

# How can I generate sequence numbers by group in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Generating sequence numbers by group in Excel refers to the process of creating a sequential numbering system within a specific group of data in an Excel spreadsheet. This allows for easier identification and organization of data within that group. The sequence numbers are typically generated in ascending order and can be used for various purposes such as tracking, sorting, and filtering data. This feature can be achieved by using the "ROW" function in Excel and adjusting the formula to include the grouping criteria. By utilizing this method, users can efficiently manage and analyze their data based on specific groups.

## Generate Sequence Numbers by Group in Excel

You can use the following formula to generate sequence numbers by group in Excel:

**=COUNTIF(\$A\$2:A2,A2)**

This particular formula assumes that the first unique group name is in cell A2 and all remaining groups are also in column A.

The following example shows how to use this formula in practice.

**Example: Generate Sequence Numbers by Group in Excel**

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that contains information about points scored by basketball players on various teams:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>			
2	Mavs	22			
3	Mavs	29			
4	Mavs	14			
5	Nets	18			
6	Nets	15			
7	Heat	15			
8	Suns	29			
9	Suns	43			
10	Suns	28			
11	Suns	23			
12	Suns	26			
13	Kings	25			
14	Kings	20			
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

**Suppose we would like to add a new column that contains sequence numbers by team.**

**For example:**

**The first row with a team name of "Mavs" should have a value of 1. The second row with a team name of "Mavs" should have a value of 2. The third row with a team name of "Mavs" should have a value of 3.**

**And so on.**

The sequence numbers should automatically start over when a new team name is encountered.

We can type the following formula into cell C2 to accomplish this:

**=COUNTIF(\$A\$2:A2,A2)**

We can then drag and fill this formula down to each remaining cell in column C:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Sequence Number</b>		
2	Mavs	22	1		
3	Mavs	29	2		
4	Mavs	14	3		
5	Nets	18	1		
6	Nets	15	2		
7	Heat	15	1		
8	Suns	29	1		
9	Suns	43	2		
10	Suns	28	3		
11	Suns	23	4		
12	Suns	26	5		
13	Kings	25	1		
14	Kings	20	2		
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

**Column C now contains sequence numbers by team.**

**For example, suppose we have the following dataset in which the team names are scrambled:**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>			
2	Kings	25			
3	Mavs	29			
4	Suns	43			
5	Suns	23			
6	Nets	15			
7	Heat	15			
8	Suns	29			
9	Nets	18			
10	Suns	28			
11	Kings	20			
12	Mavs	14			
13	Mavs	22			
14	Suns	26			
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

**We can still use the following formula in cell C2 to generate sequence numbers by team name:**

**=COUNTIF(\$A\$2:A2,A2)**

**The following screenshot shows how to use this**

## formula in practice:

C2     $\times$   $\checkmark$   $f_x$     =COUNTIF(\$A\$2:A2,A2)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Sequence Number</b>		
2	Kings	25	1		
3	Mavs	29	1		
4	Suns	43	1		
5	Suns	23	2		
6	Nets	15	1		
7	Heat	15	1		
8	Suns	29	3		
9	Nets	18	2		
10	Suns	28	4		
11	Kings	20	2		
12	Mavs	14	2		
13	Mavs	22	3		
14	Suns	26	5		
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

**Notice that the sequence numbers are still correct.**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel:**