



Word 2026 wildcard searches



Wildcard	Description
^1	In-line picture
^2	Auto referenced footnotes
^5	Annotation mark
^9	Tab
^11	New line
^12	Page or Section break
^13	Paragraph break / 'carriage' return
^14	Column break
^19	Opening field brace (when visible character)
^21	Closing field brace (when visible character)
?	Question mark
^?	Any single character (not valid in Replace box)
^-	Optional hyphen
^~	Non-breaking hyphen
^^	Caret character
^#	Any digit
^\$	Any letter
^&	Contents of 'Find What' (Replace box only)
^+	Em dash (not valid in Replace box)
^=	En dash (not valid in Replace box)
^u8195	Em Space (not valid in Replace box)
^u8194	En Space (not valid in Replace box)
^a	Comment (not in Replace box Word 97–2000)

Wildcard	Description
^b	Section break (not valid in the replace box)
^c	Replace with Clipboard (Replace box only)
^d	Field
^e	Endnote Mark (not valid in Replace box)
^f	Footnote Mark (not valid in Replace box)
^g	Graphic (In Line Graphics only)
^l	New line
^m	Manual Page Break
^n	Column break
^p	Paragraph Mark
^s	Non-breaking space
^t	Tab
^w	White space (space, non-breaking space, tab); not valid in Replace box
?	Any single character. For example, d?g finds dig, dog, and dug, but not drug and ridge.
*	Zero or more characters: finds a word with the specified characters and zero or more characters in place of *. For example, des*t finds descent, desert, destiny, dessert, and destruct and even excludes the , codes.
<	Beginning of the word. For example, <tel finds telephone, but not hotel.
>	End of the word. For example, ion> finds aggravation, but not ionic.
[]	One of the specified characters. For example, b[aeiu]t finds bat, bet, bit, and but, but not debt and boot.

Wildcard	Description
[!]	Not: finds the text but excludes the characters inside the brackets. For example, t[!ae]ll finds till and toll but not tall and tell.
[!a-z]	Any single character except the ones in the range inside the bracket. For example, m[!o-z]st finds mast, but not must.
[-]	Any character from the range. For example, [a-m]end finds bend (the character is a, m, or any letter between), but not rend.
@	Preceding one or more: finds one or more of characters preceding the @. For example, ^p@^t finds one or more paragraph breaks followed by a tab.
{n}	Exact number of occurrences: finds the number of occurrences of the letter before the {. For example, to{2} finds too but not to.
{n,}	Minimum number of occurrences: adding a comma after the number looks for at least that number. Example, a{4,} finds four or more letter a. Use commas or semi-colons.
^nnn or ^0nnn	Where "n" is an ASCII character number. Note: ASCII codes below 128 were standardized and upper codes were different. Also, a leading zero indicates DOS and Windows.
^unnnn	Unicode character search where "n" is a decimal number corresponding to the Unicode character value.
^19 field name	To search for a specific field, such as an XE (Index Entry) field
{n,n}	Minimum and maximum number of occurrences. For example, 10{2,3} finds 100 and 1000, but not 10.
()	Expression: lets you "nest" search expressions within a search. For example, <(pre)*(ed)> finds presorted, but not precedent.

