



Here's how to search smartly for information

With literally billions of pages of information, the internet can sometimes appear overwhelming. So it's important to help your children understand how best to find the information they want so they don't waste time or become frustrated.

Everyone in the family can improve their online searching skills. Try out the top tips overleaf.
Or pop into a local library or a UK online centre to ask for help in improving your skills...

1. Got an address? Use it!

Save yourself lots of time. If you have the address of a specific site you want to visit, type it in carefully in the address bar. Your children's school may have a list of recommended sites – just ask.

2. Choose a search engine

The three most popular are:

www.google.co.uk

www.yahoo.co.uk

www.live.com

Search engines designed specifically for young children include:

www.askkids.com

www.kids.yahoo.com

Try searching for the same thing and see what different results come back from each provider. Set the 'safe search' preferences to suit your child's age and level of maturity.

3. Know what to ask

Choosing the right search term makes a big difference. So instead of just **Egypt**, type in **Egypt pyramids**.

You don't need full sentences – just words. In fact, the more, the better!

4. Narrow your search

Try using quotation marks to find exactly what you want, e.g. **“geography revision sites”**. You can also use a minus sign to exclude areas. For example, if you want to know about battleships for a history project but don't want to know about the game battleships: search for **battleships -games** (notice no space between minus and games!)

5. Choose your country

Most search engines will let you search for 'UK results only'. Click on this option if you want to cut out information from sites in other countries.

6. Keep a track of good sites

When you're on a site you like, you can 'bookmark' or save it as a 'favourite' so you can find it quickly again.

Simply click on 'favourites' or 'bookmarks' on the menu and follow the on-screen instructions.