




Search Tips

Few people use Google to its full potential. Below are tips that will help you obtain more accurate results and dramatically improve the quality and accuracy of your searches in Google. Give it a try and see the difference!

All examples below use the **Google Advanced Search Engine**. You can access it by visiting www.google.com and clicking on settings at the bottom right- Advanced search. You can also access it on the results page from this icon at the top right: 

1. The Advanced Search uses the STRINGS: AND, NOT, and OR.

Advanced Search

| Find pages with... | | To do this in the search box |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| all these words: | <input type="text"/> | Type the important words: tricolor rat terrier |
| this exact word or phrase: | <input type="text"/> | Put exact words in quotes: "rat terrier" |
| any of these words: | <input type="text"/> | Type OR between all the words you want: miniature OR standard |
| none of these words: | <input type="text"/> | Put a minus sign just before words you don't want: -rodent, -"Jack Russell" |
| numbers ranging from: | <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> | Put 2 periods between the numbers and add a unit of measure: 10..35 lb, \$300..\$500, 2010..2011 |

All these words (above picture) allows the **AND** statement (AND is actually not needed in Google since it is inferred when multiple words are put in).

This exact wording or phrase (above picture) allows words to be put together in a **STRING**. In this case Google will look for a string of words that must be together in a website. This is great when looking up an author, movie, quote, or for words that must be kept together. **Google Basic Search-** Use quotes around phrase to keep in order. **Example:** "to each his own"

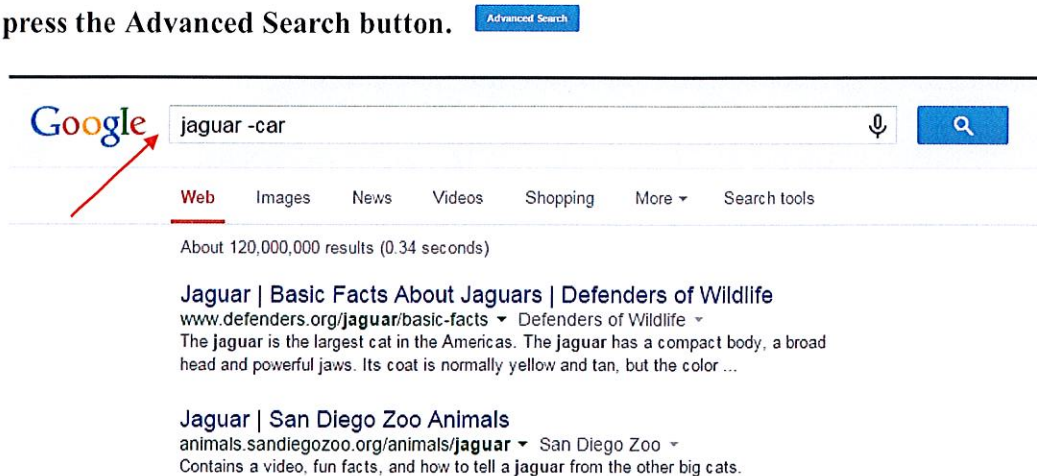
One or more of these words (above picture) this implies an **OR** between the words you want. This is valuable when a researcher wants to look for more than one word but does not want to eliminate a page because all the words cannot be found in a specific page. **Google Basic Search-** Type **OR** between the words you want to include. **Example:** world cup location 2014 OR 2018

None of these words (below picture) allows for the **NOT** statement to be used. This is very useful in eliminating unwanted words and results. **Google Basic Search-** Use the (-) sign to eliminate a word. **Example:** jaguar -car

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| none of these words: | Put a minus sign just before words you don't want: -rodent, -"Jack Russell" |
| numbers ranging from: | Put 2 periods between the numbers and add a unit of measure: 10..35 lb, \$300..\$500, 2010..2011 |

2. The Advanced Search displays how the search would look in a Basic Search after you press the Advanced Search button.



The screenshot shows a Google search for "jaguar -car". A red arrow points to the search bar. Below the search bar, the "Web" tab is selected. The results show "About 120,000,000 results (0.34 seconds)". The top results are for "Jaguar | Basic Facts About Jaguars | Defenders of Wildlife" and "Jaguar | San Diego Zoo Animals".

