

AI IN YOUR SEARCH RESULTS

When you search for something, the first thing you see is now often a summary written by artificial intelligence (AI), above the usual list of websites. Google calls these **AI Overviews**, and Microsoft's Bing uses its **Copilot** assistant. They pull together information from several websites and present it as a short answer.

The advantages

- A quick answer to a simple question, without opening several websites.
- Can be useful for explaining a topic in plain language.

The drawbacks

- They can be confidently wrong, and give no sign that they are.
- They've been known to repeat scammers' phone numbers.
- They push the original websites further down the page.

Whether you keep them is entirely up to you. Many people find them helpful for everyday questions. Others prefer a plain list of websites, so that they can see where information comes from and judge it for themselves. This guide shows how to reduce or remove them if you'd rather not see them. Our [**Guide to Search Engines**](#) compares the main search engines.

ALWAYS CHECK WHAT MATTERS

Whether or not you use AI summaries, check anything important, such as health advice, money matters or a phone number to ring, on the organisation's own website, or on your bill, statement or letter.

GOOGLE

Google doesn't offer a setting to switch AI Overviews off, but its **Web** view shows the traditional list of websites without them, and there are two ways to use it.

FOR A SINGLE SEARCH

After searching, click **Web** in the row of options below the search box, alongside Images and News. If you can't see it, click **More** first.

FOR EVERY SEARCH, ON A COMPUTER

You can make Google's Web view your browser's standard search. These steps work in Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge and Brave:

1. Open your browser's **Settings**, type **search engine** into the settings search box, and choose **Manage search engines**.
2. Next to **Site search**, click **Add**.
3. Enter **Google Web** as the name and **gw** as the shortcut. In the box labelled **URL with %s in place of query**, enter **<https://www.google.com/search?q=%s&udm=14>** exactly as shown. This only works here, not typed into the address bar.
4. Click **Add**, then click the three dots next to Google Web and choose **Make default**.

Searches from the address bar will then open in Google's Web view: a plain list of websites, with **Web** highlighted below the search box and no AI Overview. The Google home page itself will still show AI Overviews, so search from the address bar rather than from google.com.

ON A PHONE OR TABLET

Phones don't allow this kind of custom search, so the simplest option is to switch to a search engine that lets you turn AI off, such as DuckDuckGo or Startpage, which are covered overleaf.

OTHER SEARCH ENGINES

DuckDuckGo

The simplest option. Use **noai.duckduckgo.com**, which has AI switched off, or on the normal DuckDuckGo site open **Settings**, then **AI Features**, set **Search Assist** to **Never** and switch off **Duck.ai**. It works the same on computers, phones and tablets.

Startpage

Shows Google's results privately, without Google's AI Overviews and without tracking you. It has no AI summaries to switch off, which makes it a good choice for a phone or tablet.

Brave Search

Its AI answers can be switched off in its settings, reached from the menu at the top right of the results page.

Microsoft Bing

Microsoft has removed most of the settings that once reduced its Copilot answers, and those that remain don't remove them entirely. If you'd rather avoid AI, we suggest using a different search engine.

Search engines change these features often, so a setting may move or change name. If you can't find it, we're happy to help.

WE CAN HELP

We can set up your computer, phone and tablet to show plain search results, or keep the AI summaries and show you how to check them, whichever you prefer.