

How can I use the “Does Not Contain” function in Excel’s Advanced Filter?

Authored by
stats writer

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The "Does Not Contain" function in Excel's Advanced Filter allows users to filter data based on specific criteria that they do not want to be included in the results. This function is useful for quickly narrowing down large datasets and finding specific information. By using this function, users can easily exclude certain values or text from their data analysis, providing a more targeted and efficient approach to data management and analysis in Excel.

Excel Advanced Filter: Use Does Not Contain"

You can use the following syntax to filter for rows that do not contain specific text in an Excel Advanced Filter:

<>*sometext*

The following examples show how to use this function in two different scenarios:

Filter for rows that do not contain one specific text
Filter for rows that do not contain one of multiple text

Example 1: Filter for Rows that Do Not Contain One Specific Text

Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the total sales of certain products in certain regions for a company:

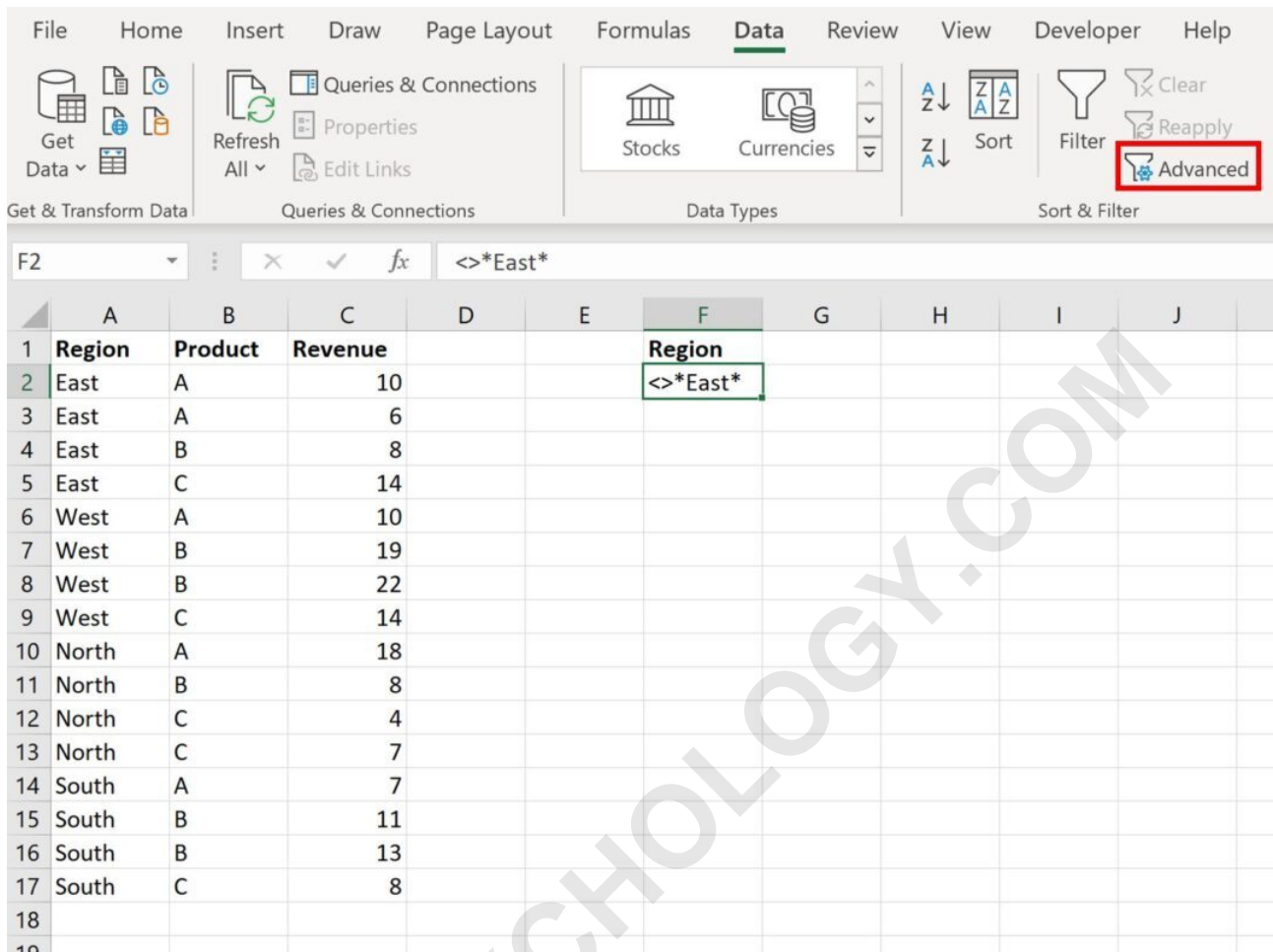
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Region	Product	Revenue			
2	East	A	10			
3	East	A	6			
4	East	B	8			
5	East	C	14			
6	West	A	10			
7	West	B	19			
8	West	B	22			
9	West	C	14			
10	North	A	18			
11	North	B	8			
12	North	C	4			
13	North	C	7			
14	South	A	7			
15	South	B	11			
16	South	B	13			
17	South	C	8			
18						
19						
20						

