Advanced Search options in Ancestry LE

1.a. Click the Search menu and select All Categories.

1.b. For Advanced search options click “Show more options” near the Search button.

2. Once you input your search criteria, you can choose to set search limiters for names, dates, locations, and other search terms.

3. If you do not set limiters, Ancestry’s default settings find any record where the First and/or Last name is:
   - Exactly what you typed
   - A phonetic match of the name.
   - A name which has a similar meaning or spelling.
   - An initial that matches the name.
   - Other results may be records that do not match the name you typed but strongly match other criteria.

   To restrict a name search to only exact matches, check the Exact box under the input name.

4. To restrict a Location click on “Exact to” under Location. There you will be able to restrict to the specific location that you typed into the box and to the county, adjacent counties, state, adjacent state, and country.

5. To restrict to a year or year range, check the Exact +/- under the Year (or Birth Year) box and choose your option such as +/- 1, 2, 5, or 10 year range.

6. You can also restrict a search to just Historical Records or other sources at the bottom of the search form.
1. First search as seen to the right without putting any advanced restrictions on the search.

2. Results: First few have the last name Smeth, then they are Smith.
3. Let’s say that we only want names spelled **Smeth**. To the left of the search results, there are multiple ways to edit the search:

   a. Option 1: In the **Search Filters**, slide the bar next to the last name Smeth so that it is all the way to the right, at **Exact** search. Then click the **Update** button.

   b. Option 2: Click **Edit Search**, which is below the **Search Filters**.

   c. Option 3: **Click the “R” button** (keep it lower case) on your keyboard. [think r for revise]

4. Click **Exact and...** (only) under the **Last Name** field.

5. Click the **Search** button.

6. Your results will only show entries with the last name Smeth.

7. Use the **Search Filters** to change your search restrictions.

8. Change the last name search to **Broad** by moving the bar next to smeth all the way to the left.

9. Change the location search to **Exact** by moving the bar next to New York all the way to the right.

10. Click the **Update** button and the results will limit to New York City.
**Wildcard Searching in Ancestry LE**

1. The first wildcard search option is the question mark (?). You can put the question mark anywhere in a search term and it will replace **one letter** in the word. For example, in the search below, the results would show last names such as:

Smithe/ Smythe/ Smethe   Smithy/ Smitha/ Smiths

as well as others, and first names such as: *C*atharine/ *C*atherine/ *K*atharine/ *K*a*therine.

2. The second wildcard character is the asterisk (*). The asterisk will take the place of multiple characters. In the search below, the results would show first names such as:


You can place the asterisk anywhere (beginning/middle/end of name).

3. Both wildcard characters can be used at the same time. The search below will return results such as:


You can place either symbol anywhere in the name (beginning/middle/end).