# Excel Campus

# 7 Essential Habits of VLOOKUP
## Pros

Mastering VLOOKUP can significantly boost your productivity and accuracy. Here are 7 essential habits that will help you write formulas flawlessly and efficiently.

### Always Use Absolute References for a Table Array

**In other words, be sure to drop the anchor.** Use the shortcut F4 (or Command + T on Mac) after selecting the table array in your formula to make it an absolute reference.

### Understand When to Use VLOOKUP, INDEX MATCH, or XLOOKUP

Knowing when to use each function is crucial for efficient data retrieval. Vlookup can be faster to write, but is more prone to errors.
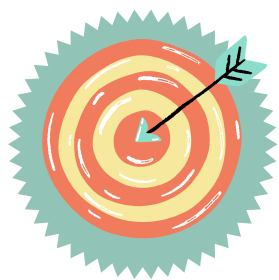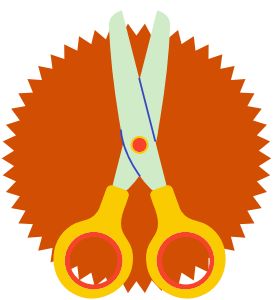
### Don't Forget the Range Lookup Argument

Always include FALSE or 0 for an exact match to prevent errors. You can use the shortcut Down Arrow ↓ followed by Tab to quickly select FALSE.

### Use Shortcuts for Faster Formula Writing

Speed up your formula writing process by utilizing navigation shortcuts like Ctrl+Shift+End.

### Trim Extra Spaces for Accurate Matches

To ensure accurate matches and prevent errors, use the TRIM function to remove extra spaces from text strings before performing the lookup.

### Avoid Formula Stuffing for Better Debugging

Instead of cramming multiple VLOOKUP formulas into one cell, separate them into individual cells or helper columns. This makes debugging easier and allows you to identify and fix errors more effectively.

### Start With Naked VLOOKUP

Before applying error handling techniques like IFERROR, evaluate your VLOOKUP formulas without them. This allows you to identify and fix errors in the lookup process before implementing error handling.

### Notes:

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