

PowerSearchingWithGoogle.com

Lesson 4.2: Search Features


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Shortcuts: weather, flight info. and time

This is lesson 4.2. In this lesson we're going to talk about some Google search features, some people call them tricks, some people call them shortcuts, they're all sort of rapid ways to get specific kinds of information to you, so you don't have to spend a lot of time worrying about it, trying to figure out all the details. So these are basically accelerators that get you to your data, to your information as rapidly as possible. The most common one I think that gets used is this, you see this on this slide, weather and then place-name.

4.2: Search features



A collection of “shortcuts” that get you to answer quickly

The screenshot shows a Google search for "weather mountain view". The results display the current weather in Mountain View, CA, as of Sunday 2:00 PM, which is sunny with a temperature of 79°F (26°C). It also shows a 10-day weather forecast with high and low temperatures for each day. The forecast data is as follows:

Day	High	Low
Sun	79°	55°
Mon	76°	55°
Tue	73°	54°
Wed	66°	54°
Thu	67°	54°
Fri	71°	54°
Sat	72°	54°
Sun	70°	53°

So this is from a couple days ago here in Mountain View, nice day, now what other ones are there? There are a lot. You can ask simple questions like what's the capital of a place or what's the weather in a place and these are basically the patterns.

A Few Search Features



[**capital of Mongolia**]

[**weather Knoxville, TN**]

[**weather 90712**]

[**time in Singapore**]

[**UA 2**] or [**AA 2**] or [**AI 840**]

[**9AM in Mountain View what time in London**]

Let me show you these live so the first one is you can ask simple questions about the world like what is the diameter of the earth and it'll just tell you, so you pop up these kinds of very rapid information pieces or if you're in high school and trying to figure out what is the area of a circle it actually will pop up a calculator for you.

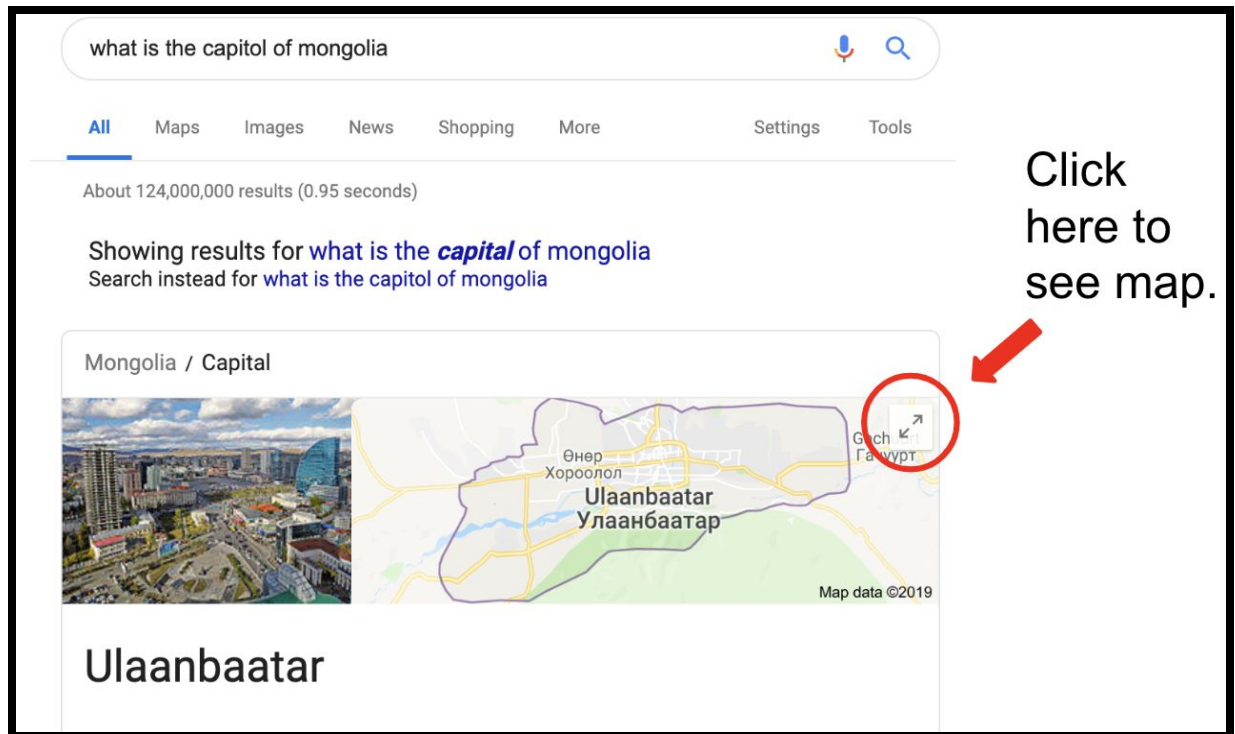
The screenshot shows a Google search for "what is the area of a circle". The search bar at the top contains the query. Below the search bar, the "All" tab is selected, showing "About 2,460,000,000 results (0.70 seconds)".

