

Name _____ Date _____

By now you may realize that the word *mercury* has more than one meaning. Try adding another word to tell what about *mercury* really interests you. Type in *mercury element*.

How many Web pages were retrieved? _____

Look over the description of the first few sites. What are they about? _____

Although these sites might have the answer to your question, they might not. Now try adding a third word. Type in *mercury element toxic*.

How many Web pages were retrieved? _____

Look over the description of the first few sites. What are they about? _____

Now you are getting somewhere! By now all the sites retrieved should help answer the question.

Looking at the Numbers

Compare the number of web pages retrieved for the three searches. What do they tell you about how the search engine does its work?

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Use Synonyms

Let's say you want to find out about living on the planet Mars. You think your keywords should be *planet Mars living*. Submit those three words to the search site.

How many Web pages were retrieved? _____

Look over the description of the first few sites. What are they about? _____

Now think of synonyms for each keyword. Well, a planet is a planet. Mars is Mars. But other words might work just as well as *living*, such as *colonizing*. Submit *planet Mars colonizing* to the search site.

How many Web pages were retrieved? _____

Look over the description of the first few sites. What are they about? _____

Which synonym retrieved that sites are most likely to answer your question? Explain why.

Be CyberSmart![®]

Always check the search help pages when using a search engine for the first time. There you'll learn which commands will work and how. You may also find menus of options for identifying just what kinds of sites you want retrieved.

