

PubMed Search Tips

1. Use the **MeSH Database** link in the left column to find and search with indexing terms.
2. Restrict your searches to specific journals by using the **Journals Database** link in the left column, or use the "**Limits**" tab to access the "Search by Journal" option to easily add as many journals as desired to your search.
3. **Limit** your search by using the "Limits" tab to access the many limit options.
4. Use "**History**" tab to return to and combine past searches. See examples on the History page.
5. **Truncation**: use an asterisk * (e.g. see Academic Search above)
6. **Phrases**: enclose words to be searched as a phrase in double quotation marks.
For example: "ascorbic acid" finds that exact multi-word term
If words are not enclosed in double quotation marks, an AND will automatically be put between the words the same way Google and the Library Catalog does. However, unlike Google or the Library Catalog, truncating a word in a multi-word search without quotation marks may result in an unexpected phrase search.
7. Use **parentheses** to group compound Boolean statements. (e.g. see Academic Search above)
8. **Mark records** by selecting the box next to the record. All marked records can be added to your "**Clipboard**" by selecting clipboard from the "Send To" menu. The Clipboard gives you a place to collect selected citations from one or several searches for **printing, emailing, or downloading**. To access or view your selections, click the Clipboard tab.
9. **Capitalization** does not matter: use upper, lower, or mixed case.(e.g. see Academic Search above)
10. Use the "**Register**" option in the top right for your free account and your "**My NCBI**" space to save searches, create alerts, and to establish your search preferences.

EBSCO Search Tips (Academic Search/CINAHL/Biological Abstracts/ERIC)

1. **Truncation**: use an asterisk *
For example: diet* retrieves records with the words diet, diets, dieting, dieted, dietitian, etc. any word starting with the letters D-I-E-T
2. **Phrases**: the default search order is that phrases are searched in the order in which they are typed and with the words right next to each other. EBSCOhost treats certain words as "stop words"—for example, **been, however, or so**. Stop words are always ignored, even if they are enclosed in quotation marks. Stop words are commonly used words such as articles, pronouns and prepositions.
3. Use **parentheses** to group compound Boolean statements.
For example: (chocolate OR cocoa) AND (sugar OR sweetener)
4. **Narrow** results by using left column options, particularly Source Types, Subject: Thesaurus Term, Publication, or Publication Type.
5. **Limit** your search by using the 3 top right column options or by clicking on "Search Options" below the top 3 right column options.
6. Put records in a folder by selecting the **Add to Folder** option found under each citation in the results list view. Records are automatically added to a temporary "Folder" for the duration of your searching. If you desire a permanent folder, you must register for a free EBSCO account by clicking on the "Sign in to My EBSCOhost" found in the top margin.
7. View your folder of records for **printing, emailing, downloading or exporting** by clicking on the "Folder" in the top margin or on "Folder View" found in the right column.
8. **Capitalization** does not matter: use upper, lower, or mixed case.
For example: AIDS, Aids, and aids