

How to become a Super Googler

Finding information using Google is now part of our daily routine. Often, we spend an inordinate amount of time searching for relevant information. In order to help with this, we can add operators to our search terms. These special modifiers can help you obtain many more specific results than you would get if you were using plain search terms. These operators can be used in any Google Search bar, including the Google search bars available in your favorite browsers.

Google Search

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Name of operator	Example	Results of using the operator
Quotation Marks	“test scores”	Your search results will return web pages which have the word test followed by the word scores instead of returning results which just simply contain those two words.
Minus sign	Bass -fish	Your search results will omit the word which has the minus sign attached to it. In this example, your results would not include any fish related information.
Tilda	~college	Google uses a tilde operator to search for related sites. In the ~college example, you would be returned related results such as ‘higher education’ and ‘university’.
asterisk	*hawk	Using a tilde will broaden your search to include other words. The example *hawk would return many different hawks, including Red-Tailed Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk restaurant, and Tony Hawk. The asterisk can be put on either side of the word.
cache:	Cache: fit.edu florida (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The cache: operator searches the site referenced for the word that follows and highlights it. In the cache:fit.edu Florida example each time the word Florida is found it is highlighted with yellow. This makes searching wordy sites very easy.
link:	Link:it.fit.edu (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The link: operator will search for sites that have linked to the page referenced. In the link:it.fit.edu example the search results are 48 pages that link back to the it.fit.edu page.
intitle:	Intitle:floridatech (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The intitle: operator will search for sites that include the search term in the title of the web page. In the intitle:floridatech example, you will be returned results with floridatech in the title of the web pages.
inurl:	Inurl:floridatech (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The inurl: operator will search for sites that have whatever search term you provide in the URL of the site. The Inurl:floridatech example provides sites which include floridatech in the URL.
site:	Site:fit.edu CTLE (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The site: operator will search through particular sites for your search term. The site:fit.edu CTLE example will provide results from fit.edu that contain CTLE.
year..year	2008..2009	This year..year operator will search results which were created in the years 2008 through 2009. This would be in addition to a term to search for.
author: (using the Google Scholar search bar @ scholar.google.com)	Author:Einstein (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The author: operator will cause Google Scholar to search through its archives for a particular author. The example author:Einstein will search through Google Scholar’s files for items written by Einstein. Add another search term or modifier to add even more specificity.
define:	Define:technology (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The define: operator will find definitions to whatever word follows it. The example define:technology will find definitions for the word technology from various sources.
filetype:	Filetype:ppt (Note: There is no space after the colon.)	The filetype: operator will search for files of a particular type. You can find PowerPoint files, document files, and many other types of files. These include pdf, xls, svg, various types of source code and more. To find a complete list of available filetypes go to http://goo.gl/b6uhW



Often, we can include several of these search operators at once to yield excellent results. Here is an example:

If I would like to search Wired magazine for articles on Uganda between the years 2010 and 2012 but do not wish to include Kony in the results, I would type this into the Google search bar:



site:wired.com Uganda -kony 2010..2011

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Another example:

If I wanted to search the New York Times for articles on college test scores omitting ACT tests from the years 2010 through 2012 I would type this into the Google search bar:



site:nytimes.com ~college "test scores" -ACTs 2010..2012

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Yet another example:

If I wanted a pdf file about the average air speed different of swallows I could type this into the Google search bar:



Filetype:pdf intitle:"velocity of " *swallow

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Searching Google images

It is also possible to search Google images in 3 interesting ways. Navigate to <http://images.google.com> and try some of these techniques.

1. Search via image drag and drop

- Navigate to <http://images.google.com>
- Drag a photo onto the search bar.
- Await your results.

2. Search via uploading an image

- Navigate to <http://images.google.com>
- Click the **camera icon** and then select **Upload an image**.
- Select **the images you want to begin your search**.



3. Search via copy and pasting the URL for an image.

- If you've found an image on the web that you'd like to search information about, copy the **URL** of the image.
- Go to <http://images.google.com>
- Click the camera icon and then select **Paste image URL**.

You can modify your results by searching for “**Visually Similar**” pictures , by **the date, results, size, color, type, and view** that the picture was uploaded online by selecting either of the available search modifiers on the left margin of the results page.

Any time

Past 24 hours
Past week
Custom range...

All results

By subject
Personal

Any size

Large
Medium
Icon
Larger than...
Exactly...

Any color

Full color
Black and white



Any type

Face
Photo
Clip art
Line drawing

Standard view

Show sizes

