

SOME GOOGLE SEARCH OPERATORS

Target construction	Example	Comment
AND	law AND romans	Example requires both words appear in the document. Closer words rank higher. Must use upper case <<AND>>. Lower case <<and>> will be treated as a search term, not an operator. AND is the default operator, so you don't have to specify it. Warning: because Google sometimes supplies synonyms or information from outside the document about the document, a matched term may not be in the document itself.
OR	grace OR mercy	Example matches documents with either word. Documents with both words rank higher. Must use upper case <<OR>>.
NOT	"jewish law" -rabbinic -modern	Example requires the phrase <<jewish law>> be in the document, but excludes the document if it contains the word <<rabbinic>> or the word <<modern>>. No space between hyphen and word to be excluded.
use () for grouping/nesting	(law OR covenant) AND (romans OR galatians)	Example requires at least one word from each of the two sets of parentheses, but documents with more words rank higher.
exact phrase	"infant baptism"	Example matches exact phrase.
variable distance word sequence	"filled * spirit"	Asterisk matches one or more whole words. The example matches <<"filled in spirit">> as well as <<"filled with the holy spirit">>. Words must appear in the order specified but can be any(?) distance apart. Closer words rank higher.
numeric range	1495..1544 Romans 6..8 melchior AND (hofman OR hoffman OR hoffmann) AND 1495..1544	First example matches any number 1495 through 1544. Note number, double periods, number, no spaces. Second example matches romans 6 through 8. Third example combines spelling variations of the name Melchior Hofmann with the date range.
require stopword require word as spelled	band called the the band called "the the" the who	First example requires that both words <<band AND called>> appear in the document, but it ignores the stop word <<the>>. Second example requires <<the the>> appear in the document. To search a stopword, use quotes. I haven't found a list of stop words for Google, but definite articles in many languages (like the in English or der in German) are stopwords. Third example is a special case: because the first word is a stopword, it is required for a match, so this is the same as "the" AND who.

Tilde synonym operator was discontinued in 2013.

Some claim there are undocumented NEAR() and AROUND() operators, but I have seen little evidence for it over the years.

Remember ranking is the key to Google's effectiveness, not use of search operators.