How to find Creative Commons Material using YouTube for Teachers and Students

This information guide was jointly developed by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation through Creative Commons Australia and the National Copyright Unit of the COAG Education Council.

For further information contact Creative Commons Australia at info@creativecommons.org.au.

YouTube is one of the most commonly used video search engines in the world. Did you know you can use YouTube to find Creative Commons (CC) licensed Videos? Using the YouTube search filters, you are able to search for material by keyword and refine your search to show only material available under a CC license.

This guide was created to help teachers, students and curriculum units find CC licensed material on YouTube. It forms one part of an information pack on CC for the education sector. It is advised that you first read information guide ‘What is Creative Commons?’ for a simple and helpful introduction to CC.

![YouTube’s website is not the only way to search for CC licensed videos. Creative Commons hosts its own search engine at http://search.creativecommons.org.](image)

For information on how to use Creative Commons’ search engine, see ‘How to find Creative Commons Material using the Creative Commons Search Portal’.

For a list of sites that host CC material see: this wiki on Content Directories and Smartcopying’s list of OER.

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Finding CC licensed videos on YouTube

Below is a step-by-step guide to using the YouTube filter to find videos released under CC licenses.

It is important to consider how you want to use any CC material before you begin your search. This is because different CC licences let you do different things. Knowing what you want to do with the material will help you choose the licence that is suitable for your use.

Step 1. Do a search and find the filters option

After you do a search on YouTube, click on the filters option.

Step 2. Filter results

Under ‘Features’ select Creative Commons.
Now all the videos in the search will be licensed under Creative Commons. Note this will return all Creative Commons licensed videos, so you will need to be sure to check out the particular licence and abide by its conditions. For more information on Creative Commons licences and their conditions, see the ‘What is Creative Commons?’ Information sheet.