

# How to Ungoogle Yourself (with Pictures) - wikiHow

*wikiHow*

11–14 minutes

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This wikiHow teaches you how to attempt to remove undesired Google search results regarding your name from the Internet. While Google usually doesn't remove search results on request, there are a few things that you can do to remove the content itself from the page on which it's posted. You can also use Google's outdated content tool to remove archived versions of past-deleted content from search results.

1.



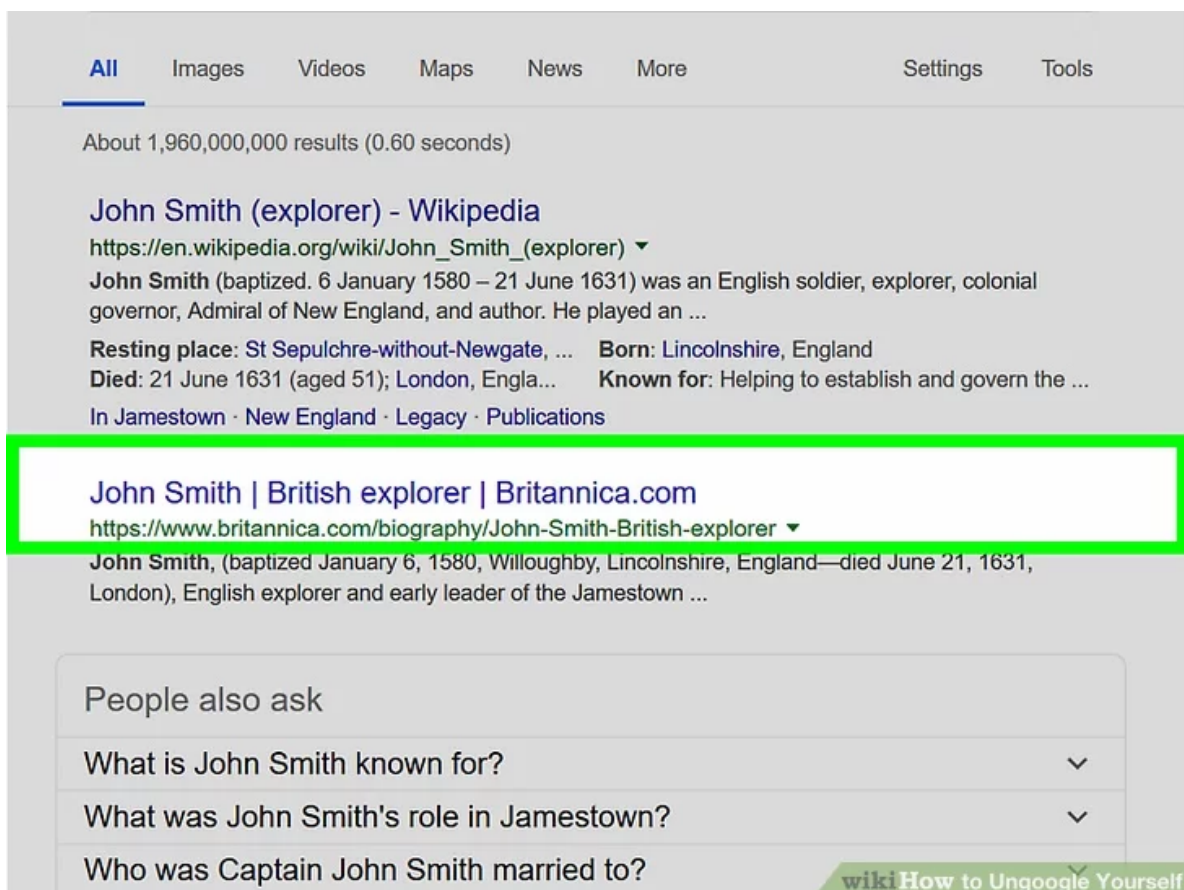
1

**Know what's out there about you.** Whether you call it self-search, vanity search, or ego-googling, it's a good idea to check in with yourself from time to time. This is especially true when you're thinking about taking on a new career or attempting to forge a new relationship.

- Search for your full name—with and without middle name—as well as your family name, any nicknames and aliases you might have, and any other variation of your name that you can think of.
- For example, if you regularly comment on a

political blog under the name "AlwaysRight," for example, Google that, then Google "AlwaysRight" "Your Realname", quotation marks and all. This will force the search engine to return a very specific result that contains both sets of words to see if the two names can be linked.

2.



2

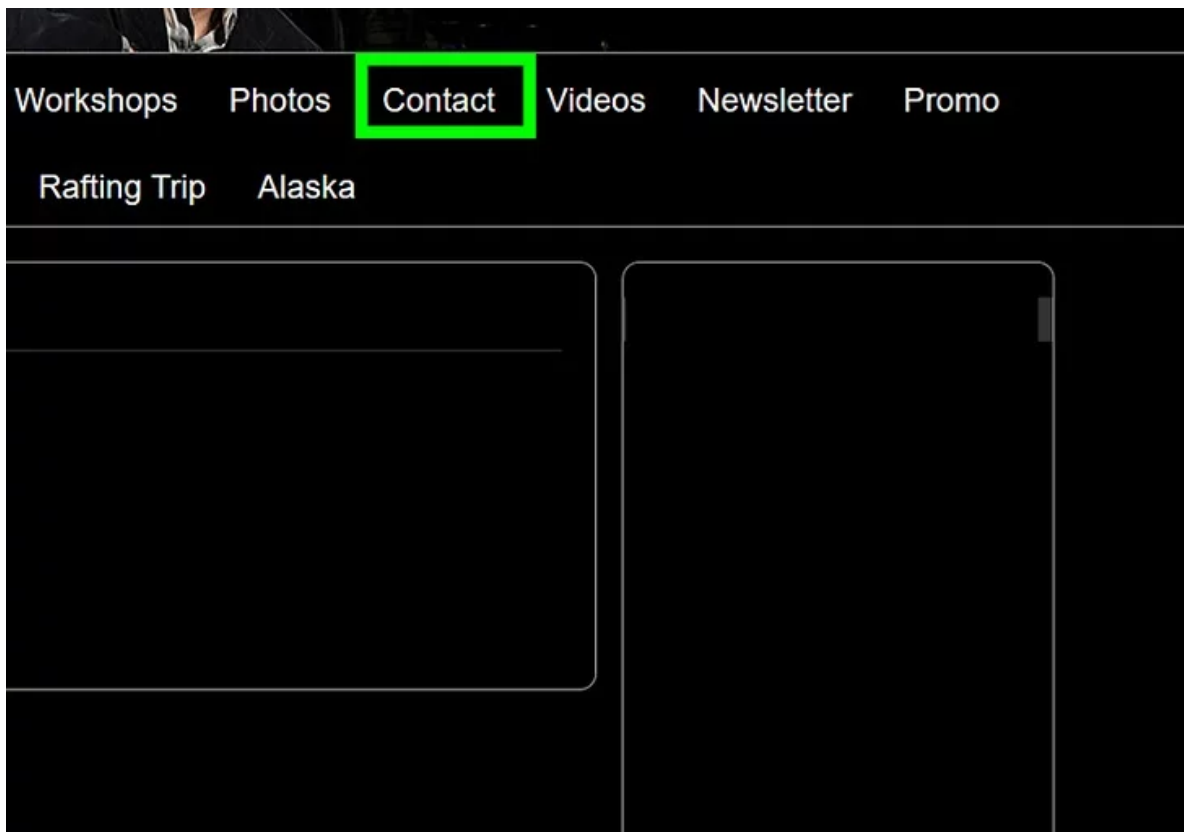
**Understand Google's stance on content removal.** Google displays links to content, but they don't host the content itself; this means that they'll

rarely remove legal content (even if it's controversial) from search results unless at least one of the following circumstances are met:

- The person or company hosting the website on which the content is posted (also known as the "webmaster") removes the content from the site itself.
- The content is proven to be slanderous, inaccurate or revealing to the point of being damaging, or otherwise in a legal "grey" area.

Advertisement

3.