The main result is a "Circle" calculator. It says "Solve for area". The result is $A \approx 314.16$. Below this, there is a "Radius" input field with the value "10". To the right of the input field is a diagram of a circle with radius r and diameter d .

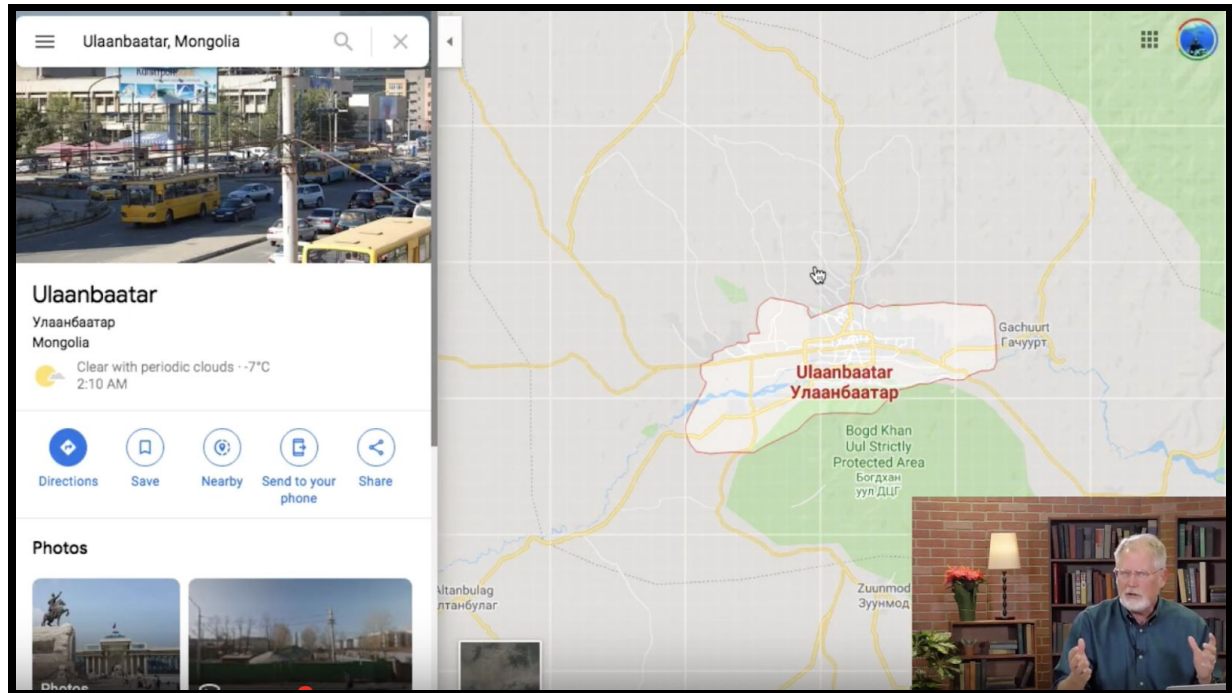
On the right side of the search results, there are several image thumbnails. One shows the formula $\text{Area} = \pi r^2$ with a diagram of a circle. Another shows a diagram of a circle with radius $r = 6\text{cm}$ and area $\sim 36\pi\text{cm}^2$ or 113.04 . A third shows the formula $\text{area} = \frac{\pi}{4} \times \text{Diameter}^2$. Below these images is a video thumbnail showing a man speaking.

At the bottom of the search results, there is a link to "Area of a Circle - Math is Fun" with the URL <https://www.mathsisfun.com/geometry/circle-area.html>. Below the link is a description: "Area of a Circle. Calculator. Enter the radius, diameter, circumference or area of a Circle to find the".

