How can I use Excel Data Bars to visually represent data?

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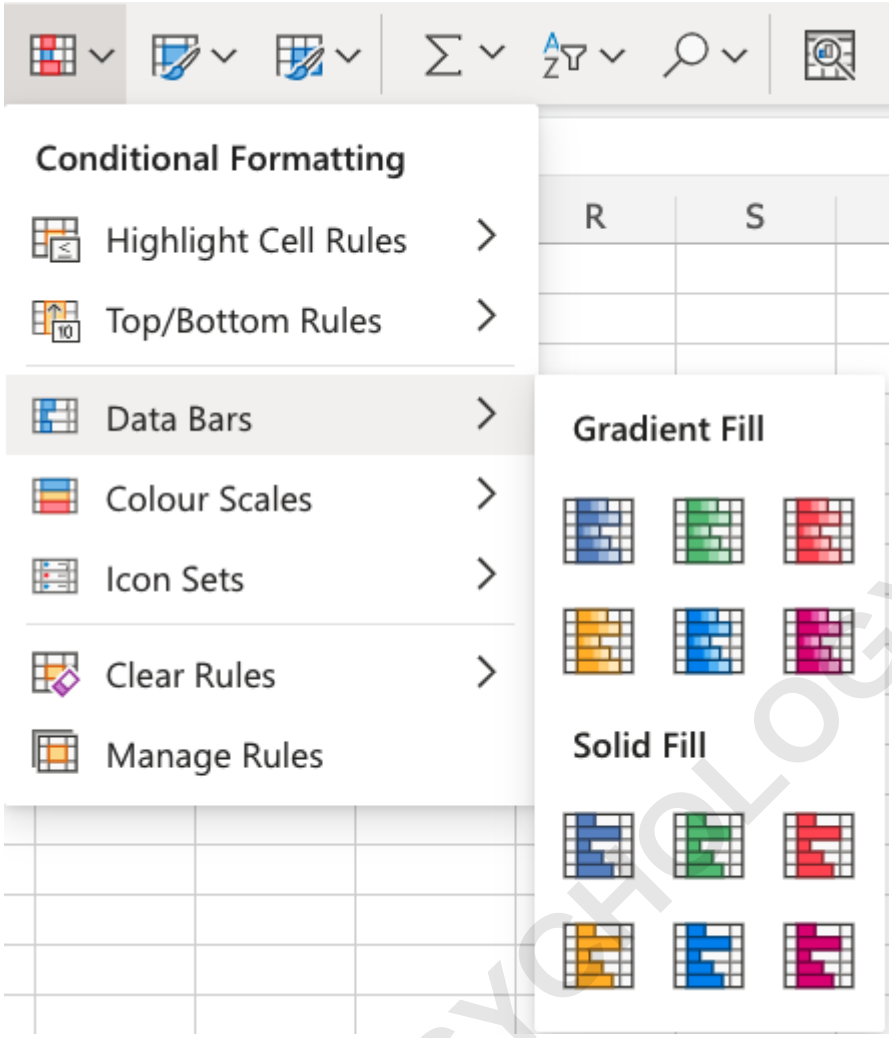
Excel Data Bars is a feature in Microsoft Excel that allows users to visually represent data in the form of bars within a selected cell range. This feature can be used to quickly and effectively convey the relative magnitude or distribution of data points in a dataset. By simply selecting the desired cell range and applying the Data Bars feature, users can create a visual representation of their data that is both easy to interpret and aesthetically pleasing. This can be particularly useful for data analysis, presentations, and reports, as it allows for a quick and efficient understanding of the underlying data without the need for extensive chart or graph creation. Overall, Excel Data Bars provide a simple yet powerful tool for visually representing data in a clear and concise manner.

Excel Data Bars

Data Bars

Data Bars are premade types of conditional formatting in Excel used to add colored bars to cells in a range to indicate how large the cell values are compared to the other values.

Here is the Data Bars part of the conditional formatting menu:



Data Bars Example

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Onix	Rock	70	
3	Drowzee	Psychic	42	
4	Hypno	Psychic	67	
5	Krabby	Water	50	
6	Kingler	Water	75	
7	Voltorb	Electric	100	
8	Electrode	Electric	140	
9	Exeggcute	Grass	40	
10	Exeggutor	Grass	55	
11				

You can choose any range for where the Highlight Cell Rule should apply. It can be a few cells, a single column, a single row, or a combination of multiple cells, rows and columns.

Note: The size of the data bars depends on the **smallest** and **largest** cell value in the range.