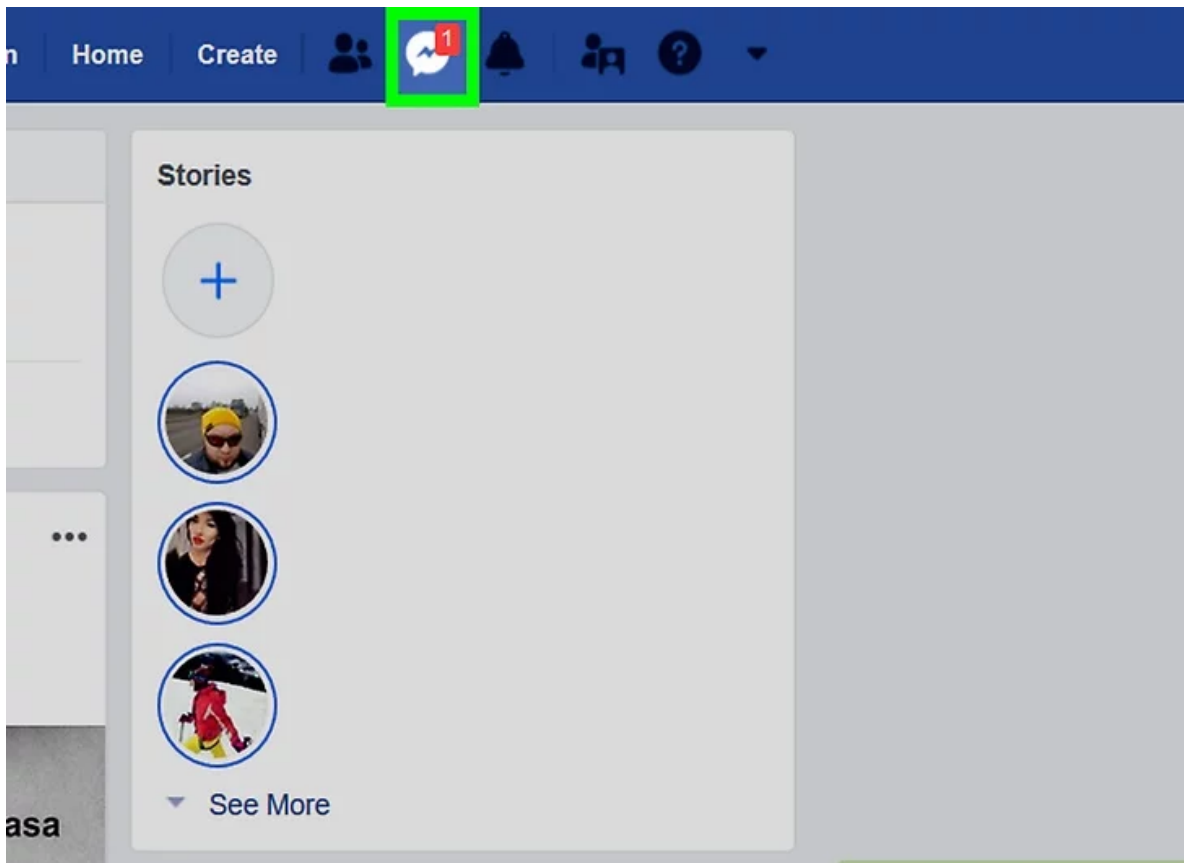


3

**Determine whether or not your information is worth removing.** If your information is technically legal to host, Google won't remove the information for you; you'll have to [contact the webmaster directly](#) in order to request that the information be taken down.

- If the information in question isn't so much harmful as just embarrassing, the process of requesting its deletion might be more effort than it's worth.

4.

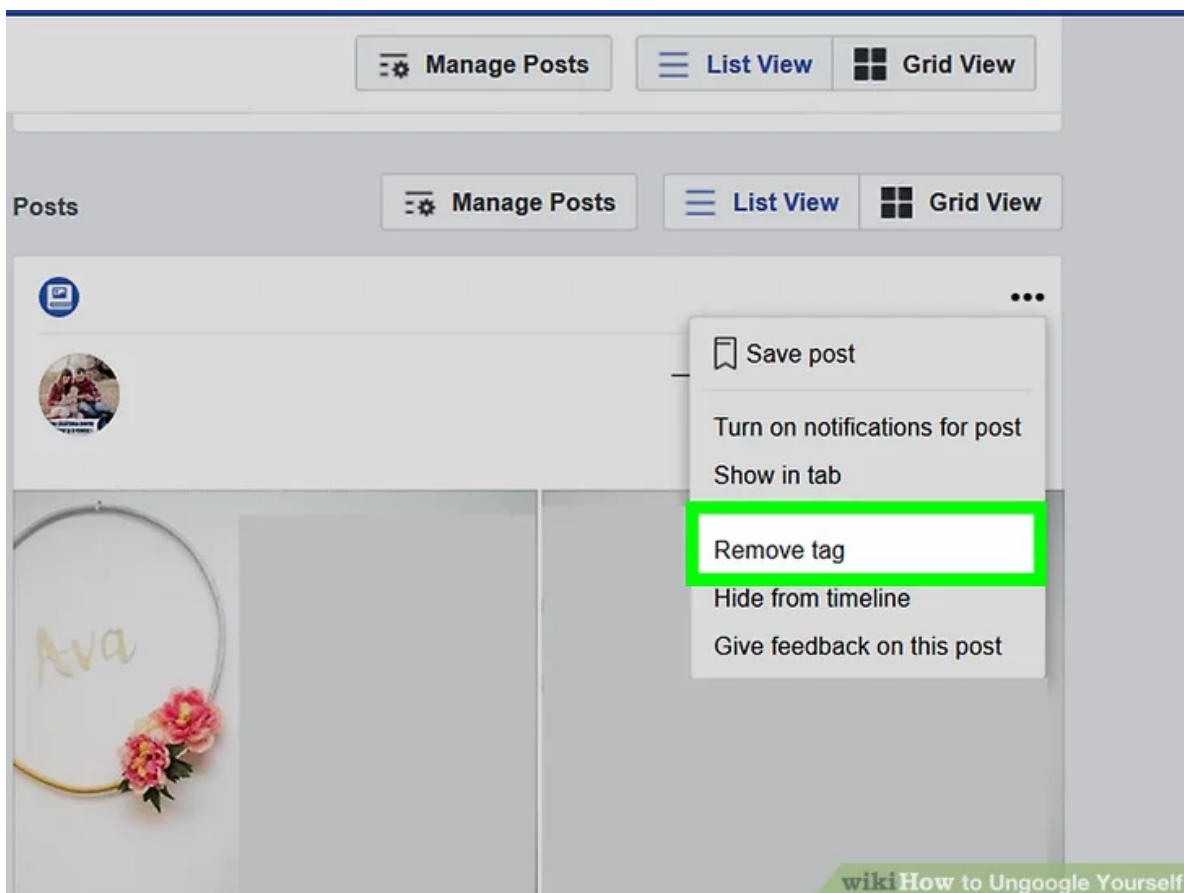


4

**Ask friends to remove posts for you.** If the content that you want to remove was posted by a friend, you should be able to contact them and ask for them to take it down.

- Again, you'll have to contact the website's webmaster to take down non-friendly content that you can't remove.

5.

