

# How do I use COUNTIF with wildcards in Google Sheets?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=160384>

COUNTIF is a function in Google Sheets that allows you to count the number of cells within a range that meet a certain criteria. When using this function, you can also include wildcards, which are symbols that represent any character or combination of characters, to broaden the scope of your search. This means that you can use COUNTIF to count cells that contain a specific pattern or text, rather than an exact match. To use COUNTIF with wildcards in Google Sheets, you simply need to add the desired wildcard symbol, such as an asterisk (\*) or question mark (?), within your search criteria. This allows for more flexible and efficient data analysis in your spreadsheet.

## Use COUNTIF with Wildcards in Google Sheets

You can use the following formulas in Google Sheets to use wildcard characters with the COUNTIF function:

### Formula 1: COUNTIF with One Wildcard

**=COUNTIF(A2:A11, "\*string\*")**

This particular formula counts the number of cells in the range A2:A11 that contain "string" anywhere in the cell.

### Formula 2: COUNTIF with Multiple Wildcards

**=COUNTIFS(A2:A11, "\*string1\*", B2:B11, "\*string2\*")**

This particular formula counts the number of cells where A2:A11 contains "string1" and where B2:B11 contains "string2."

**The following examples show how to use each formula in practice.**

**Example 1: COUNTIF with One Wildcard**

**We can use the following formula to count the number of cells in column A that contain "avs" anywhere in the cell:**

**=COUNTIF(A2:A11, "\*avs\*")**

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

E2    fx    =COUNTIF(A2:A11, "\*avs\*")

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Count of Teams with "avs"</b>
2	Mavs	Guard	22		5
3	Mavs	Guard	19		
4	Mavs	Forward	14		
5	Mavs	Forward	30		
6	Mavs	Forward	35		
7	Spurs	Guard	28		
8	Spurs	Guard	22		
9	Spurs	Guard	17		
10	Spurs	Forward	11		
11	Spurs	Forward	15		
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

From the output we can see that there are 5 cells in column A that contain "avs" in the name.

#### Example 2: COUNTIF with Multiple Wildcards

We can use the following formula to count the number of rows where A2:A11 contains "avs" and where B2:B11 contains "Gua":

**=COUNTIFS(A2:A11, "\*avs\*",B2:B11,"\*Gua\*")**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
E2					=COUNTIFS(A2:A11, "*avs*", B2:B11, "*Gua*")	
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Points</b>		<b>Team with "avs" and Position with "gua"</b>	
2	Mavs	Guard	22		2	
3	Mavs	Guard	19			
4	Mavs	Forward	14			
5	Mavs	Forward	30			
6	Mavs	Forward	35			
7	Spurs	Guard	28			
8	Spurs	Guard	22			
9	Spurs	Guard	17			
10	Spurs	Forward	11			
11	Spurs	Forward	15			
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

From the output we can see that there are 2 rows where the team contains "avs" and the position contains "Gua" somewhere in the cell.

#### Additional Resources