

**Question:** Can I find the cell address, rather than the value, of the lowest number in a range of numbers?

**Answer:** Yes, using a combination of functions, including the ADDRESS function.

**Process (Excel 2003 and 2007):**

While it's good to know the minimum number in a range of numbers, sometimes you may need to find the actual reference for that cell, rather than the value itself. This example will use a combination the following functions

**ADDRESS:** Creates a cell address as text, given specified row and column numbers.

**Syntax:** (row\_num,column\_num,abs\_num,a1, sheet\_text)

**Row\_num** is the row number to use in the cell reference.

**Column\_num** is the column number to use in the cell reference.

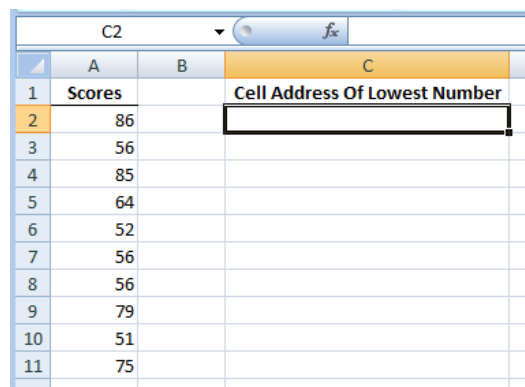
**Abs\_num** specifies the type of reference to return. Options here are

- 1 or omitted - Absolute
- 2 - Absolute row; relative column
- 3 - Relative row; absolute column
- 4 - Relative

**MIN:** returns the smallest number in a range of cells

**MATCH:** returns the row number of a given value

In this example, there are a range of scores and we would like to find the cell reference of the lowest score.



	A	B	C
1	Scores		Cell Address Of Lowest Number
2		86	
3		56	
4		85	
5		64	
6		52	
7		56	
8		56	
9		79	
10		51	
11		75	

- 1 Select your desired cell for the formula (in the above example, it is cell C2).
- 2 Type in the following formula: `=ADDRESS(MATCH(MIN(A2:A11),A:A,0),COLUMN(A:A),4)`

Following the syntax of the ADDRESS function outlined above, the formula works in the following way:

**Row\_num** - the MIN function will search for the lowest number in the range A2:A11, and then pass this to the MATCH function, which will then return the actual row number of this value

**Column\_num** - this is the column that you would like to search (in this instance, A:A)

**Abs\_num** - this is listed as 4, which sets how the cell reference will be presented

- 3 Press ENTER.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Scores		Cell Address Of Lowest Number				
2	86		A10				
3	56						
4	85						
5	64						
6	52						
7	56						
8	56						
9	79						
10	51						
11	75						

If you changed the 4 value in the ADDRESS syntax to 1, you will see that the cell reference is changed to represent the absolute value.

	C	D	E	F	G
	Cell Address Of Lowest Number				
	\$A\$10				