

How to Search Google- Advanced Search Tips

Using operators

Operators are symbols and words you can add to your search to make your results more precise.

Operator	How it works
Quotation marks " "	<p>Use quotation marks to search for a particular phrase. This will narrow down your search, giving you fewer results.</p> <p>e.g. if you search for "code of conduct", the results list will only show webpages where the words "code of conduct" appear next to each other.</p>
allintext:	<p>Use the operator allintext: to find pages that include all of your keywords</p> <p>e.g. if you search for allintext:elderly diabetes exercise, the results list will only show webpages that include the words elderly, diabetes and exercise.</p> <p>The words won't necessarily appear next to each other.</p>
allintitle:	<p>Use the operator allintitle: to find pages that include all of your keywords in the title.</p> <p>e.g. if you search for allintitle:elderly diabetes exercise, the results list will only show webpages that include the words elderly, diabetes and exercise in the title.</p>
OR	<p>Use the operator OR to find websites that include at least one of your keywords. This is useful if you can think of two or more words with the same meaning, or a similar meaning.</p> <p>e.g. searching for female OR woman will find websites that include either word.</p>
-	<p>Exclude an unwanted word by adding a minus sign before it. This is useful if you're searching for something that has more than one meaning.</p> <p>e.g. salsa -dance will find websites about the food salsa, and exclude websites about dance.</p> <p>Do not leave a space between the minus sign and the word you want to exclude.</p>
*	<p>Use an asterisk to find a missing word. Google will try to fill the gap.</p> <p>e.g. searching for how * affects fitness will find webpages on how your body type affects fitness, on how alcohol affects fitness and on how sleep affects fitness.</p>

#	<p>Search for trending topics using a hashtag.</p> <p>e.g. searching for #mentalhealth will find popular information on mental health.</p>
related:	<p>Use the operator related: to find webpages similar to the page you specify.</p> <p>e.g. searching for related:www.sane.org will find other websites dealing with mental health such as Beyond Blue, Headspace and Black Dog Institute.</p> <p>Do not leave a space between related: and the web page URL.</p>

Using limits

Limits can be used to restrict your search results. They help remove unwanted webpages and formats.

Limiter	How it works
site:.au	<p>Add site:.au to your search to limit your results to Australian websites.</p> <p>e.g. bushfires site:.au</p>
site:.gov or site:.gov.au	<p>Add site:.gov to your search to limit your results to government websites.</p> <p>Add site:.gov.au to your search to limit your results to Australian government websites.</p> <p>e.g. tax site:.gov.au</p>
site:.edu or site:.edu.au	<p>Add site:.edu to your search to limit your results to websites associated with educational institutions, such as schools and universities.</p> <p>Add site:.edu.au to your search to limit your results to websites associated with Australian educational institutions.</p> <p>e.g. "Harvard referencing" site:.edu</p>

<p>site:.org</p> <p>or</p> <p>site:.org.au</p>	<p>Add site:.org to your search to limit your results to websites for organisations.</p> <p>Organisations like the Red Cross, Benevolent Society and Wesley Mission all use the .org domain.</p> <p>Add site:.org.au to your search to limit your results to Australian organisations.</p> <p>e.g. refugees site:.org</p>
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To search within a particular website.

Limiter	How it works
site:	<p>Use the limiter site: to search within a particular website.</p> <p>e.g. typing "human rights" site:http://www.un.org/en into Google searches the United Nations website for pages including the phrase "human rights".</p> <p>Searching for "public transport" site:www.smh.com.au will find news stories about public transport published in the Sydney Morning Herald.</p>

To limit your results to a particular type of file.

Limiter	How it works
.pdf	<p>Add .pdf to your search to limit your results to PDF documents.</p> <p>e.g. "mental health" .pdf</p>
.ppt	<p>Add .ppt to your search to limit your results to PowerPoint presentations.</p> <p>e.g. "youth culture" .ppt</p>
.mp3	<p>Add .mp3 to your search to limit your results to audio files.</p> <p>e.g. "telephone etiquette" .mp3</p>
.mp4	<p>Add .mp4 to your search to limit your results to video files.</p> <p>e.g. "drug abuse" .mp4 returns videos on drug abuse.</p>

To limit your results by date.

Limiter	How it works
before:	Use the limiter before: to limit your search to webpages updated before a particular year. e.g. before:2015 guns AND "public attitude"
after:	Use the limiter after: to limit your search to webpages updated after a particular year. e.g. after:2019 "interest rates" site:.au

Google Advanced Search

You can also use Google Advanced Search to refine your search and help you find better results.

Go to: https://www.google.com/advanced_search

or simply search Google for "Advanced Search".

Advanced Search allows you to:

- Combine search terms
- Select where you want your search terms to appear on a page, for example, in the title or in the text
- Search by date
- Search by country/region
- Search by language
- Limit your search to a single domain – e.g. .edu, .org or.gov
- Search for a specific file type

If you need help searching the internet for information please contact your local TAFE NSW Library.

You can find our contact details at <https://tafensw.libguides.com/contacts>