

# How can I check if one column value exists in another column in Google Sheets?

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June 24, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I check if one column value exists in another column in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=149608>

One can check if a specific value in one column exists in another column in Google Sheets by using the "MATCH" function. This function compares a value to a range of cells and returns the position of that value within the range. If the value is not found, it will return an error. By using this function, one can easily determine if a value exists in another column and utilize this information for data analysis or other purposes. Additionally, the "COUNTIF" function can also be used to check if a value appears more than once in a column, providing further flexibility and accuracy in identifying matches between columns.

## Google Sheets: Check if One Column Value Exists in Another Column

You can use the following formula to check if one column value exists in another column in Google Sheets:

```
=NOT(ISERROR(MATCH(A2,$B$2:$B$16,0)))
```

This particular formula checks if the value in cell A2 exists in the range B2:B16.

If it does exist in the range B2:B16, the formula returns TRUE. Otherwise, it returns FALSE.

The following example shows how to use this formula in practice.

**Example: Check if One Column Value Exists in Another Column in**

## Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following dataset in Google Sheets where one column contains a list of groceries needed and the other column contains a list of groceries available at the store:

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Grocery List</b>	<b>Grocery Inventory</b>		
2	Apples	Avocado		
3	Bananas	Peaches		
4	Carrots	Bananas		
5	Pears	Apples		
6	Peppers	Watermelon		
7		Flour		
8		Bread		
9		Chips		
10		Milk		
11		Yogurt		
12		Cheese		
13		Pears		
14		Celery		
15		Clantro		
16		Potatoes		
17				
18				
19				
20				

Suppose we would like to check if each item in the Grocery List column also exists in the Grocery Inventory column.

To do so, we can type the following formula into cell C2:

**=NOT(ISERROR(MATCH(A2,\$B\$2:\$B\$16,0)))**

We can then drag and fill this formula down to each remaining cell in column C:

C2    fx =NOT(ISERROR(MATCH(A2,\$B\$2:\$B\$16,0)))

	A	B	C
1	<b>Grocery List</b>	<b>Grocery Inventory</b>	<b>Item in Grocery List Exists in Inventory?</b>
2	Apples	Avocado	TRUE
3	Bananas	Peaches	TRUE
4	Carrots	Bananas	FALSE
5	Pears	Apples	TRUE
6	Peppers	Watermelon	FALSE
7		Flour	
8		Bread	
9		Chips	
10		Milk	
11		Yogurt	
12		Cheese	
13		Pears	
14		Celery	
15		Clantro	
16		Potatoes	
17			
18			

Column C shows whether or not each cell in column A also exists in column B.

For example, we can see:

Apples does exist in the grocery inventory. Bananas does exist in the grocery inventory. Carrots does not exist in the grocery inventory. Pears does exist in the grocery inventory. Peppers does not exist in the grocery inventory.

If you'd like to return values other than TRUE and FALSE, you can wrap the formula in an IF function and specify the values you'd like to return.

```
=IF(NOT(ISERROR(MATCH(A2,$B$2:$B$16,0))), "Yes", "No")
```

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

C2    ▾    |    **fx**    =IF(NOT(ISERROR(MATCH(A2,\$B\$2:\$B\$16,0))), "Yes", "No")

	A	B	C
1	<b>Grocery List</b>	<b>Grocery Inventory</b>	<b>Item in Grocery List Exists in Inventory?</b>
2	Apples	Avocado	Yes
3	Bananas	Peaches	Yes
4	Carrots	Bananas	No
5	Pears	Apples	Yes
6	Peppers	Watermelon	No
7		Flour	
8		Bread	
9		Chips	
10		Milk	
11		Yogurt	
12		Cheese	
13		Pears	
14		Celery	
15		Clantro	
16		Potatoes	
17			
18			
19			
20			

**The formula now returns "Yes" if the item in the Grocery List exists in the Grocery Inventory or "No" if it does not.**

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