

How can I compare four columns in Excel?

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To compare four columns in Excel, first select all four columns by clicking and dragging over them. Then, go to the Home tab and click on the "Conditional Formatting" button. From the drop-down menu, select "Highlight Cells Rules" and then choose "Duplicate Values". A new window will appear, allowing you to customize the formatting for the duplicate cells. Once finished, click "OK" and the cells with duplicate values across all four columns will be highlighted for easy comparison.

Compare Four Columns in Excel (With Example)

You can use the following basic formula to compare four columns in Excel:

```
=IF(AND(B2=C2,C2=D2,D2=E2),"Equal","Not Equal")
```

This particular formula compares the values in cells B2, C2, D2 and E2.

If all of the values are equal, the formula returns Equal. Otherwise, it returns Not Equal.

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

Example: Compare Four Columns in Excel

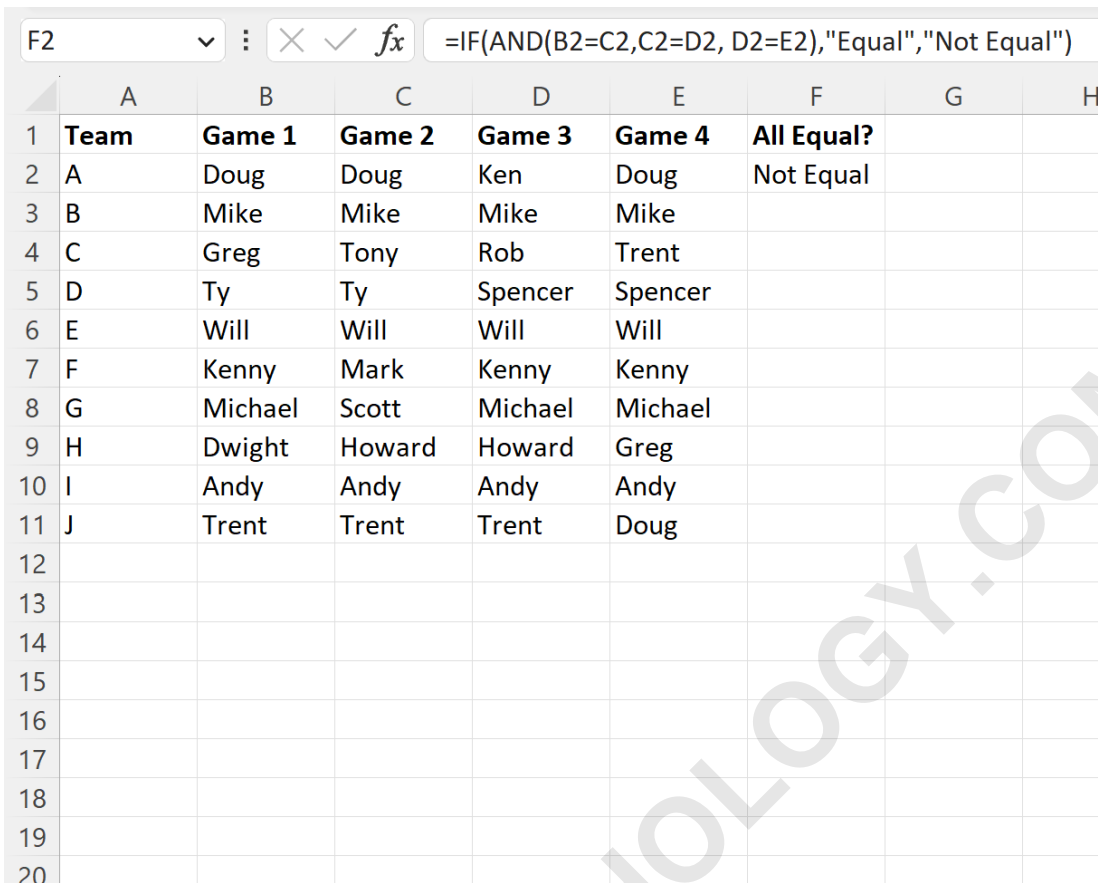
Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the highest scorer on various basketball teams during four different games:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	
2	A	Doug	Doug	Ken	Doug	
3	B	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike	
4	C	Greg	Tony	Rob	Trent	
5	D	Ty	Ty	Spencer	Spencer	
6	E	Will	Will	Will	Will	
7	F	Kenny	Mark	Kenny	Kenny	
8	G	Michael	Scott	Michael	Michael	
9	H	Dwight	Howard	Howard	Greg	
10	I	Andy	Andy	Andy	Andy	
11	J	Trent	Trent	Trent	Doug	
12						
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We can type the following formula into cell F2 to test if the four values in the first row are all equal:

