

How do I randomize a list in Google Sheets?

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Randomizing a list in Google Sheets refers to the process of shuffling the order of items in a list in a random manner. This can be useful for creating randomized assignments, selecting a random sample, or simply adding variety to a list. To randomize a list in Google Sheets, you can use the built-in function called "RANDARRAY", which generates a list of random numbers. You can then use this function in conjunction with the "SORT" function to sort the list in a random order. This will result in a new list with the same items, but in a different order. By repeating this process, you can continue to randomize the list multiple times. This feature is helpful for organizing data, conducting surveys, or creating randomized quizzes in Google Sheets.

Randomize a List in Google Sheets (With Examples)

Often you may want to randomize the values in one or more lists in Google Sheets.

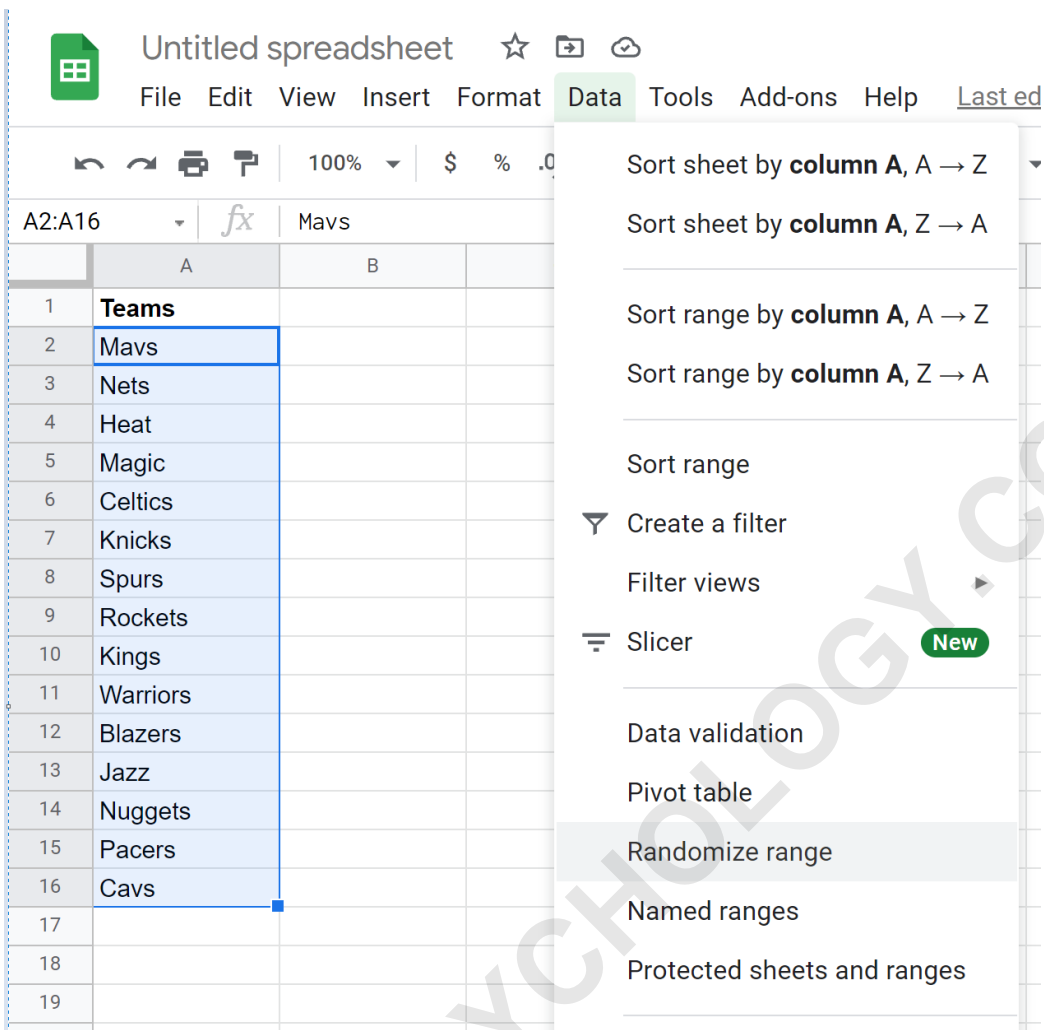
Fortunately this is easy to do and the following examples show how to do so in different scenarios.

