

How can I conditionally format a cell in Google Sheets if another cell is not empty?

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Conditional formatting in Google Sheets allows users to apply formatting rules to cells based on specific conditions. This feature can be utilized to automatically format a cell if another cell in the same sheet is not empty. This means that the formatting will only be applied if the referenced cell contains any data. By setting up this conditional formatting rule, users can easily identify and highlight important information in their spreadsheet, making it more organized and visually appealing. This feature is particularly useful for tracking and monitoring data in a large spreadsheet, as it eliminates the need for manual formatting and ensures consistency in the presentation of data.

Google Sheets: Conditional Formatting if Another Cell is Not Empty

You can use the custom formula function in Google Sheets to apply conditional formatting to a cell if another cell is not empty.

The following example shows how to use the custom formula function in practice.

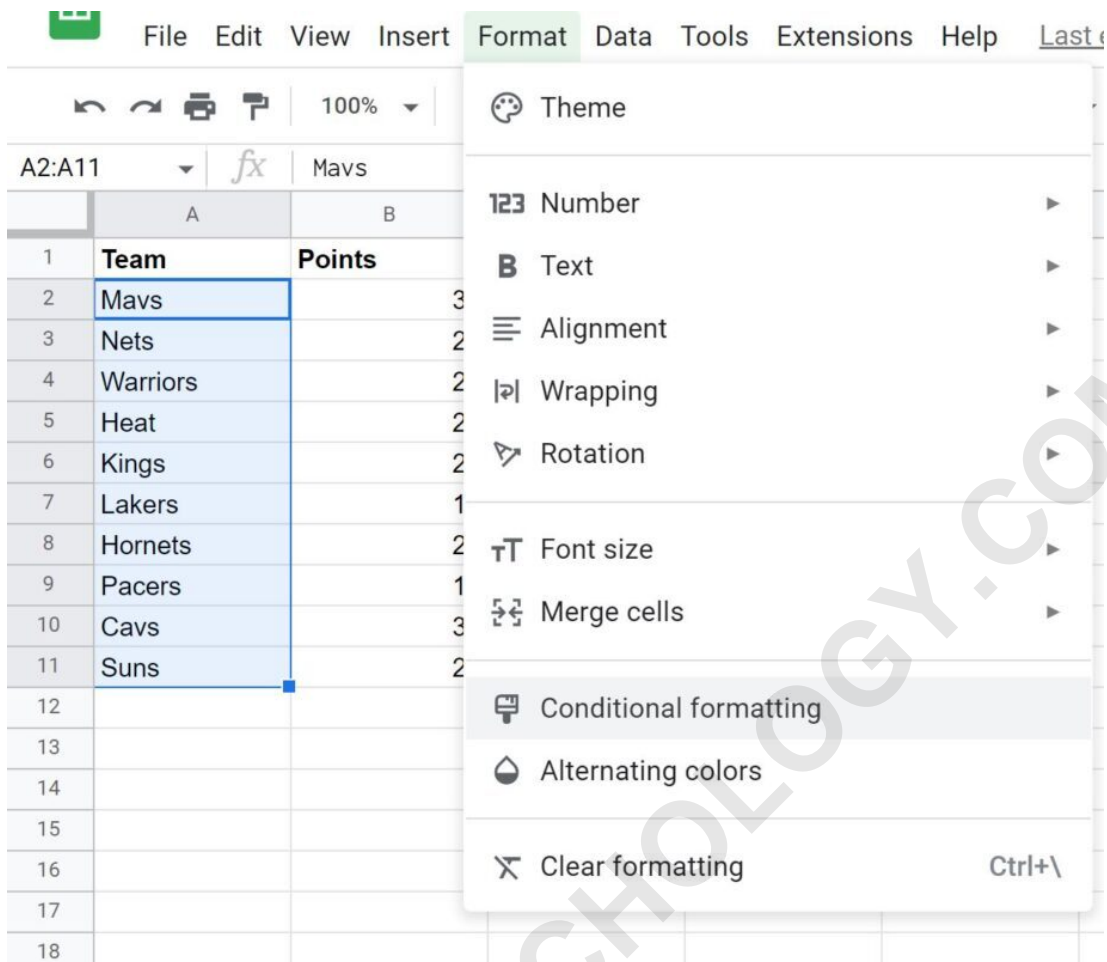
Example: Conditional Formatting if Another Cell Contains Text in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following dataset in Google Sheets that contains information about various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D
1	Team	Points	Rating	
2	Mavs	34	Great	
3	Nets	29	Good	
4	Warriors	25		
5	Heat	25	Good	
6	Kings	22	Good	
7	Lakers	17		
8	Hornets	29		
9	Pacers	18	Bad	
10	Cavs	38	Great	
11	Suns	22	Bad	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

