

# How can I get the distinct values in a column in Excel?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147105>

Obtaining the distinct values in a column in Excel can be achieved by using the "Remove Duplicates" feature. This function allows users to identify and remove any duplicate entries within a selected column, leaving only the unique values. By following the steps provided in the feature, users can easily obtain the distinct values in a column, making it easier to analyze and organize data in Excel. This method is useful for managing large data sets and can be performed quickly and accurately.

## **Get Distinct Values in a Column in Excel**

**There are two ways to get a list of distinct values in a column in Excel:**

### **Method 1: Use the UNIQUE Function**

**You can use the UNIQUE function to extract a list of distinct values from a particular range.**

### **Method 2: Use Remove Duplicates Tool**

**You can use the Remove Duplicates tool from the Data tab to remove all duplicate values in a range and be left only with distinct values.**

**The following examples show how to use each method in practice with the following column of values in Excel:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Values</b>					
2	4					
3	12					
4	12					
5	15					
6	19					
7	13					
8	8					
9	4					
10	8					
11	10					
12	15					
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

### Example 1: Use UNIQUE Function

We can type the following formula into cell B2 to extract a list of distinct values from the range A2:A12:

**=UNIQUE(A2:A12)**

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

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Values	Distinct Values			
2	4	4			
3	12	12			
4	12	15			
5	15	19			
6	19	13			
7	13	8			
8	8	10			
9	4				
10	8				
11	10				
12	15				
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

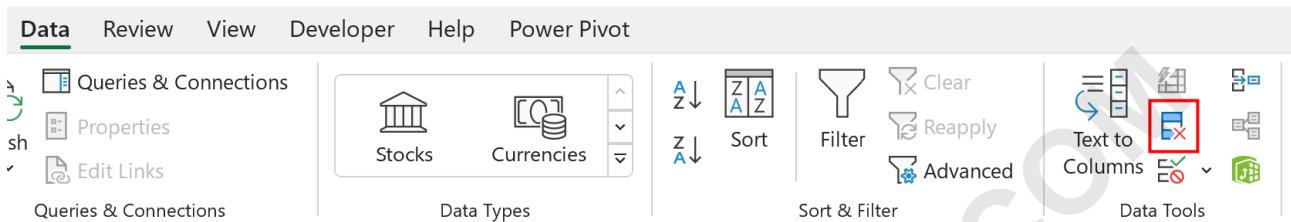
**This formula returns a list of distinct values from column A.**

**The benefit of using this approach is that you can get a list of distinct values from a range without actually modifying the original range.**

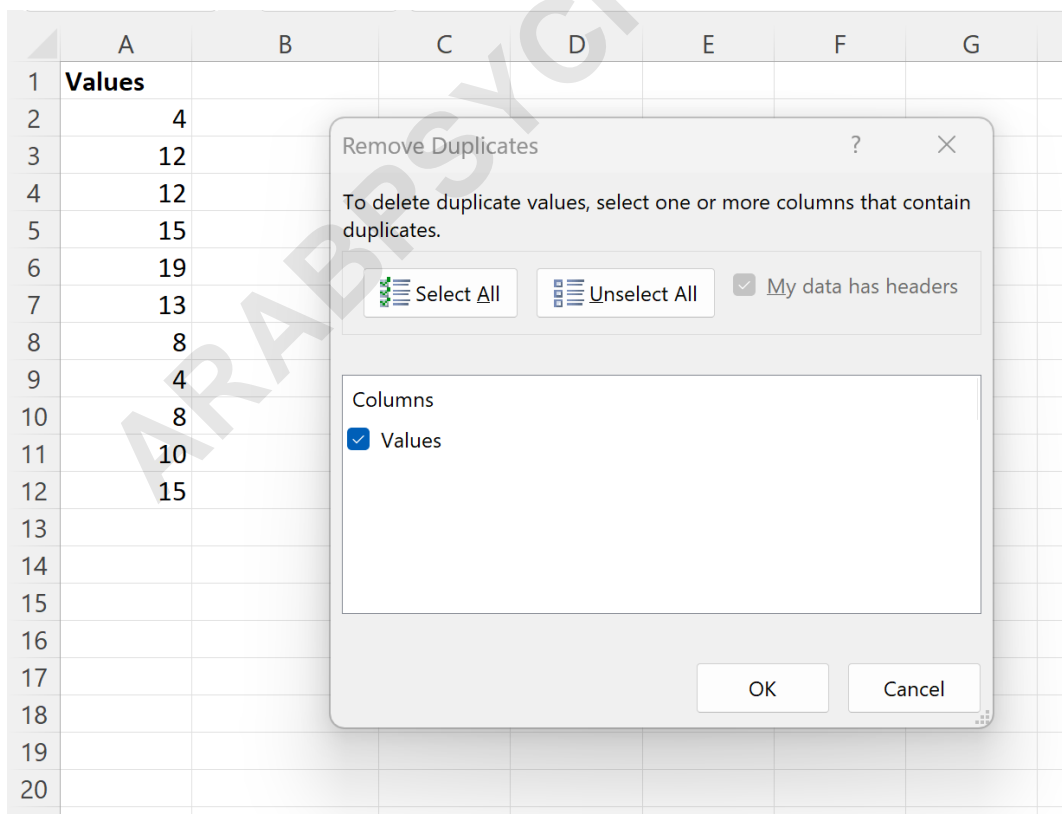
**Example 2: Use Remove Duplicates Tool**

