

# How can I use VBA to sort a sheet by multiple columns?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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Using VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) in Microsoft Excel, you can easily sort a sheet by multiple columns. This feature allows you to arrange data in a specific order by specifying multiple sorting criteria. By using VBA code, you can customize the sorting process to fit your specific needs, such as sorting in ascending or descending order, sorting by multiple columns in a specific sequence, and even adding additional criteria for more precise sorting. This function can be particularly useful for organizing large amounts of data and making it easier to analyze and interpret. With the ability to sort by multiple columns, VBA provides a versatile and efficient tool for managing and organizing data in Excel.

## VBA: Sort Sheet by Multiple Columns

You can use the following basic syntax to sort an Excel sheet by multiple columns using VBA:

```
Sub SortMultipleColumns()  
Range("A1:B11").Sort Key1:=Range("A1"),  
Order1:=xlAscending, _  
Key2:=Range("B1"), Order2:=xlDescending, _  
Header:=xlYes  
End Sub
```

This particular example sorts the cells in the range A1:B11 first by the values in column A ascending, then by the values in column B descending.

Note that `Header:=xlYes` specifies that the first row should be treated as a header row.

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

### Example: Sort Excel Sheet by Multiple Columns Using VBA

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>				
2	Mavs	11				
3	Hawks	24				
4	Hawks	20				
5	Spurs	34				
6	Mavs	36				
7	Spurs	23				
8	Hawks	29				
9	Spurs	13				
10	Mavs	15				
11	Mavs	18				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

Suppose we would like to sort the dataset in the following manner:

**First, sort by the values in the Team column ascending**

**(A to Z)Then, sort by the values in the Points column descending (largest to smallest)**

**We can create the following macro to do so:**

```
Sub SortMultipleColumns()  
Range("A1:B11").Sort      Key1:=Range("A1"),  
Order1:=xlAscending, _  
Key2:=Range("B1"), Order2:=xlDescending, _  
Header:=xlYes  
End Sub
```

**When we run this macro, we receive the following output:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>				
2	Hawks	29				
3	Hawks	24				
4	Hawks	20				
5	Mavs	36				
6	Mavs	18				
7	Mavs	15				
8	Mavs	11				
9	Spurs	34				
10	Spurs	23				
11	Spurs	13				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

The rows are now sorted by team name in ascending order and points in descending order.

**Note #1:** In this example we sorted by two columns. However, you can specify as many Keys as you would like to sort by even more columns.

**Note #2:** You can find the complete documentation for the VBA Sort method .