How do I perform an Inner Join in Excel (With Example)

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An inner join in Excel is a type of join used to combine two tables based on common columns between them. For example, if you have a table with customer information and another table with sales data, you can use an inner join to combine them by their customer ID. To do this, you would select the two tables, click the Data tab, click the 'Get & Transform Data' group, and select 'From Table/Range', then select the 'Data' tab, and click 'Merge Queries' and select 'Inner Join'. Finally, you can select the columns you want to merge and click 'OK'.

An **inner join** allows you to join together two tables in which the only rows in the resulting table are the ones where there are matching values in a column common to both tables.

The following step-by-step example shows how to use the **Power Query** functionality in Excel to perform an inner join on two tables.

Step 1: Enter the Values for Each Table

First, let's enter the following values for two tables in Excel:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**team**	**points**		**team**	**rebounds**	
2	Mavericks	22		Mavericks	4	
3	Spurs	29		Hornets	7	
4	Rockets	34		Kings	7	
5	Nets	30		Wizards	12	
6	Hornets	17		Celtics	10	
7	Blazers	15				
8	Kings	14				
9						
10						
11						
12						
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14						
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16						
17						
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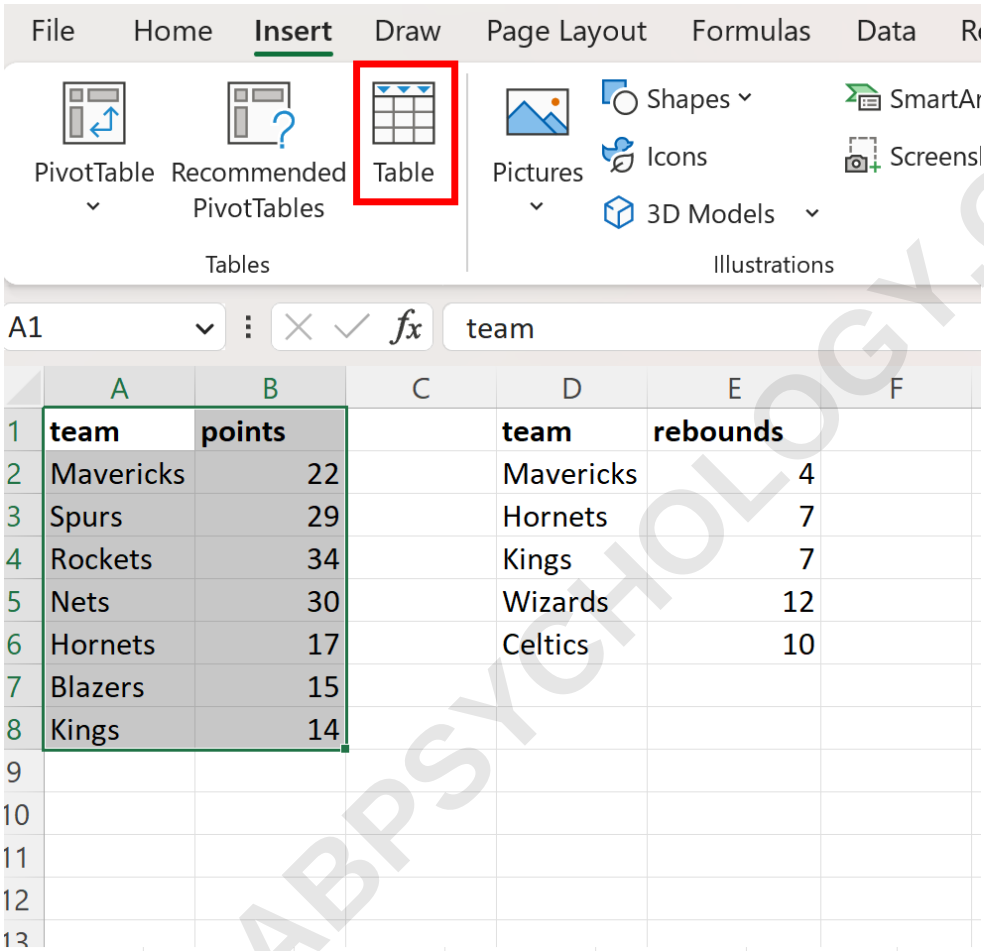
19						

We will perform an inner join in which we only keep the rows from each table that have matching values in the **Team** column.

