

Tip 1: Be more specific.

General terms and phrases can leave you with millions of junky results to sift through. Try being more specific. For example, if you want to find out who won the Super Bowl in 1987, don't search **Super Bowl**. Instead, try something like **Super Bowl winners** or even **Super Bowl winner 1987**.

Tip 2: Use quotation marks for exact phrases.

Put your search phrase in "quotes" if you don't want the words in your search considered separately. For example "**Lady Gaga**" will search for all pages that refer to Lady Gaga, rather than just a **Lady** or somebody going **gaga**. You get the drift. Those last ones would be pretty funky.

Tip 3: Use the minus sign (-) to exclude unwanted guests.

A lot of times the words that you're searching for could refer to a lot of different things, like a historical topic *and* a movie. The minus sign (-) can help you get rid of results on topics you're not interested in. For example, maybe you want to know all about the ice age, but you have absolutely no interest in the animated kiddie movie *Ice Age* (or the sequels). Instead of searching for **ice age**, try **ice age -film**.

Tip 4: Use "Site: ____" to search only within a specific domain or website.

Want to make sure you're getting a super legit site and not some rando's blog? You might want to try only searching .gov sites (means it's a US government site) or .edu (means it's a K-12 school or a university). Easy. For example, you want to know about animal behavior, but only from a .edu site. Don't search **animal behavior**, try **animal behavior site:edu** instead.

Tip 5: _____

Tip 6: _____

Your turn.

How would you search for these topics? Write out some better search terms (there are lots of good options), then try them out in Google to see which works best.

1. You want to know the science of how eclipses work, but you're sick to *death* of getting results about Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* books and movies. You're going to die if you have to see Rob Pattinson's messy hair one more time. What do you search instead of **eclipse**?

Keyword or phrase	Total # of Results	# of Results on Page 1 that look good to you
eclipse		

2. Your brother is always saying "something something... Prepare to die!" You know it's part of a quote from *The Princess Bride*, but you want to remember the full quote. You search "**prepare to die**" but don't get great results (nope, you're not preparing to *actually* die). What could you search instead?

Keyword or phrase	Total # of Results	# of Results on Page 1 that look good to you
"prepare to die"		

3. Your sister is into '90s toys and you want to get her one of those plastic trolls with the crazy-colored hair and a gem stuck in its belly. Searching **troll** gave you way too many results for World of Warcraft and Internet meanies. What's a better way of searching for the toy?

Keyword or phrase	Total # of Results	# of Results on Page 1 that look good to you
troll		

4. You want data from the US government on how many people lost their jobs in 2011. You search **job loss 2011 America** but get a bunch results from news articles and blogs. What do you do?

Keyword or phrase	Total # of Results	# of Results on Page 1 that look good to you
job loss 2011 America		