

How can I find duplicates in two columns using Google Sheets?

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Google Sheets is a commonly used online spreadsheet program that allows users to organize and analyze data. One common task that users may need to perform is finding duplicates in two columns of data. This can be easily accomplished using the built-in functions and tools provided by Google Sheets. By using functions such as COUNTIF and IF, users can compare the values in two columns and identify any duplicates. Additionally, the conditional formatting feature can be utilized to highlight the duplicate values for easier identification. With these tools, users can efficiently and accurately find duplicates in two columns of data in Google Sheets.

Google Sheets: Find Duplicates in Two Columns

Often you may want to find duplicate values across two columns in Google Sheets.

Fortunately this is easy to do using conditional formatting along with the COUNTIF() function.

The following example shows how to find duplicate values across two columns in the following dataset in Google Sheets:

	A	B	C	D
1	Team 1	Team 2		
2	Andy	Andy		
3	Bert	Ben		
4	Chad	Carl		
5	Derrick	John		
6	Eric	Mike		
7	Frank	Chad		
8	George	Frank		
9	Henry	Ethan		
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

Let's jump in!

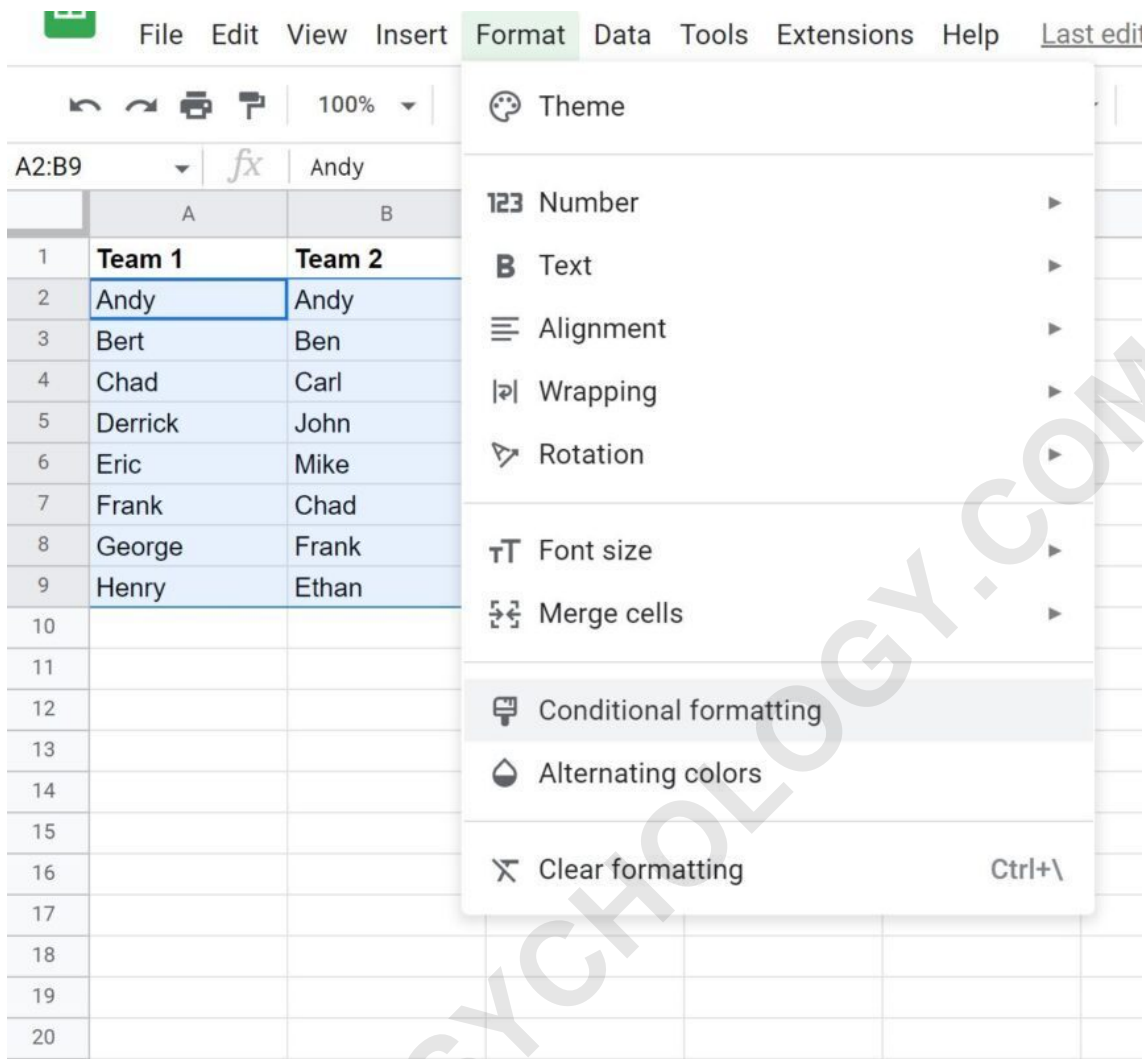
Example: Find Duplicates in Two Columns in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following two columns in Google Sheets that contain the names of basketball players on two teams:

	A	B	C	D
1	Team 1	Team 2		
2	Andy	Andy		
3	Bert	Ben		
4	Chad	Carl		
5	Derrick	John		
6	Eric	Mike		
7	Frank	Chad		
8	George	Frank		
9	Henry	Ethan		
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18				

Now suppose that we would like to highlight the duplicate names across both columns.

