How to Count Cells with Criteria Using COUNTA IF in Excel

Authored by

stats writer

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COUNTA IF is a function in Microsoft Excel that allows users to count the number of cells in a range that meet a specific criteria. This function is useful for analyzing data and identifying the total number of non-empty cells that meet a certain condition. To use COUNTA IF, simply specify the range of cells to be counted and the condition that must be met. This function is especially helpful for tracking the number of entries in a data set that match a certain category or characteristic. By utilizing COUNTA IF, users can efficiently organize and analyze large amounts of data in Excel.

Use COUNTA IF in Excel (With Example)

You can use the COUNTA function in Excel to count the number of cells in a range that are not empty.

Often you may want to use the COUNTA function with an IF function to count the number of cells that are not empty *only if* a cell in a corresponding column meets a certain requirement.

Fortunately you can just use the COUNTIFS function to accomplish this.

The following example shows exactly how to do so.

Example: Using COUNTA with IF in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the points scored by various basketball players:

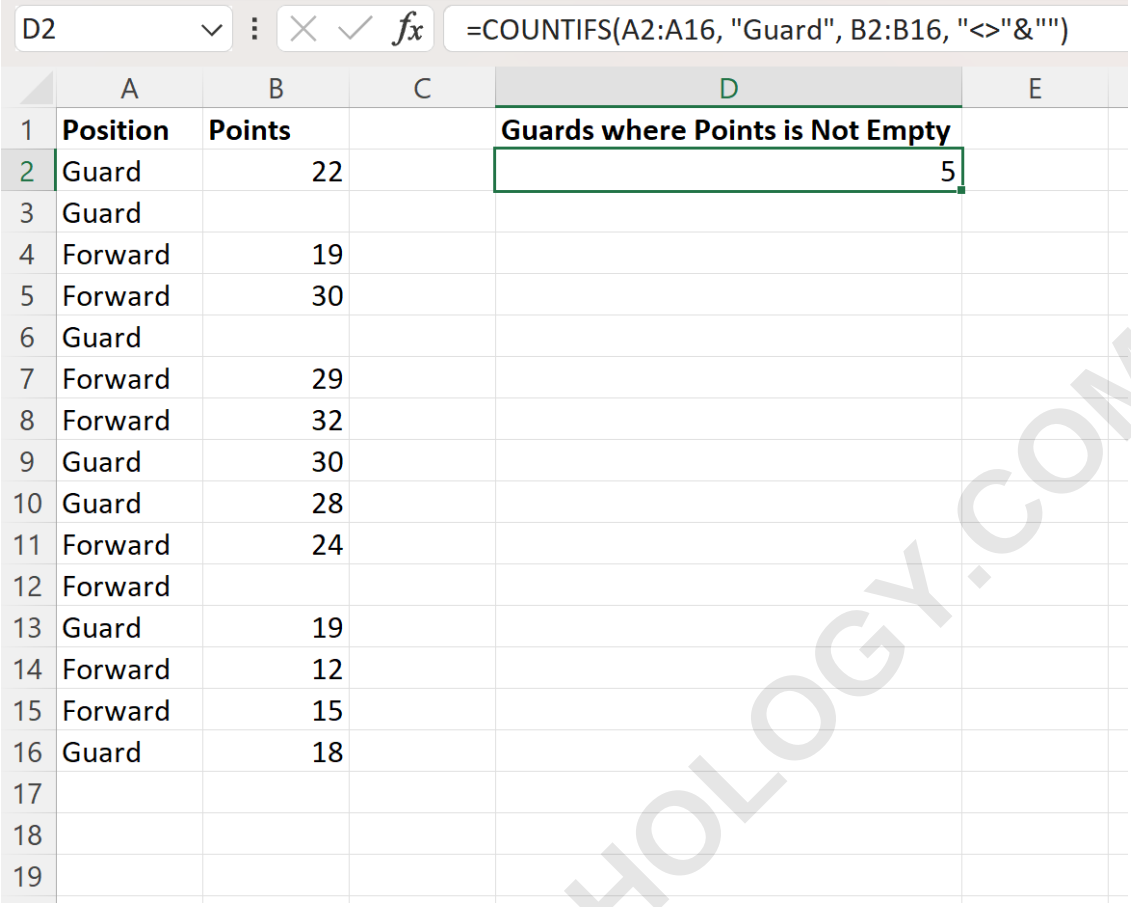
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**Position**	**Points**				
2	Guard	22				
3	Guard					
4	Forward	19				
5	Forward	30				
6	Guard					
7	Forward	29				
8	Forward	32				
9	Guard	30				
10	Guard	28				
11	Forward	24				
12	Forward					
13	Guard	19				
14	Forward	12				
15	Forward	15				
16	Guard	18				
17						
18						
19						
20						

Suppose we would like to count the number of players with "Guard" in the Position column but only if the corresponding cell in the Points column is not empty.

We can type the following formula into cell D2 to calculate this number:

=COUNTIFS(A2:A16, "Guard", B2:B16, "<>"&"")

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



D2 =COUNTIFS(A2:A16, "Guard", B2:B16, "<>"&"")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Position**	**Points**		**Guards where Points is Not Empty**	
2	Guard	22		5	
3	Guard				
4	Forward	19			
5	Forward	30			
6	Guard				
7	Forward	29			
8	Forward	32			
9	Guard	30			
10	Guard	28			
11	Forward	24			
12	Forward				
13	Guard	19			
14	Forward	12			
15	Forward	15			
16	Guard	18			
17					
18					
19					

The formula returns a value of 5.

This tells us that there are 5 players with a value of "Guard" in the Position column where the corresponding value in the Points column is not empty.

We can verify this is correct by manually identifying the five players that meet these criteria:

	A	B	C	D
1	**Position**	**Points**		**Guards where Points is Not Empty**
2	Guard	22		5
3	Guard			
4	Forward	19		
5	Forward	30		
6	Guard			
7	Forward	29		
8	Forward	32		
9	Guard	30		
10	Guard	28		
11	Forward	24		
12	Forward			
13	Guard	19		
14	Forward	12		
15	Forward	15		
16	Guard	18		
17				
18				

Each of the highlighted rows contains a player with a value of "Guard" in the Position column where the corresponding value in the Points column is not empty.

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