Lesson 3-23: Use an IFERROR function to suppress error messages

1. Open Invoice-2 from your sample files folder (if it isn’t already open).
2. Add a VLOOKUP formula to cell C6 to return the price that corresponds to the Code in cell A6.

You learned how to add a VLOOKUP function in Lesson 3-22: Use a VLOOKUP function for an exact lookup. This time, the correct arguments are:

3. AutoFill cells B6:C6 to cells B7:C8.

This is nearly what is needed. The invoice will work just fine when all three lines are populated:

But you need to cater for customers that only wish to purchase one watch. To make this work, you need to suppress the error messages when some invoice lines have no stock code.

Fortunately, the IFERROR function is designed precisely for this purpose.

4. Wrap each VLOOKUP function with an IFERROR function to return a blank space when an error is encountered.

The IFERROR function can return the value of your choice whenever a formula returns an error.

1. Click in cell B6.

Look at the formula in the formula bar:

\[
=\text{IFERROR}(\text{VLOOKUP}(A6,\text{Stock},2,\text{FALSE}),\text{""})
\]
This is the VLOOKUP that returns the description. You’re going to use this formula as the value argument for the IFERROR function. When one function is used inside another function in this way, we sometimes refer to the outside function as a wrapper.

2. Click just to the right of the equals sign in the formula bar.

3. Type `IFERROR`


![IFERROR formula example]

Notice the tip that has appeared. The entire VLOOKUP function is now being used as the value argument for the IFERROR function.

4. Click to the extreme right of the formula in the formula bar and add a comma:


![IFERROR formula with comma example]

You are now ready to add the second argument for the IFERROR function. This argument defines what will be displayed if the VLOOKUP function returns an error.

5. Add an empty string to the IFERROR function.

Type `""`. This is an empty string and tells Excel to keep the cell blank when an error is returned.

6. Close the bracket to complete the formula.


![IFERROR formula with comma and empty string example]

7. Press the `<Enter>` key.

8. Do the same thing for the `Price` formula in cell C6.


![Price formula example]

5. AutoFill the formulas in cells B6:C6 to cells B7:C8.

The invoice now works fine, even when some stock codes are left blank.

6. Save your work as *Invoice-3.*