

How to Google Like a Pro: 11 Tricks You Have to Know



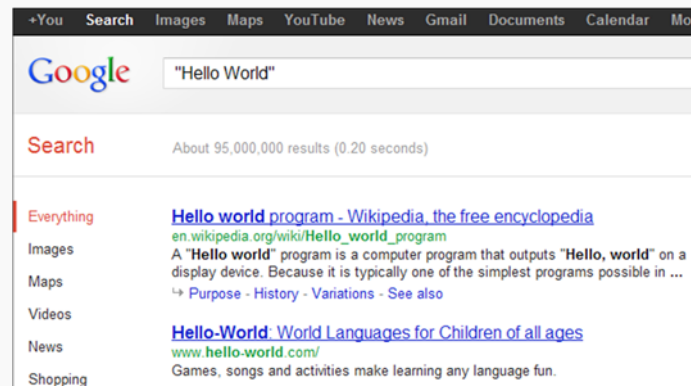
Google is a powerful tool, but you're missing out on a lot of that power if you just type words into it. Master Google and find the best results faster with these search tricks.

Whether you're an inexperienced user or a seasoned professional, you'll probably find at least one search operator you weren't aware of here. Many of Google's search operators aren't very well-known.

Exact Words and Phrases

One of the most basic and widely known search tricks is using quotation marks to search for an exact phrase. For example, perform the following search and you'll only get pages that contain the word "Hello" followed by the word "World."

"Hello World"



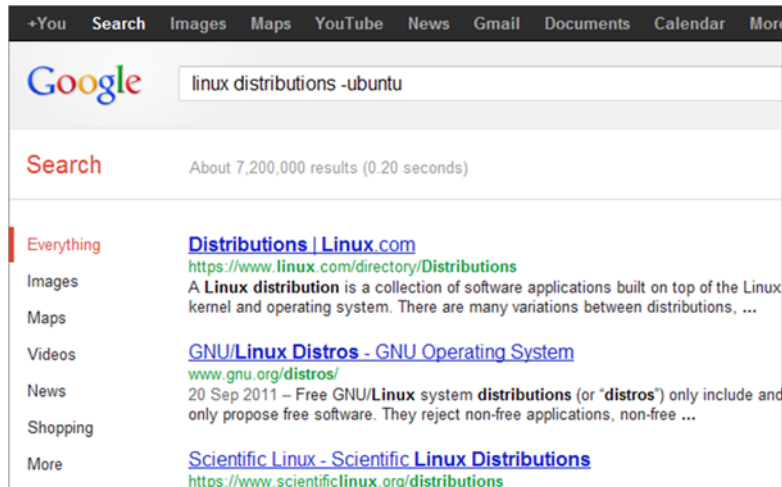
This same method now works for exact-word queries. For example, if you search for "mining," Google will also show pages that contain the words "miners." To prevent this, you have to enclose the word in quotes:

"mining"

Excluding a Word

The minus sign allows you to specify words that shouldn't appear in your results. For example, if you're looking for pages about Linux distributions that don't mention Ubuntu, use the following search:

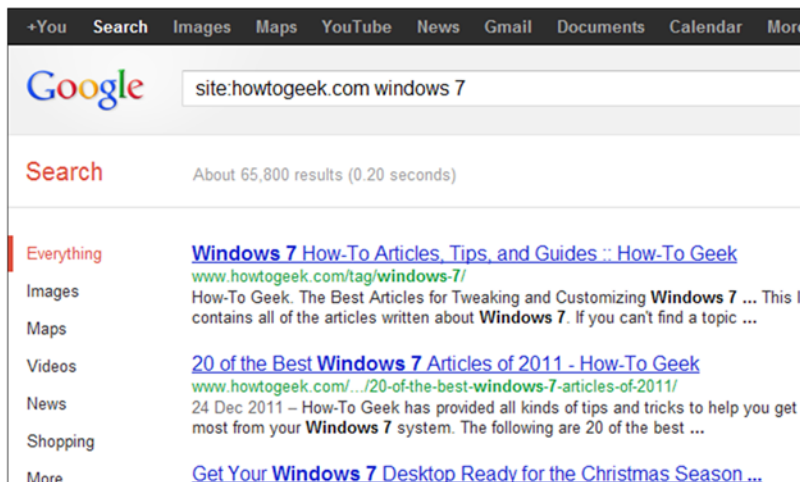
```
linux distributions -ubuntu
```



Site Search

The site: operator allows you to perform a search in a specific site. Let's say you're looking for information on Windows 7 on How-To Geek. You could use the following search

```
site:howtogeek.com windows 7
```

