



Whirlwind WordSearch User Guide

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1. Overview: What is Whirlwind WordSearch?

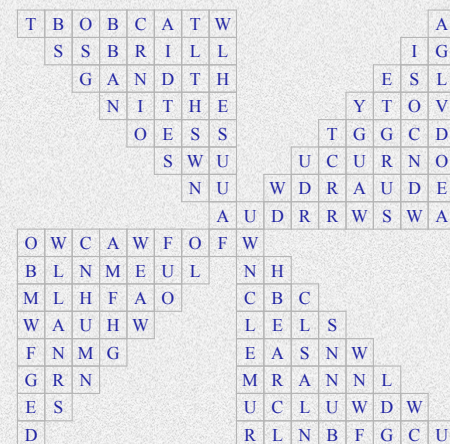
Whirlwind WordSearch is a powerful and easy-to-use word search puzzle maker. It helps you create and print uniquely engaging word search puzzles from your own lists of words, and supports many different languages! You will be building professional-looking puzzles right away.

You can choose from a large number of built-in puzzle shapes, including circle, heart, diamond, crescent moon, pinwheel, and many more*. The puzzles can range in size from as small as 4 letters across and down, all the way up to 50 by 50 letters*. You can even make them in many different languages.

You can easily change how hard the puzzle is to solve. Just change the "Difficulty to Solve" setting and create a new puzzle, and the software automatically adjusts many subtle aspects of the puzzle. This lets you quickly fine-tune your puzzles so they are appropriate for anyone from early learners to puzzle-savvy adults.

Whirlwind WordSearch has some elegant features that create "classroom-safe" high-quality puzzles. It double-checks every created puzzle, and removes any randomly-created "naughty words." And as you increase the difficulty setting, it will add more tricks into the puzzle, ensuring a tougher solving experience.

Zoo Field Trip - Furry Mammals



1. Bear
2. Bobcat

4. Lemur
5. Wolf



You can save your word search puzzles for opening again later or sending to friends. When you re-open them, you can print them, or create brand new puzzle shapes and sizes from the same word list. You can also easily export high-quality puzzle and answer images into your own specialized word processing documents for re-printing in books, newsletters, the web, or classroom handouts.

Let's find out how to make some great puzzles!

* Note: Some features are not available or are limited in the Lite version of this software.

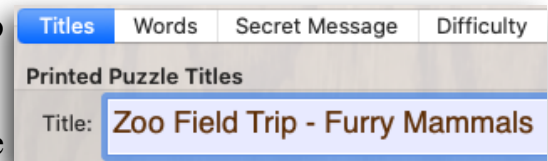
2. One-Page Tutorial: Let's make a puzzle

This section will show you how to start a new puzzle, add some words, customize how the puzzle looks, and then generate and print the puzzle. After this one-page tutorial, you will be ready to learn about some of the more advanced features in *Whirlwind WordSearch*, which are described later in sections 3 and 4.

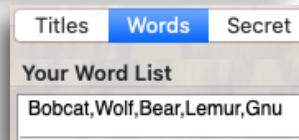


1. **Start:** Find the *Whirlwind WordSearch* application in your "Applications" folder, and double-click its icon to run it. When it starts, it will open a new empty document for you, and will display it on the screen in a window called "Untitled". This document will hold your word list and its generated puzzle.

2. **Title:** Click the "Titles" tab, and type in a title of "Zoo Field Trip - Furry Mammals".

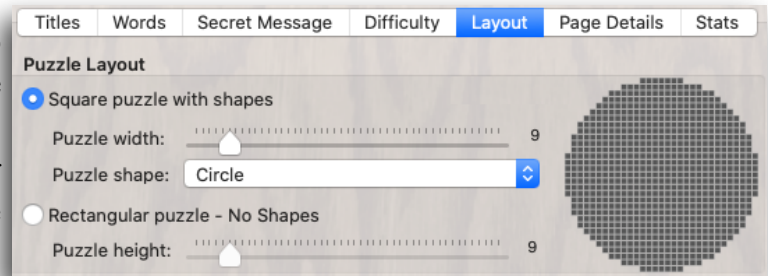


3. **Add Words:** Click the "Words" tab, and type in some words in the "word list" box below. For now, just type in the following words, either separated by commas or new-lines: **Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Lemur, Gnu**



4. **Difficulty:** Click the "Difficulty" tab, choose "Basic" difficulty, and set the "Difficulty to solve" slider to "4. Medium".

