

How can I use COUNTIF with wildcards in Excel?

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COUNTIF is a function in Excel that allows users to count the number of cells within a given range that meet a certain criteria. When using wildcards, such as asterisks (*) or question marks (?), in conjunction with the COUNTIF function, users can specify a pattern or partial match to be counted. This feature is useful for analyzing large datasets and identifying specific data points that may have varying values but share a common pattern. By utilizing wildcards with the COUNTIF function, users can efficiently and accurately count data that meets their desired criteria, making data analysis and organization easier and more efficient.

Use COUNTIF with Wildcards in Excel

You can use the following formulas in Excel to use wildcard characters with the COUNTIF function:

Formula 1: COUNTIF with One Wildcard

```
=COUNTIF(A2:A11, "*string*")
```

This particular formula counts the number of cells in the range A2:A11 that contain "string" anywhere in the cell.

Formula 2: COUNTIFS with Multiple Wildcards

```
=COUNTIFS(A2:A11, "*string1*", B2:B11, "*string2*")
```

This particular formula counts the number of cells where A2:A11 contains "string1" *and* where B2:B11 contains "string2."

The following examples show how to use each formula in practice.

Example 1: COUNTIF with One Wildcard

We can use the following formula to count the number of cells in column A that contain "avs" anywhere in the cell:

=COUNTIF(A2:A11, "*avs*")

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

E2 *fx* =COUNTIF(A2:A11, "*avs")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Position	Points		Count of Team with "avs"
2	Mavs	Guard	22		6
3	Mavs	Guard	10		
4	Mavs	Forward	14		
5	Nets	Center	18		
6	Nets	Guard	29		
7	Cavs	Forward	24		
8	Cavs	Guard	35		
9	Cavs	Guard	30		
10	Spurs	Forward	19		
11	Spurs	Center	13		
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

From the output we can see that there are 6 cells in column A that contain "avs" in the team name.

Example 2: COUNTIFS with Multiple Wildcards

We can use the following formula to count the number of rows where A2:A11 contains "avs" and where B2:B11 contains "gua":

=COUNTIFS(A2:A11, "*avs*",B2:B11,"*gua*")

E2 *fx* =COUNTIFS(A2:A11, "*avs*", B2:B11, "*gua*")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Position	Points		Count of Team with "avs" and position with "gua"
2	Mavs	Guard	22		4
3	Mavs	Guard	10		
4	Mavs	Forward	14		
5	Nets	Center	18		
6	Nets	Guard	29		
7	Cavs	Forward	24		
8	Cavs	Guard	35		
9	Cavs	Guard	30		
10	Spurs	Forward	19		
11	Spurs	Center	13		
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					

From the output we can see that there are 4 rows where the team contains "avs" and the position contains "gua" somewhere in the cell.

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