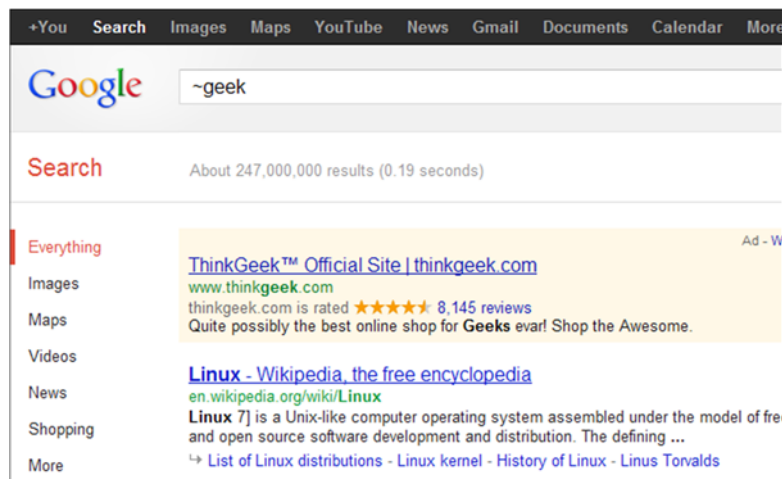


You can also use the site: operator to specify a domain. For example, if you're looking for high-quality references, you could use **site:.edu** to only pull up results from .edu domains.

Related Words

The tilde (~) operator is the opposite of enclosing a single word in quotes — it searches for related words, not just the word you type. For example, if you ran the following search, you'd find search results with words similar to "geek":

~geek

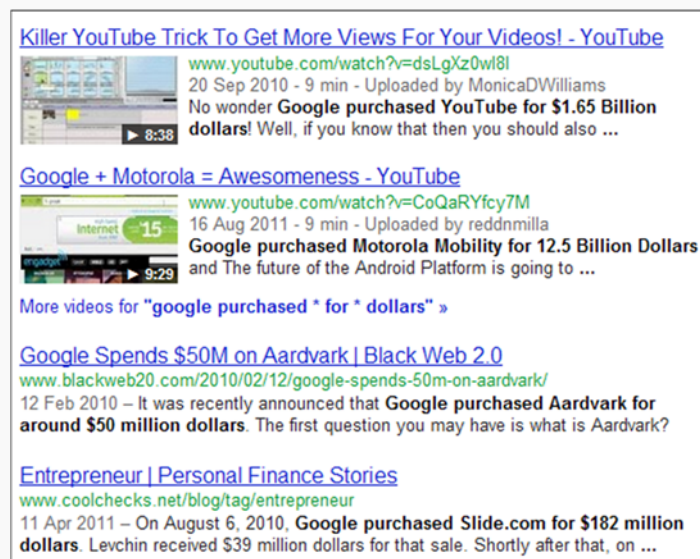


Apparently, "Linux" is the most similar word to geek, followed by "Greek." "Nerd" comes in third. (Hey, no one ever said Google was perfect.)

The Wildcard

The asterisk (*) is a wildcard that can match any word. For example, if you wanted to see what companies Google has purchased and how much they paid, you could use this search:

"google purchased * for * dollars"



Time Ranges

A little-known search operator allows you to specify a specific time range. For example, use the following search to find results about Ubuntu from between 2008 and 2010:

```
ubuntu 2008..2010
```

[Ubuntu's Shuttleworth praises Windows 7, welcomes fight • The Register](#)
www.theregister.co.uk/2009/01/22/shuttleworth_windows_7/
22 Jan 2009 – Speaking with The Reg, the founder of popular Linux distro **Ubuntu** and chief ... and build of **Ubuntu** in version 9.10, scheduled for October **2009**. ... Review Nerd alert: First Lucid Lynx **Ubuntu** beta fun (19 March **2010**) ... (5 January **2009**); Microsoft gives XP another four months to live (22 December **2008**) ...

[Next Ubuntu LTS in 2010, unless Linuxes synchronize • The Register](#)
www.theregister.co.uk/2008/05/13/ubuntu_linux_synchronization/
13 May 2008 – Mark Shuttleworth, head of Canonical and founder of the **Ubuntu** project, has ... of **Ubuntu**, version 10.4, in April **2010** - unless, of course, Red Hat, Novell and ... Debian devs (7 August **2009**); Debian all business with Lenny and Squeeze ... Canonical hippies spread **Ubuntu** Launchpad love (22 July **2008**) ...

[UBUNTU 10.04 lts - new look - alpha 3 - 9.3 2010 - YouTube](#)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0kiV32JOMU
9 Mar 2010 - 8 min - Uploaded by tomasballon
... in or sign up now! Alert icon. Uploaded by tomasballon on Mar 9, **2010**. New theme in **UBUNTU** 10.04 lts ...

