

### Get the most out of your Google searches!

Google.com is a **Search Engine**: a website that searches for information on the web. You can perform a Google search from google.com or from the address bar of your browser.

- Start simple, add more descriptive words later. e.x. *Where's the closest airport?*
- Add the location for searches of places or products in a specific location. e.x. *bakery Denver*
- Use words that are likely to appear on the site you're looking for. e.x. Instead of *my head hurts* search for *headache*. Medical websites will use the more medical term.
- Don't sweat spelling or capitalization! Google will automatically search for the most common spelling and capitalization.

### Which search result is right for me?

The first result in the list might not be the best fit. Use what you know about URLs, domains and the topic you are searching for to evaluate the results.

The screenshot shows a Google search for "dmv colorado". The search results include:

- DMV Colorado Info - Colorado DMV Licenses Assistance** (dmv.mydriverlicenses.org/Colorado) - An advertisement with a yellow "Ad" label. It lists services like "Change of Address", "New CO Drivers License", and "Renew CO Drivers License".
- Colorado DMV Info - Don't Stand In Line at the CO DMV** (www.dmv.org/Colorado) - A result from a .gov domain. It lists services like "Find DMV Info All Online", "180 Million Visits a Year", "License & Registration", "No Need to Stand In Line", "Apply or Renew a License", "Registration & Titles", and "View Driving Record".
- Department of Revenue - Motor Vehicle** (www.colorado.gov/dmv) - A result from a .gov domain. It lists services like "Licenses" (Adult License - Renewals, Appointments - Minor License) and "Online Services" (Schedule or cancel an appointment online at a driver's ...).

Callouts provide the following advice:

- These are Ads. Be wary.** (Points to the first result)
- Use what you know about domains and the DMV to evaluate these results.** (Points to the second and third results)
- 1. It's a government agency (look for the .gov domain in the URL).**
- 2. It's specific to our state.**
- 3. DMV is an abbreviation for Division of Motor Vehicle. Which result specifically states that in its snippet?**

How could you change your search terms (*dmv colorado*) to get better results?

## **Tips:**

- **Search for a specific word or phrase.**
  - Put the word or phrase in quotes.
- **Search for a range of numbers or dates.**
  - Ex: Coffee maker \$50..\$100
- **Find similar websites**
  - Type the word related before your search.
  - Ex: related:weather.com
- **Use an asterisk within quotes to specify an unknown word or phrase**
- **Search google news or images**
- **Compare foods using “vs”**
  - Ex. “rice vs. quinoa”

## **Need more help?**

- Come to the library and practice on a library computer.
- Go to: <http://www.gcflearnfree.org/internet> for free practice.