

How do I use Excel's COUNTIF function to count cells that are not equal to a specific text?

Authored by
stats writer

June 23, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How do I use Excel's COUNTIF function to count cells that are not equal to a specific text?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=147565>

The COUNTIF function in Excel is a useful tool for counting cells that meet a specific criteria. To count cells that are not equal to a specific text, you can use the following formula: =COUNTIF(range,"text"). This formula will count all the cells in the specified range that do not contain the specified text. This is a helpful function for quickly identifying the number of cells that do not match a certain value in a data set. It is commonly used in data analysis and reporting to efficiently gather information on non-matching data points.

Excel: COUNTIF Not Equal to Text

You can use the following formula in Excel to count the number of cells that are not equal to a specific text:

```
=COUNTIF(A2:A11, "<>some_string")
```

This particular formula counts the number of cells in the range A2:A11 that are not equal to "some_string."

Note: The <> operator stands for "not equal" in Excel.

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

Example: COUNTIF Not Equal to Text in Excel

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

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points			
2	Mavericks	22			
3	Hawks	25			
4	Kings	19			
5	Lakers	14			
6	Hawks	18			
7	Spurs	28			
8	Warriors	35			
9	Mavericks	30			
10	Hawks	23			
11	Kings	27			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

We can use the following formula to count the number of cells in the Team column that are not equal to "Hawks":

=COUNTIF(A2:A11, "<>Hawks")

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

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points		Teams Not Equal to "Hawks"	
2	Mavericks	22		7	
3	Hawks	25			
4	Kings	19			
5	Lakers	14			
6	Hawks	18			
7	Spurs	28			
8	Warriors	35			
9	Mavericks	30			
10	Hawks	23			
11	Kings	27			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

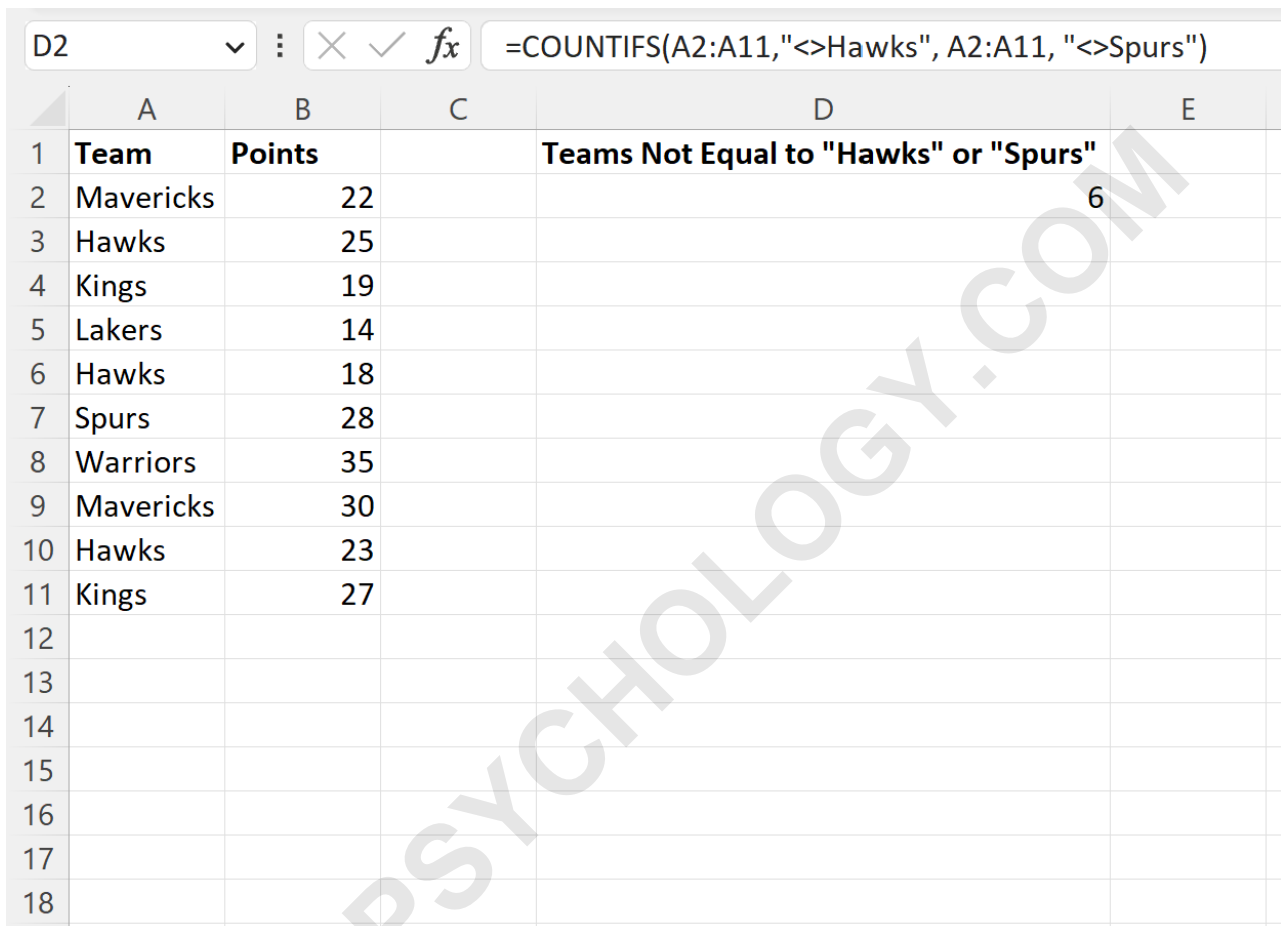
From the output we can see that there are 7 cells not equal to "Hawks" in the Team column.

If you would like to count the number of cells not equal to several different text, you can instead use the COUNTIFS function.

For example, we can use the following formula to count the number of cells in the Team column that are not equal to "Hawks" or "Spurs":

=COUNTIFS(A2:A11,"<>Hawks", A2:A11, "<>Spurs")

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



The screenshot displays an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Team	Points		Teams Not Equal to "Hawks" or "Spurs"	
2	Mavericks	22		6	
3	Hawks	25			
4	Kings	19			
5	Lakers	14			
6	Hawks	18			
7	Spurs	28			
8	Warriors	35			
9	Mavericks	30			
10	Hawks	23			
11	Kings	27			
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					

The formula bar shows the formula: `=COUNTIFS(A2:A11,"<>Hawks", A2:A11, "<>Spurs")`

From the output we can see that there are 6 cells not equal to "Hawks" or "Spurs" in the Team column.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common operations in Excel: