COMBINING TERMS: BOOLEAN OPERATORS

**AND**: both (or all) terms present

Search each term separately, then select them in the search history and combine with AND.

**OR**: either (or both) terms present

When you combine searches with OR, the number of results will be larger than each individual set.

**NOT**: removes a term

To run a NOT search, first search each of your terms, then use the Advanced Search tab to combine lines from your search strategy.

Advanced Search can also be used for more sophisticated searches. Typing (1 AND 3) NOT 2 would "and" together your 1 and 3 search sets while omitting results contained in your #2 search set.
COMBINING TERMS: ADJACENT TERMS AND PHRASES

**ADJ#**: ADJ5 terms are within five words of each other (and ADJ3 within three, ADJ4 within four, etc.)

This search brings back results for *low FODMAP diet*, *low-FO**D**MAP* and other related *diets*, *dietary components* with *lower FODMAPs*, and more.

Ovid ignores this short list of stopwords: *and, as, for, from, is, of, that, the, this, to, was, were.*

It counts each as a space holder, but will substitute any word in its place if you have used them in a search.

**Phrase search**: "straight quotation marks" around two or more words

This search returns results that have either the phrase *lactose intolerant* or *lactose intolerance* in them.

Note: Ovid will return an error message if curled quotation marks are copied into the search box from a word document.

**TRUNCATION AND WILDCARDS**

Truncation symbols capture a variety of possible word endings. Wildcards, inserted into the middle of words, capture international spelling variants.

* or $: unlimited characters at the end of a word

- *toxic* = toxic
toxicity
toxicities
toxin
toxins
toxicology
toxicological
toxicologist
toxigenic
toxigenicity
toxicglycosides
toxicokinetics, etc.

*2 or $2: two characters after a word

- *toxin* = toxin
toxins

? : one or zero characters at the end of or within a word

- flavo?r = flavor, flavour

#: one variable character

- organization = organization, organisation

The FSTA thesaurus also captures international spelling variants when a word like flavor/flavour is a key concept in an article. Learn more [here](https://example.com).

Mix and match search tools to build an effective search strategy.