

Truncation or wildcard:

Truncation is a technique that enables a searcher to look for a word **and** any of its possible endings. This is sometimes called using a "wildcard" as it usually enables the searcher to insert a symbol (like an asterisk * or ?) as a wild card at the end of the word. This instructs the computer to look for the root of the word and all alternative word endings:

For example, a search on the word **child*** would also search for:

childish
children
children's

Different databases and search engines may use symbols for truncation. Common symbols are ? and *

Some databases and search engines will automatically truncate the words entered to look for the plural or an "ing" or "ed" ending.

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