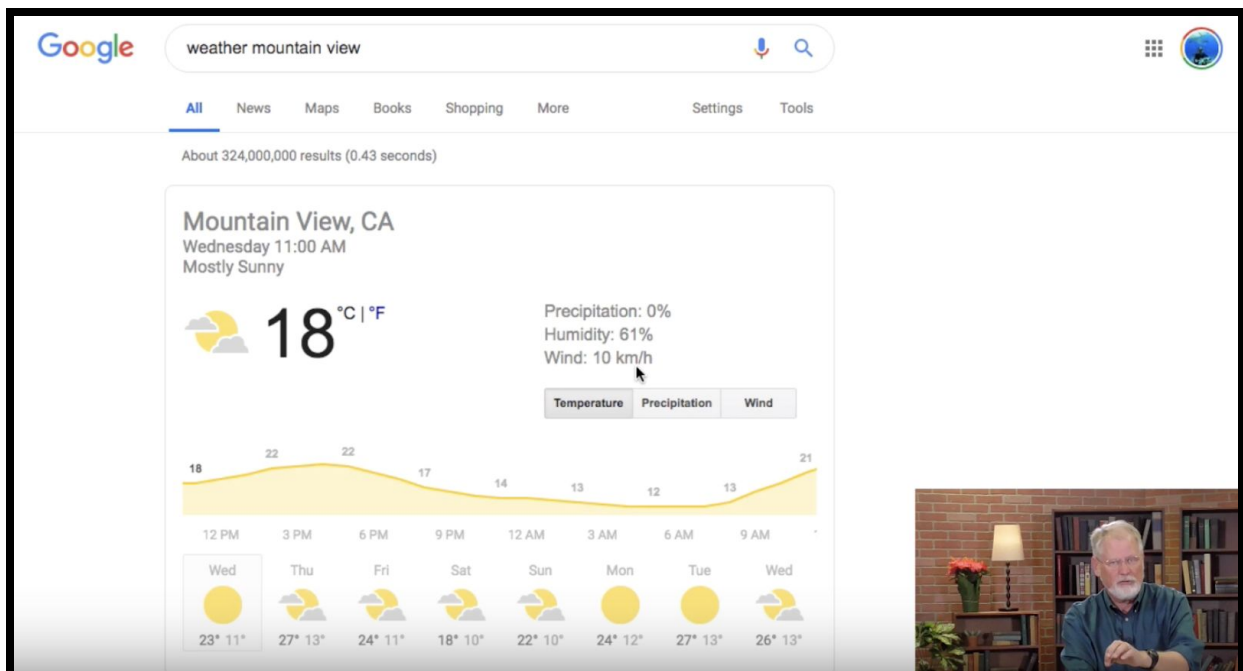
It will also, teachers notice, give you the formula, so that's what you want the students to do, but you can also now just put in numbers like that and to see and start to gain an understanding of that. There are a lot of these kinds of shortcuts built into Google, so we've talked about simple ones like what is the capital of Mongolia and it tells you it is still Ulaanbaatar but notice up here we have a nice picture of Ulaanbaatar and the map.



You see this sort of double arrow expansion thing and if you click on it, it actually takes you to that Google map highlighting the city and now you can see it in context.

