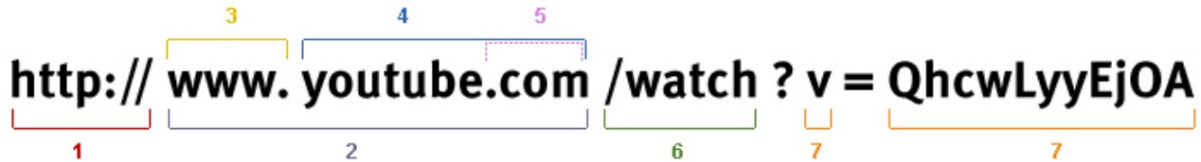# The Anatomy of a URL

URL stands for Uniform Resource Locator. A URL is composed of several parts.

1. **Protocol** (http) — In this case, Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). There are also other protocols such as HTTPS, FTP, and so on.
2. **Hostname** (www.youtube.com) — Also commonly referred to as the domain or domain name.
3. **Subdomain** (www.) — A www subdomain is the most commonly used type of subdomain, in which *www* stands for World Wide Web.
4. **Domain** (youtube.com) — An apex domain is usually configured with an A, ALIAS, or ANAME record through your DNS provider.
5. **Top level domain** (.com) — One of the domains at the highest level in the hierarchical Domain Name System of the Internet.
6. **Path** (/watch) — A path usually refers to a file or folder (directory) on the server (for example, /folder/file.html)
7. **Query string** (?v=QhcwLyyEjOA) — The query string is initialized by the ? inside the URL and can contain many parameters. Each parameter is separated by an ampersand (&).
   - **Parameter** (v=QhcwLyyEjOA) — Parameters are name/value pairs inside of the query string. A parameter name and parameter value pair always have the same structure: Parametername=Parametervalue .
   - **Parameter name** (v) **and value** (QhcwLyyEjOA) — In this example, there is only one parameter. The parameter name is v and its value is QhcwLyyEjOA .