

# How to Use “If Contains” in Power BI: A Simple Formula Guide

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The simple formula for "If Contains" in Power BI is an expression that checks if a specified text or value is present within a given column or measure. It follows the format of `IF(CONTAINS(table_name, column_name, value), true_result, false_result)`, where `table_name` refers to the data table, `column_name` is the specific column to search within, and `value` is the text or value to check for. If the specified value is found in the column, the formula returns the `true_result`, otherwise it returns the `false_result`. This formula is commonly used for filtering and conditional formatting in Power BI reports.

You can use the following syntax in DAX to check if a string contains a particular substring and return either "Yes" or "No" as a result:

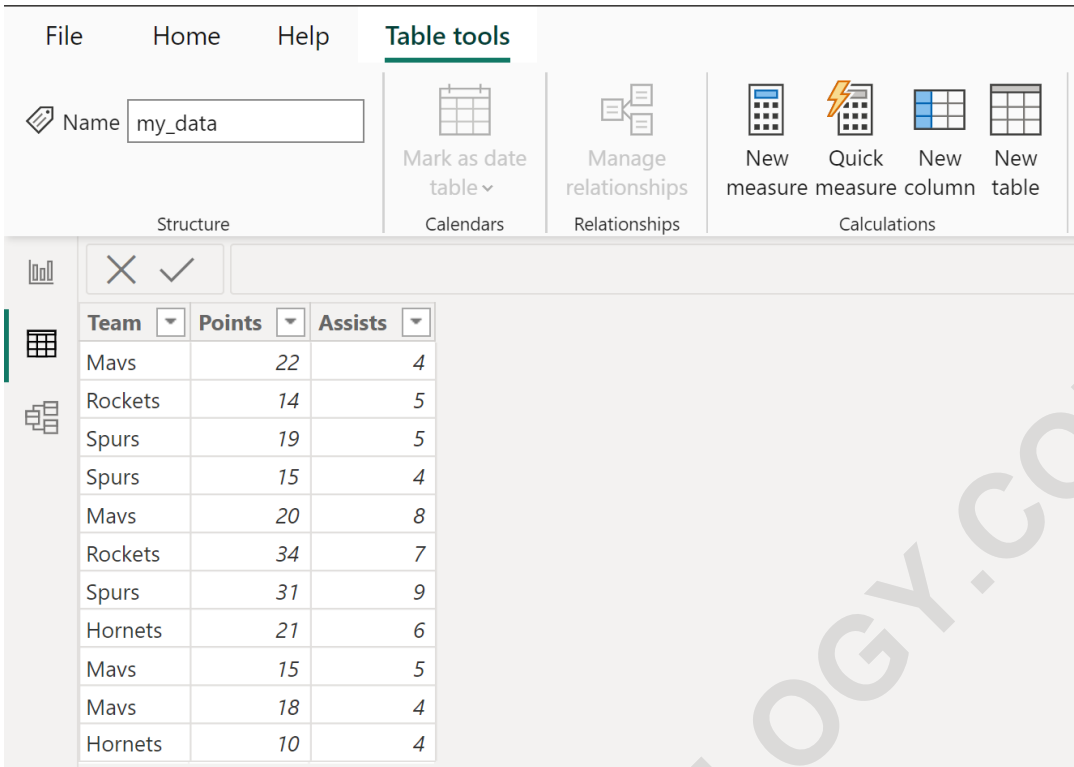
```
contains_ets =  
IF(  
CONTAINSSTRING('my_data', "ets"),  
"Yes",  
"No"  
)
```

This particular syntax creates a new column named **contains\_ets** that returns "Yes" if the string in the **Team** column contains the substring "ets" or "No" if it does not.

The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.