Note in the picture above that a search is being made for the jaguar the animal not the car.

3. The Advanced Search is able to search for pages in any language (below picture). What an awesome way to explore a foreign language you are studying or get primary resources on an event from the source country! You can then enter the website for translation. Translation is usually found at the top of the website.

Then narrow your results by...

language:

any language

Find pages in the language you select.

4. The Advanced Search allows you to search by file type (below picture). This means you can find PowerPoints, Google Earth files, spreadsheets, PDF files, Flash files, Word files, etc.

Google Basic Search- use the following search string: **"global warming" filetype:ppt** (this search string would return PowerPoint presentations on global warming).

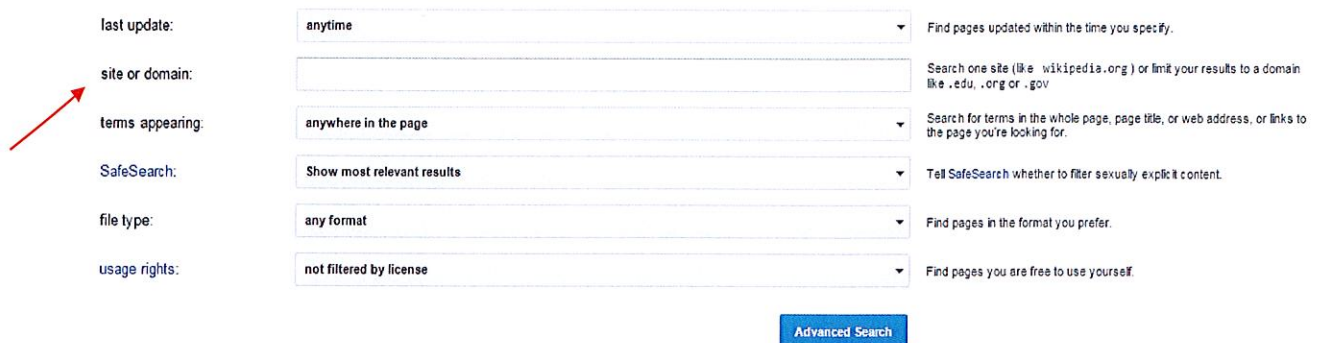


A screenshot of the Google Advanced Search interface. A red arrow points to the 'file type:' dropdown menu, which is set to 'any format'. Other filters include 'SafeSearch: Show most relevant results' and 'usage rights: not filtered by license'. A blue 'Advanced Search' button is at the bottom right.

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| SafeSearch: | Show most relevant results | Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content. |
| file type: | any format | Find pages in the format you prefer. |
| usage rights: | not filtered by license | Find pages you are free to use yourself. |

Advanced Search

5. The Advanced Search allows you to search inside of a website or domain (below picture). This can be useful for limiting a search to a .gov or .edu, or possibly to a specific website such as **nasa.gov**, **youtube.com**, or **census.gov**.



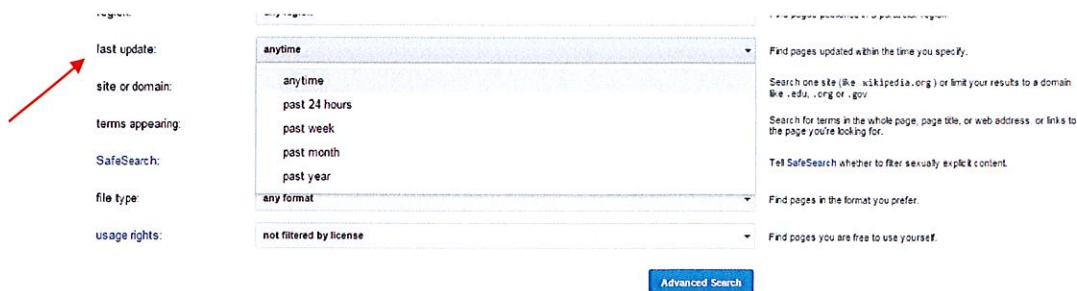
A screenshot of the Google Advanced Search interface. A red arrow points to the 'site or domain:' text input field. Other filters include 'last update: anytime', 'terms appearing: anywhere in the page', 'SafeSearch: Show most relevant results', 'file type: any format', and 'usage rights: not filtered by license'. A blue 'Advanced Search' button is at the bottom right.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| last update: | anytime | Find pages updated within the time you specify. |
| site or domain: | | Search one site (like wikipedia.org) or limit your results to a domain like .edu, .org or .gov |
| terms appearing: | anywhere in the page | Search for terms in the whole page, page title, or web address, or links to the page you're looking for. |
| SafeSearch: | Show most relevant results | Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content. |
| file type: | any format | Find pages in the format you prefer. |
| usage rights: | not filtered by license | Find pages you are free to use yourself. |

