

## Handy Hints For Effective Internet Searching

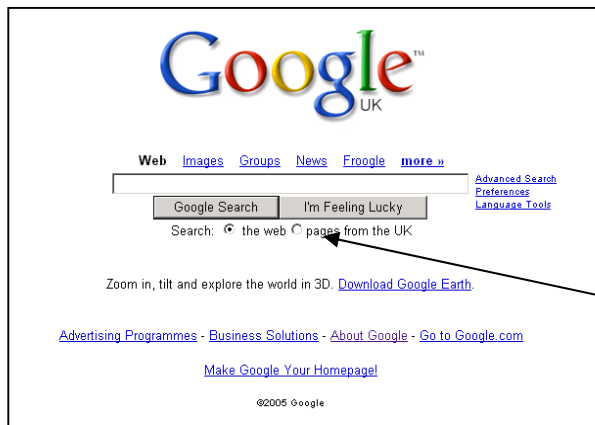
Do you spend hours sifting through thousands of websites looking for that one piece of relevant information? Here are some tips from the PsYonline team to help you find those relevant websites faster.

### Which is the best search engine?

The PsYonline team highly recommend the search engine *Google*. You can enter *Google* at this URL:

[www.google.co.uk](http://www.google.co.uk) (this is the UK *Google*)

The first page you will see will look like this:

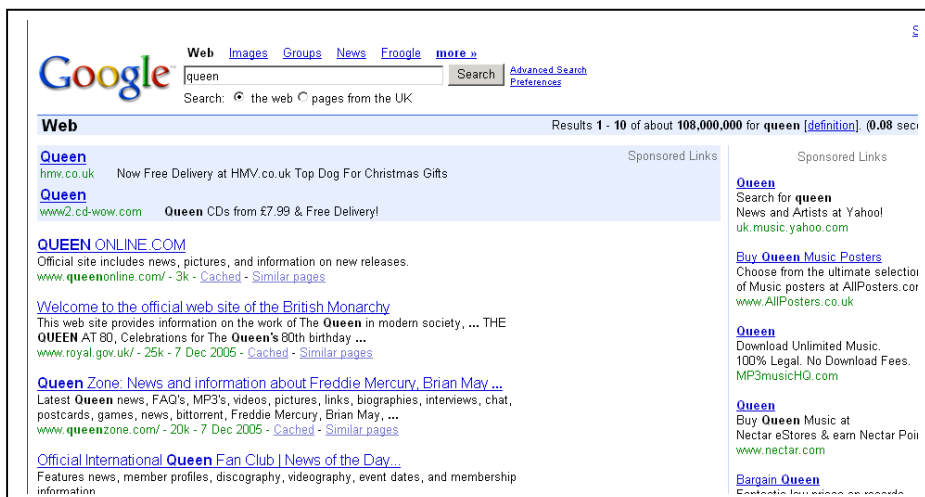


*Google* is good because it lets you search the whole World Wide Web or just pages from the UK, by clicking here on the first screen.

(This is just the UK site. *Google* stretches worldwide and has base sites for different countries e.g. [google.ca](http://google.ca) for Canada.)

*Google* searches the Internet for the most relevant websites according to your "search criteria" (i.e. the words you enter in the search box at the centre of the page).

When you have entered your search criteria press 'Enter' on your keyboard or click on 'Google Search' with your mouse. *Google* will then search the Internet for you. The page will look like this:



### Search Criteria - some tips to save time.

*Google* is an automatic search engine, which means there is no person at the other end to interpret what you mean by your search words. Here are some tips for entering effective search words - this will save you time in the long run.

#### **Capital Letters**

*Google* ignores capitals in your search criteria. So each of the following would come up with the same results:

Queen      qUeEn      queen

*Google* would treat all these entries as **queen** all in lower case.

#### **"And"**

*Google* automatically searches for all the words you put into the search box. There is no need to put "and" between the words.

