



## Conducting A Boolean Search

A Boolean expression is a complex query that uses Boolean operators to combine keywords typically in Google or other search engine.

The Boolean operators set the conditions for a search. The three normal Boolean operators used are:

<b>AND</b>	eg. windows <b>AND</b> doors
<b>AND NOT</b>	eg. windows <b>AND NOT</b> Microsoft
<b>OR</b>	eg. windows <b>OR</b> doors

Boolean operators are most useful when combined to produce a more complex, specific query. Boolean operators are not case-sensitive, ie they do not need to be capitalised..

Use brackets to group parts of the Boolean expression together that must be evaluated first.

Example: (**Australia** OR **Victoria**) AND **awards**

This will return results containing the words "**Australia**" and "**awards**", and results containing the words "**Victoria**" and "**awards**".

If you don't use brackets, the keywords combined by the AND operator will be evaluated first.

Example: **Australia** OR **Victoria** AND **awards**

This would return results containing the words "**Victoria**" and "**awards**", and results containing just the word "**Australia**".

If you don't use brackets, the keywords combined by the OR operator will be evaluated last.

Example: **Australia** OR **Victoria** AND NOT **awards**

This would return results containing the words "**Victoria**", but not "**awards**", and results containing just the word "**Australia**".

You cannot use the AND NOT operator before bracketed terms.

Example: **Awards** AND NOT (**Australia** OR **Victoria**)

This is invalid.

You can combine exact phrases with other keywords using a Boolean operator.

Example: ***Film awards*** AND (***Australia*** OR ***Victoria***)

This would return results containing the phrase "***Film awards***" and the word "***Australia***",  
and results containing "***Film awards***" and "***Victoria***".

If you enter multiple words in a search engine without using Boolean operators between words it defaults to AND.

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