

## Search Tools: Summary and Comparison of Commands

The table below summarises and compares a selection of the advanced search commands that are available in Google, Bing and DuckDuckGo.

A list of Google's advanced search operators compiled by Dan Russell (works at Google) can be found at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ydVaJJeL1EYbWtlfj9TPfBTE5IBADkQfZrQaBZxqXGs/>  
(updated August 2019).

DuckDuckGo's syntax is at <https://duck.co/help/results/syntax> .

	<b>Google</b> <a href="http://www.google.com">www.google.com</a>	<b>Bing</b> <a href="http://www.bing.com">www.bing.com</a>	<b>DuckDuckGo</b> <a href="http://duckduckgo.com/">http://duckduckgo.com/</a>
<b>Default search</b>	Automatically looks for synonyms and variations on your terms. Drops words from your search if the number of results is low or zero.	Automatically looks for synonyms and variations on your term. Drops words from your search if the number of results is low or zero.	All of your words.
<b>Wild card or truncation</b>	Not user specified. Google automatically looks for variations and synonyms. (But see Proximity and asterisk below).	Not user specified. Automatically looks for synonyms and variations.	No
<b>Alternative terms or variations</b>	Use OR for example <code>oil OR petroleum</code>	Use OR for example <code>oil OR petroleum</code>	Use OR for example <code>oil OR petroleum</code>
<b>Suggests other search strategies and related terms</b>	Suggests searches as you type. Also offers related searches at the bottom of your results page.	Suggests searches as you type in your search. 'Related Searches' at the bottom or to the right of your results page.	Suggests searches as you type.
<b>Phrases</b>	"..." for example <code>"climate change"</code> [sometimes ignored by Google]	"..." for example <code>"climate change"</code> [sometimes ignored by Bing]	"..." for example <code>"climate change"</code>
<b>Proximity</b>	Use the asterisk to stand in for one or more words in a phrase for example <code>solar * panels</code>	No	No
<b>Exclude pages with a word</b>	Precede words with a minus sign (-) For example <code>cabbage -red</code>	Precede words with a minus sign (-) or use NOT For example <code>cabbage -red</code> <code>cabbage NOT red</code>	Precede words with a minus sign (-) For example <code>cabbage -red</code>
<b>Boost importance of a term</b>	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search – sometimes changes the order of the results.	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search – sometimes changes the order of the results.	
<b>Word in URL:</b>	<code>inurl:</code> for example <code>inurl:chocolate</code>	No	No
<b>Word in title</b>	<code>intitle:</code> for example <code>intitle:petroleum</code>	<code>intitle:</code> for example <code>intitle:petroleum</code>	<code>intitle:</code> or <code>t:</code> for example <code>intitle:petroleum</code>

	<b>Google</b> <a href="http://www.google.com">www.google.com</a>	<b>Bing</b> <a href="http://www.bing.com">www.bing.com</a>	<b>DuckDuckGo</b> <a href="http://duckduckgo.com/">http://duckduckgo.com/</a>
<b>Word in the text of the page</b>	<code>intext:</code> ensures that an exact match of your term appears in the text of the page for example <code>intext:penryn</code> [sometimes ignored by Google]	<code>inbody:</code> ensures that an exact match of your term appears in the text of the page. For example <code>inbody:penryn</code>	<code>inbody:</code> or <code>b:</code> ensures that an exact match of your term appears in the text of the page. For example <code>inbody:penryn</code>
<b>Specify part of domain or limit by web site</b>	<code>site:</code> looks for your terms on a specific site or type of site. For example <code>UK carbon emissions site:www.gov.uk</code>	<code>site:</code> looks for your terms on a specific site or type of site. For example <code>UK carbon emissions site:www.gov.uk</code>	<code>site:</code> looks for your terms on a specific site or type of site. For example <code>UK carbon emissions site:www.gov.uk</code>
<b>Similar pages</b>	<code>related:</code> looks for pages or sites that are similar in content. For example <code>related:http://www.cilip.org.uk/</code>	No	No
<b>File type or format</b>	<code>filetype:</code> Looks for files in the specified format. For example <code>fracking licences filetype:pdf</code>	<code>filetype:</code> Looks for files in the specified format. For example <code>frackinglicences filetype:pdf</code>	<code>filetype:</code> Looks for files in the specified format. For example <code>fracking licences filetype:pdf</code>
<b>Search by date</b>	On the results page click on 'Tools' in the menu above the results, then 'Any time' and select a time period or specify a custom range. Alternatively use <code>before:YYYY/MM/DD</code> and/or <code>after:YYYY/MM/DD</code> , for example <code>uk general election after:2017/06/01 before:2017/08/31</code>	Top of the results page 'Any time' option.	'Any Time' option above the search results. Only goes up to the past month.
<b>Definitions</b>	<code>define</code> finds definitions and synonyms of words, for example <code>define citrine</code> . Also provides information on the origin of a word, use over time and translations. (No colon is required after 'define'.)	<code>define</code> finds definitions and synonyms of words, for example <code>define citrine</code> . Also provides information on the origin of a word and translations. (No colon is required after 'define'.)	<code>define</code> finds definitions of words or phrases, for example <code>define citrine</code>
<b>Limit by geography</b>	Country versions of Google but now has to be done via Settings, Advanced Search. Scroll down to "Then narrow your results by..." You may need to change to the relevant language as well. Alternatively append <code>&amp;cr=countryXX</code> to the URL of your search, where XX is the 2 letter country code	Country version of Bing. Go to Settings, Country/Region and select the country from the list.	<code>region:</code> or <code>r:</code> followed by two letter country code for example <code>region:de</code> or use the drop down menu on the left above the results.
<b>Boolean</b>	OR between terms to search for alternatives	No longer offers Boolean	Not available

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<b>Cached copy</b>	Click on the green arrow next to the URL of a page in the results list and select 'Cached', or search using <code>cache:</code> for example <code>cache:rba.co.uk</code>	Click on the green arrow next to the URL of a page in the results list and select 'Cached'	No
<b>Unique features</b>	<p>Numeric range search for example  electric vehicle production forecast 2020..2030</p> <p>Verbatim to force Google to search for all of your terms exactly as you typed them in. On a desktop/laptop, run your search and from the options across the top of the results page select 'Tools'. From the second row of options that appears select 'All results' followed by Verbatim. The location of Verbatim on mobile devices varies.</p> <p>Additional search options in the menus at the top of the results pages.</p>	<p><code>feed:</code> looks for an RSS or Atom feed related to your search term for example  <code>feed:gardening</code></p> <p>Additional search options in the menus at the top of the results pages.</p>	No tracking, no personalisation or "filter bubble"