How To Create Random Numbers Within A Specified Range

Step One

Create a spread sheet with two columns as illustration 1. In the Randomiser column copy the formula =RAND() and drag down as many cells as required which will leave a list of random numbers.

In the column headed Serial Number put in the start number and drag down to create list of sequential numbers which will be in sequence.

* Note: if the numbers have leading zeros, as per my example, then before you create the list of sequential numbers you will need to format the cells in the column to text rather than general or number.

Illustration 1:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Randomiser	Serial Number								
2	0.35841358	000001								
3	0.3516812	000002								
4	0.04036643	000003								
5	0.04300753	000004								
6	0.245969	000005								
7	0.74435796	000006								
8	0.15578669	000007								
9	0.38186275	000008								
10	0.52388542	000009								
11	0.63338016	000010								
12	0.40589968	000011								
13	0.43540326	000012								
14	0.22887225	000013								
15	0.76613214	000014								
16	0.05154553	000015								
17	0.06411892	000016								
18	0.37093229	000017								
19	0.4046896	000018								
20	0.97980895	000019								
21	0.35431609	000020								
22	0.4483008	000021								
23	0.54366148	000022								
24	0.67992334	000023								
25	0.86037962	000024								
26	0.81789863	000025								
27										
28										
29										
30										
31										
32										
33										
34										
35										

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Step Two

Sort the data in the spread sheet by highlighting the two columns but sorting only on the column headed Randomiser – this can be sorted highest to lowest or lowest to highest, it doesn't really matter for this exercise. The list of serial numbers is now shuffled into a random order and can be used as the data source for the label printing program.

Illustration 2:
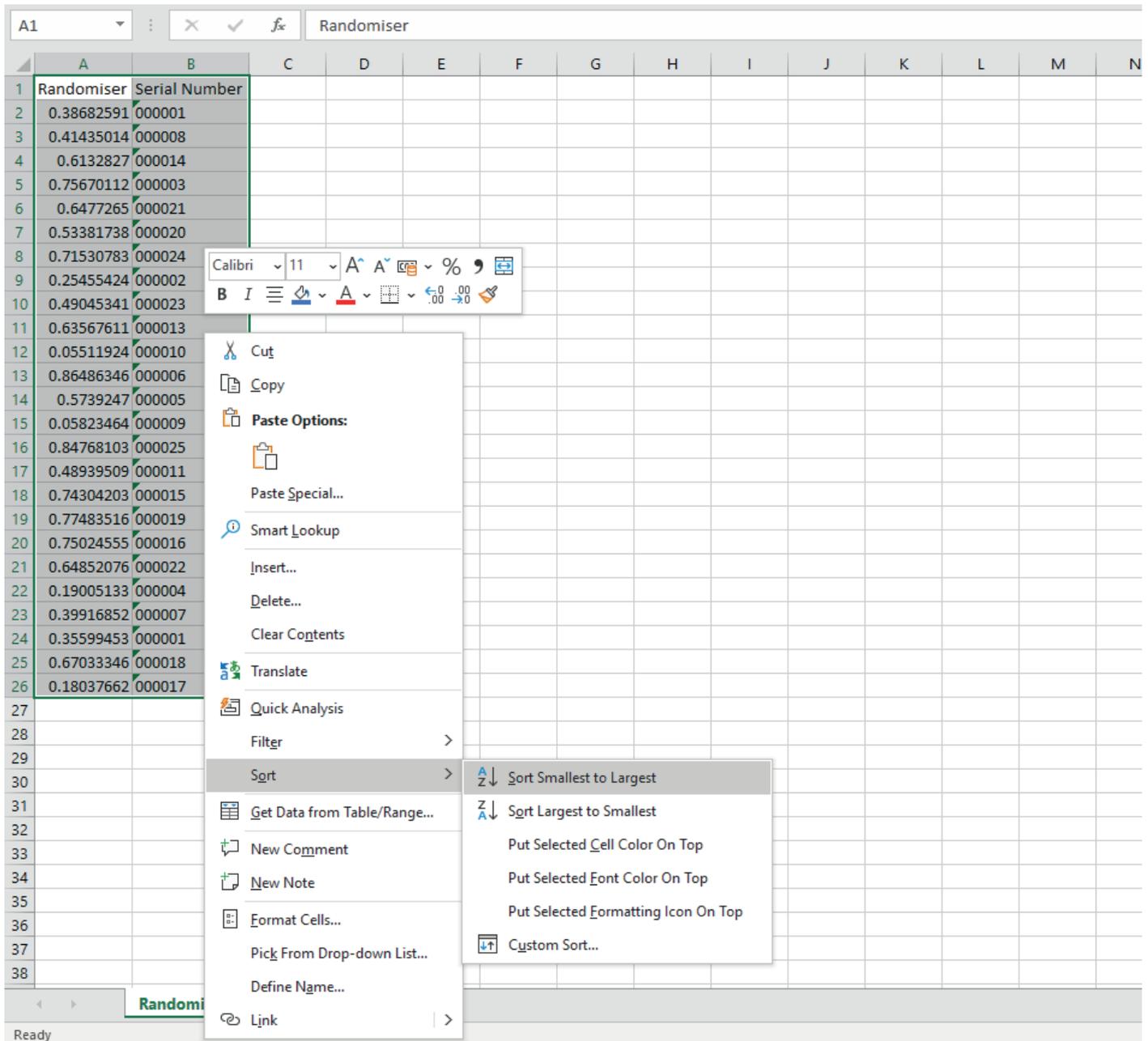
The above method creates a random number within a specified range and can be repeated for the next range and then the next and so on. This ensures that no numbers will ever be repeated as the range is specified each time. If we just used Excel to generate a number each time, without linking to a range that we specify, then there would be a chance of numbers being repeated.