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How to compare two columns in Excel for matches and differences





by Svetlana Cheusheva 🕒 Excel, Excel duplicates, Excel functions, Excel tips 🕋 204 Comments



Comparing columns in Excel is something that we all do once in a while. Microsoft Excel offers a number of options to compare and match data, but most of them focus on searching in one column. In this tutorial, we will explore several techniques to compare two columns in Excel and find matches and differences between them.

- Comparing two columns in Excel row-by-row
- Comparing multiple columns for row matches
- Compare two columns for matches and differences
- Compare two lists and pull matching data
- ▶ Highlight matches and differences between 2 columns
- Highlight row matches and differences
- How to compare two cells in Excel
- Formula-free way to compare two columns or lists in Excel

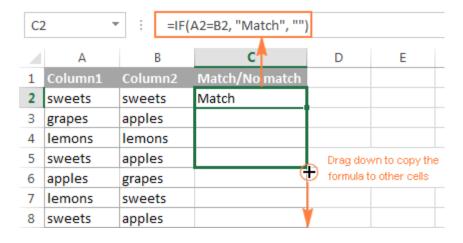
How to compare 2 columns in Excel row-by-row

When you do data analysis in Excel, one of the most frequent tasks is comparing data in each individual row. This task can be done by using the IF function, as demonstrated in the following examples.

Example 1. Compare two columns for matches or differences in the same row

To compare two columns in Excel row-by-row, write a usual IF formula that compares the first two cells. Enter the formula in some other column in the same row, and then copy it down to other cells by





Formula for matches

To find cells within the same row having the same content, A2 and B2 in this example, the formula is as follows:

```
=IF(A2=B2, "Match", "")
```

Formula for differences

To find cells in the same row with different content, simply replace "=" with the non-equality sign:

```
=IF(A2<>B2, "No match", "")
```

Matches and differences

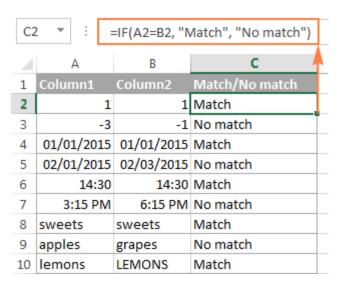
And of course, nothing prevents you from finding both matches and differences with a single formula:

```
=IF(A2=B2, "Match", "No match")
```

Or

```
=IF(A2<>B2, "No match", "Match")
```

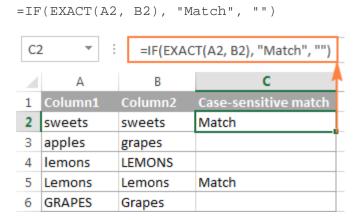
The result may look similar to this:



As you see, the formula handles numbers, dates, times and text strings equally well.

Example 2. Compare two lists for case-sensitive matches in the same row

As you have probably noticed, the formulas from the previous example ignore case when comparing text values, as in row 10 in the screenshot above. If you want to find **case-sensitive matches** between 2 columns in each row, then use the EXACT function:



To find **case-sensitive differences** in the same row, enter the corresponding text ("Unique" in this example) in the 3rd argument of the IF function, e.g.:

```
=IF(EXACT(A2, B2), "Match", "Unique")
```

Compare multiple columns for matches in the same row

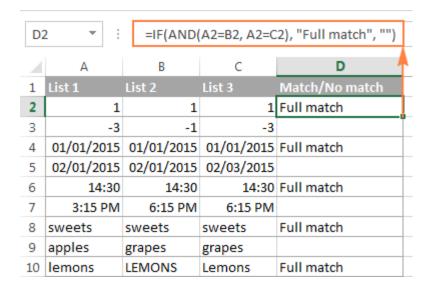
In your Excel worksheets, multiple columns can be compared based on the following criteria:

- Find rows with the same values in all columns (Example 1)
- Find rows with the same values in any 2 columns (Example 2)

Example 1. Find matches in all cells within the same row

If your table has three or more columns and you want to find rows that have the same values in all cells, an IF formula with an AND statement will work a treat:

```
=IF(AND(A2=B2, A2=C2), "Full match", "")
```



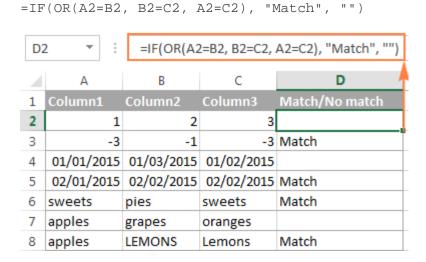
If your table has a lot of columns, a more elegant solution would be using the COUNTIF function:

```
=IF(COUNTIF($A2:$E2, $A2)=5, "Full match", "")
```

Where 5 is the number of columns you are comparing.

Example 2. Find matches in any two cells in the same row

If you are looking for a way to compare columns for **any two or more cells** with the same values within the same row, use an IF formula with an OR statement:



In case there are many columns to compare, your OR statement may grow too big in size. In this case, a better solution would be adding up several COUNTIF functions. The first COUNTIF counts how many columns have the same value as in the 1st column, the second COUNTIF counts how many of the remaining columns are equal to the 2nd column, and so on. If the count is 0, the formula returns "Unique", "Match" otherwise. For example:

```
=IF(COUNTIF(B2:D2,A2)+COUNTIF(C2:D2,B2)+(C2=D2)=0,"Unique","Match")
```

=	=IF(COUNTIF(B2:D2,A2)+COUNTIF(C2:D2,B2)+(C2=D2)=0,"Unique","Match")								
1	Α	В	С	D	E	1			
1	Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4	Match/Unique				
2	1	2	3	4	Unique				
3	-3	-1	-3	-4	Match				
4	01/01/2015	01/01/2015	01/02/2015	01/03/2015	Match				
5	02/01/2015	02/02/2015	02/03/2015	02/04/2015	Unique				
6	sweets	pies	cakes	pies	Match				
7	apples	grapes	oranges	cherries	Unique				
8	apples	LEMONS	Lemons	grapes	Match				

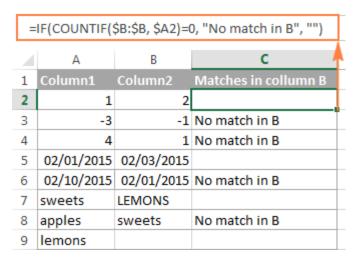
How to compare two columns in Excel for matches and differences

Suppose you have 2 lists of data in Excel, and you want to find all values (numbers, dates or text strings) which are in column A but not in column B.

For this, you can embed the COUNTIF(\$B:\$B, \$A2)=0 function in IF's logical test and check if it returns zero (no match is found) or any other number (at least 1 match is found).

For instance, the following IF/COUNTIF formula searches across the entire column B for the value in cell A2. If no match is found, the formula returns "No match in B", an empty string otherwise:

=IF(COUNTIF(\$B:\$B, \$A2)=0, "No match in B", "")



Tip. If your table has a fixed number of rows, you can specify a certain range (e.g. \$B2:\$B10) rather than the entire column (\$B:\$B) for the formula to work faster on large data sets.

The same result can be achieved by using an IF formula with the embedded ISERROR and MATCH functions:

```
=IF(ISERROR(MATCH($A2,$B$2:$B$10,0)),"No match in B","")
```

Or, by using the following array formula (remember to press Ctrl + Shift + Enter to enter it correctly):

```
=IF(SUM(--(\$B\$2:\$B\$10=\$A2))=0, " No match in B", "")
```

If you want a single formula to identify both matches (duplicates) and differences (unique values), put some text for matches in the empty double quotes ("") in any of the above formulas. For example:

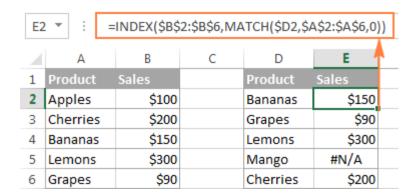
```
=IF(COUNTIF($B:$B, $A2)=0, "No match in B", "Match in B")
```

How to compare two lists in Excel and pull matching data

Sometimes you may need not only match two columns in two different tables, but also pull matching entries from the second table. Microsoft Excel provides a special function for such purposes - the VLOOKUP function. As an alternative, you can use more powerful and versatile INDEX & MATCH formulas.

For example, the following formula compares the product names in columns D and A and if a match is found, a corresponding sales figure is pulled from column B. If no match is found, the #N/A error is returned.

=INDEX(\$B\$2:\$B\$6,MATCH(\$D2,\$A\$2:\$A\$6,0))



For the detailed explanation of the formula's syntax and more formula examples, please check out the following tutorial: INDEX & MATCH in Excel - a better alternative to VLOOKUP.

If you don't feel very comfortable with this formula, then you may want to try the Merge Tables wizard - a fast and intuitive solution that can compare and match 2 tables by any column(s).

Compare two lists and highlight matches and differences

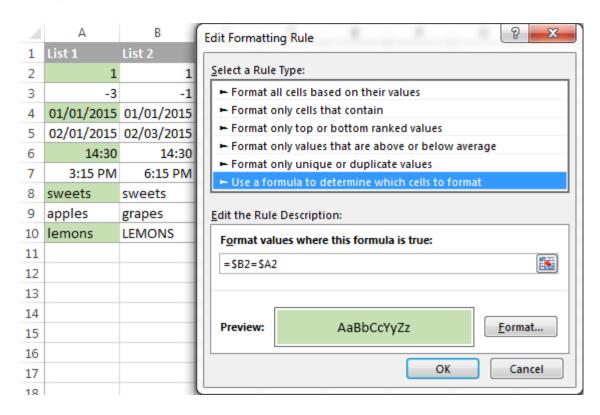
When you compare columns in Excel, you may want to "visualize" the items that are present in one

column but missing in the other. You can shade such cells in any color of your choosing by using the Excel Conditional Formatting feature and the following examples demonstrate the detailed steps.

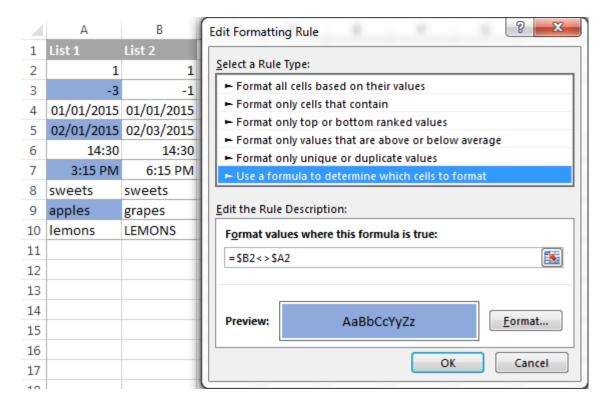
Example 1. Highlight matches and differences in each row

To compare two columns and Excel and highlight cells in column A that have **identical entries** in column B in the same row, do the following:

- Select the cells you want to highlight (you can select cells within one column or in several columns if you want to highlight entire rows).
- Click Conditional formatting > New Rule... > Use a formula to determine which cells to format.
- Create a rule with a simple formula like =\$B2=\$A2 (assuming that row 2 is the first row with data, not including the column header). Please double check that you use a relative row reference (without the \$ sign) like in the formula above.



To highlight differences between column A and B, create a rule with the formula =\$B2<>\$A2



If you are new to Excel conditional formatting, please see How to create a formula-based conditional formatting rule for step-by-step instructions.

Example 2. Highlight unique entries in each list

Whenever you are comparing two lists in Excel, there are 3 item types that you can highlight:

- Items that are only in the 1st list (unique)
- Items that are only in the 2nd list (unique)
- Items that are in both lists (duplicates) demonstrated in the next example.

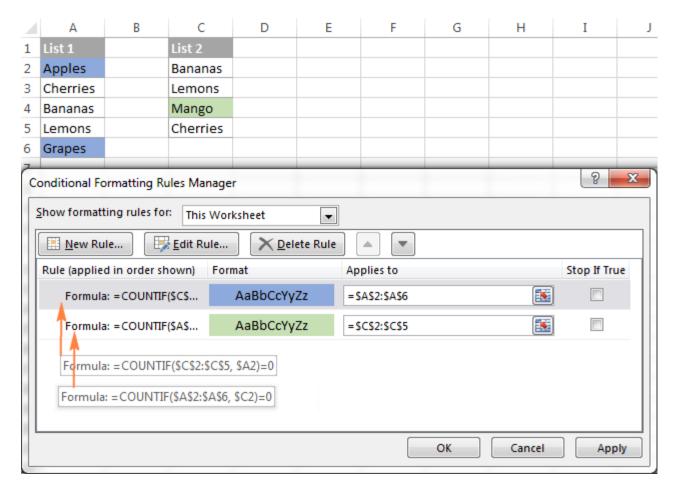
This example demonstrates how to highlight items that are in one list only.

Supposing your List 1 is in column A (A2:A6) and List 2 in column C (C2:C5). You create the conditional formatting rules with the following formulas:

Highlight unique values in List 1 (column A): =COUNTIF(\$C\$2:\$C\$5, \$A2)=0

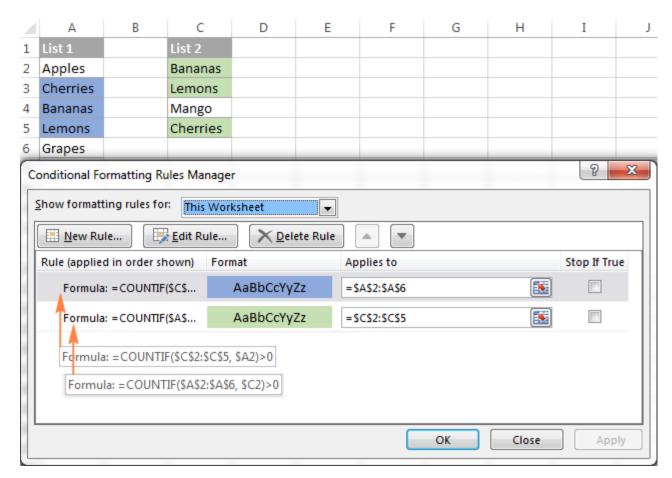
Highlight unique values in List 2 (column C): =COUNTIF(\$A\$2:\$A\$6, \$C2)=0

And get the following result:



Example 3. Highlight matches (duplicates) between 2 columns

If you closely followed the previous example, you won't have difficulties adjusting the COUNTIF formulas so that they find the matches rather than differences. All you have to do is to set the count greater than zero:



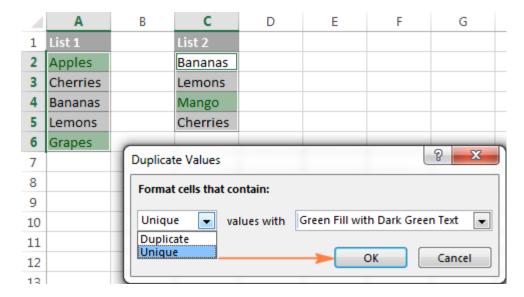
Highlight matches in List 1 (column A): =COUNTIF(\$C\$2:\$C\$5, \$A2)>0

Highlight matches in List 2 (column C): =COUNTIF(\$A\$2:\$A\$6, \$C2)>0

Example 4. Built-in rule to compare 2 lists and highlight duplicates or uniques

If you are one of those power users who mostly rely on functions and formulas, you may have missed this amazingly simple way to compare two columns in Excel:)

- Select two lists you want to compare. If they include different numbers of cells or are located in non-adjacent columns, select the first list, press and hold the Ctrl key, and then select the second list.
- On the Home tab, go to Conditional Formatting > Highlight Cells Rules > Duplicate Values.
- Select either **Duplicate** or **Unique** from the left-hand side drop-down list, and choose the desired format from the right-hand side drop-down. If you are not happy with any of the predefined formats, click *Custom format...* and set the Font or Fill color to your liking.
- Click OK and you are done!



Highlight row differences and matches in multiple columns

When comparing values in several columns row-by-row, the quickest way to highlight matches is creating a conditional formatting rule, and the fastest way to shade differences is embracing the *Go To Special* feature, as demonstrated in the following examples.