File Type

The filetype: operator lets you search for files of a specific file type. For example, you could search for only PDF files.

```
filetype:pdf how to geek
```

+You Search Images Maps YouTube News Gmail Documents Calendar More

Google filetype:pdf how to geek

Search About 251,000 results (0.21 seconds)

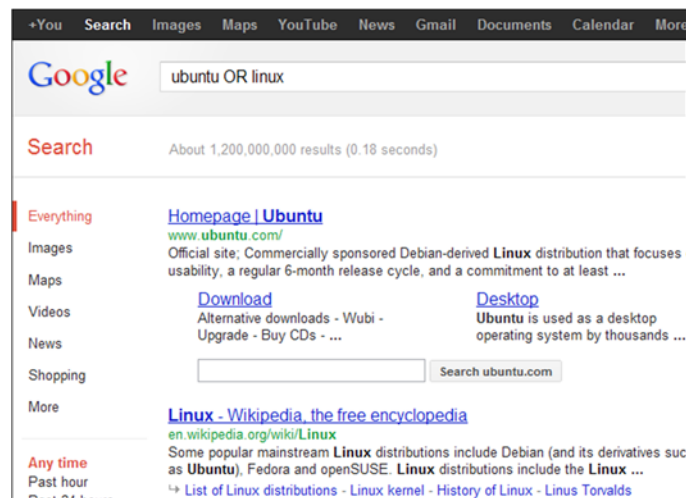
Everything [PDF] [How-To Geek Cheat Sheet Photoshop CS 5](#)
www.howtogeek.com/wp.../HTG-Cheatsheet-Photoshop-CS5.pdf
File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View
How-To Geek Cheat Sheet. Toolbox Shortcut Keys. Layer Panel. V. Move Tool. Merge current layer down. M. Marquee Tool. > Merge all visible layers. L ...

Images
Maps

One Word or the Other

The “OR” operator lets you find words that contain one term or another. For example, using the following search will pull up results that contain either the word “Ubuntu” or the word “Linux.” The word “OR” must be in uppercase.

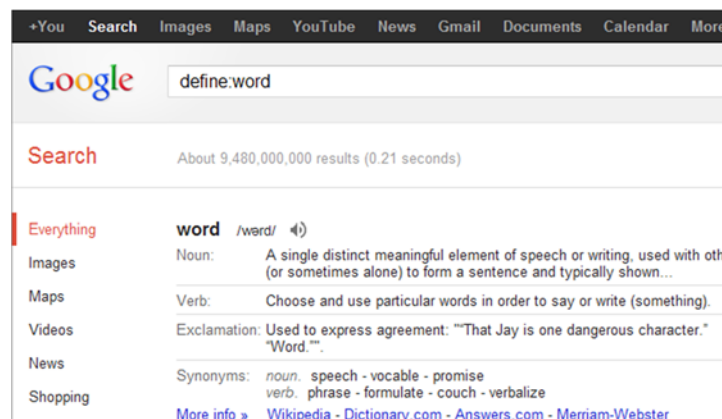
ubuntu OR linux



Word Definitions

You don't have to Google a word and look for a dictionary link if you want to see its definition. Use the following search trick and you'll see an inline definition:

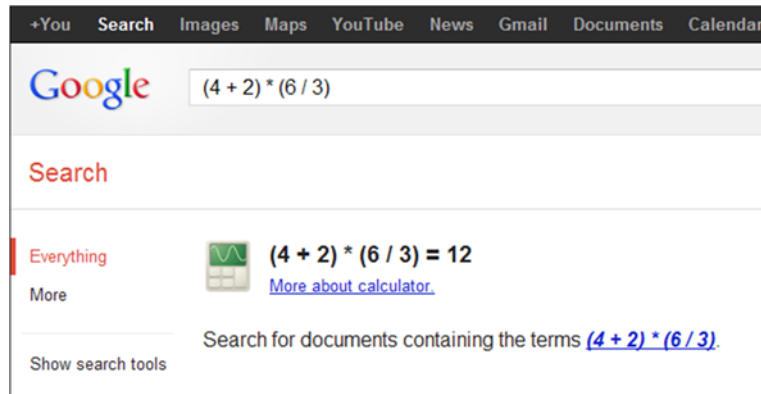
define:word



Calculator

Use Google instead of pulling one out or launching a calculator app. Use the +, -, * and / symbols to specify arithmetic operations. You can also use brackets for more complicated expressions. Here's an example:

$(4 + 2) * (6 / 3)$



Unit Conversions

The calculator can also convert between units. Just type "X [units] in [units]". Here's an example:

5 nautical miles in kilometers

