

# How to do conditional formatting in google sheets if another cell contains text?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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In Google Sheets, you can set up conditional formatting to change the background color of a cell if another cell contains a certain text. To do this, select the cell where you want the conditional formatting to be applied and click on Format in the menu bar. Then, click on Conditional formatting and enter the cell reference that contains the text you want to use for the condition. Set the background color that you want and click Save. The cell will be formatted only when the cell reference contains the text you specified.

You can use the **custom formula** function in Google Sheets to apply conditional formatting to cells based on whether or not another cell contains specific text.

The following example shows how to use the custom formula function in practice.

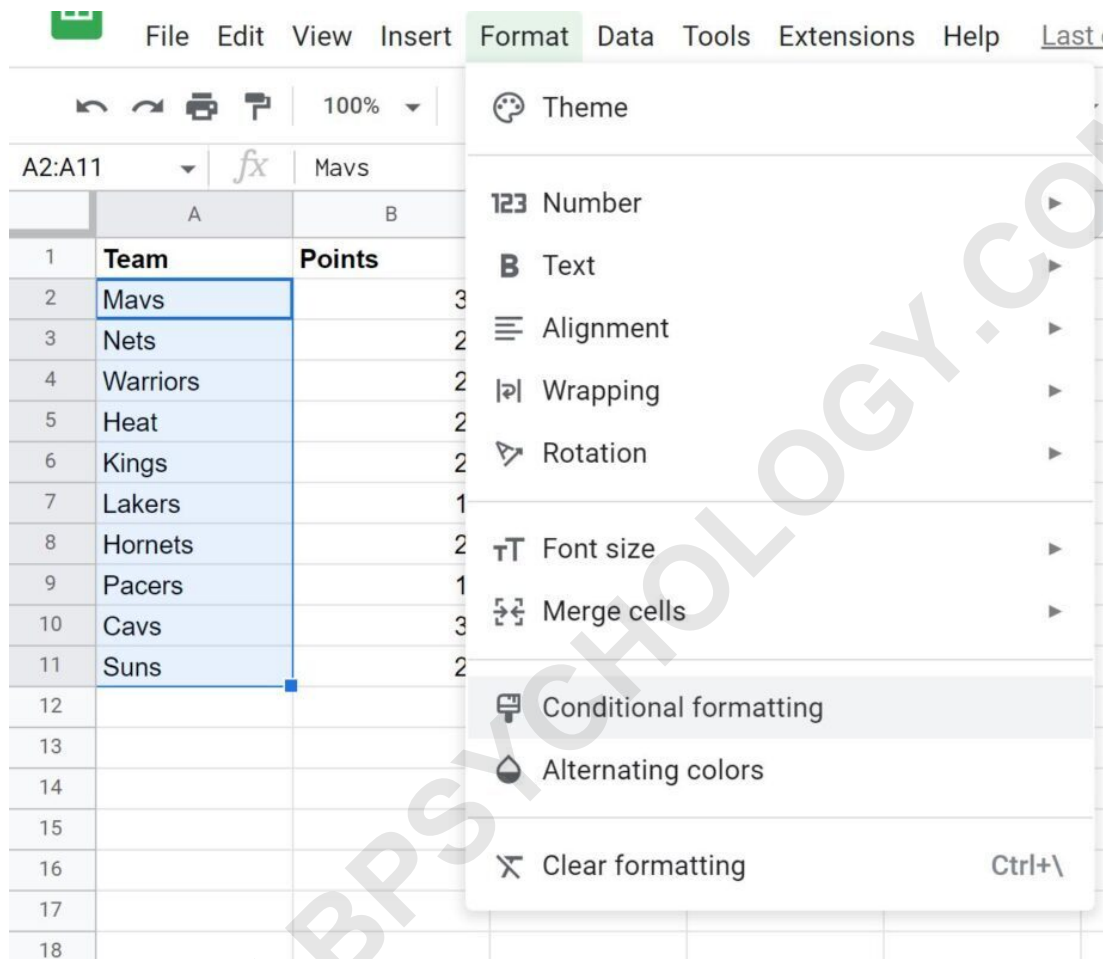
## Example: Conditional Formatting if Another Cell Contains Text in Google Sheets

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

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
2	Mavs	34	Great	
3	Nets	29	Good	
4	Warriors	25	Good	
5	Heat	25	Good	
6	Kings	22	Good	
7	Lakers	17	Bad	
8	Hornets	29	Good	
9	Pacers	18	Bad	
10	Cavs	38	Great	
11	Suns	22	Bad	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Suppose we'd like to highlight each of the cells in the **Team** column based on the text in the corresponding cells of the **Rating** column.

