

Using a Search Engine

Google; Bing; DuckDuckGo



DuckDuckGo

What *is* a search engine?

A search engine is an online application that is capable of searching the internet for relevant web pages, videos, images, music, PDFs, or other online content.

A number of the most popular—some of which you’ve likely heard of— include:

- [Google](#)
- [Microsoft Bing](#)
- [Yahoo! Search](#)
- [Yandex](#)
- [Ask](#)
- [DuckDuckGo](#)

The art of “GoogleFu.”

Searching for answers or information online can be a bit of an art... some have taken to referring to this as “GoogleFu.”



Google Search.

Google takes up over 90% of the world search engine market share at present, it is the world's go-to for daily searching! It is tried, true, and has been battle-tested time and time again over the past 20+ years.

It is one of the most mature, and certainly the most successful, of all the search engines in the world.



Entering a search query.

Start by [visiting a search engine website](#). We'll start with Google, but most will work as follows.



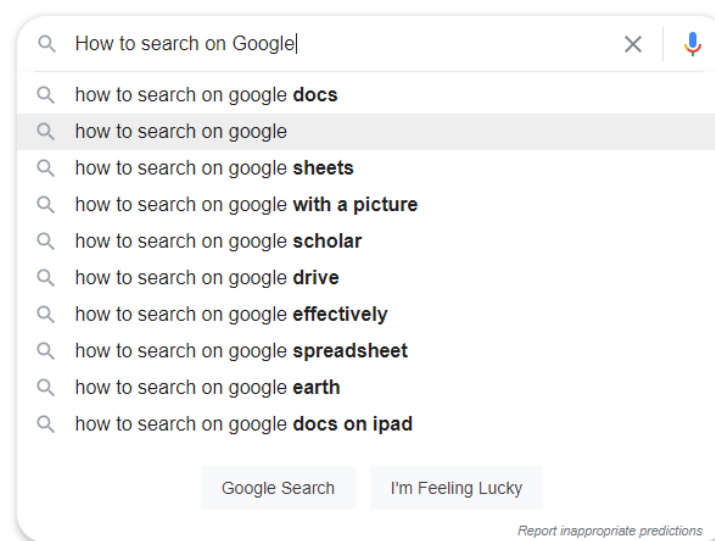
Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Google offered in: [Français](#)

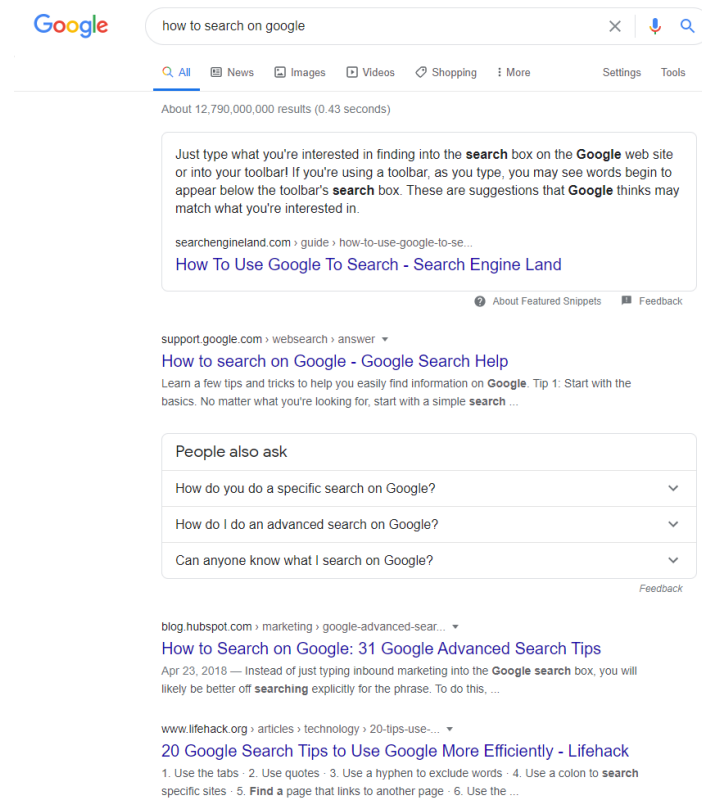
Entering a search query.

