

View Results/Evaluate of Part of a Complex Excel Formula

Situation:

Errors in Excel formulas with multiple functions and operations can be difficult to diagnose. To check these formulas, it's best to check each component separately to find out what is causing the error.

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Overview:

For example, say you've entered the following formula in H10 of your 2007 Summary worksheet:
`=SUM('1st Qtr Sales'!B15:'1st Qtr Sales'!P15)+SUM('2nd Qtr Sales'!B15:'2nd Qtr Sales'!N15)`

You find that the formula is producing invalid results. To find out why, check the first SUM function for errors by following these steps

Step by Step Instructions:

1.	Click in the cell to display the formula in the Formula Bar.
2.	In the formula bar, select just a part of the formula. Ex.: <code>SUM('1st Qtr Sales'!B15:'1st Qtr Sales'!P15)</code> .
3.	Press [F9].
4.	After examining the result, press [Esc].
5.	In the formula bar, select <code>SUM('2nd Qtr Sales'!B15:'2nd Qtr Sales'!N15)</code> .
6.	If this function is working correctly, check the second function by again selecting the formula cell and following these steps:
7.	Press [F9].
8.	After examining the result, press [Esc].
9.	Remember to press [Esc] after examining a component's result; otherwise, Excel will replace the function or operation in the formula bar with the actual result.