

# GOOGLE SEARCH SYNTAX

When you search using an operator, don't add any spaces between the operator and your query. A search for `site:nytimes.com` will work, but `site: nytimes.com` will not.

**Search for an exact word or phrase**  
*"search query"*

Use quotes to search for an exact word or set of words. This option is handy when searching for song lyrics or a line from literature.  
"imagine all the people"

**Tip:** Only use this if you're looking for a very precise word or phrase, because otherwise you could be excluding helpful results by mistake.

**Exclude a word**  
*-query*

Add a dash (-) before a word or site to exclude all results that include that word. This is especially useful for synonyms like Jaguar the car brand and jaguar the animal.

`jaguar speed -car OR pandas -site:wikipedia.org`

**Tip:** You can also exclude results based on other operators, like excluding all results from a specific site.

**Search within a site or domain**  
*site:query*

If you are looking for more results from a certain website, include `site:` in your query. For example, you can find all mentions of "olympics" on the New York Times website like this:

`olympics site:nytimes.com`

**Tip:** Also search within a specific top-level domain like `.org` or `.edu` or country top-level domain like `.de` or `.jp`.  
`olympics site:.gov`

**Search for pages that link to a URL**  
*link:query*

Using the `link:` operator, you can find pages that link to a certain page. For example, you can find all the pages that link to `google.com`.

`link:google.com`

**Tip:** You can also search for links to specific pages, like `google.com/images`.  
`link:google.com/images`

**Search for pages that are similar to a URL**  
*related:query*

To find sites that are similar to a URL you already know, use the `related:` operator. For example, when you search for related sites to the New York Times, you'll find other news publication sites you may be interested in.

`related:nytimes.com`

**Include a "fill in the blank"**  
*query \* query*

Use an asterisk (\*) within a query as a placeholder for any unknown or wildcard terms. Use with quotation marks to find variations of that exact phrase or to remember words in the middle of a phrase.  
"a \* saved is a \* earned"

**Search for** If you want to search for pages that may have just one of several

words, include OR (capitalized) between the words. Without the OR, your results would typically show only pages that match both terms.

**either word**

*query OR query*

world cup location 2014 OR 2018

**Tip:** Enclose phrases in quotes to search for either one of several phrases.

"world cup location 2014" OR "world cup location 2018"

Separate numbers by two periods without spaces (..) to see results that contain numbers in a given range of things like dates, prices, and measurements.

**Search for a number range**

*number..number*

camera \$50..\$100

**Tip:** Use only one number with the two periods to indicate an upper maximum or a lower minimum.

daytona 500 winners ..2000

## Exceptions

Most search rules have exceptions to accommodate the ways that people commonly search. For example, Google will show calculator results for the query 34 \* 87 rather than interpreting the asterisk as the "fill in the blanks" operator. In general, most punctuation and special characters are ignored, however there is a growing list of that are recognized in searches.

Explore Google's [search tips and tricks](#) to help you get information and answers faster.