When you begin entering a search term, suggestions may appear beneath. You can select one of them if they sound like what you're looking for.



Search results.

Once you've submitted your search, you'll receive a list of search results.



The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the query "how to search on google". The search bar includes a clear button (X), a voice search icon, and a search icon. Below the search bar are tabs for "All", "News", "Images", "Videos", "Shopping", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The "All" tab is selected. The results show "About 12,790,000,000 results (0.43 seconds)". A featured snippet is displayed, explaining the search process and providing a link to "How To Use Google To Search - Search Engine Land". Below the snippet are links to "support.google.com > websearch > answer" and "How to search on Google - Google Search Help". A section titled "People also ask" contains three questions with expandable answers. At the bottom, there are links to "blog.hubspot.com > marketing > google-advanced-sear..." and "How to Search on Google: 31 Google Advanced Search Tips", and "www.lifehack.org > articles > technology > 20-tips-use-..." and "20 Google Search Tips to Use Google More Efficiently - Lifehack".

Google

how to search on google

Q All News Images Videos Shopping More Settings Tools

About 12,790,000,000 results (0.43 seconds)

Just type what you're interested in finding into the **search** box on the **Google** web site or into your toolbar! If you're using a toolbar, as you type, you may see words begin to appear below the toolbar's **search** box. These are suggestions that **Google** thinks may match what you're interested in.

searchengineland.com > guide > how-to-use-google-to-se...

[How To Use Google To Search - Search Engine Land](#)

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support.google.com > websearch > answer

[How to search on Google - Google Search Help](#)

Learn a few tips and tricks to help you easily find information on **Google**. Tip 1: Start with the basics. No matter what you're looking for, start with a simple **search** ...

People also ask

How do you do a specific search on Google?

How do I do an advanced search on Google?

Can anyone know what I search on Google?

Feedback

blog.hubspot.com > marketing > google-advanced-sear...

[How to Search on Google: 31 Google Advanced Search Tips](#)

Apr 23, 2018 — Instead of just typing inbound marketing into the **Google** **search** box, you will likely be better off **searching** explicitly for the phrase. To do this, ...

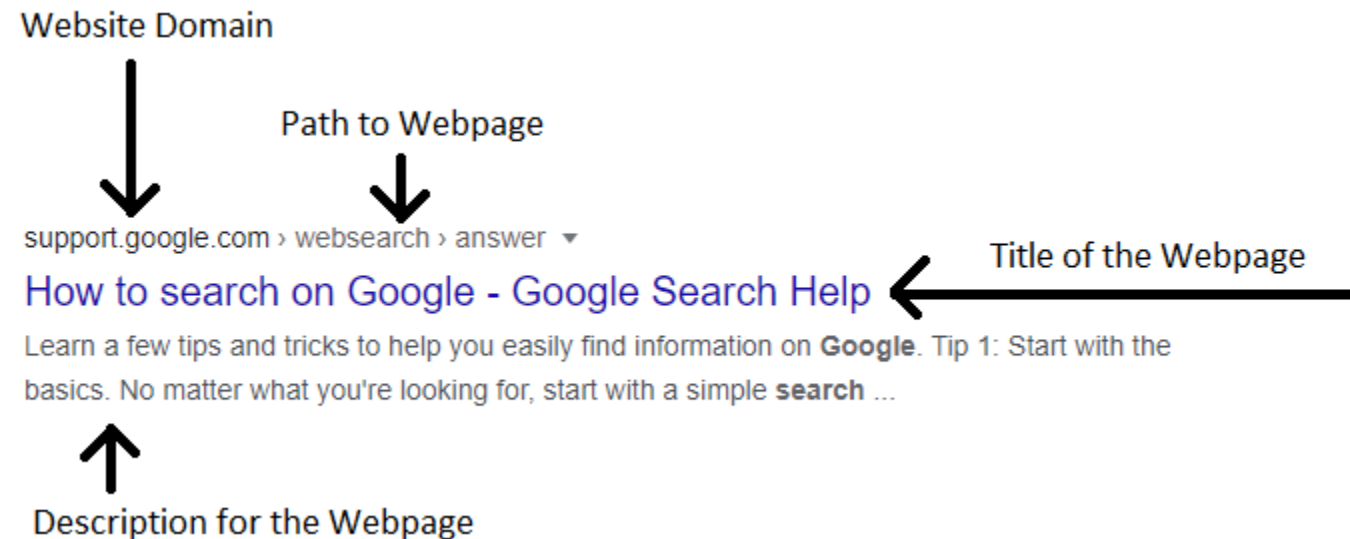
www.lifehack.org > articles > technology > 20-tips-use-...

