

What is a simple Excel formula for “If Contains”?

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A simple Excel formula for "If Contains" is a logical function that allows you to check if a cell contains a specific text or value. This formula evaluates a cell and returns a specific value if the cell contains the specified text or value, and a different value if it does not. It is commonly used for data analysis and manipulation in spreadsheets, allowing users to quickly identify and categorize data based on specific criteria. This formula is helpful for organizing and sorting large amounts of data, making it easier to analyze and draw insights from.

Excel: A Simple Formula for "If Contains"

You can use the following formula in Excel to determine if a cell contains a certain string:

```
=IF(ISNUMBER(SEARCH("this",A1)), "Yes", "No")
```

In this example, if cell A1 contains the string "this" then it will return a Yes, otherwise it will return a No.

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

Example: Check if Cell Contains a Certain String in Excel

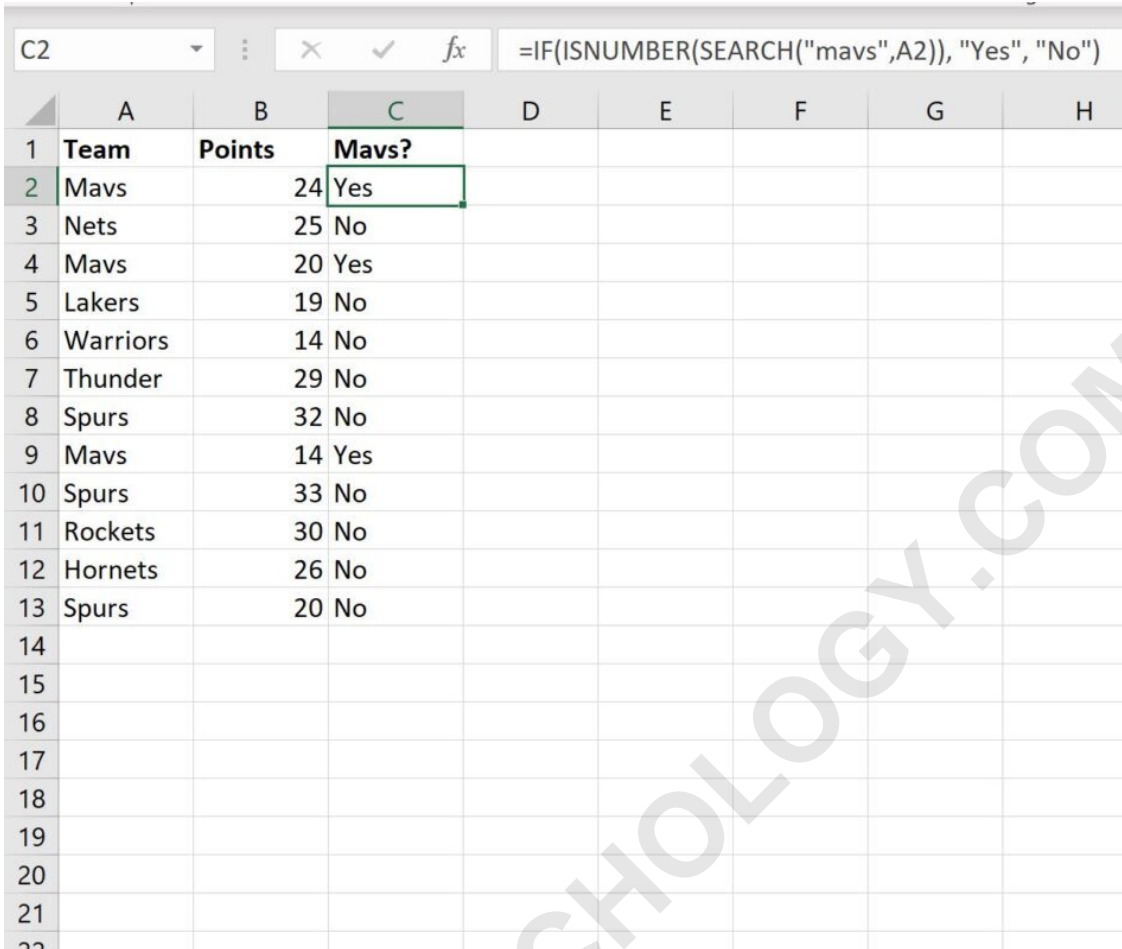
Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that shows the number of points scored by various basketball players:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Points				
2	Mavs	24				
3	Nets	25				
4	Mavs	20				
5	Lakers	19				
6	Warriors	14				
7	Thunder	29				
8	Spurs	32				
9	Mavs	14				
10	Spurs	33				
11	Rockets	30				
12	Hornets	26				
13	Spurs	20				
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

We can use the following formula to check if the value in the Team column contains the string "mavs":

=IF(ISNUMBER(SEARCH("mavs",A2)), "Yes", "No")

We can type this formula into cell C2 and then copy and paste it down to the remaining cells in column C:



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team	Points	Mavs?					
2	Mavs	24	Yes					
3	Nets	25	No					
4	Mavs	20	Yes					
5	Lakers	19	No					
6	Warriors	14	No					
7	Thunder	29	No					
8	Spurs	32	No					
9	Mavs	14	Yes					
10	Spurs	33	No					
11	Rockets	30	No					
12	Hornets	26	No					
13	Spurs	20	No					
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19								
20								
21								
22								

The three rows with a value of "mavs" in the Team column all receive a Yes in the new column while all other rows receive a No.

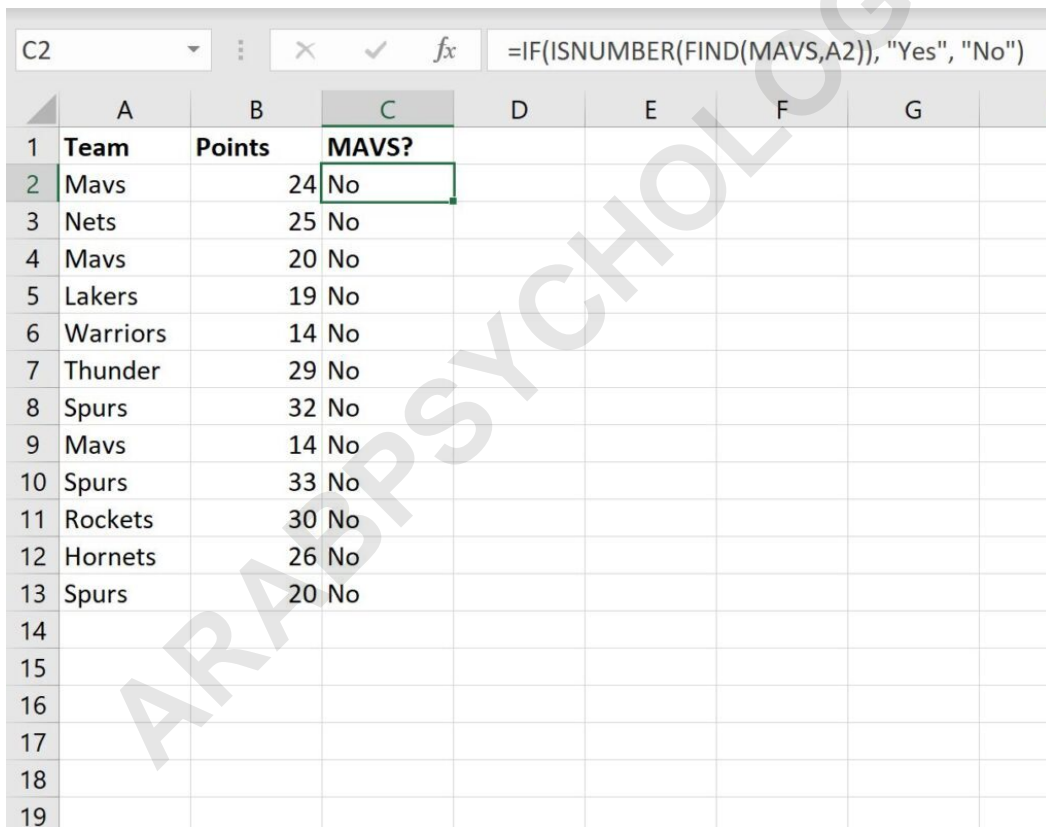
Note that the SEARCH() function in Excel is case-insensitive.

If you'd like to perform a case-sensitive search, you can swap out the SEARCH() function in the formula with the FIND() function.

For example, we could use the following formula to check if any value in the Team column is equal to "MAVS":

=IF(ISNUMBER(FIND("MAVS",A2)), "Yes", "No")

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



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Team	Points	MAVS?				
2	Mavs	24	No				
3	Nets	25	No				
4	Mavs	20	No				
5	Lakers	19	No				
6	Warriors	14	No				
7	Thunder	29	No				
8	Spurs	32	No				
9	Mavs	14	No				
10	Spurs	33	No				
11	Rockets	30	No				
12	Hornets	26	No				
13	Spurs	20	No				
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

Notice that every value in the new column is equal to No because none of the team names match the uppercase "MAVS" string that we specified in the formula.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel:

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