

# How can I find the top 10% of values in an Excel column?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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To find the top 10% of values in an Excel column, you can use the PERCENTILE function which calculates the specified percentile in a given range of values. Simply select the column of values, enter the formula "`=PERCENTILE(range, 0.9)`" and press enter. This will return the value of the 90th percentile, which represents the top 10% of values in the column. Alternatively, you can sort the column in descending order and manually identify the top 10% of values. This method can be useful for analyzing large sets of data and identifying outliers or top-performing data points.

## Find the Top 10% of Values in an Excel Column

Occasional you may want to find the top 10% of values in an Excel column. Fortunately there are two quick ways to do this:

1. Use Conditional Formatting > Top/Bottom Rules > Top 10%
2. Filter using `=CELL >=PERCENTILE(CELL RANGE, 0.9)`

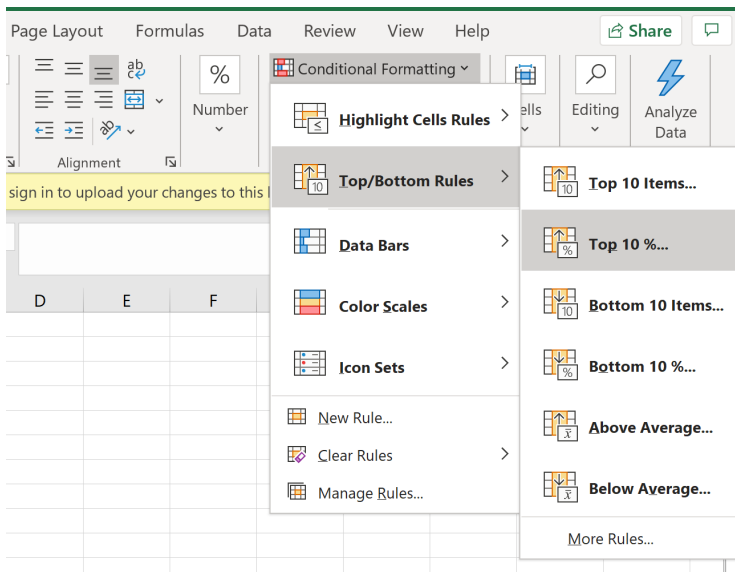
This tutorial provides an example of how to use each of these methods.

### Example 1: Find Top 10% of Values Using Conditional Formatting

Suppose we have the following Excel column that contains 20 different values:

|    | A             | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|----|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1  | <b>Values</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  | 123           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  | 46            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  | 57            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  | 56            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  | 58            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  | 59            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  | 34            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  | 39            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 | 45            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 | 143           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 | 45            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 | 34            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14 | 47            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15 | 48            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 16 | 87            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17 | 83            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 18 | 23            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 19 | 83            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 20 | 12            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 21 | 29            |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 22 |               |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 23 |               |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 24 |               |   |   |   |   |   |   |

**One way to find the top 10% of values in this column is to highlight all of the values in the column and then click Conditional Formatting > Top/Bottom Rules > Top 10%:**

