

Indirect

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The INDIRECT function returns the reference specified by a text string.

1. For example, the INDIRECT function below reduces to =INDIRECT("C2"), =C2, 5

A1		fx =INDIRECT(B1)								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	5									
2			5							
3										

Do we really need the INDIRECT function for this? Yes. Below you can find the result without using the INDIRECT function.

A1		fx =B1								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	C2	C2								
2			5							
3										

2. For example, the function below reduces to =SUM(INDIRECT("E3:E6")), =SUM(E3:E6), 27

A3		fx =SUM(INDIRECT("E"&A1&":"&E"&A2))								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	3				2					
2	6				6					
3	27				5					
4					5					
5					10					
6					7					
7					8					
8										

Note: the & operator is used to [join strings](#). Border for illustration only.

3. For example, the function below reduces to =AVERAGE(Scores), 9

A1		fx =AVERAGE(INDIRECT(B1))								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	9	Scores								
2			8							
3			9							
4			10							
5										

Note: the [named](#) range Scores refers to the range C2:C4.

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