

Google Search Tips

courtesy of www.lifehacker.com, and blogs.hbr.org

Get the local time anywhere

What time is it in Bangkok right now? Ask Google. Enter simply what time is it to get the local time in big cities around the world, or add the locale at the end of your query, like what time is it hong kong to get the local time there.

Track flight status

Enter the airline and flight number into the Google search box and get back the arrival and departure times right inside Google's search results.

Convert currency, metrics, bytes, and more

Google's powerful built-in converter calculator can help you out whether you're cooking dinner, traveling abroad, or building a PC. Find out how many teaspoons are in a quarter cup ("quarter cup in teaspoons") or how many seconds there are in a year ("seconds in a year") or how many euros there are to five dollars ("5 USD in Euro"). For the geekier set, bits in kilobytes (155473 bytes in kilobytes) and numbers in hex or binary (19 in binary) are also pretty useful.

Compare items with "better than" and find similar items with "reminds me of"

Reader Adam taps the wisdom of the crowds by searching for like items using key phrases. He writes in:

Simply search for, in quotes: "better than _keyword_"

The results will almost always lead you to discovering alternatives to whatever it is you're searching for. Using the same concept, you can use this trick to discover new music or movies. For example, "reminds me of _someband_" or "sounds like _someband_" will pull up artists people have thought sounded similar to the one you typed in. This is also a great way to

find good, no-name musicians you'd probably never know of otherwise.

Find exact phrases with quotations

When you're searching for a specific sequence of words, like a first and last name, enclose them in quotes. Searching for *Jack Smith* can return pages that have the names Jack Jones and Martha Smith in them. Instead, search for "*Jack Smith*" to only bring up pages on which Jack Smith appears.

Search within a single web site with "site:example.com [search term]"

Many web sites don't have their own search box, or the one they do have doesn't find the stuff you need or wraps results in obnoxious advertising. To search within a single site with Google use the *site:* operator. For example, to search this site for the word recession, enter `site:blogs.harvardbusiness.org Recession`. Google's results will only show pages from this site.

Add and subtract terms

Narrow down your results to pages that definitely contain a word plus another word (with a plus sign), or a word without another word (minus sign). For example, to find Jackson 5 videos, try "Jackson 5" +video. To find salsa recipes, try salsa +recipe. To avoid any pages about salsa the dance, try salsa -dance.

Advanced tip: find synonyms

To find pages that include terms *like* the one you're searching for, try the tilde (~) sign.

Describe what you need with as few terms as possible

For example, [weather cancun] is a simple way to find the weather and it is likely to give better results than the longer [weather report for cancun mexico].

Area Code Lookup

If all you need to do is to look-up the area code for a phone number, just enter the 3-digit area code and Google will tell you where it's from.

Example: 617

Calculator

The next time you need to do a quick calculation, instead of bringing up the Calculator applet, you can just type your expression in to Google.

Example: $48512 * 1.02$

Word Definitions

If you need to quickly look up the definition of a word or phrase, simply use the "define:" command.

Example: define:plethora