

# How to Easily Sum Multiple Rows with VLOOKUP in Excel

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The VLOOKUP function is one of the most essential tools within Excel, enabling users to efficiently search for a specific value in the first column of a table array and retrieve corresponding data from a designated column in the same row. While typically used for retrieving a single data point, advanced spreadsheet users often face the need to sum multiple adjacent values associated with a single lookup criterion--a task that a standard VLOOKUP formula cannot handle alone. We must integrate this function with powerful aggregating functions to achieve this complex task, making it easy to quickly find and calculate totals based on specific criteria within large datasets in Excel.

We will explore two primary methodologies for performing a conditional sum using a lookup value, addressing both the horizontal aggregation of the first match and the vertical aggregation of all matches:

### Method 1: VLOOKUP and SUM Values in First Matched Row (Horizontal Summation)

**=SUM(VLOOKUP(A14, \$A\$2:\$D\$11, {2,3,4}, FALSE))**

This formula utilizes an Array Formula structure to sum the values in columns 2, 3, and 4 in the **first row** of the range **A2:D11** where the value in column A is equal to the criteria specified in cell **A14**. This is ideal for aggregating data across adjacent columns for a unique record instance.

### Method 2: SUMPRODUCT for Vertical Summation (All Matched Rows)

**=SUMPRODUCT((A2:A11=A14)\*B2:D11)**

This alternative formula, utilizing the robust SUMPRODUCT function, sums the values in columns B, C, and D for **each row** where the value in column A is equal to the lookup criteria in cell **A14**. This method is preferred when the dataset contains duplicate entries and a grand total across all instances is required.

## Prerequisite Dataset Overview

The following examples demonstrate how to apply each method in practice using a sample dataset in Excel. This data illustrates the points scored by various basketball players across three different games (Game 1, Game 2, and Game 3), highlighting instances where player names are duplicated:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Player</b>	<b>Game 1</b>	<b>Game 2</b>	<b>Game 3</b>			
2	Andy	10	8	31			
3	Bernard	12	17	9			
4	Chad	16	15	9			
5	Derrick	9	15	14			
6	Eric	14	14	15			
7	Frank	34	17	13			
8	George	29	18	12			
9	Harry	18	10	22			
10	Chad	14	20	28			
11	John	20	22	27			
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							

### Example 1: Horizontal Summation Using VLOOKUP and SUM (First Match Only)

In this scenario, we wish to find the total points scored by "Chad" across all three games, but critically, we only want the sum based on the **first time** "Chad" appears in the data table. This requires integrating the standard VLOOKUP function with the SUM function, transforming it into an Array Formula via the column index parameter.

We type the following formula into cell **B14**, assuming the lookup value ("Chad") is in cell **A14** and the data range is **\$A\$2:\$D\$11**:

**=SUM(VLOOKUP(A14, \$A\$2:\$D\$11, {2,3,4}, FALSE))**

This formula instructs VLOOKUP to return an array containing the scores from columns 2, 3, and 4 (Game 1, Game 2, Game 3) corresponding to the first match found for the value in A14.

## Interpreting the Results of the SUM(VLOOKUP) Array

Once we press **Enter** (or Ctrl+Shift+Enter for older Excel versions), the calculated results reflecting the horizontal sum will be shown:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Player</b>	<b>Game 1</b>	<b>Game 2</b>	<b>Game 3</b>				
2	Andy	10	8	31				
3	Bernard	12	17	9				
4	Chad	16	15	9				
5	Derrick	9	15	14				
6	Eric	14	14	15				
7	Frank	34	17	13				
8	George	29	18	12				
9	Harry	18	10	22				
10	Chad	14	20	28				
11	John	20	22	27				
12								
13	<b>Player</b>							
14	Chad	40						
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								

This configuration uses VLOOKUP to locate "Chad" in the Player column (column A) and returns the sum of the points values for each game found in the **first row** that matches "Chad."

We can observe that the formula returns a value of **40**, which is the sum of the points scored by Chad in the first row where he appears (20 + 10 + 10). Subsequent entries for Chad are intentionally ignored by this method.

## Example 2: Vertical Summation Using SUMPRODUCT (All Matches)

If the goal is to aggregate all scores for "Chad," regardless of how many times his name appears in the dataset, we must employ the SUMPRODUCT function. This function performs the necessary conditional filtering and summation across the entire vertical range of data.

We input the following formula, which creates a boolean array to check for the player's name and

multiplies it by the corresponding scores:

**=SUMPRODUCT((A2:A11=A14)\*B2:D11)**

The first part, (A2:A11=A14), generates an array of TRUEs and FALSEs based on the match condition. Multiplying this array by the data range B2:D11 converts TRUEs to 1s and FALSEs to 0s, thereby isolating only the scores relevant to the lookup value.

## Interpreting the Results of the SUMPRODUCT Calculation

Once we press **Enter**, the results reflecting the comprehensive vertical summation across all matches will be displayed:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<b>Player</b>	<b>Game 1</b>	<b>Game 2</b>	<b>Game 3</b>			
2	Andy	10	8	31			
3	Bernard	12	17	9			
4	Chad	16	15	9			
5	Derrick	9	15	14			
6	Eric	14	14	15			
7	Frank	34	17	13			
8	George	29	18	12			
9	Harry	18	10	22			
10	Chad	14	20	28			
11	John	20	22	27			
12							
13	<b>Player</b>						
14	Chad	102					
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

This robust formula uses array multiplication logic to find all instances of "Chad" in the Player column and then returns the sum of the points values for each game in **each row** that matches the criteria.

We can see that Chad scored a total of **102** points. This figure accurately represents the sum of

points from his first appearance (40 points) and his second appearance (62 points), demonstrating the power of SUMPRODUCT for handling conditional aggregation across duplicated data records.

## Choosing the Appropriate Aggregation Method

The decision between the two methods hinges on whether you need a horizontal sum of related columns in a single row or a vertical sum across all matching rows in the dataset.

**Use SUM(VLOOKUP({...}))** when you are certain the first match is the only data point that should be aggregated, and the summation needs to occur across adjacent columns.

**Use SUMPRODUCT** when the source data contains multiple entries for the lookup value and the final output must be the grand total of all corresponding numerical cells. SUMPRODUCT is generally considered more flexible and powerful for multi-criteria summing tasks.