

Search Tools Summary and Comparison

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Exalead www.exalead.com www.exalead.co.uk	Live Search www.live.com	Ask www.ask.com www.ask.co.uk
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 * Automatic stemming can be switched on.	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	Suggests alternative searches as you type and on the results page
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	Precede stop words with +
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 (-)
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:	Repeat the term 2 or more times in your search

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Exalead www.exalead.com www.exalead.co.uk	Live Search www.live.com	Ask www.ask.com www.ask.co.uk
Word in URL inurl: allinurl:	Inurl: allinurl:	inurl:	inurl:	inurl:	inurl:
Word in title	intitle:	intitle:	intitle:	title:	intitle:
Links to specified URL	link:www.rba.co.uk	link:http://www.rba.co.uk for links to a specific page. linkdomain:rba.co.uk looks for links to any page on the site	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: or Advanced Search
Limit by web site	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site: Advanced Search	site:	site: or 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:	Advanced Search or use filetype: PDF, XLS, DOC, PPT, TXT, RTF, WPD, RSS, SWF	filetype:	No
Search by date	Advanced Search	Advanced Search	date: For example date:"14/09/2001" or use Advanced Search	No	Advanced Search
Limit by language	Advanced Search	Advanced Search	language: or use Advanced Search or 'Narrow your Search	language: or use Advanced Search	lang: or Advanced Search
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	Advanced Search

	Google www.google.com	Yahoo search.yahoo.co.uk search.yahoo.com	Exalead www.exalead.com www.exalead.co.uk	Live Search www.live.com	Ask www.ask.com www.ask.co.uk
Boolean	OR	AND OR NOT Boolean operators can be nested using parentheses for more precise searching	AND OR NOT Boolean operators can be nested using parentheses for more precise searching	AND OR NOT Boolean operators can be nested using parentheses for more precise searching	OR
Unique features	Numeric range search e.g. DVD \$100..200 Synonym search (~) define:	Region command	Phonetic search Approximate spelling Support for wild cards NEAR command Integrated thumbnails preview Narrow your Search by site type (Blog, Forum) OPT operator for optional terms "sort:new" and "sort:old" to sort documents by increasing or decreasing dates	prefer: contains: for pages that have links to a particular document or file type url: to check if a URL is in the MSN search database feed: command combined with site: to locate feeds on a site linkfromdomain: to list all the links from a site	