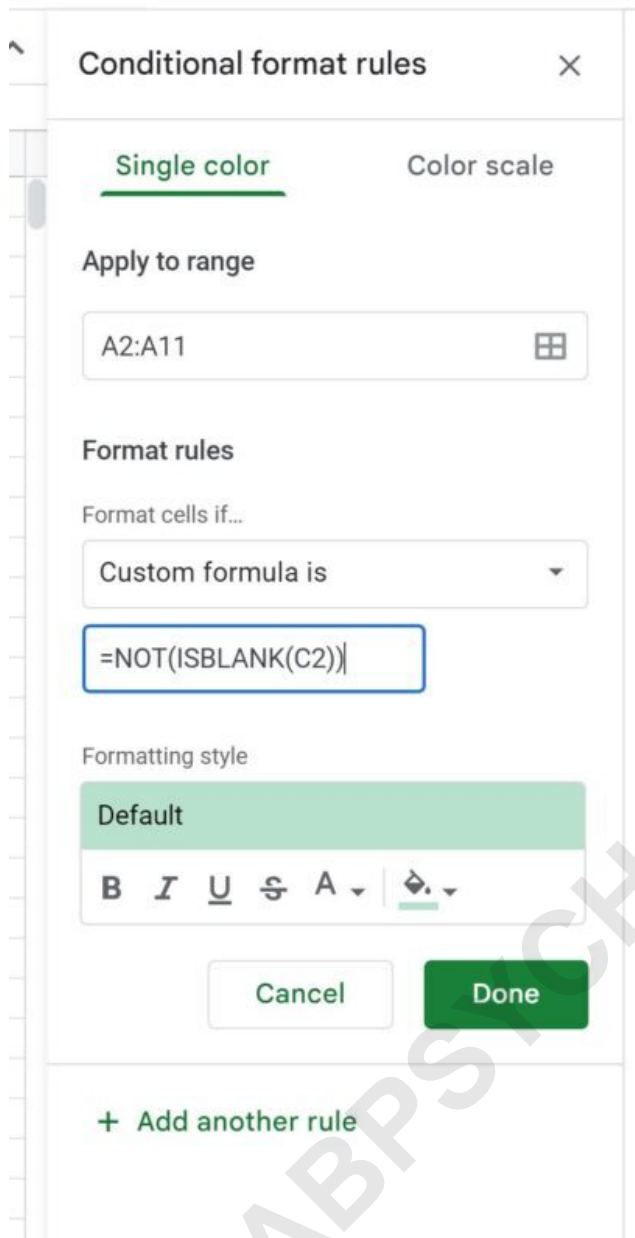
Suppose we'd like to highlight each of the cells in the Team column if the cell in the corresponding Rating column is not empty.

To do so, we can highlight the cells in the range A2:A11, then click the Format tab, then click Conditional formatting:



In the Conditional format rules panel that appears on the right side of the screen, click the Format cells if dropdown, then choose Custom formula is, then type in the following formula:

=NOT(ISBLANK(C2))



Conditional format rules

Single color Color scale

Apply to range

A2:A11

Format rules

Format cells if...

Custom formula is

=NOT(ISBLANK(C2))

Formatting style

Default

B I U S A | .

Cancel Done

+ Add another rule

Note: It's important that you include the equal sign (=) at the beginning of the formula, otherwise the conditional formatting won't work.

Once you click Done, each of the cells in the Team column where the corresponding value in the Rating

column is not empty will be highlighted with a green background:

	A	B	C	D
1	Team	Points	Rating	
2	Mavs	34	Great	
3	Nets	29	Good	
4	Warriors	25		
5	Heat	25	Good	
6	Kings	22	Good	
7	Lakers	17		
8	Hornets	29		
9	Pacers	18	Bad	
10	Cavs	38	Great	
11	Suns	22	Bad	
12				
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21				

We can see that the only Team values that have a green background are the ones where the corresponding value in the Rating column are not empty.

Note that you can also apply a different background color to the cells in the Team column by specifying a different color within the Conditional format rules panel.