

Name: _____

Read and Discover

Writing About Quantity

Lesson 44

8

Do you want **less** irrelevant information when you conduct an online search? The following tips should help you have **fewer** links to sort through. Circle the boldfaced word that is followed by a plural noun.

The words **less** and **fewer** have similar meanings but are used differently. *Less* can be used to refer to a **smaller amount** that is not a sum of items: *less gasoline; less anger*. *Fewer* is used to refer to a **smaller number** of items: *fewer cars; fewer arguments*.

The word **over** and the phrase **more than** also have similar meanings but are used differently. *Over* can be used to refer to a **larger amount** that is not a sum of items: *over 30 miles; over 200 pounds*. *More than* is used to describe a **larger number** of items: *more than 20 cars; more than 10 packages*.

See Handbook Section 32

Part 1

Circle the word or phrase in parentheses that correctly completes each sentence.

1. Have you ever conducted an online search only to end up with (over/more than) the number of results you could handle?
2. Using quotation marks around search terms will help you get (less/fewer) fluff in your results.
3. You can also separate your search terms with *and* or *or* for (less/fewer) and better-targeted results.
4. If you are researching a topic (over/more than) a specific period of time, use that time period to limit your search.
5. It may also help to use (over/more than) one online database or search engine.
6. However, to obtain (less/fewer) useless information, you need to understand how a particular search engine ranks results.
7. Some rank results by how many times each listing has been viewed by users; the first listing is the result that has been viewed (over/more than) any other.
8. Other search engines figure out how many of your search terms exist in each result; the results with (less/fewer) terms appear toward the bottom of the list.
9. If you want to find (over/more than) your search turned up, try using a wildcard character.
10. Wildcard characters allow you to “catch” (over/more than) you would usually catch.
11. The symbols ? and * are wildcard characters, but (over/more than) these exist.
12. For example, if you want your search to be (less/fewer) rigid and more productive, you can key in “swim*” for results that include *swimming*, *swimmers*, *swimsuit* and even *swim team*.

