

Title:

How to Find What You Want with Google

Word Count:

961

Summary:

Did you know you can make Google find what you're looking for even more accurately than it normally does?

Keywords:

google, search engines, ask jeeves, yahoo, msn, altavista

Article Body:

Most people who search on the internet have a favorite search engine. In fact, the majority of people use Google.

Do you fall into this category? If so, are you taking advantage of everything Google offers?

If an internet search means you go to www.google.com and simply type 2 or 3 words into the search box, you're not taking advantage of everything Google offers.

How Can You Get Better Results?

Google is the number one search engine for good reason - their results are generally the most accurate.

You have two options when it comes to fine-tuning your searches - you can use the Google Advanced Search page or you can use the Google Custom Search page.

Option 1: Google Advanced Search

When you go to www.google.com, there is a little "Advanced Search" link to the right of the main search box.

The first four sections, highlighted in blue, are some of the most important. Here you can specify exactly what you want to search for.

All of the words - this will give you results with all of your search words, but not in any particular order.

The exact phrase - this will give you results with exactly the phrase you enter. The phrase must be in quotes.

At least one of the words - this will show results with any one or more of your search words.

Without the words - this will give you results that don't include your search terms at all.

These four sections can be used independently or combined to work together.

For example, you could search for the exact phrase 'free virus software' without the words 'tr'.

As another example, you could use option #3 (at least one of the words) if you're looking for free virus software.

The rest of the sections on the Advanced Search page are pretty self-explanatory. One that I would like to mention is the "Advanced Search" link.

If you've found an interesting website that doesn't have a search function of its own, you can use the Google Custom Search page to search for more information.

You can also use it to find other references to something you might have read on a particular website.

Option 2: Using Modifiers

Modifiers will let you use all the advanced features without having to go to the Advanced Search page.

There are quite a few different modifiers that can be used, but some of the most useful are as follows:

Putting "" around a phrase will search for the exact phrase. Searching for free antivirus software will search for free antivirus software.

Putting a - before a word is the same as the advanced option "without the words." So, to use t
Using site: followed by the domain name of the website you want to search will only return res

Again, these can be combined so -site: will return results from any site except the one you sp
How to Figure Out the Modifiers

The easiest way to see how to use modifiers in your searches is to try some searches with the
Using our example again, if you enter 'free antivirus software' in the "with the exact phrase"
"free virus software" -trial -tryout

If you play around a bit with the advanced searches, you'll see how Google formats them for yo
Once you get the hang of these options in Google, you'll find that your searches get even more

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