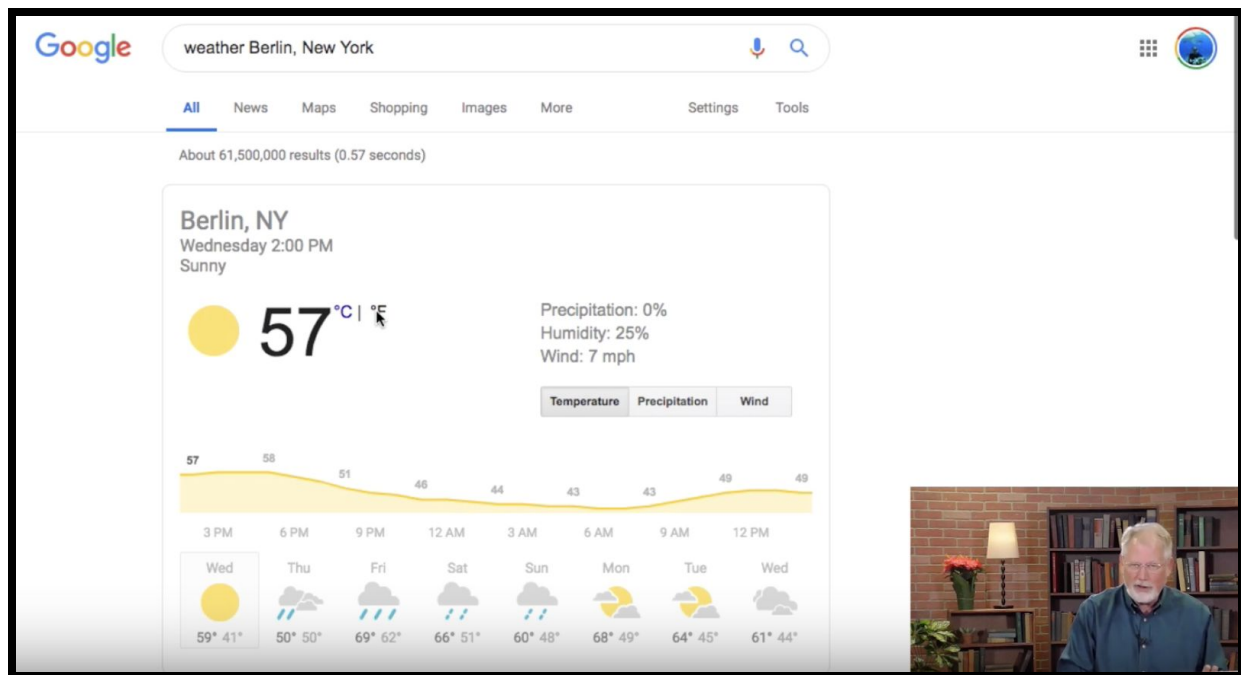


As I said with the weather shortcut you can do the weather of your place; let's do Mountain View. Let's get today's weather in Mountain View, and you see here it's pretty nice 18 degrees...centigrade. You see that? I have C in front because last time I did this I used centigrade.



If I want to use the American version of temperature I might click on F to see it in Fahrenheit and you do it either way it will stick. If I click it back to centigrade you'll see it, it's 18 degrees centigrade, so it's pretty nice outside, with a nice little breeze, 10 km/h. Notice that also switched into metric units. Here you can also see

the precipitation level and wind, this is by hour, and if you scroll up a little bit you can play around with and see other things like the next day and so on. This weather thing is incredibly useful because I can now say let's try checking out the weather in Berlin. Now notice it gave me Berlin Germany, that's the most popular Berlin. Now if I live in the United States, if I live in New York and I want to see Berlin New York, I have to be specific, so when you're doing these kinds of queries make sure you know which Berlin you're asking about.



So here we have it now, Berlin, New York and I'm switching back to Fahrenheit and you can see they're in for some rain over the next couple of days, so this is the weather thing and it works even with postal code. So I can for example, change it to be weather 90712; I know that's somewhere in Los Angeles, and so now I can see the weather in that postal code area. This works also for postal codes that are not in the US. M4B 1B4 is in Toronto or York, Canada so you can use the postal codes like that.

Google weather M4B 1B4

About 312,000 results (0.62 seconds)

East York, ON M4B 1B4, Canada
Wednesday 2:00 PM
Partly Cloudy

52°F | °C

Precipitation: 0%
Humidity: 51%
Wind: 12 mph


Temperature Precipitation Wind

52 50 46 44 43 44 48 54 57

3 PM 6 PM 9 PM 12 AM 3 AM 6 AM 9 AM 12 PM

Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

52° 42° 60° 48° 49° 42° 49° 42° 55° 44° 55° 42° 50° 42° 53° 44°



So weather is fantastic. What about those other things? Let me show you the airline flight information. I can type in just the airline code, so say United Airlines flight 2 and it will give me sort of a quick summary.

Google UA 2

About 1,860,000,000 results (0.57 seconds)

United UA 2
Singapore to San Francisco

Wed, April 17 Thu, April 18 Fri, April 19 Sat, April 20

United UA 2
ON TIME 9:00 am → 8:45 am

Updated 47m 42s ago


SIN ✈ SFO

Singapore · Thu, April 18 San Francisco · Thu, April 18

Scheduled departure	Terminal	Gate	Scheduled arrival	Terminal	Gate
9:00 am	2	F33	8:45 am	INTL	-

Source: [FlightStats](#)

Showing local airport times Feedback



You can see it's originating in Singapore and flying to San Francisco, will leave at 9 a.m. local time in Singapore. Now let's do a different flight. Let's do American Airlines flight 2 and you can see this one originated in Los Angeles, that's LAX; it's

flying to New York, JFK and it's in mid-flight so that's what the green airplane icon is showing you here. They left at 9:01, they're supposed to arrive at 5:19.

