

# Count cells less than

The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following content:

- Formula bar: `=COUNTIF(C5:C11,"<80")`
- Worksheet title: **Count cells less than**
- Data table (C4:C10):

Name	Score
Jim	79
Adrian	82
Sandy	86
Ayako	91
Sylvia	77
Miguel	80
Yuri	90
- Summary table (F4:F6):

Range	Criteria	Count
C4:C10	<80	2
C4:C10	<=80	3
- Text: *Use >= for greater than or equal to*  
*Use <= for less than or equal to*
- Logo: EXCELJET

## Generic formula

```
= COUNTIF( rng, "<X" )
```

## Summary

To count the number of cells that contain values less than a particular number, you can use the [COUNTIF function](#). In the generic form of the formula (above) **rng** represents a range of cells that contain numbers, and X represents the threshold below which you want to count. In the example shown, G5 contains this formula:

```
= COUNTIF( C5:C11, "<80" )
```

## Explanation

COUNTIF counts the number of cells in the range that contain numeric values less than X and returns the result as a number.

If you want to count cells that are "less than or equal to 80", use:

```
= COUNTIF( C5:C11, "<=80" )
```

If you want to use a value in another cell as part of the criteria, use the ampersand (&) character to [concatenate](#) like this:

```
= COUNTIF( rng, "<" & A1 )
```

If the value in cell A1 is 100, the criteria will be "<100" after concatenation:

```
= COUNTIF( rng, "<100" )
```