Excel Easy
#1 Excel tutorial on the net

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The FIND function and the SEARCH function are very similar to each other. This example shows the difference.

1. To find the position of a substring in a string, use the FIND function. FIND is case-sensitive.

B1	▼	f_x	=FIND("excel",A1)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Microsoft Excel 2010	#VALUE!						
2								
3								

2. To find the position of a substring in a string, use the SEARCH function. SEARCH is case-insensitive.

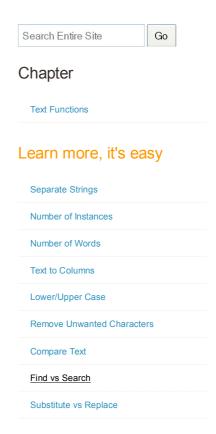| B1	▼	f_x	=SEARCH("excel",A1)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Microsoft Excel 2010	11						
2								
3								

Note: string "excel" found at position 11. Even though it's actually the string "Excel"

3. The SEARCH function is more versatile. You can use wildcard characters when you use this function.

B1	▼	f_x	=SEARCH("soft*2010",A1)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Microsoft Excel 2010	6						
2								
3								

B1	▼	f_x	=SEARCH("soft*2010",A1)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Microsoft Word 2010	6						
2								
3								

Note: A question mark (?) matches exactly one character. An asterisk (*) matches a series of zero or more characters.

4. One other interesting point to mention about the FIND and the SEARCH function is that they have a 3rd optional argument. You can use this argument to indicate the position, counting from the left, at which you want to start searching.
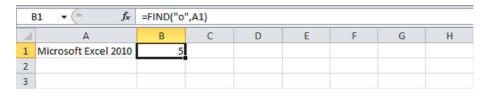
Chapter

Text Functions

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Separate Strings

Number of Instances

Number of Words

Text to Columns

Lower/Upper Case

Remove Unwanted Characters

Compare Text

Find vs Search

Substitute vs Replace

Download Excel File

find-vs-search.xls

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B1	▾	f_x	=FIND("o",A1)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Microsoft Excel 2010	5						
2								
3								

Note: string "o" found at position 5.

B1	▾	f_x	=FIND("o",A1,6)					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Microsoft Excel 2010	7						
2								
3								

Note: string "o" found at position 7 (started searching at position 6).

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