

Find Duplicates

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This example teaches you how to find duplicates (or triplicates) in Excel. Go here to [remove duplicates](#).

1. Select the range A1:C10.

	A	B	C	D
1	Sierra	Tango	Charlie	
2	Kilo	Bravo	Yankee	
3	Golf	Mike	Delta	
4	Juliet	Alpha	Foxtrot	
5	Papa	X-ray	November	
6	Zulu	Sierra	Whiskey	
7	Romeo	Echo	Quebec	
8	India	Oscar	Delta	
9	Sierra	Lima	Uniform	
10	Hotel	Juliet	Victor	
11				
12				

Chapter

[Conditional Formatting](#)

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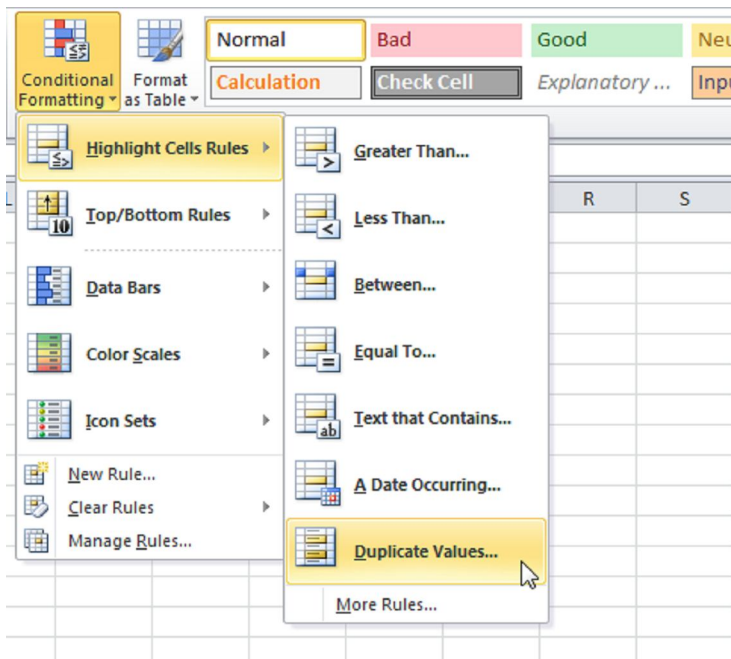
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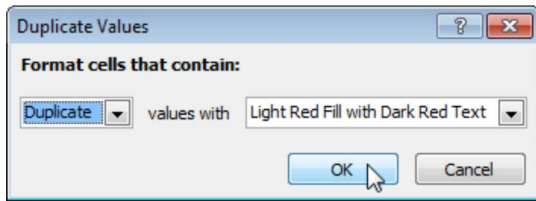
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2. On the Home tab, click Conditional Formatting, Highlight Cells Rules, Duplicate Values...



3. Select a formatting style and click OK.



Result. Excel highlights the duplicate names.

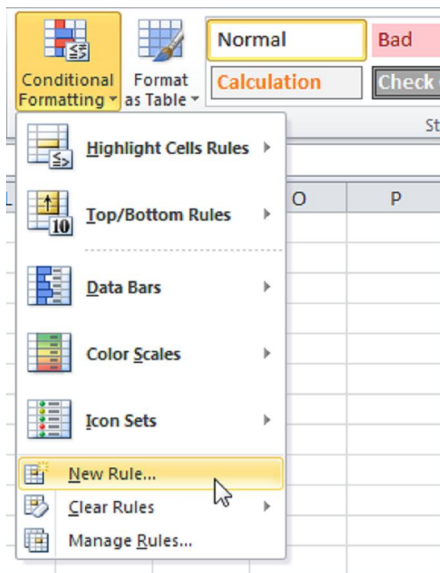
	A	B	C	D
1	Sierra	Tango	Charlie	
2	Kilo	Bravo	Yankee	
3	Golf	Mike	Delta	
4	Juliet	Alpha	Foxtrot	
5	Papa	X-ray	November	
6	Zulu	Sierra	Whiskey	
7	Romeo	Echo	Quebec	
8	India	Oscar	Delta	
9	Sierra	Lima	Uniform	
10	Hotel	Juliet	Victor	
11				
12				

Note: select Unique from the first drop-down list to highlight the unique names.

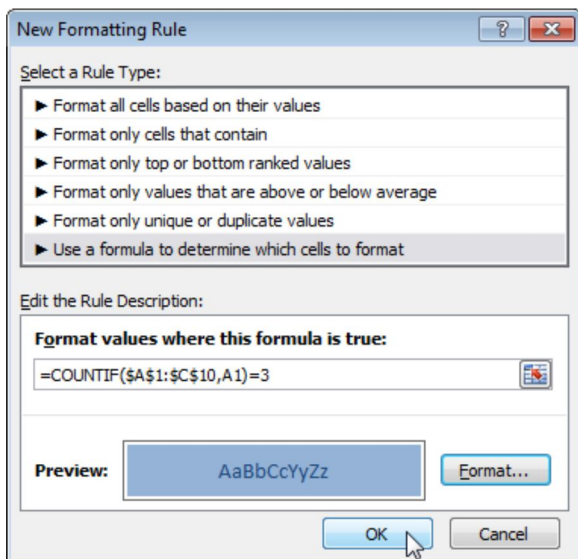
As you can see, Excel highlights duplicates (Juliet, Delta), triplicates (Sierra), quadruplicates (if we have any), etc.

Execute the following steps to highlight triplicates only.

4. First, [clear](#) the previous conditional formatting rule.
5. Select the range A1:C10.
6. On the Home tab, click Conditional Formatting, New Rule...



7. Select "Use a formula to determine which cells to format".
8. Enter the formula =COUNTIF(\$A\$1:\$C\$10,A1)=3
9. Select a formatting style and click OK.



Result. Excel highlights the triplicate names.

	A	B	C	D
1	Sierra	Tango	Charlie	
2	Kilo	Bravo	Yankee	
3	Golf	Mike	Delta	
4	Juliet	Alpha	Foxtrot	
5	Papa	X-ray	November	
6	Zulu	Sierra	Whiskey	
7	Romeo	Echo	Quebec	
8	India	Oscar	Delta	
9	Sierra	Lima	Uniform	
10	Hotel	Juliet	Victor	
11				
12				

Explanation: =COUNTIF(\$A\$1:\$C\$10,A1) counts the number of names in the range A1:C10 that are equal to the name in cell A1. If COUNTIF(\$A\$1:\$C\$10,A1) = 3, Excel formats the cell. Because we selected the range A1:C10 before we clicked on Conditional Formatting, Excel automatically copies the formula to the other cells. Thus, cell A2 contains the formula =COUNTIF(\$A\$1:\$C\$10,A2)=3, cell A3 =COUNTIF(\$A\$1:\$C\$10,A3)=3, etc. Notice how we created an [absolute reference](#) (\$A\$1:\$C\$10) to fix this reference.

Note: you can use any formula you like. For example, use this formula =COUNTIF(\$A\$1:\$C\$10,A1)>3 to highlight

the names that occur more than 3 times.

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