



Tips and tricks - Advanced Google searching

Keywords vs phrases

Use quotation marks to search for keywords next to each other. Searching for two keywords will find websites that use both words somewhere on the page. By adding quotation marks your results list will only include websites where these two words appear next to each other.

e.g. youth services or "youth services"

youth services results - 123,000,000 websites

"youth services" results - 6,540,000 websites

Using operators

Operators give greater control of the search.

- OR** Retrieve results for similar words. e.g. **marathon OR race** will return websites that include either word.

- Exclude unwanted words by adding a minus sign before the unwanted word. Do not leave a space e.g. **salsa -dance** will return websites about the food salsa and exclude websites about dance.

- * An asterisk indicates an unknown word. Google will try to fill the gap e.g. **an * a day** returns websites including an apple a day, an egg a day, an hour a day

- # Search for trending topics using a hashtag e.g. **#mentalhealth** returns websites for organisations, infographics and current campaigns on mental health.

- related:** Find similar websites. Do not leave a space e.g. **related:www.sane.org** returns websites for Beyond Blue, Headspace and Black Dog Institute.

Using limits

Limits allow the search to be narrowed.

Retrieve results from a particular domain.

- site:** Adding **site:au** will return Australian websites.
- site:** Adding **site:gov** will return websites for government departments and agencies.
- site:** Adding **site:edu** will return websites associated with educational institutions including university research programs.
- site:** Adding **site:org** will return websites for organisations. Charitable organizations like the Red Cross, Benevolent Society and Wesley Mission use a .org domain

Retrieve results from a particular website.

- site:** Adding **site:www.smh.com.au**
e.g. "**public transport**" **site:www.smh.com.au** returns news stories about public transport published in the Sydney Morning Herald.
- site:** Adding **site:http://www.un.org/en**
e.g. "**human rights**" **site:http://www.un.org/en** searches the United Nations website for human rights.

Limit results to a particular type of file.

- .pdf** Adding .pdf returns PDF documents. Many reports, fact sheets and articles are uploaded to the internet as PDF files.
e.g. "**mental health**" **.pdf**
- .ppt** Adding .ppt returns PowerPoint presentations. This can be useful for finding an overview on a topic.
e.g. "**youth culture**" **.ppt** returns PowerPoint presentations on youth culture.
- .mp4** Adding .mp4 returns video files.
e.g. "**drug abuse**" **.mp4** returns videos on drug abuse.