Step 2: Convert Each Range to a Table

Next, we must convert each range of values into a table.

First, highlight the cell range **A1:B8** and then click the Insert tab along the top ribbon and then click the **Table** icon:

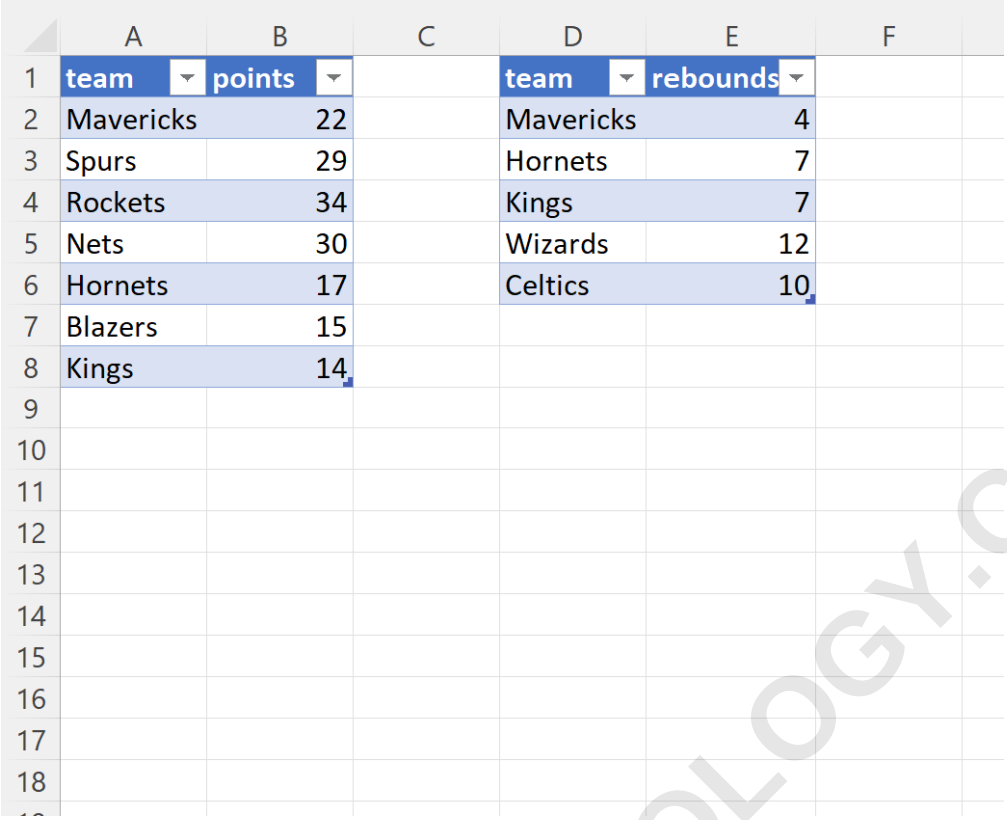


	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	**team**	**points**		**team**	**rebounds**	
2	Mavericks	22		Mavericks	4	
3	Spurs	29		Hornets	7	
4	Rockets	34		Kings	7	
5	Nets	30		Wizards	12	
6	Hornets	17		Celtics	10	
7	Blazers	15				
8	Kings	14				
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						

In the new window that pops up, click the **OK** button.

Repeat these steps for the cell range **D1:E6**.

Both ranges of data will now appear as tables:



