

How can I use Excel to check if a cell contains partial text?

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Excel is a powerful tool that can be used to efficiently and accurately check if a cell contains partial text. This feature is particularly useful when working with large sets of data, as it allows users to quickly identify and extract specific information from a cell. To use this feature, users can use the "Find" function in Excel and specify the partial text they are looking for. This will search the cell for any matches and highlight them, making it easy to identify and extract the desired information. This feature saves time and effort, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and management.

Excel: Check if Cell Contains Partial Text

You can use the following formula in Excel to determine if a cell contains specific partial text:

```
=IF(COUNTIF(A1,"*abc*"),"Yes","No")
```

In this example, if cell A1 contains the string "abc" in any part of the cell then it will return a Yes, otherwise it will return a No.

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

Example: Check if Cell Contains Partial Text in Excel

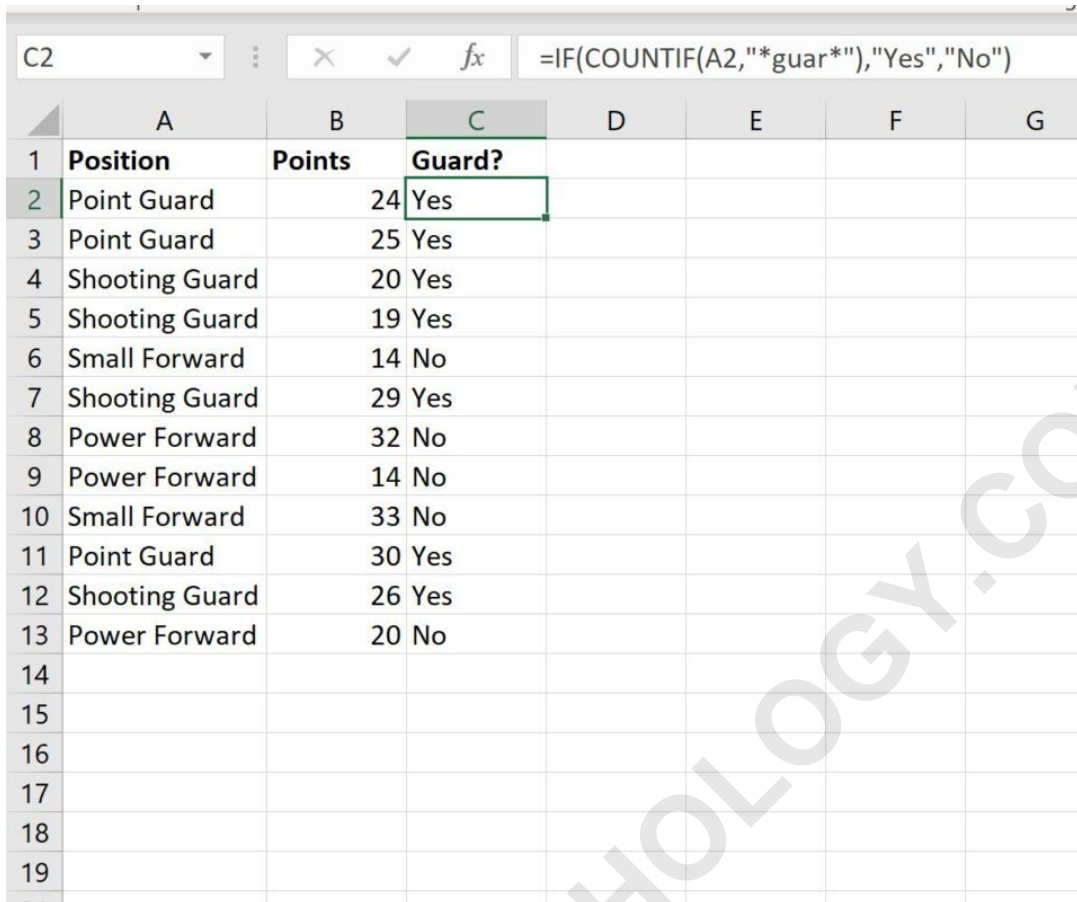
Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that shows the number of points scored by various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Position	Points			
2	Point Guard	24			
3	Point Guard	25			
4	Shooting Guard	20			
5	Shooting Guard	19			
6	Small Forward	14			
7	Shooting Guard	29			
8	Power Forward	32			
9	Power Forward	14			
10	Small Forward	33			
11	Point Guard	30			
12	Shooting Guard	26			
13	Power Forward	20			
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

We can use the following formula to check if the value in the Team column contains the partial text "guar":

=IF(COUNTIF(A2,"*guar*"),"Yes","No")

