

Search Tools Summary and Comparison

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Exalead www.exalead.com/search	Bing (formerly Live.com) www.bing.com	MSE360 www.mse360.com
Default search	All of your words	All of your words	All of your words	All of your words	All of your words
Wild card or truncation	No. Sometimes automatically stems words and looks for variations	No	asterisk *	No	No
Alternative terms or variations	~ for synonym search e.g. ~aspartame Use the Boolean OR	Use the Boolean OR	Phonetic or approximate spelling in Advanced Search, or 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	Yes – on results page	Related Searches & Related People on the results page depending on the type of search	No
Phrases	"..." e.g. "peak oil"	"..." e.g. "peak oil"	"..." 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. climate * change	No	NEAR command looks for words within 16 words of each other. Can specify number of words e.g. NEAR/n where n is a number.	No	No
Must include word	Precede stop words with +, also disables automatic stemming	Precede stop words with +	Precede stop words with +	".." around stop words	
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	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	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search.	prefer:	Precede words with a minus sign (-) or use NOT
Word in URL:	inurl: allinurl:	inurl:	inurl:	inurl:	
Word in title	intitle: allintitle:	intitle:	intitle:	intitle:	intitle:

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Exalead www.exalead.com/search	Bing (formerly Live.com) www.bing.com	MSE360 www.mse360.com
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	link: to search for pages that link to a domain, for example link:rba.co.uk or to a specific page Advanced Search	No	No
Similar pages	related:	No	No	No	No
Specify part of domain	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site:	site: Advanced Search
Limit by web site	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site:	site: Advanced Search
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:	Select from options on the results page or use filetype: followed by PDF, excel, word, powerpoint, TXT, RTF, WPD, RSS, SWF	filetype:	filetype:
Search by date	Advanced Search	Advanced Search	date: For example date:"14/09/2001" or use Advanced Search	No	No
Limit by language	Advanced Search	Advanced Search	language: or use Advanced Search or 'Narrow your Search	language: or use Advanced Search	No
Limit by geography	Country versions of Google	Advanced Search or region: e.g. region:africa	Advanced Search or Narrow your Search	loc: followed by two letter country code or use Advanced Search	Pull down menu next to search box or Advanced Search
Boolean	OR	AND OR Nesting of Boolean operators using parentheses no longer available.	AND OR NOT Boolean operators can be nested using parentheses for more precise searching	Boolean operators erratic and not always active	AND OR NOT Boolean operators can be nested using parentheses for more precise searching

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Exalead www.exalead.com/search	Bing (formerly Live.com) www.bing.com	MSE360 www.mse360.com
Cached copy	Click on the cached link next to the entry in the results list 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 or search on the url of the page	Click on the Preview link on the thumbnail next to the entry in the results list	Click on the cached link next to the entry in the results list or search using url: e.g. url:www.rba.co.uk/sources	
Unique features	Numeric range search e.g. DVD \$100..200 Synonym search (~) define: 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	Phonetic search (unreliable) Approximate spelling (unreliable) Support for wild cards NEAR command Integrated thumbnails preview Narrow your Search by site type (Blog, Forum) OPT operator for optional terms	prefer: contains: for pages that have links to a particular document or file type linkfromdomain: to list all the links from a site	

Important: Starting in February 2010, Yahoo will start using the Bing search engine for its results on the .com version of its site. The change will be rolled out gradually in the other country versions of Yahoo.