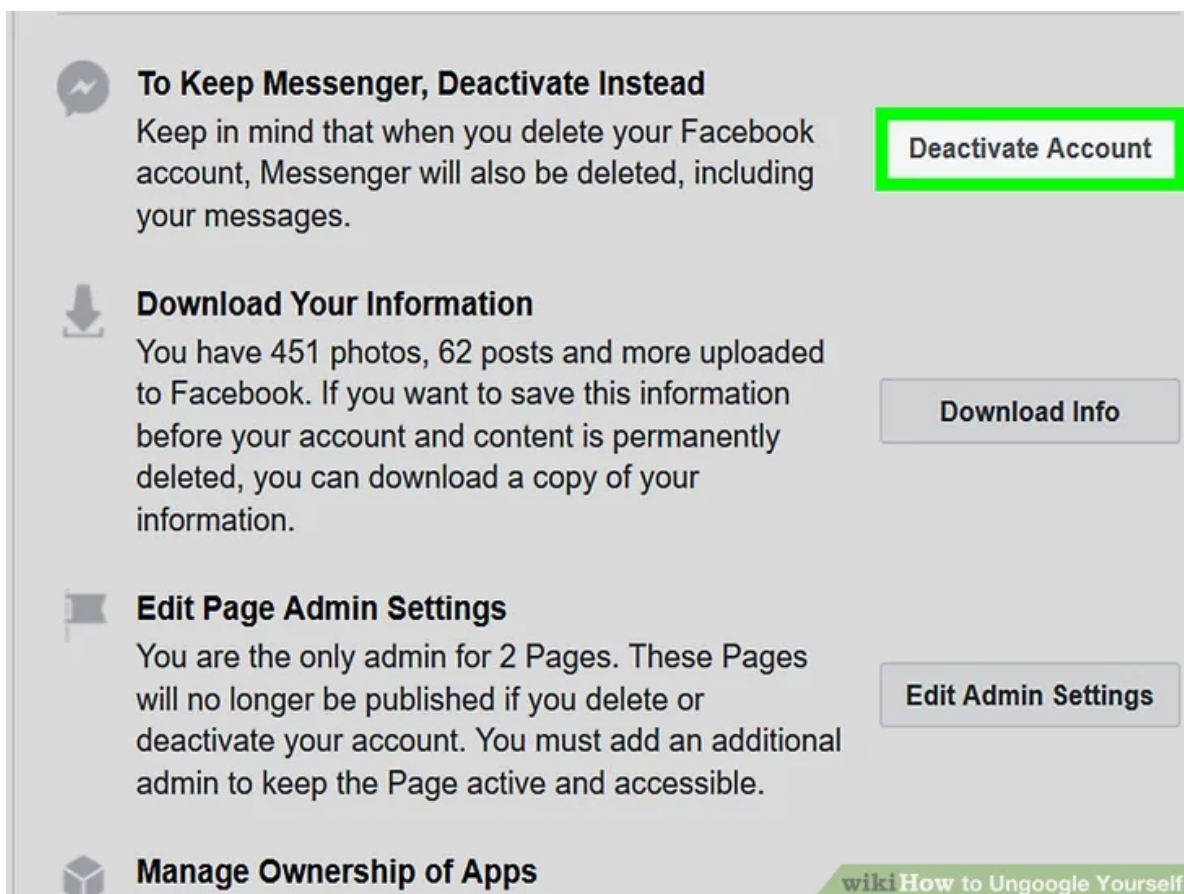


5

**Make changes to existing content.** For content that you can control, such as Facebook pages or Twitter tweets, make changes to the page linked to in the Google results.

- You can do this by following the link from the search result itself, logging in if prompted, and then either deleting the post or editing it. Be aware that sites like Facebook show edit history, so people will be able to see the old version of the edited post.

6.

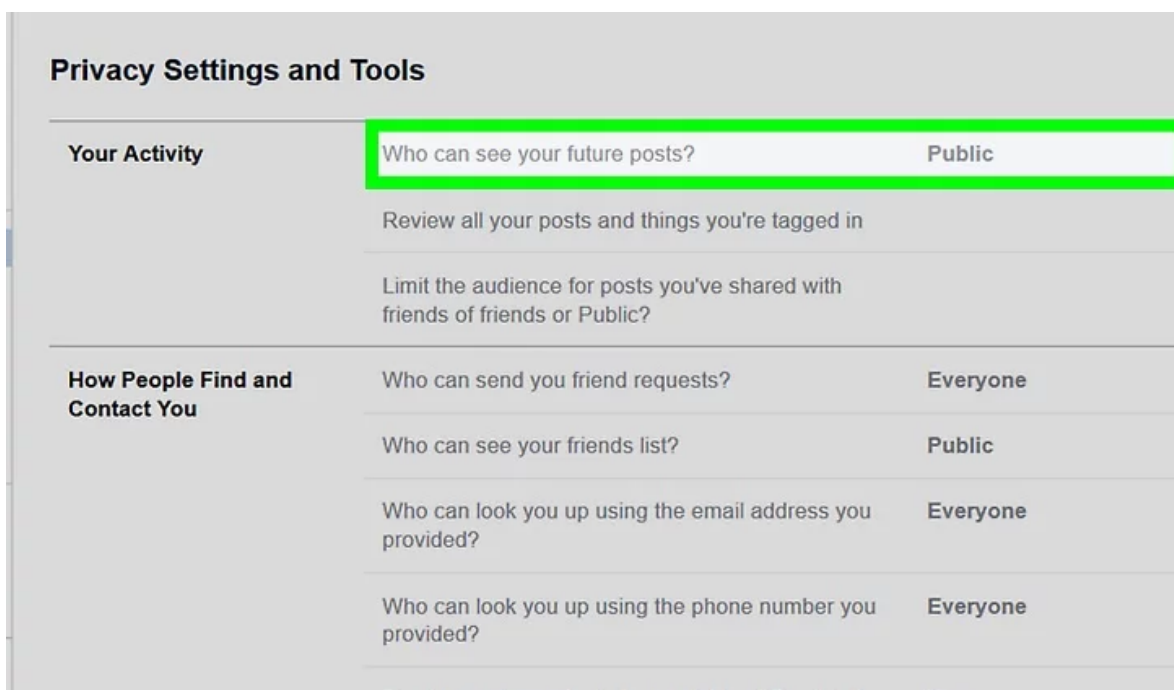


6

**Delete obsolete accounts.** While old accounts may not contain embarrassing information, it's always a good idea to remove information that's no longer current.

- For example, if you had a Myspace page back at the turn of the century, you might want to close it in order to avoid old information coming back to haunt your online presence.
- Even if you don't want to delete an entire account, removing old posts from your account is a good idea. Facebook's "On This Day" option makes this easy, whereas other social media accounts may require you to scroll down to the post(s).

7.



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook 'Privacy Settings and Tools' interface. The page is divided into two main sections: 'Your Activity' and 'How People Find and Contact You'. The 'Your Activity' section is currently selected and highlighted with a green border. It contains a table with the following settings:

Setting	Current Setting
Who can see your future posts?	Public
Review all your posts and things you're tagged in	
Limit the audience for posts you've shared with friends of friends or Public?	

The 'How People Find and Contact You' section is partially visible below and contains the following settings:

Setting	Current Setting
Who can send you friend requests?	Everyone
Who can see your friends list?	Public
Who can look you up using the email address you provided?	Everyone
Who can look you up using the phone number you provided?	Everyone



