

What is the addition operator used for in Google Sheets?

Authored by
stats writer

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The addition operator in Google Sheets is used to perform basic arithmetic operations, specifically addition, on numerical values within a spreadsheet. It allows users to add together multiple cells or ranges of cells to obtain a total sum. This feature is commonly used for calculating financial data, creating budgets, and organizing numerical data in a spreadsheet. Additionally, the addition operator can also be used for combining text strings in order to create a concatenated string. Overall, the addition operator is a fundamental tool in Google Sheets that facilitates efficient data manipulation and analysis.

Google Sheets Addition Operator

Addition Operator

Addition uses the + symbol in Google Sheets, and is also known as **plus**.

There are two ways to do addition in Google Sheets. Either by using the + symbol in a formula or by using the **SUM** function.

How to add cell values:

Select a cell and type (=) Select a cell Type (+) Select another cell Hit enter

You can add more cells to the formula by typing (+) between the cells.

Let's have a look at some examples.

Adding Two Manual Entries

Type A1 (=) Type 5+5 Hit enter

A1 fx =5+5

	A	B	C	D	E
1	=5+5				
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

A2 fx

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10				
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Congratulations! You have successfully added $5+5=10$.

Adding Two Cells

First let's add some numbers to work with. Type the following values:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10				
2	20				
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

How to do it, step by step:

Type **B1 (=)** Select **A1**Type **(+)**Select **A2**Hit enter

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10	=A1+A2			
2	20				
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10	30			
2	20				
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Great! 30 is the result by adding A1 and A2.

Adding Several Cells

First let's add some numbers to work with. Type the following values:

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10				
2	20				
3	20				
4	30				
5	20				
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Step by step to add several cells:

Type B1 (=) Select A1 Type (+) Select A2 Type (+) Select A3 Type (+) Select A4 Type (+) Select A5 Hit enter

B1

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10	$=A1+A2+A3+A4+A5$			
2	20				
3	20				
4	30				
5	20				
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

B2

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10	100			
2	20				
3	20				
4	30				
5	20				
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Good job! You have successfully added five cells!

Adding with SUM

Let's keep the numbers from the last exercise. If you did last exercise, remove the value in B1.

	A	B	C	D	E
A1	10				
1	10				
2	20				
3	20				
4	30				
5	20				
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Step by step to add with SUM:

Type B1 (=SUM)

	A	B	C	D	E
B1		=SUM			
1	10	=SUM			
2	20	SUM			
3	20	SUMIF			
4	30	SUMSQ			
5	20	SUMIFS			
6		SUMXMY2			
7		SUMX2MY2			
8		SUMX2PY2			
9		SUMPRODUCT			
10		Sum of products of elements in two arrays.			
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Click the SUM command

B1 fx =SUM(

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10	=SUM(
2	20				
3	20				
4	30				
5	20				
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

SUM(value1; [value2; ...])

EXAMPLE
SUM(A2:A100; 101)

ABOUT
Returns the sum of a series of numbers and/or cells.

value1
The first number or range to add together.

value2... - [optional] repeatable
Additional numbers or ranges to add to value1.

[Learn more](#)

Mark the range A1:A5

B1 fx =SUM(A1:A5

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10	=SUM(A1:A5			
2	20				
3	20				
4	30				
5	20				
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

SUM(value1; [value2; ...])

EXAMPLE
SUM(A2:A100; 101)

ABOUT
Returns the sum of a series of numbers and/or cells.

value1
The first number or range to add together.

value2... - [optional] repeatable
Additional numbers or ranges to add to value1.

[Learn more](#)

Hit enter

	A	B	C	D	E
1	10	100			
2	20				
3	20				
4	30				
5	20				
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Note: `SUM` saves you time! Keep practicing this function.

Adding Using Absolute Reference

You can also lock a cell and add it to other cells.

How to do it, step by step:

Select a cell and type (=) Select the cell you want to lock, add two dollar signs (\$) before the column and row or press `F4` Type (+) Fill a range

Let's have a look at an example where we add `B1(5)` to the range `A1:A10` using absolute reference and the fill function.

Copy the values:

Adding with SUM

Let's keep the numbers from the last exercise. If you did last exercise, remove the value in `B1`.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	50	5			
2	45				
3	40				
4	35				
5	30				
6	25				
7	20				
8	15				
9	10				
10	5				

Step by step:

Type C1 (=)

	A	B	C	D	E
1	50	5	=		
2	45				
3	40				
4	35				
5	30				
6	25				
7	20				
8	15				
9	10				
10	5				

Select B1 Type dollar sign before column and row \$B\$1

	A	B	C	D	E
1	50	5	=B\$1		
2	45				
3	40				
4	35				
5	30				
6	25				
7	20				
8	15				
9	10				
10	5				

Type (+)Select A1

	A	B	C	D	E
1	50	5	=B\$1+A1		
2	45				
3	40				
4	35				
5	30				
6	25				
7	20				
8	15				
9	10				
10	5				

Hit enter

C1 fx =\$B\$1+A1

	A	B	C	D	E
1	50	5	55		
2	45				
3	40				
4	35				
5	30				
6	25				
7	20				
8	15				
9	10				
10	5				

Fill the range C1:C10

C1:C10 fx =\$B\$1+A1

	A	B	C	D	E
1	50	5	55		
2	45		50		
3	40		45		
4	35		40		
5	30		35		
6	25		30		
7	20		25		
8	15		20		
9	10		15		
10	5		10		

Great! You have successfully used absolute reference to add B1 (5) with the range A1:A10.

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