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	team	points		team	rebounds	
2	Mavericks	22		Mavericks	4	
3	Spurs	29		Hornets	7	
4	Rockets	34		Kings	7	
5	Nets	30		Wizards	12	
6	Hornets	17		Celtics	10	
7	Blazers	15				
8	Kings	14				
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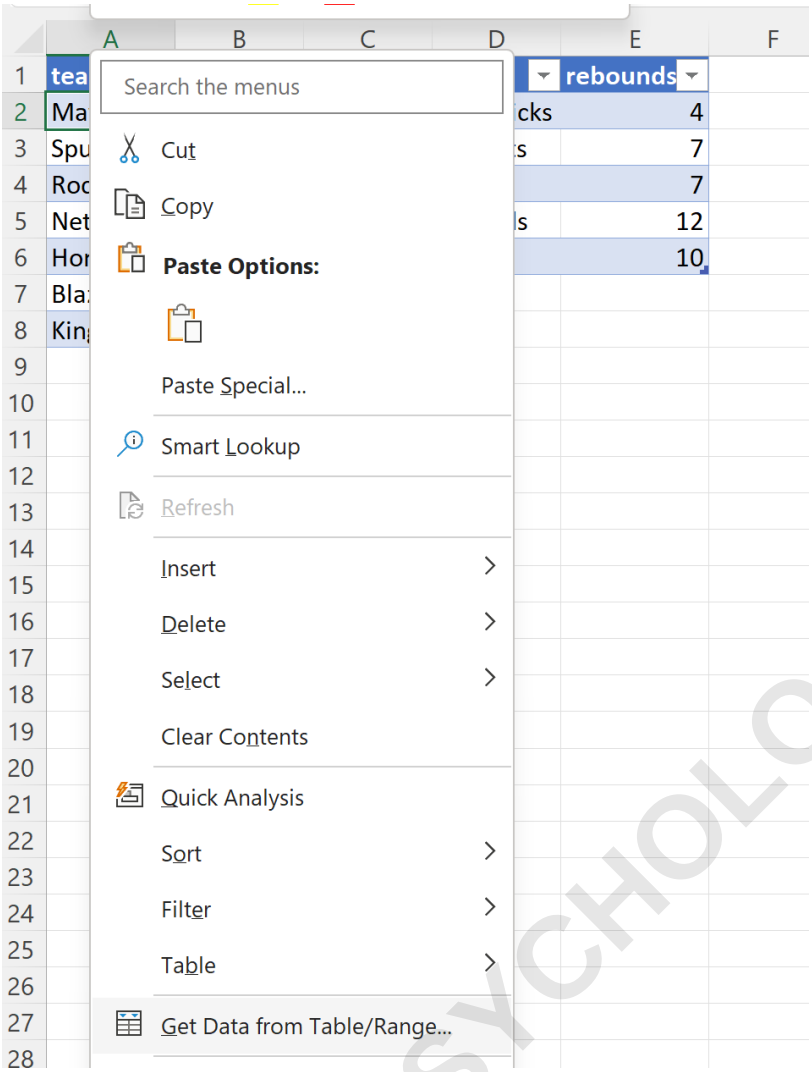
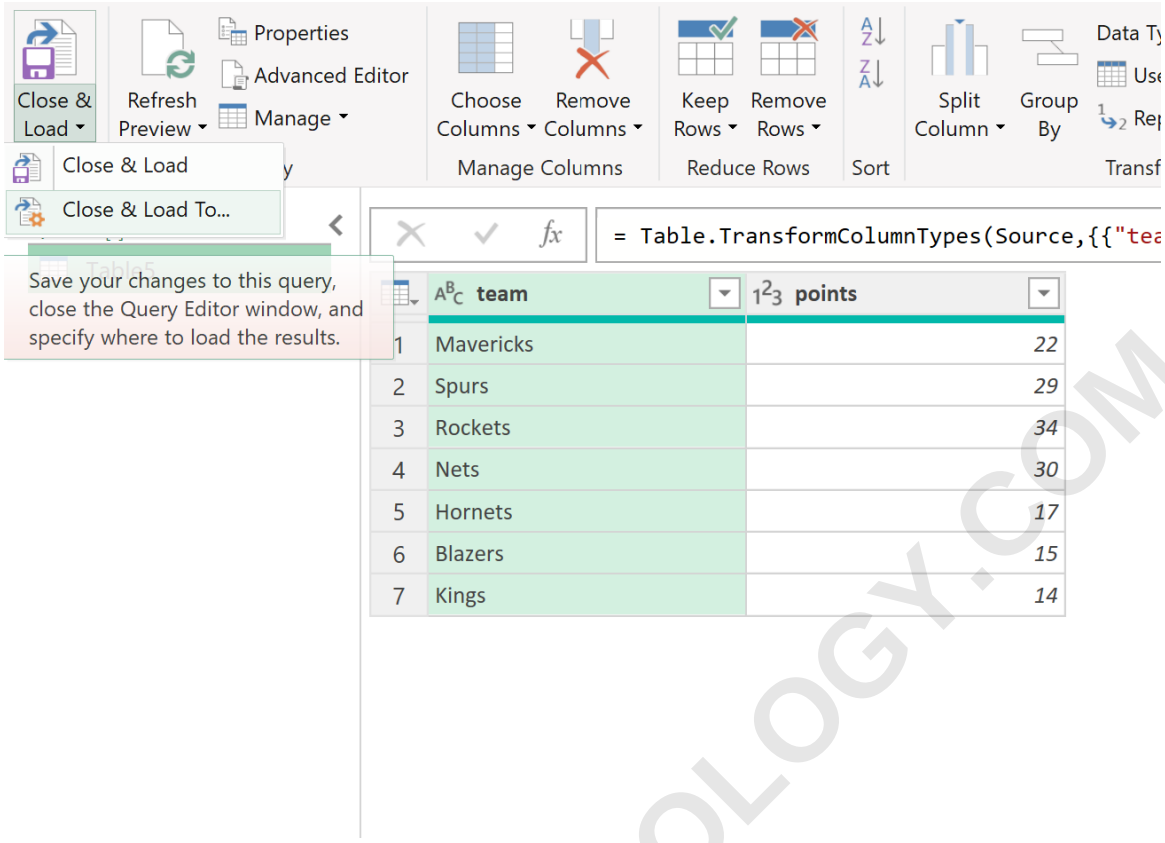
17						
18						