Example 1. Compare multiple columns and highlight row matches

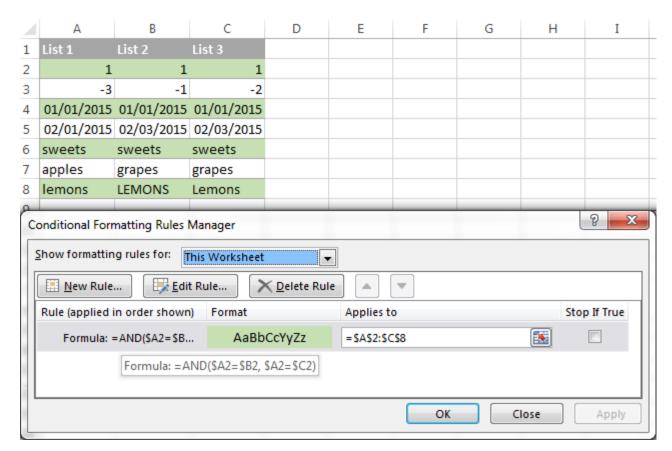
To highlight rows that have **identical values in all columns**, create a conditional formatting rule based on one of the following formulas:

```
=AND($A2=$B2, $A2=$C2)

or

=COUNTIF($A2:$C2, $A2)=3
```

Where A2, B2 and C2 are the top-most cells and 3 is the number of columns to compare.

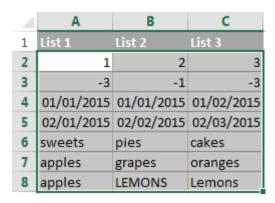


Of course, neither AND nor COUNTIF formula is limited to comparing only 3 columns, you can use similar formulas to highlight rows with the same values in 4, 5, 6 or more columns.

Example 2. Compare multiple columns and highlight row differences

To quickly highlight cells with different values in each individual row, you can use Excel's **Go To Special** feature.

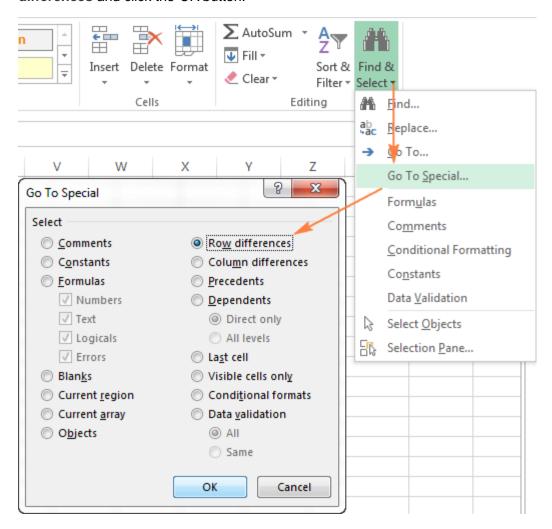
1. Select the range of cells you want to compare. In this example, I've selected cells A2 to C8.



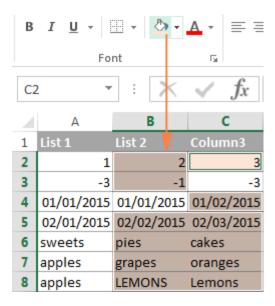
By default, the top-most cell of the selected range is the active cell, and the cells from the other selected columns in the same row will be compared to that cell. As you can see in the screenshot above, the active cell is white while all other cells of the selected range are highlighted. In this example, the active cell is A2, so the **comparison column** is column A.

To **change the comparison column**, use either the Tab key to navigate through selected cells from left to right, or the Enter key to move from top to bottom.

- ▼ Tip. To select non-adjacent columns, select the first column, press and hold Ctrl, and then select the other columns. The active cell will be in the last column (or in the last block of adjacent columns). To change the comparison column, use the Tab or Enter key as described above.
- 2. On the *Home* tab, go to *Editing* group, and click *Find* & *Select* > *Go To Special...* Then select **Row differences** and click the *OK* button.



3. The cells whose values are different from the comparison cell in each row are highlighted. If you want to shade the highlighted cells in some color, simply click the *Fill Color* icon on the ribbon and select the color of your choosing.



How to compare two cells in Excel

In fact, comparing 2 cells is a particular case of comparing two columns in Excel row-by-row except that you don't have to copy the formulas down to other cells in the column.

For example, to compare cells A1 and C1, you can use the following formulas:

```
For matches: =IF(A1=C1, "Match", "")
For differences: =IF(A1<>C1, "Difference", "")
```

To learn a few other ways to compare cells in Excel, please see How to compare strings in Excel.

For more powerful data analysis, you may need more sophisticated formulas and you can find a few good ideas in the following tutorials:

- Using IF function in Excel
- Nested IF with multiple conditions, IFERROR, IFNA and more

Formula-free way to compare two columns / lists in Excel

Now that you know Excel offerings for comparing and matching columns, let me demonstrate you an alternative solution that can compare 2 lists with a different number of columns for matches (duplicates) and differences (unique values).

Ablebits Duplicate Remover for Excel can search for identical and unique entries within one table as well as compare two tables residing on the same sheet or in 2 different worksheets / workbooks.

For the purpose of this article, we will be focusing on the second feature, which is called Compare Two

Tables and is specially designed for comparing two lists by any column(s) that you specify. The comparison of two data sets **by several columns** is a real challenge both for Excel formulas and conditional formatting, but this tool handles it with ease.

Compare 2 lists by several columns in 6 quick steps

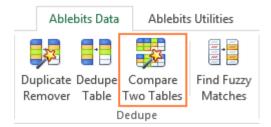
Supposing you have 2 tables of data and you want to find duplicate rows based on 3 columns - *Date*, *Item* and *Sales*:

Table 1						
Date	Salesman	Item	Sales			
1-Jul-12	Pieter	Apples	\$20			
2-Jul-12	Rob	Oranges	\$30			
10-Jul-12	Neal	Grapes	\$40			
4-Jul-12	Rob	Cherries	\$25			
8-Jul-12	Neal	Apples	\$60			
12-Jul-12	Pieter	Cherries	\$35			
7-Jul-12	Neal	Apples	\$15			

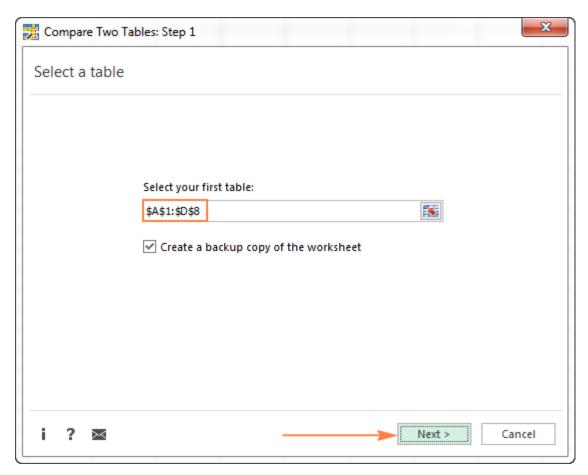
Table 2						
Date	Item	Sales				
4-Jul-12	Apples	\$25				
10-Jul-12	Grapes	\$45				
2-Jul-12	Oranges	\$30				
4-Jul-12	Cherries	\$40				
7-Jul-12	Apples	\$15				
7-Jul-12	Grapes	\$35				
	7					

Columns to compare

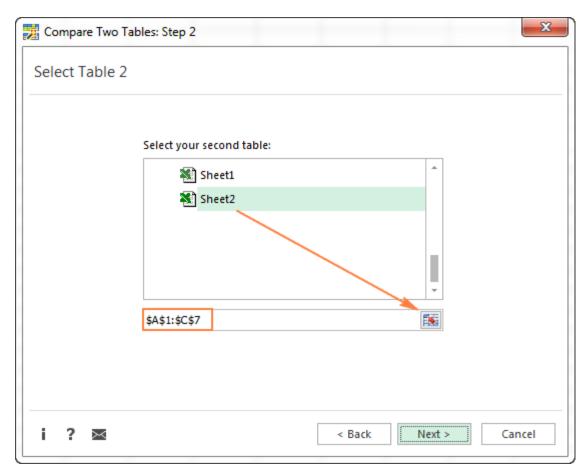
Step 1. Assuming that you have the Duplicate Remover for Excel installed, select any cell within the 1st table, and click the **Compare Two Tables** button on the ribbon to start the wizard. This button resides on the *Ablebits Data* tab, in the *Dedupe* group.