We can type this formula into cell C2 and then copy and paste it down to the remaining cells in column C:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Position	Points	Guard?				
2	Point Guard	24	Yes				
3	Point Guard	25	Yes				
4	Shooting Guard	20	Yes				
5	Shooting Guard	19	Yes				
6	Small Forward	14	No				
7	Shooting Guard	29	Yes				
8	Power Forward	32	No				
9	Power Forward	14	No				
10	Small Forward	33	No				
11	Point Guard	30	Yes				
12	Shooting Guard	26	Yes				
13	Power Forward	20	No				
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

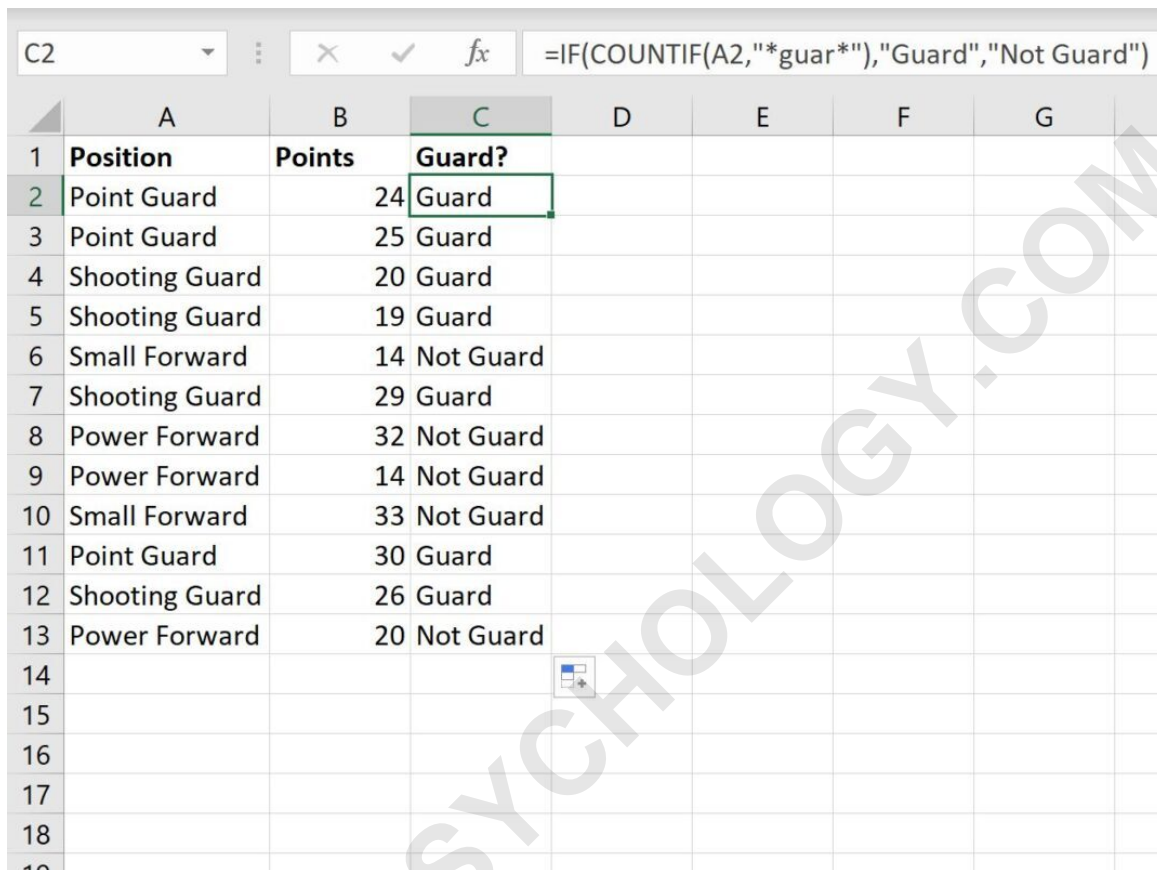
Any rows with the partial text "guar" in the Team column all receive a Yes in the new column while all other rows receive a No.

Also note that we could return values other than "Yes" and "No."

For example, we could use the following formula to return "Guard" or "Not Guard" instead:

=IF(COUNTIF(A2,"*guar*"),"Guard","Not Guard")

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



The screenshot displays an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Position	Points	Guard?				
2	Point Guard	24	Guard				
3	Point Guard	25	Guard				
4	Shooting Guard	20	Guard				
5	Shooting Guard	19	Guard				
6	Small Forward	14	Not Guard				
7	Shooting Guard	29	Guard				
8	Power Forward	32	Not Guard				
9	Power Forward	14	Not Guard				
10	Small Forward	33	Not Guard				
11	Point Guard	30	Guard				
12	Shooting Guard	26	Guard				
13	Power Forward	20	Not Guard				
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

Additional Resources

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