

Name: _____

Section: _____

Practice Using Search Engine Symbols/Commands

For this activity you will review and use the symbols/commands associated with search engines to narrow your search of various topics. Please use www.google.com or www.altavista.com as your search engine.

PART 1 - Directions: Use a search engine to narrow your search of the broad topic listed below. Please keep in mind that the approach being used below is not typical - its sole purpose is to show you how search results are impacted by the use of various symbols/commands.

1. Search for the topic of science.

a. What did you use to perform this search?

b. How many sites are there?

2. Narrow your search by specifying cells.

a. What did you use to narrow this search?

b. How many sites are there?

Hint: Use the plus sign (+)

3. Narrow your search by specifying prokaryotes which are a specific type of cell.

a. What did you use to narrow this search?

b. How many sites are there?

Hint: Use the plus sign (+)

4. Narrow your search by specifying that you want to exclude eukaryotes which are another type of cell.

a. What did you use to narrow this search?

b. How many sites are there?

Hint: Use the minus sign (-)

5. Narrow your search by specifying that you are interested in endosymbiosis which describes some types of cellular relationships.

a. What did you use to narrow your search?

b. How many sites are there?

Hint: Use the plus sign (+)

6. Narrow your search by specifying that you are interested in "Mitochondrial Eve," which is a theory associated with cells.

a. What did you use to narrow your search?

b. How many sites are there?

Hint: Use the plus sign (+) & quotes (" ")

7. Narrow your search by specifying that all of the websites should be from educational institutions.

a. What did you use to narrow your search?

b. How many sites are there?

Hint: Use the "site:" or "host:" command at the beginning of your search

8. Narrow your search by specifying that all of the websites should be from Canada instead of educational institutions.

a. What did you use to narrow your search?

b. How many sites are there?

Hint: Use the "site:" or "host:" command at the beginning of your search

PART 2 - Directions: Use a search engine to perform an internet search of the topics below. Write down the keywords and symbols/commands you would use to locate websites on the specified information.

1. cats and dogs

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

2. pit bull breed of dogs, but not the singer

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

3. specific type of fish called a mullet, but not the haircut

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

4. eagles, but not the Philadelphia Eagles

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

5. professional basketball teams in Italy

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

6. universities that have information pertaining to atoms

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

7. fish that live in the Atlantic Ocean that are not sharks

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

8. running shoes that are not made by Nike or New Balance

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

9. causes for the Revolutionary War as described by individuals living in England

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

10. people with the same exact name as yours living in your community and state

Combination of keywords and symbols/commands used

PART 3 - Directions: Take some time to experiment on your own to see how you can use the different symbols/commands to narrow any school appropriate topics of your choice.