

## Search Engine Differences

As you have no doubt realized by now, an understanding of the syntax differences among search engines is essential to mastery of these tools and the ability to force them to return the precise results you want. Many of these sites appear to operate similarly, at least on the surface. Yet they can differ substantially in how they understand queries and allow you to filter results, as well as how they rank the hits returned. This brief table provides an at-a-glance summary that should help.



**Warning!**

Be aware that syntax can change without notice.

Search Engine	Boolean	Default	Phrase	Wildcards	Case sensitive	Prefixes	Family filter
Altavista	+ - ( ) AND, OR, AND NOT, NEAR ( ) <i>(Simple Srch)</i>	Phrase, then AND	“ “	Yes * 1-5 characters, must type first 3 characters	No	anchor, applet, domain, host, image, like, link, text, title, url	Yes. Password protected.
Google	OR -  + to include stop words	AND	“ “	Whole word wildcard (*)	No	filetype, daterange, cache, link, related, info, spell, stocks, site, intitle, allintitle, inurl, allinurl	Yes
All The Web	AND, OR, ANDNOT, ( ), +, - ( ) means OR	AND	“ “	No	No	site, url, link, title, language, filesize, filetype	Yes
Wisenut	+, -	AND	“ “	No	No	language	Yes
Teoma	-, OR  + to include stop words	AND	“ “	No	No	intitle, inurl, site, inlink, lang, afterdate, beforedate, between date	No