

# Using search engines to complete sentences

## What you will need for this activity

For this lesson you will need access to the internet. Perhaps you could make use of a school IT room or just a single classroom computer (get your students to gather around the screen).

## Aim of the activity

Infinitive of purpose, second conditional, etc (depends on the sentences that are chosen – you will see).

## Method

1. Write the following phrase on the board:

*Life's too short to ...*

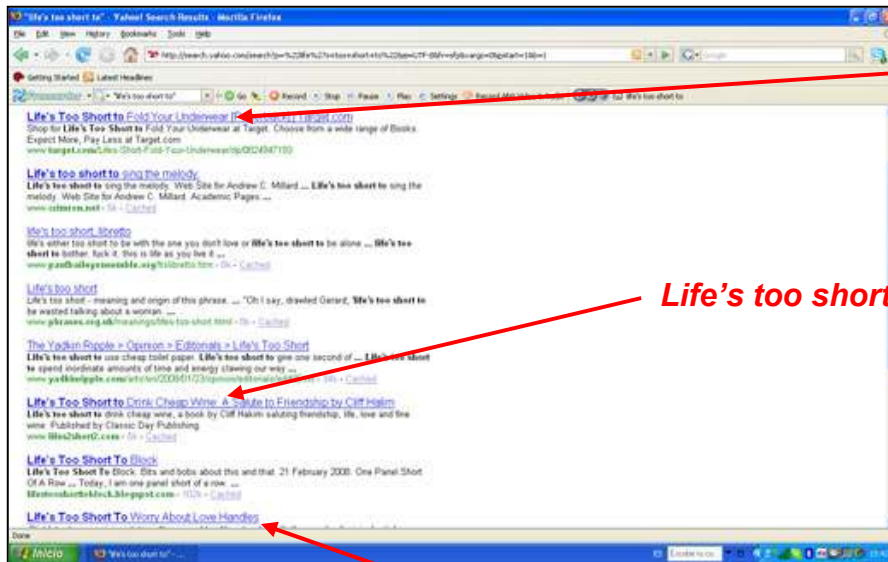
Ask your learners if they can think of any way in which the sentence can be completed. If they are able to make any suggestions, write these on the board. If not, don't worry.

2. You are now going to demonstrate to your students how they can use the internet to complete the sentence: Go to your favourite search engine (Yahoo, Google, Altavista, Lycos, etc) and type the phrase into the search window. Make sure you type it between inverted commas:



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3. Click **Search** and you will be given a page full of partially contextualised examples of the phrase:



*Life's too short to fold your underwear.*

*Life's too short to drink cheap wine.*

*Life's too short to worry about love handles.*

4. Bring a few of these example sentences to your learners' attention (see the three above, for example).
5. Demonstrate that at any time you can find out more about the specific sentences that are obtained by clicking on the link. For example, the first of these (*Life's too short to fold your underwear*) is the title of a book which seems to have a flavour of self-help.
6. Once demonstrated, your learners can then use this procedure to find 10 more examples of the phrase on their own. This can be done in an IT room or for homework. Try adding a competitive element – the person who finds (or invents) the most interesting examples wins.
7. Finally, put a few of the best sentences up on the classroom wall and get your students to draw accompanying pictures.

Other pieces of language that can be used for this activity:

- *The older I get ...*
- *If I had a pound / dollar for every time someone ...*
- *If I was President / Prime Minister for the day ...*
- *If I won the lottery ...*

