Then I have a worksheet for
TOTAL wins, FQ and pre-lims (as a
driver may have competed in more than 1

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class in his career. I have them working as far as compiling all the stats, the issue is with duplicating drivers. What I currently do after inputting a years stats, say 1970. I copy the drivers for wins in the late model class and add them to the late model win sheet, but some are duplicated as they had one years previous. I do the same thing copying those from the Late Model class to the Total sheet. Again MANY are duplicated. Thus after every year I need to go back and delete the duplicated drivers and is very time consuming. My question is. Is there some sort of formula that will recognize a "new" driver and add him to the list. I'll admit my excel experience is limited, so I learn in this forum. My workbook with only 6 years of data is already 3mb. You can see an early version at this link, <http://www.modernofficeinteriors.com/berlinhistory.html> I'm open to any suggestions someone might have to make this less time consuming. Also, I'm willing to reward the first who can help with a keyboard tray from our website. thanks.