

How can I make Google Sheets return a blank cell instead of showing a zero value?

Authored by
stats writer

June 23, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I make Google Sheets return a blank cell instead of showing a zero value?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147686>

Google Sheets is a widely used spreadsheet software that allows users to store and manipulate data. Often, users may encounter situations where they want a cell to remain blank instead of displaying a zero value. This can be achieved by changing the cell formatting or by using a function such as IF or ISBLANK. By following these steps, users can ensure that their cells remain blank until they are filled with data, providing a more accurate representation of their data.

Google Sheets: Return Blank Instead of Zero

You can use the following basic syntax to return a blank instead of a zero when using formulas in Google Sheets:

```
=IF(B2/C2=0, "", B2/C2)
```

This particular formula attempts to divide the value in cell B2 by the value in cell C2.

If the result is zero, then Google Sheets returns a blank.

Otherwise, it returns the result of B2 divided by C2.

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

Example: Return Blank Instead of Zero in Google Sheets Formula

Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the total sales and returns for various products:

	A	B	C	D
1	Product	Returns	Sales	
2	A	0	9	
3	B	1	10	
4	C	1	5	
5	D	2	20	
6	E	4	10	
7	F	2	8	
8	G	3	10	
9	H	0	12	
10	I	1	8	
11	J	0	6	
12	K	1	8	
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

Suppose we type the following formula into cell D2 to calculate the return rate for product A:

`=B2/C2`

If we click and drag this formula down to every cell in column D, we'll see that some of the results are equal to zero:

D2 fx =B2/C2

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Product	Returns	Sales	Return Rate	
2	A	0	9	0	
3	B	1	10	0.1	
4	C	1	5	0.2	
5	D	2	20	0.1	
6	E	4	10	0.4	
7	F	2	8	0.25	
8	G	3	10	0.3	
9	H	0	12	0	
10	I	1	8	0.125	
11	J	0	6	0	
12	K	1	8	0.125	
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

To return a blank value instead of a zero, we can type the following formula into cell D2:

=IF(B2/C2=0, "", B2/C2)

We can then click and drag this formula down to every remaining cell in column D:

D2 fx =IF(B2/C2=0, "", B2/C2)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Product	Returns	Sales	Return Rate	
2	A	0	9		
3	B	1	10	0.1	
4	C	1	5	0.2	
5	D	2	20	0.1	
6	E	4	10	0.4	
7	F	2	8	0.25	
8	G	3	10	0.3	
9	H	0	12		
10	I	1	8	0.125	
11	J	0	6		
12	K	1	8	0.125	
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

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