

Google Search Essentials Cheat Sheet

Core operators

Query / Operator	What it does	Example
"exact phrase"	Match words in this exact order	"climate risk disclosure"
word1 OR word2	Either term may appear	python OR "node.js" jobs
-term	Exclude a word or phrase	jaguar -car
* wildcard	Any word/phrase inside quotes	"best * for students"

Site and file filters

Query / Operator	What it does	Example
site:domain	Search within a domain	site:edu.au "academic integrity"
filetype:ext	Return specific file types	filetype:pptx "n8n tutorial"

Content targeting

Query / Operator	What it does	Example
intitle:term	Require term in title	intitle:"assessment rubric"
intext:term	Require term in body text	intext:"formative assessment"

Date and ranges

Query / Operator	What it does	Example
after:YYYY	Results after year/date	after:2024 "sovereign ai"
before:YYYY	Results before year/date	before:2023 site:openai.com
10..20	Number range	ssd 2TB..8TB

Quick answers

Query / Operator	What it does	Example
define:term	Dictionary definition	define:ephemeral
weather <city>	Local weather card	weather singapore
time <city>	Local time	time london

Notes:

These are the most reliable and commonly used operators. Use Tools → Time in Google to refine freshness further.