[20 Google Search Tips to Use Google More Efficiently - Lifehack](#)

1. Use the tabs - 2. Use quotes - 3. Use a hyphen to exclude words - 4. Use a colon to **search** specific sites - 5. **Find** a page that links to another page - 6. Use the ...

Anatomy of a search result.

What makes up each search result? It can help to know what you're looking at!



What to look for.

Keep a close eye out for results that have a familiar or trusted domain!

You may have favourite sources for information—consider including the names of these in your searches to get to your result faster if you already know where the info you're looking for should be.

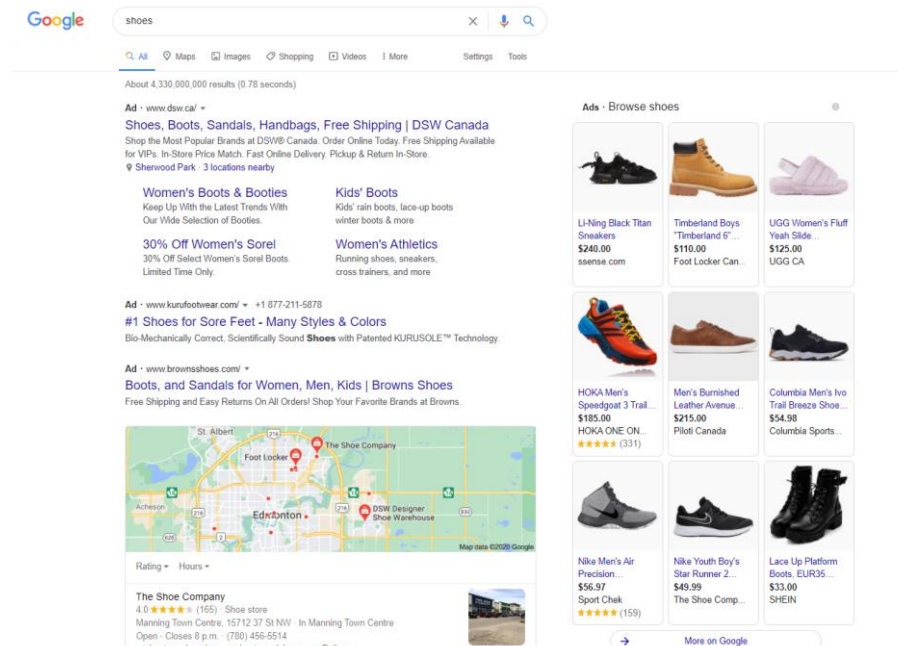
[support.google.com](#) › [websearch](#) › [answer](#) ▼

[How to search on Google - Google Search Help](#)

Learn a few tips and tricks to help you easily find information on **Google**. Tip 1: Start with the basics. No matter what you're looking for, start with a simple **search** ...

What to watch out for.

Any listing that starts with the word “Ad,” is a paid advertisement. This means a company is paying for you to see or potentially click on their link. If you scroll past ads, you’ll again be met with your standard results.



The screenshot shows a Google search for "shoes". The search bar at the top indicates "About 4,330,000 results (0.78 seconds)". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "All", "Maps", "Images", "Shopping", "Videos", "More", "Settings", and "Tools".

The results are divided into two main sections: "Ads" and "Browse shoes".

Ads Section:

- Ad - www.dsw.ca/**: Shoes, Boots, Sandals, Handbags, Free Shipping | DSW Canada. Shop the Most Popular Brands at DSW Canada. Order Online Today. Free Shipping Available for VIPs. In-Store Price Match. Fast Online Delivery. Pickup & Return In-Store. 9 Sherwood Park - 3 locations nearby.
 - Women's Boots & Booties**: Keep Up With the Latest Trends With Our Wide Selection of Booties.
 - 30% Off Women's Sorel**: 30% Off Select Women's Sorel Boots. Limited Time Only.
 - Kids' Boots**: Kids' rain boots, lace-up boots, winter boots & more.
 - Women's Athletics**: Running shoes, sneakers, cross trainers, and more.
- Ad - www.kunofootwear.com/**: #1 Shoes for Sore Feet - Many Styles & Colors. Bio-Mechanically Correct, Scientifically Sound Shoes with Patented KURUSOLE™ Technology.
- Ad - www.brownsboots.com/**: Boots, and Sandals for Women, Men, Kids | Browns Shoes. Free Shipping and Easy Returns On All Orders! Shop Your Favorite Brands at Browns.

Browse shoes Section:

- Li-Ning Black Titan Sneakers**: \$240.00. ssense.com
- Timberland Boys "Timberland 6" Foot Locker Can...**: \$110.00. Foot Locker Can...
- UGG Women's Fluff Yeah Slide**: \$125.00. UGG CA
- HOKA Men's Speedgoat 3 Trail...**: \$185.00. HOKA ONE ON... (331)
- Men's Burnished Leather Avenue...**: \$215.00. Pilot Canada
- Columbia Men's Ivo Trail Breeze Shoe...**: \$54.98. Columbia Sports...
- Nike Men's Air Precision...**: \$56.97. Sport Chek (159)
- Nike Youth Boy's Star Runner 2...**: \$49.99. The Shoe Comp...
- Lace Up Platform Boots, EUR35...**: \$33.00. SHEIN

At the bottom, there is a map showing the location of "The Shoe Company" in Edmonton, Alberta, with a rating of 4.0 stars (165) and a list of services: Open - Closes 8 p.m., In-store shopping, In-store pick-up, Delivery.

Read about it.

Google offers an array of articles on [how to search](#) using their website. Never be afraid to read documentation.

There are some [more advanced techniques](#) that may also help in getting to what you're looking for!

Increasing the specificity of your search.

Some of the most common additions you can make to your search to make your search more specific include:

- Wrap your search term in quotes, to look for only exact matches; example) “my search terms”
- Prepend a term with a hyphen to ensure results will **not** include that particular term; example) my search - terms

Know your search engine.

Whichever search engine you end up working with, pay attention and check how you can use it to its maximum potential.

It can pay off to spend a bit of time with each, and see which yields the most appropriate results more often for you (or has the features that help you out most!)

Advanced	What you can do with it	Google this
site:	search only within a specific site	site: www.stanford.edu
filetype:	find a type of file: PDF, DOC, TXT ...	filetype: PDF
define:	find definitions for a word	define: audacity
intitle:	find words in the title of the webpage	intitle: inspirational
..	get ranges of numbers, dates, or prices	presidents 1800..1900
word * word	find other combinations of words between words	creative * writing
-word	search for homer, but NOT simpson	homer -simpson
"word"	find exact words—no synonyms or plurals	"peace" "freedom"
"set of words"	search for exact set of words, quotes or phrases	"I have a dream"

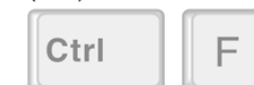
Calculator	What you can do with it	Google this
+ - * /	add, subtract, multiply, divide	12 + 68
% of	percentage of a number	12% of 68
cos() sin()	trigonometry: cos, sin, tan, arcsin ...	cos (68)
km to miles	convert units: temp (C to F), weight (kg to lbs) ...	100 km to miles

Info	What you can do with it	Google this
weather	get weather for a region	weather honolulu
movies	find movies & theatres nearby (zip or city)	movies 94043
flight status	get flight status with the airline & flight number	HA 124

Bonus

Find words on webpages,
with this key combo:

(PC)

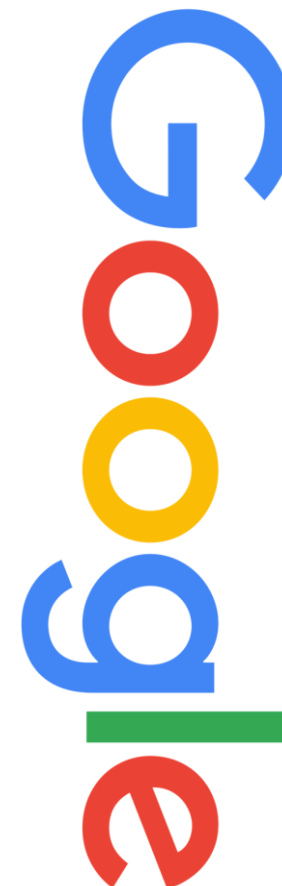


....enter your keywords

(Mac)



...enter your keywords



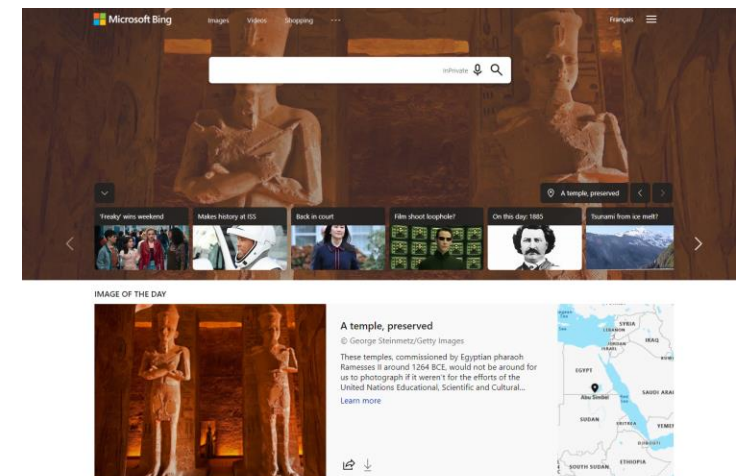
Advanced searches.

Many of the features in the cheat sheet are available in other search engines as well, keep them in mind as you continue training your “GoogleFu” skills!

Microsoft Bing.

Microsoft Bing has fewer documented features than Google and DuckDuckGo—but what it may lack in search features it may make up for in its news and information feeds as well as its gorgeous daily background imagery.

To boot, it is backed by Microsoft and remains one of the world's leading search engines.



DuckDuckGo.

DuckDuckGo boasts enhanced privacy, in that it claims it will not profile users to deliver personalized results or sell user information.

In contrast, some other search engines do enhance the user experience with personalized / suggested results based on previous searches—at the cost of privacy.



DuckDuckGo.

CheatSheet for DuckDuckGo

Everyday use

Calculate no. of days between dates	e.g: days between 01/31/2013 01/31/2014
Conversions	e.g: 100usd in eur
Calculate time interval	e.g: 1am to 4:30pm
Temperature Conversion	e.g: 6 fahrenheit in celsius
Food Conversions	e.g: calories in 2 eggs
Find new coupons	e.g: samsung coupon
Formulas	e.g: volume of a sphere
Find Google+ users	e.g: google+ techglimpse
Detect Language	e.g: detect language こんにちは
Pronounce Words	e.g: pronounce wow
Find latest tweets of a user	e.g: @techglimpse
Get Flight Information	e.g: AA 102
Find flash version	e.g: flash version

Cryptography

Generate a random password	e.g: password 15 strong
Generate QR code for website	e.g: qrcode http://techglimpse.com
Find HASH function Type	e.g: hash 624d420035fc9471f6e16766b7132dd6bb34ea62
Convert Roman, Arabic Numerals	e.g: roman numeral MCCCXXXVII
Get Plain text or hash of input	e.g: leakdb 21232f297a57a5a743894a0e4a801fc3
MD5 or SHA word	e.g md5 word, sha word

Web Design

Display ASCII table	e.g: ascii table
Display Color codes	e.g: color codes
Display HTML chars	e.g: html chars
URL escape codes	e.g: url escape
Find HEX color combinations	e.g: #368798, color(12,120,15)
HSL & HEX Information	e.g: hsl 194 0.53 0.79
Generate HEX codes in RGB	e.g: rgb 173 216 230

Geeks / Techies

Calculate freq. of characters in text	e.g: frequency of all characters in sample
Expand short URLs	e.g: expand http://bit.ly/a
Check status of website	e.g: is techglimpse.com up?
Convert ASCII,hex,numbers	e.g: foo in binary
Data rate conversions	e.g: 6GB/700KB/s in min
Find your IP address	e.g: ip address
Find service running on port	e.g: port 23
Identify Browser details	e.g: useragent
Decode HTML entities	e.g: !
Count no. of characters	e.g: chars test