## Example: How to Use "If Contains" in Power BI

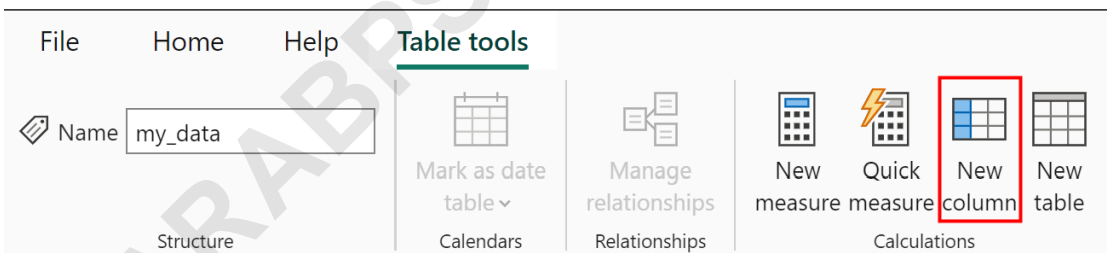
Suppose we have the following table in Power BI named **my\_data** that contains information about basketball players on various teams:



Team	Points	Assists
Mavs	22	4
Rockets	14	5
Spurs	19	5
Spurs	15	4
Mavs	20	8
Rockets	34	7
Spurs	31	9
Hornets	21	6
Mavs	15	5
Mavs	18	4
Hornets	10	4

Suppose we would like to add a new column that returns either "Yes" or "No" to indicate if the corresponding string in the **Team** column contains "ets" or not.

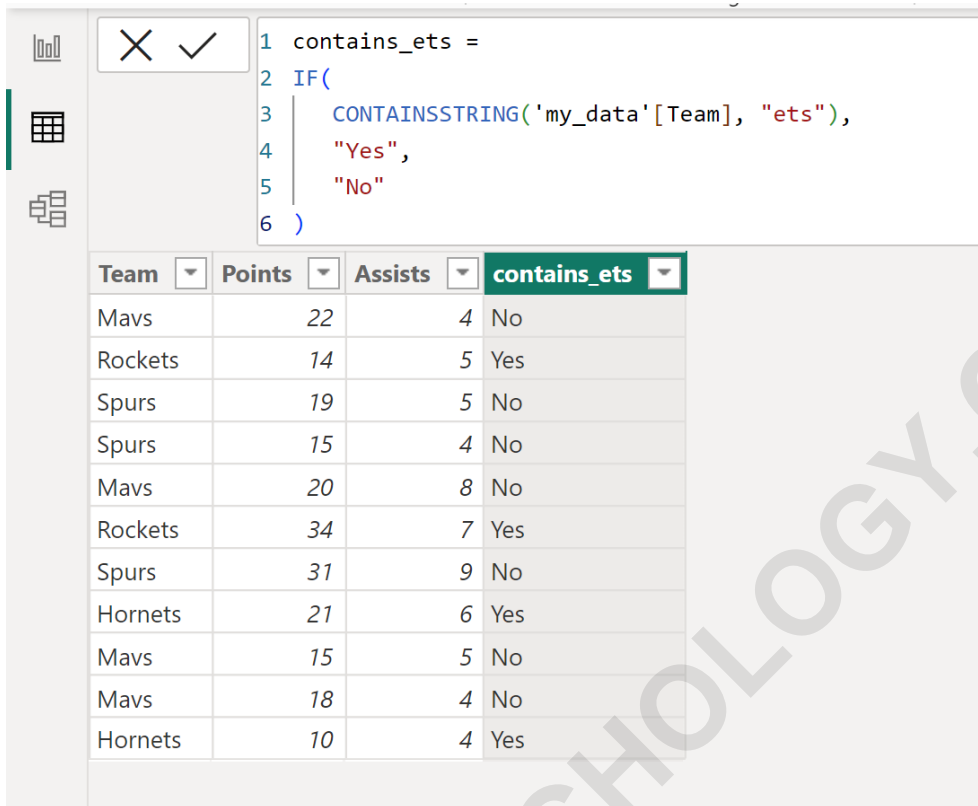
To do so, click the **New column** icon:



Then type in the following formula into the formula bar:

```
contains_ets =
IF(
CONTAINSSTRING('my_data', "ets"),
"Yes",
"No"
)
```

This will create a new column named **contains\_ets** that contains the value "Yes" or "No" based on the corresponding string in the **Team** column:



