How to use Google Search

Google is a very large American company which has a number of products. Google Search being the most known.

The web address for the UK version is https://www.google.co.uk/ but you can achieve the same results by searching in your browser's address bar at the top of the page.

To search for any item please key in a word or phrase eg. Old Rope.

Please imagine standing at the end of Yarmouth pier and using a fishing rod to search the waters below.

What will you find?

A Google search is very similar, you will find many things; the good, the bad, the ugly and much worse.

You can filter out some of the rubbish by picking the sub headings eg Images, video, news etc.

Also use the "Tools" feature for Country or Time.

If searching for something topical; use Tools / past week

If you search for Queens Park Rangers you are searching for any item on the web that has the words queens or park or rangers. A more focused search would be "Queens Park Rangers"

note the quotes.

Here is an overview of some of the most useful Google search tricks:-

1. Use quotes to search for an exact phrase.

This one's a well-known, simple trick: searching a phrase in quotes will yield only pages with the same words in the same order as what's in the quotes. It's one of the most vital search tips.

2. Use an asterisk within quotes to specify unknown or variable words.

Here's a lesser known trick: searching a phrase in quotes with an asterisk replacing a word will search all variations of that phrase. It's helpful if you're trying to determine a song from its lyrics, but you couldn't make out the entire phrase (e.g. "imagine all the * living for today"), or if you're trying to find all forms of an expression (e.g. "* is thicker than water").

3. Use the minus sign to eliminate results containing certain words.

You'll want to eliminate results with certain words if you're trying to search for a term that's generating a lot of results that aren't of interest to you. Figure out what terms you're not interested in (e.g. jaguar -car) and re-run the search.

4. Search websites for keywords.

Think of the "site:" function as a Google search that searches only a particular website. If you want to see every time apple pie is mentioned on the BBC web site

Use site:bbc.co.uk "apple pie"

5. Compare like items using "vs".

Can't decide between a burger or pizza for dinner? Type in "rice vs quinoa," for example, and you'll receive side-by-side comparisons of the nutritional facts.

6. Search images using images.

Ever come across a photo that looks strangely familiar? Or if you want to know where it came from? If you save the image, and then search it on Google Images (with the camera button), you'll be able to see similar images on the web.

7. Filter your search by time or country.

Once you have a result of a search, use the [Search Tools] box, top right of the Google page.

Search Tools / Any Time / Past Hour | Week | Month | Year

Search Tools / Any Country | UK