

## 45SMAR - The Only Two Formulas You Need to Know to Become a Data Ninja

### Top 20 Questions & Answers

1. **Q: Can you share an example of each formula?**

A: Here is the link to the formula examples template!

[https://app.smartsheet.com/b/launch?lx=pVo8hkkgJPCtLjQ\\_RJXAneqKwon7W423t4KaXJloEug](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/launch?lx=pVo8hkkgJPCtLjQ_RJXAneqKwon7W423t4KaXJloEug)

2. **Q: Can you use VLOOKUP to bring back multiple values in one cell?**

A: If you are using a multi-select dropdown column with multiple values, then you can have a single VLOOKUP bring back all values in that cell. To have VLOOKUP bring back values from multiple cells, use multiple VLOOKUPs. Check out more in the help center here

<https://help.smartsheet.com/articles/2476606-formulas-reference-data-from-other-sheets>

3. **Q: Can INDEX utilize non-adjacent column ranges?**

A: Yes. This is part of why it is a useful function. In combination with a MATCH formula, INDEX can utilize non-adjacent column ranges. For example, the MATCH function will go and find the row number that a given value exists in, and the INDEX formula will retrieve the value in a separate/non-adjacent column in that given row number generated by the MATCH formula. This is similar to a vlookup in function that does not require adjacency.

4. **Q: What's the main difference between VLOOKUP and INDEX & MATCH**

A: VLOOKUP looks across an *entire* "table" or "array" to go and get information matching the key, whereas INDEX(MATCH( specifies two columns -- it's more straightforward, arguably)

If you're looking for some help, I encourage you to reach out to our solution services team!

<https://www.smartsheet.com/contact/sales?fts=services/solution-services>

5. **Q: Can an INDEX range be from one sheet and a MATCH range be from another?**

A: Yes, as long as both ranges are the same length.

**6. Q: Can I use @row inside of these formulas?**

A: Yes, Here is more information on that.

<https://help.smartsheet.com/articles/2476491-create-efficient-formulas-with-at-cell>

**7. Q: Can I get someone at Smartsheet to take a look at some of the formulas on my sheet to make sure I'm on the right track?**

A: Sure. We recommend going to Pro Desk for that. Here is a link.

<https://www.smartsheet.com/pro-desk>

**8. Q: Can you use VLOOKUP to search on several cells instead of a single cell?**

A: No, but you can concatenate values from several cells to create a unique value, and then use vlookup to search off that unique value.

**9. Q: How do you concatenate two cells in Smartsheet.**

A: In the third cell, use a + sign between the two cells you're referencing.

**10. Q: What's an example of when I wouldn't use FALSE at the end of a VLOOKUP?**

A: If you're trying to find the closest match, but not an exact match. For example, if you have a price sheet that has the amount for 5 units and another row with the amount 10 units. When looking up a quantity of 6, you can return the amount for 5 units.

**11. Q: How do I keep the range in a VLOOKUP from changing when I'm autofilling cells?**

A: In the formula, place a \$ sign in front of the column name and/or row number to keep them from increasing when autofilling.

**12. Q: IS INDEX/MATCH more efficient than VLOOKUP?**

A: Yes, it is faster and uses less cell links when cross referencing a sheet.

**13. Q: I have a huge sheet and it takes a long time to load because I have so many VLOOKUP or INDEX & MATCH formulas on it. What can I do to remedy this?**

A: We have a Pivot App that can lookup values and paste them in your sheet, so that you don't have to calculate every time you open your sheet. Here is a link to that.

<https://www.smartsheet.com/marketplace/premium-apps/pivot-app>

**14. Q: Do these formulas work in the Sheet Summary section of my sheet?**

A: Yes, here is more information on that.

<https://help.smartsheet.com/learning-track/smartsheet-intermediate/sheet-summary>

**15. Q: How do I keep someone from changing the formula on my sheet?**

A: Just make them an editor of the sheet and lock the row or column in question. Here's a link for more information on that.

<https://help.smartsheet.com/articles/522077-locking-unlocking-columns-and-rows>

**16. Q: Can you use VLOOKUP to look up something that is horizontally?**

A: No, but you can use INDEX & MATCH to do that.

**17. Q: I'm getting an error with those formulas, what am I doing wrong?**

A: Here is a list of error messages and their resolution.

<https://help.smartsheet.com/articles/2476176-formula-error-messages>

**18. Q: It won't let me put the formula in a date column?**

A: Sounds like you have dependencies enabled on your sheet. So you'll either need to use a date column that's not driving your Gantt chart or you'll need to turn off your dependencies. This link will help you resolve that.

<https://help.smartsheet.com/articles/765727-enabling-dependencies-using-predecessors>.

**19. Q: How do I lookup a date?**

A: You'll either need to reference a cell in a date column, or you'll need to plug the DATE function into your VLOOKUP or INDEX & MATCH.

<https://help.smartsheet.com/function/date>

**20. Q: How do I get a new row to automatically copy the formula into it without having to manually add it.**

A: If the formula is in two rows above a new cell, it will automatically be copied down into the new row.