

Which search engine would you use for each task?

1. What are some different definitions for the word “love”? How are they different?
2. A close friend has fixed you up with a blind date for this Saturday. Then, you find out that your date is from Japan, and you know absolutely nothing about the country except for sushi and sumo wrestling. You realize that you have to learn something about the language and culture before the date. Search the Internet for three specific things about the country (e.g., food, art, holidays, sports, cultural values) to see what things you might have in common. You need a search engine that will help you brainstorm ideas.
3. You are thinking about staying at the Wolf Ranch in Arches National Park for your honeymoon, and your fiancé wants to see a picture of the place. Be prepared to respond and give reasons for your choice.
4. You are going a date with very sophisticated woman, and you want to impress her with your knowledge of literature and art. Find three facts about Salvador Dali and be prepared to discuss some of his works.
5. While out of your date at a restaurant, you tell the woman that you are very athletic and enjoy all sports. She then asks you if you like to play *takraw*, one of her favorite recreational activities. You panic because you have no idea what she is talking about. You pretend to have something caught in your throat and run to the bathroom. Using your cell phone, you search the Internet to find out what your date is talking about.
6. After being married for three days, you begin to question whether you married that right person. You have talked with all your friends and you have even searched online for marital advice. However, you are looking for research on the topic, not just hearsay or “my grandmother once told me” advice. What are some of the keys to a successful relationship?

## Searching the Internet with a Backhoe, Not a Toothpick

Although students appear to know how to use the Internet, the reality is that they seldom know how to search effectively for academic purposes, and this lack of training often translates into poor scholastic work.

Unfortunately, students tend to rely on simple Google searches, not realizing (1) how search engines determine their results, (2) which sources are most relevant and credible, and (3) what other specialized search engines exist for collecting reliable information. Teachers can assign an Internet Treasure Hunt in which students learn how to use a variety of unique search engines to find answers to their questions.

Find the answer to each question using the indicated search tool.

1. What are some different definitions for the word “love”? How are they different? Compare answers with other students.

- **www.onelook.com** – online dictionary search
- **www.heartquotes.net** and **www.quoteland.com**

2. A close friend has fixed you up with a blind date for this Saturday. Then, you find out that your date is from Japan, and you know absolutely nothing about the country except for sushi and sumo wrestling. You realize that you have to learn something about the language and culture before the date to look sophisticated. Search the Internet for three specific things about the country (e.g., food, art, holidays, sports, cultural values) to see what things you might have in common. You need a search engine that will help you brainstorm ideas.

- **www.vivisimo.com** (metasearch engine) – uses clusters
- **factbites.com** – meaningful descriptions of search results

3. You are thinking about staying at the Wolf Ranch in Arches National Park for your honeymoon, and your fiancé wants to see a picture of the place. Be prepared to respond and give reasons for your choice.

- **images.google.com** – pictures

4. You are going a date with very sophisticated woman, and you want to impress her with your knowledge of literature and art. Find three facts about Salvador Dali and be prepared to discuss some of his works.

- **www.ask.com** – former askjeeves.com
- **www.biography.com** – concise biographies of thousands of people

5. While out on your date at a restaurant, you tell the woman that you are very athletic and enjoy all sports. In fact, you lettered in six different sports in high school, but you turned down an athletic scholarship to the Harvard lacrosse team to do volunteer work in Gambia (Africa). She then asks you if you like to play *takraw*, one of her favorite recreational activities. You panic because you have no idea what she is talking about. You pretend to have something caught in your throat and run to the bathroom. Using your iPhone, you search the Internet to find out what your date is talking about.

- **www.wikipedia.com** – free and growing online encyclopedia
- **www.ixquick.com** (metasearch engine) – compiled results from several leading search engines
- **www.dogpile.com** (metasearch engine)

6. After being married for three days, you begin to question whether you married the right person. You have talked with all your friends and you have even searched online for marital advice. However, you are looking for research on the topic, not just hearsay or “my grandmother once told me” advice. What are some of the keys to a successful relationship?

- **scholar.google.com** – scholarly research articles
- **http://www.intute.ac.uk** – educational and science database