

# How can I change the color of a cell in Google Sheets when a checkbox is checked?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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This feature allows users to change the color of a specific cell in Google Sheets when a checkbox is checked. By checking the box, the cell will automatically change its color, making it easier for users to visually track and organize their data. This functionality provides a convenient way to visually highlight important information or track progress in a spreadsheet. It can be easily accessed and implemented by selecting the cell, navigating to the "Format" menu, and selecting the desired color under the "Cell Color" option. This feature is useful for users who want to efficiently manage and update their data in Google Sheets.

## **Google Sheets: Change Color when Checkbox is Checked**

**You can use the custom formula function in Google Sheets to change the color of a cell when a checkbox is checked.**

**The following example shows how to use the custom formula function in practice.**

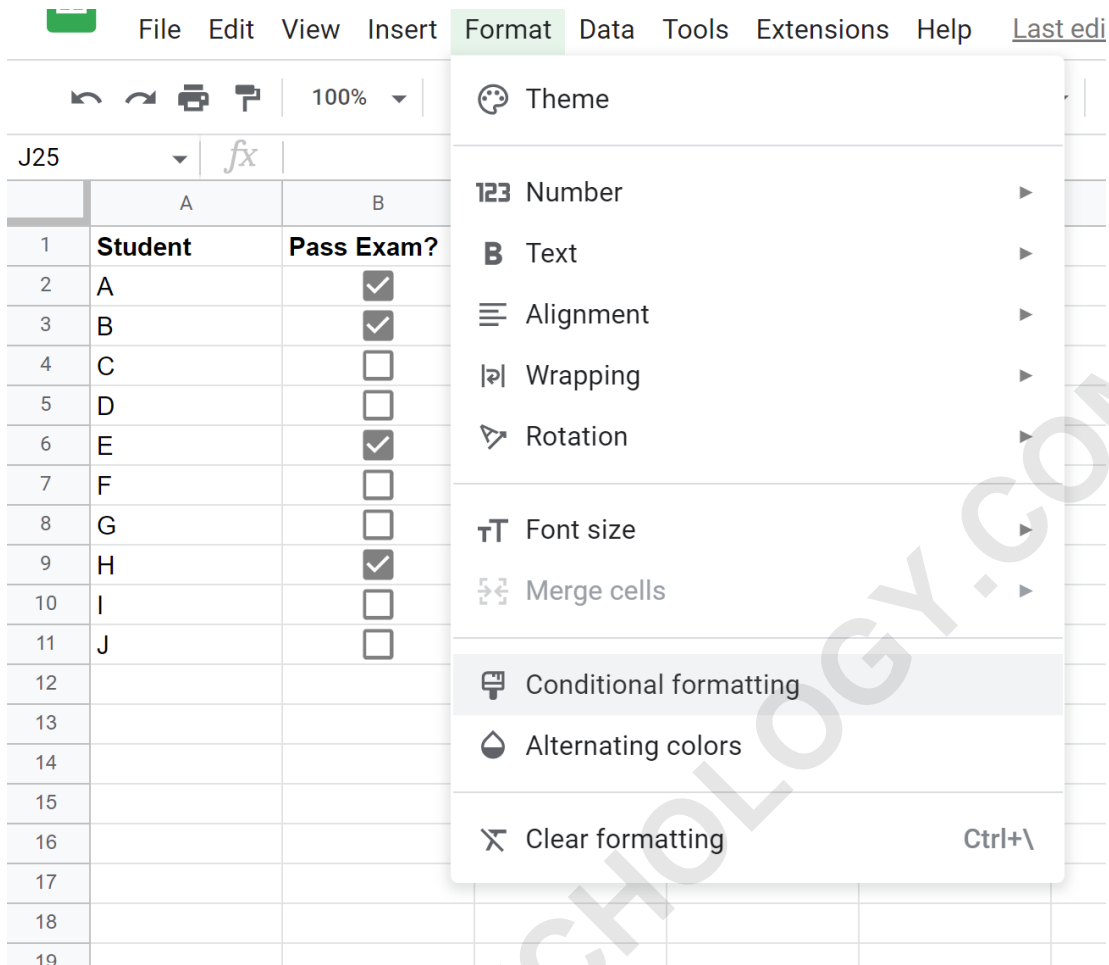
### **Example: Conditional Formatting Based on Checkbox**

**Suppose we have the following dataset in Google Sheets that contains the names of a list of students and whether or not they passed the final exam in a certain class:**