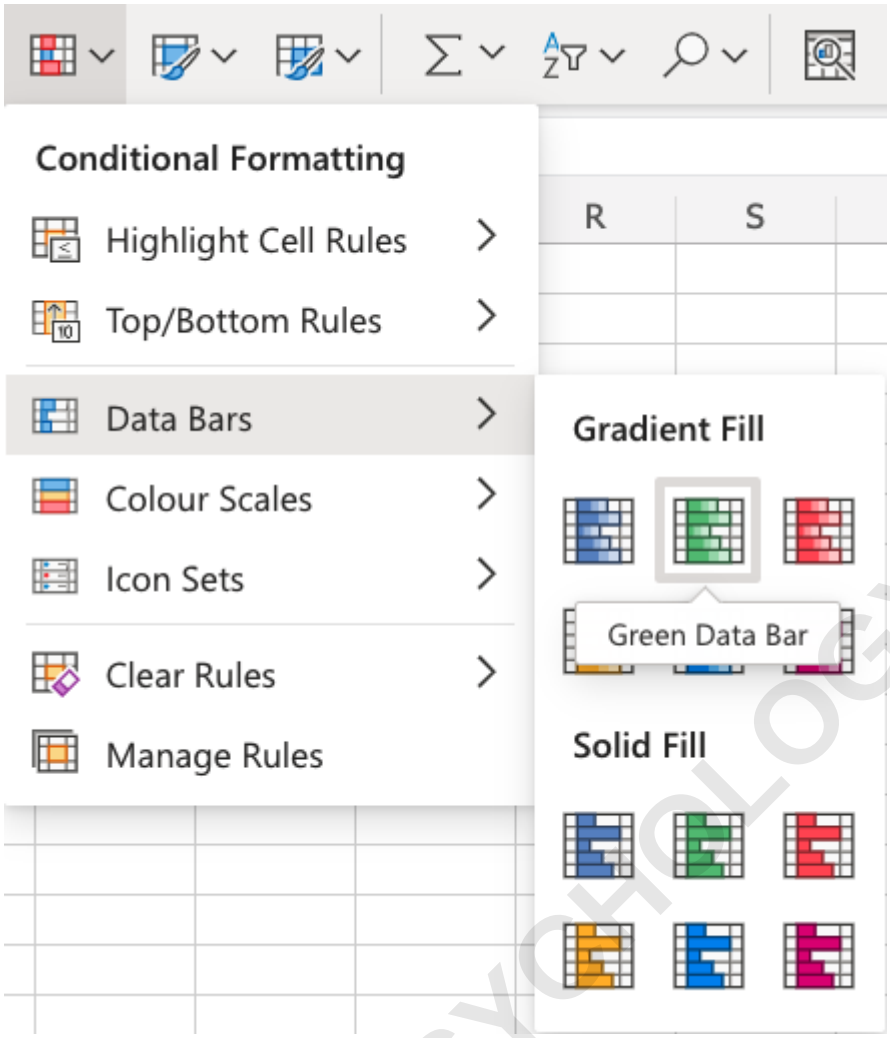
Let's apply the **Data Bars** conditional formatting to the Speed values.

"Data Bars", step by step:

Select the range `C2:C10` for Speed values

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Onix	Rock	70	
3	Drowzee	Psychic	42	
4	Hypno	Psychic	67	
5	Krabby	Water	50	
6	Kingler	Water	75	
7	Voltorb	Electric	100	
8	Electrode	Electric	140	
9	Exeggcute	Grass	40	
10	Exeggutor	Grass	55	
11				

Click on the Conditional Formatting icon in the ribbon, from **Home** menuSelect **Data Bars** from the drop-down menuSelect the "Green Data Bars" color option from the **Gradient Fill** menu



Note: Both **Gradient Fill** and **Solid Fill** work the same way. The only difference between those, and the color options are aesthetic.

Now, all of the Speed value cells have a green bar showing how big the value is compared to the other values in the range:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Onix	Rock	70	
3	Drowzee	Psychic	42	
4	Hypno	Psychic	67	
5	Krabby	Water	50	
6	Kingler	Water	75	
7	Voltorb	Electric	100	
8	Electrode	Electric	140	
9	Exeggcute	Grass	40	
10	Exeggutor	Grass	55	
11				

Electrode has the highest value, 140, so the bar fills the entire cell.

The other bars are scaled relative to the highest value and 0 by default.

Exeggcute has the lowest value, 40, so this is the shortest bar. Though, it is larger than 0, so there is still a small bar.

Let's see what happens if we add a fictional Pokemon with a 0 Speed value:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Onix	Rock	70	
3	Drowzee	Psychic	42	
4	Hypno	Psychic	67	
5	Krabby	Water	50	
6	Kingler	Water	75	
7	Voltorb	Electric	100	
8	Electrode	Electric	140	
9	Neutrinode	Neutral	0	
10	Exeggcute	Grass	40	
11	Exeggutor	Grass	55	
12				

The fictional Neutrinode has a Speed value of 0, so this becomes an invisible "minimum" bar.

Let's see what happens if we add another fictional Pokemon with a negative Speed value:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Onix	Rock	70	
3	Drowzee	Psychic	42	
4	Hypno	Psychic	67	
5	Krabby	Water	50	
6	Kingler	Water	75	
7	Voltorb	Electric	100	
8	Electrode	Electric	140	
9	Neutrinode	Neutral	0	
10	Positrode	Electric	-140	
11	Exeggcute	Grass	40	
12	Exeggutor	Grass	55	
13				

Now, the fictional Positrode has the lowest Speed value, -140, so this becomes an invisible "minimum" bar.

Notice that all the other bars have now been scaled relative to the new minimum (-140).

Neutrinode's Speed value of 0 is now in the middle between -140 and 140, so the cell has a bar filling half the cell.

Electrode still has the highest Speed value, 140, so this bar still fills the entire cell.

Note: You can remove the Highlight Cell Rules with Manage Rules.