How can I ignore blank cells when using formulas in Excel?

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When working with formulas in Excel, it is important to take into consideration any blank cells that may be present in your data. These blank cells can affect the accuracy of your formulas and may result in incorrect calculations. To avoid this issue, you can use the IF and ISBLANK functions to ignore blank cells in your formulas. The IF function allows you to check if a cell is blank and return a specific value if it is, while the ISBLANK function simply checks if a cell is blank and returns a TRUE or FALSE value. By incorporating these functions into your formulas, you can ensure that your calculations are accurate and do not include any blank cells. This is particularly useful when working with large data sets where blank cells are common.

Ignore Blank Cells When Using Formulas in Excel

You can use the following formulas in Excel to ignore blank cells when performing calculations:

Formula 1: Ignore Blank Cells in One Column

=IF(A2<>"", A2+10, "")

This particular formula adds 10 to the value in cell A2 only if the value in cell A2 is not blank.

Formula 2: Ignore Blank Cells in Multiple Columns

=IF(AND(A2<>"", B2<>""), A2+B2, "")

This particular formula adds the values in cells A2 and B2 only if both cells are not blank.

The following examples show how to use each formula

in practice.

Example 1: Ignore Blank Cells in One Column

Suppose we have the following data in Excel that shows the points scored by various basketball players:

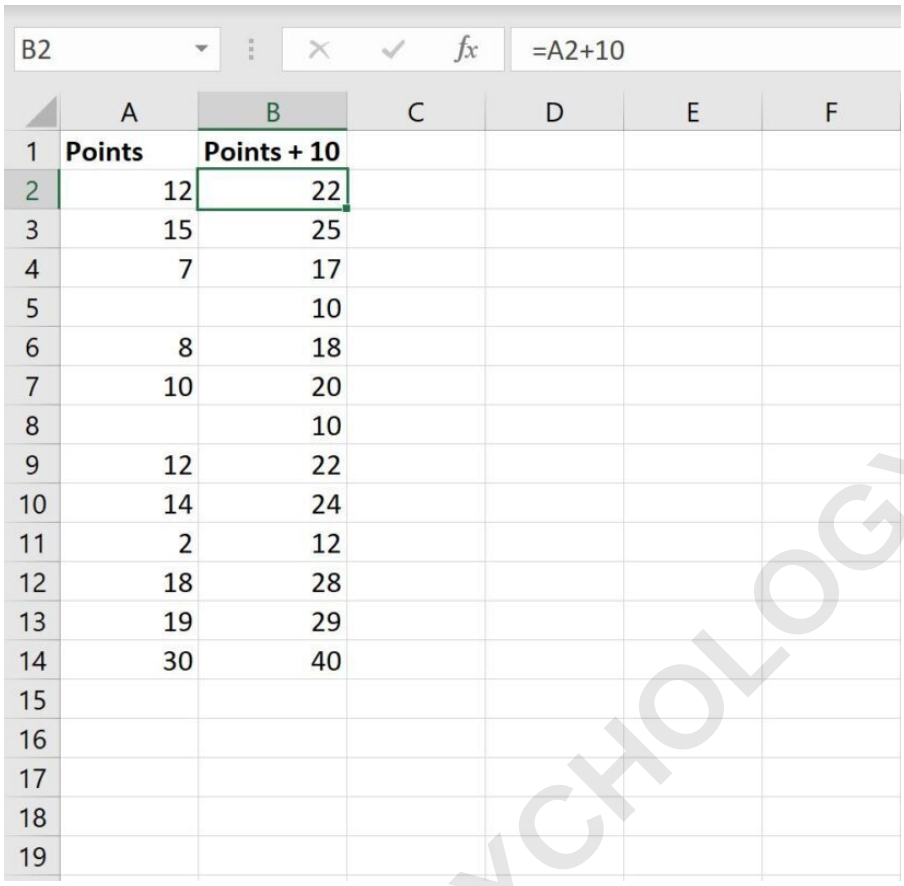
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Points**					
2	12					
3	15					
4	7					
5						
6	8					
7	10					
8						
9	12					
10	14					
11	2					
12	18					
13	19					
14	30					
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