Step 2. The wizard picks the entire table and suggests to create a backup copy of the original table, just in case. So, simply make sure your 1st table is selected correctly and click *Next*.



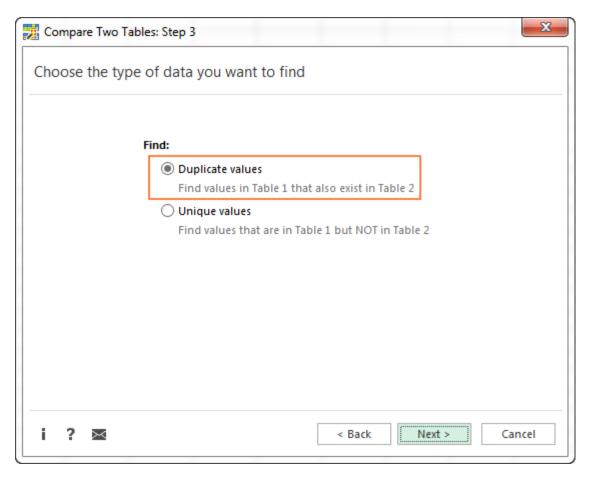
Step 3. Select the 2nd table by using the standard *Select range* icon . If both tables reside in the same workbook and have similar column names, there's a great chance that the second list will be fetched automatically as well.



Step 4. Select whether to search for matches or differences:

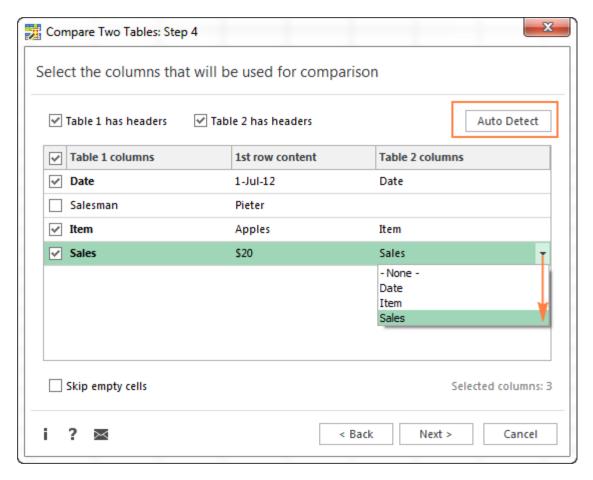
- Duplicate values look for matches, i.e. items that exist in both tables.
- Unique values look for differences, i.e. items that are in Table 1 but not in Table 2.

In this example, we select **Duplicate values** and click *Next*.



Step 5. This is the key step where you **select the column pairs** you want to compare in 2 tables. In this example, we are comparing 3 columns - *Date*, *Item* and *Sales*.

For the wizard to find the matching columns automatically, click the *Auto Detect* button in the upperright corner. If the columns have different names in both tables, you might need to select the right column manually by clicking the little black arrow next to the Table 2 column on the right-hand side:



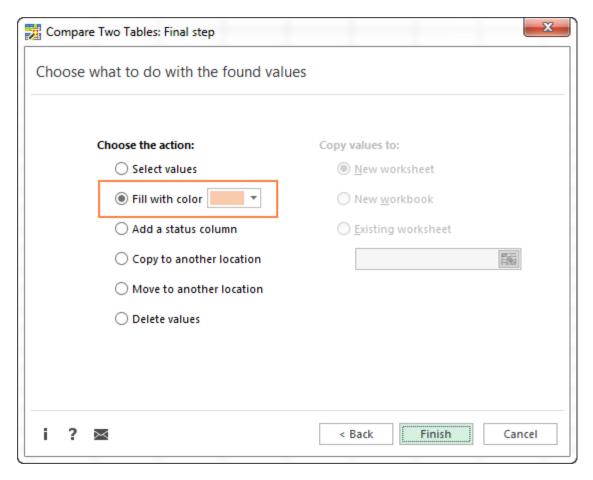
Step 6. In the final step, you choose how to deal with the found items and click Finish.

The following two options deliver the results comparable to Excel formulas and conditional formatting that we've discussed earlier in this tutorial:

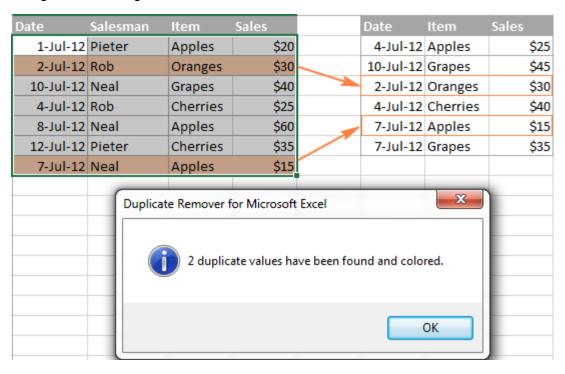
- Add a status column adds a new column with "Duplicate" or "Unique", like Excel IF formulas do.
- Highlight shades duplicate or unique rows like an Excel conditional formatting rule.

In addition, you can choose to **delete** the duplicate entries, **move** or **copy** to another worksheet, or just **select** the found items.

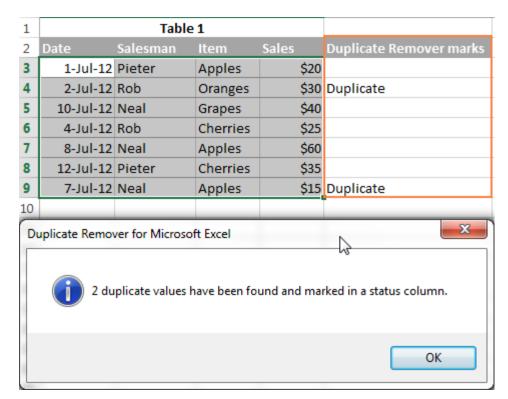
In this example, I've decided to highlight duplicates in the following color:



And got the following result in a moment:



If we chose Add a status column in the previous step, the result would look as follows:



This is how you compare and match columns in Excel. If you are interested to try this tool, you are welcome to download a fully functional trial version. And if you like it, we will happily offer you the 15% off coupon code that we've created especially for our blog readers: AB14-BlogSpo. It works both for the Duplicate Remover tool purchased as a separate product and as part of Ultimate Suite for Excel.

If you want to have a closer look at the formulas discussed in this tutorial, feel free to download the Compare Excel Lists workbook. Thank you for reading and see you next week!

You may also be interested in:

- How to identify duplicates in Excel: find, count, filter, and more
- How to highlight duplicate cells and rows in Excel
- How to remove duplicate values and rows in Excel

204 Responses to "How to compare two columns in Excel for matches and differences"

← Older Comments

Glenroy Carty says:
January 11, 2017 at 5:32 pm

As a step in a bank reconciliation, I am comparing two list of \$amt. I do have a unique identifier in one list but not the other, just \$ values.

I want to compare the \$values and find a "unique" match. Meaning, say I have \$155 twice in list 1, three times in list 2.

Is there a way to id the match 2?

With a unique identifier in both list, two column match with condition formatting would work fine. It a large volume of data, please help!

Reply





kevin18roy says:

January 12, 2017 at 3:52 pm

I need help writing a formula to find matches between a column in SHEET1 and a column in SHEET2. Goal is to get "Match" inserted into Column B, SHEET1 if there is a match between Column A and Column B.

I tried:

=IF(A2=\$SHEET2\$,B2,"Match","") but this didn't work. Can someone help me out please!

