

# Top Ten Google Search Tricks

## The Top Ten Google Search Tricks You Need To Know

Adapted by Maria Cornish, Original by [Wendy Boswell, About.com Guide](#)

### 1. Google Phrase Search

If you want Google to return your search as a complete phrase, in the exact order and proximity that you typed it in as, then you'll need to surround it with quotes; i.e., "three blind mice." Otherwise, Google will just locate these words either separately OR together.

[Learn more about searching with quotation marks](#)

### 2. Google Negative Search

Use the "-" symbol when you want Google to find pages that have one search word on them, but you need it to exclude other words commonly associated with that search word.

[Learn more about searching with basic math](#)

### 3. Google Order of Search

The order in which you type your search query actually does have an effect on your search results. For example, if you are looking for a great waffle recipe, you'll want to type in "waffle recipe" rather than "recipe waffle". Practice and compare your search results.

### 4. Google Forced Search

Google automatically excludes common words like "where", "how", "and", etc. because it tends to slow down your search. However, if you're looking for something that actually needs those words included, you can "force" Google to include them by using our old friend the addition sign. For example, you could type Spiderman +3, or, you could use quotation marks: "Spiderman 3".

### 5. Google Site Search

You can use Google to actually search within a site for content; for example, say you want to look inside of About Web Search for everything on "free movie downloads." Here's how you would frame your search at Google: site:websearch.about.com "free movie downloads"

[Learn more about Google Site Search](#)

### 6. Google Number Range Search

In Google's search box, type two numbers, separated by two periods, with no spaces, into the search box along with your search terms. You can use this number range search to set ranges for everything from dates (Willie Mays 1950..1960) to weights (5000..10000 kg truck). However, be sure to specify a unit of measurement or some other indicator of what your number range represents. Okay, so here's one that you could try:

nintendo wii \$100..\$300

You're asking Google to find all the Nintendo Wii's within the price range of \$100 to \$300 here. Now, you can use pretty much any kind of numerical combination; the trick is the two periods in between the two numbers.

## 7. Google Define

Type **define** (or **definition**) \_\_\_\_\_ (insert your own word) and Google will return a host of definitions. It's also a great way to find detailed articles that can explain not only the word you're looking for, but the context in which it most commonly occurs.

## 8. Google Calculator

Not only can you use Google to solve simple math problems, you can also use it to convert measurements. Here are a few examples of this; you can simply type these directly into the Google search box:

- Half a quart in tablespoons
- 5 miles to kilometers
- $\text{sqrt}(8912)$

And so on. Google can also do much more complex problems and conversions; you can find out how to build your queries so Google knows what to do with them at the official Google Calculator help page, <http://www.google.com/help/calculator.html>.

[Find out more about Google Calculator](http://www.google.com/help/calculator.html)

## 9. Google Phonebook

Google has a gigantic phonebook directory. Here's how you can use Google's phonebook to find a phone number or address (United States only at the time of this writing):

- 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 Don't want your information in the Google phonebook? You'll want to visit this page: Google Phonebook Name Removal (<http://www.google.com/help/pbremoval.html>).

[Find out more about Google Phonebook](http://www.google.com/help/pbremoval.html)

## 10. Google Spell Checker

Type in the word you're struggling with into Google's search box, and Google will very politely come back with this phrase: "Did you mean...(correct spelling)?"