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A drawback of the VLOOKUP function is that it can only look up values in the leftmost column of a table. However, sometimes you need to look up a value in any column and return the corresponding value to the left. To achieve this, simply use the INDEX and the MATCH function.

1. The MATCH function returns the position of a value in a given range.

B2		fx =MATCH(A2,\$G\$4:\$G\$7,0)								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	ID	Product								
2	104	4								
3	103				Product	Brand	ID			
4	104				Computer	Dell	101			
5	101				Keyboard	Logitech	102			
6	102				Mouse	Logitech	103			
7	103				Printer	HP	104			
8	101									
9	104									
10	101									
11	102									
12										
13										

Explanation: 104 found at position 4 in the range \$G\$4:\$G\$7.

2. Use this result and the INDEX function to return the 4th value in the range \$E\$4:\$E\$7.

B2		fx =INDEX(\$E\$4:\$E\$7,MATCH(A2,\$G\$4:\$G\$7,0))								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	ID	Product								
2	104	Printer								
3	103				Product	Brand	ID			
4	104				Computer	Dell	101			
5	101				Keyboard	Logitech	102			
6	102				Mouse	Logitech	103			
7	103				Printer	HP	104			
8	101									
9	104									
10	101									
11	102									
12										
13										

3. Drag the formula in cell B2 down to cell B11.

B2		fx =INDEX(\$E\$4:\$E\$7,MATCH(A2,\$G\$4:\$G\$7,0))								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
1	ID	Product								
2	104	Printer								
3	103	Mouse			Product	Brand	ID			
4	104	Printer			Computer	Dell	101			
5	101	Computer			Keyboard	Logitech	102			
6	102	Keyboard			Mouse	Logitech	103			
7	103	Mouse			Printer	HP	104			
8	101	Computer								
9	104	Printer								
10	101	Computer								
11	102	Keyboard								
12										
13										

Note: when we drag this formula down, the **absolute references** (\$E\$4:\$E\$7 and \$G\$4:\$G\$7) stay the same, while the **relative reference** (A2) changes to A3, A4, A5, etc.

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