

Search Tools Summary and Comparison

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Bing (formerly Live.com) www.bing.com
Default search	Usually all of your words but Google sometimes only looks for some of your terms.	All of your words	All of your words
Wild card or truncation	Not user specified. Automatically looks for variations and sometimes synonyms.	No	No
Alternative terms or variations	~ for synonym search e.g. ~aspartame Use the Boolean OR	Use the Boolean OR	Use the Boolean OR
Suggests other search strategies and related terms	Google Suggests as you type in your search terms	Suggests alternative searches as you type	Related Searches & Related People on the results page depending on the type of search
Phrases	"..." e.g. "peak oil"	"..." e.g. "peak oil"	"..." e.g. "peak oil"
Proximity	Use the asterisk to stand in for one or more words in a phrase e.g. solar * panels AROUND(n) e.g solar AROUND(2) panels	No	NEAR:n e.g. solar NEAR:2 panels
Exclude pages with a word	Precede words with a minus sign (-)	Precede words with a minus sign (-) or use NOT	Precede words with a minus sign (-) or use NOT
Boost importance of a term	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search	prefer:
Word in URL:	inurl: allinurl:	inurl:	inurl:
Word in title	intitle: allintitle:	intitle:	intitle:
Links to specified URL	link: to find pages that link to a specific page e.g. link:rba.co.uk/sources	link: looks for links to the specified page e.g. link:http://www.rba.co.uk/ linkdomain: looks for links to any page on the site e.g. linkdomain:rba.co.uk	No
Specify part of domain	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site:
Limit by web site	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site:
Similar pages	related:	No	No
File type or format	Advanced Search or use filetype: PDF, DOC, RTF, XLS, PPT, PS, WPD, RSS	Advanced Search PDF, PS, DOC, XLS, PPT, RSS, XML or originurlextension:	filetype:
Search by date	Advanced Search or use the options in the sidebar on your results page.	Advanced Search	No

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Bing (formerly Live.com) www.bing.com
Limit by language	Advanced Search	Advanced Search	language: or use Advanced Search
Limit by geography	Country versions of Google	Advanced Search or region: e.g. region:africa	loc: followed by two letter country code or use Advanced Search
Boolean	OR	AND OR Nesting of Boolean operators using parentheses no longer available.	Availability of Boolean operators erratic. AND, OR, NOT and parentheses ().
Cached copy	Click on the cached link in the preview of the page in the results list next or search using cache: e.g. cache:www.rba.co.uk/sources	Click on the cached link next to the entry in the results list	View "More on this page" for the result in your search and the cache link is at the bottom.
Unique features	Numeric range search e.g. DVD \$100..200 Synonym search (~) Additional search features under Show options on results page	Region command region: followed by one of the following – europe, asia, downunder, africa, centralamerica, northamerica, southamerica, mideast, southeastasia	prefer: contains: for pages that have links to a particular document or file type

Important: Many country version of Yahoo are now using the Bing database for its standard search and give the same results as Bing. Both Bing and Yahoo retain their own commands and interfaces.