

# How to use the wildcard in SUMIFS function in Excel?

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November 29, 2025

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2025). *How to use the wildcard in SUMIFS function in Excel?*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=102005>

The wildcard in the SUMIFS function in Excel allows you to find cells that contain either identical or similar data and then sum values from those cells. For instance, you can use wildcards to sum all cells containing "app\*" in a column, which would include "apple", "application", and any other words that start with "app". You can use an asterisk (\*) to match any number of characters, or a question mark (?) to match any single character. It is important to note that the wildcards must be enclosed in double quotes within the formula.

You can use the following formulas to perform a **SUMIFS** function with a wildcard character in Excel:

**#Sum values in B2:B10 where cells in A2:A10 contains string**  
**=SUMIFS(B2:B10, A2:A10, "\*string\*")**

#Sum values in B2:B10 where cells in A2:A10 start with string  
=SUMIFS(B2:B10, A2:A10, "string\*")

#Sum values in B2:B10 where cells in A2:A10 end with string  
=SUMIFS(B2:B10, A2:A10, "\*string")

The following examples show how to use each formula in practice with the following dataset in Excel:

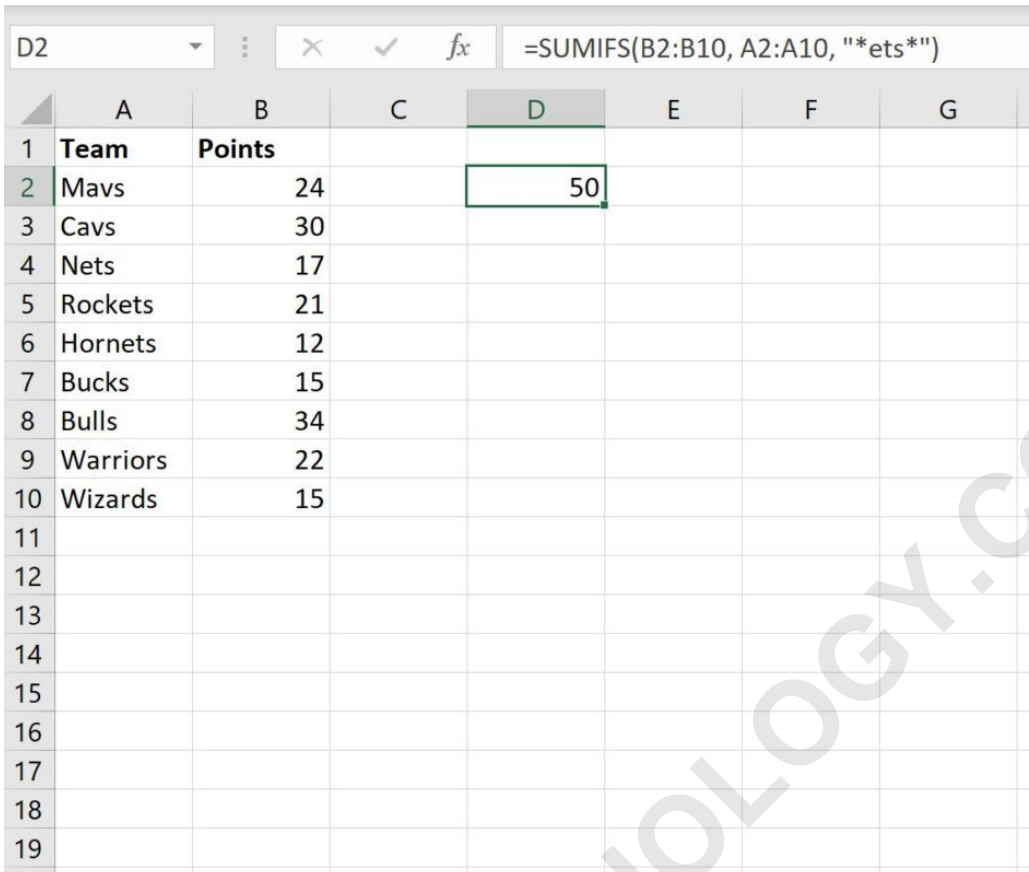
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>				
2	Mavs	24				
3	Cavs	30				
4	Nets	17				
5	Rockets	21				
6	Hornets	12				
7	Bucks	15				
8	Bulls	34				
9	Warriors	22				
10	Wizards	15				
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						