Now suppose we use the following formula to add 10 to each of the values in column A:

=A2+10

The following screenshot shows how to use this

formula:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Points**	**Points + 10**				
2	12	22				
3	15	25				
4	7	17				
5		10				
6	8	18				
7	10	20				
8		10				
9	12	22				
10	14	24				
11	2	12				
12	18	28				
13	19	29				
14	30	40				
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

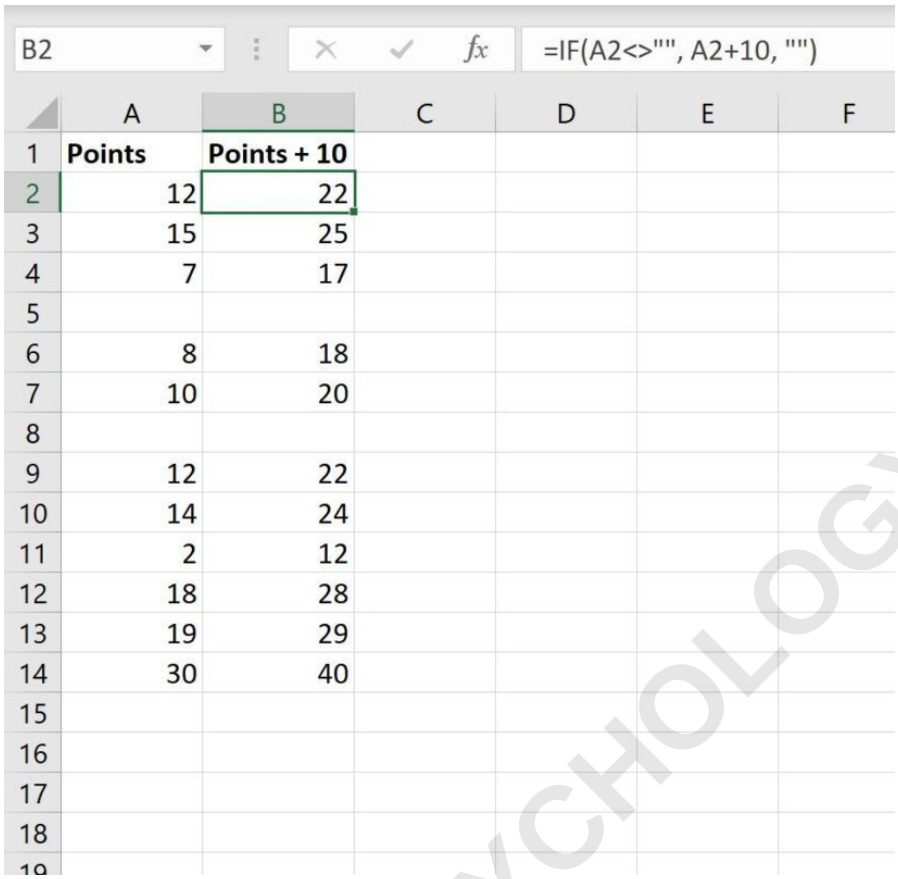
Notice that 10 is added to each cell in column A even if the cell in column A is blank.

Instead, we can use the following formula to add 10 to each of the cells in column A and ignore the blank cells entirely:

=IF(A2<>"", A2+10, "")

The following screenshot shows how to use this

formula:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Points**	**Points + 10**				
2	12	22				
3	15	25				
4	7	17				
5						
6	8	18				
7	10	20				
8						
9	12	22				
10	14	24				
11	2	12				
12	18	28				
13	19	29				
14	30	40				
15						
16						
17						
18						

Notice that 10 is only added to each cell in column A that is not blank.

