

Searching the Web

"It's like having all the libraries in the world in my computer."

What's it all about

The World-Wide Web links millions of websites. Each website has an address called a URL (Universal Resource Locator). Each website comprises a number of 'pages'; some have many, some have few.

Think of a topic and there will be some information about it on the web. But how can you sift through this 'library' to find what you want?

Fortunately, you can use a 'search engine' that sifts through all the information in seconds.

Searching with Google

- The most popular search engine is **Google**. It is very easy to use.
- Type www.google.co.uk into the address bar of your browser.
- Press **Enter** to display the Google search screen, like this:



1. Search Box: When you open Google, there should be a vertical line (the cursor) flashing at the left of this box. If the cursor is not there, click once anywhere in the box

Type words that describe what you want to find; they will appear in this box. You can use the keys on your keyboard to move the cursor and edit.

2. To search, press the **Enter** key, or click Google Search.
3. Click the words the web to search websites from all the countries in the world, or restrict your search to pages from the UK by clicking those words. A dot in the small circle shows which you have chosen.
4. I'm Feeling Lucky: This will take you to the web page that Google's software identifies as best matching your query. This feature is good if you know a company name, e.g. Digital Unite, but not their URL.
5. Advanced Search: For more complex searches. See **More About Google**.

Results Page(s)

Google's software lists websites that best match your search terms

The screenshot shows a Google search results page for the query "holidays scotland". Callout 1 points to the search box containing the text "holidays scotland". Callout 2 points to the search results summary, which states "Results 1 - 10 of about 18,000,000 for holidays scotland. (0.37 seconds)". Callout 3 points to the "Sponsored Links" section on the right, which includes advertisements for "Scotland Cottages", "Scottish Highland Tours", and "Scotland Hotels". Callout 4 points to the first organic search result, "Holidays in Scotland - things to do, Scottish hotels and cottages", which includes a brief description and a URL: "www.holidayscotland.org.uk/".

1. Search Box: You can change the search for better results.
2. The number of results, or hits. A search like "holidays scotland" gets a lot of hits!
3. Sponsored Links: Companies pay Google to display advertising links either at the top or side of each page.
4. Each hit shows the text that matched your search and the URL and name of the page. Click on the underlined text to view the page.

At the bottom of the page you will see links to more pages of hits and suggestions for other searches you could try.

The screenshot shows the bottom of a Google search results page. It features a section titled "Searches related to: holidays scotland" with two links: "bank holidays scotland" and "hotels scotland". Below this is the Google logo and a pagination bar with numbers 1 through 10, and a "Next" button.

Click on Next to go to the next page of hits.