

How does the Excel COUNT function work?

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The Excel COUNT function is a built-in formula that allows users to count the number of cells in a range that contains numerical data. It works by simply counting the number of cells within the specified range that contain numbers, while ignoring any empty cells or cells with text or other non-numeric values. The function returns the total count as a numerical value, making it a useful tool for tracking and analyzing data in spreadsheets. This function is particularly helpful for large data sets, as it eliminates the need for manual counting and reduces the risk of human error. Overall, the Excel COUNT function is a reliable and efficient way to quickly determine the total number of numerical values within a given range.

Excel COUNT Function

COUNT Function

The **COUNT** function is a premade function in Excel, which counts cells with numbers in a range.

It is typed =COUNT

Note: The **COUNT** function only counts cells with numbers, **not** cells **with letters**. The COUNTA function is better used if the cells have letters.

How to use the =COUNT function:

Select a cellType =COUNTDouble click the **COUNT** commandSelect a rangeHit enter

Let's see some examples!

Apply the =COUNT function to range D2:D21. Counting the cells of Pokemon Total stats, which is numbers only:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats
2	Mankey	Fighting		305
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335
6	Magnetron	Electric	Steel	465
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349
12	Rattata	Normal		253
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310
15	Kingler	Water		475
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405
19	Arbok	Poison		438
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23				

COUNT function, step by step:

Select D23
Type =COUNT
Double click **COUNT** in the menu
Select range D2:D21
Hit enter

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475					
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525					
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385					
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420					
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349					
12	Rattata	Normal		253					
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395					
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310					
15	Kingler	Water		475					
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505					
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455					
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405					
19	Arbok	Poison		438					
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310					
21	Magikarp	Water		200					
22									
23				=count					
24				 COUNT	Counts the number of cells in a range that contain numbers				
25									

Note: The =COUNT function only counts cells with numbers in a range.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats		
2	Mankey	Fighting		305		
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510		
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490		
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335		
6	Magneton	Electric	Steel	465		
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475		
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525		
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19	Arbok	Poison		438		
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310		
21	Magikarp	Water		200		
22						
23				=COUNT(D2:D21		
24				COUNT (value1; [value2]; ...)		
25						

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats
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20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23				20
24				

That's it! The =COUNT function successfully counted 20 cells with numbers.

A Non-Working Example

Now, let us try an example that will not work.

Apply the =COUNT function to the range A2:A21, which only has cells with letters.

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats
2	Mankey	Fighting		305
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335
6	Magnetron	Electric	Steel	465
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19	Arbok	Poison		438
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23	=COUNT(A2:A21			
24	COUNT (value1; [value2]; ...)			
25				

	A	B	C	D
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19	Arbok	Poison		438
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23		0		

It returns the value 0, no cells with numbers found. Range A2:A21 only had cells with letters.

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