Example 1: Randomize One List in Google Sheets

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

	A	B	C	D	
1	Teams				
2	Mavs				
3	Nets				
4	Heat				
5	Magic				
6	Celtics				
7	Knicks				
8	Spurs				
9	Rockets				
10	Kings				
11	Warriors				
12	Blazers				
13	Jazz				
14	Nuggets				
15	Pacers				
16	Cavs				
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					

To randomize this list, first highlight all of the team names, then click the Data tab and then click Randomize Range:



The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet titled "Untitled spreadsheet". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Data, Tools, Add-ons, and Help. The "Data" menu is open, displaying options such as "Sort sheet by column A, A → Z", "Sort sheet by column A, Z → A", "Sort range by column A, A → Z", "Sort range by column A, Z → A", "Sort range", "Create a filter", "Filter views", "Slicer", "Data validation", "Pivot table", "Randomize range", "Named ranges", and "Protected sheets and ranges". The "Randomize range" option is highlighted. In the background, a list of basketball teams is visible in column A, starting with "Teams" in row 1 and ending with "Cavs" in row 16.

	A	B
1	Teams	
2	Mavs	
3	Nets	
4	Heat	
5	Magic	
6	Celtics	
7	Knicks	
8	Spurs	
9	Rockets	
10	Kings	
11	Warriors	
12	Blazers	
13	Jazz	
14	Nuggets	
15	Pacers	
16	Cavs	
17		
18		
19		

This will automatically randomize the list of team names:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Teams				
2	Magic				
3	Pacers				
4	Warriors				
5	Kings				
6	Rockets				
7	Knicks				
8	Mavs				
9	Cavs				
10	Heat				
11	Celtics				
12	Nuggets				
13	Spurs				
14	Blazers				
15	Jazz				
16	Nets				
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					

