**Gmail Query Email Search Parameters**

Advanced search operators are query words or symbols that perform special actions in Gmail search. These operators allow you to find what you're looking for quickly and accurately. They can also be used to [set up filters](http://mail.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?answer=6579) so you can organize your inbox automatically. Some of the most useful operators are listed below.

You can also use advanced search operators by clicking on **Show search options** beneath the Gmail search box.

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| **Operator** | **Definition** | **Example(s)** |
| **from:** | Used to specify the sender | Example: **from:amy** Meaning: Messages from Amy |
| **to:** | Used to specify a recipient | Example: **to:david** Meaning: All messages that were sent to David (by you or someone else) |
| **subject:** | Search for words in the subject line | Example: **subject:dinner** Meaning: Messages that have the word "dinner" in the subject |
| **OR** | Search for messages matching term A or term B\* \*OR must be in all caps | Example: **from:amy OR from:david** Meaning: Messages from Amy or from David |
| **-  (hyphen)** | Used to exclude messages from your search | Example: **dinner -movie** Meaning: Messages that contain the word "dinner" but do not contain the word "movie" |
| **label:** | Search for messages by label\* \*There isn't a search operator for unlabeled messages | Example: **from:amy label:friends** Meaning: Messages from Amy that have the label "friends"  Example: **from:david label:my-family** Meaning: Messages from David that have the label "My Family" |
| **has:attachment** | Search for messages with an attachment | Example: **from:david has:attachment**  Meaning: Messages from David that have an attachment |
| **list:** | Search for messages on mailing lists | Example: **list:info@example.com**  Meaning: Messages with the words info@example.com in the headers, sent to or from this list |
| **filename:** | Search for an attachment by name or type | Example: **filename:physicshomework.txt** Meaning: Messages with an attachment named "physicshomework.txt"  Example: **label:work filename:pdf** Meaning: Messages labeled "work" that also have a PDF file as an attachment |
| **" " (quotes)** | Used to search for an exact phrase\* \*Capitalization isn't taken into consideration | Example: **"i'm feeling lucky"** Meaning: Messages containing the phrase "i'm feeling lucky" or "I'm feeling lucky"  Example: **subject:"dinner and a movie"** Meaning: Messages containing the phrase "dinner and a movie" in the subject |
| **( )** | Used to group words  Used to specify terms that shouldn't be excluded | Example: **from:amy (dinner OR movie)** Meaning: Messages from Amy that contain either the word "dinner" or the word "movie"  Example: **subject:(dinner movie)** Meaning: Messages in which the subject contains both the word "dinner" and the word "movie" |
| **in:anywhere** | Search for messages anywhere in Gmail\* \*Messages in **Spam** and **Trash** are excluded from searches by default | Example: **in:anywhere movie**  Meaning: Messages in **All Mail**, **Spam**, and **Trash** that contain the word "movie" |
| **in:inbox in:trash in:spam** | Search for messages in **Inbox**, **Trash**, or **Spam** | Example: **in:trash from:amy** Meaning: Messages from Amy that are in **Trash** |
| **is:important label:important** | Search within messages that [Priority Inbox](http://mail.google.com/support/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=186531) considers important. | Example: **is:important from:janet** Meaning: Messages from Janet that were marked as important by **Priority Inbox** |
| **is:starred is:unread is:read** | Search for messages that are starred, unread or read | Example: **is:read is:starred from:David** Meaning: Messages from David that have been read and are marked with a star |
| **cc: bcc:** | Used to specify recipients in the **cc:** or **bcc:** fields\* \*Search on bcc: cannot retrieve messages on which you were blind carbon copied | Example: **cc:david**  Meaning: Messages that were cc-ed to David |
| **after: before:** | Search for messages sent during a certain period of time\* \*Dates must be in yyyy/mm/dd format. | Example: **after:2004/04/16 before:2004/04/18**  Meaning: Messages sent between April 16, 2004 and April 18, 2004.\* \*More precisely: Messages sent after 12:00 AM (or 00:00) April 16, 2004 and before April 18, 2004. |
| **is:chat** | Search for chat messages | Example: **is:chat monkey** Meaning: Any chat message including the word "monkey". |
| **deliveredto:** | Search for messages within a particular email address in the Delivered-To line of the message header | Example: **deliveredto:username@gmail.com** Meaning: Any message with username@gmail.com in the Delivered-To: field of the message header (which can help you find messages forwarded from another account or ones sent to an alias). |