

Count cells that contain case sensitive

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

Code	Substring	Count
10-ABC-101	ABC	4
20-abc-101	abc	1
10-XYZ-101	XYZ	3
20-xyz-101	xyz	3
10-XYZ-102		
20-xyz-102		
20-xyz-103		
10-ABC-102		
10-ABC-103		
10-XYZ-103		
10-ABC-104		

The formula in cell E5 is: `=SUMPRODUCT(--ISNUMBER(FIND(D5,data)))`

The named range `data` is defined as `B5:B15`.

Generic formula

```
= SUMPRODUCT( -- ISNUMBER( FIND( value, data) ) )
```

Summary

To count cells that contain specific text (i.e. contain a substring), taking into account upper and lower case, you can use a formula based on the [ISNUMBER](#) and [FIND](#) functions, together with the [SUMPRODUCT function](#). In the example shown, E5 contains this formula, copied down:

```
= SUMPRODUCT( -- ISNUMBER( FIND( D5, data) ) )
```

Where "data" is the [named range](#) B5:B15. The result is a case-sensitive count of each substring listed in column D.

Explanation

In this example, the goal is to count codes that appear as substrings in a case-sensitive way. The functions [COUNTIF](#) and [COUNTIFS](#) are both good options for counting text values, but these functions are not case-sensitive, so they can't be used to solve this problem. The solution is to use the [FIND function](#) together with the [ISNUMBER function](#) to check for substrings and the [SUMPRODUCT function](#) to add up the results.

The FIND function is *always* case-sensitive and takes three arguments: *find_text*, *within_text*, and *start_num*. *Find_text* is the text we want to look for, and *within_text* is the text we are looking inside of. *Start_num* is the position at which to start looking in *find_text*. *Start_num* defaults to 1, so we aren't providing a value in this case, because we always want FIND to start at the first character. When *find_text* is found inside *within_text*, FIND returns the *position* of the found text as a number:

```
= FIND( "ABC", "ABC-101" ) // returns 1  
= FIND( "ABC", "10-ABC-101" ) // returns 4
```

When *find_text* is *not found*, FIND returns the #VALUE! error:

```
= FIND( "ABC", "XYZ-101" ) // returns #VALUE!
```

This means we can use the ISNUMBER function to convert the result from FIND into a TRUE and FALSE value. Any number will result in TRUE, and any error will result in FALSE:

```
= ISNUMBER( FIND( "ABC", "ABC-101" ) ) // returns TRUE  
= ISNUMBER( FIND( "XYZ", "ABC-101" ) ) // returns FALSE
```

This idea is [explained in more detail here](#).

In the example shown, we have four substrings in column D and a variety of codes in B5:B15, which is the [named range data](#). We want to count how many times each substring in D5:D8 appears in B5:B15, and this count needs to be case-sensitive.

The formula in E5, copied down, is:

```
= SUMPRODUCT( -- ISNUMBER( FIND( D5, data) ) )
```

Working from the inside-out, the [FIND function](#) is used to look for a substring like this:

```
FIND( D5, data )
```

FIND checks for the value in D5 ("ABC") in all cells in the **data**. Because we give FIND *multiple* values in the *within_text* argument, it returns *multiple* results. In total, FIND returns 11 values (one for each code in B5:B15) in an [array](#) like this:

```
{4; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; 4; 4; #VALUE! ; 4}
```

Each number represents a cell in B5:B15 that contains "ABC". Each #VALUE! represents a value in B5:B15 that does not contain "ABC". Looking more closely, we can see that FIND found "ABC" in 4 cells out of 11. This array is returned directly to the [ISNUMBER function](#) which converts each value to TRUE or FALSE:

```
ISNUMBER( {4; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; #VALUE! ; 4; 4; #VALUE! ; 4} )
```

ISNUMBER returns an array of 11 TRUE and FALSE values:

```
{TRUE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; TRUE ; TRUE ; FALSE ; TRUE}
```

Because we want to *count* results, we use a [double-negative](#) (--) to convert TRUE and FALSE values into 1's and 0's:

```
-- {TRUE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; FALSE ; TRUE ; TRUE ; FALSE ; TRUE}
```

The resulting array looks like this:

```
{1;0;0;0;0;0;0;1;1;0;1} // 11 results
```

Using the double-negative like this is an example of [Boolean logic](#), a technique for handling TRUE and FALSE values like 1's and 0's. The resulting array is delivered directly to the SUMPRODUCT function:

```
= SUMPRODUCT( {1;0;0;0;0;0;0;1;1;0;1} ) // returns 4
```

With just one array to process, SUMPRODUCT sums all numbers in the array and returns the final result: 4. As the formula is copied down, it returns a count of each substring in column D. The reference to **data** does not change, because a [named range](#) automatically behaves like an [absolute reference](#).