

How can I compare two tables in Excel?

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Comparing two tables in Excel refers to the process of analyzing and identifying any similarities or differences between them. This can be done by using certain functions and tools available in Excel, such as the VLOOKUP or IF functions, or by visually inspecting the data in both tables. By comparing two tables, you can gain a better understanding of the data and make informed decisions based on the results. This can be useful for tasks such as reconciling data, identifying trends, and detecting errors. Overall, comparing two tables in Excel is a helpful and efficient way to analyze and manipulate data.

Compare Two Tables in Excel (With Example)

Often you may want to compare two tables in Excel for differences.

Fortunately this is easy to do using the New Rule feature within the Conditional Formatting options.

The following example shows how to do so.

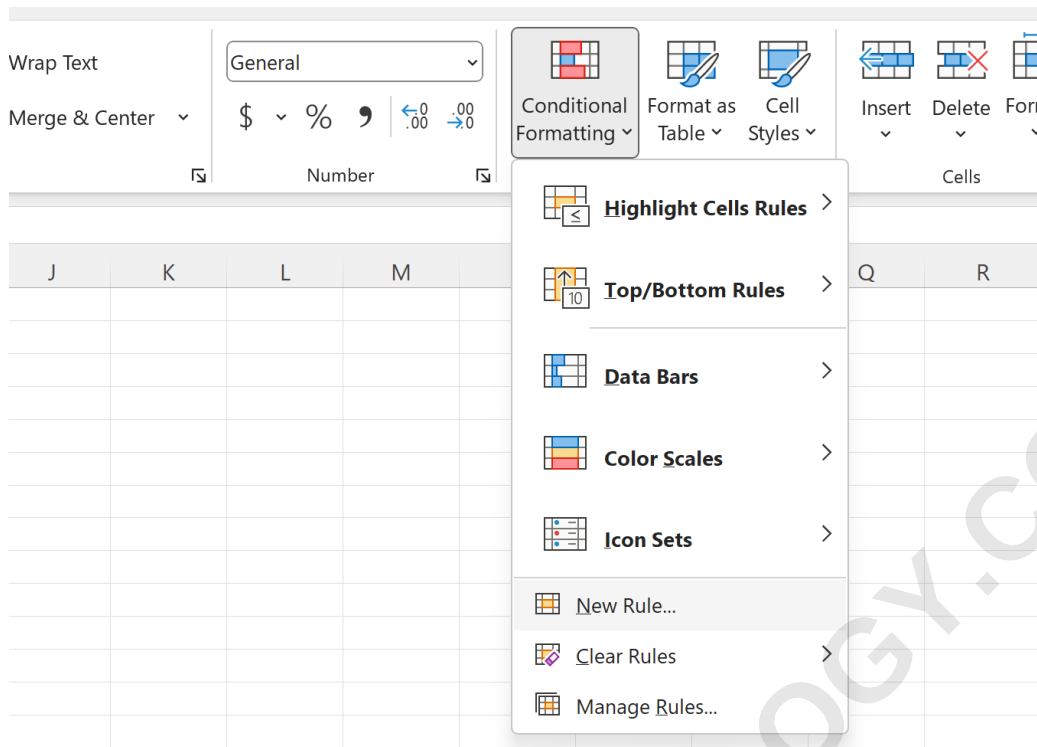
Example: Compare Two Tables in Excel

Suppose we have the following two tables in Excel that contain information about various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team	Position	Points			Team	Position	Points
2	Mavs	Guard	22			Mavs	Guard	22
3	Spurs	Guard	25			Spurs	Forward	25
4	Rockets	Forward	30			Rockets	Forward	30
5	Kings	Center	34			Kings	Center	34
6	Warriors	Forward	38			Warriors	Forward	38
7	Nets	Center	13			Nets	Guard	25
8	Lakers	Center	17			Lakers	Center	17
9	Thunder	Guard	15			Thunder	Guard	40
10	Blazers	Guard	20			Blazers	Guard	20
11	Jazz	Forward	28			Magic	Forward	22
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								

Suppose we would like to highlight the differences in corresponding cells between the two tables.

To do so, we can highlight the cell range F2:H11 and then click the Conditional Formatting icon on the Home tab along the top ribbon, then click New Rule from the dropdown menu:



In the new window that appears, click **Use a formula to determine which cells to format** and then type the following formula in:

=A2<>F2

Then click the **Format** button and choose a color to use for the conditional formatting.

We'll choose red:

Team	Position	Points
Mavs	Guard	22
Spurs	Forward	25
Rockets	Forward	30
Kings	Center	34
Warriors	Forward	38
Nets	Guard	
Lakers	Center	
Thunder	Guard	
Blazers	Guard	
Magic	Forward	

New Formatting Rule

Select a Rule Type:

- Format all cells based on their values
- Format only cells that contain
- Format only top or bottom ranked values
- Format only values that are above or below average
- Format only unique or duplicate values
- Use a formula to determine which cells to format

Edit the Rule Description:

Format values where this formula is true:

=A2<>F2

Preview: AaBbCcYyZz

Format...

OK Cancel

Lastly, click OK.

Each value in the second table that does not match the corresponding value in the first table is now highlighted in red:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team ▼	Position ▼	Points ▼			Team ▼	Position ▼	Points ▼
2	Mavs	Guard	22			Mavs	Guard	22
3	Spurs	Guard	25			Spurs	Forward	25
4	Rockets	Forward	30			Rockets	Forward	30
5	Kings	Center	34			Kings	Center	34
6	Warriors	Forward	38			Warriors	Forward	38
7	Nets	Center	13			Nets	Guard	25
8	Lakers	Center	17			Lakers	Center	17
9	Thunder	Guard	15			Thunder	Guard	40
10	Blazers	Guard	20			Blazers	Guard	20
11	Jazz	Forward	28			Magic	Forward	22
12								
13								
14								
15								

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