Step 3: Use Power Query to Perform Inner Join

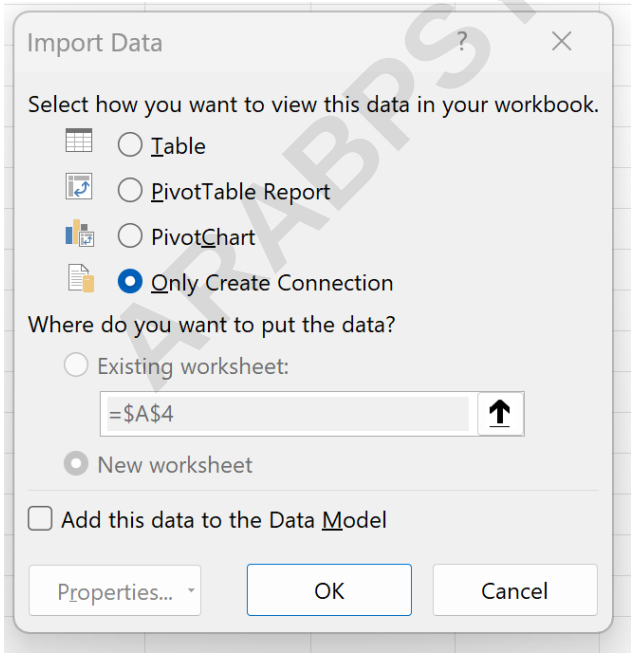
Next, right click any cell in the first table and then click **Get Data from Table/Range** from the dropdown menu:



Next, simply click the **Close & Load** icon in the top left corner and then click **Close & Load To** from the dropdown menu:



In the new window that appears, select **Only Create Connection** and then click **OK**:



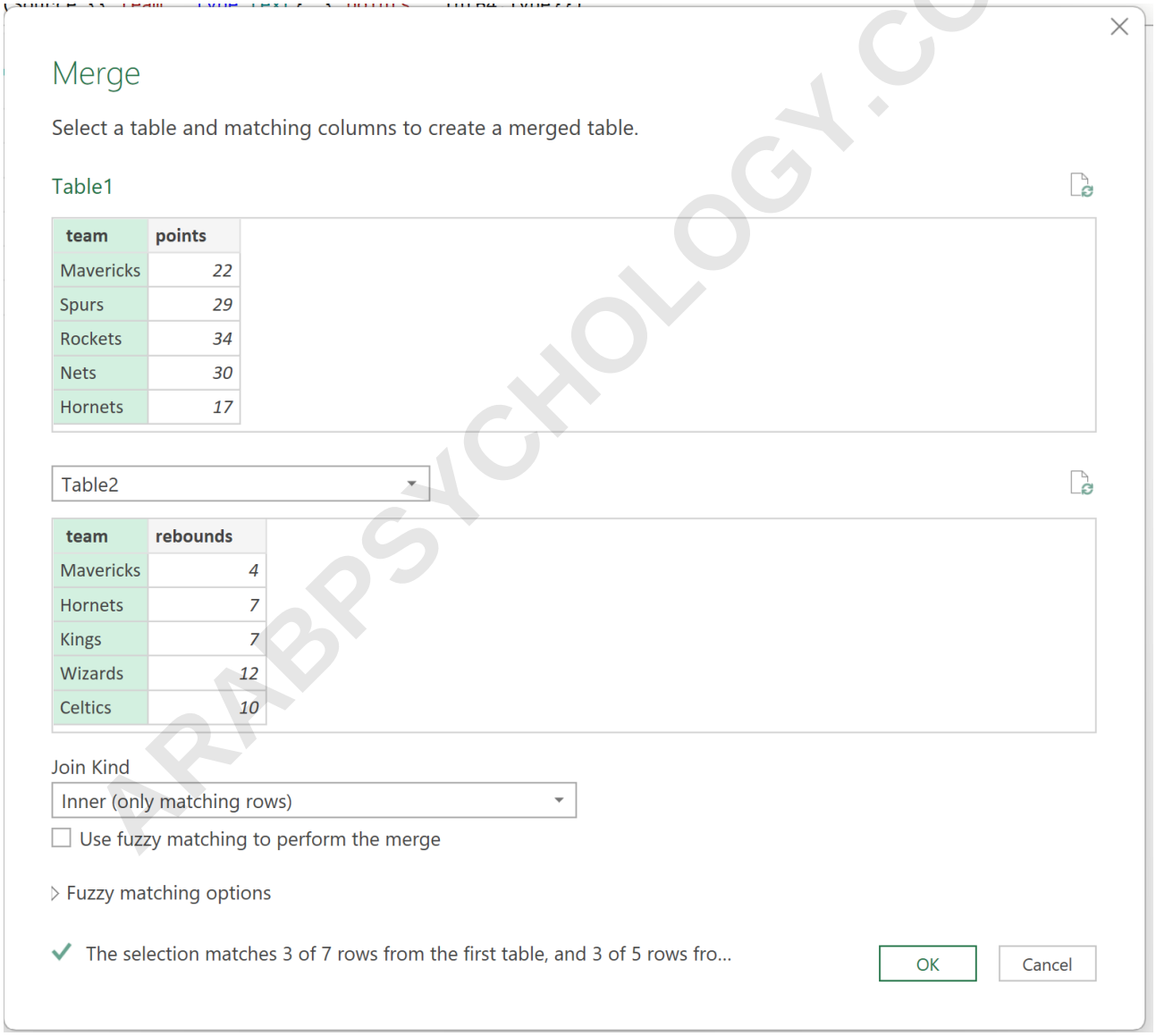
Next, right click any cell in the second table and then click **Get Data from Table/Range** from the

dropdown menu:

