

# How to Easily Sort a Sheet by Multiple Columns

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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To sort a sheet by multiple columns, select the data you want to sort by and then click the "Data" tab. Choose "Sort" from the menu and select the columns you want to sort by, then choose the order you want to sort each column in (ascending or descending). Finally, click "Ok" to apply the sort.

You can use the following basic syntax to sort an Excel sheet by multiple columns using VBA:

```
Sub SortMultipleColumns()  
Range("A1:B11").Sort Key1:=Range("A1"), Order1:=xlAscending, _  
Key2:=Range("B1"), Order2:=xlDescending, _  
Header:=xlYes  
End Sub
```

This particular example sorts the cells in the range **A1:B11** first by the values in column A ascending, then by the values in column B descending.

Note that **Header:=xlYes** specifies that the first row should be treated as a header row.

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

## **Example: Sort Excel Sheet by Multiple Columns Using VBA**

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

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>				
2	Mavs	11				
3	Hawks	24				
4	Hawks	20				
5	Spurs	34				
6	Mavs	36				
7	Spurs	23				
8	Hawks	29				
9	Spurs	13				
10	Mavs	15				
11	Mavs	18				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

Suppose we would like to sort the dataset in the following manner:

First, sort by the values in the **Team** column ascending (A to Z)

Then, sort by the values in the **Points** column descending (largest to smallest)

We can create the following macro to do so:

```
Sub SortMultipleColumns()  
Range("A1:B11").Sort Key1:=Range("A1"), Order1:=xlAscending, _  
Key2:=Range("B1"), Order2:=xlDescending, _  
Header:=xlYes  
End Sub
```

When we run this macro, we receive the following output:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>				
2	Hawks	29				
3	Hawks	24				
4	Hawks	20				
5	Mavs	36				
6	Mavs	18				
7	Mavs	15				
8	Mavs	11				
9	Spurs	34				
10	Spurs	23				
11	Spurs	13				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						

The rows are now sorted by team name in ascending order and points in descending order.

**Note #1:** In this example we sorted by two columns. However, you can specify as many Keys as you would like to sort by even more columns.

**Note #2:** You can find the complete documentation for the VBA **Sort** method .