Data:

Column A, SHEET1

12AB1250

12AB1251

12AB1252

Column A, SHEET2

12AB1250

12AB1251

12AB1252

12AB1253

12AB1254

12AB1255

Thanks in advance!

Reply

3



allan says:

January 14, 2017 at 3:45 pm

Good day

I'm a marine engineer. I am just creating a worksheet where if a parameter in column F is greater than a parameter in column I by 0.03(P4>Pd>0.03), A separate column say H has to highlight each row as Abnormal with cell bgrnd as red. Would you please help me on this

Thanks in advance

Allan

Reply





satish Gummanur says:

January 17, 2017 at 7:29 am

5

```
i want add the data with different uniqe item below following table
item data
14
23
12
32
23
11
Reply
        Jamsheed says:
       January 22, 2017 at 9:21 pm
how to Compare table columns in excel
for example
Table -1
Col A; Col B; Col C;
Roll No. Std. Name Result 1 semester (total Marks)
1 A 50
2 B 40
3 C 55
Table -2
Col A; Col B; Col C;
Roll No. Std. Name Result 2 semester (total Marks)
2 B 45
4 D 60
1 A 60
3 C 50
I Want to Result like that
Table -1 Table-2
Col A; Col B; Col C; Col D; Col E; Col F;
Roll No. Std. Name Result S-1 Roll No. Std. Name Result S-2
1 A 50 1 A 60
2 B 40 2 B 45
3 C 55 3 C 50
4 D 60
Could you described please how i could solve this as Table 2 match with table 1 and sort and
place the record on same row
thanks
Reply
```

î (

January 23, 2017 at 7:10 am

Hi, kindly help me derive a proper formula for this problem. I am using two sheets Sheet 1 & Sheet 2 in excel 2013. I created a drop down value (1-15 & 1-15) in the first sheet using data validation to derive two numbers in two different cells. In the second sheet I have created variables (with 1-15 in one cell and 1-15 in another cell) to derive a result in the third column). Say, in the first sheet I have one column no. of factories (1-15) & No of Managers (1-15). In the second sheet I have created the variable; No. of Factories, No of Manager & in the third row their Operating hours:

No of Factories: 1/2/3/4/5/.... No of Managers: 1/2/3/4/5/....

No of Operating hours: 8 (in case 1,1), 15 (1, 2), etc.

Now in the first sheet I want to use the drop down values to enter what i want to know and get the result using a formula.

Kindly help me with this.

Reply

7

Karthik says:

January 23, 2017 at 3:12 pm

Hello I have 10 values in Col A and 3 values in Col B. I want to highlight only values that match col A with Col B and mark others in a diff color . How do i do it?

Col A Col B

- 11
- 26
- 39
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9 10

Col A Col B

- 1 1 Match
- 2 No match
- 3 No match
- 4 No match
- 5 No match
- 6 6 match
- 7 No match
- 8 No match
- 9 9 match
- 10 No match

Reply

8



boladale says:

January 27, 2017 at 9:24 am

Excellent resource. I have two worksheets. one with 25,000 rows and the other with 63,000 rows and i want to find out the complete match of sheet2 to sheet 1, the ones without any match and others with at least 90% match. please how do i go about this. thank you

Reply

9



GARRY says:

January 30, 2017 at 8:01 pm

not working the below formula in excel 2016, please guide if any changes on this?

=IF(COUNTIFS(\$CU2:\$CU59862,CU2, \$CA2:\$CA59862,CA2, \$FL2:\$FL59862,FL2, \$DA2:\$DA59862,DA2, \$DV2:\$DV59862,DV2) >1, "DUPLICATE ROW","")

Reply

10



Gunsannie says:

February 1, 2017 at 9:57 am

Hi,

I have an sheet with columns from January to December where people make contributions on monthly basis. A person's contribution is the same through out the year.

I would want a formula that shows if someone is contributing the same figure throughout the year or not, kind of like "True" and "False" formula but it should be checking in all the columns thus January-December and not just two columns whose formula I know is =A2=B2

Thanks.

Reply

11



Kostis says:

February 10, 2017 at 8:56 am

HELP!

Would you please help me?

It is really important.

What i want to do is this

compare columns for any two or more cells with the same values within the same row and hightlight individual rows after matching

I have 20 different columns that i need to compare for any two or more duplicate cells among them

How can i do that with the simplest way?

Thank you

Reply



Maria Azbel (Ablebits.com Team) says: February 13, 2017 at 1:30 pm

Hello, Kostis,

Please try Duplicate Remover for Excel:

https://www.ablebits.com/excel-remove-duplicates/index.php

You can run it on pairs of columns several times. Select the first column as master table and the second as your lookup table. You can email a sample table with your data in Excel to support@ablebits.com for more detailed instructions.

Reply



Shibu says:

February 12, 2017 at 8:19 pm

Hi, I need to copy data from one cell to another on daily basis Example,

A1 : =TODAY() //Changes Daily

B1:=SUM(B2:B10) //Changes Daily

I need the B1 value to be copied on C1

Next day B1 value to be copied on C2

Next day B1 value to be copied on C3 and so on...

Waiting for your support

Thanks in advance

Reply

13



Jason says:

February 19, 2017 at 1:15 am

I need some help.

I am using vlookup to draw information from sheets A and B and then compare them side by side on Sheet C. The values happen to be in time format. I need to have a formula (or a quick system) to highlight the the cells so that I can quickly spot the different in the times and then correct them. The spreadsheet that I am using is already full of useful conditional formatting and so would really like it to just appear a different colour so that it gets my attention.

Any suggestions much appreciated

Reply



Junaid says:

February 24, 2017 at 8:22 am

I am facing an issue of 10,000 row items contains data for visits.

data contains same name but different start date and end date

Shop Name Opening End

CRUSH TRUCKING STATION 12-May-11 22-Dec-14 SUPERIOR II FILLING STATION 11-Dec-13 14-Mar-14 INDUS FILLING STATION 13-Dec-13 21-Feb-14 INDUS FILLING STATION 21-Feb-14 17-Oct-14 SUPERIOR II FILLING STATION 14-Mar-14 23-Oct-14 INDUS FILLING STATION 17-Oct-14 25-Jan-15 SUPERIOR II FILLING STATION 23-Oct-14 16-Jan-15 SUPERIOR II FILLING STATION 16-Jan-15 08-May-15

Is there any solution for above to adjust columns in start and end date in same shop name

Reply

15



Mac 1 Eva 1

Beshoy says:

February 25, 2017 at 11:15 am

Hi

I need to make filter for unique value that created by multi user once per month per user than we need to calculate the QTY of the unique number per user

Example for my Question:

transaction_date Value User_NAME 1/1/2017 1222889205 MarK 2/1/2017 1222889205 Mac -----4/1/2017 1254879863 Eva -----21/2/2017 1225478962 Jake -----4/5/2017 1254879863 Eva -----5/5/2017 1254879863 Eva 1/6/2017 1254793658 Mac 1/6/2017 1254793658 Jake 6/6/2017 1254793658 Eva **my Solution Month user Count for unique value jan MarK 1

Feb JaKe 1
-----May Eva 1
----Jun Mac 1
JaKe 1
Eva 1

Appreciate your support thanks

Reply

16



Beshoy says:

February 26, 2017 at 11:47 am

any feedback

Reply

17



Jack says:

March 2, 2017 at 11:08 am

Hi,

Hopefully someone can understand what I am trying to do here.

I am currently going through some spreadsheet files and I would like to find case based nonduplicates e.g.

Column A Column B
Row 1 Harry Potter Ron Weasley
Row 2 harry potter Ron Weasley

Basically I am looking for true non-duplicates where the case of the text is concerned, the above example using the method I am currently using (Conditional formatting and Highlight duplicate values) will mark the above A1&A2 example as a duplicate even though the case being different, I would like a solution to mark the A1&A2 entry as a non duplicate by any visual method to differentiate from an actual true duplicate entry e.g. B1&B2, note I do not want to manipulate the data to become true duplicates just want to highlight the case differences.I'm cross examining two Rows with about 40-50 Columns, in a multitude of files.

Is what I am trying to achieve possible?