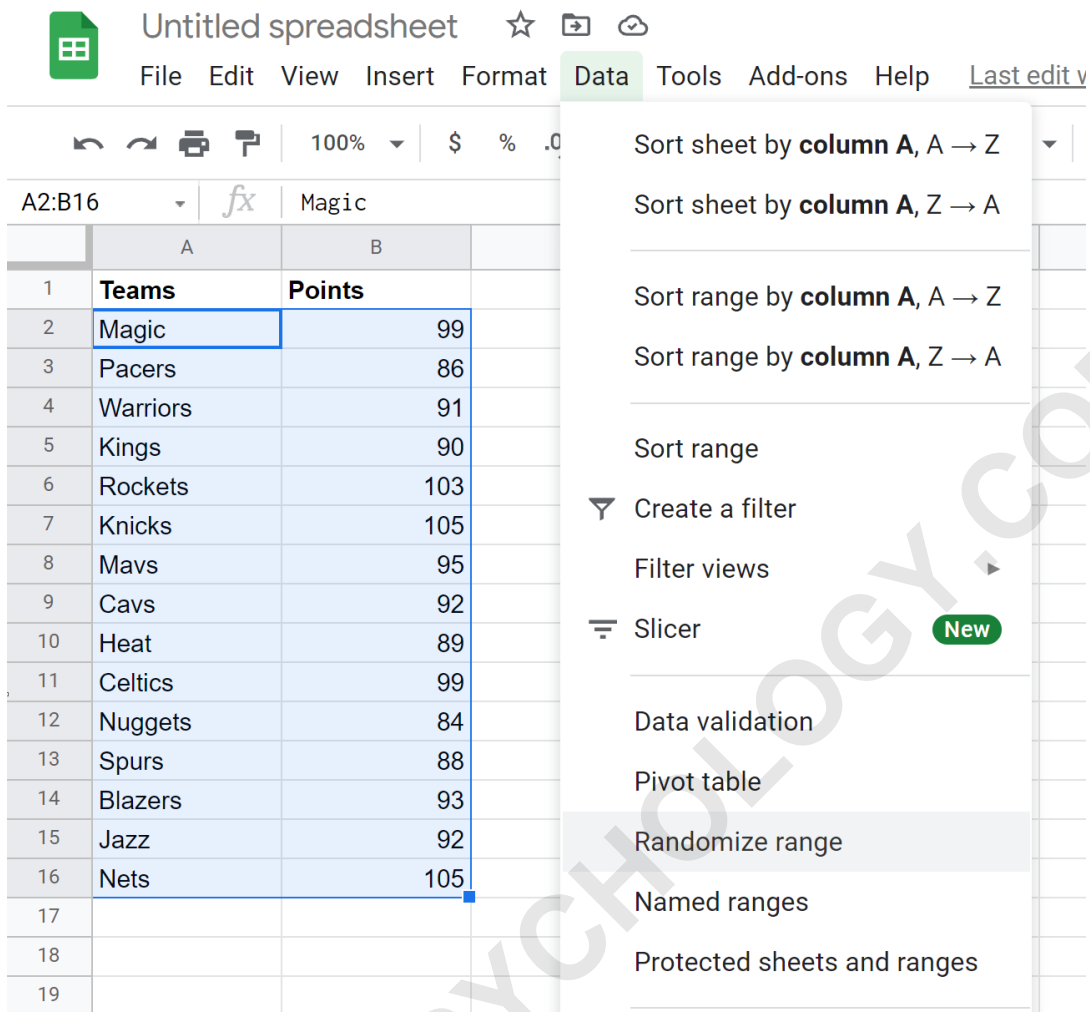
Note: Be sure not to select the column header ("Teams") or else this header value will also be randomized.

Example 2: Randomize Multiple Lists in Google Sheets

Suppose we have the following list of basketball team names and their number of points scored:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Teams	Points			
2	Magic	99			
3	Pacers	86			
4	Warriors	91			
5	Kings	90			
6	Rockets	103			
7	Knicks	105			
8	Mavs	95			
9	Cavs	92			
10	Heat	89			
11	Celtics	99			
12	Nuggets	84			
13	Spurs	88			
14	Blazers	93			
15	Jazz	92			
16	Nets	105			
17					
18					
19					
20					

To randomize this list and keep the teams matched with the correct number of points, first highlight both columns, then click the Data tab and then click Randomize Range:



The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet titled "Untitled spreadsheet". The spreadsheet has two columns: "Teams" (Column A) and "Points" (Column B). The data is as follows:

	A	B
1	Teams	Points
2	Magic	99
3	Pacers	86
4	Warriors	91
5	Kings	90
6	Rockets	103
7	Knicks	105
8	Mavs	95
9	Cavs	92
10	Heat	89
11	Celtics	99
12	Nuggets	84
13	Spurs	88
14	Blazers	93
15	Jazz	92
16	Nets	105
17		
18		
19		

The "Data" menu is open, and the "Randomize range" option is selected. Other options in the menu include: Sort sheet by column A, A → Z; Sort sheet by column A, Z → A; Sort range by column A, A → Z; Sort range by column A, Z → A; Sort range; Create a filter; Filter views; Slicer (marked as New); Data validation; Pivot table; Named ranges; and Protected sheets and ranges.

This will automatically randomize the list of team names but it will keep each team matched with their original number of points:

	A	B	C	D	
1	Teams	Points			
2	Rockets	103			
3	Celtics	99			
4	Heat	89			
5	Kings	90			
6	Spurs	88			
7	Pacers	86			
8	Magic	99			
9	Knicks	105			
10	Nets	105			
11	Nuggets	84			
12	Cavs	92			
13	Jazz	92			
14	Warriors	91			
15	Blazers	93			
16	Mavs	95			
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					

The following examples show how to perform other common operations in Google Sheets: