



Searching Tips for Educators

Here are a few things that you might not have known about searching Google.

Directory

Google does have a directory [directory.google.com] like Yahoo and some other search engines.

Dictionary

To see a definition for a word or phrase, simply type the word "define," then a space, and then the word(s) you want defined [define hurricane]. If Google has seen a definition for the word or phrase on the Web, it will retrieve that information and display it at the top of your search results.

You can also get a list of definitions by including the special operator "define:" with no space between it and the term you want defined. For example, the search [define:hurricane] will show you a list of definitions for "hurricane" gathered from various online sources.

Synonyms

Want to search not only for a particular keyword, but also for its synonyms. Indicate a search for both by placing the tilde sign (~) immediately in front of the keyword. Example: ~storms

Numbers

Numrange can be used to specify that results contain numbers in a range you set. You can conduct a numrange search by specifying two numbers, separated by two periods, with no spaces. Be sure to specify a unit of measure or some other indicator of what the number range represents.

Numrange can be used to set a range for everything from dates (Willie Mays 1950..1960) to weights (5000..10000 kg truck). Example: "harry potter cd" \$10..20 or earthquake 1901..1909
If you are looking for a specific number you should use " " Example: "9 11"

Calculator

To use Google's built-in calculator function, simply enter the calculation you'd like done into the search box and hit the Enter key or click on the Google Search button. The calculator can solve math problems involving basic arithmetic, more complicated math, units of measure and conversions, and physical constants. Try one of the sample expressions below, or refer to our complete instructions for help in building your own.

These sample queries demonstrate the utility and power of this new feature:

- * $5+2*2$
- * 2^{20}
- * $\text{sqrt}(-4)$
- * half a cup in teaspoons
- * 160 pounds * 4000 feet in Calories

Language Tools

Students can search the web in their own language or you can search for pages in a specific language and you can translate pages from one language to another using the Language Tools link. If you want to make the change permanent go to Preferences.

Examples: Bicycle Safety page: http://kidshealth.org/kid/watch/out/bike_safety.html

Searching within a specific website

If you know the website you want to search but aren't sure where the information is located within that site, you can use Google to search only that domain. Do this by entering what you're looking for followed by the word "site" and a colon followed by the domain name.

Example: hurricanes site:www.learnnc.org

Search by File Formats:

You can search the web for specific web sites:

Power Point Presentations - Example: "water cycle" filetype:ppt

Documents - Example: clouds "lesson plans" filetype:doc

Uncle Sam: Government Web Site

google.com/unclesam

Images/Pictures

Site search: hurricanes site:www.nasa.gov

Phone Book

Google has added the convenience of US street address and phone number lookup to the information we provide through our search box. You'll see publicly listed phone numbers and addresses at the top of results pages for searches that contain specific kinds of keywords.

To find listings for a US business, type the business name into the Google search box, along with the city and state. Or type the business name and zip code. Entering the phone number with area code will also return a complete business listing.

To find listings for a US residence, type any of the following combinations into the Google search box:

- * first name (or first initial), last name, city (state is optional)
- * first name (or first initial), last name, state
- * first name (or first initial), last name, area code
- * first name (or first initial), last name, zip code
- * phone number, including area code
- * last name, city, state
- * last name, zip code

If your query results in business and residential listings, both categories will be listed for your convenience.

Street Maps

To use Google to find street maps, enter a U.S. street address, including zip code or city/ state (e.g. 165 University Ave Palo Alto CA), in the Google search box. Often, the street address and city name will be enough.

When Google recognizes your query as a map request, it will return links from high quality map providers that will lead you directly to the relevant map. These map providers have been selected solely on the basis of their quality. Google is not affiliated with the map information providers that are used.