

Conditional Formatting

What is Conditional Formatting?

Conditional formatting allows you to set rules for cell formatting. If the rules (conditions) are met, then the formatting is applied. You can have up to 3 rules in a cell.

For example, you can set conditional formatting so that a cell turns blue if it contains a value higher than 75 and turns green if it contains a value lower than 50.

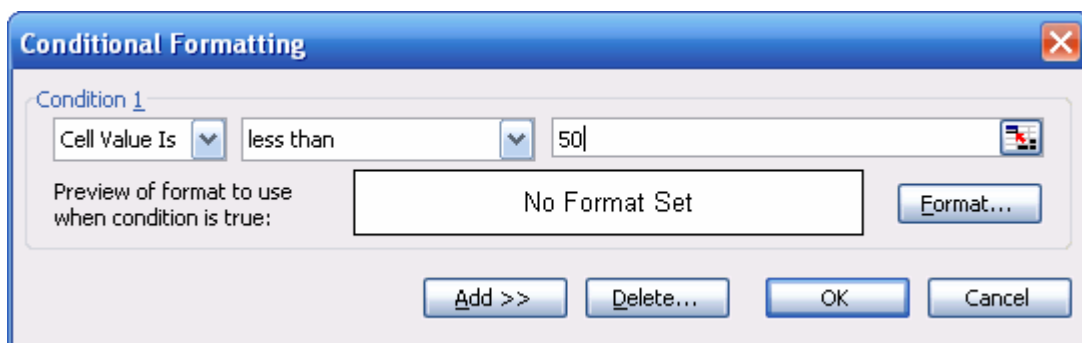
	A	B
1	Pupil	Mark %
2	Alan	67
3	Bethany	98
4	Colin	36
5	Dana	53

Apply Conditional Formatting to a Cell

1. Select the cells to be formatted

A	B
Pupil	Mark %
Alan	67
Bethany	98
Colin	36
Dana	53

2. Choose **Format > Conditional Formatting...**



3. Leave the first drop-down box set to **Cell Value Is**
4. In the second drop-down box, choose one of the operators.

In this example, choose '**less than**'.

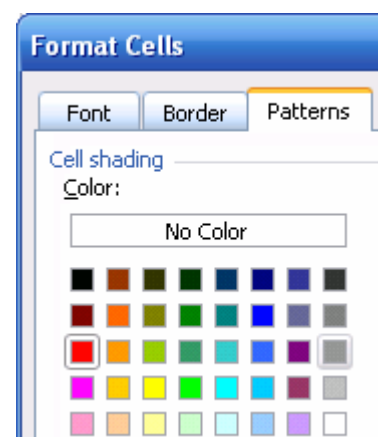
5. In the text box, type a number or a cell reference.

In this example, type the value '**50**'.

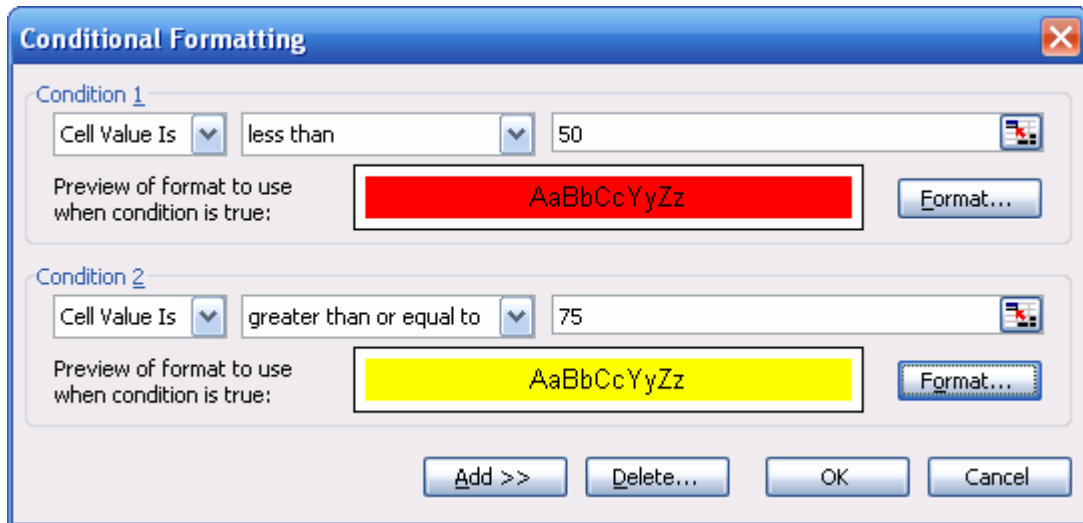
6. Click the **Format** button
7. On the **Patterns** tab, select a colour for the conditional formatting, i.e. **blue**, in this example.

You can also choose a Font format or a cell Border.

8. Click **OK**.



- To add another conditional format, click the **Add** button.
- Repeat steps 3 to 8, using the values and colours for the second conditional format.



- Click **OK**, to return to the worksheet.
- The sheet should now look like this:

	A	B
1	Pupil	Mark %
2	Alan	67
3	Bethany	98
4	Colin	36
5	Dana	53

Conditional Formatting and Rand Function *

In the following example you will generate random algebra expressions of the form $a(x + b)$ and use conditional formatting to 'hide' multipliers equal to 1.

- In cell A1 type: **=int(rand()*10+1)** (This generates a random integer between 1 and 10)
- In cell B1 type: **="(x + "&int(rand()*10+1)&")"**
- Select cell A1 and go to **Format > Conditional Formatting...**
- Under Condition 1 set the fields to: **Cell Value Is – equal to – 1**
- Click **Format**
- On the **Font** tab set the colour to **white**.
- Click **OK > OK**

Press the F9 key to generate new values. If a multiplier of '1' occurs it will now not be visible.

A	B	A	B
3	(x + 6)		(x + 7)

* See the '[Interactive Excel using Rand Function](#)' help sheet for more details.