

RE: Using VLOOKUP to locate an answer in one of multiple columns

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.worksheet.functions/2009-04/msg03089.html>

- *From:* PJFry <PJFry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 21 Apr 2009 09:03:01 -0700
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Correction:

```
=IF(ISERROR(VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$R$3:$AP$4180,2,FALSE)),IF(ISERROR(VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$Y$3:$AQ$4180,2,FALSE)),VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$AF$3:$AQ$4180,2,FALSE)),VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$Y$3:$AQ$4180,2,FALSE)),VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$AF$3:$AQ$4180,2,FALSE))
```

Regards,

PJ

Please rate this post using the vote buttons if it was helpful.

"ksean" wrote:

I must be missing something the formula I have ended up with is

```
=IF(ISERROR(VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$R$3:$AP$4180,2,FALSE))),IF(ISERROR(VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$Y$3:$AQ$4180,2,FALSE)),VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$AF$3:$AQ$4180,2,FALSE)),VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$Y$3:$AQ$4180,2,FALSE))
```

but it still doesn't work.

Do you have any ideas what I am missing?

"PJFry" wrote:

The question is how do you identify the 'appropriate answer' for the vlookup. When you do a look up, you are looking up a value in an array, so if the value does not exist in the first column of the array, then column number is irrelevant. For example:

```
=VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$R$3:$AP$4180,2,FALSE)
```

Say that B3 equals "PJ". If PJ does not appear in column R of your array R3:AP4180, then picking a new column won't yield any results.

There is a way to change arrays if the formula evaluates as an error.

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```
=IF(ISERROR(VLOOKUP(B3,Master!$R$3:$AP$4180,2,FALSE)),IF(ISERROR(VLOOKUP(B3,M
```

All you are doing here is saying if
VLOOKUP(B3,Master!\$R\$3:\$AP\$4180,2,FALSE)
evaluates as an error, use the same formula in a different array. If the
second array is an error, try the third one, as so on.

Give that a shot. I just did the formula on the fly, so there may be a
missing "(" some where

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Regards,

PJ

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"ksean" wrote: