

How can I create a unique list across multiple columns in Google Sheets?

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Creating a unique list across multiple columns in Google Sheets refers to the process of combining data from different columns and removing duplicate entries to create a single, unique list. This can be achieved by using the built-in functions and features of Google Sheets, such as the UNIQUE function and the Remove Duplicates tool. By doing so, users can efficiently organize and analyze their data without having to manually remove duplicates or merge multiple lists. This method can help save time and ensure accuracy in data management, making it a valuable tool for users working with large sets of data in Google Sheets.

Google Sheets: Create Unique List Across Multiple Columns

You can use the following formulas to create a unique list of values across multiple columns in Google Sheets:

Formula 1: Create Unique List of Values (Display Across Multiple Columns)

=UNIQUE(A2:C20)

Formula 2: Create Unique List of Values (Display in One Column)

=UNIQUE(FLATTEN(A2:C20))

The following examples show how to use each formula in practice.

Example 1: Create Unique List of Values (Display Across Multiple Columns)

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains information for various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D	
1	Team	Position			
2	Mavs	Guard			
3	Mavs	Guard			
4	Mavs	Forward			
5	Mavs	Forward			
6	Mavs	Center			
7	Spurs	Guard			
8	Spurs	Guard			
9	Spurs	Forward			
10	Spurs	Forward			
11	Spurs	Center			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

We can use the following formula to return only the unique rows across both columns:

=UNIQUE(A2:B11)

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

D1 fx =UNIQUE(A2:B11)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Position		Mavs	Guard
2	Mavs	Guard		Mavs	Forward
3	Mavs	Guard		Mavs	Center
4	Mavs	Forward		Spurs	Guard
5	Mavs	Forward		Spurs	Forward
6	Mavs	Center		Spurs	Center
7	Spurs	Guard			
8	Spurs	Guard			
9	Spurs	Forward			
10	Spurs	Forward			
11	Spurs	Center			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

Notice that the formula only returns the unique rows from the original dataset.

Example 2: Create Unique List of Values (Display in One Column)

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains the positions of players on various basketball teams:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3		
2	Guard	Guard	Guard		
3	Guard	Forward	Guard		
4	Forward	Forward	Guard		
5	Forward	Forward	Center		
6	Center	Forward	Center		
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

=UNIQUE(FLATTEN(A2:C6))

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

	A	B	C	D	E
E1					<code>=UNIQUE(FLATTEN(A2:C6))</code>
1	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3		Guard
2	Guard	Guard	Guard		Forward
3	Guard	Forward	Guard		Center
4	Forward	Forward	Guard		
5	Forward	Forward	Center		
6	Center	Forward	Center		
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
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16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

Notice that the formula only returns the unique positions across each of the three columns.

Additional Resources