Example 2: Ignore Blank Cells in Multiple Columns

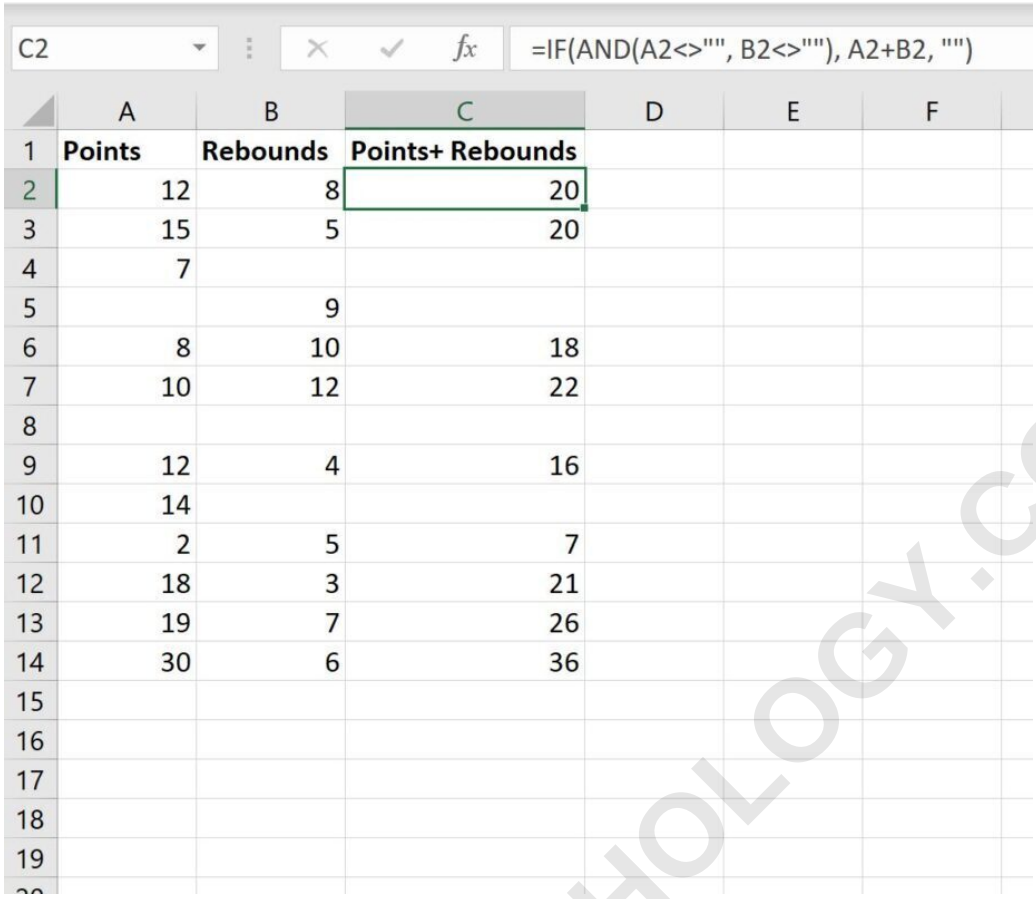
Suppose we have the following data in Excel that shows the points scored and rebounds collected by various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Points**	**Rebounds**				
2	12	8				
3	15	5				
4	7					
5		9				
6	8	10				
7	10	12				
8						
9	12	4				
10	14					
11	2	5				
12	18	3				
13	19	7				
14	30	6				
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

We can use the following formula to add the values in the points and rebounds columns only for the rows where both values are not empty:

=IF(AND(A2<>"", B2<>""), A2+B2, "")

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Points	Rebounds	Points+ Rebounds			
2	12	8	20			
3	15	5	20			
4	7					
5		9				
6	8	10	18			
7	10	12	22			
8						
9	12	4	16			
10	14					
11	2	5	7			
12	18	3	21			
13	19	7	26			
14	30	6	36			
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

Notice that the values for points and rebounds are added only for the rows where both values are not blank.

Additional Resources

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