

How to Automatically Assign Values in Excel Based on Cell Content

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To assign a value in Excel if a cell contains a certain word, you can use the IF function. This function takes the format IF(logical_test, value_if_true, value_if_false) and tests if the cell contains the word. If it does contain the word, the value_if_true will be returned, otherwise the value_if_false will be returned. You can then use this value for further calculations.

You can use the following formula in Excel to assign a value to a cell if it contains a particular word:

=IF(COUNTIF(B2,"*"&\$B\$14&"*"), B2, "No")

In this example, if cell **B2** contains the word in cell **B14**, then the value in cell **B2** is returned.

Otherwise, a value of "No" is returned instead.

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

Example: If Cell Contains Word then Assign Value in Excel

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that shows the position of various basketball players:

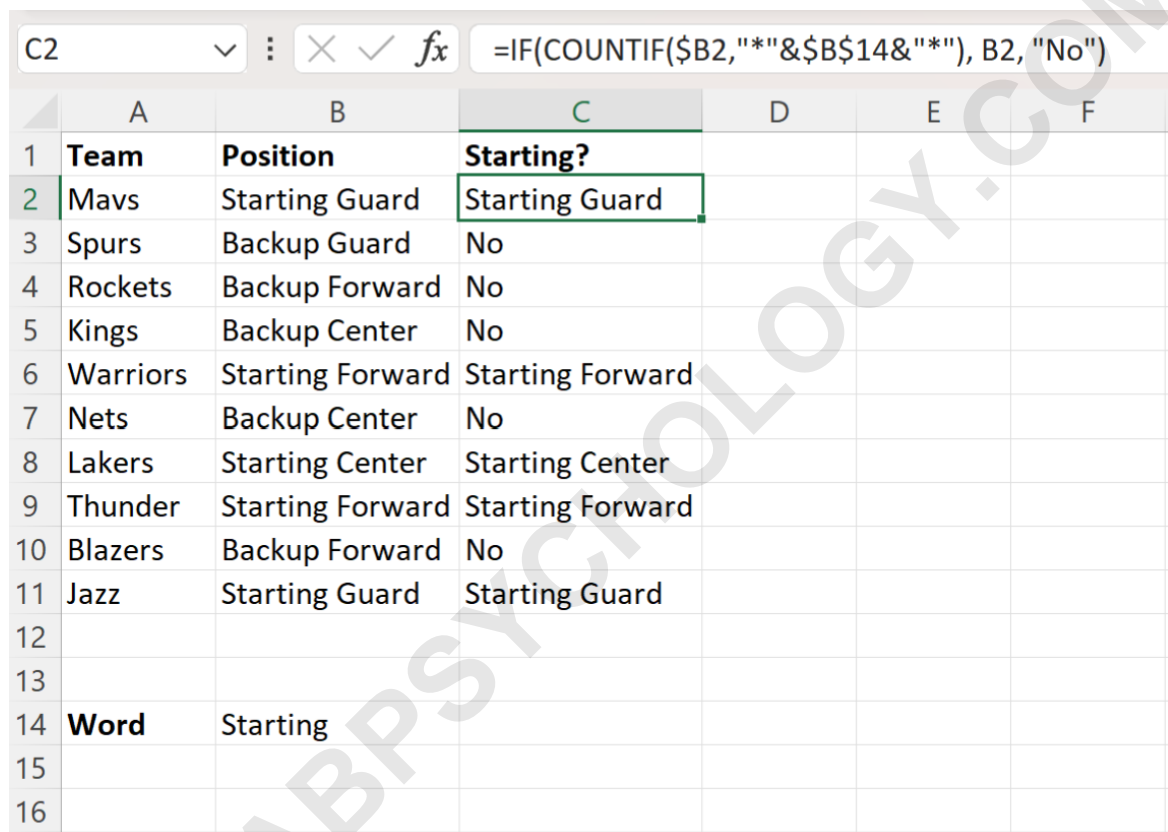
| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|-------------|------------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Position | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | Starting Guard | | | |
| 3 | Spurs | Backup Guard | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | Backup Forward | | | |
| 5 | Kings | Backup Center | | | |
| 6 | Warriors | Starting Forward | | | |
| 7 | Nets | Backup Center | | | |
| 8 | Lakers | Starting Center | | | |
| 9 | Thunder | Starting Forward | | | |
| 10 | Blazers | Backup Forward | | | |
| 11 | Jazz | Starting Guard | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | Word | Starting | | | |
| 15 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | |

Suppose we would like to return the name of the position in column C if the corresponding cell in column B contains the word "Starting" (as specified in cell **B14**) or "No" otherwise.

We can type the following formula into cell **C2** to do so:

=IF(COUNTIF(B2,"*"&\$B\$14&"*"), B2, "No")

We can then click and drag this formula down to each remaining cell in column C:



| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|-------------|------------------|------------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Team | Position | Starting? | | | |
| 2 | Mavs | Starting Guard | Starting Guard | | | |
| 3 | Spurs | Backup Guard | No | | | |
| 4 | Rockets | Backup Forward | No | | | |
| 5 | Kings | Backup Center | No | | | |
| 6 | Warriors | Starting Forward | Starting Forward | | | |
| 7 | Nets | Backup Center | No | | | |
| 8 | Lakers | Starting Center | Starting Center | | | |
| 9 | Thunder | Starting Forward | Starting Forward | | | |
| 10 | Blazers | Backup Forward | No | | | |
| 11 | Jazz | Starting Guard | Starting Guard | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | | |
| 14 | Word | Starting | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | |

Notice that column C returns the name of the position in column B if the position contains "Starting" somewhere in the name or it returns "No" otherwise.

How This Formula Works

Recall the formula that we used to assign a value to a cell if it contained a particular word:

=IF(COUNTIF(B2,"*"&\$B\$14&"*"), B2, "No")

The **COUNTIF(B2, "*"&\$B\$14&"*")** formula checks if cell **B2** contains the string "Starting" anywhere in the cell and returns **1** if it does or **0** otherwise.

We then use an **IF** function to return the value in cell **B2** if the **COUNTIF** function returns **1**.

Otherwise, the **IF** function returns "No" if the **COUNTIF** function returns **0**.

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