Computer Times

Your Newsletter About Trends in Technology

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Microsoft Excel

Relative & Absolute Cell References B3 vrs B3

By default, all **cell references** are **relative references**. When copied across multiple **cells**, they change based on the **relative** position of rows and columns.

For example, if you copy the formula =A1+B1 from row 1 to row 2, the formula will become =A2+B2.

This is a handy trick when working with data. Sometimes, it is helpful to have MS Excel identify cell addresses and change them when we copy, paste and/or fill. Other times, we need to complete a mathematical operation that always uses the same number even when we copy, paste, and/or fill.

In today's spreadsheet, we will analyze the colors of M&M candies in a small bag. Please carefully create the spreadsheet you see on the right entering the forumulas/functions exactly as shown.

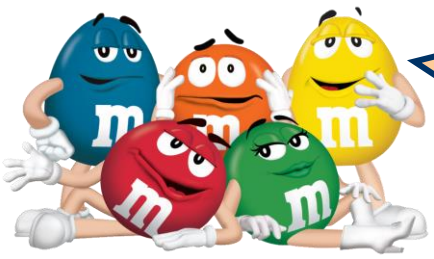
When you use a cell reference with a letter and number (i.e B3), when that address is used in a formula or function and is copied or filled, MS Excel adjusts the cell address – this is a RELATIVE cell address.

Using dollar signs ((i.e. B3/b9) is an ABSOLUTE CELL ADDRESS and it will not change when it is filled or copied.

	A	B	C	D
1	M & Ms Analysis			
2	Color of M & M	Bag #1	Bag #2	Bag #3
3	Blue	4		
4	Orange	5		
5	Green	3		
6	Yellow	2		
7	Red	4		
8	Brown	1		
9	Totals	=SUM(B3:B8)		
10				
11	Percent of Each Bag			
12	Blue	=B3/B9		
13	Orange	Fill Down		
14	Green	Fill Down		
15	Yellow	Fill Down		
16	Red	Fill Down		
17	Brown	Fill Down		
18	Total	AutoSum		
19				

m&mData | Chart1

Relative versus Absolute Cell References



When you have completed the data entry and analysis of your bag of M&Ms, then please check with 2 classmates and get the data for 2 other bags of M&Ms to add to your spreadsheets.