



A guide to Google for the Yahoos

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Ah, Google Inc. The multination tech-corporation that is so popular that a large number of people don't even know of its parent company, Alphabet Inc.

Google has made searching for things on the surface web as easy as typing in the thing we want to look up on the internet. From forums, websites, art, dates, locations to literally anything you can think of, you can search them all up and have your desired content presented to you on its first page (Admit it, nobody checks after the first page).

Yet for some strange reason, people in this day and age are unaware of the basics of using a simple search engine of the likes of Google.

So I'll mention a few of them here.

Here we go:

DEFAULT SEARCH ENGINE

Although other search engines do exist, almost everyone would agree that Google is the most effective and easy-to-use search engine of them all. In order to do that with ease, set your default search engine to 'Google' by going to your browser settings and switching your default browser to Google. It should be easy enough because this option is usually available under 'Browser' or 'Default Search Engine' section of all internet browsers' settings.

YOUR SEARCHES

Keep your searches coherent and as close to your subject matter as possible for optimal results. Remember, Google is meant to find things for you available on the internet, and the internet only. Don't search "Where is my girlfriend?!1?!" and expect to have results that you desire. Not only do you make a fool out of yourself, but you also add a foolish search suggestion on Google that will infuriate other users of the search engine.

FACT FINDING

The amount of information you can gather from a Google search is staggering. You can get hundreds of thousands of different types of information for something you may search up. However, it is necessary for you to use common sense when picking the link you wish to learn from or use. Try to lean more towards more reliable sources and avoid links with meta-descriptions like "Studies have found that reading a book can lead to lung cancer".

SHOPPING

Again, like the previous topic, try to follow links that lead to reliable and trustworthy shopping sites. These are sites where you will be sharing your personal financial information. So beware of fishy sites like "youbuywesteal.com".

PATIENCE

Didn't find a search result you were intending to get? Tired of pointless search results that you didn't want, or no results coming up at all? Do you feel like hurling profanities at your screen? Well don't, because your screen won't understand any of your posh vocabulary. The reason why you didn't get your intended search is either because you didn't use relevant keywords, your search isn't legal, or because your search query result doesn't belong in the surface web. To solve this, clarify your keywords or even, this is a last resort mind you, scroll down and go to the second page of results. It is unthinkable but it could help.

Well, that's enough of the basic etiquettes yours truly could cover to help you have a nice grasp of how to Google your problems for solutions. If you need to know more, you can always Google it.

Aka is a tiny little bleep on the world's radar, and he finds peace in knowing it. Ruin his peace by poking him on akaaraf@hotmail.com

THE STORY OF A COLD-SENSITIVE WINTER LOVER

ANTARA RAISA RAHMAN

Although the people in Dhaka get only 2-3 months of winter, some hopelessly fall in love with the few misty mornings that come with it. Being one of these people, I always look forward to waking up to such a fog-covered scenery outside my window. It is exciting to finally get a break from the sweltering heat that covers the entire country. However, the real problems arise when winter lovers such as myself are also sensitive to cold. Yes, that's right, there are people who love cold weather but are highly sensitive to low temperature. Ironic, but true.



PHOTO: STAR

Every morning, I expect to wake up curled up in my *lep* feeling warm and cosy like a butterfly in my cocoon. But as soon as I wake up, I realise that it's colder than I expected. Maybe someone left the fan on? No, that's not it. Then it must be awfully cold outside today. BUT NO! I can feel rays of sunlight burning my face. It's only a matter of time after I realise that even the thickest *kombol*, warmest hoodie, and fluffiest socks can't keep the cold away from me. Apparently, my favourite season is here!

However, I never stopped loving winter despite being weakened by low temperature. But sadly, it never loved me back. If anything, it got me sick everytime it showed up. While other people started winter by shopping for warm clothes and going on a *pitha* eating spree, I was in bed with a cold before winter even made it to Dhaka. Not only that, as a result of sickness and low temperature, anything cold was strictly off limits for me, especially ice-cream. "You'll catch a cold if you eat ice-cream," said every mom ever. But despite being sensitive to the cold, I often found myself shivering with an ice-cream cone in my hand as all my fingers froze completely. Thank God for gloves.

Among other things, I would also take

out my warm clothes earlier than everyone else. And even if winter came by later than I expected, there were unusual benefits I got from it. While in summer, wearing a thin shrug over my outfit would make my friends say something like *tomake dekhe amar onek gorom lagche*, no one would make a fuss over it during winters. As an overly-cold winter lover, I always took advantage of this situation. As someone who's always suffered from being "too cold", I own countless thick gloves, fluffy mufflers and heavy jackets – things a person will never need as a dweller of Dhaka city. Yet, there's always at least one pair of gloves I carry around for my cold palms and a muffler to cover my frozen head.

Although, over the years I came up with countless tricks to tackle the cold weather, the ultimate weapon to surviving as a thin-blooded winter lover is to have a warm best friend you can count on who will never leave your side. By that, of course, I mean a fluffy, oversized hoodie that has unusually long sleeves. Hoodies are the ultimate lifesavers.

Antara wishes to conquer the world someday and bring back an alien from Pluto. To know more about her evil schemes, send an e-mail at antara56.ar@gmail.com