Excel - AutoFill in Visible Cells Only

When working with filtered data in Excel, you may be tempted to use the AutoFill feature. Unfortunately, it may not work as expected. The fill data is entered into all cells, *including any hidden or invisible cells*. The solution is to enter data into **visible cells only**. You can accomplish this in a couple of ways.
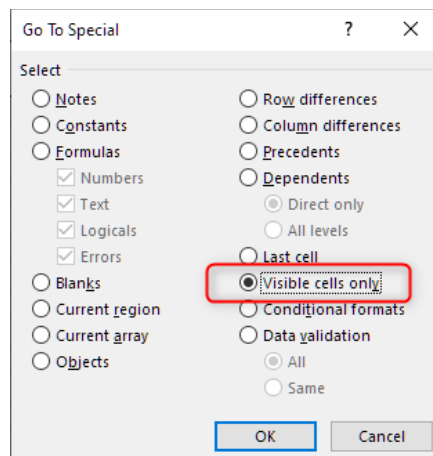
Keyboard Approach:

If you're a fan of keyboard shortcuts (and if not, why not?), here are the steps.

1. Select the range of cells containing the filtered list into which you want to enter data. You could use the arrow keys on your keyboard or **Ctrl + Shift + down arrow**.
2. Press **Alt + ;** (semi-colon) *to **select the visible cells only***.
3. In the active cell (which should be the first selected), *type the data you wish to enter*.
4. Press **Ctrl + Enter**. The same data will be entered into the visible cells only.

Ribbon Approach:

If the Ribbon is your preferred method, you can do the same thing using **Go to Special**.

1. Select the range of cells containing the filtered list into which you want to enter data.
2. Press **Ctrl + G** to display the Go To dialog box and then click **Special** to display the Go To Special dialog box. Alternatively, you can click the Home tab in the Ribbon and then select **Go to Special** from the Find & Select drop-down menu.
3. Select **Visible cells only** in the Go To Special dialog box and then click OK. Excel will select all of the visible cells in the range.
4. In the active cell (which should be the first selected cell), type the data you wish to enter.
5. Press **Ctrl + Enter**. The same data will be entered into the visible cells only.

See the following examples where Fill Data is applied to all cells, including Hidden cells (*Default*), and where it is only applied to Visible Cells.

Default:

	A	B
1	Status	
2	In Progress	
3	Done	
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
29		

Figure 1 - Rows 4-20 Hidden

	A	B
1	Status	
2	In Progress	
3	Done	
21	Done	
22	Done	
23	Done	
24	Done	
25	Done	
26	Done	
27	Done	
28	Done	
29	Done	
30	Done	

Figure 2 - Fill Data Applied

	A	B
1	Status	
2	In Progress	
3	Done	
4	Done	
5	Done	
6	Done	
7	Done	
8	Done	
9	Done	
10	Done	
11	Done	
12	Done	
13	Done	
14	Done	
15	Done	
16	Done	
17	Done	
18	Done	
19	Done	
20	Done	
21	Done	
22	Done	

Figure 3 – Cells Unhidden - Data Applied to all

Using one of the methods above, Fill Data will not be applied to Hidden cells.

	A	B
1	Status	
2	In Progress	
3	Done	
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		

Figure 4 - Rows 4-17 Hidden

	A	B
1	Status	
2	In Progress	
3	Done	
18	Done	
19	Done	
20	Done	
21	Done	
22	Done	
23	Done	
24	Done	
25	Done	
26	Done	
27	Done	
28	Done	

Figure 5- Fill Data Applied to Visible Cells

	A	B
1	Status	
2	In Progress	
3	Done	
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18	Done	
19	Done	
20	Done	
21	Done	
22	Done	
23	Done	
24	Done	
25	Done	
26	Done	

Figure 6- Cells Unhidden - Data was NOT Applied to the Hidden Cells