DuckDuckGo

System Administration

Convert unix epoch time	e.g: 12343435 time
Display Private n/w info	e.g: private network
Display Public DNS info	e.g: public dns
IP address Lookup	e.g: 64.207.122.151
Translate Crontab	e.g: crontab 0 0 * * * /bin/sh
Find WHOIS Data	e.g: whois duckduckgo.com
Regular expressions	e.g: regexp /(.)// ddg
Current time in epoch	e.g: epoch
Textual info of unix permission	e.g: chmod 755

Fun & Others

Mirror texts	e.g: mirror techglimpse
Fetch recent meme	e.g: xkcd
I'm feeling lucky	e.g: add slash front to query
!Bangs	
https://duckduckgo.com/bang.html	

References

<https://duckduckgo.com/goodies>
<http://thenextweb.com>

How to use these tricks

1. Go to <http://duckduckgo.com>
2. Type any of the above command in search box

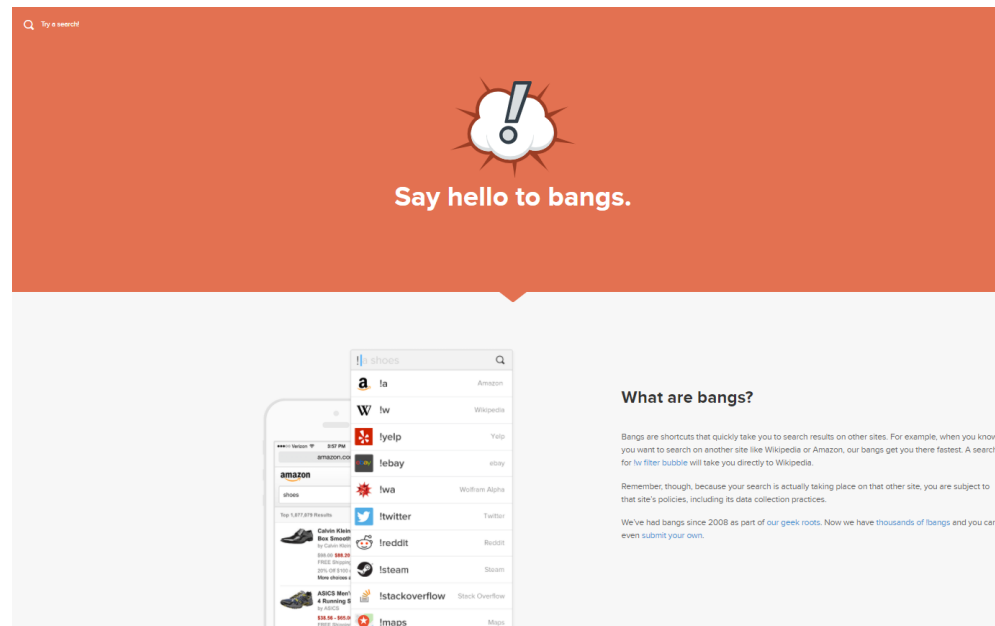
TECHGLIMPSE

@techglimpse

DuckDuckGo is a search engine that does not track you and, has more instant answers and less spam/clutter. **This is only part of Goodies present in DuckDuckGo.**

DuckDuckGo bangs.

DuckDuckGo features shortcuts that will help you get to specific results at an instant. They call these bangs, and you can read more about them [here](#).



13,564 bangs and counting

[Click on a bang to try it out. See one missing? Make a suggestion!](#)

General tips.

- Keep an eye out for sites you trust, or official websites from an organization related to what you're looking for
- Avoid common words or the use of punctuation—get straight to the point (avoid “the,” “and,” etc.)
- Use specific terms to narrow the number of results
- If you can't find what you're looking for, don't be afraid to change up your terms or even try an alternative search engine

Recommended Reading

Looking for an extremely verbose listing of the most powerful features available in Google (and many other search engines)? Explore the following:

- [Spencer, S. \(July 2011\). *Google Power Search*. O'Reilly Media, Inc.](#)



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