

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 Google's own Dan Russell can be found at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ydVaJJeL1EYbWtlfj9TPfBTE5IBADkQfZrQaBZxqXGs/>.

There is a full list of Bing's commands at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff795620.aspx>.

DuckDuckGo's syntax is at <http://help.duckduckgo.com/customer/portal/articles/300304-syntax>.

	Google www.google.com	Bing www.bing.com	DuckDuckGo http://duckduckgo.com/
Default search	Automatically looks for synonyms and variations on your terms. Drops words from your search if the number of results is low or zero.	All of your words	All of your words
Wild card or truncation	Not user specified. Google automatically looks for variations and synonyms.	No	No
Alternative terms or variations	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>
Suggests other search strategies and related terms	Suggests additional terms as you type in your search. Also offers related searches at the bottom of your results page.	Suggests additional terms as you type in your search. 'Related Searches' to the right of your web search results.	Sometimes suggests Related Topics
Phrases	"..." for example "climate change"	"..." for example "climate change"	"..." for example "climate change"
Proximity	Use the asterisk to stand in for one or more words in a phrase for example <code>solar * panels</code>	<code>near:n</code> For example <code>solar near:2 panels</code>	No
Exclude pages with a word	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>
Boost importance of a term	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search. Also changes the order of the results.	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search. Also changes the order of the results.	
Word in URL:	<code>inurl:</code> for example <code>inurl:chocolate</code>	No	No
Word in title	<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>
Word in the text	<code>intext:</code> ensures that an exact match of your term appears in the text of the page for example <code>intext:parrot</code>	<code>inbody:</code> ensures that an exact match of your term appears in the text of the page. For example <code>inbody:parrot</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:parrot</code>

<http://www.rba.co.uk/search/compare.shtml>

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	Google www.google.com	Bing www.bing.com	DuckDuckGo http://duckduckgo.com/
Specify part of domain or limit by web site	site: looks for your terms on a specific site or type of site. For example UK carbon emissions site:gov.uk	site: looks for your terms on a specific site or type of site. For example UK carbon emissions site:gov.uk	site: looks for your terms on a specific site or type of site. For example UK carbon emissions site:gov.uk
Similar pages	related: looks for pages or sites that are similar in content. For example related:www.apis.ac.uk	No	No
File type or format	filetype: Looks for files in the specified format. For example fracking licences 2015 filetype:pdf	filetype: Looks for files in the specified format. For example fracking licences 2015 filetype:pdf	filetype: Looks for files in the specified format. For example fracking licences 2015 filetype:pdf
Search by date	On the results page click on 'Search tools' in the menu above the results, then 'Any time' and select a time period or specify a custom range. daterange: Uses Julian date format for example daterange:2456098-2456104 Date convertor available at http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/JulianDate.php/	Top of the results page 'Any time' option.	No.
Definitions	define finds definitions and synonyms of words, for example define permaculture. Also provides information on the origin of a word, use over time and translations. (No colon is required after 'define'.)	define finds definitions and synonyms of words, for example define permaculture. Also provides information on the origin of a word, use over time and translations. (No colon is required after 'define'.)	define finds definitions of words, for example define permaculture.
Limit by geography	Country versions of Google	loc: followed by two letter country code for example loc:de	region: or r: followed by two letter country code for example region:de
Boolean	OR	AND, OR, NOT and parentheses ().	AND, OR and parentheses ().
Cached copy	Click on the green arrow next to the URL of a page in the results list and select 'Cached', or search using cache: for example cache:rba.co.uk	Click on the green arrow next to the URL of a page in the results list and select 'Cached'	No

	Google www.google.com	Bing www.bing.com	DuckDuckGo http://duckduckgo.com/
Unique features	<p>Numeric range search for example toblerone 1..5 kg</p> <p>daterange: (uses Julian date format – see above)</p> <p>Additional search options in the menus at the top of the results pages.</p>	<p>feed: looks for an RSS or Atom feed related to your search term for example feed:gardening</p> <p>linkfromdomain: finds all the outbound links on a domain for example linkfromdomain:rba.co.uk</p> <p>Additional search options in the menus at the top of the results pages.</p>	<p>No tracking, no personalisation or “filter bubble”</p>