

Westlaw UK

Search Terms and Connectors

Westlaw® UK enables the use of a variety of search term connectors to help build powerful searches.

Find a list of the Search Terms Connectors by clicking on the information icon at the righthand side of the search bar. This reference guide provides practical examples of each Search Term Connector.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw UK search bar with a dropdown menu open. The dropdown menu is titled 'Search Terms and Connectors' and lists various connectors and their uses. The connectors are arranged in two columns. The first column includes: & (Search terms in the same document), or (Either search term or both terms), "" (Search for an exact phrase within quotation marks), * (Universal character), ! (Search for terms with multiple endings), # (Turn off plurals and equivalents), % (Not containing terms), /s (Terms in the same sentence). The second column includes: +s (Preceding term within same sentence), /p (Terms in same paragraph), +p (Preceding term within same paragraph), SPACE AND (Within n terms of), /n (Within n terms of), +n (Preceding within n terms of), TI() (Search for words in the title).

Connector	Usage	Example
""	Finds results using a specific phrase	"witness statement"
AND / & / (space)	Uses all search terms	trade & mark & registration
OR	Retrieves either search term or both	slip OR trip
/s	Searches for terms within the same sentence	nuisance /s smell
/p	Searches for terms within the same paragraph	tenant /p covenant
/n	Searches for terms within a specified number of words	tax /5 period
-	Retrieves all compound terms	good-will / trade-mark
!	Finds words with multiple endings	object! / withdr! / own!
%	Excludes words from being retrieved	tenant % commercial
*	Substitutes a character	withdr*w / licen*e
#	Retrieves only singular words and not plurals	#child / #damage
+s / +p / +n	Preceding word within a paragraph, sentence or n terms	capital +3 punishment
TI()	Finds resources using only the words used in the title	TI(forfeiture)

Search Term Connectors can also be used in conjunction of each other. This reference guide provides practical examples.

Practical Examples	
"purchase agreement" /s withdraw!	Retrieves results containing purchase agreement as a phrase in the same sentence as withdraw and any of its multiple endings e.g. withdrawing
tenan! % residential	Retrieves results containing tenan and its multiple endings (e.g. tenant, tenancy etc), but excludes results including residential
TI("contract termination")	Only retrieves results with contract termination as a phrase in the title (in Practical Law only)
"change of solicitor" /p "conflict of interest"	Retrieves results which contain change of solicitor and conflict of interest as phrases within the same paragraph as each other
delay! /s agree!	Retrieves results which contain delay and agree, including their multiple endings (e.g. delaying, agreement) within the same sentence

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