Going global – web-search tips

Worksheet

1 Look at the following web-search engines. Which ones do you know? Are there any search engines specific to your country?
Google  Bing  Yahoo  Ask.com

2 Read the general tips for web-searches.

Key words: Key words are the most important words in a search. For example, if you want to search for the United States of America the key words are America, States and United. Put the most important key words first.

Using (plus) and (minus): Use + in front of words to include them in a search.
Use - in front of words to exclude them in a search. Do NOT put a space between the + or – and the keyword.

Using (double quotation marks): To search for an exact phrase use double quotation marks (“ ”) around the phrase. For example “raining cats and dogs”. Do NOT put quotation marks around a single word.

Capital letters and spelling: Use lower-case letters to find lower- or upper-case words. If you use a CAPITAL letter at the beginning of a word it will give an exact match. For example, if you type president you will get president and President.

Use * to find variations in spelling. For example countr* will give you country and countries.

Putting it all together: You can combine different elements to make a search. For example, beatles+song+“all you need is love” will give you entries that contain beatles, song and the phrase ‘all you need is love’.

3 Now read some additional tips for internet searching, adapted from the Google search tips page.

1 keep it simple
2 use common words
3 use fewer words
4 use descriptive words

4 Use a search engine to find examples of the following:
   a  a page of quotations about the English language
   b  a page about fruit and vegetables
   c  a page about fruit but not vegetables
   d  a song that includes the words and now the time has come
   e  a page about the meaning of colours (UK spelling) or colors (US spelling)