

Become a Google Guru

Practice Exercises

Web Search (<http://www.google.com>)

Do a basic search:

- Type **diabetes** into the search box.
 - TRY THIS: spell it incorrectly and see what happens
 - Note *Did You Mean* at the top of the page. Google checks the spelling for commonly misspelled words. Click on the **Did You Mean** link to see more results.
- Refine your results by specific topical areas, or add more words to your search (for example: juvenile, treatment, alternative therapy)

Do a phrase search:

- Type **one small step for man** in the search box.
 - How many hits do you get? _____
- Now, using quotation marks, search for the phrase **"one small step for man"**.
 - How many hits do you get now? _____

Limit your search:

- Using the same search as above, find this phrase only on websites maintained by the U.S. government.
- After the phrase "one small step for man", add **site:gov** to the search box. Pay attention to your punctuation on this one! It's **site colon dot gov**
 - How many hits do you get? _____

Web Search Shortcuts

Calculations:

- What is 15% of 1670? Find out by typing **15% of 1670** into the search box.

Conversions:

- Find out how far your dollars will go in Paris. Type **1000 \$ in euros** into the search box.

Further Practice

- Try out some of the search shortcuts shown on the "Better Searches. Better Results" handout.

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Practice Exercises

Using Maps (<http://maps.google.com>)

Find where you are now:

- Type **skokie public library** into the search box
- Click 'Search Maps'
- Click on the Skokie Public Library link
- Use the **zoom tool** to get a closer look

Find your own home:

- Type your address into the search box
- Click **Satellite** and **Hybrid** links to get a different view

Find driving directions:

- Click 'Get Directions'
- Type in **your address** into the first box and **your destination** into the second box. Try mapping to Wrigley Field, Sears Tower, or U.S. Cellular Field.

Image Searching (<http://images.google.com>)

Find photos from Skokie Public Library:

- Use the search terms **skokie library**. Can you think of another way to improve the search? **Hint:** be more specific, and maybe try some punctuation!

Google Accounts (<http://www.google.com/accounts>)

To use many of Google's personalized services, you will need a Google account. Sign up is free and requires an email address.

- **Gmail:** Google's free email account
- **Google Docs & Spreadsheet:** Do word processing and create spreadsheet documents from the Web. Also allows you to share and collaborate on documents with friends and family.
- **Blogger:** Google's free blogging platform.
- **iGoogle Personalized Home Page:** Customize your own home page, including games, weather, news, Gmail, and more!
- **Picasa + Picasaweb:** Picasa is a free software download that allows you to edit and share your photos online. Picasaweb does not require a software download and does not offer photo editing options.