Excel (Intermediate): Look Behind the (Equation) Scene

Scenario: You have a big honkin' spreadsheet – lots of equations. One particular equation that you are observing up in the Formula Bar…you'd like to analyze it a bit closer. You'd like to confirm the values that it is using – without having to look directly at or go to any of the cells that it is referencing.

You know that whenever the cell pointer is sitting on a cell – you can see the true contents of the cell up in the Formula Bar (just below the ribbon). →

Without having to actual go to (or look at) one of the cells being reference in the equation – you'd like to know what its real value is. In this diagram to the right…let's say we are curious what's in cell F105 (of the equation).

Reach up into the Formula Bar and SELECT the cell address whose true value you'd like to know/see. (See the "DURING" diagram here).

Now, tap the [F9] function key. Voilà – instead of the cell address appearing in the equation…the actual value contained IN that cell (the number 5 in the "AFTER" example below) appears. Just press [ESC] to put it back to the cell address when you're finished looking at it.

Not a biggie – but it can save you some running around (the spreadsheet) time.