### Example 1: SUMIFS with Cells that Contain String

We can use the following formula to sum the values in the **Points** column where the cell in the **Team** column contains "ets" in the name:

```
=SUMIFS(B2:B10, A2:A10, "*ets*")
```

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>					
2	Mavs	24		50			
3	Cavs	30					
4	Nets	17					
5	Rockets	21					
6	Hornets	12					
7	Bucks	15					
8	Bulls	34					
9	Warriors	22					
10	Wizards	15					
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

The sum of points for the teams whose name contains "ets" is **50**.

We can manually verify that this is correct by taking the sum of points for teams whose name contains "ets":

**Teams with "ets" in name:** Nets, Rockets, Hornets

**Sum of points:** 17 + 21 + 12

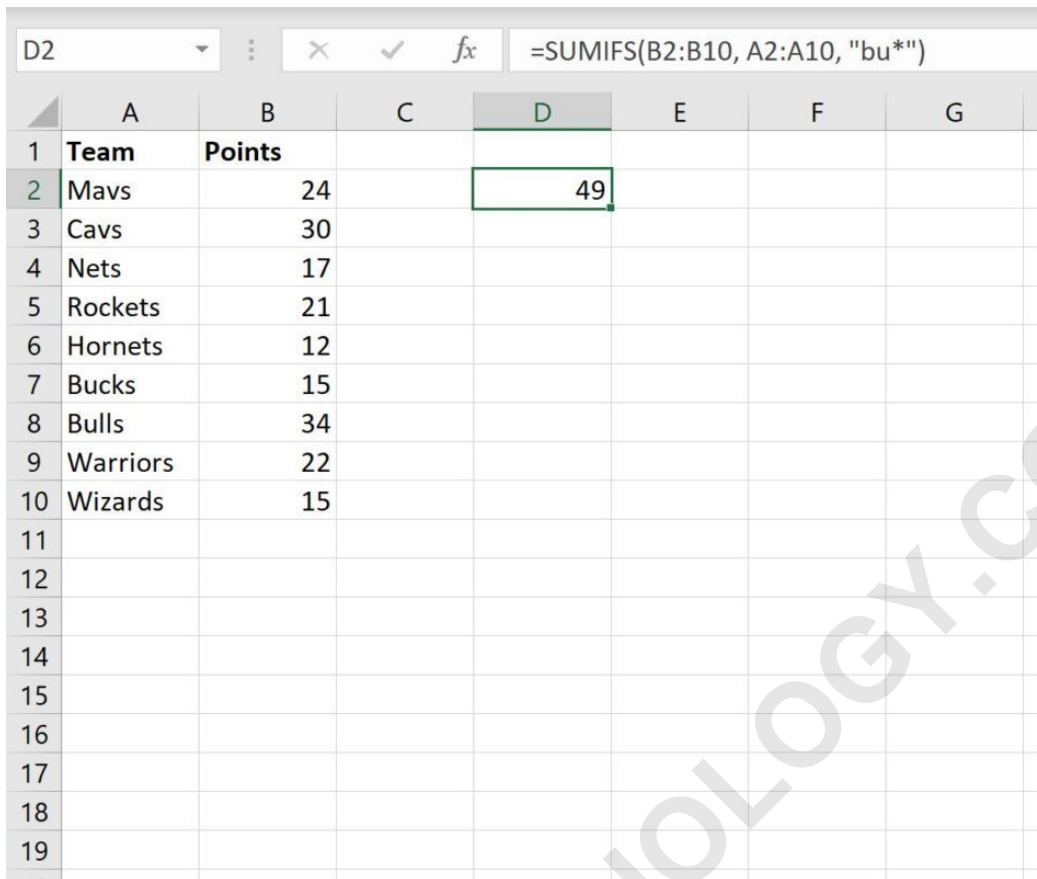
**Sum of points:** 50

### Example 2: SUMIFS with Cells that Start with String

We can use the following formula to sum the values in the **Points** column where the cell in the **Team** column starts with "bu":