#### **Common words**

Common words such as "the", "a" and "when" and any numbers you enter will tend to be ignored by *Google*, unless you put the whole phrase in parenthesis (" "). This is only necessary when the word or number is essential to your search. For more information on using parenthesis see below.

### Using the right search criteria

Imagine you wanted to find information on attachment in monkeys. If you type the words **attachment in monkeys** into the search box and press Enter, you can see how many results *Google* has found to match your criteria by looking at the right hand side of the blue bar, near the top of the page:

Results 1 - 10 of about 420,000 for [attachment in monkeys](#). (0.06 seconds)

This blue bar tells you that this page of *Google* is showing you the first 10 results out of about 420,000 total results for attachment in monkeys. Don't worry - you will not need to trail through thousands of websites! This would take days! You can narrow down your search quite easily by using parenthesis (quotation marks).

#### **Using parenthesis**

Using parenthesis makes *Google* search for the whole phrase rather than each word separately. So try typing in **attachment in monkeys** like this:

"attachment in monkeys"

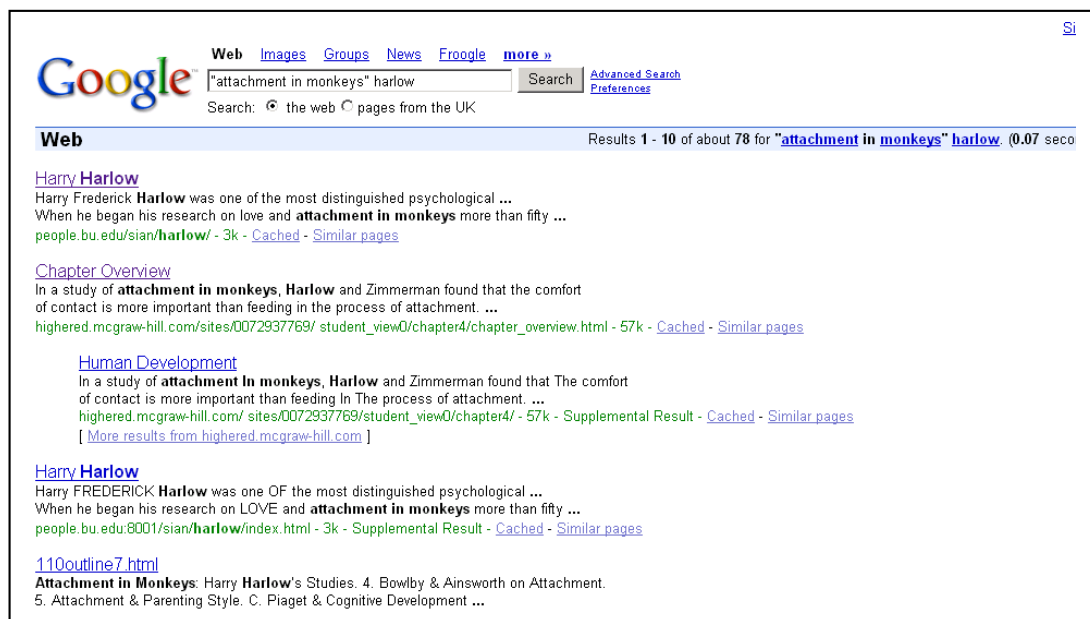
Now see how many results *Google* finds.

Results 1 - 10 of about 117 for "[attachment in monkeys](#)". (0.15 seconds)

This shows you that *Google* has now narrowed the results down from 420,000 to 117 web links - which is much easier to deal with than before! However, this is still a lot of websites and would take some time to look through. To narrow down your search further think about specific researchers that have studied attachment in monkeys. You can use your class notes or textbooks for this. In this case, we would use the research **Harlow**. Therefore, your initial search using *Google* should have looked like this:

"attachment in monkeys" Harlow

*Google* will now look for "attachment in monkeys" and Harlow. Let's see what *Google* comes up with:



The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the query "attachment in monkeys harlow". The search results are displayed under the "Web" tab, showing 1-10 of about 78 results. The first result is for "Harry Harlow", a link to a page about his research on attachment in monkeys. The second result is a "Chapter Overview" from a McGraw-Hill site. The third result is "Human Development" from the same McGraw-Hill site. The fourth result is another link to "Harry Harlow" from a different source. The fifth result is a link to "110outline7.html" about attachment in monkeys.

