

PowerSearchingWithGoogle.com

Lesson 3.3: The Minus Operator


[Access Lesson 3.3 slides here](#)

Contents:

Using the minus operator

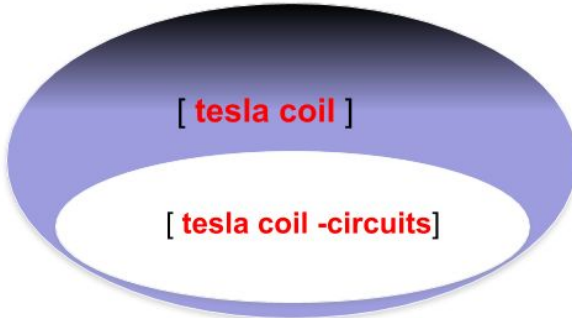
This is lesson 3.3. It's about how to remove those really annoying invasive words and terms that sometimes creep into your searches. You do a search, and you get a million results, but they're all polluted by something that you didn't really want. This is how to get rid of those not-so-great results, those invasive results. This is the use of what we call the minus operator, now like site or like filetype, this is a way to modify the query, to be more precise, to zoom in on just what it is you want to find.

3.3 Removing invasive results with minus (-)



- Another filter is the MINUS operator:

[**tesla coil -circuits**]



[**tesla coil**]

[**tesla coil -circuits**]

2

Here's an example, so imagine that you're still on this Tesla coil kick so you might imagine doing a search for a Tesla coil but you don't want to see anything about circuits. You do a query like this one [tesla coil -circuits] what this does is when you do a search for just Tesla coil you get a bazillion results all about Tesla coils. That's what this ellipse represents, it shows the whole universe of results that are queued up, sought out, discovered through this Tesla coil query. But now when you say [tesla coil -circuits] what you see is a smaller set of results it has zoomed in,

Google

salsa

All | Shopping | Videos | Images | Maps | More | Settings | Tools

About 413,000,000 results (0.60 seconds)

Stanford

Palo Alto

La Salsa Fresh Mexican Grill

Alberto's

Mountain View

Los Altos Hills

Los Altos

Map data ©2019 Google

Rating ▾ Cuisine ▾ Hours ▾ Your past visits ▾ Sort by ▾

La Salsa Fresh Mexican Grill

4.0 ★★★★★ (186) · \$ · Mexican

2.4 mi · 660 N San Antonio Rd # A

Casual Mexican chain with a salsa bar

Alberto's

4.2 ★★★★★ (781) · Dance school

Google

salsa recipe

All

Videos

Images

Shopping

News

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Tools

About 296,000,000 results (0.39 seconds)

Ingredients

1. 3 tablespoons chopped onion (finely chopped)

2. 2 small cloves garlic (minced)

3. 3 large ripe tomatoes (peeled, seeds removed, and chopped)

4. 2 chile peppers (hot or mild, chopped)

5. 2 to 3 tablespoons chopped cilantro.

6. 1 1/2 to 2 tablespoons lime juice.

7. Salt and pepper (to taste)

Dec 2, 2018

Classic Fresh Tomato Salsa Recipe (Pico de Gallo) - The Spruce Eats

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/classic-fresh-salsa-3060434>


homemade


chunky

mild

authentic

red





It's not what I'm looking for so I'm going to modify the query to just say [salsa recipe] maybe that'll be better. I'll get rid of all those other results, fantastic, I've got salsa recipes but they all have tomatoes in them.


Google search results for "salsa recipe -tomatoes". The search bar shows the query and the Google logo. Below the search bar, there are tabs for All, Videos, Images, Shopping, News, and More. The search results show "About 837,000,000 results (0.34 seconds)".

Ingredients

1. 3 mangoes, peeled, pitted and cut into 1/2-inch dice.
2. 1 red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and finely diced.
3. 1/2 jalapeño, stemmed and finely diced.
4. 3 tablespoons finely diced red onion.
5. 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves.
6. 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice.
7. 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil.
8. Kosher salt.

