

How can I use the SEARCH function in Excel to search for multiple values simultaneously?”

Authored by
stats writer

June 26, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I use the SEARCH function in Excel to search for multiple values simultaneously?”*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=153805>

The SEARCH function in Excel allows users to search for multiple values simultaneously within a specified range of cells. By using this function, users can quickly and efficiently locate specific data within large sets of information. This feature is especially useful when working with large datasets or when trying to find specific information within a spreadsheet. By inputting a list of values to search for, the SEARCH function can quickly identify and highlight all instances of those values within the designated range, making data analysis and organization more efficient.

Excel: Use SEARCH Function to Search Multiple Values

The SEARCH function in Excel can be used to find the location of one text string within another.

However, sometimes you may wish to use the SEARCH function to search for the existence of one of several text strings within another.

You can use the following formula to do so:

```
=SUMPRODUCT(--  
ISNUMBER(SEARCH({"string1","string2","string3"},A2))  
)>0
```

This particular formula searches for "string1", "string2", and "string3" within the string in cell A2.

If any of these strings are found, the formula returns TRUE.

Otherwise, it returns FALSE.

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

Example: Use SEARCH Function to Search Multiple Values in Excel

Suppose we have the following list of basketball team names in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team					
2	Mavericks					
3	Rockets					
4	Hornets					
5	Pacers					
6	Raptors					
7	Thunder					
8	Pelicans					
9	Nuggets					
10	Timberwolves					
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						

Now suppose we would like to determine if the team

name "Pacers", "Raptors", or "Nuggets" exists in each row.

We can use the following formula to do so:

```
=SUMPRODUCT(--  
ISNUMBER(SEARCH({"Pacers","Raptors","Nuggets"},A  
2)))>0
```

We can type this formula into cell B2 and then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column B:

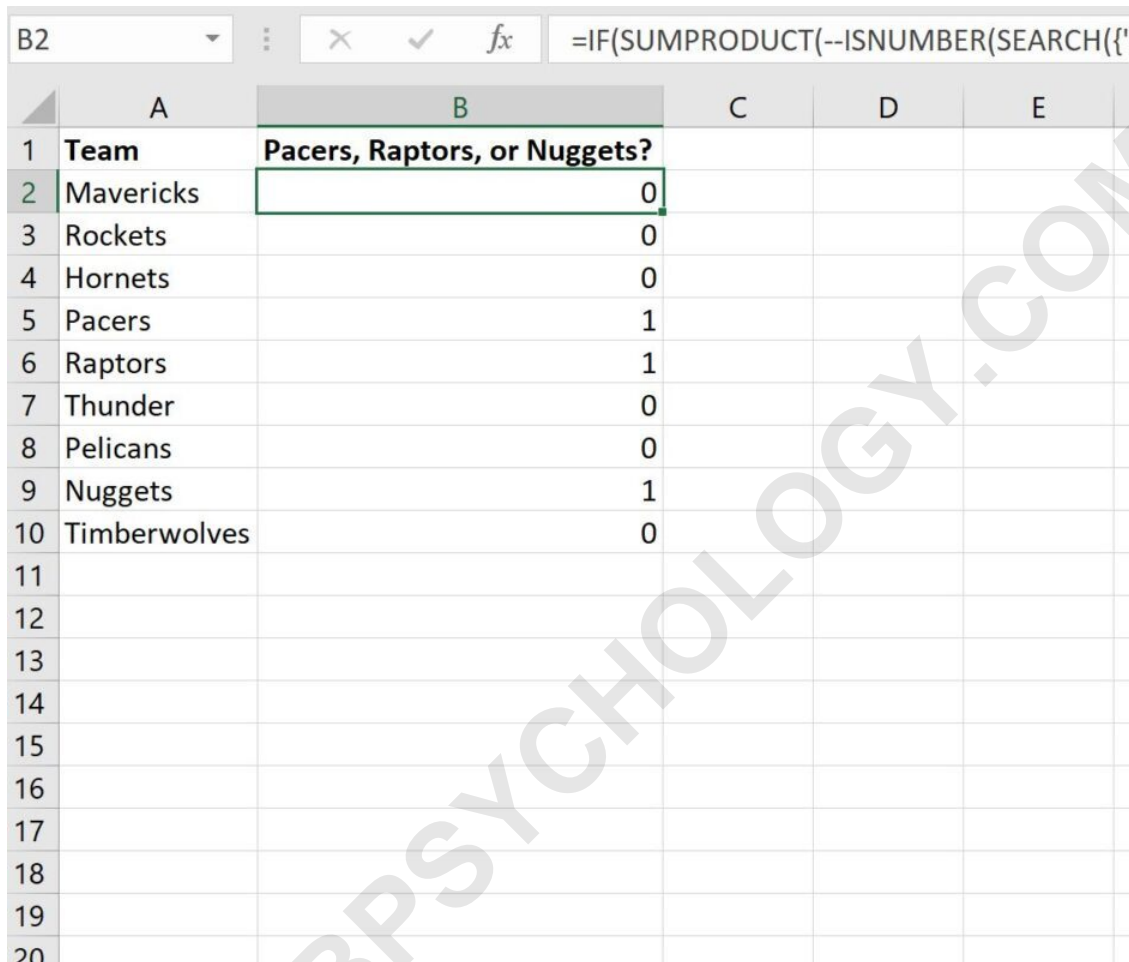
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Pacers, Raptors, or Nuggets?			
2	Mavericks	FALSE			
3	Rockets	FALSE			
4	Hornets	FALSE			
5	Pacers	TRUE			
6	Raptors	TRUE			
7	Thunder	FALSE			
8	Pelicans	FALSE			
9	Nuggets	TRUE			
10	Timberwolves	FALSE			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

Column B displays TRUE if the team name contains one of the three strings we specified.

If you would instead like to return 1 or 0 instead of TRUE and FALSE, you can use the following formula:

=IF(SUMPRODUCT(--ISNUMBER(SEARCH({"Pacers","Raptors","Nuggets"},A2)))>0,1,0)

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



	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Pacers, Raptors, or Nuggets?			
2	Mavericks	0			
3	Rockets	0			
4	Hornets	0			
5	Pacers	1			
6	Raptors	1			
7	Thunder	0			
8	Pelicans	0			
9	Nuggets	1			
10	Timberwolves	0			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

Column B displays 1 if the team name contains one of the three strings we specified.

Otherwise, it returns 0.

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