Any and all help will be appreciated.

Kind Regards

Jack

Reply

18 Brett says:



March 8, 2017 at 4:27 am

Hello, I have been trying pull some matching data with little luck. I have 2 data sets 1 with demographic information and one with home sales information. Both have addresses I have broken down by: home number, direction, street name. These data sets are on 2 different sheets. How do I find matching: home number, direction, street name on each sheet? Hopefully that makes sense.

Reply





Segun says: March 11, 2017 at 10:22 pm

Hello.

I need help on this issue. I wan to compare values of 2 columns. These values, even though they same, are not necessarily arranged in same order or may not even be of same string, eg.

Jason Paul Macaulay Macaulay Paul J P Macaulay Jason Paul Macaulay Macaulay Jason Jason Paul Macaulay Macaulay Paul J P Macaulay

Reply



Segun says: March 11, 2017 at 10:33 pm

Hello,

I need help on this issue. I want to compare values of 2 columns. I want a visual marker that will highlight (or mark as a duplicate) as long as any value of one column is contained in the other column.

Reply



Segun says: March 11, 2017 at 10:34 pm

Hello.

I need assistance with this. I want to compare values of 2 columns. I want a visual marker that will highlight (or mark as a duplicate) as long as any value of one column is contained in the other column.

Reply



Nicola Haycock says:

March 16, 2017 at 1:52 pm

I have a spreadsheet with over 100000 service name entries, however the service name can be named slightly different on several rows. I want to know if there is a formula which can highlight

any mis matches in column B And C. For example the service is APERTURE but I can be known as APERTURE-CONT or APERTURE-UAT, however the owners name is different. I don't fancy going through all 10000 lines so was hoping there may be a formula that can highlight this SERVICE Owner First Name Owner Last Name

APERTURE JOE BLOGGS

APERTURE-CONT JOE BLOGGS

APERTURE-UAT DERREN YOUNG

Reply

23



Earl says:

March 17, 2017 at 7:19 pm

Need help,

I'd like to be able to compare two cells with unique strings

Ex. $A1 = xyz0_ok_hmu1-ty$

B1 = ok1 ty

I want it to be able to recognize that it is similar to a minimum of 2 ordered letter matches and be highlighted as "similar". If it is able to ignore multiple delimiters, that would be cool too.

Reply



Earl says:

March 17, 2017 at 7:21 pm

btw, the strings are a bunch of acronyms that doesn't make sense, and people have their own way of writing it therefore there are a lot of differences and minimal similarities.

Reply



Natalia Sharashova (Ablebits.com Team) says: April 21, 2017 at 2:57 pm

Hello, Earl,

I'm afraid that existing Excel functions won't help since the comparisons are too vague, if I may say so. We can only advise you to try and use Fuzzy Lookup Add-In for Excel from Microsoft.

Reply



Melika says:

March 21, 2017 at 3:56 pm

Thanks so much for this TA; this just saved me a LOT of time!

Reply



Star says:

April 10, 2017 at 6:58 pm

I'm trying to pull information from one spreadsheet into another, where the combination of two cells of data in each spreadsheet match exactly.

Each spreadsheet contains two columns that contain the exact same data:

Spd 1 - Column D> Work Order

Spd 1 - Column M> Contract Unit Name

Spd 2 - Column I> Work Order

Spd 2 - Column Q> Contract Unit Name

Spd 2 - Col VInvoiced Amt

So where Spd 1, Col D and Col M = Spd Col I and Col Q, Import the value in Col V into Spd 1 Col O (Invoiced Amt)

Data sample:

Spd 1:

Work Order Contract Unit Name

E.724292.C.03 NRE-ROW AGENT BEA

E.724292.C.03 NRE-ROW AGENT I

E.731518.C.17 NRE-EXISTING RIGHTS LEVEL I

E.731518.C.17 NRE-EXISTING RIGHTS LEVEL II

E.732518.C.17 NRE-PROJECT COORDINATOR

E.732518.C.17 NRE-TITLE SEARCH I

Spd 2:

Work Order Contract Unit Name Invoiced Amt.

E.724292.C.03 NRE-ROW AGENT BEA 100.00

E.724292.C.03 NRE-ROW AGENT I 75.00

E.731518.C.17 NRE-EXISTING RIGHTS LEVEL I 125.00

E.731518.C.17 NRE-EXISTING RIGHTS LEVEL II 175.00

E.732518.C.17 NRE-PROJECT COORDINATOR 95.00

E.732518.C.17 NRE-TITLE SEARCH I 200.00

Do I use MATCH and INDEX and what would my formula look like?

Reply

26



rm says:

April 20, 2017 at 4:59 pm

Hi All,

Is it possible to compare my example below ? i need to compare column a + b in column c + d. my problem is on column a there is same values . please help me to create formulas if possible

column a column b column c column d

64571 75 64351 72.1

64351 72.1 64571 75

64571 73 64571 73

Reply

27



Venu says:

May 1, 2017 at 6:05 pm

Hello There, i am kind of stuck with manipulating the excel worksheets.

Scenario: Compare the cell text in two excel and replace range of value in sheet two with Values in Sheet one. Any guess how can we achieve this?

Scenario: Wanted to Pull the Values from Sheet one With all the Cells containing abc*(text)in sheet 1 and Copy the same Text and adjacent 3 Values from each row.

Sheet 1:

row/col Col1 col2 col3 col4 row1 123 abcde ghk 143

Sheet 2:

row /col Col1

Reply

28



Venu says:

May 1, 2017 at 6:07 pm

Hello There, i am kind of stuck with manipulating the excel worksheets.

Scenario: Compare the cell text in two excel and replace range of value in sheet two with Values in Sheet one. Any guess how can we achieve this?

Scenario: Wanted to Pull the Values from Sheet one With all the Cells containing abc*(text)in sheet 1 and Copy the same Text and adjacent 3 Values from each row.

Sheet 1:

row/col Col1 col2 col3 col4 row1 123 abcde ghk 143

Sheet 2:

row /col Col1 col2 col3 col4 col5 row1 abcde ghk c143

Reply

29



xyz says:

May 1, 2017 at 6:09 pm

Not understand the question dear.

Reply



venu says:

May 1, 2017 at 7:16 pm

Scenario1:

Check text "abc.AD" in sheet one, and return the next two cell values in sheet two.

Note: The unique text is not in same column.

Sheet 1:

Col10 Col11 Col13 Col14 col15 abc.AD Test NOP

abc.AD Ext NOP

abc.AD Int NOP

Let me know if this helps

Reply

30



HEMANT says:

May 4, 2017 at 8:05 am

The spread sheet contain two column. In first column there is only the level i.e., Block, GP and Village and in another there is name contain of the respective Block, GP and Village. Let me know how I can manage the sheet that looks like in this manner as follows

Block GP Village Block Name GP Name Village Name (if there is 10 village then it is shown in row wise) GP Name Village Name

Reply

31



Walter says:

May 4, 2017 at 10:40 pm

Your page is excellent; your team is very helpful. I'm struggling with an issue. I have one sheet where I would like to highlight only the rows where values duplicated in the first column where the there are differing values in the second column. Duplicates are allowed in the first column. Duplicate values are allowed in the second column, also. However, duplicated values in the first column should always be paired with the same value in the second column. If not, then highlight all rows where first column contains the same duplicated value.

Thank you.

Col-A Col-B Format

1 C Highlight Row

1 C Highlight Row

1 D Highlight Row

2 A No Highlight

2 A No Highlight

3 E No Highlight

4 C No Highlight

5 A Highlight Row

5 F Highlight Row

Reply

20



meli says:

May 5, 2017 at 7:18 am

Hi, I need help with a formula.

The Formula for blank cell was very helpful Thanks.

I have two formula with is correct answer, i combined the formula but there is error.

