

My	plump	starfish	quickly	lowered	Lincoln's	tie.
minus	plus	star	quotes	lower case	link:	title:
-exclude	+include	wildcard*	"phrases in quotes"	case MATTERS	find pages linked	find words in the title

My plump +Atlantis -shuttle

The first two basic tools to practice with the simple search are the use of + and - to include or exclude words. For example, if you wanted to find sites about Atlantis, the purported lost continent, and you wanted to eliminate all pages that were about Atlantis, the space shuttle.

~Note: There's no space between the + or - and the word, but there **is a space **between** words.**

Starfish mushroom*

A common mistake people make is to inadvertently narrow their search too much by excluding variations on a word they're looking for. For example, if you typed in +mushrooms, you'd miss all those pages that just had the singular word mushroom on them.

Quickly "merits of laziness"

If you type a sequence of words in as a query, AltaVista will look for documents that contain any of those words. If you want the words to hang together as a phrase, you should put double quotes around them.

Lowered octopus

AltaVista pays attention to any capital letters you type into a query. If you search for Octopus, it will only find documents in which it's spelled that way. **In general, unless you're after a particular spelling, use all lower case.**

Lincoln's link:edweb.sdsu.edu/webquest/webquest.html

Suppose you found the absolutely perfect page about life in Ancient Egypt, and it's located at <http://touregypt.net/Antiq.htm>. You suspect that any other web pages out there that contain a link to that page would also contain things that would interest your students.

~If you put all or part of the URL of the page after "link:", you'll get a list of pages that are linked to the one you found useful.

Tie title:webquest

A simple search will find a word anywhere on the web page. To locate pages that are primarily about one thing, look for pages that have that thing in their title. The result is much more tightly focused.

Note: There can be a space between title: and the next word or not. It doesn't seem to matter.