Tech Info Library

Excel: Leading Space Will Enter Numeric String as Text

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TOPIC ---

When I enter certain text strings into Microsoft Excel, such as 2/5/80, the
cell format is automatically changed to a date format. How do I avoid this
without encapsulating the text in quotation marks?

In other words, how do I get Excel to treat certain text as text and not
numerals?

DISCUSSION ---

To enter a numeric string in Excel as text, type a space before the entry.

Typing " 1/1/90" (without the quotes) into a cell formatted for "d/mmm/yy"
displays 1/1/90 instead of 1-Jan-90.

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