

INTERNET

Handout 5: Improve your Search Experience



Everyday Essentials

Weather



To see the weather for many U.S. and worldwide cities, type "weather" followed by the city and state, U.S. zip code, or city and country.

Example: weather San Francisco, CA Search

Stock Quotes



To see current market data for a given company or fund, type the ticker symbol into the search box. On the results page, you can click the link to see more data from Google Finance.

Example: CSCO Search

Time



To see the time in many cities around the world, type in "time" and the name of the city.

Example: time London Search

Sports Scores



To see scores and schedules for sports teams type the team name or league name into the search box. This is enabled for many leagues including the National Basketball Association, National Football League, National Hockey League, and Major League Baseball.

All sports data provided by STATS LLC

Example: san francisco 49ers Search

Sunrise & Sunset



To see the precise times of sunrises and sunsets for many U.S. and worldwide cities, type "sunrise" or "sunset" followed by the city name.

Example: sunrise New Orleans Search

Reference Tools

Calculator



To use Google's built-in calculator function, simply enter the calculation you'd like done into the search box.

Example: 5*9+(sqrt 10)^3= Search

Unit Conversion



You can use Google to convert between many different units of measurement of height, weight, and volume among many others. Just enter your desired conversion into the search box and we'll do the rest.

Example: 10.5 cm in inches Search

Book Search



If you're looking for results from Google Book Search, you can enter the name of the author or book title into the search box. Then, click on "Books" from the left-hand navigation to view book content. You can click through on the record to view more detailed info about that author or title.

Example: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Search

Public Data



To see trends for population and unemployment rates of U.S. states and counties, type "population" or "unemployment rate" followed by a state or county. You can click through to a page that lets you compare different locations.

Example: population FL Search

Earthquakes



To see information about recent earthquakes in a specific area type "earthquake" followed by the city and state or U.S. zip code. For recent earthquake activity around the world simply type "earthquake" in the search box.

Example: earthquake Search

People Profiles



If you're looking for someone you just met or a long-lost friend, enter the name of that person plus some identifying words about him or her to see a list of people with that name.

Example: jon wiley Search

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Choosing Keywords

Synonym Search



If you want to search not only for your search term but also for its synonyms, place the tilde sign (~) immediately in front of your search term.

Example: ~fast food Search

Dictionary Definitions



To see a definition for a word or phrase, simply type the word "define" then a space, then the word(s) you want defined. To see a list of different definitions from various online sources, you can type "define:" followed by a word or phrase. Note that the results will define the entire phrase.

Example: Define philosophy Search

Spell Checker



Google's spell checking software automatically checks whether your query uses the most common spelling of a given word. If it thinks you're likely to generate better results with an alternative spelling, it will ask "Did you mean: (more common spelling)?". Click the suggested spelling to launch a Google search for that term.

Example: expolsion Search

Local Search

Local Search



If you're looking for a store, restaurant, or other local business you can search for the category of business and the location and we'll return results right on the page, along with a map, reviews, and contact information.

Example: Italian food 02138 Search

Movie Showtimes



To find reviews and showtimes for movies playing near you, type "movies" or the name of a current film into the Google search box. If you've already saved your location on a previous search, the top search result will display showtimes for nearby theaters for the movie you've chosen.

Example: movies 94705 Search

Health Search

Health Conditions



To see information about a common disease or symptom, enter it into the search box and we'll return the beginning of an expert summary. You can click through to read the entire article.

Example: asthma Search

Suicide Prevention



You can quickly find the phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) by entering "suicide prevention" or similar phrases into the search box.

Example: suicide prevention Search

Medications



To see information about most generic and brand name prescription drugs in the U.S., enter the drug name into the search box, and we'll display a summary and description of that medication. You can click through links from the National Institutes of Health to get more information about side effects, how to take the medication, precautions, dietary instructions, and what to do if you miss a dose.

Example: Ambien Search

Flu Vaccine Finder



During flu season, search for "flu" to find tips on how to stay healthy from U.S. Health and Human Services and a flu shot locator which uses Google Maps to show you nearby locations offering seasonal and/or H1N1 flu vaccine.

Example: flu Search

Poison Control



You can quickly find the U.S. poison control hotline (1-800-222-1222) by entering "poison control" or similar phrases into the search box.

Example: poison control Search



Trip Planning

Flight Tracking



To see flight status for arriving and departing U.S. flights, type in the name of the airline and the flight number into the search box.

Example: american airlines 18 Search

Currency Conversion



To use our built-in currency converter, simply enter the conversion you'd like done into the Google search box and we'll provide your answer directly on the results page.

Example: 150 GBP in USD Search

Flight Schedules



To see flight schedules to or from a particular destination, type "flights from" or "flights to" followed by the city or airport of interest. You can also add another location with "to" or "from" and view the schedule for a specific route.

Flight schedule data is provided by OAG and QuickTrip by Innovata.

Example: flights from denver to chicago Search

Maps



Looking for a map? Type in the name or U.S. zip code of a location and the word "map" and we'll return a map of that location. Clicking on the map will take you to a larger version on Google Maps.

Example: Seattle map Search

Query Refinements

Related Search

To search for web pages that have similar content to a given site, type "related:" followed by the website address into the Google search box.

Example: related:www.cnn.com Search

Fill in the Blank

Sometimes the best way to ask a question is to get Google to 'fill in the blank' by adding an asterisk (*) at the part of the sentence or question that you want finished into the Google search box.

Example: Isaac Newton discovered * Search

Search by Number

Package Tracking



You can track packages by typing the tracking number for your UPS, Fedex or USPS package directly into the search box. We'll return results that include quick links to easily track the status of your shipment.

Example: 1Z9999W99999999999

Search

Patent Numbers



To search for U.S. patents, enter the word "patent" followed by the patent number into the Google search box and hit the Enter key or click the Google Search button.

Example: Patent 5123123 Search