Formula 1 -

IF(OR(C3="",D3=""),"Single

Punch",IF(AND(C3>A3,D3>=B3),"LATE",IF(AND(C3>A3,D3<B3),"LATE/EARLY",IF(AND(C3<=A3,

Formula 2 -

IF(AND(IF(AND(NOT(ISBLANK(C3)),NOT(ISBLANK(D3))), C3=D3, TRUE), IF(AND(NOT(ISBLANK(C3)),NOT(ISBLANK(D3))), C3=D3, TRUE), IF(AND(NOT(ISBLANK(D3)),NOT(ISBLANK(C3))), D3=C3, TRUE)), "Absent", "-")

Would you Please help me find solution.

Actual Time Log Time Remarks

In Time Out Time In Time Out Time

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 10:50:00 AM 8:40:00 PM PRESENT -

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM Single Punch (This should be absent) Absent

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 11:30:00 AM 8:35:00 PM LATE -

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 11:00:00 AM 7:00:00 PM EARLY -

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 11:30:00 AM 5:35:00 PM LATE/EARLY -

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 8:45:00 PM Single Punch Absent (This should be SP)

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM Single Punch Absent

Please help

Reply



PeshiyaBoy says:

May 5, 2017 at 10:25 am

Hi Meli,

As i can see it's time sheet of employee. I understand your query. But without sample sheet i am unable to put formula here. so share any short sample sheet fot add formula.

Reply



Meli says:

May 7, 2017 at 4:18 pm

In Time Out Time In Time Out Time

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 10:50:00 AM 8:40:00 PM = PRESENT

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM - - = Single Punch (This should be absent) Absent

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 11:30:00 AM 8:35:00 PM = LATE

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 11:00:00 AM 7:00:00 PM = EARLY

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 11:30:00 AM 5:35:00 PM = LATE/EARLY

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM 8:45:00 PM - = Single Punch Absent (This should be SP)

11:00:00 AM 8:30:00 PM - - = Single Punch Absent

Reply

34



Prason says:

May 6, 2017 at 8:29 am

How to Salve This Prablem

KS IN_Kirana Stores KSN Kirana Store New

KS IN_Kirana Stores KSN Kirana Store New

KS IN_Kirana Stores KSN Kirana Store New

PS IN_Pan Shop PSA Paan Store

PS IN_Pan Shop PSA Paan Store

KS IN_Kirana Stores CSA Kirana Store New

CS IN Kirana Stores KSN Kirana Store New

KS IN_Kirana Stores KSN Kirana Store New

PS IN_Pan Shop KSN Paan Store

CS IN_Cosmetic Store CSA Cosmetic Store

Reply

35



TK says:

May 7, 2017 at 1:55 am

Hi,

Below is a sample of the data I have. I want to match the data in Column A and B. If column B is not matching column A, I want to add a row and copy the data from Column A to B. For example, "4" is missing in column B, so I want to add a space and add "4" to column B so it will match column A. I have a large set of data, so I am trying to find a different way instead of checking for duplicate values in the two columns and manually adding one row at a time. Thanks!

ABCD

33 Y B

45GB

56BG

68PG

79 Y P

8 11 G Y

9 12 B Y

10

11

12

11

12

Reply

36



vivek singh says:

May 7, 2017 at 4:05 pm

I have a sheet in which I am trying to find out that a particluar cell value will happen on which date. I have a column where there are equal installments of 2 Lakhs and there is column beside it containing dates starts from 01.04.2017 and ends on 01.01.2024 for those installments. Now, if for the first installment customer pays only 50,000 till 01.10.2017 then how can I find using the formula that from which date the overdue is coming and how much?

Reply

37



Donald Trump says:

May 16, 2017 at 4:53 pm

If in one column there are name entries with negative and partly failing values associated with them and in another column there are name entries with positive yet yet highly conservative values associated with them, how do I sort the dump the negatives, eliminate the failing and merge into a single positive highly conservative list so that I can quickly get to the golf club?

Reply

38



Ames says:

May 17, 2017 at 4:12 pm

Hello,

Very useful, but I need help comparing two columns. I want it to be able to tell that google inc is the same company as Google ABC, or that Brown university is the same as University, Brown. It would be helfpul if the matches are highlighted. Thanks!

EX:

Column 1 Column 2 google inc. Capital one Brown University University, Brown Visa Google ABC

Reply

39



Ali says:

May 22, 2017 at 9:37 am

I have two column that, the value to be matched with the another one another's criteria column. First column contains exact number and second column contains number with description.

Suggest me further..

Reply

40



Raghul says:

May 22, 2017 at 11:53 am

Product Id Current profit Margin Last yr profit margin

123 51% 49%

126 53% 50%

129 55% 51%

132 57% 52%

135 59% 53%

Mark red color for the cells where last year profit is greater than current year profit and color pink for the product id which is red cells

have to find using conditional formatting

Reply

41



Prateek says:

May 23, 2017 at 2:02 pm

Hi.

Context - i have 2 versions of a document. In it i have 2 tables with alphanumeric values which i want to compare to see if any changes have been made in the recent version.

Requirement - i want to compare the alphanumeric values of the two columns (one column from each table as mentioned above) tables and want to highlight only the part that has been changed instead of the whole cell and want the result in a third column.

Question - is there a resolution to the above scenario?

Reply

42



ecool says:

May 25, 2017 at 3:59 pm

thanks, this page information help me a lot

Reply

43



Jeremy says:

June 5, 2017 at 5:34 pm

Hello,

I am wanting to compare two columns of data and if those columns are equal, I'd like to execute a calculation.

I am using the formula:

=IF('Raw Data'!A:A=Analysis!A:A,SUMPRODUCT('Raw Data'!C:C,'Raw Data'!I:I)/SUM('Raw Data'!I:I))

This returns FALSE. How do I fix it?

Reply

44



SREEJITH says:

June 19, 2017 at 12:40 pm

wow!!!!!!!!!great...thanks...really useful....

Reply

45



SREEJITH says:

June 19, 2017 at 12:42 pm

=IF(COUNTIF(\$A:\$A, \$B2)=0, "REQUIRED", "NOT REQUIRED")

I want this formula to be stopped when \$Bx is null...

Reply

46



cK estrada says:

June 22, 2017 at 4:16 am

I have 2 columns, each column have value. Is it possible to move a value beside its same value? for example:

Column 1 Column 2 OUTPUT

111

23

33

Reply

47



Yvonne says:

June 25, 2017 at 8:22 am

Hi,

I have 3 columns of data and am comparing Column 3 data with Column 1 and 2 for duplicates. I could use the conditional formatting but I was thinking if there is an excel formula that I could use?

Column 1 Column 2 Column 3

15 14 12

12 17 11

11 18 14

10 17 16

20 25 15

Thank you.

Reply

48



nader says:

June 26, 2017 at 5:44 am

Hi

I have tow columns of data. in column2 there is sum of data of column1 how i can compare tow columns and recognize which numbers is sum one number in other column? for example column1 is contains 1,2,5,3,6 and column 2 is 8,9 how i can determine 8 in column2 is sum of which numbers in column 1

thank you

Reply

49



Gareth A says:

July 3, 2017 at 11:00 am

Hi,

I need to compare two columns that should be the same, but the data in each comes from different sources.

Both columns are dd/mm/yyyy hh:mm format.

My issue is that in one column, there's an extra " " between the date and time, and when I run my comparison =AND formula, the extra space is causing it to fail.

Can you suggest a way I can easily remove the extra space, or get Excel to ignore the extra space?

Reply

50



Eva says:

July 7, 2017 at 6:59 pm

I need a formula that will help me identify duplicate parts/product at different pricing. When I use the conditional formatting on both columns all of the cells are highlighted because it's looking at just the columns as duplicates.

Reply



Natalia Sharashova (Ablebits.com Team) says:

July 10, 2017 at 10:30 am

Hi, Eva,

I managed to do that in the following way:

1) I decided to use a helper column (C) that checks if the product (A1) is duplicated and its price (B1) is unique with the following formula:

=COUNTIFS(A:A,\$A2,B:B,"<>"&B2)

If the condition is true the formula returns 0, since it can't find any duplicated products with unique prices. Otherwise, it returns 1.

2) I created a following conditional formatting rule:

=\$C1>=1

and applied it to my table =\$A:\$C

As a result, I can see all the duplicate products with unique prices highlighted in yellow.

