

# How to Count Characters in Google Sheets: A Step-by-Step Guide

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Google Sheets is a powerful spreadsheet software that allows users to organize and manipulate data. One useful feature of Google Sheets is the ability to count specific characters within a given range of cells. This function is useful for tasks such as counting the number of times a particular letter or symbol appears in a document. To use this feature, users can simply input the desired characters to be counted and the range of cells to be searched. Google Sheets will then generate a count of the specific characters within that range, providing an efficient way to analyze and track data.

## Count Specific Characters in Google Sheets

You can use the following formulas to count the number of specific characters in cells in Google Sheets:

### Formula 1: Count Specific Characters (Case-Sensitive)

**=LEN(A2)-LEN(SUBSTITUTE(A2,"a",""))**

This particular formula counts all occurrences of the character "a" in cell A2.

This formula is case-sensitive, so any "A" characters in cell A2 will not be counted.

### Formula 2: Count Specific Characters (Case-Insensitive)

**=LEN(A2)-LEN(SUBSTITUTE(LOWER(A2),"a",""))**

This particular formula counts all occurrences of the

**character "a" in cell A2.**

**This formula is case-insensitive, so any "A" characters in cell A2 will also be counted.**

**The following examples show how to use each formula in practice with the following list of names in Google Sheets:**

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Name</b>			
2	Andy			
3	Bob			
4	Chad			
5	Doug			
6	Eric			
7	Frank			
8	Greg			
9	Henry			
10	Isaac			
11	John			
12	Kendall			
13	Luke			
14				
15				
16				
17				

### **Example 1: Count Specific Characters (Case-Sensitive)**

**We can type the following formula into cell B2 to count**

the number of times the character "a" occurs in cell A2:

**=LEN(A2)-LEN(SUBSTITUTE(A2,"a",""))**

We can then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:

B2    fx =LEN(A2)-LEN(SUBSTITUTE(A2,"a",""))

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Count of "a"		
2	Andy	0		
3	Bob	0		
4	Chad	1		
5	Doug	0		
6	Eric	0		
7	Frank	1		
8	Greg	0		
9	Henry	0		
10	Isaac	2		
11	John	0		
12	Kendall	1		
13	Luke	0		
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

Column B now shows the number of times the character "a" occurs in each corresponding cell in column A.

## Example 2: Count Specific Characters (Case-Insensitive)

We can type the following formula into cell B2 to count the number of times the character "a" occurs in cell A2:

**=LEN(A2)-LEN(SUBSTITUTE(LOWER(A2),"a",""))**

We can then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:

B2    fx =LEN(A2)-LEN(SUBSTITUTE(LOWER(A2),"a",""))

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Count of "a"		
2	Andy	1		
3	Bob	0		
4	Chad	1		
5	Doug	0		
6	Eric	0		
7	Frank	1		
8	Greg	0		
9	Henry	0		
10	Isaac	2		
11	John	0		
12	Kendall	1		
13	Luke	0		
14				
15				
16				
17				

**Column B now shows the number of times the**

**character "a" occurs in each corresponding cell in column A.**

**Notice that the formula returns 1 for the name Andy because this formula is case-insensitive so "A" is counted.**

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