

# Access: Instr Function

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In Access, the **Instr** function returns the position of the first occurrence of a string in another string.

The syntax for the **Instr** function is:

`Instr ( [start], string_being_searched, string2, [compare] )`

*start* is optional. It is the starting position for the search. If this parameter is omitted, the search will begin at position 1.

*string\_being\_searched* is the string that will be searched.

*string2* is the string to search for.

*compare* is optional. This is the type of comparison to perform. The valid choices are:

VBA Constant	Value	Explanation
vbUseCompareOption	-1	Uses option compare.
vbBinaryCompare	0	Binary comparison
vbTextCompare	1	Textual comparison
vbDatabaseCompare	2	Comparison based on your database.

Note:

If *string2* is not found within *string\_being\_searched*, the **Instr** function will return 0.

If *string\_being\_searched* is zero-length, the **Instr** function will return 0.

If *string\_being\_searched* is null, the **Instr** function will return null.

If *string2* is zero-length, the **Instr** function will return the value used in the *start* parameter. If the start parameter is omitted, the **Instr** function will return 1.

If *start* is greater than *string2*, the **Instr** function will return 0.

For example:

<code>Instr (1, "Tech on the Net", "the")</code>	would return 9.
<code>Instr ("Tech on the Net", "the")</code>	would return 9.
<code>Instr (10, "Tech on the Net", "t")</code>	would return 15.

## VBA Code

The **Instr** function can be used in VBA code. For example:

```
Dim LPosition As Integer
```

```
LPosition = Instr (10, "Tech on the Net", "t")
```

In this example, the variable called LPosition would now contain the value 15.

## SQL/Queries

You can also use the **Instr** function in a query.

The screenshot shows the 'Query6 : Select Query' dialog box in Microsoft Access. The 'Categories' table is selected, and the 'Field' list shows 'Expr1: Instr(1,[CategoryName],\"t\")'. The 'Show' checkbox is checked.

Field:	Table:	Sort:	Show:	Criteria:	or:
Expr1: Instr(1,[CategoryName],\"t\")			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
			<input type="checkbox"/>		