

Count with Or Criteria G+ Follow 9.7k

Chapter

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Counting with Or criteria in Excel can be tricky. This article shows several easy to follow examples.

1. We start simple. For example, we want to count the number of cells that contain Google or Facebook (one column).

A10	=COUNTIF(A1:A8,"Google")+COUNTIF(A1:A8,"Facebook")								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Google								
2	Facebook								
3	Twitter								
4	Facebook								
5	Google								
6	Twitter								
7	Google								
8	Twitter								
9									
10		5							
11									

2a. However, if we want to count the number of rows that contain Google or Stanford (two columns), we cannot simply use the COUNTIF function twice (see the picture below). Rows that contain Google and Stanford are counted twice, but they should only be counted once. 4 is the answer we are looking for.

B10	=COUNTIF(A1:A8,"Google")+COUNTIF(B1:B8,"Stanford")								
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Google	Stanford							
2	Facebook	Harvard							
3	Twitter	Stanford							
4	Facebook	Columbia							
5	Google	Harvard							
6	Twitter	Harvard							
7	Google	Stanford							
8	Twitter	Harvard							
9									
10		6							
11									

2b. What we need is an array formula. We use the IF function to check if Google or Stanford occurs.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Google	Stanford							
2	Facebook	Harvard							
3	Twitter	Stanford							
4	Facebook	Columbia							
5	Google	Harvard							
6	Twitter	Harvard							
7	Google	Stanford							
8	Twitter	Harvard							
9									
10		1							
11									

Explanation: TRUE = 1, FALSE = 0. For row 1, the IF function evaluates to IF(TRUE+TRUE,1,0), IF(2,1,0), 1. So the first row will be counted. For row 2, the IF function evaluates to IF(FALSE+FALSE,1,0), IF(0,1,0), 0. So the second row will not be counted. For row 3, the IF function evaluates to IF(FALSE+TRUE,1,0), IF(1,1,0), 1. So the third row will be counted, etc.

2c. All we need is a SUM function that counts these 1's. To achieve this (don't be overwhelmed), we add the SUM function and replace A1 with A1:A8 and B1 with B1:B8.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Google	Stanford							
2	Facebook	Harvard							
3	Twitter	Stanford							
4	Facebook	Columbia							
5	Google	Harvard							
6	Twitter	Harvard							
7	Google	Stanford							
8	Twitter	Harvard							
9									
10		=SUM(IF((A1:A8="Google")+(B1:B8="Stanford"),1,0))							
11									

2d. Finish by pressing CTRL + SHIFT + ENTER.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Google	Stanford							
2	Facebook	Harvard							
3	Twitter	Stanford							
4	Facebook	Columbia							
5	Google	Harvard							
6	Twitter	Harvard							
7	Google	Stanford							
8	Twitter	Harvard							
9									
10		4							
11									

Note: The formula bar indicates that this is an array formula by enclosing it in curly braces {}. Do not type these yourself. They will disappear when you edit the formula.

Explanation: The range (array constant) created by the IF function is stored in Excel's memory, not in an range. The array constant looks as follows:

```
{1;0;1;0;1;0;1;0}
```

This array constant is used as an argument for the SUM function, giving a result of 4.

3. We can go one step further. For example, we want to count the number of rows that contain Google and Stanford or Columbia.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Google	Stanford							
2	Facebook	Harvard							
3	Twitter	Stanford							
4	Facebook	Columbia							
5	Google	Harvard							
6	Twitter	Harvard							
7	Google	Stanford							
8	Twitter	Harvard							
9									
10			3						
11									

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