	A	B	C	D	
1	<b>Student</b>	<b>Pass Exam?</b>			
2	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
3	B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
4	C	<input type="checkbox"/>			
5	D	<input type="checkbox"/>			
6	E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
7	F	<input type="checkbox"/>			
8	G	<input type="checkbox"/>			
9	H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
10	I	<input type="checkbox"/>			
11	J	<input type="checkbox"/>			
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**Suppose we would like to highlight the name of the student in green if the checkbox in the corresponding column is checked.**

**To do so, we can click the Format tab, then click Conditional Formatting:**



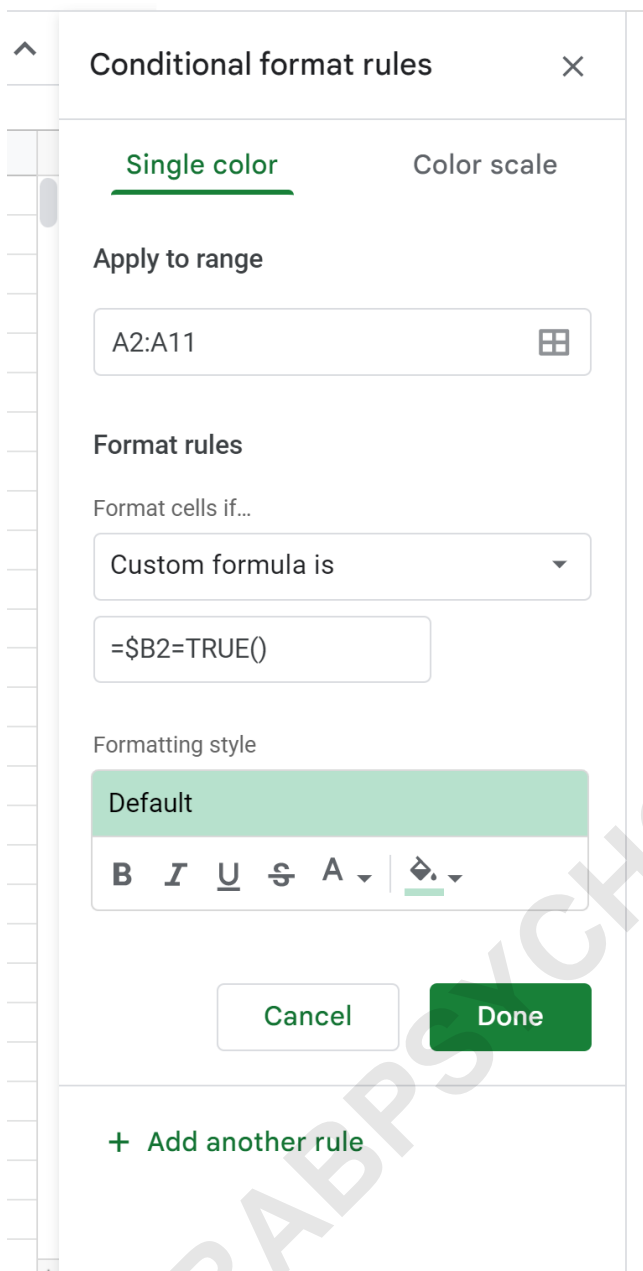
The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet with two columns: 'Student' (A) and 'Pass Exam?' (B). The 'Pass Exam?' column contains checkboxes for students A through J. The 'Format' menu is open, and 'Conditional formatting' is highlighted. The spreadsheet data is as follows:

	A	B
1	Student	Pass Exam?
2	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	C	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	D	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	F	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	G	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	I	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	J	<input type="checkbox"/>
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In the Conditional format rules panel that appears on the right side of the screen, type **A2:A11** in the box called **Apply to range**.

Then choose **Custom formula is** from the dropdown menu under **Format cells if...** then type the following formula into the box:

**= $\$B2=TRUE()$**



**Once you click Done, each cell in column A that has a checkbox checked in column B will automatically be highlighted in green:**

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Student</b>	<b>Pass Exam?</b>		
2	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3	B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
4	C	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5	D	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6	E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
7	F	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8	G	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9	H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
10	I	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11	J	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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If you then check a new checkbox, such as the one next to student J, the student name will automatically become highlighted in green:

	A	B	C	D
B11		<i>fx</i>	TRUE	
1	<b>Student</b>	<b>Pass Exam?</b>		
2	A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
3	B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
4	C	<input type="checkbox"/>		
5	D	<input type="checkbox"/>		
6	E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
7	F	<input type="checkbox"/>		
8	G	<input type="checkbox"/>		
9	H	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
10	I	<input type="checkbox"/>		
11	J	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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**Note #1:** In Google Sheets, if a checkbox is checked then that cell has an underlying value of TRUE, which is why we use the formula `=B2=TRUE()` to determine if a checkbox is checked.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Google Sheets: