These two operators are used to change a word's contribution to the relevance value that is assigned to a row. The `>` operator increases the contribution and the `<` operator decreases it. See the example following this list.

- `( )`

  Parentheses group words into subexpressions. Parenthesized groups can be nested.

- `~`

  A leading tilde acts as a negation operator, causing the word's contribution to the row's relevance to be negative. This is useful for marking “noise” words. A row containing such a word is rated lower than others, but is not excluded altogether, as it would be with the `-` operator.

- `*`

  The asterisk serves as the truncation (or wildcard) operator. Unlike the other operators, it is *appended* to the word to be affected. Words match if they begin with the word preceding the `*` operator.

  If a word is specified with the truncation operator, it is not stripped from a boolean query, even if it is too short or a stopword. Whether a word is too short is determined from the `innodb_ft_min_token_size` setting for `InnoDB` tables, or `ft_min_word_len` for `MyISAM` tables. These options are not applicable to `FULLTEXT` indexes that use the ngram parser.

  The wildcarded word is considered as a prefix that must be present at the start of one or more words. If the minimum word length is 4, a search for `'+word +the*'` could return fewer rows than a search for `'+word +the'`, because the second query ignores the too-short search term `the`.

- `"`

  A phrase that is enclosed within double quote (`"`) characters matches only rows that contain the phrase *literally, as it was typed*. The full-text engine splits the phrase into words and performs a search in the `FULLTEXT` index for the words. Nonword characters need not be matched exactly: Phrase searching requires only that matches contain exactly the same words as the phrase and in the same order. For example, `"test phrase"` matches `"test, phrase"`.

  If the phrase contains no words that are in the index, the result is empty. The words might not be in the index because of a combination of factors: if they do not exist in the text, are stopwords, or are shorter than the minimum length of indexed words.

The following examples demonstrate some search strings that use boolean full-text operators:

- `'apple banana'`

  Find rows that contain at least one of the two words.

- `'+apple +juice'`

  Find rows that contain both words.

- `'+apple macintosh'`

  Find rows that contain the word “apple”, but rank rows higher if they also contain “macintosh”.

- `'+apple -macintosh'`

  Find rows that contain the word “apple” but not “macintosh”.