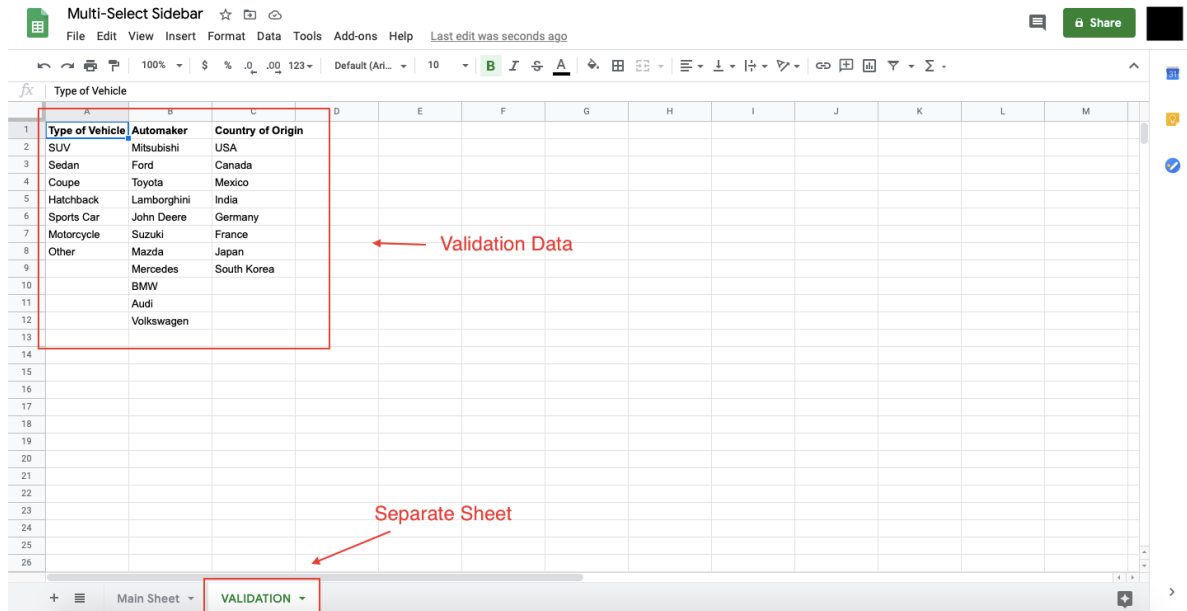


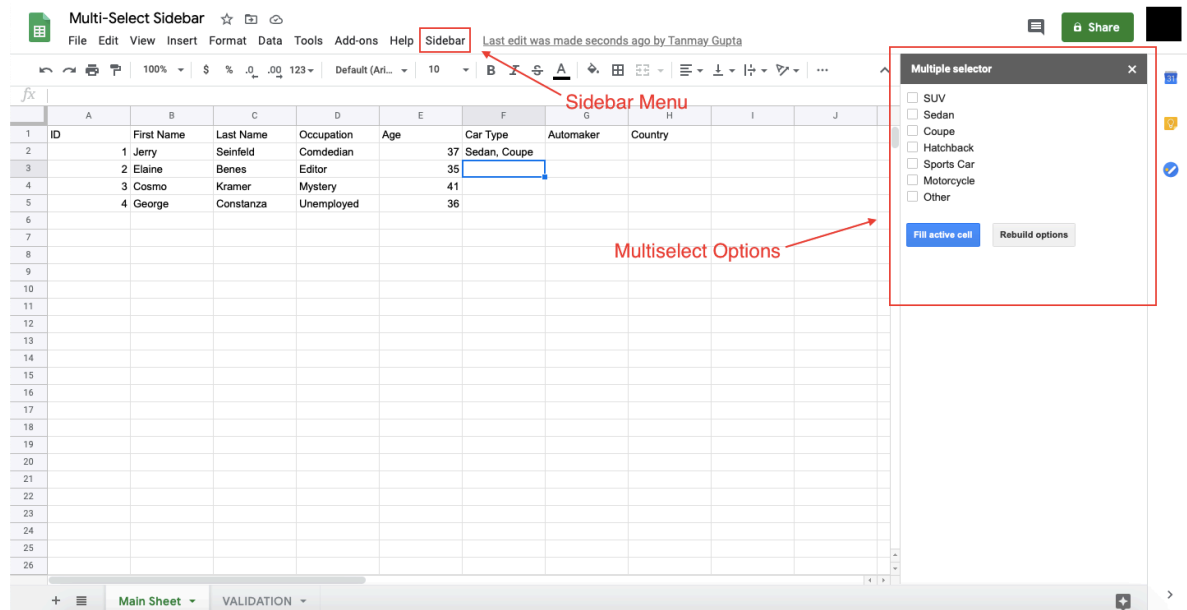
Multi-Select Google Sheets (Documentation and Tutorial)

Step 1: Create a separate spreadsheet for validation data.



Store the values for the variables you would be using in your multiselect menu in this sheet. In the above example we plan to use the variables “Type of Vehicle”, “Automaker” and “Country of Origin” in our Main Sheet.

Step 2: Implement Sidebar option in the menu bar.



