

Find the cause of an error

A diagnostic checklist, not a blanket IFERROR wrapper.

USE THE SAME INPUT

Read the displayed error. Follow the matching check below before changing the formula or replacing an error with a default.

English Excel: comma arguments. Regional settings may use another separator.

Missing lookup

#N/A

CHECK: Check key, data type and spaces.

Confirm that the key exists. An ID stored as text is not necessarily the same as a numeric ID.

Division by zero

#DIV/0!

CHECK: Inspect the denominator.

It may be zero or empty. Decide whether missing input should be flagged, rather than silently replaced with 0.

Wrong input type

#VALUE!

CHECK: Inspect text, dates and numbers.

Check the failing argument. Parse imported numbers with known separators instead of guessing.

Broken cell reference

#REF!

CHECK: Restore the intended reference.

A referenced row, column or sheet may have been deleted. Reconnect it; do not just hide the error.

Blocked array output

#SPILL!

CHECK: Inspect the intended output area.

Check occupied or merged cells and formulas inside Excel tables. Preserve existing values before clearing space.

Display problem

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CHECK: Check column width and date values.

This is not a formula error value. Widen the column; negative date/time results can also cause hashes.

BEFORE YOU USE IT

Keep a copy before changing source data. Check the earliest failing cell first. Use IFNA for an expected missing lookup; IFERROR can also hide broken references and type mistakes.

MICROSOFT REFERENCES

IFERROR VLOOKUP SPILL HASHES