

How can I use the COUNTA function in Excel to count cells with specific criteria?

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The COUNTA function in Excel is a useful tool for counting the number of cells that contain any type of data, including numbers, text, and logical values. By utilizing this function, one can easily determine the number of cells that meet a specific criteria, such as containing a certain word or value. This function is beneficial for data analysis and organization, as it provides a quick and efficient way to gather information and make informed decisions. To use the COUNTA function, simply select the desired range of cells and input the criteria in the function's formula. The result will be the total number of cells that meet the specified criteria. This feature is particularly useful in large datasets, as it eliminates the need for manual counting and reduces the risk of errors.

Excel: Use COUNTA with Criteria

You can use the COUNTA function in Excel to count the number of cells in a range that are not empty.

However, sometimes may want to use the COUNTA function to count cells that are not empty *and* meet some additional criteria.

You can use the following basic syntax to do so:

=COUNTA(B2:B12)-COUNTIF(B2:B12,"0")

This particular formula counts all cells in the range B2:B12 that are not blank *and* are not equal to 0.

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

Example: Using COUNTA with Criteria in Excel

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

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points			
2	Mavs	22			
3	Hawks	0			
4	Warriors	15			
5	Lakers	15			
6	Celtics	0			
7	Spurs	35			
8	Jazz				
9	Kings	22			
10	Blazers	29			
11	Pelicans	17			
12	Rockets	22			
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

We can use the following COUNTA function with the COUNTIF function to count the number of cells in the Points column that are not empty *and* not equal to 0:

=COUNTA(B2:B12)-COUNTIF(B2:B12,"0")

The following screenshot shows how to use this

formula in practice:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Team	Points	Points Not Empty and Not Zero				
2	Mavs	22	8				
3	Hawks	0					
4	Warriors	15					
5	Lakers	15					
6	Celtics	0					
7	Spurs	35					
8	Jazz						
9	Kings	22					
10	Blazers	29					
11	Pelicans	17					
12	Rockets	22					
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							

From the output we can see that there are 8 cells in the Points column that are not empty and not equal to zero.

Here's what this formula actually did under the hood:

COUNTA counted 10 blank cells. COUNTIF counted 2 cells equal to zero. Thus, COUNTA - COUNTIF produced

10 - 2 = 8.

Feel free to replace the value in the COUNTIF function to exclude whichever values you'd like from the COUNTA function.

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

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