

Question: Is there any way to add notes to a formula?

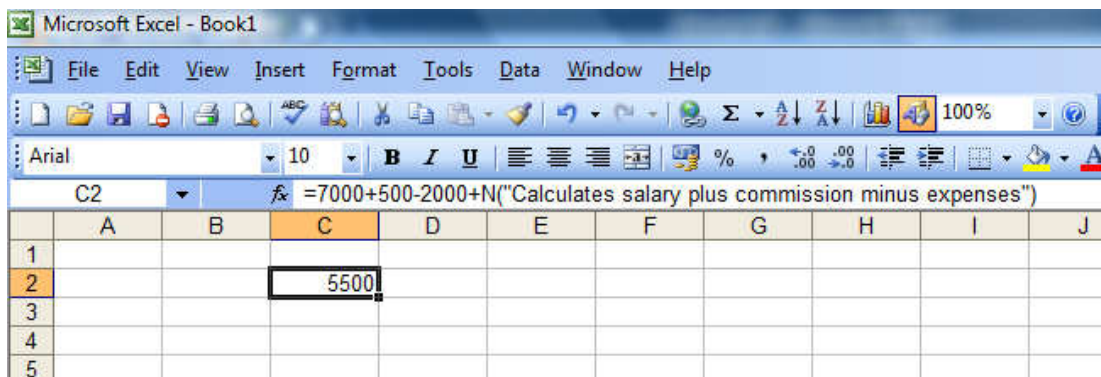
Answer: Yes, with the N function

Process (Excel 2003 and 2007):

There are times when you create a complex formula and after coming back to it some time later, you are not sure how it actually calculates or what it is supposed to do. While you could add a comment to the cell, or a note in an adjacent cell, you can use the N function.

The N function was originally designed to return the numerical value of a parameter argument, however we can adjust this to include a note by using text inside double quotation marks:

Example: =7000+500-2000+N("Any text here")



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2			5500							
3										
4										
5										

The formula bar for cell C2 displays: =7000+500-2000+N("Calculates salary plus commission minus expenses")

As long as any text inside the N() function is kept inside double quotation marks, the text will be calculated as zero (0). This value can then be added or subtracted to any other formula or function, won't impact the formula value at all and doesn't require any additional fields to be managed.