

# How can I use a cell reference in a Google Sheets query formula?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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A cell reference in a Google Sheets query formula allows you to dynamically refer to a specific cell or range of cells within a spreadsheet. This can be useful when creating complex formulas that require data from different parts of the spreadsheet. By using a cell reference, you can easily update the formula and have it automatically pull data from the specified cells, saving time and effort. To use a cell reference in a Google Sheets query formula, simply include the cell reference within the formula, using the appropriate syntax. This will enable you to create powerful and customizable formulas that can efficiently analyze and manipulate data in your spreadsheet.

## Google Sheets Query: Use Cell Reference in Formula

You can use the following basic syntax to use a cell reference in a Google Sheets query:

```
=QUERY($A$1:$B$11,"Select B where A contains "&D3&"")
```

In this particular query, we tell Google Sheets to select the value in column B where column A contains whatever value is in cell D3.

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

**Example: Use Cell Reference in Google Sheets Query**

**Suppose we have the following two datasets in Google Sheets:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Assists</b>	
2	Hornets	78		Hornets	14	
3	Hawks	89		Hawks	19	
4	Spurs	79		Spurs	22	
5	Mavericks	93		Mavericks	24	
6	Rockets	94		Rockets	18	
7	Nets	86		Nets	15	
8	Suns	89		Suns	29	
9	Warriors	94		Warriors	23	
10	Magic	99		Magic	12	
11	Heat	103		Heat	16	
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Now suppose we'd like to add a 'points' column to the right of the 'assists' column, which contains the points scored by each team in column D.

We can use the following syntax to do so:

```
=QUERY($A$1:$B$11,"Select B where A contains ""&D3&""")
```

The following screenshot shows how to use this

## formula in cell F2 of our spreadsheet:

F2 fx =QUERY(\$A\$2:\$B\$11, "Select B where A contains '"&D2&'"")

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Points</b>
2	Hornets	78		Hornets	14	78
3	Hawks	89		Hawks	19	
4	Spurs	79		Spurs	22	
5	Mavericks	93		Mavericks	24	
6	Rockets	94		Rockets	18	
7	Nets	86		Nets	15	
8	Suns	89		Suns	29	
9	Warriors	94		Warriors	23	
10	Magic	99		Magic	12	
11	Heat	103		Heat	16	
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In this example, we told Google Sheets to select the value in column B where column A contained the team name in cell D2.

In this case, it saw that D2 contained 'Hornets' so it returned the 'points' value for Hornets, which turned out to be 78.

We can then copy and paste this formula down to every remaining cell in column F:

F2 fx =QUERY(\$A\$2:\$B\$11, "Select B where A contains '"&D2&'"")

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Points</b>
2	Hornets	78		Hornets	14	78
3	Hawks	89		Hawks	19	89
4	Spurs	79		Spurs	22	79
5	Mavericks	93		Mavericks	24	93
6	Rockets	94		Rockets	18	94
7	Nets	86		Nets	15	86
8	Suns	89		Suns	29	89
9	Warriors	94		Warriors	23	94
10	Magic	99		Magic	12	99
11	Heat	103		Heat	16	103
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