

How can I check if a cell is empty in Google Sheets?

Authored by
stats writer

June 30, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I check if a cell is empty in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=161121>

To check if a cell is empty in Google Sheets, you can use the ISBLANK function. This function evaluates a cell and returns a TRUE or FALSE value depending on whether the cell is empty or not. This is useful for verifying the presence of data in a specific cell, which can be used for conditional formatting, data validation, and other spreadsheet functions. To use the ISBLANK function, simply enter it in a cell and specify the cell you want to check as the argument. This will help ensure the accuracy and completeness of your data in Google Sheets.

Check if Cell is Empty in Google Sheets

You can use the following formulas to check if cells are empty in Google Sheets:

Method 1: Check if One Cell is Empty

=IF(ISBLANK(A1),"Empty","Not Empty")

If cell A1 is empty, this formula returns "Empty" and if it's not then the formula returns "Not Empty."

Method 2: Check if Multiple Cells are Empty

=IF(AND(ISBLANK(A1), ISBLANK(B1)),"Empty","Not Empty")

If cells A1 and B1 are both empty, this formula returns "Empty." Otherwise, it returns "Not Empty."

The following examples show how to use each method

in Google Sheets.

Example 1: Check if One Cell is Empty

Suppose we have the following dataset in Google Sheets that shows the number of points scored by various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D
1	Points			
2	14			
3	19			
4	22			
5				
6	5			
7	10			
8				
9	12			
10	14			
11				
12	12			
13	19			
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

We'll use the following formula to check if each cell in column A is empty:

=IF(ISBLANK(A2),"Empty","Not Empty")

We'll type this formula into cell B2 and then copy and paste it down to every remaining cell in column B:

	A	B	C	D
B2		<code>=IF(ISBLANK(A2),"Empty","Not Empty")</code>		
1	Points	Empty?		
2	14	Not Empty		
3	19	Not Empty		
4	22	Not Empty		
5		Empty		
6	5	Not Empty		
7	10	Not Empty		
8		Empty		
9	12	Not Empty		
10	14	Not Empty		
11		Empty		
12	12	Not Empty		
13	19	Not Empty		
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

The values in column B tell us whether each corresponding value in column A is empty or not.

Example 2: Check if Multiple Cells are Empty

	A	B	C	D
1	Player	Points		
2	A	14		
3	B	19		
4	C	22		
5				
6	E	5		
7	F	10		
8	G			
9		12		
10	I	14		
11				
12	K	12		
13		19		
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

We'll use the following formula to check if the cell in both column A and column B are empty:

```
=IF(AND(ISBLANK(A2), ISBLANK(B2)),"Empty","Not Empty")
```

We'll type this formula into cell C2 and then copy and paste it down to every remaining cell in column C:

C2 fx =IF(AND(ISBLANK(A2), ISBLANK(B2)), "Empty", "Not Empty")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Player	Points	Both Empty?		
2	A	14	Not Empty		
3	B	19	Not Empty		
4	C	22	Not Empty		
5			Empty		
6	E	5	Not Empty		
7	F	10	Not Empty		
8	G		Not Empty		
9		12	Not Empty		
10	I	14	Not Empty		
11			Empty		
12	K	12	Not Empty		
13		19	Not Empty		
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

The values in column C tell us whether or not both corresponding values in column A and column B are empty.

Note: You can find the complete documentation for the ISBLANK function in Google Sheets .

Additional Resources

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