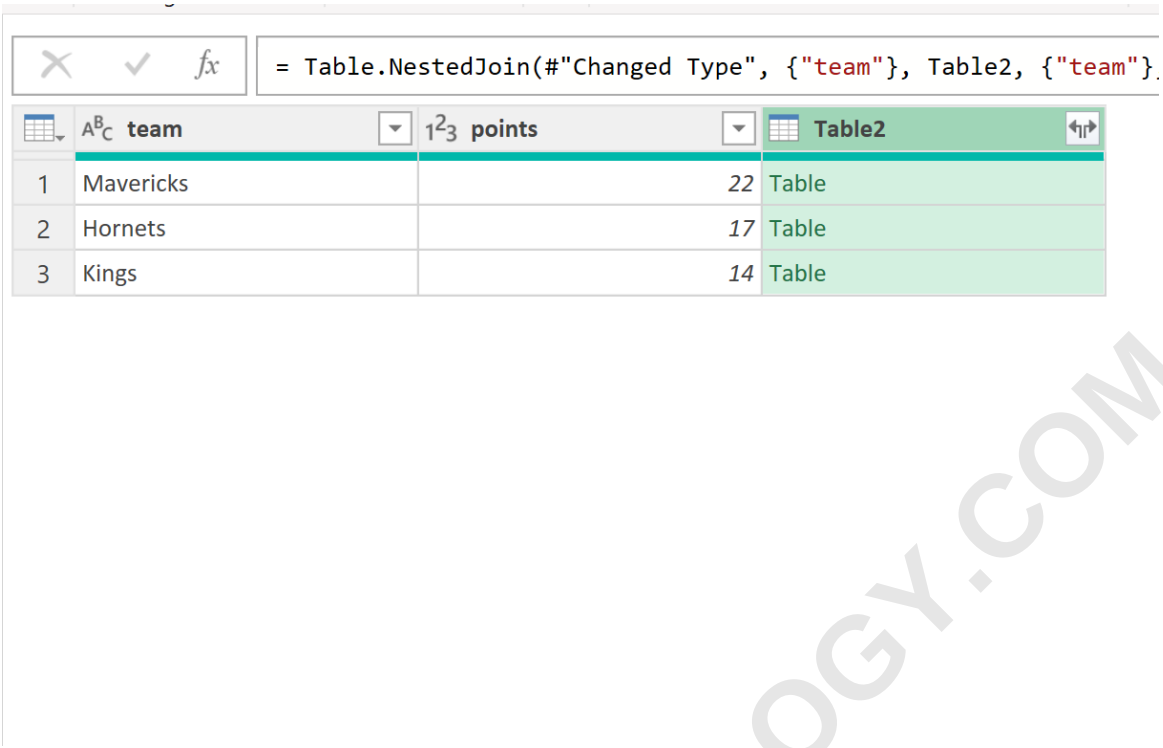
The second table will be loaded into the Power Query Editor.

Next, click the **Merge Queries** icon in the **Combine** group along the top ribbon of the Power Query Editor.

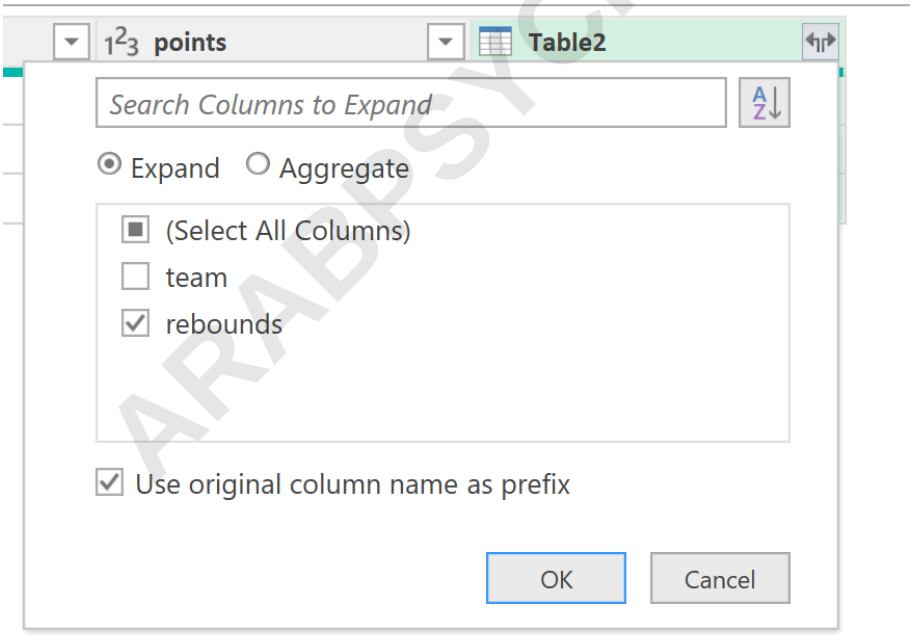
In the new window that appears, place the **Table1** in the first box and **Table2** in the second box. Then click the **team** column in each table. Then click **Inner** under the **Join Kind** dropdown menu, then click **OK**:



Once you click **OK**, the inner join will be performed:



Next, click the left and right arrow icons on the column titled **Table2** and then click **OK**:

