

# How can I use column names in a Google Sheets query?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Google Sheets is a powerful tool for organizing and analyzing data, and one of its useful features is the ability to use column names in a query. This allows users to easily reference specific columns in their data set without having to remember specific cell references. To use column names in a Google Sheets query, simply include the column names within square brackets after the SELECT statement, separated by commas. This enables users to customize their data queries and retrieve specific information from their data set more efficiently. By using column names in a Google Sheets query, users can save time and streamline their data analysis process.

## Use Column Names in Google Sheets Query

You can use the following basic syntax to use a column name in a Google Sheets query:

```
=QUERY(A1:C11,"SELECT  
"&SUBSTITUTE(ADDRESS(1,MATCH("Team",A1:C1,0),4  
,1,""))
```

This particular query will select the column with the name "Team" in the cell range A1:C11.

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

**Example: Use Column Name in Google Sheets Query**

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains information about various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>	
2	Mavs	Guard	22	
3	Hawks	Guard	20	
4	Magic	Forward	19	
5	Thunder	Guard	15	
6	Kings	Forward	29	
7	Pacers	Forward	24	
8	Clippers	Forward	28	
9	Nuggets	Guard	20	
10	Lakers	Forward	14	
11	Celtics	Guard	12	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				

If we would like to select the "Team" column in an ordinary query, we would reference the column as A since it's the first column in the range we're interested in:

```
=QUERY(A1:C11,"SELECT A")
```

This would return just column A:

	A	B	C	D	E
E1					
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		Team
2	Mavs	Guard	22		Mavs
3	Hawks	Guard	20		Hawks
4	Magic	Forward	19		Magic
5	Thunder	Guard	15		Thunder
6	Kings	Forward	29		Kings
7	Pacers	Forward	24		Pacers
8	Clippers	Forward	28		Clippers
9	Nuggets	Guard	20		Nuggets
10	Lakers	Forward	14		Lakers
11	Celtics	Guard	12		Celtics
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

However, if we attempt to use "Team" as the column name then we'll receive an error:

**=QUERY(A1:C11,"SELECT Team")**

E1 *fx* =QUERY(A1:C11, "Select Team")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		#VALUE!
2	Mavs	Guard	22		
3	Hawks	Guard	20		
4	Magic	Forward	19		
5	Thunder	Guard	15		
6	Kings	Forward	29		
7	Pacers	Forward	24		
8	Clippers	Forward	28		
9	Nuggets	Guard	20		
10	Lakers	Forward	14		
11	Celtics	Guard	12		
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

Instead, we must use the following formula to select the "Team" column by name:

```
=QUERY(A1:C11,"SELECT
"&SUBSTITUTE(ADDRESS(1,MATCH("Team",A1:C1,0),4
),1,"")")
```

This will return the "Team" column from the original dataset:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
E1	=QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT "&SUBSTITUTE(ADDRESS(1, MATCH("Team", A1:C1, 0), 4), 1, ""))						
1	Team	Position	Points		Team		
2	Mavs	Guard	22		Mavs		
3	Hawks	Guard	20		Hawks		
4	Magic	Forward	19		Magic		
5	Thunder	Guard	15		Thunder		
6	Kings	Forward	29		Kings		
7	Pacers	Forward	24		Pacers		
8	Clippers	Forward	28		Clippers		
9	Nuggets	Guard	20		Nuggets		
10	Lakers	Forward	14		Lakers		
11	Celtics	Guard	12		Celtics		
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
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19							
20							
21							

Note that you can use multiple **SUBSTITUTE** functions if you'd like to select multiple columns by name.

For example, you can use the following syntax to select both the "Team" and "Position" columns by name:

```
=QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT
"&SUBSTITUTE(ADDRESS(1, MATCH("Team", A1:C1, 0), 4
), 1, "")& ", "&SUBSTITUTE(ADDRESS(1, MATCH("Position
", A1:C1, 0), 4), 1, ""))
```

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

E1 fx =QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT "&SUBSTITUTE(ADDRESS(1, MATCH("Team", A1:C1, 0), 4), 1, "")&", "&SI

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		Team	Position	
2	Mavs	Guard	22		Mavs	Guard	
3	Hawks	Guard	20		Hawks	Guard	
4	Magic	Forward	19		Magic	Forward	
5	Thunder	Guard	15		Thunder	Guard	
6	Kings	Forward	29		Kings	Forward	
7	Pacers	Forward	24		Pacers	Forward	
8	Clippers	Forward	28		Clippers	Forward	
9	Nuggets	Guard	20		Nuggets	Guard	
10	Lakers	Forward	14		Lakers	Forward	
11	Celtics	Guard	12		Celtics	Guard	
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

Notice that the query returns both the "Team" and the "Position" columns.