

Compare Two Lists

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This example describes how to compare two lists using conditional formatting. For example, you may have two lists of NFL teams.

	A	B	C
1	Miami Dolphins	Atlanta Falcons	
2	Cincinnati Bengals	New York Giants	
3	Detroit Lions	Denver Broncos	
4	San Francisco 49ers	Chicago Bears	
5	Indianapolis Colts	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	
6	New England Patriots	Washington Redskins	
7	Houston Texans	Indianapolis Colts	
8	Jacksonville Jaguars	San Diego Chargers	
9	Chicago Bears	New England Patriots	
10	San Diego Chargers	Cincinnati Bengals	
11	New York Giants	Arizona Cardinals	
12	New Orleans Saints	Minnesota Vikings	
13	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Pittsburgh Steelers	
14	Seattle Seahawks	San Francisco 49ers	
15	Atlanta Falcons	New Orleans Saints	
16	Tennessee Titans	Houston Texans	
17	Washington Redskins	Seattle Seahawks	
18	Baltimore Ravens	Jacksonville Jaguars	
19		Baltimore Ravens	
20		Detroit Lions	
21			
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Chapter

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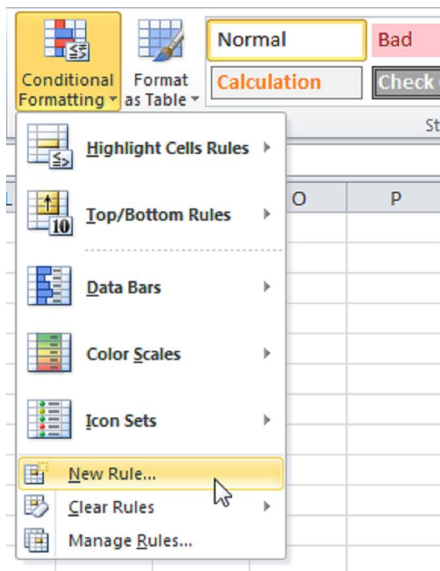
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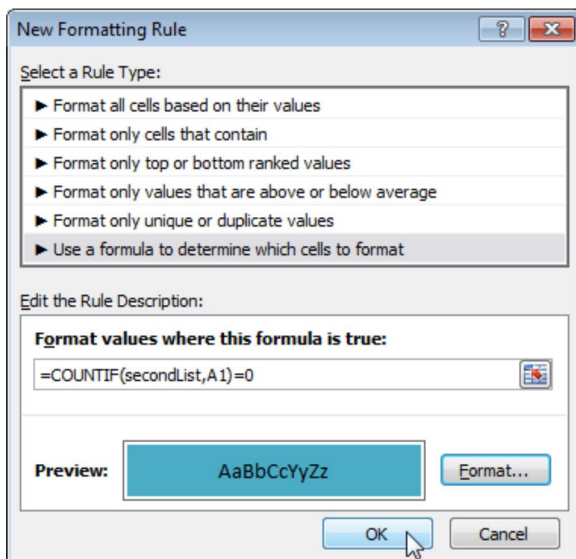


To highlight the teams in the first list that are not in the second list, execute the following steps.

1. First, select the range A1:A18 and name it firstList, select the range B1:B20 and name it secondList.
2. Next, select the range A1:A18.
3. On the Home tab, click Conditional Formatting, New Rule...



4. Select "Use a formula to determine which cells to format".
5. Enter the formula =COUNTIF(secondList,A1)=0
6. Select a formatting style and click OK.



Result. Miami Dolphins and Tennessee Titans are not in the second list.

	A	B	C
1	Miami Dolphins	Atlanta Falcons	
2	Cincinnati Bengals	New York Giants	
3	Detroit Lions	Denver Broncos	
4	San Francisco 49ers	Chicago Bears	
5	Indianapolis Colts	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	
6	New England Patriots	Washington Redskins	
7	Houston Texans	Indianapolis Colts	
8	Jacksonville Jaguars	San Diego Chargers	
9	Chicago Bears	New England Patriots	
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15	Atlanta Falcons	New Orleans Saints	
16	Tennessee Titans	Houston Texans	
17	Washington Redskins	Seattle Seahawks	
18	Baltimore Ravens	Jacksonville Jaguars	
19		Baltimore Ravens	
20		Detroit Lions	
21			
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Explanation: =COUNTIF(secondList,A1) counts the number of teams in secondList that are equal to the team in cell A1. If COUNTIF(secondList,A1) = 0, the team in cell A1 is not in the second list. As a result, Excel fills the cell with a blue background color. Because we selected the range A1:A18 before we clicked on Conditional Formatting, Excel automatically copies the formula to the other cells. Thus, cell A2 contains the formula =COUNTIF(secondList,A2)=0, cell A3 =COUNTIF(secondList,A3)=0, etc.

7. To highlight the teams in the second list that are not in the first list, select the range B1:B20, create a new rule using the formula =COUNTIF(firstList,B1)=0, and set the format to orange fill.

Result. Denver Broncos, Arizona Cardinals, Minnesota Vikings and Pittsburgh Steelers are not in the first list.

	A	B	C
1	Miami Dolphins	Atlanta Falcons	
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18	Baltimore Ravens	Jacksonville Jaguars	
19		Baltimore Ravens	
20		Detroit Lions	
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