

# How to Learn Copilot in Excel

Where to start, what it costs, and when to move on. Free options first. Full write-up at [stringfestanalytics.com](https://stringfestanalytics.com).

**RULE ZERO:** Do not bother with Copilot until your data lives in Tables and your cleanup happens in Power Query. AI in Excel runs on structure. Hand it a mess and it will act like one.

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## Catch a Modern Excel Demo Day

Free • about an hour

A free live session showing Tables, Power Query, and the analysis features working together on realistic data.

**Move up when:** you can name which modern Excel skills you have and which you are missing.

[stringfestanalytics.com/events](https://stringfestanalytics.com/events)

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## Read Modern Data Analytics in Excel

Price of a book, or free from your library • a few weeks

The O'Reilly foundations book for the modern Excel stack that AI depends on: Tables, Power Query, dynamic arrays, and the newer analysis features. Borrow it from your library if you want. The ebook also comes free with step 5, so do not buy it twice.

**Move up when:** your data is structured and you want to know what AI adds on top.

[stringfestanalytics.com/maxl](https://stringfestanalytics.com/maxl)

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## Take Excel Must-Knows for AI Success

\$15 • under 30 minutes

The bridge from modern Excel to Copilot-powered Excel. Three short videos on the fundamentals Copilot depends on: Tables for structure, PivotTables and built-in analysis tools, and Power Query for consistent data. Example workbooks included.

**Move up when:** Copilot has stopped feeling random and started feeling predictable.

[stringfestdata.gumroad.com/ll/sniqtq](https://stringfestdata.gumroad.com/ll/sniqtq)

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## Use LinkedIn Learning Through Your Library

Very often free with a library card • a few hours

LinkedIn Learning is free with a public library card in Ohio and many other library systems, so check yours first. Take Excel with Copilot: AI-Driven Data Analysis, on its own or inside the free Microsoft + LinkedIn Copilot certificate path.

**Move up when:** you can follow the videos but stall on your own workbook.

[linkedin.com/learning/excel-with-copilot-ai-driven-data-analysis](https://linkedin.com/learning/excel-with-copilot-ai-driven-data-analysis)

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## Join AI for Excel in a Week

See current listing • five live lunch hours

Five live 60-minute sessions building day over day: shared data, preparation, Copilot and Python in Excel, automation, and designing copilots and agents for real work. Recordings, certificate, and the Modern Data Analytics in Excel ebook included.

**Move up when:** the skill is yours and the job becomes keeping up with it.

[stringfestanalytics.com/ai-for-excel-in-a-week](https://stringfestanalytics.com/ai-for-excel-in-a-week)

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## Join the Modern Excel AI Stack Membership

Monthly • as much or as little time as you want

AI in Excel changes every quarter, and the membership is where the ongoing content and assets live. Includes a question drop, so you can put your own question in front of me instead of guessing.

**Move up when:** you never do. This is where you stay current.

[stringfestdata.gumroad.com/ll/mxlais](https://stringfestdata.gumroad.com/ll/mxlais)