Web Images Groups News Froogle more »  
"attachment in monkeys" harlow Search Advanced Search Preferences  
Search: the web pages from the UK  
Web Results 1 - 10 of about 78 for "[attachment in monkeys](#)" harlow. (0.07 seconds)  
[Harry Harlow](#)  
Harry Frederick **Harlow** was one of the most distinguished psychological ...  
When he began his research on love and **attachment in monkeys** more than fifty ...  
people.bu.edu/sian/harlow/ - 3k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)  
[Chapter Overview](#)  
In a study of **attachment in monkeys**, **Harlow** and Zimmerman found that the comfort  
of contact is more important than feeding In the process of attachment. ...  
highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072937769/student\_view0/chapter4/chapter\_overview.html - 57k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)  
[Human Development](#)  
In a study of **attachment in monkeys**, **Harlow** and Zimmerman found that The comfort  
of contact is more important than feeding In The process of attachment. ...  
highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072937769/student\_view0/chapter4/ - 57k - [Supplemental Result](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)  
[ [More results from highered.mcgraw-hill.com](#) ]  
[Harry Harlow](#)  
Harry FREDERICK **Harlow** was one OF the most distinguished psychological ...  
When he began his research on LOVE and **attachment in monkeys** more than fifty ...  
people.bu.edu:8001/sian/harlow/index.html - 3k - [Supplemental Result](#) - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)  
[110outline7.html](#)  
**Attachment in Monkeys**: Harry **Harlow**'s Studies. 4. Bowlby & Ainsworth on Attachment.  
5. Attachment & Parenting Style. C. Piaget & Cognitive Development ...

Now *Google* has found 78 websites that match your search criteria, which is much more manageable. If you look at the first link you will find some useful information on Harry Harlow and his work on attachment in monkeys. Success!

For further information on this topic you can look through the other sites listed but do not spend too much time doing this as there will often be only a couple of sites that are relevant. You can find more sites that are relevant by refining your search criteria again slightly. Use your class notes and textbooks and change the key words or the name of the researcher/psychologist.

### **How Do I Know What Is Relevant?**

Don't be put off by the layout of some websites. There are many websites with great information that might look a little boring at first glance. When you first look at a website ask yourselves some questions:

#### **Authorship**

Look at who has written the website. It is useful to look at the URL and see where the website has come from. If it says 'www.....ac.uk' this means it is from a UK academic source, which is good. For American websites, an academic would say 'www.....edu'. Beware of sites that are too commercial. These sites may look really fun but the information may not be as accurate or academic as you would need.

#### **Content**

Take time to look at the content of the website as a whole.

- Is it up-to-date?
- Does it cover everything you want it to?
- Does it refer to specific psychologists and studies (with dates)?

#### **Critique**

Does the website give positive points and criticisms of a study? Or does it discuss advantages and disadvantages? Websites that do this are really good because they will help you develop critical and evaluation points which you need to gain A02 marks in your assessments.

#### **Additional Information**

Does the website contain information that goes beyond what is in your textbook? Does it give you suggestions for further reading? Websites that do this are good because following such guidance will help you demonstrate that you have done some wider reading and your own independent research (but don't spend too long doing this though!).

### **A final Note**

Don't worry if you do not find lots of relevant sites on your first try. Internet searching does take time but these tips will help you to refine your technique so that you can find relevant sites more quickly. It may be that there are only a couple of relevant sites that meet your search criteria. If you find that after the first couple of pages of results you are not getting anywhere, try changing your search criteria slightly. Don't forget to use your textbooks for key words and key researchers to do with the topic you are researching and remember these handy hints.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SEARCHING!