

How can I use the LIMIT function in Google Sheets Query to limit the number of rows returned in my data?

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The LIMIT function in Google Sheets Query allows users to specify the maximum number of rows to be returned in a data query. By using this function, users can effectively limit the amount of data displayed in their query results, making it easier to analyze and manage large datasets. This feature is especially useful when working with large datasets and wanting to focus on specific portions of the data. By setting a limit, users can streamline their analysis process and save time.

Google Sheets Query: Use LIMIT to Limit Rows

You can use the LIMIT clause to limit the number of rows returned by a Google Sheets query.

The LIMIT clause is particularly useful when you want to get a glimpse at a few rows that meet some criteria without displaying every row in the entire dataset that meets some criteria.

This clause uses the following basic syntax:

```
=QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT * LIMIT 5")
```

This particular query will return the header row from the range A1:C11 along with the first 5 rows.

The following example shows how to use the LIMIT clause in practice

Example: Using LIMIT in Google Sheets Query

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

	A	B	C	D
1	Team	Position	Points	
2	Mavs	Guard	22	
3	Hawks	Guard	20	
4	Magic	Forward	19	
5	Thunder	Guard	15	
6	Kings	Forward	29	
7	Pacers	Forward	24	
8	Clippers	Forward	28	
9	Nuggets	Guard	20	
10	Lakers	Forward	14	
11	Celtics	Guard	12	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				

We can use the following query to return the header row along with the first five rows in the dataset:

=QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT * LIMIT 5")

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

A14 fx =QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT * LIMIT 5")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Position	Points		
2	Mavs	Guard	22		
3	Hawks	Guard	20		
4	Magic	Forward	19		
5	Thunder	Guard	15		
6	Kings	Forward	29		
7	Pacers	Forward	24		
8	Clippers	Forward	28		
9	Nuggets	Guard	20		
10	Lakers	Forward	14		
11	Celtics	Guard	12		
12					
13					
14	Team	Position	Points		
15	Mavs	Guard	22		
16	Hawks	Guard	20		
17	Magic	Forward	19		
18	Thunder	Guard	15		
19	Kings	Forward	29		
20					
21					
22					

Notice that the header row along with the first five rows are returned.

It's worth noting that if the query would naturally return less than 5 rows, then the LIMIT clause won't force the output to display five rows.

For example, suppose we use the following query to display all players who have more than 25 points:

=QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT * WHERE C > 25 LIMIT 5")

A14 fx =QUERY(A1:C11, "SELECT * WHERE C > 25 LIMIT 5")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Position	Points		
2	Mavs	Guard	22		
3	Hawks	Guard	20		
4	Magic	Forward	19		
5	Thunder	Guard	15		
6	Kings	Forward	29		
7	Pacers	Forward	24		
8	Clippers	Forward	28		
9	Nuggets	Guard	20		
10	Lakers	Forward	14		
11	Celtics	Guard	12		
12					
13					
14	Team	Position	Points		
15	Kings	Forward	29		
16	Clippers	Forward	28		
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

Notice that only two rows are returned because there are only two players in the original dataset that have more than 25 points.

Notice that the LIMIT 5 clause didn't force the output to have 5 rows.

Rather, the LIMIT clause simply sets a maximum value

on the number of rows that will be returned.

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