

# Westlaw Connectors

When you use multiple connectors in a search, the Westlaw system processes the search according to a priority order.

“ ”  
OR  
Proximity connectors  
AND  
NOT



( ) – **Parentheses** change the order of operation so the connectors inside the parentheses operate first.

**Note:** Connectors of the same kind operate from left to rights.

breach! = **breach, breached** or **breaching**

br\*ach = breach, broach

“summary judgment” = “**summary judgment**” as a phrase\*

murder kill = **murder** or **kill**\*



murder AND kill = **murder** and **kill**

pinky /3 cat = **pink** within 3 words of **cat**

pink +3 cat = **pink** within 3 words (and before) **cat**\*

pink /S cat = **pink** within the same sentence as **cat**

pink /P cat = **pink** within the same paragraph as **cat**

pink % cat = **pink** not within same document as **cat**\*

f.d.a. = f.d.a. or fda or f d a\*\*

road-block = roadblock or road block\*\*\*

**Note:** You can type in **OR** instead of a space.

## Singular/Plural\*

cat = cat, cat's, cats, cats'    cat's = cat's    goose = goose, geese  
cats = cats, cats'    #cat = cat, cat's    geese = geese



## Most searches can follow one of the same patterns...

**Parent beating a kid...** parent **OR** mother **OR** father /S beat! **OR** injur! **OR** abus! /P child! **OR** baby

**And summary judgment...** parent **OR** mother **OR** father /S beat! **OR** injur! **OR** abus! /P child! **OR** baby **AND** “summary judgment”

**Sarah Gates or Hillary Clinton...** (sarah /3 gates) **OR** (hillary /3 clinton)

**Sarah Gates and Hillary Clinton...** sarah /3 gates **AND** hillary /3 clinton

**Mother beating a child or dad shaking a baby ...** - (mother /10 beat! **OR** injur! /P child!) **OR** (father /10 shak! /P baby **OR** toddler)

**Murder while committing a felony...** - “felony murder” **OR** (murder /10 commission **OR** commit! /10 felony) /P robbery

## LexisNexis Variations

\*Phrases in quotation marks

\*ORs must be typed in

\*pre/3 = +3

\*NOT = %

\*Singular/Plural

cat = cat, cat's, cats, cats'

cats = cat, cat's, cats, cats'

sing(cat) = cat, cat's

plur(cats) = cats, cats'



\*\*No automatic acronym feature

\*\*\*No automatic compound word feature

**Avoid remembering Westlaw/LexisNexis differences...** 1. Always type in ORs

2. Put phrases in quotation marks

3. Use singular words

