

How do I use “Does Not Equal” in Google Sheets?

Authored by
stats writer

June 26, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I use “Does Not Equal” in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=154365>

"Does Not Equal" is a comparison operator that can be used in Google Sheets to evaluate if two values are not equal. To use this operator, simply type "<>" (without the quotation marks) between the two values you want to compare. This will return a TRUE or FALSE result, indicating whether the two values are not equal. This operator can be useful for filtering data or creating conditional formatting rules in your spreadsheet. It can also be combined with other functions and operators to perform more complex comparisons.

Use Does Not Equal" in Google Sheets (With Examples)

In Google Sheets, we use "<>" as the "does not equal" symbol in formulas.

For example, we can use the following formula to determine if the value in cell A2 is equal to "Guard":

=A2<>"Guard"

If the value in cell A2 is not equal to "Guard" then the formula will return TRUE. Otherwise, the formula will return FALSE.

We can also use the "<>" symbol to determine if two cell values are not equal. For example, we can use the following formula to determine if the value in cells B2 and C2 are not equal:

=B2<>C2

If the values in B2 and C2 are not equal, then the formula will return TRUE. Otherwise, it will return FALSE.

The following examples show how to use this syntax in practice.

Example 1: Use Does Not Equal" with String

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

	A	B	C	D	
1	Position	Game 1 Points	Game 2 Points		
2	Guard	12	8		
3	Guard	15	15		
4	Forward	15	17		
5	Forward	29	23		
6	Center	25	25		
7	Guard	33	30		
8	Guard	23	25		
9	Center	28	22		
10	Forward	30	30		
11	Forward	11	4		
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

We can use the following formula to determine if the value in the Position column is equal to "Guard" in each row:

=A2<>"Guard"

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

E2		fx	<code>=A2<>"Guard"</code>			
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Position	Game 1 Points	Game 2 Points		Position is Not Guard	
2	Guard	12	8		FALSE	
3	Guard	15	15		FALSE	
4	Forward	15	17		TRUE	
5	Forward	29	23		TRUE	
6	Center	25	25		TRUE	
7	Guard	33	30		FALSE	
8	Guard	23	25		FALSE	
9	Center	28	22		TRUE	
10	Forward	30	30		TRUE	
11	Forward	11	4		TRUE	
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

The formula in the first row returns FALSE because the value in the Position column actually is equal to "Guard."

However, the formula in the last row returns TRUE because the value in the Position column is not equal to "Guard."

Example 2: Use Does Not Equal" to Compare Cell Values

Once again suppose we have the following dataset in

Google Sheets:

	A	B	C	D
1	Position	Game 1 Points	Game 2 Points	
2	Guard	12	8	
3	Guard	15	15	
4	Forward	15	17	
5	Forward	29	23	
6	Center	25	25	
7	Guard	33	30	
8	Guard	23	25	
9	Center	28	22	
10	Forward	30	30	
11	Forward	11	4	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

We can use the following formula to determine if the value in column B and column C is not equal in each row:

=B2<>C2

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

E2		<i>fx</i>	=B2<>C2				
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Position	Game 1 Points	Game 2 Points		Game 1 and Game 2 Points is Not Equal		
2	Guard	12	8		TRUE		
3	Guard	15	15		FALSE		
4	Forward	15	17		TRUE		
5	Forward	29	23		TRUE		
6	Center	25	25		FALSE		
7	Guard	33	30		TRUE		
8	Guard	23	25		TRUE		
9	Center	28	22		TRUE		
10	Forward	30	30		FALSE		
11	Forward	11	4		TRUE		
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							

The formula in the first row returns **TRUE** because the Game 1 points value and Game 2 points value are indeed not equal.

However, the formula in the second row returns **FALSE** because the Game 1 points value and Game 2 points value are actually equal.