# Boolean operators

The most common Boolean operators are AND, OR and NOT (always in capitals). They can be used to get more accurate search results.

We are going to use AND today.

## AND

The words 'black' and 'shoes' will return results that contain the words 'black' and/or 'shoes'. You may get results that contain only one of the two words, eg ‘purple shoes for sale’

In general, search engines treat the search ‘black shoes’ as ‘black AND shoes’ - which means results must contain both words, eg ‘black shiny shoes for sale’.

Sometimes you have to add AND to get results that contain both words. This won’t guarantee that the words will appear next to each other, only that both words will appear in the results, eg ‘black T-shirts and purple shoes for sale’.

If you question was, ‘Who was the leader of the army in World War 2?’ then you could type in ‘World War 2 AND army’ and your results will contain both the phrase, ‘World War 2’ and the word, ‘army’. This may help you get more accurate results.

**Using Quotation marks for research**

Quotation marks can be used to get more accurate results. For example, use “black shoes” to get results where the words ‘black’ and ‘shoes’ appear together, eg ‘black shoes for sale’. By doing this, the result ‘black T-shirts and purple shoes for sale’ will not be returned.

If you are asking a question, using quotation marks will mean that the results given contain all of the words in the question.

For example, if you typed, “How did World War 2 start?” then the results would all contain these words and may be more likely to contain an accurate answer.