

How can I use named ranges in Google Sheets queries?

Authored by
stats writer

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Named ranges in Google Sheets are user-defined, named references to a specific range of cells or a single cell within a spreadsheet. They can be easily created and customized to make data manipulation and analysis easier and more efficient. One of the main benefits of using named ranges is their compatibility with Google Sheets queries, which allows for a more organized and streamlined approach to data retrieval. By using named ranges in queries, users can easily refer to specific data sets without having to manually enter cell references, making the process more user-friendly and accurate. This feature also allows for easier updating of queries, as changes made to the named ranges will automatically be reflected in the query results. Overall, using named ranges in Google Sheets queries can greatly enhance the functionality and effectiveness of data analysis and management.

Use Named Ranges in Google Sheets Queries

You can use the following syntax in a Google Sheets query to reference a named range:

```
=QUERY({my_named_range}, "SELECT Col1, Col3  
WHERE Col1 = 'value1'")
```

This particular query will select the first column and third column from the named range called my_named_range where the first column in the named range is equal to 'value1.'

Note: The named range must be wrapped in curly brackets, otherwise Google Sheets will throw an error.

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

Example: Use Named Range in Google Sheets Query

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains information about various basketball players:

team_data	fx	Team			
	A	B	C	D	E
1		Team	Points	Assists	
2		Mavs	22	8	
3		Mavs	34	9	
4		Lakers	18	9	
5		Spurs	15	6	
6		Mavs	14	8	
7		Rockets	22	11	
8		Spurs	26	10	
9		Spurs	31	6	
10		Rockets	12	7	
11		Lakers	11	12	
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

Notice in the Name box in the top left corner that this particular range of cells B1:D11 is named team_data.

We can use the following formula to select the first and third columns from this named range where the value in the first column is equal to "Mavs":

=QUERY({team_data}, "SELECT Col1, Col3 WHERE Col1 = 'Mavs'")

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

B13		<i>fx</i>	=QUERY({team_data}, "select Col1, Col3 where Col1 = 'Mavs'")			
	A	B	C	D	E	
1		Team	Points	Assists		
2		Mavs	22	8		
3		Mavs	34	9		
4		Lakers	18	9		
5		Spurs	15	6		
6		Mavs	14	8		
7		Rockets	22	11		
8		Spurs	26	10		
9		Spurs	31	6		
10		Rockets	12	7		
11		Lakers	11	12		
12						
13		Team	Assists			
14		Mavs	8			
15		Mavs	9			
16		Mavs	8			
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

Notice that the query returns the values in the team column and assists column where the value in the team column is equal to "Mavs."

The benefit of using a named range in our query is that if the location of our original dataset is moved for any reason, the query will still work.

For example, suppose we shift our entire dataset one column to the left.

Our query with the named range will still work:

B13 *fx* =QUERY({team_data}, "select Col1, Col3 where Col1 = 'Mavs'")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points	Assists		
2	Mavs	22	8		
3	Mavs	34	9		
4	Lakers	18	9		
5	Spurs	15	6		
6	Mavs	14	8		
7	Rockets	22	11		
8	Spurs	26	10		
9	Spurs	31	6		
10	Rockets	12	7		
11	Lakers	11	12		
12					
13		Team	Assists		
14		Mavs	8		
15		Mavs	9		
16		Mavs	8		
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

The query returns the same results as the previous

example even though our cell range has been shifted.

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