

# How do you Use COUNTIF with Wildcards in Google Sheets?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The COUNTIF function in Google Sheets can be used with wildcards to count the number of cells in a range that match certain criteria. For example, in a range of cells, wildcards can be used to count the number of cells that contain a certain text string, such as "\*book\*". This will count any cell that contains the word "book" anywhere within the cell. Wildcards can also be used to count the number of cells that match a certain pattern, such as "b?g". This will count any cell containing a two-letter word that begins with "b" and ends with "g".

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						
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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.