The screenshot shows a Google search for "AA 2". The results display flight information for American Airlines flight AA 2 from Los Angeles to New York. The flight is currently "ON TIME" and is in mid-flight, as indicated by a green airplane icon on the progress bar between LAX and JFK. The flight is scheduled to depart at 9:01 am on Wednesday, April 17, and arrive at 5:19 pm on the same day. The search results also show the terminal and gate information for both the departure and arrival.

Los Angeles · Wed, April 17			New York JFK · Wed, April 17		
Departed	Terminal	Gate	Estimated arrival	Terminal	Gate
9:01 am	4	49A	5:19 pm	8	42
Scheduled departure 9:00 am			Scheduled arrival 5:32 pm		

Sources: [FlightStats](#), [OAG](#)

And of course this works with international flights as well, so I can say Air India 840 and see the flight plan for that flight that originates in Vijayawada and is going to Hyderabad.

The screenshot shows a Google search for "AI 840". The results display flight information for Air India flight AI 840 from Vijayawada to Hyderabad. The flight is currently "SCHEDULED" and is shown as a scheduled flight. The flight is scheduled to depart at 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 18, and arrive at 6:25 pm on the same day. The search results also show the terminal and gate information for both the departure and arrival.

Vijayawada · Thu, April 18			Hyderabad · Thu, April 18		
Scheduled departure	Terminal	Gate	Scheduled arrival	Terminal	Gate
5:30 pm	-	-	6:25 pm	-	-

Okay does that make sense? The same way we can give you information about weather by location we can also do time, so I could say time in London, UK. Tell me the time. There, that's not hard.

Google search results for "time in london uk". The search bar shows the query. Below the search bar, the results are displayed. The first result is a large box showing the current time in London, UK: 7:14 PM, Wednesday, April 17, 2019 (GMT+1). Below this, there is a link to "Time Zone & Clock Changes in London, England, United Kingdom" with a URL. Further down, there is a link to "The Times of London (@thetimes) · Twitter". On the right side of the search results, there is a small video thumbnail showing a man speaking.

We can also imagine asking questions like sunrise in London. Now notice it shows up here in the suggestion even before I finish it?

Google search results for "sunrise in lon". The search bar shows the query. Below the search bar, the results are displayed. The first result is a large box showing the current time in London, UK: 5:59 AM. Below this, there is a list of suggestions for sunrise times in various locations, including London, Long Beach, and Long Island. Further down, there is a link to "Time Zone & Clock Changes in London, England, United Kingdom" with a URL. On the right side of the search results, there is a small video thumbnail showing a man speaking.

So when you know that kind of thing you want to be sure it's London, UK and not London, Ontario or London some other place, so just add that clarification. So you can ask for sunrise, you can ask for time, but you can also ask for conversions. We're going to talk about this more in the next lesson, but I can ask when it's 9:00 a.m. in Mountain View, what time is it in Singapore?

The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "when it's 9 am in Mountain View what time is in Singapore". Below the search bar, the results show "About 62,000,000 results (0.89 seconds)". The main result box displays "9:00 AM Wednesday, in Mountain View, CA is" followed by "12:00 AM Thursday, in Singapore" in bold. To the right of this box is a "Feedback" link. Below the main result is a section titled "People also ask" with four expandable questions: "What time is 9 30 mountain time?", "What GMT is Singapore?", "How many time zones does Singapore have?", and "Does Singapore have Daylight Savings Time?". Each question has a downward arrow icon. To the right of this section is another "Feedback" link. At the bottom of the search results, there is a link for "Singapore Time to San Francisco Time Converter - TimeBle" with the URL "www.timeble.com/timezone/singaporesanfrancisco.php" and a small downward arrow. Below this link is a small text snippet: "Singapore Time and San Francisco Time Converter Calculator, Singapore Time and San Francisco". On the right side of the screenshot, there is a small video inset showing a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue shirt, sitting in front of a bookshelf and a lamp.

Nine a.m. here is 12 a.m. Thursday, that is tomorrow in Singapore so pay attention to those kinds of things. This kind of conversion routine is immensely handy when you're trying to work across multiple time zones across multiple countries, so now you've seen a bunch of shortcuts. As I said there are more out there but these are sort of the base ones and now armed with your exquisite advanced search knowledge you can probably find a few more, ones that'll be handy for the kind of work that you do. Go ahead, go to the next activity, see how you can use your shortcuts to solve those questions.