

# The Power of Google

Taken from

<http://www.dumblittleman.com/2007/06/20-tips-for-more-efficient-google.html>

1. **Either/or.** Google normally searches for pages that contain all the words you type in the search box, but if you want pages that have one term or another (or both), use the OR operator -- or use the "|" symbol (pipe symbol) to save you a keystroke. [dumb | little | man]
2. **Quotes.** If you want to search for an exact phrase, use quotes. ["dumb little man"] will only find that exact phrase. [dumb "little man"] will find pages that contain the word dumb and the exact phrase "little man".
3. **Not.** If you don't want a term or phrase, use the "-" symbol. [-dumb little man] will return pages that contain "little" and "man" but that don't contain "dumb".
4. **Similar terms.** Use the "~" symbol to return similar terms. [~dumb little man -dumb] will get you pages that contain "funny little man" and "stupid little man" but not "dumb little man".
5. **Wildcard.** The "\*" symbol is a wildcard. This is useful if you're trying to find the lyrics to a song, but can't remember the exact lyrics. [can't \* me love lyrics] will return the Beatles song you're looking for. It's also useful for finding stuff only in certain domains, such as

educational information: ["dumb little man" research \*.edu].

6. **Advanced search.** If you can't remember any of these operators, you can always use [Google's advanced search](#).
7. **Definitions.** Use the "define:" operator to get a quick definition. [define:dumb] will give you a whole host of definitions from different sources, with links.
8. **Calculator.** One of the handiest uses of Google, type in a quick calculation in the search box and get an answer. It's faster than calling up your computer's calculator in most cases. Use the +, -, \*, / symbols and parentheses to do a simple equation.
9. **Numrange.** This little-known feature searches for a range of numbers. For example, ["best books 2002..2007] will return lists of best books for each of the years from 2002 to 2007 (note the two periods between the two numbers).
10. **Site-specific.** Use the "site:" operator to search only within a certain website. [site:dumblittleman.com leo] will search for the term "leo" only within this blog.
11. **Backlinks.** The "link:" operator will find pages that link to a specific URL. You can use this not only for a main URL but even to a specific page. Not all links to an URL are listed, however.
12. **Vertical search.** Instead of searching for a term across all pages on the web, search within a specialized

field. Google has a number of specific searches, allowing you to search within blogs, news, books, and much more:

- [Blog Search](#)
- [Book Search](#)
- [Scholar](#)
- [Catalogs](#)
- [Code Search](#)
- [Directory](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Images](#)
- [Local/Maps](#)
- [News](#)
- [Patent Search](#)
- [Product Search](#)
- [Video](#)

13. **Movies.** Use the "movie:" operator to search for a movie title along with either a zip code or U.S. city and state to get a list of movie theaters in the area and show times.
14. **Music.** The "music:" operator returns content related to music only.

15. **Unit converter.** Use Google for a quick conversion, from yards to meters for example, or different currency:  
[12 meters in yards]
16. **Types of numbers:** Google algorithms can recognize patterns in numbers you enter, so you can search for:
- Telephone area codes
  - Vehicle ID number (US only)
  - Federal Communications Commission (FCC) equipment numbers (US only)
  - UPC codes
  - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airplane registration number (US only)
  - Patent numbers (US only)
  - Even stock quotes (using the stock symbol) or a weather forecast regarding the next five days
17. **File types.** If you just want to search for .PDF files, or Word documents, or Excel spreadsheets, for example, use the "filetype:" operator.
18. **Location of term.** By default, Google searches for your term throughout a web page. But if you just want it to search certain locations, you can use operators such as "inurl:", "intitle:", "intext:", and "inanchor:". Those search for a term only within the URL, the title,

the body text, and the anchor text (the text used to describe a link).

19. **Cached pages.** Looking for a version of a page the Google stores on its own servers? This can help with outdated or update pages. Use the "cached:" operator.