

What is the difference between COUNTIF and COUNTIFS in Excel?

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COUNTIF and COUNTIFS are two commonly used functions in Microsoft Excel for counting cells that meet specific criteria. The main difference between the two is that COUNTIF only allows for one condition to be evaluated, whereas COUNTIFS allows for multiple conditions to be evaluated simultaneously. This means that COUNTIFS can be used to count cells based on multiple criteria, making it a more versatile and powerful function compared to COUNTIF. Additionally, COUNTIFS also allows for the use of logical operators such as "AND" and "OR" to further refine the criteria for counting cells. Overall, the main distinction between COUNTIF and COUNTIFS is their ability to handle multiple criteria, making them useful for different types of data analysis and calculations in Excel.

COUNTIF vs. COUNTIFS in Excel: What's the Difference?

In Excel, the COUNTIF and COUNTIFS functions both count the number of cells in a range that meet a certain condition, but they use slightly different behaviors:

The COUNTIF function counts the number of cells in a range that meet one condition. The COUNTIFS function counts the number of cells in a range that meet several conditions.

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

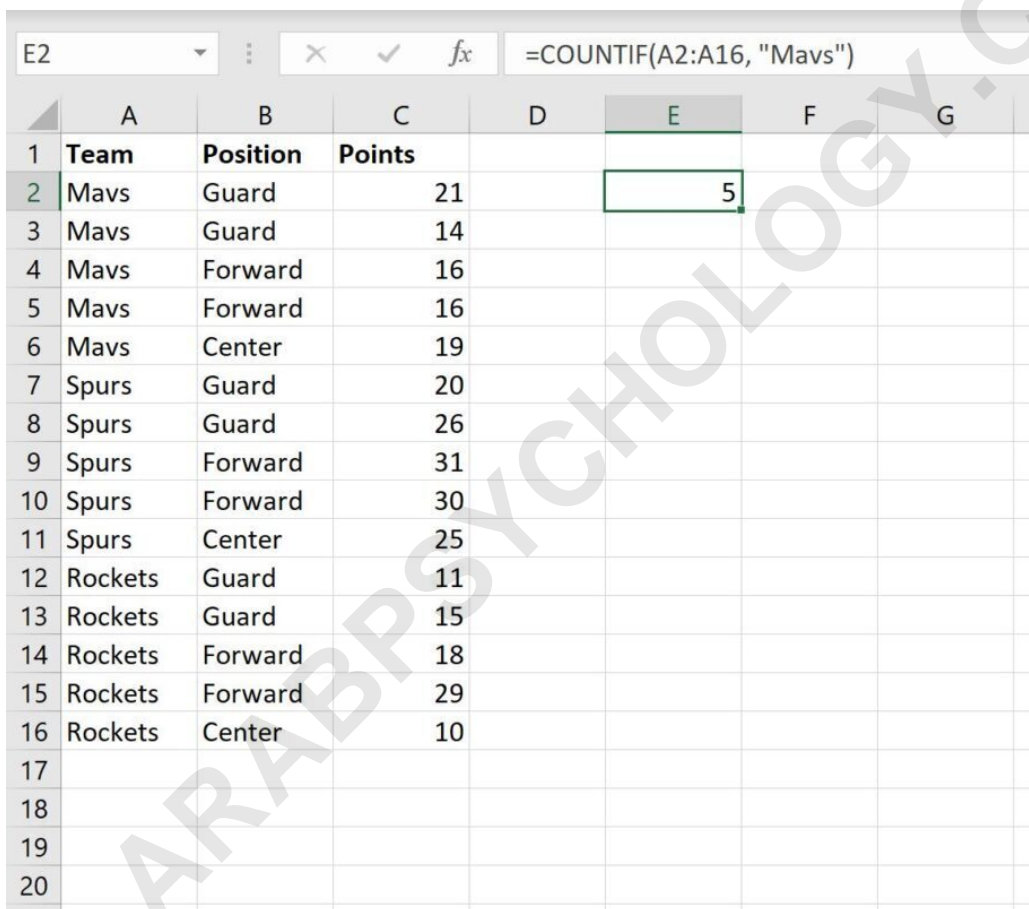
Example 1: Using COUNTIF

We can use the following COUNTIF formula to count the number of rows where the value in the range A2:A16 is

equal to "Mavs":

=COUNTIF(A2:A16, "Mavs")

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



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Team	Position	Points				
2	Mavs	Guard	21		5		
3	Mavs	Guard	14				
4	Mavs	Forward	16				
5	Mavs	Forward	16				
6	Mavs	Center	19				
7	Spurs	Guard	20				
8	Spurs	Guard	26				
9	Spurs	Forward	31				
10	Spurs	Forward	30				
11	Spurs	Center	25				
12	Rockets	Guard	11				
13	Rockets	Guard	15				
14	Rockets	Forward	18				
15	Rockets	Forward	29				
16	Rockets	Center	10				
17							
18							
19							
20							

The formula bar shows the formula: `=COUNTIF(A2:A16, "Mavs")`. The result, 5, is displayed in cell E2.

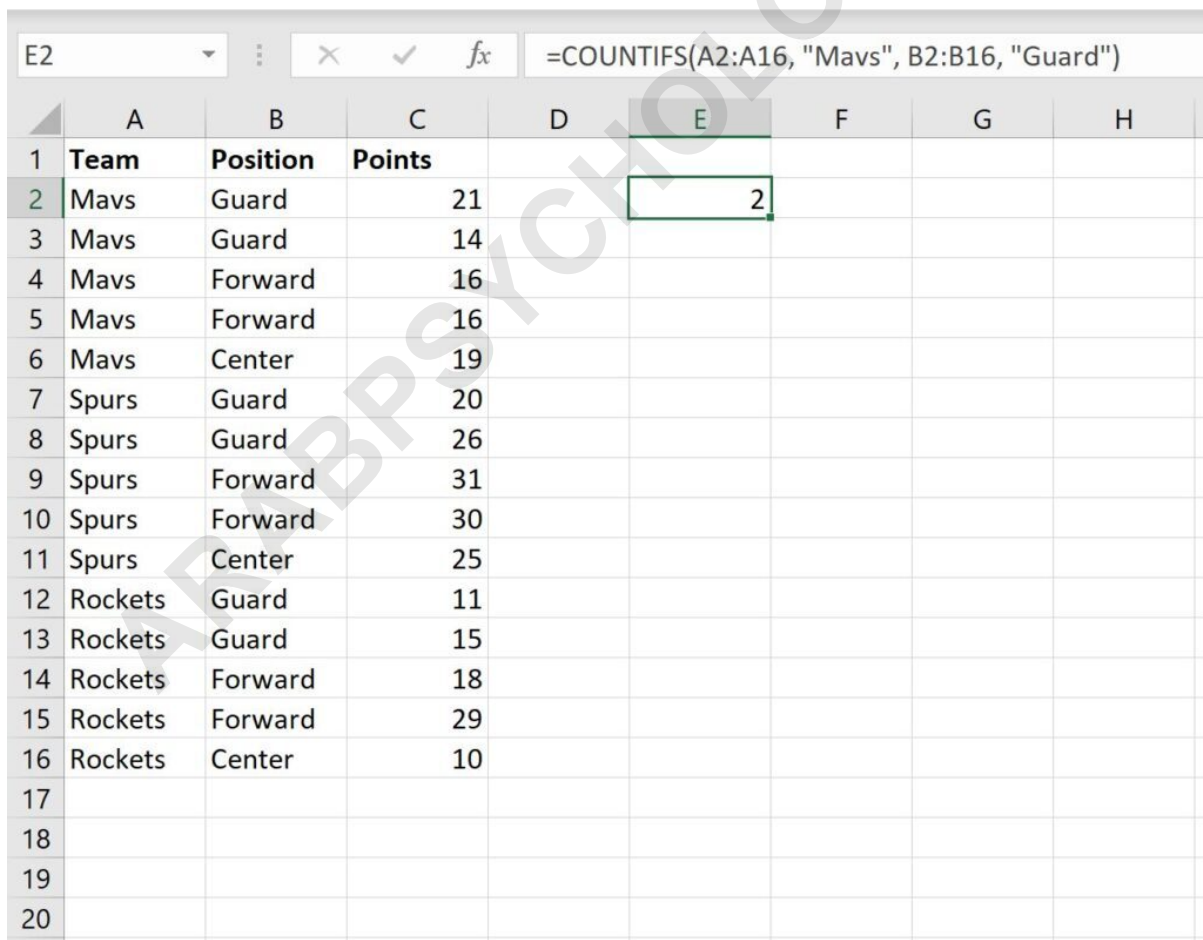
We can see that a total of 5 cells in the range A2:A16 meet this criteria.

Example 2: Using COUNTIFS

We can use the following COUNTIFS formula to count the number of rows where the value in the range A2:A16 is equal to "Mavs" and the value in the range B2:B16 is equal to "Guard":

=COUNTIFS(A2:A16, "Mavs", B2:B16, "Guard")

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



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Team	Position	Points					
2	Mavs	Guard	21		2			
3	Mavs	Guard	14					
4	Mavs	Forward	16					
5	Mavs	Forward	16					
6	Mavs	Center	19					
7	Spurs	Guard	20					
8	Spurs	Guard	26					
9	Spurs	Forward	31					
10	Spurs	Forward	30					
11	Spurs	Center	25					
12	Rockets	Guard	11					
13	Rockets	Guard	15					
14	Rockets	Forward	18					
15	Rockets	Forward	29					
16	Rockets	Center	10					
17								
18								
19								
20								

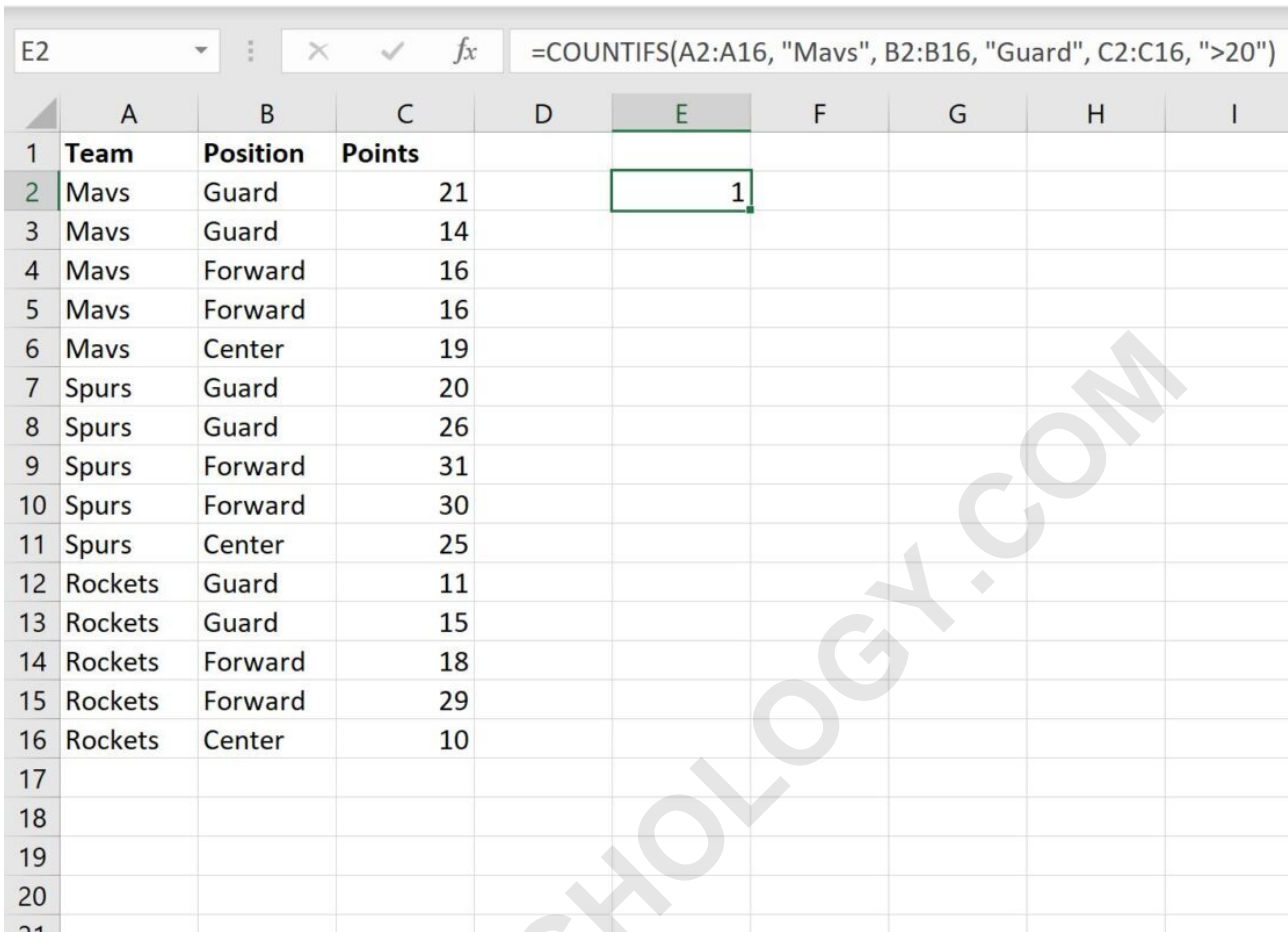
We can see that a total of 5 rows in the dataset contain "Mavs" in column A and "Guard" in column B.

Note that we can use as many conditions as we'd like within the COUNTIFS function.

For example, we can use the following formula to find the rows that meet three different conditions:

```
=COUNTIFS(A2:A16, "Mavs", B2:B16, "Guard", C2:C16, ">20")
```

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



The image shows an Excel spreadsheet with a formula bar at the top displaying the formula: `=COUNTIFS(A2:A16, "Mavs", B2:B16, "Guard", C2:C16, ">20")`. The spreadsheet has columns A through I and rows 1 through 21. Column A is labeled 'Team', Column B is 'Position', and Column C is 'Points'. The data is as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Team	Position	Points						
2	Mavs	Guard	21		1				
3	Mavs	Guard	14						
4	Mavs	Forward	16						
5	Mavs	Forward	16						
6	Mavs	Center	19						
7	Spurs	Guard	20						
8	Spurs	Guard	26						
9	Spurs	Forward	31						
10	Spurs	Forward	30						
11	Spurs	Center	25						
12	Rockets	Guard	11						
13	Rockets	Guard	15						
14	Rockets	Forward	18						
15	Rockets	Forward	29						
16	Rockets	Center	10						
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									

We can see that a total of 1 row in the dataset contains "Mavs" in column A, "Guard" in column B, and a value greater than 20 in column C.

Additional Resources

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