In your google shoot menu bar, go to Tools -> Script Editor.

Create a new HTML file (name it “SIDEBAR.html”) and paste the code from “SIDEBAR.html”.
No need to make changes in this file.

Then create a new Script file (name it “SERVER.gs”) and paste the code from “SERVER.gs”. You will need to make some small changes in this code according to your needs.

1. Define the variables and their value range.

```
SERVER.gs
1  /**
2   * Changes the variable validation if needed
3   */
4
5  var ss=SpreadsheetApp.getActiveSpreadsheet();
6  var activeCell = ss.getActiveCell();
7
8  var type = {
9    sheet: 'VALIDATION',
10   range: 'A2:A'
11 }
12
13 var automaker = {
14   sheet: 'VALIDATION',
15   range: 'B2:B'
16 }
17
18 var country = {
19   sheet: 'VALIDATION',
20   range: 'C2:C'
21 }
22
```

In our example, we used three variables in the “VALIDATION” sheet. The variables ‘type’, ‘automaker’ and ‘country’ correspond to those variables and have two attributes – “sheet” and “range” which tell us about the location of values of that particular variable.

2. Set the area in your main sheet where you want the options to appear.

```
SERVER.gs
37
38 /**
39  * Opens a sidebar in the document containing the add-on's user interface.
40  */
41
42 function showSidebar() {
43   SpreadsheetApp.getUi()
44     .showSidebar(HtmlService.createTemplateFromFile('SIDEBAR'))
45     .evaluate()
46     .setSandboxMode(HtmlService.SandboxMode.IFRAME)
47     .setTitle('Multiple selector');
48 }
49
50 function getOptions() {
51   if (activeCell.getColumn() == 6 && activeCell.getRow() >= 2 && ss.getActiveSheet().getName() == 'Main Sheet') {
52     return SpreadsheetApp.getActive().getSheetByName(type.sheet).getRange(type.range).getDisplayValues()
53       .filter(String)
54       .reduce(function(a, b) {
55         return a.concat(b)
56       })
57   }
58   else if (activeCell.getColumn() == 7 && activeCell.getRow() >= 2 && ss.getActiveSheet().getName() == 'Main Sheet') {
59     return SpreadsheetApp.getActive().getSheetByName(automaker.sheet).getRange(automaker.range).getDisplayValues()
60       .filter(String)
61       .reduce(function(a, b) {
62         return a.concat(b)
63       })
64   }
65   else if (activeCell.getColumn() == 8 && activeCell.getRow() >= 2 && ss.getActiveSheet().getName() == 'Main Sheet') {
66     return SpreadsheetApp.getActive().getSheetByName(country.sheet).getRange(country.range).getDisplayValues()
67       .filter(String)
68       .reduce(function(a, b) {
69         return a.concat(b)
70       })
71   }
72 }
73
```

Diagram annotations:

- Range for particular variable:** Points to the range property in the variable objects (e.g., `type.range`).
- Name of the sheet:** Points to the sheet property in the variable objects (e.g., `type.sheet`).
- Variable Location:** Points to the variable objects (`type`, `automaker`, `country`) and the corresponding sheet and range properties in the `getOptions` function.

Referencing to the above image:

The **blue** boxes represent the cell ranges where you want the sidebar to work for each variable. Set the row and column range accordingly.

The **green** boxes represent the name of the sheet you're working on. Change the name accordingly.

The **purple** boxes represent which values to show corresponding to the particular variables. Change the variables accordingly. For instance, in the first box, "type.sheet and type.range" correspond to the location of the "type" variable that we set in the previous step. So, all you need to change is "type" to the variable that you want.

3. Add or delete if-else blocks according to your requirement and the number of variables. In our example we 3 variables so we used 3 if-else blocks for each variable.

Now everything is set up and ready to use. Save the files and reload your sheet, you should see the sidebar menu in menu bar.

Step 3: How to use:

1. Start by clicking on the 'Sidebar' option from the top menu-bar.
2. From the sidebar, click on 'Rebuild Options'
3. Select all the desired options and then click "Fill Active Cell".

Tip: You can add this part as a hover message (using "Insert Note" option) for the cells where you're using multi-select.

The screenshot shows a Google Sheet titled "Multi-Select Sidebar". The sheet contains a table with the following data:

ID	First Name	Last Name	Occupation	Age	Car Type	Automaker	Country
1	Jerry	Seinfeld	Comedian				
2	Elaine	Benes	Editor				
3	Cosmo	Kramer	Mystery				
4	George	Constanza	Unemployed				

A red box highlights the range F37:H41, which contains the text "Sedan, Coupe". A tooltip is visible over this range, stating: "This is a 'Multiple-Select' cell. 1. Start by clicking on the 'Sidebar' option from the top menu-bar. 2. From the sidebar, click on 'Rebuild Options' 3. Select all the desired options and then click 'Fill Active Cell'".

On the right side of the sheet, there is a sidebar menu titled "Multiple selector". It contains a list of car types with checkboxes: SUV, Sedan, Coupe, Hatchback, Sports Car, Motorcycle, and Other. At the bottom of the sidebar, there are two buttons: "Fill active cell" and "Rebuild options".