

“What is the purpose of the Excel COUNTA function and how is it used in spreadsheet calculations?”

Authored by
stats writer

June 29, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). “What is the purpose of the Excel COUNTA function and how is it used in spreadsheet calculations?”. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=157898>

The Excel COUNTA function is a built-in formula that is designed to count the number of cells that contain any type of data, including text, numbers, and logical values, within a given range. Its primary purpose is to provide a quick and easy way to determine the total number of non-empty cells in a range, which can be useful for various data analysis and reporting tasks. This function is commonly used in spreadsheet calculations to automatically update the count as the data in the range changes, allowing for more efficient and accurate data management. Additionally, the COUNTA function can be combined with other functions and formulas to perform more complex calculations and manipulations of data within a spreadsheet.

Excel COUNTA Function

COUNTA Function

The **COUNTA** function is a premade function in Excel, which counts all cells in a range that has values, both numbers and letters.

It is typed =COUNTA

How to use the =COUNTA function:

Select a cellType =COUNTADouble click the **COUNTA** commandSelect a rangeHit enter

Let's see some examples!

Apply the =COUNTA function to range A2:A21, counting Pokemons by their names, which are letters only:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats
2	Mankey	Fighting		305
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335
6	Magnetron	Electric	Steel	465
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349
12	Rattata	Normal		253
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310
15	Kingler	Water		475
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405
19	Arbok	Poison		438
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23				
24				

COUNTA function, step by step:

Select A23Type =COUNTADouble click **COUNTA** in the menuSelect range A2:A21Hit enter

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats	
2	Mankey	Fighting		305	
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510	
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490	
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335	
6	Magneton	Electric	Steel	465	
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475	
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525	
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385	
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420	
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349	
12	Rattata	Normal		253	
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395	
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310	
15	Kingler	Water		475	
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505	
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455	
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405	
19	Arbok	Poison		438	
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310	
21	Magikarp	Water		200	
22					
23	=COUNTA				
24	 COUNTA	Counts the number of cells in a range that are not empty			
25	 DCOUNTA				
26					

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats
2	Mankey	Fighting		305
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335
6	Magnetron	Electric	Steel	465
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349
12	Rattata	Normal		253
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310
15	Kingler	Water		475
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405
19	Arbok	Poison		438
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23	=COUNTA(A2:A21)			
24	COUNTA (value1; [value2]; ...)			
25				
26				

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats
2	Mankey	Fighting		305
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335
6	Magnetron	Electric	Steel	465
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349
12	Rattata	Normal		253
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310
15	Kingler	Water		475
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405
19	Arbok	Poison		438
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23				
24				

The COUNTA function has successfully counted 20 cells with values in the range A2:A21.

Lets apply the COUNTA function to D2:D21. Counting a range with numbers only.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats		
2	Mankey	Fighting		305		
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510		
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490		
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335		
6	Magnetron	Electric	Steel	465		
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475		
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525		
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385		
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420		
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349		
12	Rattata	Normal		253		
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395		
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310		
15	Kingler	Water		475		
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505		
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455		
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405		
19	Arbok	Poison		438		
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310		
21	Magikarp	Water		200		
22						
23		20		=COUNTA(D2:D21)		
24				COUNTA (value1; [value2]; ...)		
25						

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Type 2	Total stats
2	Mankey	Fighting		305
3	Poliwrath	Water	Fighting	510
4	Victreebel	Grass	Poison	490
5	Tentacool	Water	Poison	335
6	Magnetron	Electric	Steel	465
7	Dewgong	Water	Ice	475
8	Cloyster	Water	Ice	525
9	Onix	Rock	Ground	385
10	Dragonair	Dragon		420
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	Flying	349
12	Rattata	Normal		253
13	Beedrill	Bug	Poison	395
14	Doduo	Normal	Flying	310
15	Kingler	Water		475
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	Ground	505
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting		455
18	Charmeleon	Fire		405
19	Arbok	Poison		438
20	Gastly	Ghost	Poison	310
21	Magikarp	Water		200
22				
23	20			20

That is great! The COUNTA function counts cells in a range with values both numbers and letters.

★+1 W3schools PathfinderTrack your progress - it's free!

Log in

Sign Up