Excel Easy
#1 Excel tutorial on the net

Excel   **Introduction**   **Basics**   **Functions**   **Data Analysis**   **VBA**   **300 Examples**   **Ask us**

Circular Reference   G+ Follow 9.7k

A formula in a cell that directly or indirectly refers to its own cell is called a circular reference. This is not possible.

1. For example, the formula in cell A3 below directly refers to its own cell. This is not possible.

Note: Excel returns a 0 if you accept this circular reference.

2a. For example, the formula in cell C2 below refers to cell C1.

2b. The formula in cell C3 refers to cell C2.

2c. The formula in cell C4 refers to cell C3.

Chapter

Formula Errors

Learn more, it's easy

IfError

IsError

Circular Reference

Formula Auditing

Floating Point Errors

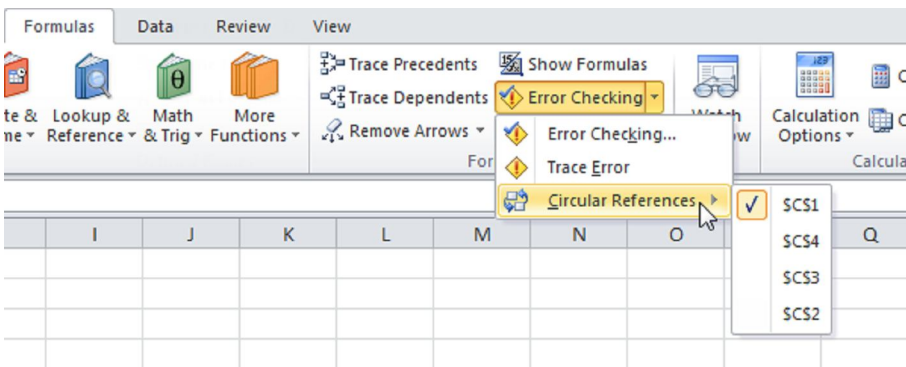## Download Excel File

circular-reference.xls

Follow Excel Easy

G+ f 🐦 P

2d. So far, everything's OK. Now change the value in cell C1 to the formula =C4. Cell C1 refers to cell C4, cell C4 refers to cell C3, cell C3 refers to cell C2, and cell C2 refers to cell C1. In other words, the formula in cell C1 indirectly refers to its own cell. This is not possible.

Note: Excel returns a 0 if you accept this circular reference.

3. To find your circular references, on the Formulas tab, click the down arrow next to Error Checking, and click Circular References.

Do you like this free website? Please follow us on Google+

G+ **Follow**   9.7k

Learn more about formula errors, use the side menu >>

Go to Top: Circular Reference | Go to Next Chapter: Array Formulas