# Truncation and wildcard crib sheet

**Always refer to the database help text for detailed search guidance for each database**

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| Interface (and database name) | Phrase searching | Truncation | Wildcard (mandatory one character) | Wildcard (zero or one character) | Proximity^ |
| OvidSP (Medline and Embase) | Automatic | \* or $ | # | ? | adjX (where X can be from 1 to 99) |
| EBSCOhost (CINAHL and PsycINFO) | “Quotation marks around phrases” | \* | ? | # | nX |
| Web of Science (BIOSIS Previews, Zoological Record, Global Health & CAB Abstracts) | “Quotation marks around phrases” | \* | ? | $ | near/X |
| Cochrane Library | “Quotation marks around phrases” | \* | ? | \* or ? depending on use | near/X |
| ProQuest (ASSIA) | *field*.EXACT(“search terms”)  e.g., for the Abstract field:  ABSTRACT.EXACT (“search terms”) | \* (up to five characters) | \* | ? | NEAR/X |
| PubMed | “Quotation marks around phrases” | \* | N/A | \* | "search terms"[field:~N=X]  e.g., for the Title/Abstract field:  “search terms”[Title/Abstract:~X] |
| Scopus | Plurals and spelling variants included: “Quotation marks around phrases”  Exact phrase with no syntax:  {braces around phrases} | \* | N/A | ? | W/X |

^ Note for proximity: In Ovid, adj3 = Next to each other, in any order, up to 2 words in between. In all other interfaces, reduce the number 1 e.g., in EBSCOhost, n2 = Next to each other, in any order, up to 2 words in between