

Using Search Engines

1.0 What is a search engine?

A Web search engine is designed to search for information on the World Wide Web. Information may consist of web pages, images and other types of files. Search engines are useful when you don't know the web address but you know the web pages have a particular content, for example "Chocolate cake recipes". When you supply those words as search words, the search engine will examine each web page and display only those pages that relate to that key word/phrase you provided.

The most commonly used search engine is called **Google**. There are several you may choose to use instead. Other Search Engines include:

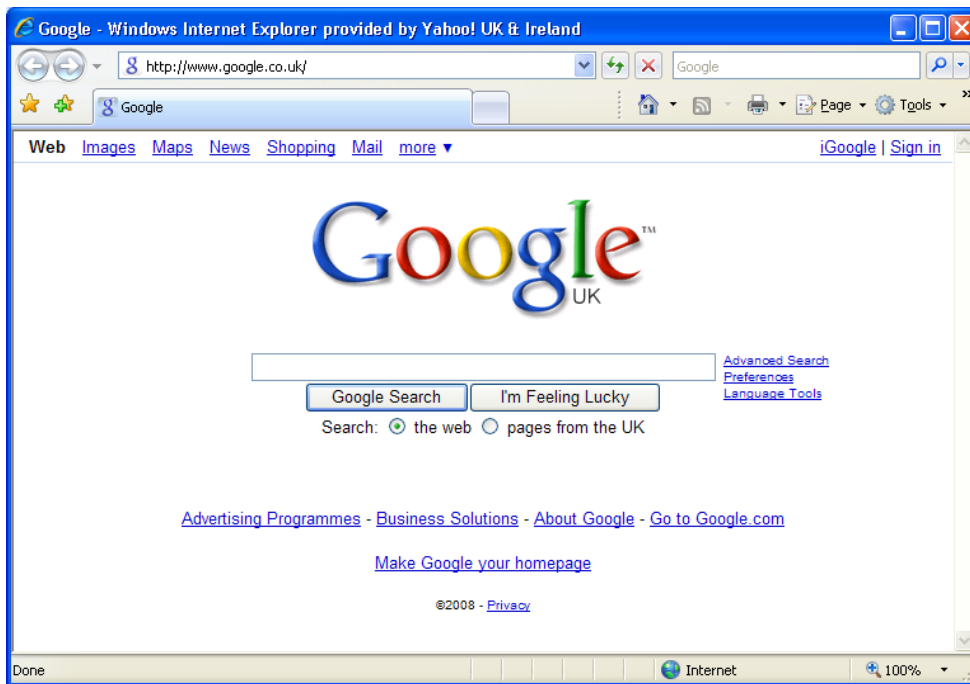
- AltaVista provides a comprehensive *search* experience. www.altavista.com
- Ask Jeeves offers fast and relevant answers to everyday questions. www.ask.co.uk
- Bing is a *search engine* that finds and organizes the answers you need so you can make faster, more informed decisions. www.bing.com
- Dogpile. All the best *search engines* piled into one. www.dogpile.com

2.0 Using Google

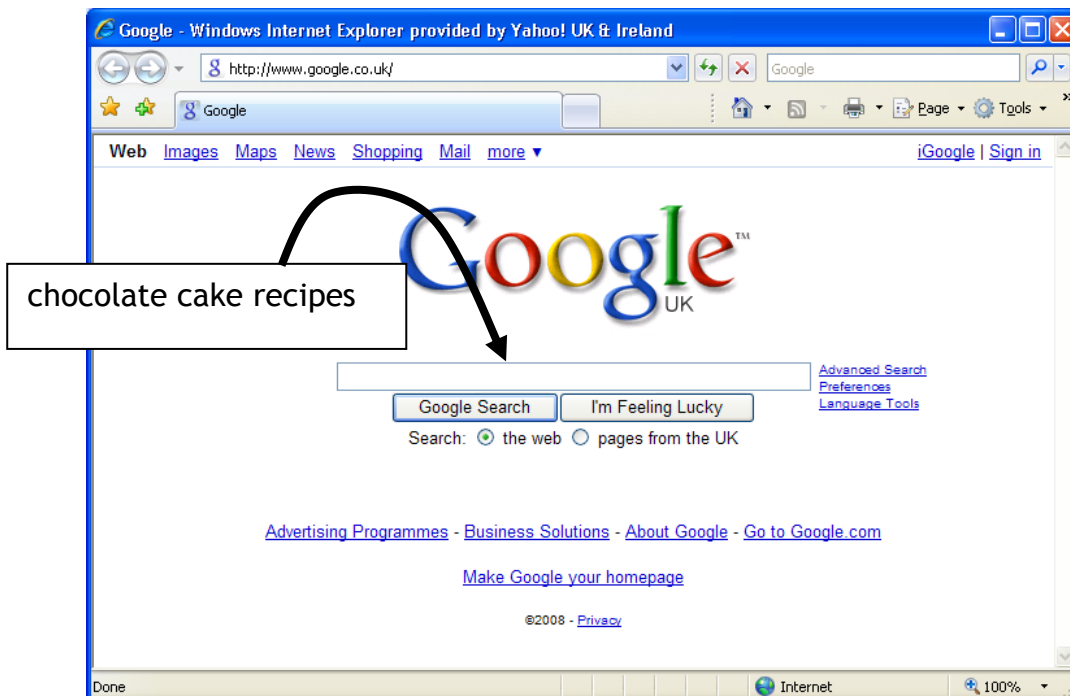
1. Make sure computer is switched on
2. Click Start button > All programs
3. Click on Internet Explorer (it has a blue icon that looks like "e")



