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**Directions: Read the information below and then turn the page to complete the word search.**

**What is a Spread Sheet?**

It is a [table](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/table.html) of values arranged in rows and [columns](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/column.html). Each value can have a predefined relationship to the other values. If you change one value, therefore, you may need to change other values as well.

*Spreadsheet applications *

(sometimes referred to simply as *spreadsheets*) are [computer](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/computer.html) [programs](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/program.html) that let you create and manipulate spreadsheets electronically. In a spreadsheet [application](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/application.html), each value sits in a [cell](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/cell.html). You can define what type of [data](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/data.html) is in each cell and how different cells depend on one another. The relationships between cells are called [*formulas*](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/formula.html), and the [names](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/name.html) of the cells are called [*labels*](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/label.html).

Once you have defined the cells and the formulas for linking them together, you can enter your data. You can then modify [selected](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/select.html) values to see how all the other values change accordingly. This enables you to study various what-if scenarios.

A simple example of a useful spreadsheet application is one that calculates mortgage payments for a house or car. You would define five cells:

 1. total cost 

of a house or a car

 2. down payment

 3. mortgage rate



 4. mortgage term

 5. monthly payment

Once you had defined how these cells depend on one another, you could enter numbers and play with various possibilities. For example, keeping all the other values the same, you could see how different mortgage rates would affect your monthly payments.

There are a number of spreadsheet applications on the market, [Lotus 1-2-3](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/Lotus_1_2_3.html) and Excel being among the most famous. The more powerful spreadsheet applications 

[support](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/support.html) [graphics](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/graphics.html) [features](http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/S/feature.html) that enable you to produce charts and graphs from the data.