Advanced Search

Google Basic Search- use the following search string: **"global warming" site:.gov** (this search would display government sites on global warming)

6. Advanced Search can return results according to date (below picture). This is very valuable for finding timely information. You may want to use this feature for looking up a current event or breaking news story. Remember, the default is (**anytime**). This is not available in the Google Basic search box.



A screenshot of the Google Advanced Search interface. A red arrow points to the 'last update:' dropdown menu, which is open and shows options: 'anytime', 'past 24 hours', 'past week', 'past month', and 'past year'. Other filters include 'site or domain:', 'terms appearing:', 'SafeSearch: Show most relevant results', 'file type: any format', and 'usage rights: not filtered by license'. A blue 'Advanced Search' button is at the bottom right.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| last update: | anytime | Find pages updated within the time you specify. |
| site or domain: | | Search one site (like wikipedia.org) or limit your results to a domain like .edu, .org or .gov |
| terms appearing: | | Search for terms in the whole page, page title, or web address, or links to the page you're looking for. |
| SafeSearch: | Show most relevant results | Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content. |
| file type: | any format | Find pages in the format you prefer. |
| usage rights: | not filtered by license | Find pages you are free to use yourself. |

Advanced Search

7. Advanced Search finds websites from various regions of the world (below picture). This part of the search engine allows you to look up web pages published in a specific region or country. This technique is great for current events, allowing the searcher to get information from the country of origin. You can compare and contrast the same news story coming from two different areas or regions. You can study a subject, such as the American Revolution, from a British, French, Russian, or United States perspective. What is Russia's take on the Space Race, Cuba's thoughts on the Bay of Pigs, or China's research on Global Warming? **Google Basic Search-** use the following search string: **"global warming" site:.cn** (this would show sites from China that discuss global warming)

Then narrow your results by...

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| language: | any language | Find pages in the language you select. |
| region: | any region | Find pages published in a particular region. |
| last update: | any region | Find pages updated within the time you specify. |
| site or domain: | any region | Search one site (like wikipedia.org) or limit your results to a domain like .edu, .org or .gov |
| terms appearing: | any region | Search for terms in the whole page, page title, or web address, or links to the page you're looking for. |
| SafeSearch: | any region | Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content. |
| file type: | any region | Find pages in the format you prefer. |
| usage rights: | not filtered by license | Find pages you are free to use yourself. |

8. Advanced Search allows you to look up information in a numeric range (below picture). Perhaps a researcher wishes to search between a set number of years, such as **1800-1900**. Specifying a dollar amount such as **\$250 – \$500** or searching for a distance range **10 miles – 100 miles** could be valuable in finding needed information. **Google Basic Search-** use the following search string: **apple iPhone \$100..\$300** (this would find sites that have iphones priced between \$100-\$300).

none of these words:

numbers ranging from:

to

Put a minus sign just before words you don't want:
-rodent, -"Jack Russell"

Put 2 periods between the numbers and add a unit of measure:
10..35 lb, \$300..\$500, 2010..2011

Guide Adapted from: <http://novemberlearning.com/blog/2011/04/10/twelve-reasons-to-teach-searching-techniques-with-google-advanced-search-even-before-using-the-basic-search/>