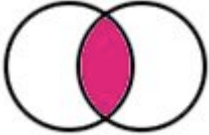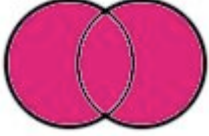# Transitioning to College: Helping You Succeed

Combining Search Terms with
Boolean Connectors: A Fast Food Example

**You have entered a fast food restaurant where 50 people are eating lunch.
The following examples show how Boolean Operators work:**

Connector	Example search	The search will find...	Venn diagram
AND	**hamburger AND French fries**	What if you want to find all of the people in the restaurant who have ordered both a hamburger and fries? You will need to combine the two food items with AND to find the people eating both items. One circle is hamburger; one circle is French fries. The pink part of this diagram shows the number of people who have both a hamburger and an order of French fries on their plates AND narrows a search, resulting in fewer hits. If we started with 50 people in the restaurant, let's guess that in this example there are 15 people eating hamburgers and fries.	
OR	**hamburger OR chicken**	What if you want to find the number of people in the restaurant who are eating either hamburgers or chicken? You will need to combine the two food items with OR to find the people eating one item or the other item. One circle is hamburger ; one circle is chicken. The pink part of the diagram shows you everyone in the restaurant who is eating a hamburger and everyone who is eating any item with chicken (chicken salad or chicken fingers or fried chicken). OR broadens a search, resulting in more hits. Out of 50 people there might be 36 people eating either hamburgers or chicken.	
NOT*	**beverage NOT carbonated**	Now you want to find the number of people who have a beverage but are not drinking soda or pop (in other words, beverage NOT carbonated). The circle on the right is carbonated; the one on the left is beverage. The pink part of the circle shows you those people who are drinking juice or coffee or water or milk shakes, but NOT carbonated beverages. The white part shows all the people who are drinking soda, pop, or other carbonated drinks. NOT excludes items you don't want to appear in your search. Out of 50 people, there might be 8 people not drinking carbonated beverages. NOT is a little trickier to use – you will probably not use it as much as AND & OR.	

Updated 3/4/07 mlj