

What is the purpose of the SUM function in Google Sheets?

Authored by
stats writer

June 30, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *What is the purpose of the SUM function in Google Sheets?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=160593>

The SUM function in Google Sheets is a mathematical formula that allows users to easily calculate the total sum of a range of cells in a spreadsheet. Its purpose is to simplify data analysis and make it more efficient by adding up values within a specific range, saving users time and effort. This function is commonly used in financial spreadsheets, budgeting, and other data analysis tasks. It helps users quickly and accurately obtain the total value of a set of data, making it a valuable tool for organizing and analyzing information in Google Sheets.

Google Sheets SUM Function

SUM Function

The **SUM** function is a premade function in Google Sheets, which adds up numbers in a range.

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

`=SUM(value1,)`

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

Note: The `=SUM` function adds up both negative and positive cell values.

Let's see some examples!


Sum Function Example

Calculate the sum of all the Total stats for this list of Pokemon:

	A	B	C
1	Name	Total stats	
2	Mankey	305	
3	Magneon	465	
4	Onix	385	
5	Dragonair	420	
6	Pidgeotto	349	
7	Rattata	253	
8	Charmeleon	405	
9	Gastly	310	
10	Magikarp	200	
11			
12	SUM		
13			

The **SUM** function, step by step:

Select the cell B12 Type `=SUM` Click the **SUM** command

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Name	Total stats			
2	Mankey	SUMPRODUCT			
3	Magneon	SUMX2PY2			
4	Onix	SUMX2MY2			
5	Dragonair	SUMXMY2			
6	Pidgeotto	SUMIFS			
7	Rattata	SUMSQ			
8	Charmeleon	SUMIF			
9	Gastly	SUM			
10	Magikarp				
11		 SUM(B2:B10) Suggested based on the data.			
12	SUM	<code>=SUM </code>			
13					

Specify the range B2:B10 for the Total statsHit enter

	A	
1	Name	
2	Mankey	
3	Magneton	
4	Onix	
5	Dragonair	
6	Pidgeotto	
7	Rattata	
8	Charmeleon	
9	Gastly	
10	Magikarp	
11		
12	SUM	=SUM(B2:B10)
13		

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](#)

Now, the function calculates the sum of Total stats for the Pokemon in the list:

	A	B	C
1	Name	Total stats	
2	Mankey	305	
3	Magneton	465	
4	Onix	385	
5	Dragonair	420	
6	Pidgeotto	349	
7	Rattata	253	
8	Charmeleon	405	
9	Gastly	310	
10	Magikarp	200	
11			
12	SUM	3092	
13			

Great job! You have successfully calculated the sum of the stats using the `=SUM` function. The Pokemon's stats have a total sum of 3092.

Let's change one of the values in the range, to see what happens. Type 350 into cell B7:

	A	B	C
1	Name	Total stats	
2	Mankey	305	
3	Magneton	465	
4	Onix	385	
5	Dragonair	420	
6	Pidgeotto	349	
7	Rattata	350	
8	Charmeleon	405	
9	Gastly	310	
10	Magikarp	200	
11			
12	SUM	3189	
13			

Rattata total stats was changed from 253 to 350.

The **SUM** function updated the total sum from 3092 to 3189.

It updates the **SUM** when values inside of the range are changed.

Lets change **Rattata's** stats to a negative number to see what happens. Type -350 into cell B7:

	A	B	C
1	Name	Total stats	
2	Mankey	305	
3	Magneon	465	
4	Onix	385	
5	Dragonair	420	
6	Pidgeotto	349	
7	Rattata	-350	
8	Charmeleon	405	
9	Gastly	310	
10	Magikarp	200	
11			
12	SUM	2489	
13			

The **SUM** is updated to 2489. Adding a negative number subtracts that value from the range.

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

Log in

Sign Up