

# Web Searches Made Easy



• • • find it all • • •



# Search Engines

Why are these considered to be "major" search engines? Because they are either well-known or well-used. For webmasters, the major search engines are the most important places to be listed, because they can potentially generate so much traffic. For searchers, well-known, commercially-backed search engines generally mean more dependable results. These search engines are more likely to be well-maintained and upgraded when necessary, to keep pace with the growing web.

## Top Choices

The search engines below are all excellent choices to start with when searching for information.

### Google

<http://www.google.com>



Google has a well-deserved reputation as the top choice for those searching the web. The crawler-based service provides great coverage of the web along with great relevancy. It's highly recommended as a first stop in your hunt for whatever you are looking for.

### Yahoo

<http://www.yahoo.com>



Launched in 1994, Yahoo is the web's oldest "directory," a place where human editors organize web sites into categories. However, in October 2002, Yahoo made a giant shift to using Google's crawler-based listings for its main results.

### MSN Search

<http://search.msn.com>



Microsoft is known for constantly reworking its software products until they get them right, and MSN Search is a shining example of the company putting that same effort into an online product. In particular, the company has its own team of editors that monitors the most popular searches being performed and then hand-picks sites that are believed to be the most relevant. After performing a search, "Popular Topics" shown below the search box on the results page are also suggestions built largely by editors to guide you into making a more refined search.

## Strongly Consider These

The search engines below are other good choices to consider when searching the web.

### HotBot

<http://www.hotbot.com>



HotBot provides easy access to the web's four major crawler-based search engines: AllTheWeb.com/FAST, Google, Inktomi and Teoma. Unlike a meta search engine, it cannot blend the results from all of these crawlers together. Nevertheless, it's a fast, easy way to get different web search "opinions" in one place

*Copy taken in part from: <http://searchenginewatch.com/links/article.php/2156221>*

## BASIC SEARCHING WITH GOOGLE:

Unless otherwise indicated, the **left** mouse button will be used throughout this exercise.

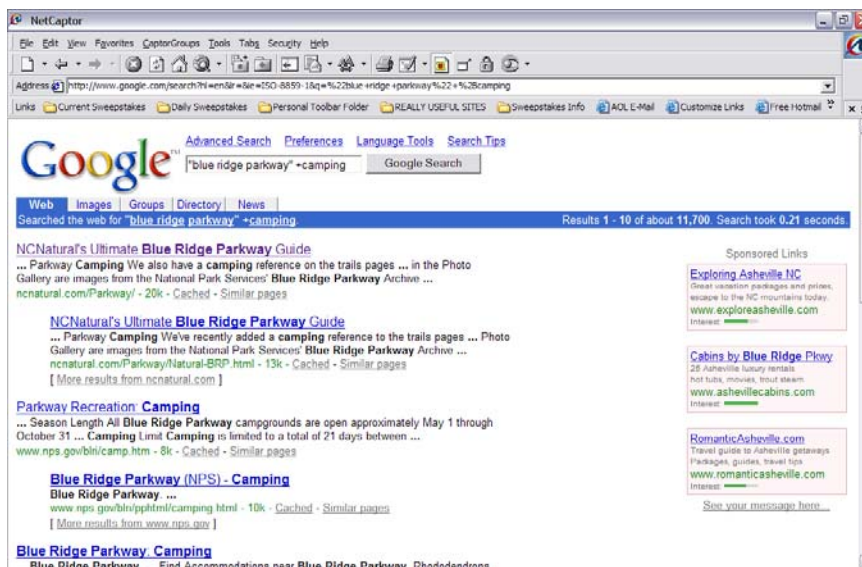
1. Double-click on the **Internet Explorer** icon located on the desktop.
2. Click **once** in the **Address Bar**.
3. Type: **www.google.com** and press the **Enter key once**.
4. In the search box type **blue ridge parkway**. There is no need to capitalize anything.
5. Press the **Enter key once**.



Notice that our information is too general. To narrow our search we will add more keywords.

6. Click **in front** of the word **blue** in the search box and add an **opening quote** (“).
7. Click **after** the word **parkway** and add an **ending quote** (”).
8. Press the **Spacebar once** and type **+camping**
9. Press the **Enter key once**.

Now our results are showing more of the details that we were looking for.



You might want to experiment with more keywords at the end to narrow the results even further. Keep in mind that by putting the **plus sign (+)** you are just asking Google to include that word. The word may or may not be relevant to the results you are looking for.

You can also use the **minus sign (-)** to exclude words you don't want in your results.

### Examples:

clinton -lewinsky

windows -98 -3.1

star trek -voyager -deep -space -nine -next -generation

"star trek" -voyager -"deep space nine" -"next generation"

## ADVANCED SEARCHING:



1. Navigate back to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).
2. Click on the **Advanced Search Link** at the top of the page.
3. Click in the **with the exact phrase** search box and type **bridal shower gift**
4. Click in the next box that reads, **with at least one of the words**, and type **silver**
5. Click in the next box that reads, **without the words**, and type **lace**
6. Press the **Spacebar** once and type **gold**
7. Click the **down-pointing arrow** next to **Return web pages updated in the** and click on **past 6 months**
8. Click the **down-pointing arrow** next to **Return results where my terms occur** and click on **in the text of the page**.
9. Click the **Google Search button** (top right).