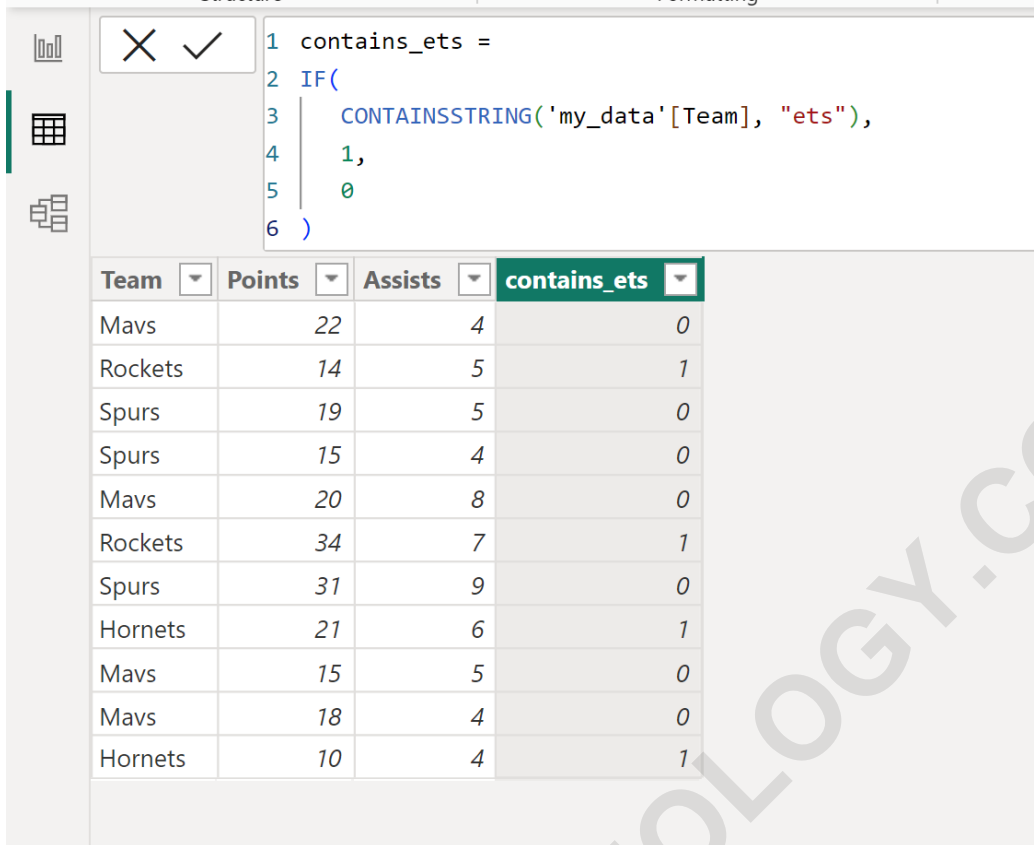
```
1 contains_ets =
2 IF(
3     CONTAINSSTRING('my_data'[Team], "ets"),
4     "Yes",
5     "No"
6 )
```

Team	Points	Assists	contains_ets
Mavs	22	4	No
Rockets	14	5	Yes
Spurs	19	5	No
Spurs	15	4	No
Mavs	20	8	No
Rockets	34	7	Yes
Spurs	31	9	No
Hornets	21	6	Yes
Mavs	15	5	No
Mavs	18	4	No
Hornets	10	4	Yes

The **contains\_ets** column contains either "Yes" or "No" to indicate if the corresponding string in the **Team** column contains "ets" anywhere in the string.

If you'd like, you could instead return numeric values such as **1** or **0** instead of "Yes" or "No" by using the following syntax:

```
contains_ets =
IF(
CONTAINSSTRING('my_data', "ets"),
1,
0
)
```



The screenshot shows the DAX editor in Power BI. The formula bar contains the following code:

```
1 contains_ets =  
2 IF(  
3     CONTAINSSTRING('my_data'[Team], "ets"),  
4     1,  
5     0  
6 )
```

Below the formula bar, a table is displayed with the following data:

Team	Points	Assists	contains_ets
Mavs	22	4	0
Rockets	14	5	1
Spurs	19	5	0
Spurs	15	4	0
Mavs	20	8	0
Rockets	34	7	1
Spurs	31	9	0
Hornets	21	6	1
Mavs	15	5	0
Mavs	18	4	0
Hornets	10	4	1

**Note:** You can find the complete documentation for the **CONTAINSSTRING** function in DAX .

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