

## Tips for Successful Internet Searches

When your students are just getting started using the internet to carry out research, it can be quite overwhelming. Three helpful techniques which may improve their searches are shown in the following table, while a video explaining how these tools could be used can be accessed [here](#).

<b>Phrase Searching</b>	Use of inverted commas to group certain search words together.  Useful for titles, names and quotes
<b>Boolean Search</b>	Uses the word(s) AND, OR and NOT, which must be in capitals.  Can limit, widen or better define your search
<b>Wildcards</b>	Used when you want to search for a word with many possible endings.  The most commonly used wildcard is the asterisk (*)

### Phrase Searching

If you type *space exploration* into a search engine, the search will generate results for space and exploration but not necessarily the two together. By putting quotation marks around the phrase, only results containing **both words in the same phrase** will be generated.

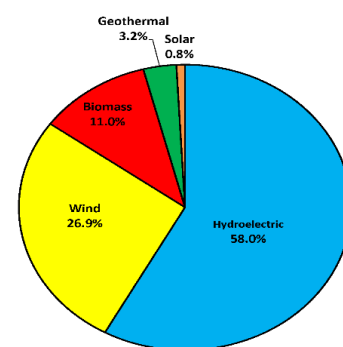
A helpful video on phrase searching is available [here](#).



## Boolean Search

Imagine your students are learning about solar energy and you ask them to find out about other renewable energy sources in Ireland. The table below shows some possible search keywords and the number of results generated in each case.

Keywords	Number of search results
Renewable Energy	92,800,000
Renewable Energy AND Ireland	19,500,000
Renewable Energy OR sustainability AND Ireland	25,300,000
Renewable Energy AND Ireland NOT solar	7,680,000



**AND** and **NOT** both **reduce the number of results by narrowing the selection**. In the case of **AND** above, **both** renewable energy and Ireland must be in the article, while **NOT** searches for articles mentioning both renewable energy and Ireland but **with no mention of** solar energy.

**OR** indicates that the article can contain **either** a reference to renewable energy **or** sustainability.

## Wildcards

Sometimes your students may want to broaden their internet search and not limit themselves to certain words. Wildcards are very useful for this purpose. An example of this could be pollinat\*, which would search for pollinating, pollinate, pollinated, pollination and pollinators.

[Oh Great, Another Way Humans Are Screwing With \*\*Pollinators\*\*](https://gizmodo.com/oh-great-another-way-humans-are-screwing-with-pollinat-17975...)

<https://gizmodo.com/oh-great-another-way-humans-are-screwing-with-pollinat-17975...>  
 Aug 3, 2017 - On Monday, the USDA brought us some much needed good news, when it reported data suggesting that honeybees might finally be bouncing ...

[University of Kentucky Entomology for Kids](https://www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/ythfacts/allyr/pollinat.htm)

<https://www.uky.edu/Ag/Entomology/ythfacts/allyr/pollinat.htm>  
 Jan 21, 1999 - Pollination of Plants by Insects. by Rudy Scheibner, Extension Entomologist. **Pollination** is the process whereby plants receive pollen from other ...

[Illinois Natural History Survey pollinat](http://wx.inhs.illinois.edu)

[wx.inhs.illinois.edu](http://wx.inhs.illinois.edu) > Resources > INHS Reports > may-jun96  
 Apr 24, 1996 - The Naturalist's Apprentice: Prolific Pollinators! Objective: to learn about some of the different flower types and the animals that **pollinate** them.