Notice the search string that has been used in the search text box. If you know how to do this on your own you don't need to use the Advance Search section.

**allintext: silver "bridal shower gift" -lace -gold**

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## IMAGE SEARCHING WITH GOOGLE:

1. Navigate back to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com).
2. Click on the **Images Link** at the top of the page.
3. Type **butterfly** and press the **Enter key** once.

The search results gives you all types of butterfly pictures available on the Net.

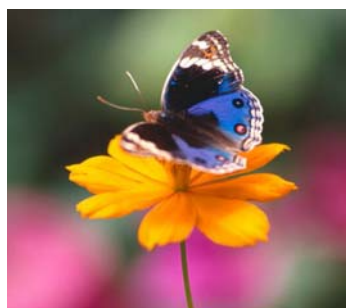


4. Click at the end of the word **butterfly** in the search text box and type **.jpg** (no spaces)
5. Press the **Enter key** once.

Now you only see butterfly pictures that are in the JPEG format.

6. Click in front of the word **butterfly** in the search text box and type **red** and press the **Spacebar** once.
7. Press the **Enter key** once.

You have narrowed your search even more.



## KEYWORD SEARCHES FOR A SPECIFIC WEBSITE:

1. Navigate back to **www.google.com**
2. In the search text box type **math site:www.funbrain.com**
3. Press the **Enter key once**.

The search results show the instances of the word math at the funbrain.com website.

4. Click **in front** of the word **math** in the search box and add an **opening quote** (“).
5. Click **after** the word **math**, press the **Spacebar once**, type **games** and add an **ending quote** (”).

The search string should look like this: **"math games" site:www.funbrain.com**

6. Press the **Enter key once**.

The search results are narrowed considerably.

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## DICTIONARY AND THESAURUS SEARCHES:

1. Navigate to **dictionary.reference.com**
2. In the search text box type **a word you want the definition for**.
3. Press the **Enter key once**.

**Note:** You can choose **Thesaurus** to search by to get **Synonyms for a word**.

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## MAP SEARCHES:

1. Navigate to **www.mapquest.com**.
2. Type an **address** in the text boxes and click **Get Map**.

Click **Driving Directions** at the top of the page to get driving directions to a specific location. **Printable directions** are available on the results.



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## PEOPLE SEARCHES:

1. Navigate to **www.switchboard.com**.
2. Type a **last name** in the search text box under **White Page section**.
3. Press the **TAB key once** and type a **town**.
4. Press the **TAB key once** and type a **state**.
5. Press the **Enter key once**.

*By leaving the first name out you get better results. If the last name is too general then type in a first name. There are also options to search by telephone number, for email address, and also map on this website as well.*

## The Big List of Search Engines and Directories

Yahoo ----- [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)  
Lycos ----- [www.lycos.com](http://www.lycos.com)  
WebCrawler ----- [www.webcrawler.com](http://www.webcrawler.com)  
InfoSeek ----- [www.infoseek.com](http://www.infoseek.com)  
Alta Vista ----- [www.altavista.com](http://www.altavista.com)  
Magellan ----- [magellan.excite.com](http://magellan.excite.com)  
Excite ----- [www.excite.com](http://www.excite.com)  
MetaSearches ----- [www.metacrawler.com](http://www.metacrawler.com)  
All In One ----- [www.albany.net/allinone](http://www.albany.net/allinone)  
Ask Jeeves ----- [www.askjeeves.com](http://www.askjeeves.com)  
Freeality ----- [www.freeality.com](http://www.freeality.com)

### Book Searches

ISBN, Title, Author, or Keyword Search ----- [www.isbn.nu](http://www.isbn.nu)  
BiblioFind (in conjunction with Amazon.com) ----- [www.bibliofind.com](http://www.bibliofind.com)  
Questia (World's Largest Online Library) ----- [www.questia.com](http://www.questia.com)  
Alibris ----- [www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com)  
AddAll New Book Search ----- [www.addall.com](http://www.addall.com)  
AddAll Used Book Search ----- [www.addall.com/Used](http://www.addall.com/Used)

### Lesson Plan Searches

Ask Eric ----- [www.askeric.org/Virtual/Lessons](http://www.askeric.org/Virtual/Lessons)  
The Gateway ----- [www.thegateway.org](http://www.thegateway.org)  
Lesson Planz ----- [www.lessonplanz.com](http://www.lessonplanz.com)  
Teacher Vision ----- [www.teachervision.com/tv/curriculum/lessonplans](http://www.teachervision.com/tv/curriculum/lessonplans)  
Lesson Plan Search ----- [www.lessonplansearch.com](http://www.lessonplansearch.com)  
Directory of Lesson Plan websites -- [dir.yahoo.com/Education/K\\_12/Teaching/Lesson\\_Plans/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Education/K_12/Teaching/Lesson_Plans/)

### People and Telephone Number Searches

Switchboard ----- [www.switchboard.com](http://www.switchboard.com)  
Yahoo People Search ----- [people.yahoo.com](http://people.yahoo.com)  
World Pages ----- [www.worldpages.com](http://www.worldpages.com)

### Map and Directions Searches

Map Quest ----- [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)  
Yahoo Maps ----- [maps.yahoo.com](http://maps.yahoo.com)  
National Geographic Map Machine ----- [plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine](http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine)