

How to Learn Python If You Already Know Excel

Where to start, what to skip, and when it is worth paying for something.

1 Read a few posts, sit in on a free session

Costs nothing, about an afternoon

Before you spend a dollar, get one result. Work through a few Python in Excel posts on the blog, most of which come with an exercise file, and sit in on a free live session. Plenty of people do this and realize their real bottleneck is Power Query, or a PivotTable habit. Useful thing to learn for free.

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Move up when: *you have seen Python do something you know your formulas cannot do, and you want to do it yourself.*

2 Use LinkedIn Learning through your library

Very often nothing, a few hours per course

The rung almost nobody knows about. LinkedIn Learning comes free with a public library card in Ohio and a lot of other systems. Check with your library before you pay for anything, mine included. My Data Visualization with Python in Excel course is there too; come back to it after rung 4.

linkedin.com/learning/data-visualization-with-python-in-excel

Move up when: *you can follow along in a video and then stall the second you point it at your own workbook.*

3 Read Advancing into Analytics (O'Reilly)

Price of a book, free ebook with the week-long cohort

It came out before Python in Excel existed, so it teaches the wider Anaconda world rather than `PY()` cells. That is why it holds up: it gives you the foundations underneath the feature. Skip it if you only want quick wins. Do not skip it if you want to know what you are doing when something breaks.

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Move up when: *the concepts feel comfortable and you want them working inside Excel specifically.*

4 Take the Python in Excel Crash Course

\$19, under an hour of video

The mechanics rung. The initialization environment, how objects behave, and the several ways of getting data in through cells, tables, and Power Query, plus a moving average chart and where Python fits beside Copilot. Almost everybody who gets stuck is stuck here rather than on Python itself. The code was fine; the data never made it into the cell.

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Move up when: *you can get your own data into a `PY()` cell and get something back without looking it up.*

5 Work through Python in Excel: Quick Wins

\$15, fifteen short videos

A reference library: 15 use cases from sampling and missing values through correlation matrices, resampling, rolling aggregations, and a good run of charts, plus a cheatsheet. Yes, cheaper than rung 4, and it still comes after. A reference is worth more once you know what you are looking at. Fold one use case into a real workbook of yours each week.

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Move up when: *you have watched plenty and built little, or your own data keeps breaking what the videos taught you.*

6 Come to a live session

See the current listing; an afternoon or five lunch hours

A recorded course cannot answer a question about your workbook. Python in Excel for Finance Crash Course is one live 2.5-hour session on where Excel runs out. Python for Excel in a Week is five live 60-minute sessions building day over day, with the ebook and a certificate. Dates and seats are on Eventbrite.

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Move up when: *the skill is yours and the problem changes from learning this to keeping up with it.*

7 Join the Modern Excel AI Stack membership

Monthly, as much or as little time as you want

This field moves faster than any one course can keep up with, and nobody wants to start over every quarter. Ongoing content and assets, plus a question drop where you put your own question in front of me instead of guessing.

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