To do so, we can highlight the cells in the range A2:B9, then click the Format tab, then click Conditional formatting:

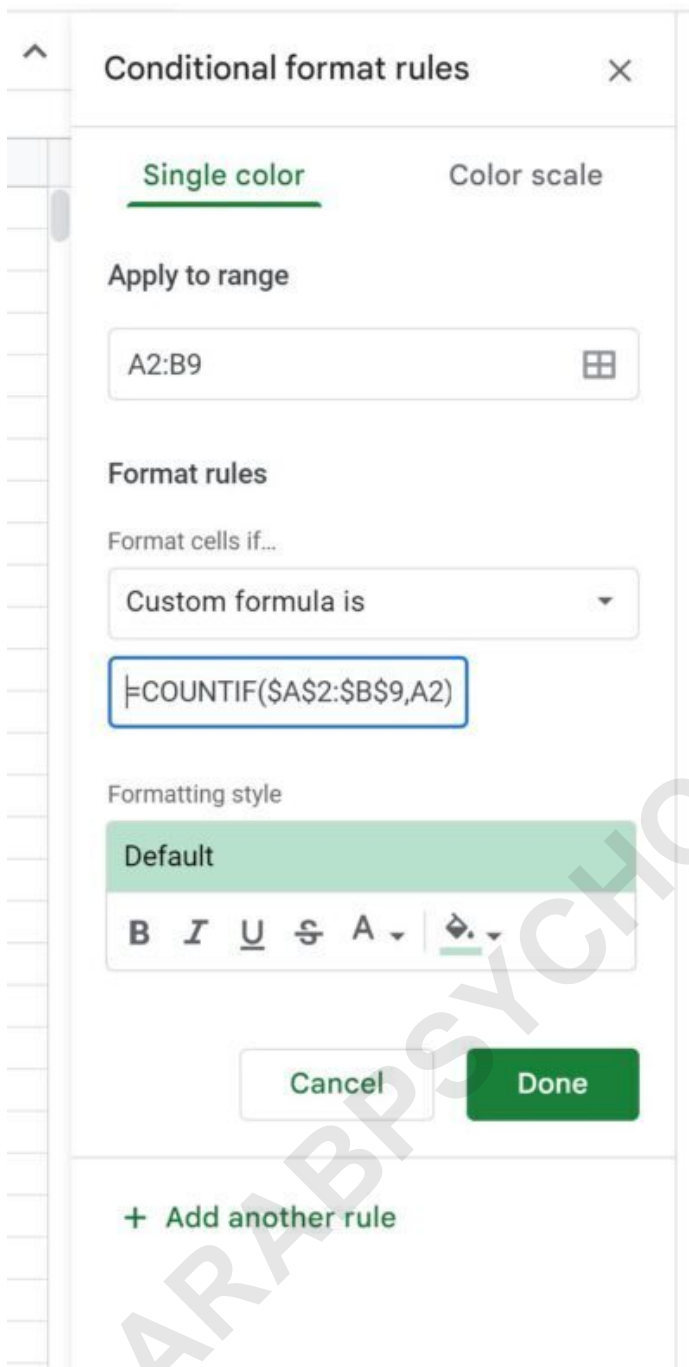


The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet with two columns, A and B, containing names. The 'Format' menu is open, and 'Conditional formatting' is selected. The spreadsheet data is as follows:

	A	B
1	Team 1	Team 2
2	Andy	Andy
3	Bert	Ben
4	Chad	Carl
5	Derrick	John
6	Eric	Mike
7	Frank	Chad
8	George	Frank
9	Henry	Ethan
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

In the Conditional format rules panel that appears, click the dropdown menu under Format cells if and choose Custom formula is, then type the following formula:

`=COUNTIF(A2:B9,A2)>1`



Once you click Done, the duplicate values that occur in both columns will be highlighted in green:

	A	B	C	D
1	Team 1	Team 2		
2	Andy	Andy		
3	Bert	Ben		
4	Chad	Carl		
5	Derrick	John		
6	Eric	Mike		
7	Frank	Chad		
8	George	Frank		
9	Henry	Ethan		
10				
11				
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We can see that the following names are duplicates across the two columns:

AndyChadFrank

Each of these names occur in both columns.

Note that by default, Google Sheets uses a light green background for conditional formatting.

However, you can change the background color, font color, and font style of the conditional formatting to format the duplicate values however you'd like.

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

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