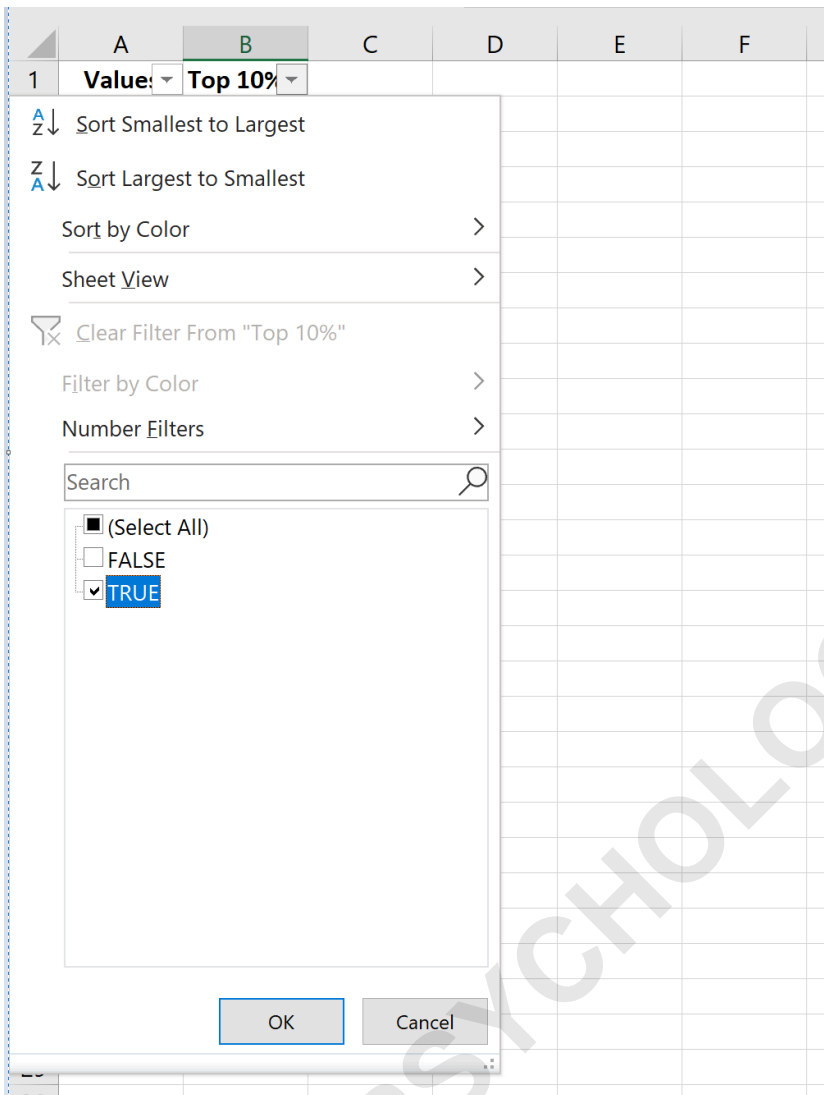


### Example 2: Find Top 10% of Values Using a Formula

Another way to find the top 10% of values in a column is to create a new column of TRUE and FALSE values that indicate whether or not a given cell has a value at the 90th percentile or higher:

|    | A      | B                                   | C | D | E | F |
|----|--------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| 1  | Values | Top 10%                             |   |   |   |   |
| 2  | 123    | =A2>=PERCENTILE(\$A\$2:\$A\$21,0.9) |   |   |   |   |
| 3  | 46     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 4  | 57     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 5  | 56     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 6  | 58     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 7  | 59     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 8  | 34     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 9  | 39     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 10 | 45     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 11 | 143    | TRUE                                |   |   |   |   |
| 12 | 45     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 13 | 34     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 14 | 47     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 15 | 48     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 16 | 87     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 17 | 83     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 18 | 23     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 19 | 83     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 20 | 12     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 21 | 29     | FALSE                               |   |   |   |   |
| 22 |        |                                     |   |   |   |   |
| 23 |        |                                     |   |   |   |   |
| 24 |        |                                     |   |   |   |   |
| 25 |        |                                     |   |   |   |   |

**We can then click the Data tab along the top ribbon and click the Filter icon. We can then filter the Top 10% column to only show values that are TRUE:**



**We can see that the values in the top 10% of all values are 123 and 143.**

|    | A        | B         | C | D | E |
|----|----------|-----------|---|---|---|
| 1  | Value: ▾ | Top 10% ▾ |   |   |   |
| 2  | 123      | TRUE      |   |   |   |
| 11 | 143      | TRUE      |   |   |   |
| 22 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 23 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 24 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 25 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 26 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 27 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 28 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 29 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 30 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 31 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 32 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 33 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 34 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 35 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 36 |          |           |   |   |   |
| 37 |          |           |   |   |   |

**You can find more Excel tutorials [here](#).**

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