To do so, we can highlight the cells in the range **A2:A11**, then click the **Format** tab, then click **Conditional formatting**:



In the **Conditional format rules** panel that appears on the right side of the screen, click the **Format cells if** dropdown, then choose **Custom formula is**, then type in the following formula:

**=C2="Great"**

Conditional format rules

**Single color** Color scale

Apply to range

A2:A11

Format rules


Format cells if...

Custom formula is

=C2="Great"

Formatting style

Default

**B** *I* U ~~S~~ A ▾  ▾

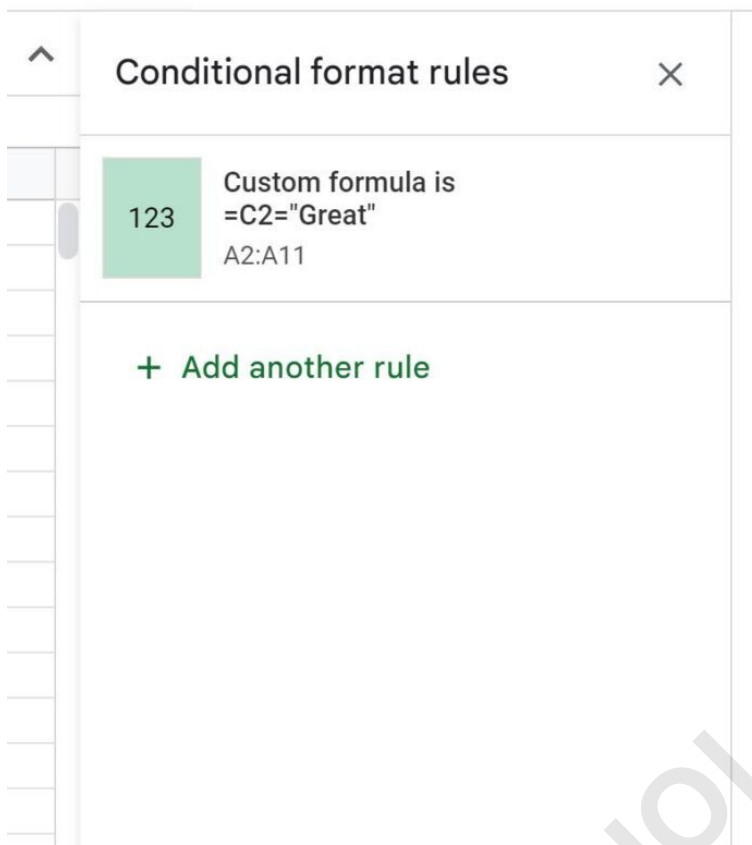
Cancel Done

+ Add another rule

Once you click **Done**, each of the cells in the **Team** column that has a value of "Great" in the **Rating** column will be highlighted with a green background:

	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
2	Mavs	34	Great	
3	Nets	29	Good	
4	Warriors	25	Good	
5	Heat	25	Good	
6	Kings	22	Good	
7	Lakers	17	Bad	
8	Hornets	29	Good	
9	Pacers	18	Bad	
10	Cavs	38	Great	
11	Suns	22	Bad	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				

You can also apply conditional formatting to cells that have other text values by clicking **Add another rule**:



You can then repeat the process to specify background colors for the team names that have "Good" or "Bad" in the **Rating** column:

Conditional format rules

123	Custom formula is =C2="Great" A2:A11
123	Custom formula is =C2="Good" A2:A11
123	Custom formula is =C2="Bad" A2:A11

+ Add another rule

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	A	B	C	D
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rating</b>	
2	Mavs	34	Great	
3	Nets	29	Good	
4	Warriors	25	Good	
5	Heat	25	Good	
6	Kings	22	Good	
7	Lakers	17	Bad	
8	Hornets	29	Good	
9	Pacers	18	Bad	
10	Cavs	38	Great	
11	Suns	22	Bad	
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
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20				
21				

From the output we can see:

Each **Team** with a **Rating** of "Great" has a green background color.

Each **Team** with a **Rating** of "Good" has a yellow background color.

Each **Team** with a **Rating** of "Bad" has a red background color.

If any **Team** had a **Rating** value other than these three values, it would simply keep a white background color.