

Essential Search Tips

Here are some of our favorite tricks of the trade to get great search results fast. They're tried and tested to work on Google, but also apply to many other search engines.

+ Searches

If a common word such as "the" or "a" is essential to getting the result you want, you can include it in your search by putting a "+" sign in front of it.

Example

To search for The A Team, you would type *+the +A Team*.

- Searches

You can exclude a word from your search by putting a minus symbol immediately in front of the term you want to avoid.

Example

To find web pages about bass which do not contain the word "music", type *bass -music*

~ Searches

You may want not only for a particular keyword, but also for its synonyms. Indicate a search for both by placing the tilde symbol (~) immediately in front of the keyword.

Example

Typing in *~happiness* will also return results for 'pleasure', 'gladness' and 'joy'.

Phrase Searches

Search for complete phrases by enclosing them in quotation marks.

Example

To search for the name 'John Smith', type *"John Smith"* to avoid returning all results for John and all results for Smith.

OR Searches

To retrieve pages that include either Word A or Word B, use an uppercase OR between terms.

Example

To search for cycle shops in London or Paris, search *"cycle shops London OR Paris."*

Domain Restrict Searches

If you know the website you want to search but aren't sure where the information is located within that site, you can use a search engine to search only that domain.

Example

To find films filmed at Wellington College on www.imdb.com, search **site: www.imdb.com "Wellington College"**.

Number Range Searches

Number Range can be used to specify that results contain numbers in a range you set. You can conduct a number range search by specifying two numbers, separated by two periods, with no spaces. Be sure to specify a unit of measure or some other indicator of what the number range represents.

Example

To search for a DVD player within a specific price range, type **"DVD \$100..200"**.

Define Function

If you want to quickly find the definition of a word or phrase you can simply type the word you want the meaning of after the term *Define*:

Example

To find the meaning of the word 'Shank', type **Define: Shank**.

Convert Function

You can use search engines to quickly convert between measurements, including height, distance, and weight.

Example

If you wanted to convert 10 miles into kilometres, simply type **10 miles to kilometers**.

Calculator Function

Search engines can be used as calculators by typing in sums and formulas into the search bar.

Example

To find out what 53 added to 632 is, simply type **53+632** and search to return the answer.