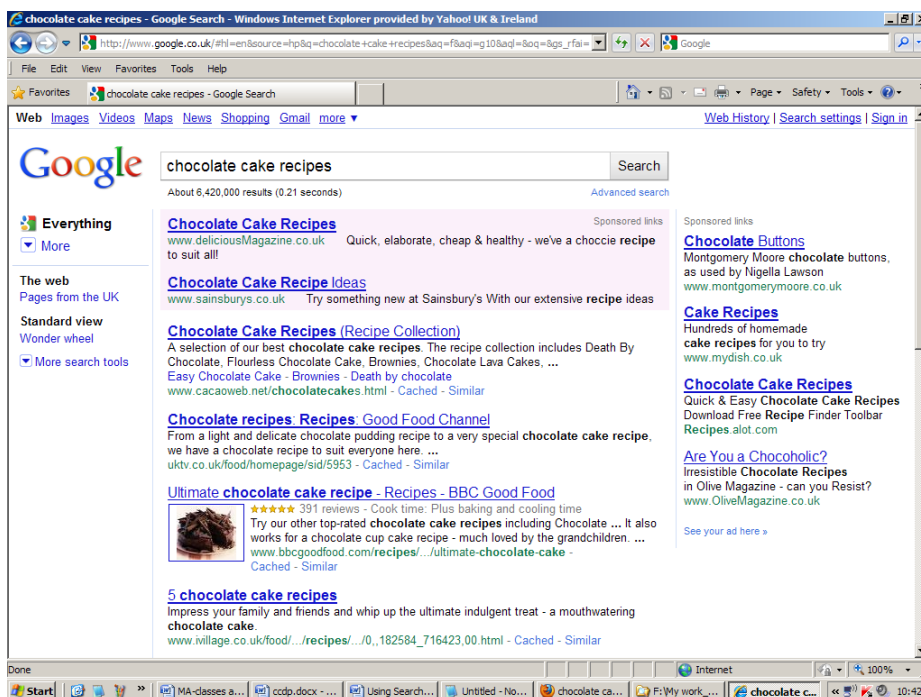
4. In the address box at the Browser screen type www.google.co.uk
5. Click Go (or press Enter)



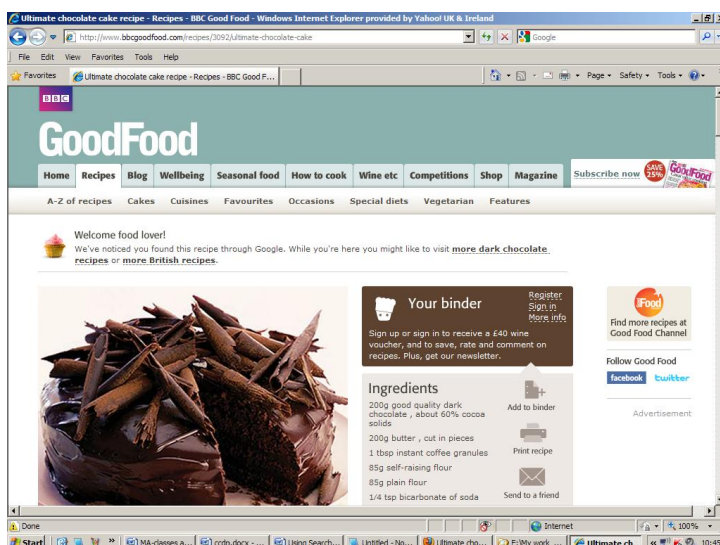
6. When the screen shown above is displayed, notice that the browser has filled in the address box with the full web address.
7. In the search box, type in - chocolate cake recipes - and click Google Search.



8. There are about 6,460,000 results found and Google displays the first 10 as shown below.



9. To go to any of these pages and access the information, click on the link (usually blue text-underlined). For example, click **Ultimate chocolate cake recipe - Recipes - BBC Good Food**.
10. **Note:** the first two links at the top shaded in pink are Sponsored Links (paid advertisement). Also, the links on the right side of the window are all Sponsored Links.
11. If we click on **Ultimate chocolate cake recipe - Recipes - BBC Good Food**, the following web page is displayed on the screen.



3.0 Exercises on using Google

- Glasgow weather UK
- Budget holiday Malta
- Tenerife carnival
- Daylight bulbs
- Petite women fashion
- Scotland Train times Glasgow Edinburgh
- Online groceries (but remember to click pages from the UK)
- Commonwealth Games

Question: Does it matter whether I type in my search words in capitals?

Answer: No. Spain and spain are searched for in exactly the same way

Question: How do I search for specific sequences of words? E.g. daylight bulbs?

Answer: Type those words within double-quotation punctuation marks e.g. "daylight bulbs".

4.0 Extra Google

Google can also be used to search for

- Images
- Maps
- News
- Video
- Shopping
- Books
- Others