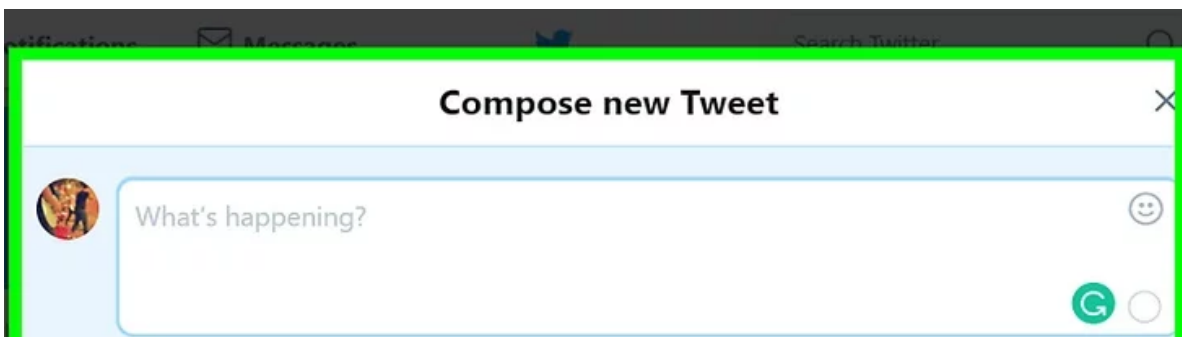


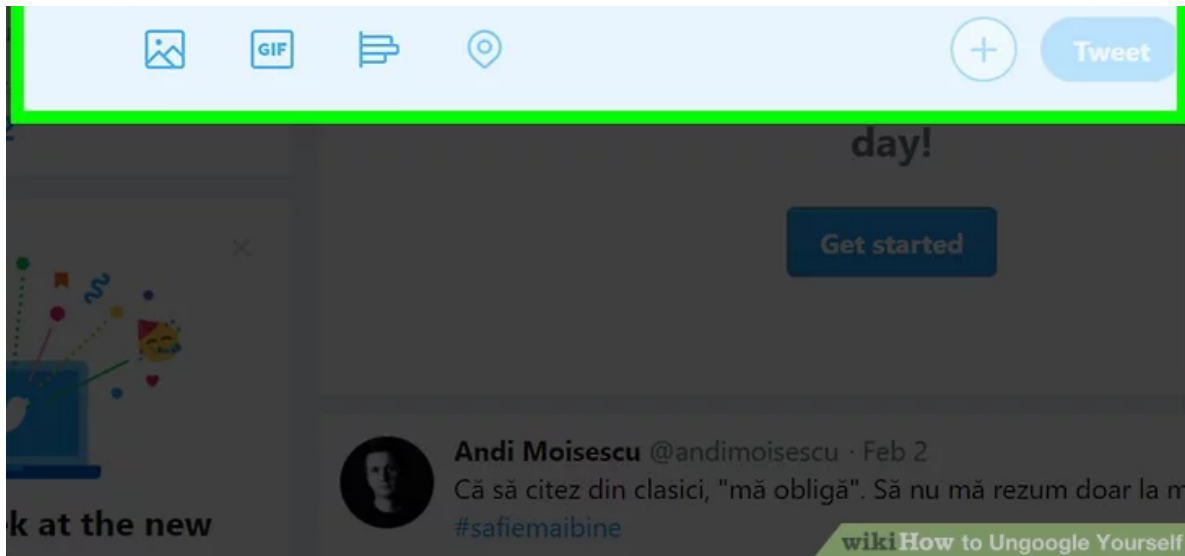
7

**Be proactive.** Google cannot crawl what they cannot see, and you cannot be identified by what you do not choose to share. Be very selective on when, where, and with whom you share *any* personal information.

- This is especially true in online forums or games.
- For professional or commercial accounts such as cable or Netflix, keep your user name abbreviated.
- Use these techniques whenever you are asked to put your name out in a public location that Google bots can find and index. You can't stop them from finding you, but you can prevent them from pointing to the *real* you.

8.





8

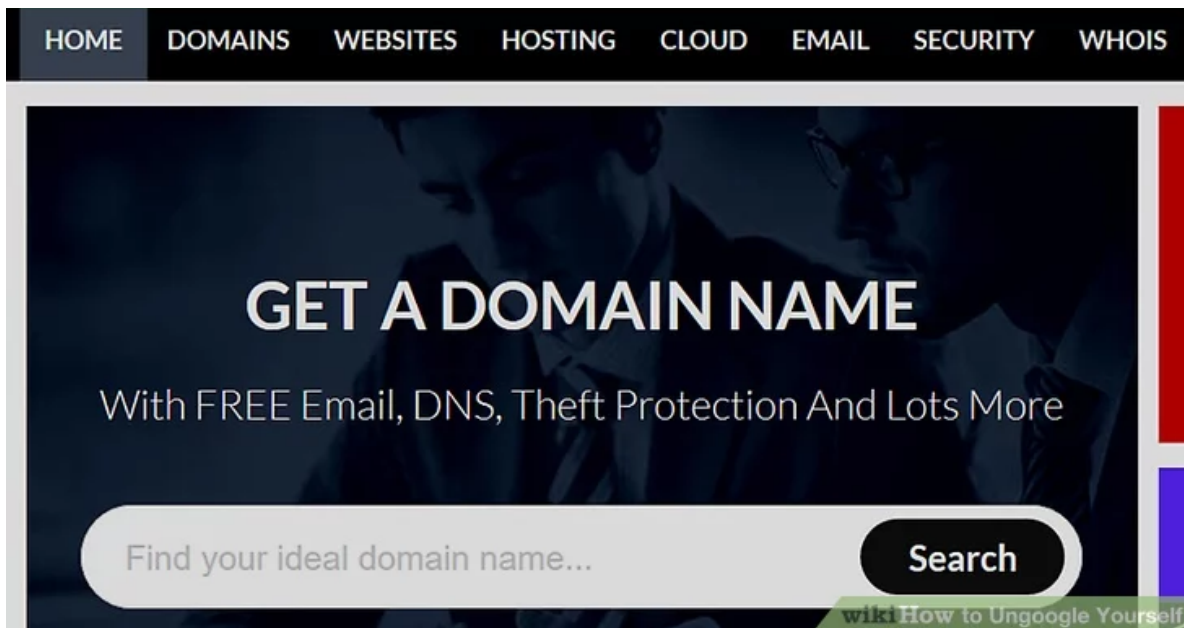
**Bury the content you don't want to be found.** By posting to multiple sites under the name that is generating the unwanted content, your offending content will eventually be moved down the Google page, or even onto a second or third page.

- This isn't guaranteed to work right away, but you should see results after a while if you keep posting on the other sites while ignoring the one on which the content you want to hide is located.

Advertisement

1.

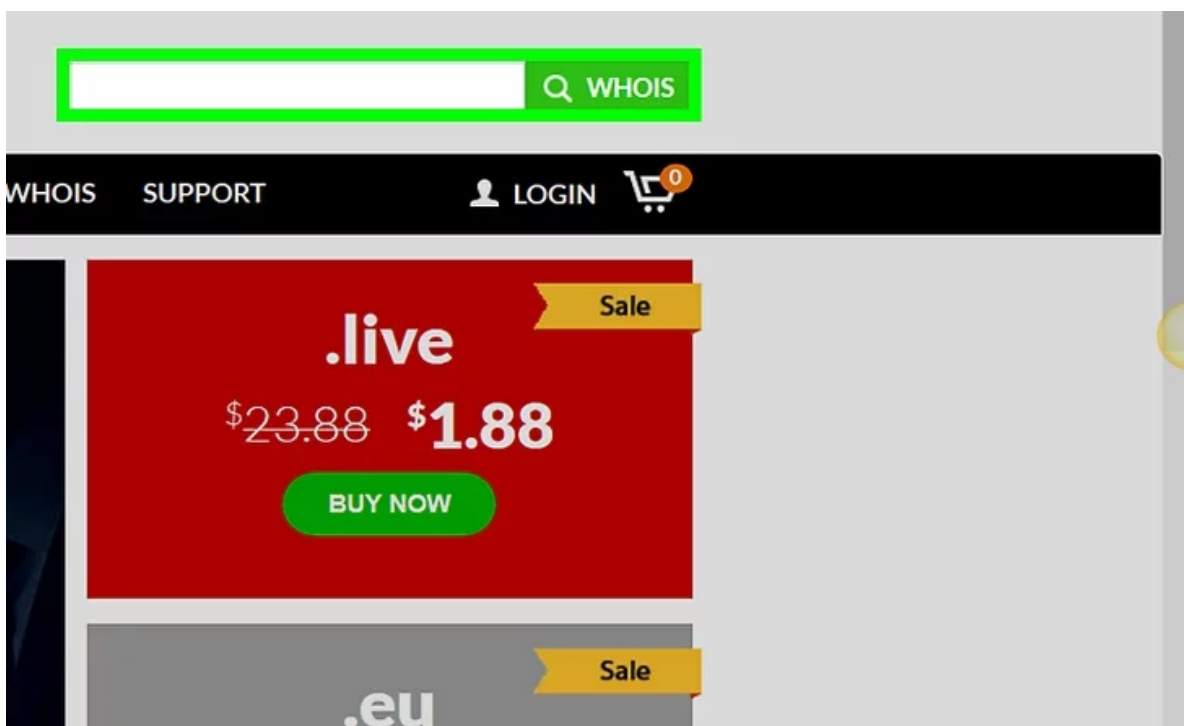


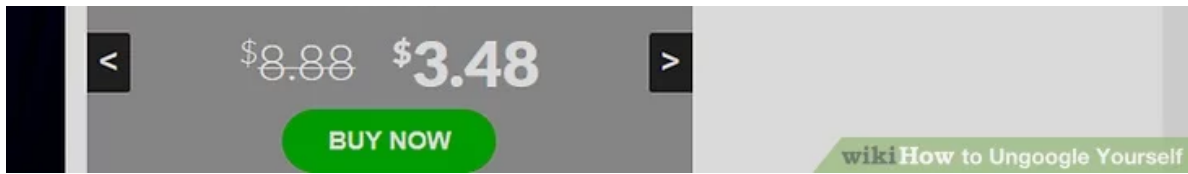


1

**Open the Whois website.** Go to <https://www.whois.com/> in your computer's web browser. This website allows you to figure out who to contact for specific sites.<sup>[1]</sup>

2.





2

**Search for the website.** Type the address of the website (e.g., `www.website.com`) into the search bar in the upper-right side of the page, then click **WHOIS** to the right of the text box.

3.

A screenshot of a WHOIS lookup result for the domain 'tumblr.com'. The page has a light grey background. The first section, 'Administrative Contact', is highlighted with a thick green border. It contains a person icon and the following information: Organization: Tumblr, Inc., State: NY, and Country: US. Below this is the 'Technical Contact' section, which also shows Organization: Tumblr, Inc., State: NY, and Country: US. At the bottom is the 'Raw Whois Data' section, which contains a block of text with domain details. A green banner with the text 'wikiHow to Ungoogle Yourself' is visible at the bottom right of the screenshot.

Administrative Contact	
Organization:	Tumblr, Inc.
State:	NY
Country:	US

Technical Contact	
Organization:	Tumblr, Inc.
State:	NY
Country:	US

**Raw Whois Data**

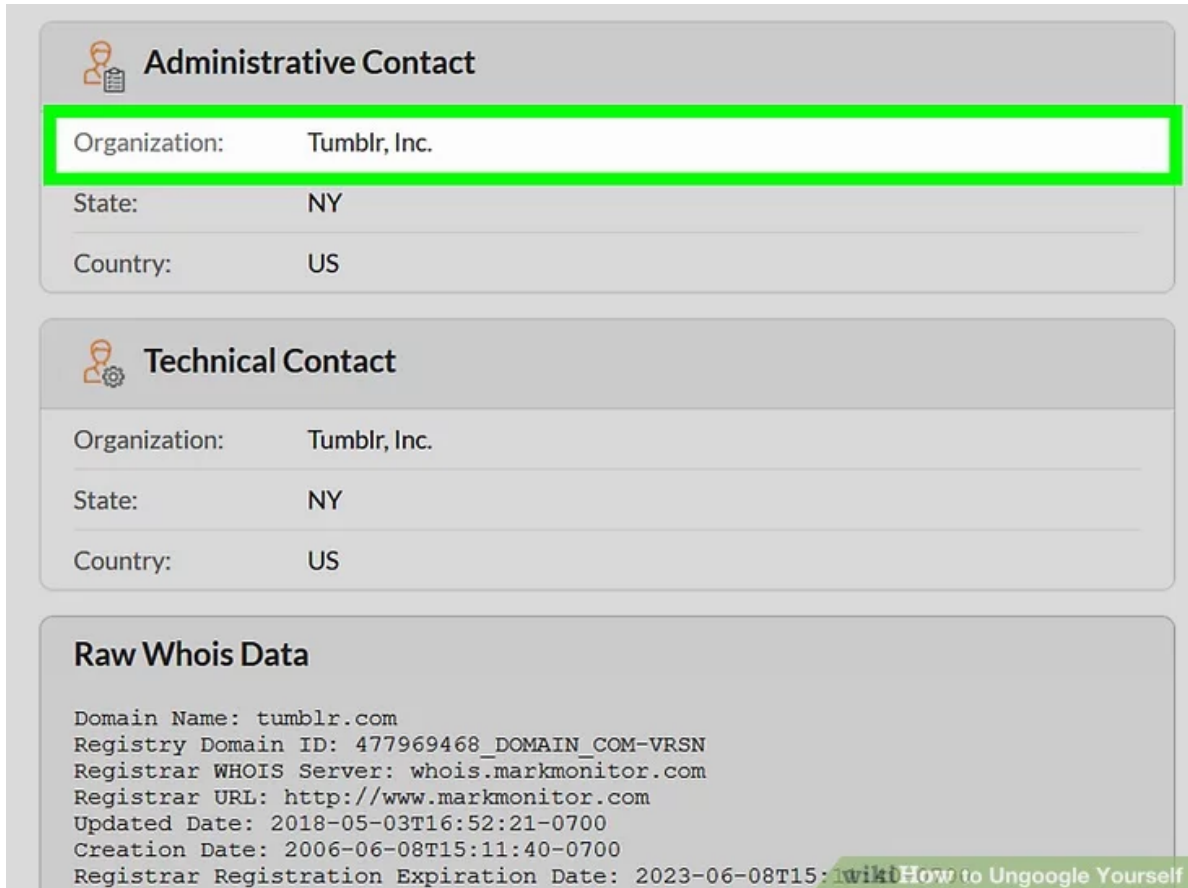
```
Domain Name: tumblr.com
Registry Domain ID: 477969468_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.markmonitor.com
Registrar URL: http://www.markmonitor.com
Updated Date: 2018-05-03T16:52:21-0700
Creation Date: 2006-06-08T15:11:40-0700
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2023-06-08T15:11:40-0700
```

3

**Scroll down to the "ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT" heading.** You'll find this near the

middle of the page. This heading is at the top of a box that contains information about the webmaster, including the proper email address at which to contact them.

4.



The screenshot displays the WHOIS record for the domain tumblr.com. It is divided into three main sections: Administrative Contact, Technical Contact, and Raw Whois Data. The Administrative Contact section is highlighted with a green border and shows the Organization as Tumblr, Inc., State as NY, and Country as US. The Technical Contact section shows the same information. The Raw Whois Data section contains the following text: Domain Name: tumblr.com, Registry Domain ID: 477969468\_DOMAIN\_COM-VRSN, Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.markmonitor.com, Registrar URL: http://www.markmonitor.com, Updated Date: 2018-05-03T16:52:21-0700, Creation Date: 2006-06-08T15:11:40-0700, and Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2023-06-08T15:11:40-0700. A watermark 'wikiHow to Ungoogle Yourself' is visible in the bottom right corner of the Raw Whois Data section.

Administrative Contact	
Organization:	Tumblr, Inc.
State:	NY
Country:	US

Technical Contact	
Organization:	Tumblr, Inc.
State:	NY
Country:	US

**Raw Whois Data**

```
Domain Name: tumblr.com
Registry Domain ID: 477969468_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.markmonitor.com
Registrar URL: http://www.markmonitor.com
Updated Date: 2018-05-03T16:52:21-0700
Creation Date: 2006-06-08T15:11:40-0700
Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2023-06-08T15:11:40-0700
```

4

**Review the "Email" heading.** You should see an email address to the right of the "Email" heading; this is the address that you'll use to file your request.

5.



The screenshot shows a dark button with the text 'New Message' in white. To the right of the text are two small white icons: a square with an arrow pointing up and to the right, and a square with an 'X' inside.

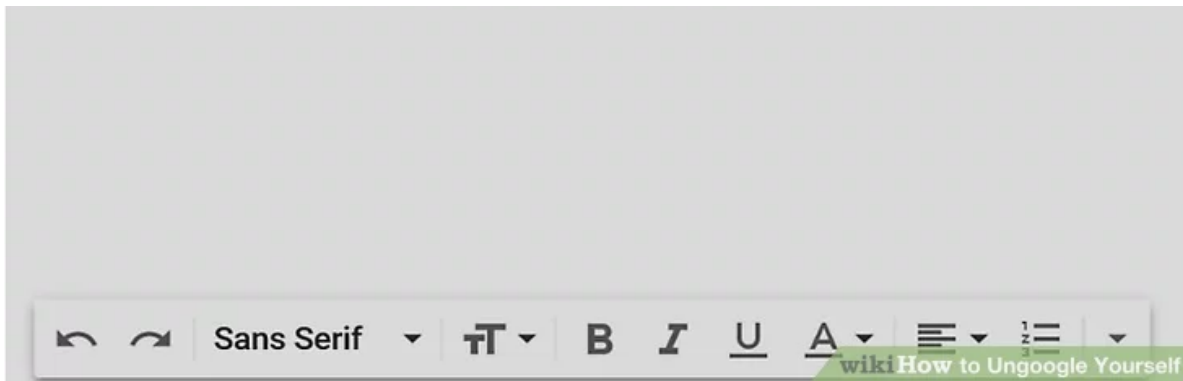


5

**Address an email to the webmaster.** Open a new email window in your preferred email inbox, then type the "Email" heading's address into the "To" text box.

