

# How to Count Cells with Criteria in Google Sheets Using COUNTA IF

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January 15, 2026

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2026). *How to Count Cells with Criteria in Google Sheets Using COUNTA IF*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=126200>

COUNTA IF is a function in Google Sheets that allows you to count the number of cells in a given range that contain a certain value or meet a specific criteria. This function can be useful for tracking data and analyzing information in a spreadsheet. To use COUNTA IF, you would first specify the range of cells you want to count, followed by the criteria that must be met for a cell to be included in the count. This function can help you quickly and accurately calculate the number of cells that meet your specified conditions, saving you time and effort in data analysis.

Often you may want to use the **COUNTA** function with an **IF** function in Google Sheets 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 Google Sheets

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

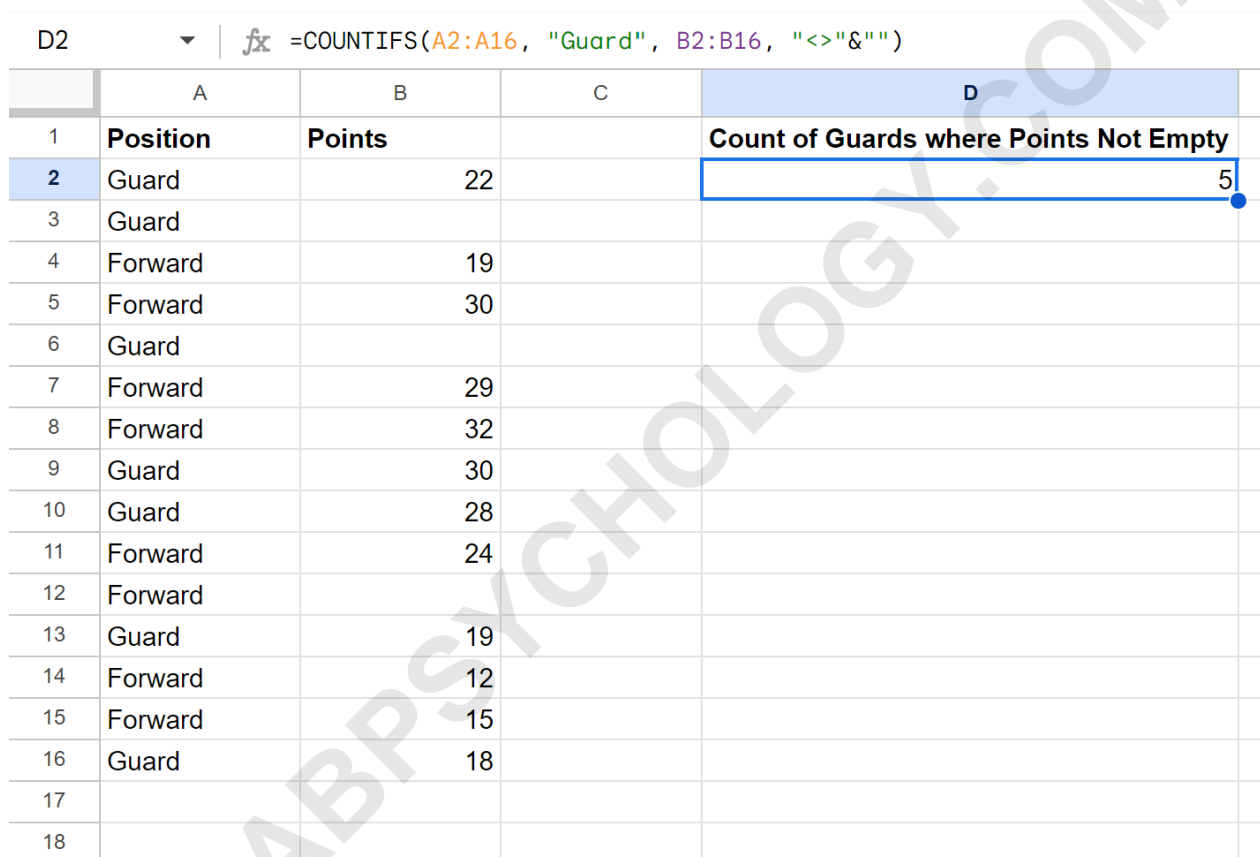
	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		
2	Guard	22		
3	Guard			
4	Forward	19		
5	Forward	30		
6	Guard			
7	Forward	29		
8	Forward	32		
9	Guard	30		
10	Guard	28		
11	Forward	24		
12	Forward			
13	Guard	19		
14	Forward	12		
15	Forward	15		
16	Guard	18		
17				
18				

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:



The screenshot shows a Google Sheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Count of Guards where Points Not Empty</b>
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				

The formula returns a value of **5**.

This means 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	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Count of Guards where Points Not Empty</b>
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.

**Note:** You can find the complete documentation for the **COUNTIFS** function in Google Sheets .

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