How to Extract Unique Values from Multiple Columns in Google Sheets: A Step-by-Step Guide

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To get unique values across multiple columns in Google Sheets, you can use the UNIQUE function. This function takes two or more columns as arguments and returns only the unique values found in all of the columns. This can be useful when you need to compare data between multiple columns and filter out any duplicates.

You can use the following formulas to create a unique list of values across multiple columns in Google Sheets:

Formula 1: Create Unique List of Values (Display Across Multiple Columns)

=UNIQUE(A2:C20)

Formula 2: Create Unique List of Values (Display in One Column)

=UNIQUE(FLATTEN(A2:C20))

The following examples show how to use each formula in practice.

Example 1: Create Unique List of Values (Display Across Multiple Columns)

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains information for various basketball players:

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	A	B	C	D
1	**Team**	**Position**		
2	Mavs	Guard		
3	Mavs	Guard		
4	Mavs	Forward		
5	Mavs	Forward		
6	Mavs	Center		
7	Spurs	Guard		
8	Spurs	Guard		
9	Spurs	Forward		
10	Spurs	Forward		
11	Spurs	Center		
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
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19				
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We can use the following formula to return only the unique rows across both columns:

=UNIQUE(A2:B11)

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

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D1 fx =UNIQUE(A2:B11)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Team**	**Position**		Mavs	Guard
2	Mavs	Guard		Mavs	Forward
3	Mavs	Guard		Mavs	Center
4	Mavs	Forward		Spurs	Guard
5	Mavs	Forward		Spurs	Forward
6	Mavs	Center		Spurs	Center
7	Spurs	Guard			
8	Spurs	Guard			
9	Spurs	Forward			
10	Spurs	Forward			
11	Spurs	Center			
12					
13					
14					
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16					
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18					
19					

Notice that the formula only returns the unique rows from the original dataset.

Example 2: Create Unique List of Values (Display in One Column)

Suppose we have the following dataset that contains the positions of players on various basketball teams:

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	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Team 1**	**Team 2**	**Team 3**		
2	Guard	Guard	Guard		
3	Guard	Forward	Guard		
4	Forward	Forward	Guard		
5	Forward	Forward	Center		
6	Center	Forward	Center		
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					

=UNIQUE(FLATTEN(A2:C6))

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula in practice:

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E1 fx =UNIQUE(FLATTEN(A2:C6))

	A	B	C	D	E
1	**Team 1**	**Team 2**	**Team 3**		Guard
2	Guard	Guard	Guard		Forward
3	Guard	Forward	Guard		Center
4	Forward	Forward	Guard		
5	Forward	Forward	Center		
6	Center	Forward	Center		
7					
8					
9					
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11					
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19					
20					

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Notice that the formula only returns the unique positions across each of the three columns.