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# Session One: Basic Skills

A bad beginning makes a bad ending.

*Euripides, Aegaeus (484 BC - 406 BC).*

Even if you are a seasoned Excel user, I urge you to take Euripides' advice and complete this session. You'll fly through it if you already know most of the skills covered.

In my classes I often teach professionals who have used Excel for over ten years and they *always* get some nugget of fantastically useful information from this session.

In this session I teach you the absolute basics you need before you can start to do useful work with Excel 2013.

I don't assume that you have any previous exposure to Excel (in any version) so I have to include some very basic skills.

## Session Objectives

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Start Excel and open a new blank workbook
- Check that your Excel version is up to date
- Change the Office Theme
- Maximize, minimize, re-size, move and close the Excel window
- Download the sample files and open/navigate a workbook
- Save a workbook to a local file
- Understand common file formats
- Pin a workbook and understand file organization
- View, move, add, rename, delete and navigate worksheet tabs
- Use the Versions feature to recover an unsaved Draft file
- Use the Versions feature to recover an earlier version of a workbook
- Use the Ribbon
- Understand Ribbon components
- Customize the Quick Access Toolbar and preview the printout
- Use the Mini Toolbar, Key Tips and keyboard shortcuts
- Understand views
- Hide and show the Formula Bar and Ribbon
- Use the help system