Wildcards for searching for records

Key	Action	Example
%	Find any (or no) characters	**%International** finds all records that have something before International in their name. **International%** finds all records that have something after International in their name.
?	Finds a single unknown character	**SM?THJ** finds John Smith, James Smith, John Smyth and Jane Smith.
*	Finds one or more unknown character(s)	**SM*THJ** finds John Smith, James Smith, John Smyth, Jane Smith and Jane Smeath Enter * on its own to display all the items in the database
[...]	The area within a set of square brackets represents one character. The database matches anything within the square brackets	**NE1[ ]** looks for postcode NE1 only and not NE11 or NE12 because the 4th character must be a space. **NE1[12]** looks for postcodes NE11 and NE12 because the 4th character must either be a 1 or a 2. This can be very useful for controlled postcode lookup.

Go back to Hints, tips and shortcuts