

How to Search Information on the Internet?

The internet has billions of pages; you need to be efficient if you're seeking some specific information. So where do you start? Searching the Web requires part skill, part luck and a little bit of art. There are many search engines such as Yahoo!, Google, and Bing. The trick is understanding how they work so you can use the right one for the job.

Search engines break down into two types: **directories** and **indexes**.

Directories, such as [Yahoo!](#), are good at identifying general information. They classify websites into **categories**, such as accounting firms, English universities, Science museums etc. The results of your search will be a list of websites related to your search term (the web site is devoted to one category). For example, if you are looking for a science web site, you might use a directory to find it.

But what if you want *specific information*, such as biographical information about Leonardo da Vinci?

Web **indexes** are the way to go, because they search all the **contents** (words) of a website.

Indexes like [Google](#) and [Bing](#) identify the text on individual pages of a website that match your search criteria, even if the site itself has nothing to do with what you are looking for. Be ready to get a lot of irrelevant information too.



[Ask.com](#) search engine is aimed at **answering questions**. You can ask your question in plain English. By typing a question like "Who invented the telephone?" you will get a list of related pages.

Even better version for you is [Askkids.com](#)

[Dogpile.com](#) is a metasearch engine that fetches results from [Google](#), [Yahoo!](#), [Bing](#), [Ask.com](#), [About.com](#) and several other popular search engines, including those from audio and video content providers.

Refining Your Search

Because there is so much information online, usually you will want to limit the scope of your searches. How do you do this?

The English mathematician [George Boole](#) developed an algebra of logic that has become the basis for computer database searches. Boolean logic uses words called operators to determine whether a statement is true or false. The most common operators are **AND**, **OR** and **NOT (CAPITAL LETTERS!!!)**.

These three little words can be enormously helpful when doing online searches. A few examples show why.

| Searching... | Results in... |
|----------------------|---|
| cable AND car | Documents with both words |
| cable OR car | The greatest amount of matches; documents with either word |
| cable NOT car | Documents about cable, but not about cable cars; a good way to limit the search. |

Phrase Searching

When using search terms that contain more than one word, enclosing them in **quotation marks (" ")**, returns documents containing the *exact phrase only*. Here's an example: When searching for information on car break system, using "**car break**" eliminates documents that contain the words **car** and **break**, but not in that order; possibly in entirely different paragraphs and maybe not even relating to the topic of car break.

Remember, all search tools are not alike. Each uses a slightly different methodology, so your results will vary. You may not always find what you're looking for on the first try.

**It's not what you know,
but knowing how to find the information you need.**

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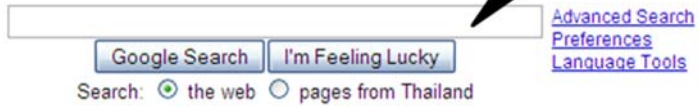
What are you looking for?

Web [Images](#) [News](#) [Groups](#) [Scholar](#) [Gmail](#) [more](#) ▾

Are you looking for
Pictures,
News,
Topic (subject)
Education / Books
etc.



Search for data /
general web pages



Do you want information from
Thailand only or the whole world?

Think how the page you are looking for will be written.

A search engine is not a human; it is a program that matches the words you give to pages on the web.

Use the words that are most likely to appear on the page.

For example, instead of saying [my head hurts], say [headache].

The query [in what country are bats considered an omen of good luck?]

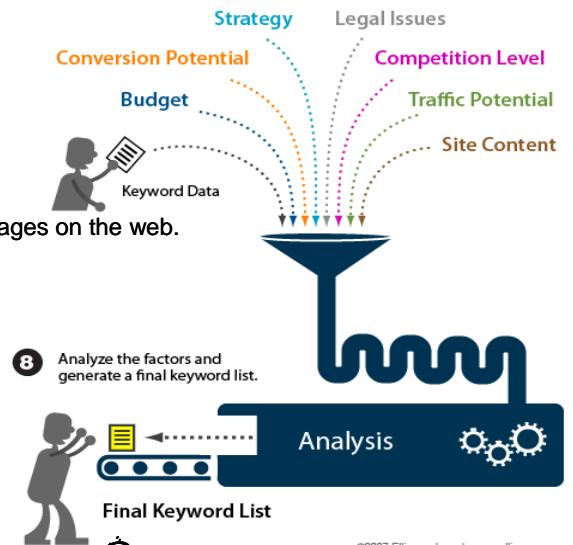
Search for [bats good luck], because that is probably what the right page will say.

Use only important words (key words).

No need words like: if, in, on, about, are, is, they, when, how, why, etc...

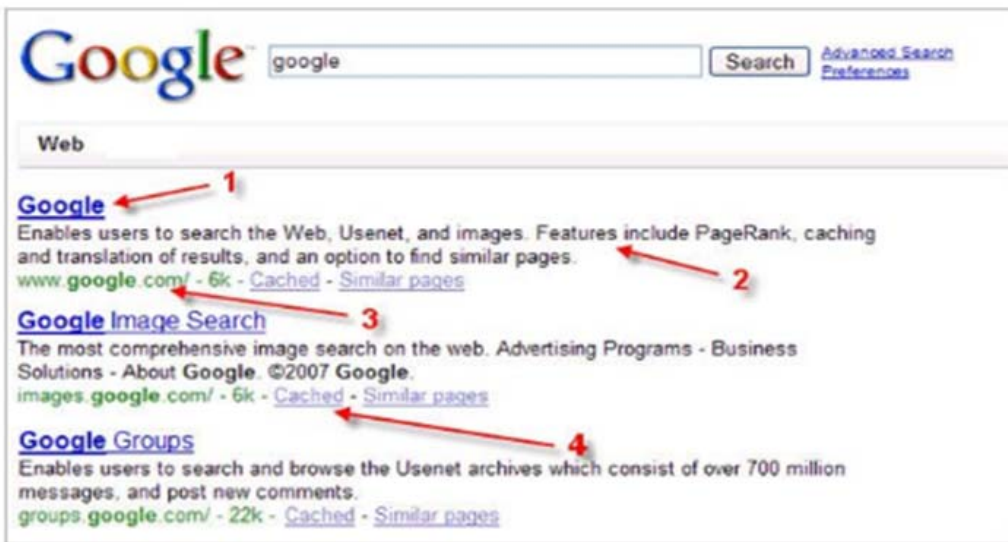
Example: when sir Isaac Newton was born?

Type: newton born




















How to read the search results?

Google's goal is to provide you with results that are clear and easy to read. The diagram below points out four features that are important to understanding the search results page:



1. The title: The first line of any search result is the title of the webpage.
2. The snippet: A description of or an excerpt from the webpage.
3. The URL: The webpage's address.
4. Cached link: A link to an earlier version of this page. Click here if the page you wanted isn't available.

Useful web sites for you!

| <i>Search engines</i> | | <i>Information</i> | |
|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
|  | dogpile.com |  | wikipedia.org |
|  | google.com |  | factmonster.com |
|  | yahoo.com |  | about.com |
|  | bing.com |  | howstuffworks.com |
|  | ask.com |  | infoplease.com |
|  | askkids.com  |  | britannica.com |
| | | | |
| <h2><i>Dictionaries</i></h2> | | | |
|  | translate.google.com |  | thai-language.com |
|  | tradukka.com |  | english-thai-dictionary.com |

For better and safer use of the internet use
Firefox or Google chrome browsers.

