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Tip Sheet | Terms & Connectors

Terms & connectors searches contain multiple words, phrases, or citations connected to each other by special operational terms. This functionality, also known as *Boolean Searching,* helps you decide how the key terms should relate to one another, yielding results that are on point for your topic.

Advanced legal researches know that using **terms and connectors** is the best way to get exactly the results you need.

CONNECTOR	DESCRIPTION
!	Use to truncate a word to find all the words made by adding letters to the end of it, including plurals. Truncated words must have three or more characters. ▪ **child!** finds child, children, childless, childish, and so on
*****	Use at the end of a root word to find the root word and all the words that can be made by adding letters to the end of it, including plurals. For best results, use unique root words of three characters or more. ▪ **advi*e** would find advice and advise Use within a word to represent one or more variable characters. For best results, use with caution. ▪ **li*orice** finds licorice and liquorice and little else ▪ **col*r** finds not only color and colour, but hundreds of other words
?	Use within a word to represent one or more variable characters. Use one **?** for each variable letter. ▪ **int???et** finds internet and intranet ▪ **int???et** does not find interpret
or	Use to find all documents that contain either or both of the words or phrases linked by the or connector. You can also use **or** to include synonyms, antonyms,

	alternative spellings or abbreviations in the search. The location of the word or words within the document does not matter. ▪ **ship or boat or vessel or yacht or sailboat** finds all documents that mention different boats generally
and (&)	Use to find documents containing two specific words or phrases, regardless of the order in which they appear or their proximity to each other. Searches using only the **and** connector typically retrieve many documents, but within those documents, the search words or phrases may often appear in unrelated contexts. ▪ **budget and deficit** finds documents in which the words "budget" and "deficit" appear ▪ **budget & deficit** **Note:** The ampersand (&) cannot be searched as a symbol or a special character. It is only an equivalent for the connector **and**.
and not	Use to exclude documents containing specific words or phrases. To enhance your understanding of how search expressions containing **and not** connectors will be evaluated, it is often helpful often to place the **and not** connectors at the end of search expressions. ▪ **capital and not gains** finds all documents containing the term "capital" except those that also contain the term "gains"
/n	Use to find documents in which a given word appears within "n" words of another given word in the same document section. The value of "n" can be any number up to 255. The order in which the words appear within the document does not matter. ▪ **cat /6 dog** finds documents where the word "cat" occurs within 6 words of "dog". It also finds documents containing "cats and dogs", "dogs or cats", "dog allergens differ from those of cat", and so on
onear/n or **pre/n**	Use to find documents where the first word precedes the second word by not more than "n" words. ▪ **overtime pre/3 compensation** finds documents where the word "overtime" precedes "compensation within 3 words. **Note: pre/n** is especially useful in situations where a different word order significantly alters meaning.

/p	Use to find documents where the search terms appear within the same paragraph, or within approximately 75 words of each other. The order in which the words appear within the document does not matter. ▪ **retirement /p benefit** finds documents where the word "retirement" appears within the same paragraph as the word "benefit"
/s	Use to find documents where the search terms appear within the same sentence, or within approximately 25 words of each other. The order in which the words appear within the document does not matter. ▪ **earnings /s taxation** finds documents where the word "earnings" appears within the same sentence as the word "taxation"

HOW MULTIPLE SEARCH CONNECTORS ARE EVALUATED

Lexis Advance® Quicklaw® uses the following order of operations for connector searches:

1. **( )** have the highest priority. If parentheses are present in a search, things enclosed in parentheses are dealt with first.
2. **or**
3. proximity connectors1, such as **near/n**, **onear/n**, **/seg**, **w/n**, **pre/n**, **NOT/n**, **NOT/seg**, **/s**, **/p**, **w/sent**, **w/para**
4. **and**
5. **and not**

Example:

bankrupt! w/25 discharg! and not student or college or education! w/5 (loan and scholarship)

This search query is processed in the following way:

1. ( ) has the highest priority, so the terms and connectors within the parentheses operate first. In this example, (loan and scholarship) are processed as a unit before any other connectors apply.
2. or has the next highest priority, so it operates next. In this example, student or college or education! is processed as a unit, which is created by the or connector.
3. w/5 ties together the term loan and the student or college or education! unit.
4. w/25 operates next and creates a unit of the bankrupt! w/25 discharg! terms.
5. and not, with the lowest priority, operates last and links the units formed in the second and third items above.