More items...

Fresh Mango Salsa Recipe - Emily Farris | Food & Wine



I'm going to modify the query again I'm going to say this time [salsa recipe -tomatoes] like that. And now, this is great, that's a recipe it's based on mangoes, it doesn't have tomatoes in it.

Google search results for "salsa recipe -tomatoes". The search bar shows the query and the Google logo. Below the search bar, there are tabs for All, Videos, Images, Shopping, News, and More. The search results show "About 837,000,000 results (0.34 seconds)".

https://www.kitchentreaty.com/strawberry-jalapeno-salsa/

15 min
Ingredients: 1 pint strawberries, hulled and diced (about 2 cups) 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and diced (about 1/4 cup) (include seeds for more heat) 1/2 small red onion, diced (about 1/2 cup) Zest and juice from 1 medium lime (about 1 teaspoon zest and 2-3 tablespoons lime juice) 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro.

Fresh Mango Salsa Recipe - Emily Farris | Food & Wine


https://www.foodandwine.com Recipes

15 min
Ingredients: 3 mangoes, peeled, pitted and cut into 1/2-inch dice. 1 red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded and finely diced. 1/2 jalapeño, stemmed and finely diced. 3 tablespoons finely diced red onion. 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves. 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice. 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil. Kosher salt.

Tomatillo Salsa recipe | Epicurious.com

https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/tomatillo-salsa-23

★★★★★ Rating: 3.5/4 - 13 reviews - 1 hr 5 min - 48 cal
Preparation. Coarsely purée **tomatillos**, chile, onion, garlic, v
blender. Transfer to a large heavy skillet and simmer, stirring



But if you scroll up a little bit let me show you something interesting. Here you see this, tomatillo, it's not a tomato it's a small kind of green thing that it's kind of in the same family as tomatoes but it's not really a tomato.

Google

salsa recipe -tomatoes -tomatillo

All Videos Images Shopping News More Settings Tools

About 1,010,000,000 results (0.34 seconds)



Ingredients:

1. 1 pint strawberries, hulled and diced (about 2 cups)
2. 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and diced (about 1/4 cup) (include seeds for more heat)
3. 1/2 small red onion, diced (about 1/2 cup)
4. Zest and juice from 1 medium lime (about 1 teaspoon zest and 2-3 tablespoons lime juice)
5. 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro.

More items...

Strawberry Jalapeno Salsa - Kitchen Treaty

<https://www.kitchentreaty.com/strawberry-jalapeno-salsa/>



I don't want that either, so what I'll do is modify my query to be [salsa recipe -tomatoes -tomatillo] like that. Now I've got nothing but results that have neither tomatoes in it or tomatillos in it. I just have pure salsa results, mango, papaya all kinds of stuff, but no tomatoes, so the trick here is to use the minus operator next to a term that you want to remove from your search results.

Example of minus use... removing



- The trick here is to remove all those “salsa as dancing” meanings. The quick way to do that in a web search is with the MINUS sign.



[salsa -dancing] -- this will remove all the dancing references

[salsa -dancing -tomatoes] – and the vegetables

No space
after the
minus sign!!

3

Suppose we're looking for a salsa and we didn't want to see that dancing stuff so we might get rid of salsa dancing by saying [salsa -dancing]. We could also get rid of the tomatoes in those recipes by [salsa -dancing -tomatoes -tomatillos] whatever. Important thing to know, I see people get tripped up by this all the time, they put a space accidentally after the minus sign; do not do that. If you put a space after the minus sign it means that Google will not see the minus sign. It will go salsa something tomatoes, I want to give you double salsa tomatoes. That's probably not what you want. Now that you know how to use the site operator, have used filetype, and minus to target in on your search you are now empowered to do all kinds of very sophisticated searches. So now go ahead and click on the next arrow and see what you can do in the next activity.