=IF(AND(B2=C2,C2=D2,D2=E2),"Equal","Not Equal")

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



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	All Equal?		
2	A	Doug	Doug	Ken	Doug	Not Equal		
3	B	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike			
4	C	Greg	Tony	Rob	Trent			
5	D	Ty	Ty	Spencer	Spencer			
6	E	Will	Will	Will	Will			
7	F	Kenny	Mark	Kenny	Kenny			
8	G	Michael	Scott	Michael	Michael			
9	H	Dwight	Howard	Howard	Greg			
10	I	Andy	Andy	Andy	Andy			
11	J	Trent	Trent	Trent	Doug			
12								
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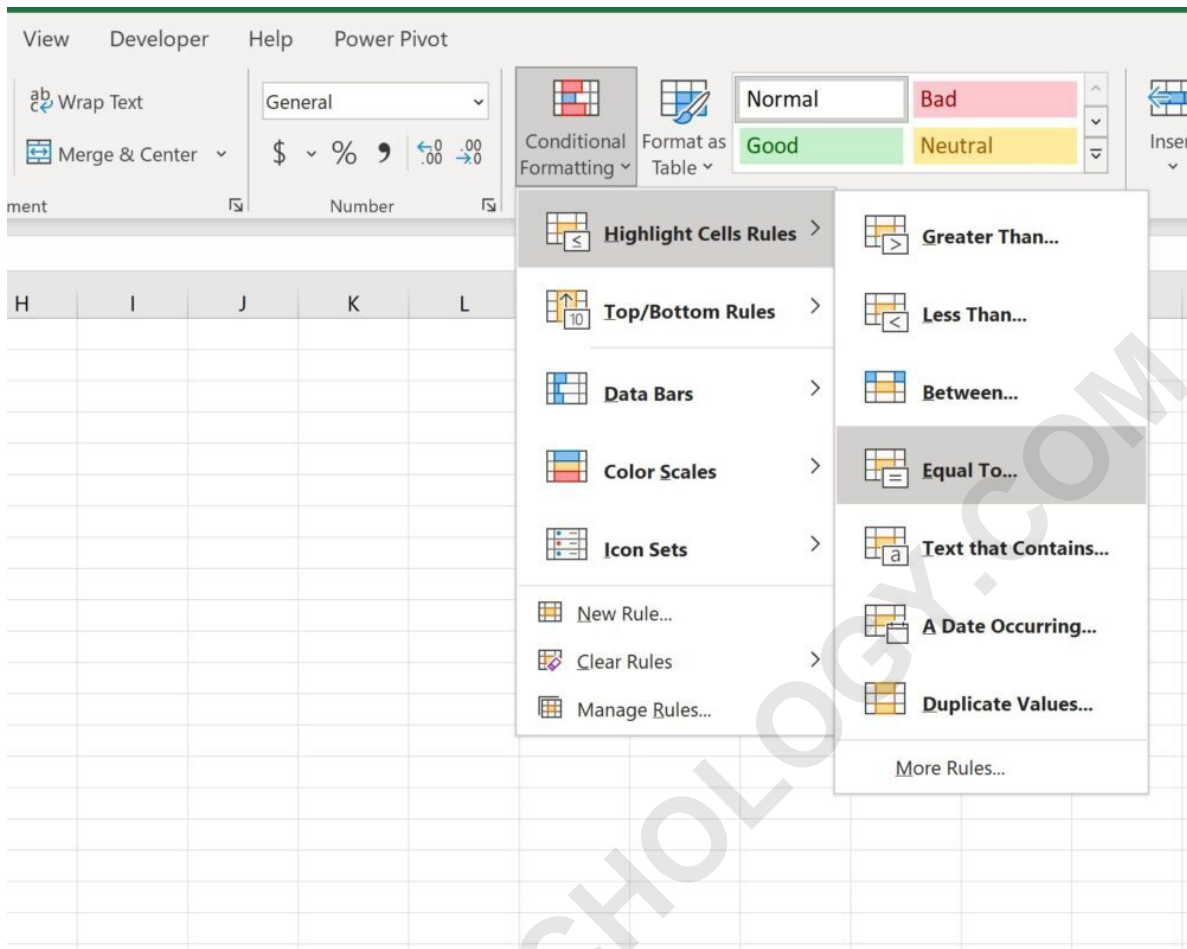
The formula returns **Not Equal** since the four names in the first row don't all match.

We can then drag this formula in cell F2 down to the remaining cells in column F to test for matches in each row:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	All Equal?		
2	A	Doug	Doug	Ken	Doug	Not Equal		
3	B	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike	Equal		
4	C	Greg	Tony	Rob	Trent	Not Equal		
5	D	Ty	Ty	Spencer	Spencer	Not Equal		
6	E	Will	Will	Will	Will	Equal		
7	F	Kenny	Mark	Kenny	Kenny	Not Equal		
8	G	Michael	Scott	Michael	Michael	Not Equal		
9	H	Dwight	Howard	Howard	Greg	Not Equal		
10	I	Andy	Andy	Andy	Andy	Equal		
11	J	Trent	Trent	Trent	Doug	Not Equal		
12								
13								
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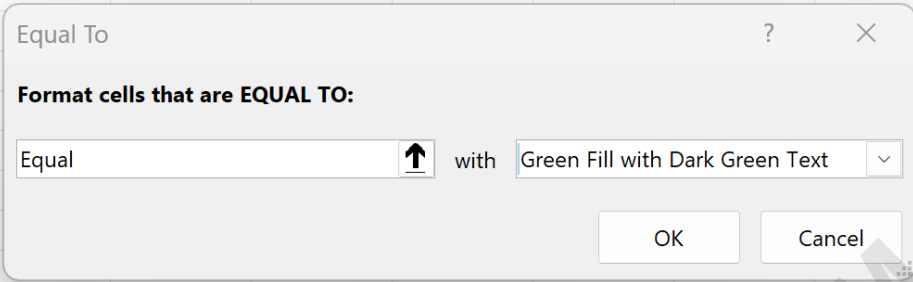
Notice that the formula only returns Equal for the rows where the cell values are equal across each of the four columns.

You can also apply conditional formatting to the rows where all three cell values are equal by highlighting the cell range F2:F11, then clicking on the Conditional Formatting button on the Home tab, then clicking Highlight Cell Rules, then clicking Equal To:



In the new window that appears, type Equal into the box and choose a fill color, then click OK:

E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
e 4	All Equal?							
	Not Equal							
	Equal							
t	Not Equal							
cer	Not Equal							
	Equal							
y	Not Equal							
ael	Not Equal							
	Not Equal							
	Equal							
	Not Equal							



The image shows an Excel spreadsheet with a dialog box titled "Equal To" open. The dialog box has a title bar with a question mark and a close button. Below the title bar, it says "Format cells that are EQUAL TO:". There are two input fields: the first contains the text "Equal" and has an up arrow icon to its right; the second contains the text "Green Fill with Dark Green Text" and has a dropdown arrow icon to its right. The word "with" is placed between the two fields. At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel".

The rows that have matching values across all four columns will now be filled with green:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Game 4	All Equal?	
2	A	Doug	Doug	Ken	Doug	Not Equal	
3	B	Mike	Mike	Mike	Mike	Equal	
4	C	Greg	Tony	Rob	Trent	Not Equal	
5	D	Ty	Ty	Spencer	Spencer	Not Equal	
6	E	Will	Will	Will	Will	Equal	
7	F	Kenny	Mark	Kenny	Kenny	Not Equal	
8	G	Michael	Scott	Michael	Michael	Not Equal	
9	H	Dwight	Howard	Howard	Greg	Not Equal	
10	I	Andy	Andy	Andy	Andy	Equal	
11	J	Trent	Trent	Trent	Doug	Not Equal	
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

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