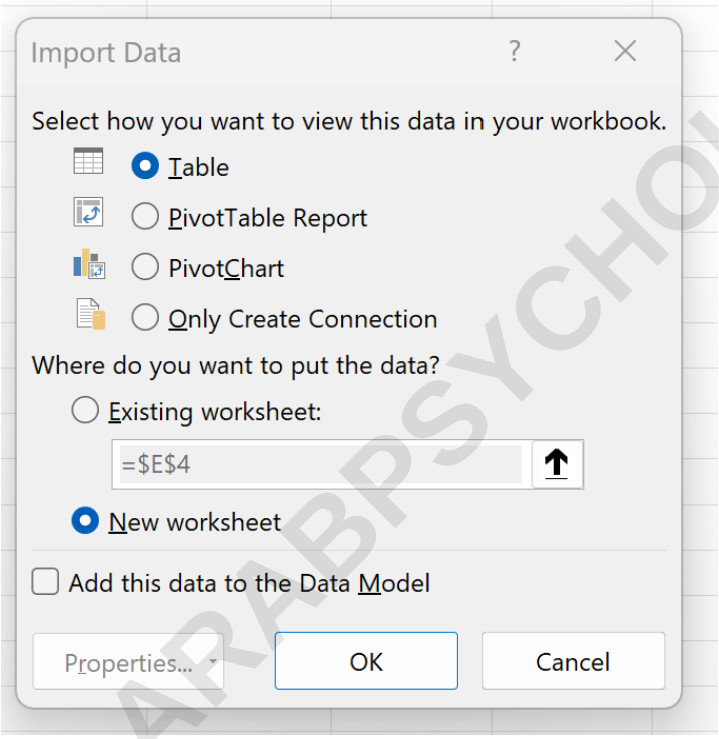


The **rebounds** column from the second table will appear:

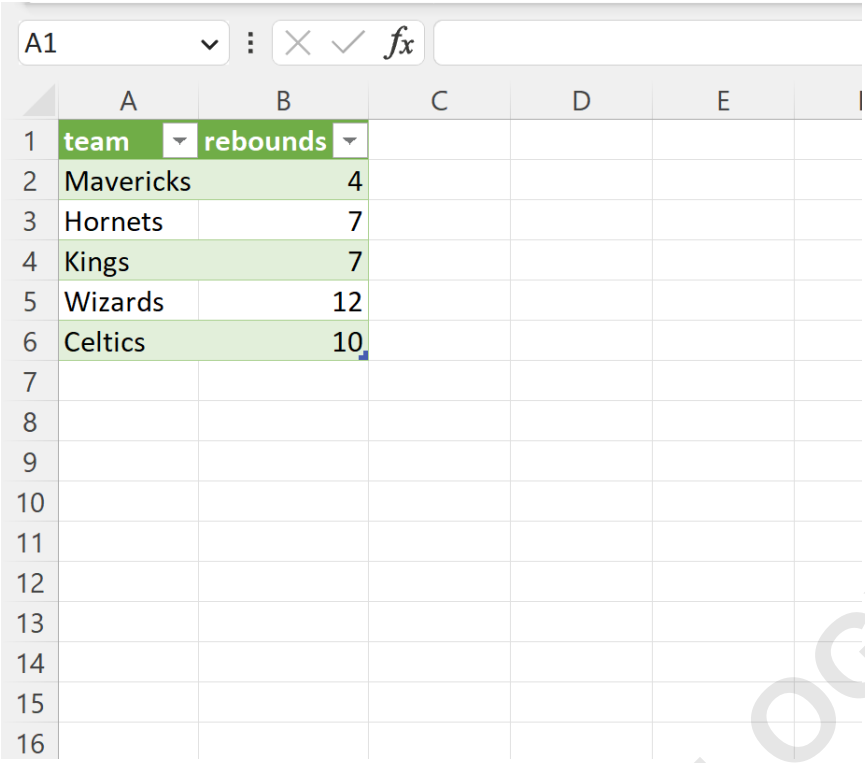
	team	points	rebounds
1	Mavericks	22	4
2	Hornets	17	7
3	Kings	14	7

Lastly, click the **Close and Load To** icon once more.

In the new window that appears, click **Table** and **New worksheet**, then click **OK**:



The final table that resulted from the inner join will now be displayed in a new worksheet:



	A	B	C	D	E
1	team	rebounds			
2	Mavericks	4			
3	Hornets	7			
4	Kings	7			
5	Wizards	12			
6	Celtics	10			
7					
8					
9					
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11					
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13					
14					
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16					

Notice that only the rows with the team names that appear in both tables are in the final table.