

# Smart searching on Google, complete guide

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Let's go searching!

You can search with Google, but you can also search smart with Google. By properly formulating your search, you can find the information you are looking for better and faster.

The trick is not to score as many hits as possible, but to score as few hits as possible. But then those with the right answer!

## 1. Quotation marks

"xxxxxxx xxx xxxxx"

If you put a query between quotation marks, Google searches the web for pages that contain exactly the same word combination.

## 2. Asteriks

xxxxxxx \* xxxxxxx

With an asterisk \* you create a so-called 'wildcard' in your search. The word (or words) you do not know is placed on the place of the asterisk.

Was it Barack Husam Obama or Barack Hoesein Obama? Then type in: "Barack \* Obama". The asterisk only works in the place of an entire word in a whole sentence.

## 3. Dot dot

xxxxxxx .. xxxxxxx

By using two points (..) you can indicate a range at all kinds of numerical values, such as weights, dates and prices.

For example, you want to know how many boys got the name Noah.

Your search can then look like this: how many boys named Noah 2016 .. 2017

Note: the numbers may not contain spaces, comma's or dots: 20,000 will be 20000.

## 4. Synonyms

~ xxxxxxx

The tilde operator (~) displays the search results, in combination with the synonyms of the keyword.

Imagine: you want to know something about 'computers' and you type ~ computer, then Google also looks for words with the same meaning, such as 'pc', 'laptop' and 'hardware'.

## 5. Specific search

+ xxxxxxx

Google ignores loose numbers and letters and many common words such as 'and', 'it', 'where' and 'how', because they slow down the search without producing a better search result.

If a general word or number is essential for the search, place a plus sign (+) in front of it, or place the whole in quotation marks.

For example, if you want to search for Star Wars, Episode I, your search will look like this: Star Wars, Episode + I or something like "Star Wars, Episode I".

## 6. Ignore words

-xxxxxxx

By using the minus sign (-) you can exclude certain words in your search.

Imagine you are looking for information about sugar, but you do not want to dig through all the sites with recipes that contain a scoop of sugar.

Google than sugar -recipe. As a result, all sites with the word 'recipe' are ignored.

## 7. Search site

keyword site: xxxxxx

Not all sites have their own search function. You can use Google to search all pages of one specific website by entering the desired search term (s), followed by the word 'site:' and the relevant domain name. For example: You are looking for an online job. Your search will look like this: online job site: <https://workathomefuture.com>

Even with sites that do have their own search function, it is worth using the site operator. Google often finds more hits than the search function on the site itself.

To view all indexed pages on your own site type your site:<https://workathomefuture.com>

With the site operator you can also limit your search to a specific domain.

For example:

site: edu searches only on sites of American universities (scientific),

site: mil searches only on sites of the American defense (military)

site: int searches on sites of international organizations (regulations eg EU and UN).

## 8. Search title

intitle: xxxxxx

With the help of the intitle operator you give Google the assignment to search only in the titles of a web page.

For example: the search avoid scams online yields 5,200,000 hits.

The query intitle: avoid scams online only provides 9 sites, namely only those websites that have the word 'avoid scams online' in the title bar.

## **9. Search allintitle**

allintitle: xxxxxx

You can use allintitle: with multiple search terms.

For example: the search allintitle: Kyle and Carson only provides websites that have the name 'Kyle and Carson' in the title bar.

Chances are that these sites for the most part about Kyle and Carson.

## **10. Search inurl**

inurl: xxxxxx

With the inurl operator you give Google the command to display only results with the keyword in the address bar of the website (the url).

## **11. Search allinurl**

allinurl: xxxxxx

The allinurl operator does the same as the inurl operator, but then for multiple search terms.

## **12. Search filetype**

filetype: xxxx

By using the filetype operator you can limit the search to certain document types, such as pdf, doc, ppt etc.

Suppose you are looking for the annual report of a company.

There is a good chance that that annual report will be available as a pdf-file on the website of that company.

Your search can then look like this: company name filetype: pdf

### **13. Define keyword**

define: xxxxxx

With the define operator you ask Google to provide definitions of the specified keyword. So a kind of dictionary.

For example, the search define: affiliate marketing yields the following result:

### **14. Search related**

related: xxxxxx

With the related operator, Google displays related pages from the specified website.

For example: related: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/> provides a list of sites from other government ministries

### **15. Search movie reviews**

movie: xxxxxx

The movie operator collects English reviews of the given movie. For example:

movie: Titanic

### **16. Search links on websites**

link: xxxxxx

By using the link operator you can check which sites have a link to the relevant website or web page.

However, this operator is very unreliable and will not show all the links that Google knows.

### **17. Search between 2 options**

xxxxxx OR xxxxxx

To find pages that contain the search term A or the search term B, use the operator 'OR' (in capital letters) between the search terms (with space).

For example, if you want to search for a holiday in Amsterdam or Rome, enter the following: Holiday Amsterdam OR Rome.

## 18. Search stocks

stocks: xxxxxx

With the stock operator you ask Google to provide information about the stock exchange listings and the shares of companies and companies. For example: stocks: AEX

## 19. Search cache

cache: xxxxxx

Google stores a copy of each web page (a cache). With the cache operator you can retrieve the last saved version of a web page.

When you enter additional keywords, they will appear in bold and in a striking color on the cached page.

## 20. Search info

info: xxxxxx

With this operator you will find all kinds of information about a particular site. For example, the search info: [www.wealthyaffiliate.com](http://www.wealthyaffiliate.com) provides information about websites that show similarities with the WA-site, shows sites that link to info: [www.wealthyaffiliate.com](http://www.wealthyaffiliate.com), shows all pages of the WA-site and shows sites in which the term info: [www.wealthyaffiliate.com](http://www.wealthyaffiliate.com) occurs.

## 21. Search Hashtags

#xxxxxxx

Put # in front of a word. For example: #wealthyaffiliate

## 22. Search Social Media

@xxxxxxx

Put @ in front of a word to search social media. For example: @facebook and @twitter and Google will direct you to their homepage.