6.





6

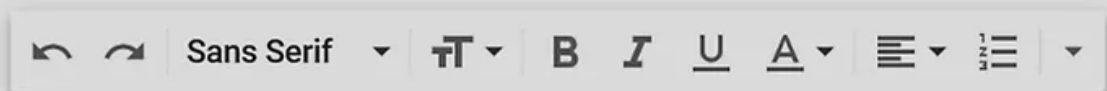
**Write a professional request.** In the email's main text box, politely request that the webmaster remove the post from their website.

- Your request should be brief. For example, you might send "Hello, I notice that you posted [content about you] on [date]. I would like to request that you remove it from your site, as [reason for wanting the content deleted]. Best, [Name]"
- If the post is illegal, you can ditch manners in favor of explaining the post's illegality, though you may instead want to contact an attorney to do the work for you.
- Never threaten legal action if the content that you want to remove isn't illegal to post.

7.

Hello

Hello, I notice that you posted [content about you] on [date]. I would like to request that you remove it from your site, as [reason for wanting the content deleted]. Best, [Name]

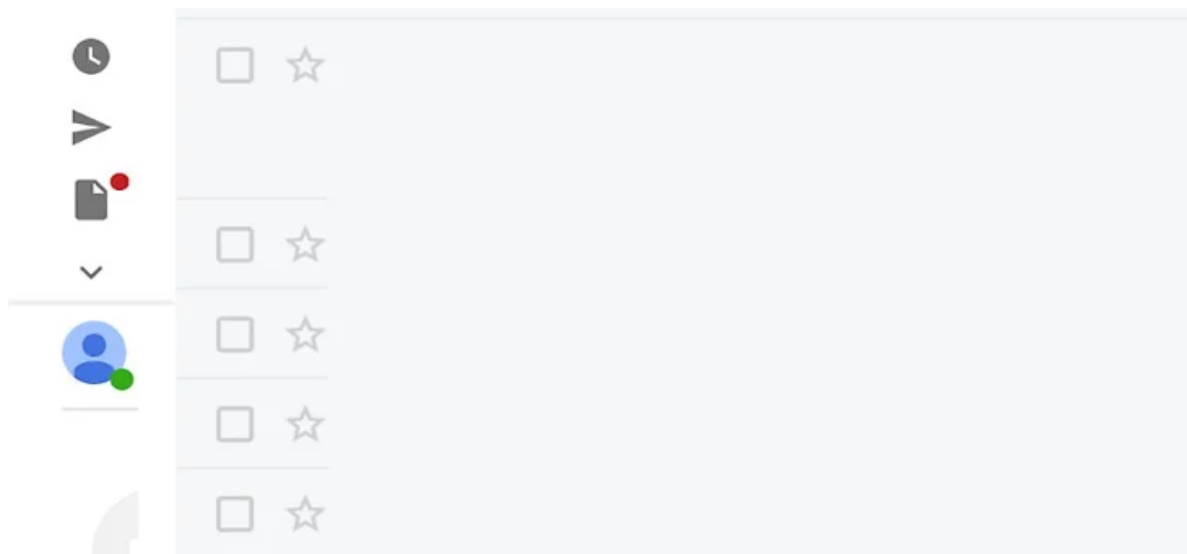


wikiHow to Ungoogle Yourself

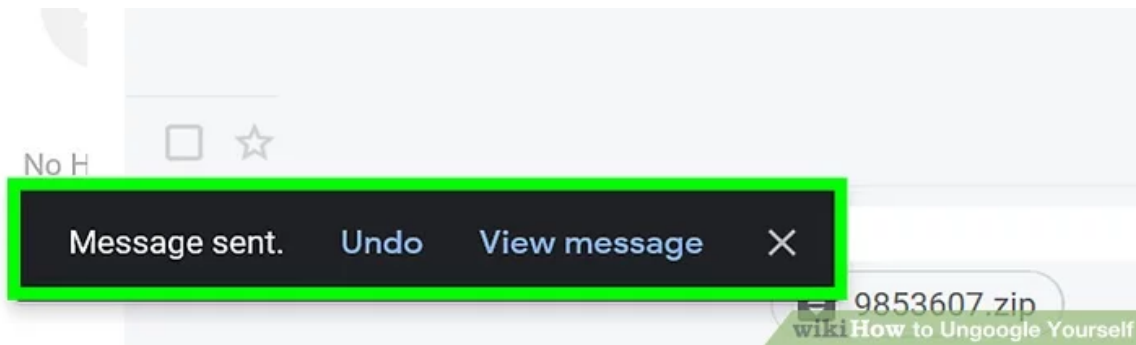
7

**Send your email.** Once you've proofread and confirmed your email, send it to the webmaster. You should expect to hear back from within a few days to a couple of weeks.

8.





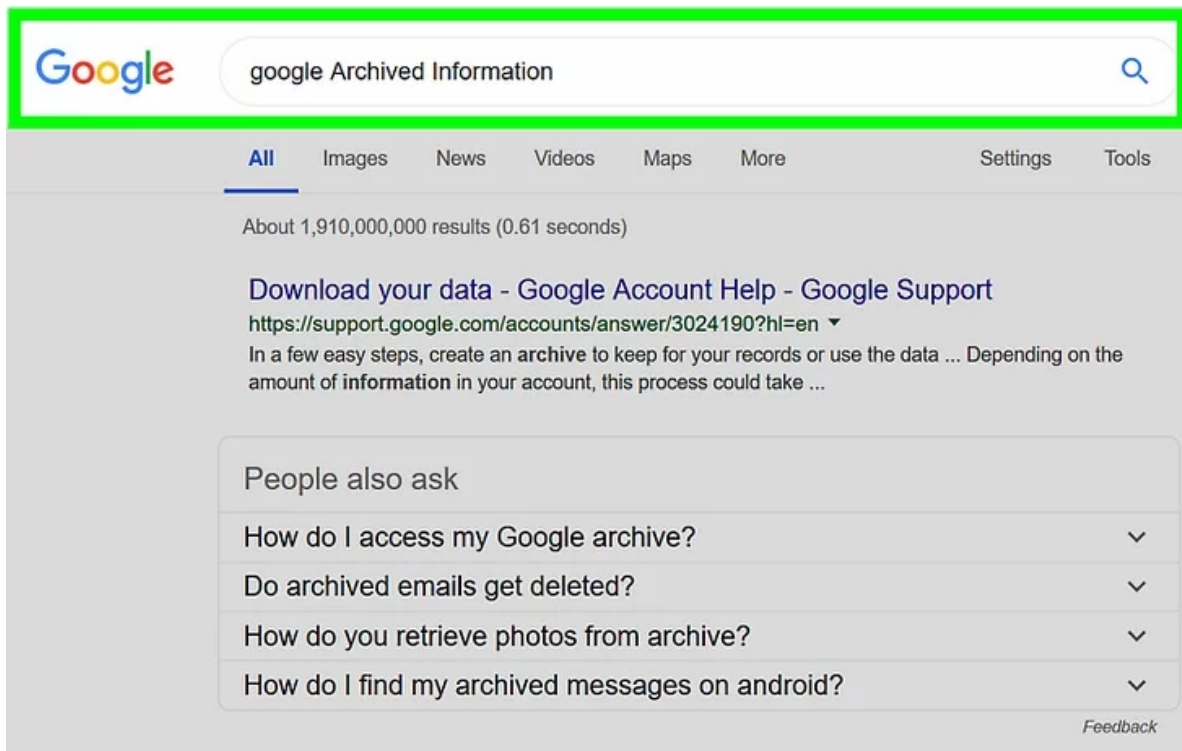


8

**Wait for a response or an action.** This step largely depends on the website itself. If the website is large enough, you may not receive an email, or the email that you do receive may be automated. In this case, just check the website after a few days to see if your content is gone.

Advertisement

1.

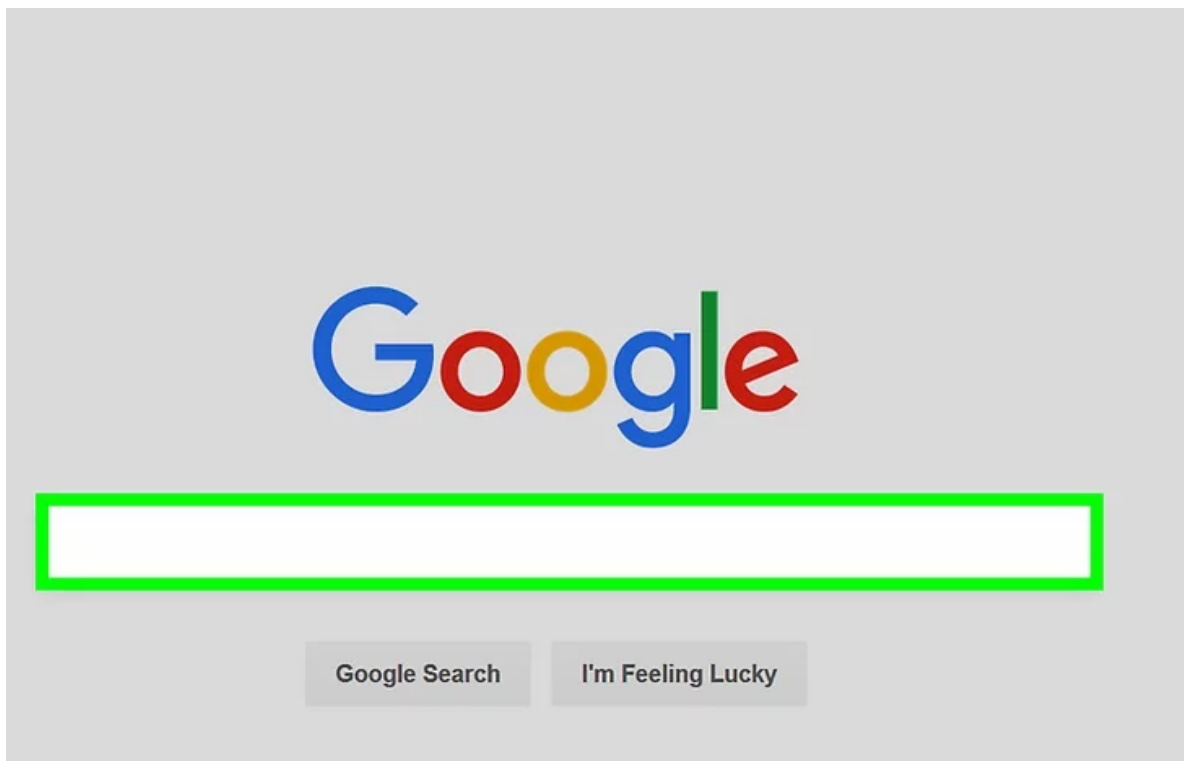


1

**Understand how this method works.** In the event that the content you want to remove has been deleted from its site but is still showing up on Google searches, you can request that Google remove the content from its archives.

- Google often shows archived versions of content for several weeks after the content disappears.
- This method will not work if the webmaster has not deleted the content from the site.

2.

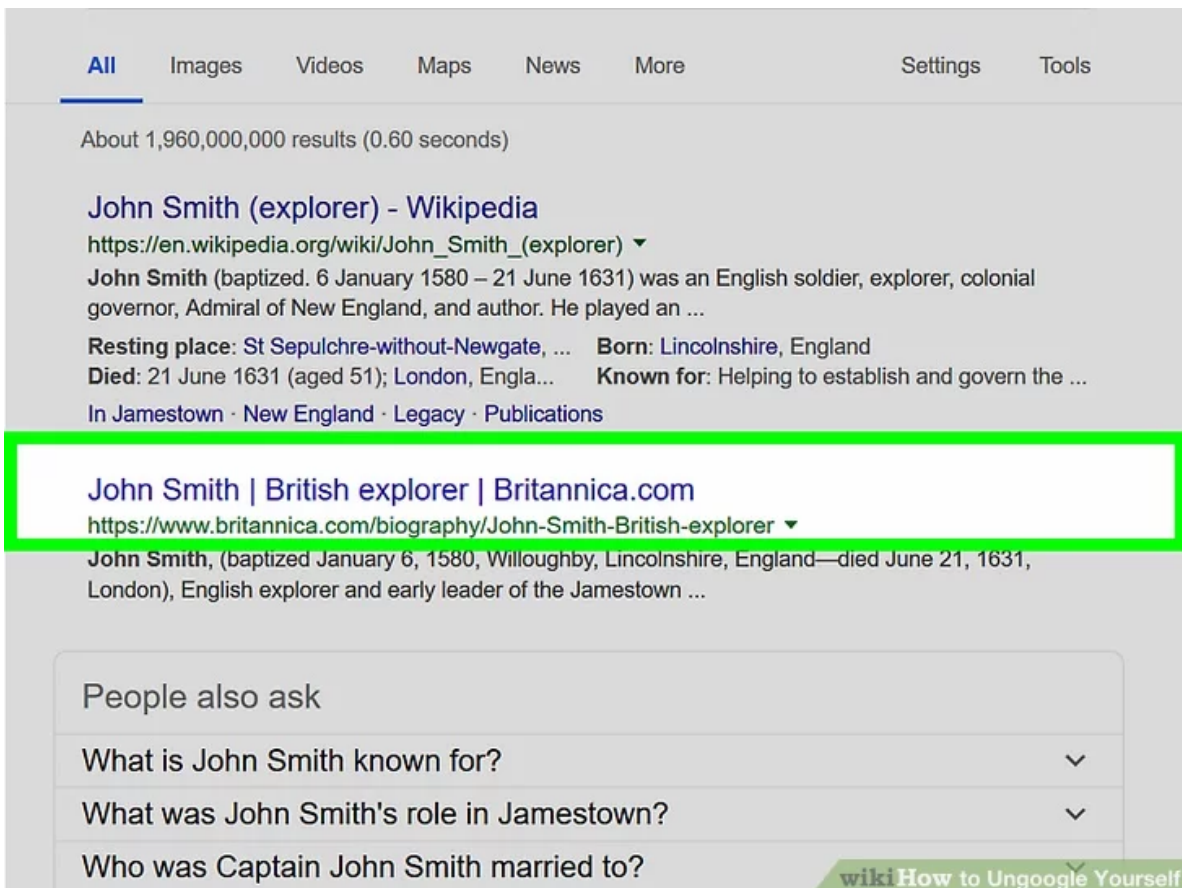


2

**Perform a Google search for the information.**

You'll do this in order to find the link to the content.

3.



