

How can I compare three columns in Excel using an example?

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=155620>

In order to compare three columns in Excel, you can use the IF and AND functions to create a formula that will check for similarities or differences between the data in the three columns. For example, if you have three columns A, B, and C, you can use a formula like `=IF(AND(A1=B1,B1=C1), "Match", "No Match")` to compare the values in each row of the three columns and return "Match" if all three values are identical or "No Match" if there is a difference. This allows for a quick and efficient comparison of multiple data sets in Excel.

Compare Three Columns in Excel (With Example)

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

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

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

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 Three Columns in Excel

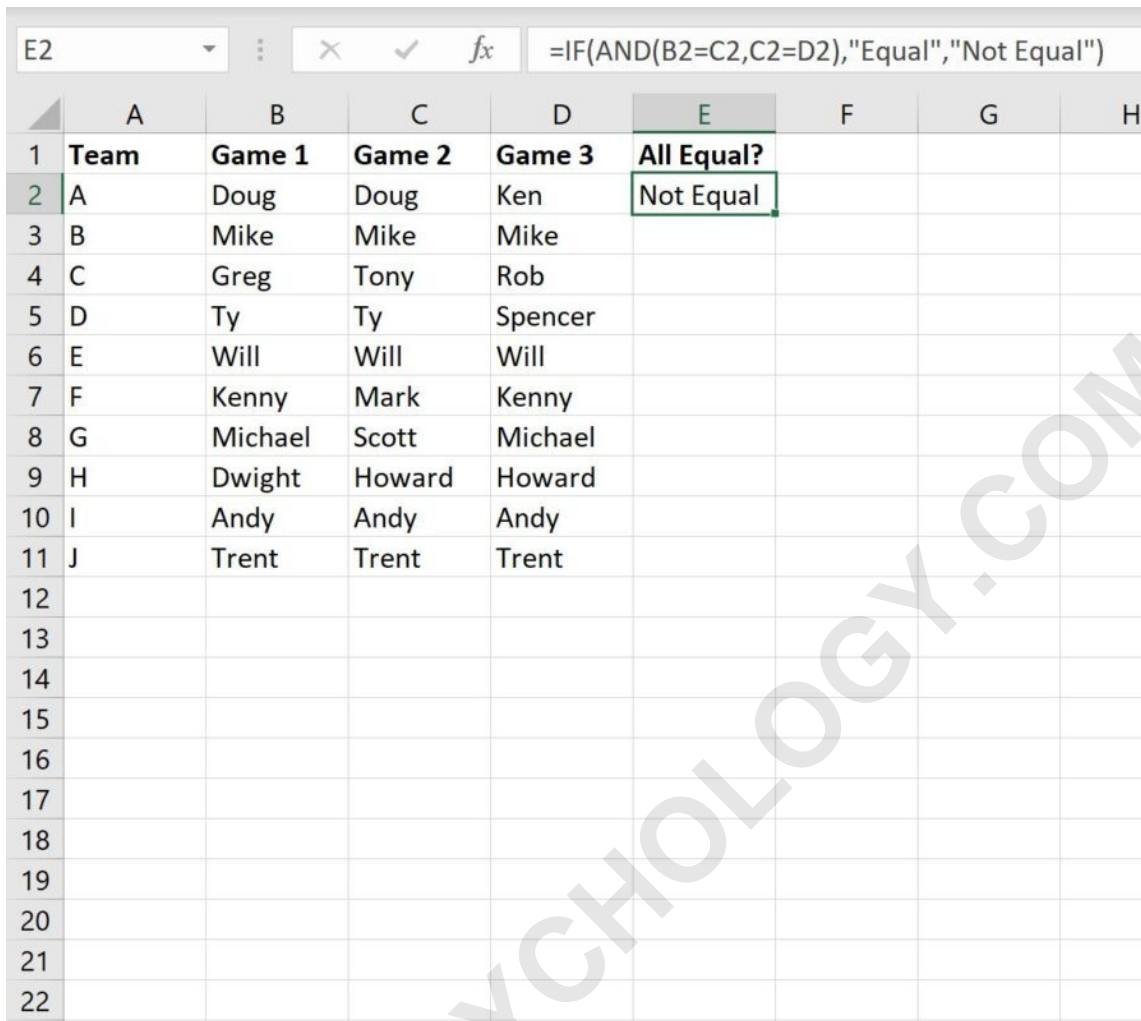
Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the highest scorer on various basketball teams during three different games:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3		
2	A	Doug	Doug	Ken		
3	B	Mike	Mike	Mike		
4	C	Greg	Tony	Rob		
5	D	Ty	Ty	Spencer		
6	E	Will	Will	Will		
7	F	Kenny	Mark	Kenny		
8	G	Michael	Scott	Michael		
9	H	Dwight	Howard	Howard		
10	I	Andy	Andy	Andy		
11	J	Trent	Trent	Trent		
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We can type the following formula into cell E2 to test if the three values in the first row are all equal:

=IF(AND(B2=C2,C2=D2),"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	All Equal?			
2	A	Doug	Doug	Ken	Not Equal			
3	B	Mike	Mike	Mike				
4	C	Greg	Tony	Rob				
5	D	Ty	Ty	Spencer				
6	E	Will	Will	Will				
7	F	Kenny	Mark	Kenny				
8	G	Michael	Scott	Michael				
9	H	Dwight	Howard	Howard				
10	I	Andy	Andy	Andy				
11	J	Trent	Trent	Trent				
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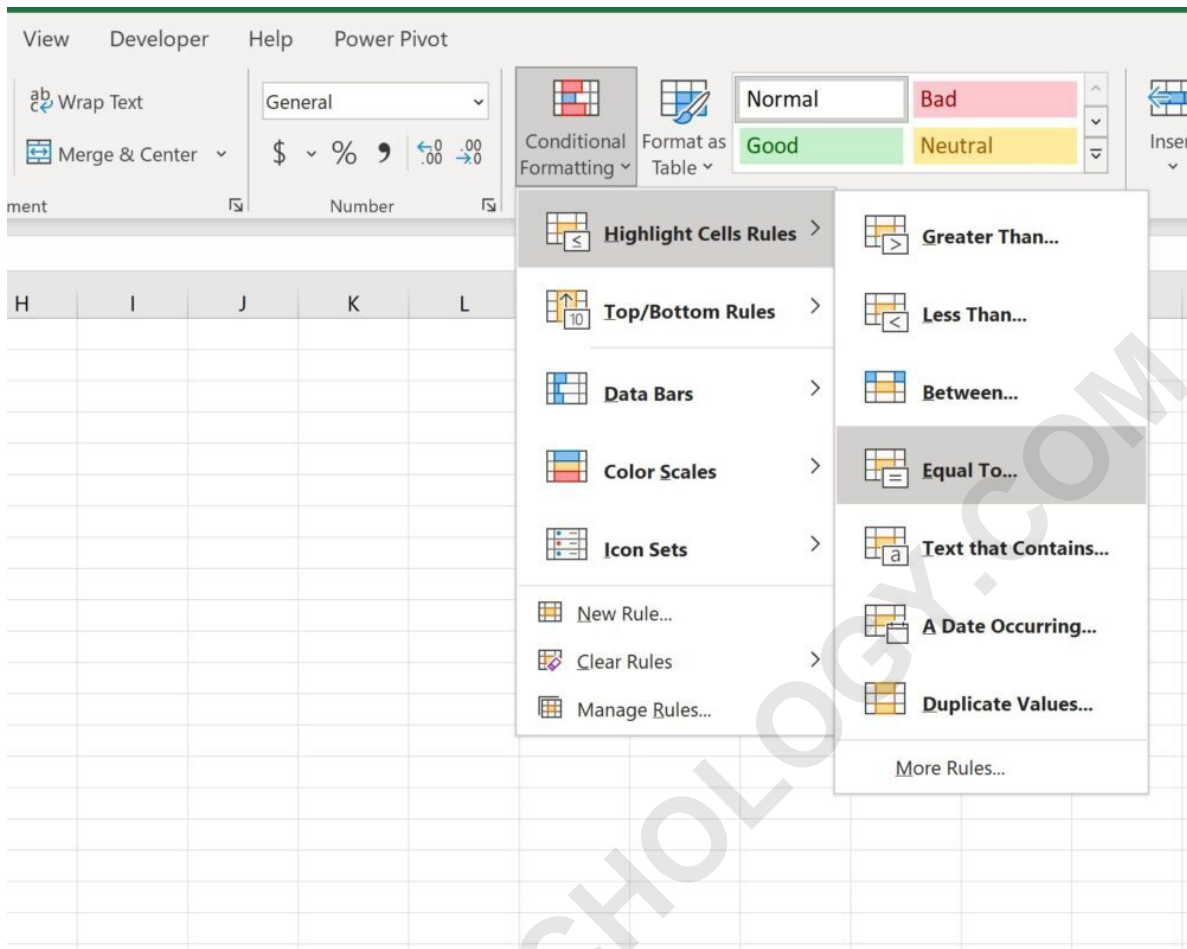
The formula returns Not Equal since the three names in the first row don't all match.

We can then drag this formula in cell E2 down to the remaining cells in column E to test for matches in each row:

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

You can also apply conditional formatting to the rows where all three cell values are equal by highlighting the cell range E2:E11, 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:

Excel formula bar: `=IF(AND(B2=C2,C2=D2),"Equal","Not Equal")`

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

Equal To

Format cells that are EQUAL TO:

Equal with Green Fill with Dark Green Text

OK Cancel

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Team	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	All Equal?		
2	A	Doug	Doug	Ken	Not Equal		
3	B	Mike	Mike	Mike	Equal		
4	C	Greg	Tony	Rob	Not Equal		
5	D	Ty	Ty	Spencer	Not Equal		
6	E	Will	Will	Will	Equal		
7	F	Kenny	Mark	Kenny	Not Equal		
8	G	Michael	Scott	Michael	Not Equal		
9	H	Dwight	Howard	Howard	Not Equal		
10	I	Andy	Andy	Andy	Equal		
11	J	Trent	Trent	Trent	Equal		
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The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel: