

# What is the purpose of the MAX function in Google Sheets?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

June 30, 2024

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *What is the purpose of the MAX function in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=160434>

The MAX function in Google Sheets is designed to find and return the highest numerical value from a given range of cells. Its purpose is to simplify data analysis and make it easier to identify the maximum value within a set of data. This function is particularly useful for financial calculations, statistical analysis, and any other tasks that involve finding the maximum value within a range of data. By using the MAX function, users can quickly and accurately determine the highest value in a dataset, saving time and effort in the data analysis process.

## Google Sheets MAX Function

### MAX Function

The **MAX** function is a premade function in Google Sheets, which finds the highest number in a range.

It is typed `=MAX` and gets a list of cells:

`=MAX(value1, )`

You can select cells one by one, but also ranges, or even multiple ranges.

The function ignores cells with text. It will only work for cells with numbers.

**Note:** There is another function called `=MIN`, which finds the lowest value in a range, the opposite of **MAX**.

Let's have a look at an example!

### Max Function Example

Find the highest total stats in the range `C2:C21`:

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

Select the cell (F3) Type =MAX Click the **MAX** command

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

525 x

MAX

Maximum value in a numeric dataset.

MAXA

MAXIFS

Specify the range C2:C21 for the Total stats values Hit enter

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	<b>Name</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Total stats</b>						
2	Mankey	Fighting	305						
3	Poliwrath	Water	510		MAX	=MAX(C2:C21)			
4	Victreebel	Grass	490						
5	Tentacool	Water	335						
6	Magneton	Electric	465						
7	Dewgong	Water	475						
8	Cloyster	Water	525						
9	Onix	Rock	385						
10	Dragonair	Dragon	420						
11	Pidgeotto	Normal	349						
12	Rattata	Normal	253						
13	Beedrill	Bug	395						
14	Doduo	Normal	310						
15	Kingler	Water	475						
16	Nidoqueen	Poison	505						
17	Hitmonchan	Fighting	455						
18	Charmeleon	Fire	405						
19	Arbok	Poison	438						
20	Gastly	Ghost	310						
21	Magikarp	Water	200						
22									

525 x

MAX(value1, [value2, ...])

EXAMPLE  
MAX(A2:A100, 42)

ABOUT  
Returns the maximum value in a numeric dataset.

value1  
The first value or range to consider when calculating the maximum value.

value2... - [optional] repeatable  
Additional values or ranges to consider when calculating the maximum value.

[Learn more](#)

Now, the function returns the highest value from the cells in the range:

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

**That's great!** The function has successfully found the highest value, 525. Cloyster has the highest Total stats of the Pokemons in this list.

Let's add text to a cell in the range C2:C21 to see what happens. Type Alakazam to into the cell C8:

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

**Nice going.** The function ignores the text typed in the range. 510 is returned as the new highest value, since the old one was replaced with text. Poliwrath is now the Pokemon with the highest Total stats in the range c2:c21.

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

Log in

Sign Up