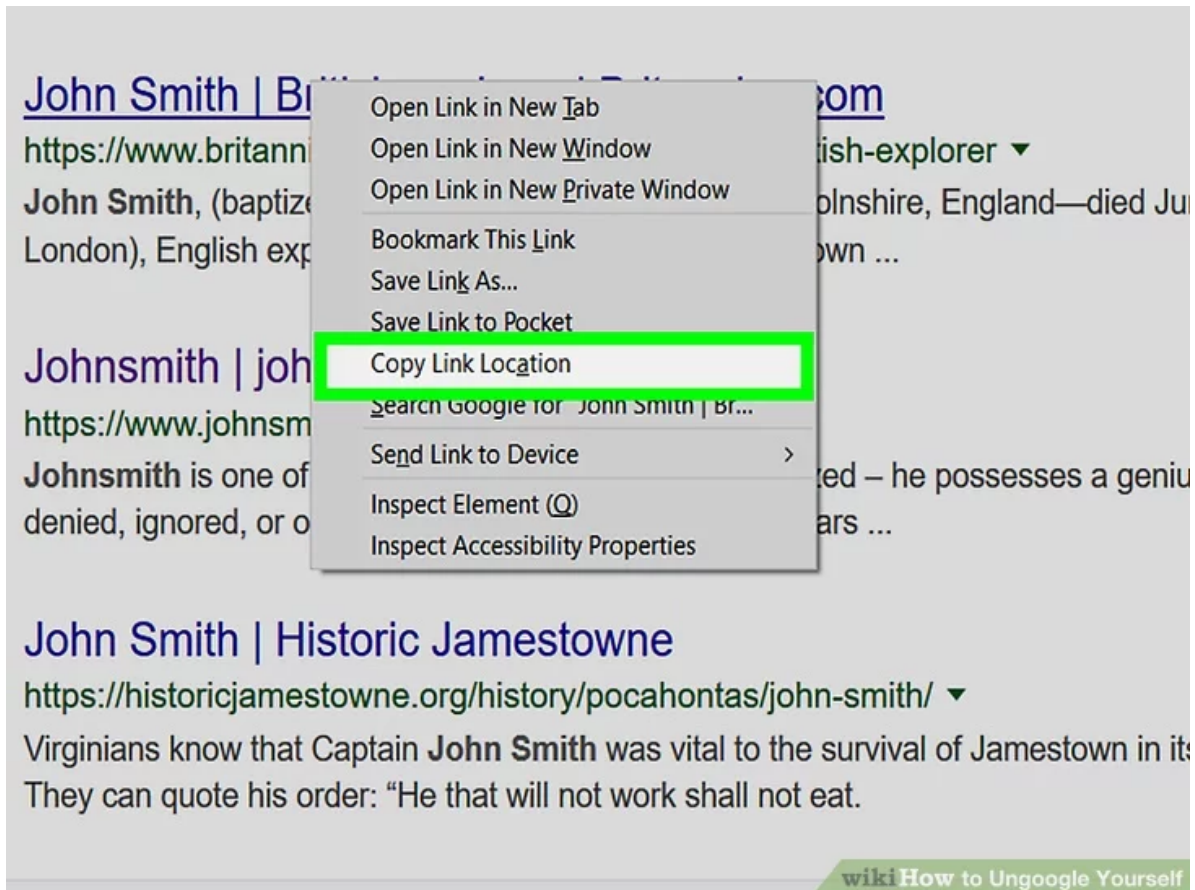
3

**Find the information's link.** Scroll through Google search results until you find the link to the content that you want to remove.

- If you're doing this with a photo, go to the photo in

the **Images** tab, then click the photo in question.

4.



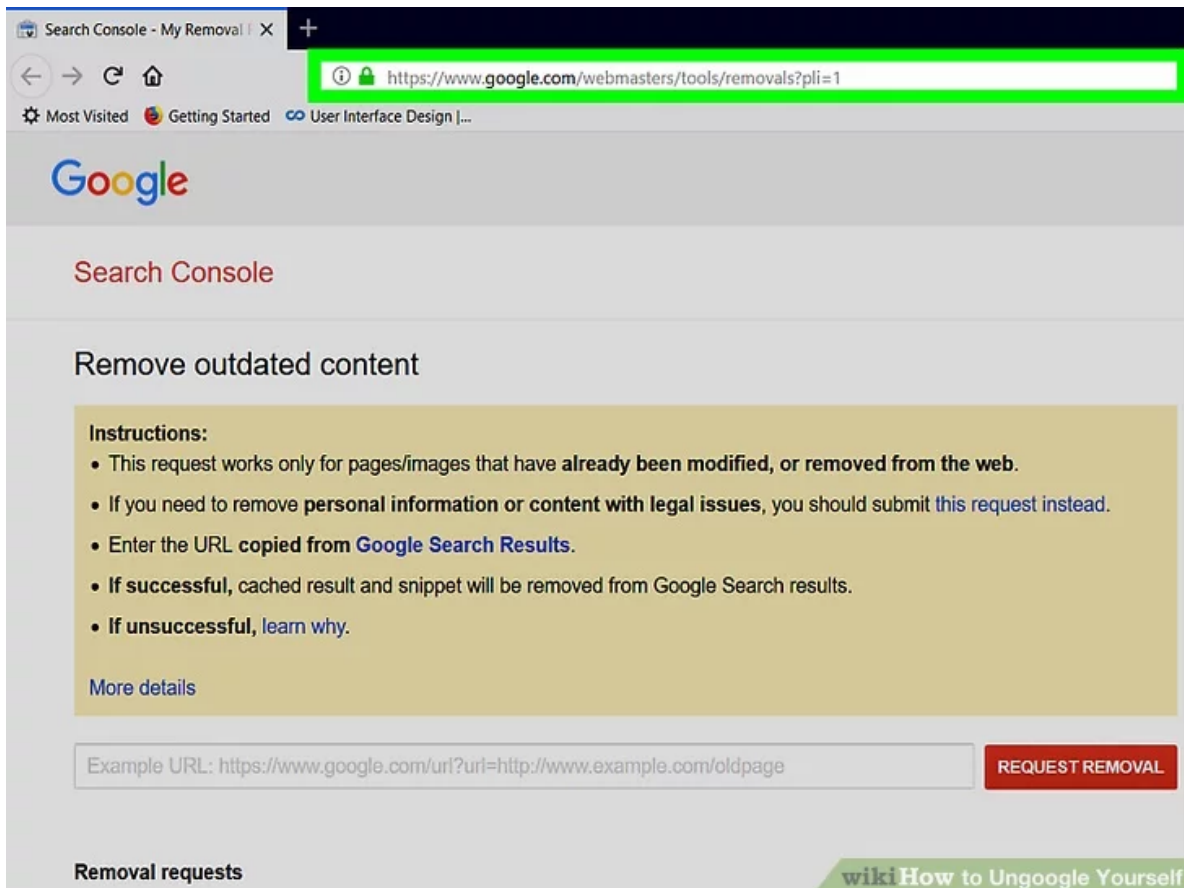
4

**Copy the link's address.** Right-click the link (or photo), then click **Copy Link Address** in the resulting drop-down menu. Do not click **Copy Link**, as doing this will not provide Google with the proper link.

- If your mouse doesn't have a right-click button, click the right side of the mouse, or use two fingers to click the mouse.

- If your computer uses a trackpad instead of a mouse, use two fingers to tap the trackpad or press the bottom-right side of the trackpad.

5.



5

**Open the "Remove outdated content" tool.** Go to <https://www.google.com/webmasters/tools/removals?pli=1> in your computer's web browser. This form allows you to direct Google to an archived link which you want to remove.

6.

## Remove outdated content

### Instructions:

- This request works only for pages/images that have **already been modified, or removed from the web**.
- If you need to remove **personal information or content with legal issues**, you should submit [this request instead](#).
- Enter the URL **copied from Google Search Results**.
- If **successful**, cached result and snippet will be removed from Google Search results.
- If **unsuccessful**, [learn why](#).

[More details](#)

Example URL:

REQUEST REMOVAL

Undo  
Cut  
Copy  
Paste  
Delete  
Select All  
Check Spelling  
Inspect Element (Q)  
Inspect Accessibility Properties

**Removal requests**  

Show all ▾

URL	Status
-----	--------

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Type here to search

6

**Paste in the link.** Click the "Example URL" text box near the bottom of the page, then press **Ctrl+V** (Windows) or **⌘ Command+V** (Mac).

7.

n modified, or removed from the web.  
gal issues, you should submit [this request instead](#).  
oogle Search results.

REQUEST REMOVAL



Status	Removal Type
	wikiHow to Ungoogle Yourself

7

**Click REQUEST REMOVAL.** It's a red button to the right of the text box. Doing so will submit your link to Google for authentication.

8.

The URL you want to remove is:

We think the web page you're trying to remove hasn't been removed by the site owner.  
Before Google can remove it from our search results, the site owner needs to take down or update the content.

Has the web page been updated or removed at source website?

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Next** **Close**

Status wikiHow to Ungoogle Yourself

8

**Follow any additional instructions.** Once Google

determines that the link's content has in fact been deleted, you may have to fill out a form or answer a couple of questions in order to complete the process.

- This step will vary depending on the content itself.

Advertisement

Add New Question

- Question

I deactivated my account, but it still appears on Google search. Why?



You may have to wait a bit. Results aren't removed immediately upon deletion of the account; it takes time.

- Question

I have a bunch of pictures from when I was younger on Google. I deleted them from Twitter but they still show up on Google. What do I do?

