

SEARCH ENGINE CHEAT SHEET



Short Cuts in
Navigating the Internet

by Abel Alvarez for KCS Members

Search Operators are the Shortcut

Search operators are characters (text and symbols) or a string of characters that finely narrow down a search to become very specific and relevant. Below are examples of the most popular types and how to use them.

Symbol	How to use it
+	Search for Google+ pages or blood types Examples: +Chrome or AB+
@	Find social tags Example: @googler
\$	Find prices Example: nikon \$400
#	Find popular hashtags for trending topics Example: #throwbackthursday
-	When you use a dash before a word or site, it excludes sites with that info from your results. This is useful for words with multiple meanings, like Jaguar the car brand and jaguar the animal. Examples: jaguar speed -car or pandas -site:wikipedia.org
"	When you put a word or phrase in quotes, the results will only include pages with the same words in the same order as the ones inside the quotes. Only use this if you're looking for an exact word or phrase, otherwise you'll exclude many helpful results by mistake. Example: "imagine all the people"
*	Add an asterisk as a placeholder for any unknown or wildcard terms. . Example: "a * saved is a * earned"
..	Separate numbers by two periods without spaces to see results that contain numbers in a range. Example: camera \$50..\$100
site:	Get results from certain sites or domains. Examples: olympics site:nbc.com and olympics site:.gov
link:	Find pages that link to a certain page. Example: link:youtube.com
related:	Find sites that are similar to a web address you already know. Example: related:time.com
OR	Find pages that might use one of several words. Example: marathon OR race
info:	Get information about a web address, including the cached version of the page, similar pages, and pages that link to the site. Example: info:google.com
cache:	See what a page looks like the last time Google visited the site. Example: cache:washington.edu

Source: Google > Search Help > Search operators <https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/2466433?hl=en>

My Top 3 Search Operators

Favorite #1

" When you put a word or phrase in quotes, the results will only include pages with the same words in the same order as the ones inside the quotes. Only use this if you're looking for an exact word or phrase, otherwise you'll exclude many helpful results by mistake.
Example: "imagine all the people"

This is the one that focuses the lens. I originally started using this as a way to find plagiarism. Today, I use this technique for quickly retrieving facts for things like names of songs - if I type in lyrics from a song ... "was a rolling stone" – search will result in – "The Temptations, album All Directions, 1972"

I can find the creative works of authors by quoting their name, or tidbits from the title of a book, or by placing quotes around the pieces of the writing itself ... "there were no more worlds to conquer" – search will result in – "Hans Gruber, Die Hard, 1988"

Ok. So it's not a bullet-proof method. But it'll help you get the job done. You can use it for finding people too ... "donald trump, manhattan"

Favorite #2

site: Get results from certain sites or domains.
Examples: **olympics site:nbc.com** and **olympics site:.gov**

Using site: allows me to search through a website's pages fast, particularly if it's an advertisement heavy type of website that tends to bog my computer down (I.E. make my computer run slowly, crash, or crash my web-browser)

Get ready to make magic when you combine both search operators in the same search together.

" and **site:** Examples: "olympics" **site:nbc.com** and "olympics" **site:.gov**

Click on any search operator example below in blue to see it work in action

"back pain" in quotes is optional	site:webmd.com back pain
Find free PDF reports or eBooks	site:rd.com filetype:pdf
Free online university course access	site:.edu "free online course"
Published scientific data	site:.gov "lower blood pressure"

Favorite #3

related: Find sites that are similar to a web address you already know.

Example: `related:time.com`

I've found that using this technique can retrieve highly relevant results for a specific genre. It subtly breaks-down search into categories rather than just searching broadly. Results usually return with high traffic, highly ranked websites.

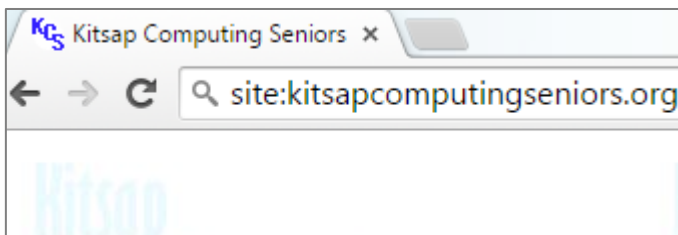
Fun Facts

Type these words into your search bar, press enter and see what your search engine reveals back to you...

- kitsap weather
- calculator
- seattle seahawks
- define supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

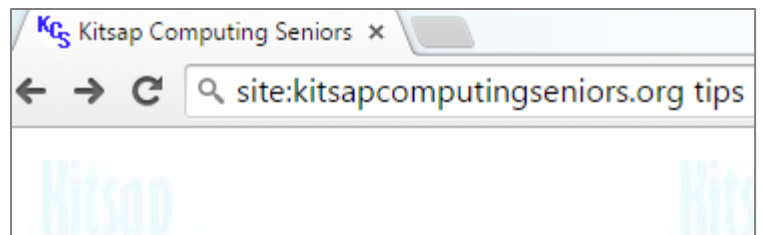
Processes You Can Implement Right Away

The next time you do a web search, try two approaches. For the first, type your search the way you normally would and press enter. For the second, simply place quotation marks around your search term, and press enter. Note the difference between the amount of results that return for each search and compare the relevancy between the two.



For this next process, go to your favorite website and type the search operator **site:** in front of the website's name (in the web-browser address bar) then press enter. *See what happens*

Then in the same web-browser address bar type in a search term behind the website URL. *Congratulations* - You have successfully searched through your favorite website for the search term you were seeking info about.



Use any combination of search operators together or separately and develop a process of your own that you can use each and every time you log on to search for information. These short cuts can shave minutes to hours off of the amount of time it might normally take you to search for something. Now you can spend less time on the computer and more time doing the things you love.