

Question: I've selected all blank cells in a column, I would now like to enter a formula in all of the cells at the same time. Is this possible?

Answer: Yes, with a keyboard shortcut.

Process (Excel 2003, 2007, 2010):

In last week's tip

(<http://www.alchemex.com/Resources/EOS%20Previous%20Tips%20And%20Tricks/Go%20To%20Blanks.pdf>), we looked at selecting all cells in a column using the 'Go To Special...' feature. Now, we're going to enter in a formula to all of the selected cells in one stroke. Well, two keystrokes to be precise.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Category Name	Product Name	Date	Quantity	Unit Price	Product Sales
2	Beverages	Chai	2008/03/07	50	38.00	1900.00
3	Beverages	Chang	2008/03/10	40		800.00
4	Beverages	Ipoh Coffee	2008/03/07	200	36.80	7360.00
5	Beverages	Stout	2008/04/12	70	40.00	2800.00
6	Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/05/28	80		4800.00
7	Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/04/30	95		5700.00
8	Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/04/12	100	60.00	6000.00
9	Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/04/15	250	60.00	15000.00
10	Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/05/01	250	60.00	15000.00
11	Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/05/08	400	60.00	24000.00
12	Condiments	Aniseed Syrup	2008/05/19	60		1680.00
13	Condiments	Aniseed Syrup	2008/03/25	90	28.00	2520.00
14	Condiments	Aniseed Syrup	2008/03/06	300	28.00	8400.00
15	Dairy Products	Blue Cheese	2008/03/07	40		1392.00
16	Dairy Products	Blue Cheese	2008/04/11	40	34.80	1392.00
17	Dairy Products	Blue Cheese	2008/05/12	40	34.80	1392.00

In this example, some Unit Price fields are empty, however we do have the Quantity and the Product Sales values so we can work out the Unit Price through simple division. All blank cells have been selected - you can confirm this through the row numbers being highlighted. The current live cell is E3, which can be confirmed by looking at the **Name Box** in the upper left hand corner.

NB: all blank cells are currently selected. If you move to another cell, either by arrow keys, pressing Enter or selecting another cell with the mouse, all blank cells will be de-selected.

1. Without selecting any other cell (i.e. cell E3 is still the active cell), type in =F3/D3 (do not press Enter at this stage).

B	C	D	E	F
Product Name	Date	Quantity	Unit Price	Product Sales
Chai	2008/03/07	50	38.00	1900.00
Chang	2008/03/10	40	=F3/D3	800.00
Ipoh Coffee	2008/03/07	200	36.80	7360.00
Stout	2008/04/12	70	40.00	2800.00

- Press **Ctrl+Enter**. This will fill all the empty cells with the same formula structure.

A	B	C	D	E	F
Category Name	Product Name	Date	Quantity	Unit Price	Product Sales
1 Beverages	Chai	2008/03/07	50	38.00	1900.00
3 Beverages	Chang	2008/03/10	40	20.00	800.00
4 Beverages	Ipoh Coffee	2008/03/07	200	36.80	7360.00
5 Beverages	Stout	2008/04/12	70	40.00	2800.00
6 Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/05/28	80	60.00	4800.00
7 Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/04/30	95	60.00	5700.00
8 Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/04/12	100	60.00	6000.00
9 Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/04/15	250	60.00	15000.00
10 Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/05/01	250	60.00	15000.00
11 Meat/Poultry	Alice Mutton	2008/05/08	400	60.00	24000.00
12 Condiments	Aniseed Syrup	2008/05/19	60	28.00	1680.00
13 Condiments	Aniseed Syrup	2008/03/25	90	28.00	2520.00
14 Condiments	Aniseed Syrup	2008/03/06	300	28.00	8400.00
15 Dairy Products	Blue Cheese	2008/03/07	40	34.80	1392.00
16 Dairy Products	Blue Cheese	2008/04/11	40	34.80	1392.00

Because of the same rules that govern AutoFill, all other cells fill using the relative references - in the above graphic, cell E6 has been selected, and you can see in the Formula Bar that the formula is **=F6/D6**.

If you have any suggestions for an Excel Tips & Tricks topic, or you would like help with a particular function, please email enablement@alchemex.com and yours could be the next Tip Of The Week.

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