**Another way to get a list of distinct values in a column is to use the Remove Duplicates tool.**

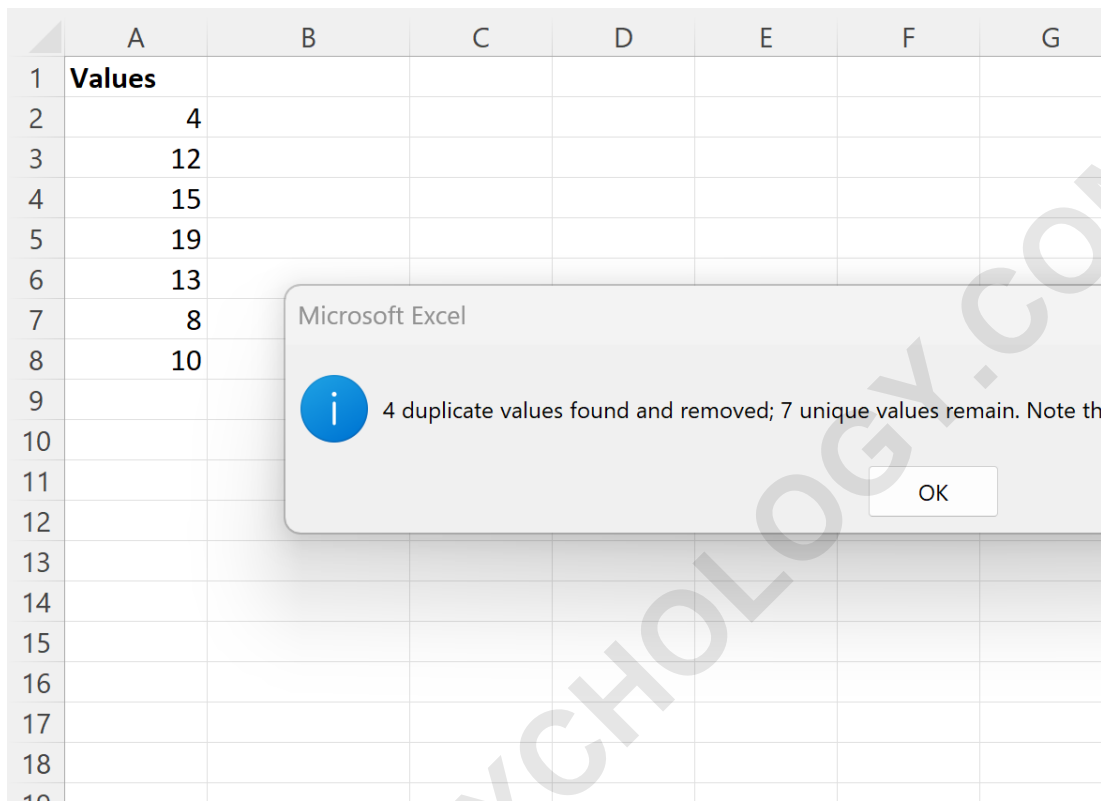
To use this tool simply highlight the cell range A2:A12, then click the Remove Duplicates icon within the Data Tools group from the Data tab:



In the new window that appears, check the box next to the column you'd like to remove duplicates from (in this case the column is called "Values"):



**Once you click OK, all duplicate values will be removed from the column so that only the distinct values remain:**



**A message box also appears that tells us 4 duplicate values were removed and that 7 distinct values remain.**

**The benefit of using this method is that you can directly modify the original list of values if you'd like to only have a list of distinct values.**

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