Now suppose we'd like to filter for rows where the Region does not contain "East."

To do so, we can define a criteria range:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Region	Product	Revenue			Region	
2	East	A	10			<*>East*	
3	East	A	6				
4	East	B	8				
5	East	C	14				
6	West	A	10				
7	West	B	19				
8	West	B	22				
9	West	C	14				
10	North	A	18				
11	North	B	8				
12	North	C	4				
13	North	C	7				
14	South	A	7				
15	South	B	11				
16	South	B	13				
17	South	C	8				
18							
19							
20							

Next, we can click the Data tab and then click the Advanced Filter button:



We'll choose A1:C17 as the list range and F1:F2 as the criteria range:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Region	Product	Revenue			Region		
2	East	A	10			<>*East*		
3	East	A	6					
4	East	B	8					
5	East	C	14					
6	West	A	10					
7	West	B	19					
8	West	B	22					
9	West	C	14					
10	North	A	18					
11	North	B	8					
12	North	C	4					
13	North	C	7					
14	South	A	7					
15	South	B	11					
16	South	B	13					
17	South	C	8					
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								

Once we click OK, the dataset will be filtered to only show rows where the Region does not contain "East":

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Region	Product	Revenue			Region	
6	West	A	10				
7	West	B	19				
8	West	B	22				
9	West	C	14				
10	North	A	18				
11	North	B	8				
12	North	C	4				
13	North	C	7				
14	South	A	7				
15	South	B	11				
16	South	B	13				
17	South	C	8				
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							

Example 2: Filter for Rows that Do Not Contain One of Multiple Text

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Region	Product	Revenue			
2	East	A	10			
3	East	A	6			
4	East	B	8			
5	East	C	14			
6	West	A	10			
7	West	B	19			
8	West	B	22			
9	West	C	14			
10	North	A	18			
11	North	B	8			
12	North	C	4			
13	North	C	7			
14	South	A	7			
15	South	B	11			
16	South	B	13			
17	South	C	8			
18						
19						
20						

Now suppose we'd like to filter for rows where the Region does not contain "East" or "West."

To do so, we can define a criteria range:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Region	Product	Revenue			Region	Region
2	East	A	10			<>*East*	<>*West*
3	East	A	6				
4	East	B	8				
5	East	C	14				
6	West	A	10				
7	West	B	19				
8	West	B	22				
9	West	C	14				
10	North	A	18				
11	North	B	8				
12	North	C	4				
13	North	C	7				
14	South	A	7				
15	South	B	11				
16	South	B	13				
17	South	C	8				
18							
19							

Next, we can click the Data tab and then click the Advanced Filter button.

We'll choose A1:C17 as the list range and F1:G2 as the criteria range:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Region	Product	Revenue			Region	Region	
2	East	A	10			<>*East*	<>*West*	
3	East	A	6					
4	East	B	8					
5	East	C	14					
6	West	A	10					
7	West	B	19					
8	West	B	22					
9	West	C	14					
10	North	A	18					
11	North	B	8					
12	North	C	4					
13	North	C	7					
14	South	A	7					
15	South	B	11					
16	South	B	13					
17	South	C	8					
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								

Advanced Filter ? X

Action

Filter the list, in-place

Copy to another location

List range: \$A\$1:\$C\$17 ↑

Criteria range: \$F\$1:\$G\$2 ↑

Copy to: ↑

Unique records only

OK Cancel

Once we click OK, the dataset will be filtered to only show rows where the Region does not contain "East" or "West":

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Region	Product	Revenue			Region	Region
10	North	A	18				
11	North	B	8				
12	North	C	4				
13	North	C	7				
14	South	A	7				
15	South	B	11				
16	South	B	13				
17	South	C	8				
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							

Additional Resources

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