

Named Ranges

Instead of describing cells or ranges of cells using their cell references, you can assign a name to them.

	A	B
1	Sales	
2	113	
3	206	
4	172	
5	462	
6	288	
7	403	
8	148	
9		

To sum the sales numbers in A2:A8 we can use the SUM function in A9: =SUM(A2:A8). By naming the range as SALES, we could simply enter =SUM(SALES). It does not work any faster or better, but it makes understanding formula easier.

sales	A	B
1	Sales	
2	113	
3	206	
4	172	
5	462	
6	288	
7	403	
8	148	
9	=sum(s	
10	SUM(number1, [number2], ...)	
11	sales	
12	SEARCH	
13	SECOND	
14	SERIESSUM	
15	SIGN	
	STN	

Select A2:A8, then right-click and select Name a Range.

The 'New Name' dialog box is shown with the following details:

- Name:** Sales
- Scope:** Workbook
- Refers to:** =Sheet1!\$A\$2:\$A\$9

Give your range a name and click OK. As you enter the SUM function, notice sales is one of the available entries. Press Tab and Enter to complete the formula.

A9		fx =SUM(sales)				
	A	B	C	D	E	
1	Sales					
2	113					
3	206					
4	172					
5	462					
6	288					
7	403					
8	148					
9	1792					

Even naming single cells can make formula easier to understand.

A		B	
1	Miles Driven	358	
2	Gallons Used	12.6	
3	MPG		

B3		fx =Miles_Driven/Gallons_Used				
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Miles Driven	358				
2	Gallons Used	12.6				
3	MPG	28.4127				

Name B1 Miles_Driven and B2 Gallons_Used. Notice that the name is automatically filled in from the labels to the left of the cell being named. Then in B3 enter the formula to calculate miles per gallon (MPG) as =Miles_Driven/Gallons_Used