**=SUMIFS(B2:B10, A2:A10, "bu\*")**

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>					
2	Mavs	24		49			
3	Cavs	30					
4	Nets	17					
5	Rockets	21					
6	Hornets	12					
7	Bucks	15					
8	Bulls	34					
9	Warriors	22					
10	Wizards	15					
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

We can manually verify that this is correct by taking the sum of points for teams whose name starts with "bu":

**Team names that start with "bu":** Bucks, Bulls

**Sum of points:** 15 + 34

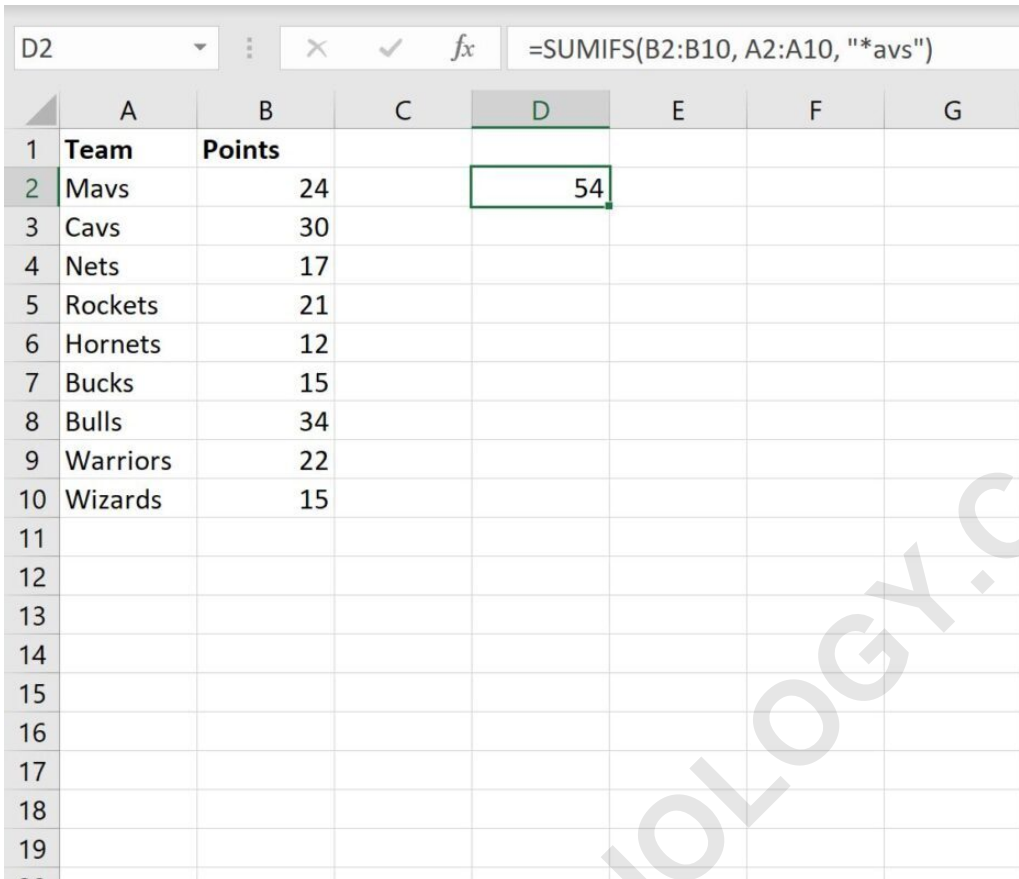
**Sum of points:** 49

### Example 3: SUMIFS with Cells that End with String

We can use the following formula to sum the values in the **Points** column where the cell in the **Team** column ends with "avs" in the name:

**=SUMIFS(B2:B10, A2:A10, "\*avs")**

The following screenshot shows how to use this formula:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>					
2	Mavs	24		54			
3	Cavs	30					
4	Nets	17					
5	Rockets	21					
6	Hornets	12					
7	Bucks	15					
8	Bulls	34					
9	Warriors	22					
10	Wizards	15					
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

The sum of points for the teams whose name ends with "avs" is **54**.

We can manually verify that this is correct by taking the sum of points for teams whose name ends with "avs":

**Team names that end with "avs":** Mavs, Cavs

**Sum of points:** 24 + 30

**Sum of points:** 54