Try to do the same with your data, hope it helps!

Reply

51



Imran Akhtar says:

July 10, 2017 at 7:48 am

I am working on aligning university rankings, as you can see the universities are ranked differently in 2008-2009. Is there a way to use excel to align the universities with corresponding rankings? There are hundreds of them for 12 years, so you can see it is mammoth task.

2008 2008 2009 2009

Sussex 26 cardifff 26

Cardiff 27 Sussex 27

Queen's 28 Reading 28

Reading 29 Sussex 29

Glasgow 30 Surrey 30

Birming 31 Strathclyde 31

Manches 32 Manche 32

Reply

52



Fiaz Ahmad says:

July 19, 2017 at 10:15 am

Salaam everyone.

I have two excel columns each containing 63,000 values. I want to find out all the values where entries of column A are greater than those of column B. How can I do that?

Thanks in advance

Stay blessed.

Reply



Svetlana Cheusheva says:

July 19, 2017 at 3:58 pm

Hello Fiaz,

You can enter the following formula in the first cell with data, say A1:

=IF(A1>B1, TRUE, "")

Then, copy the formula to the entire column. And after that sort or filter your dataset by the formula column.

Reply

53



Ashika says:

July 21, 2017 at 8:01 am

Thank you very much. Its working. worth full article!

Reply

54

reza says:



July 24, 2017 at 4:36 pm

hi

i have three unequal column and i want to extract unique cells for first column in compare with two another columns, how can i do it?

Reply

55



zak miah says:

August 16, 2017 at 12:47 pm

hi, i need a formula to detect the values of the weight in a column and if it is more than the value then to add 7.50 but if it is less then the value to add 4.

so for example if the products weigh less than 0.4 then i need the cell to add 4 but if they weigh more than to add 7.5

Reply

56



Brad says:

August 17, 2017 at 1:17 pm

Compare to worksheets Sheet2 to Sheet1, find sheet2 match and then return data sheet1 from in 1st cell of this matched column.

2 work sheets

1st sheet contains A=data to return (1234) + B-H data to match 456,789,012 2nd sheet contains criteria to match - look for 456 then return A (1234)

Reply

57



Sunil says:

August 17, 2017 at 8:56 pm

Is there a way where we can identify

- 1. % similarity
- 2. between 2 columns
- 3. With strings as data.

Example:

Column A | Column B | Match Cat is back | Dog is back | 33% Superman | Spiderman | 0%

Reply

58



Sandy says:

August 22, 2017 at 6:46 pm

Ηi

I want to compare Data in 2 columns A and B and want to highlight the different words only. Eg .

my A1 CELL contain Apple, Sweets, good

B1 cell contains

Apple, sweets, pizza, car

In above two cells in A1 good is extra word which is not present in CELL B1. Where as Cell B1 contains words " Pizza, car "which are not present in excel so how to highlight only these different words

I have lot of Data

Reply



Natalia Sharashova (Ablebits.com Team) says:

August 23, 2017 at 7:39 am

Hi, Sandy,

I'm afraid there's no way to highlight only duplicate words in Excel. All the formulas and our addins will select or highlight the entire cell.

I can only advise you to ask around Mr.Excel forum in case they come up with some VBA code for you.

I wish I could assist you better.

Reply

59



Jon says:

August 27, 2017 at 12:53 am

Hi,

What I'm trying to do is highlight a row if there is any text found in cells in column E and column I.

So it would look something like:

IF text in Cell E

AND

Text in Cell I

Colour row red

There will always be text in the E column, so I only need the row to highlight if there is text found in the I column.

How do I go about doing this?

Thanks in advance:)

Reply

60



PraveenRaj says:

August 30, 2017 at 6:22 am

Really amazing and simplifying the efforts.

Reply

61



N.MathevanPillai says:

September 3, 2017 at 11:23 am

Hi,

How to lookup the value if the 2 cells having same value, excel is considering 1st cell but not considering 2nd cell(It should be considered)

Example all the 4 cells having the code of 7555(Attachment below) here some of the row having different values and some of the column having different values

For me it should be added and required in another sheet

Code A B C

7555 395

7555 77 343

7555 158 262

7555 210

Reply

62



vishwas says:

September 14, 2017 at 2:49 am

Name marks

A 9

C 8

D 20

Result to be

Name marks

D 20

A 9

C 8

PI provide function in office 2007

Reply

63



vishwas says:

September 14, 2017 at 2:56 am

PI provide function in excel

Suppose data I column a and b

Name marks

C 9

D 14

E 20

Ans to be in column c and d

Name marks

E 20

D 14

C 9

Reply

64



amar says:

September 18, 2017 at 10:45 am

Hi,

I have set of lab values in one column & reference range in another column. I want to highlight the lab values which are "Out of Range" & "Within he Range". Please let me know; how to do that.

Reply

65



NARESH says:

September 22, 2017 at 4:18 pm

thanks.....

Reply

66



William says:

September 23, 2017 at 3:30 pm

Hello,

For work I am tasked with downloading customer Forecasts and updating our backlog accordingly. it is a very time consuming process. there are multiple parts that are on multiple different purchase orders with quantities and dates varying on a monthly basis. the changes are not that frequent but I have hundreds of rows to go through. I am looking for a way to quickly find changes that have occurred month to month however I need to hold reference to the part number, purchase order, quantity and date. have you any thoughts on how I may be able to do this?

Reply



Natalia Sharashova (Ablebits.com Team) says:

September 26, 2017 at 7:12 am

Hello, William,

if I understand your task correctly, we have the add-in that may help you.

Please take a look at the Compare Two Tables tool from the Duplicate Remover add-in. With its help you'll be able to find unique records or remove duplicate values between 2 worksheets.

You can download a fully functional trial version to test the add-in and see if it work for you from this web-page:

https://www.ablebits.com/downloads/index.php

Hope this'll help!

Reply

67



Sarah says:

September 27, 2017 at 4:44 pm

How to compare 2 columns to find the match exist or not. I need the formula which compares B1 with A:A. If Match found 1 else 0. I tried =IF(B:B=AA, 1,0) didn't work.

A_B

0001165186 0094713197

0001166595 0097094894

0001166619 0094640211

0001190181 0097058341

0001196342 0016685760

0001213475 0016748842

0001216979 0016760276

0001217648 0097012553

0001222292 0097075931

Reply



Natalia Sharashova (Ablebits.com Team) says:

October 2, 2017 at 10:01 am

Hello, Sarah,

Please try this formula:

=IF(ISNA(VLOOKUP(B1,\$A:\$A,1,FALSE)),0,1)

Reply

68



Abs says:

October 2, 2017 at 1:27 am

A2- U 4 8 WENDLAND STREET PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

A3- U 1 5 SCANLAN STREET EAST BRISBANE QLD 4169

A4- U 16 7 BERYL STREET WESTMEAD NSW 2145

B2- 48 WENDLAND STREET PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

B3-8 HEIDELBERG STREET EAST BRISBANE QLD 4169

B4- 16 7 BERYL STREET WESTMEAD NSW 2145

When analyzing the differences in the above two data set. As you can see, A2 is similar to B2 (except for the letter U, which represents a Unit. For the purposes of my analysis, this is correct. As is A4 & B4). But clearly A3 is a different address to B3. How do i put a simple formulae in Except, which will extract the variations from two cells?

Thanks

Abs

Reply

69



Brian says:

October 18, 2017 at 4:29 pm

i'm trying to track at what time of the day we have the biggest failure rate and highlight that time in the column. i have 5 columns, mon-fri. each column has rows broken into half hour increments. ex: row 4 is 8:30, row 5 is 9:00 etc. in the column in question, the value in row 4 is 10, row 5 is 19, row 6 is 27, row 7 is 31, row 8 is 60, and row 9 is 81. i can tell that the largest difference is between rows 7 & 8. is there a way to highlight row 8 to show that that is where the largest difference is? if so, how can i do it?

Thanks in advance.

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Unfortunately, due to the volume of comments received we cannot guarantee that we will be able to give you a timely response. When posting a question, please be very clear and concise. We thank you for understanding!

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