5. **Layout:** Your longest word (Bobcat) is 6 letters long, which means your "puzzle width" must be at least 6 letters or bigger. So, set the "Puzzle width" slider to 9 for extra room, and choose a "Circle" Puzzle Shape.

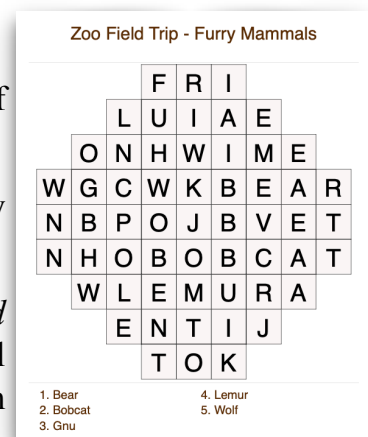


6. **Create:** Click the [Create] button at the bottom center of the window, and the Preview area will show your created Puzzle, or the Answer with the corresponding answer words circled. Each click of Create will make a different puzzle layout.

7. **Print:** You can now choose the [Print] button at the bottom center of the window to print the puzzle and answer pages to your printer.

There it is! Creating your own customized word search puzzle is as easy as that!

Oh, but wait... there is much more that you can do with *Whirlwind WordSearch*! Keep reading and learn how to unlock many more powerful features, and you will quickly be creating world-class word search puzzles.



3. Specific Tasks: Tell me how to...

Whirlwind WordSearch offers the beginning user an easy way to quickly make and print a puzzle without much work... and also offers the power-user many powerfully advanced features for generating high-quality puzzle graphics for newsletters, books, or other publications. Many different users with many different needs have many questions they would like answering.

To help answer the questions many of you may have, this section offers you sets of step-by-step instructions for doing a variety of things with *Whirlwind WordSearch*.

3.1. Create a new puzzle

Each new puzzle document that you create will hold a single list of words, and an accompanying puzzle configuration. Each document is displayed in its own window. You can create, save, and work on many different puzzle documents, one at a time, or have many open at once.

To create a new puzzle document, you can:

- a. Run *Whirlwind WordSearch*, and it will automatically create a new "Untitled" puzzle document.

-or-

- b. If *Whirlwind WordSearch* is already running or if it automatically opens a prior document you were working on, simply choose "New" from the "File" menu, and a new "Untitled" puzzle document will be created for you.

Now you are ready to enter your words, configure the puzzle options, print it, and save it if you like.

3.2. Save a puzzle I am working on

If you have entered a word list and customized the layout of a puzzle, you may want to save your work to a file on your computer, in case you want to open it and work on it or print more copies later. Maybe you aren't done filling out the word list yet, or you want to share your puzzle file with a friend who also has a copy of *Whirlwind WordSearch*. The file can be saved even if you've only entered some words and not yet created a puzzle. This allows you to quit the application, then return to the puzzle file again later and continue working on it.

- After making changes to the puzzle document, choose "Save" from the File menu.
- If this was a new document and the first time you've saved it to disk, you will be prompted for a file name. Type in a name, choose a location on your disk, and click the Save button. The file is created and your word list and puzzle settings are stored there.
- Or, if you have opened an existing document and you were just making some changes to it, then when you choose "Save", it will quietly update your existing document in-place with the new changes, without prompting you for a file name.

The saved puzzle file will look like this on disk:



The document will stay open after you save it so that you can keep working on it.

3.3. Open my saved puzzle document to edit or print

- Using the Finder, find the puzzle document that you want to open.
 - a. Double-click your document to open it with *Whirlwind WordSearch*.
- or-
- b. Drag and drop the puzzle document icon onto the *Whirlwind WordSearch* application to open it. You can drop multiple documents and they will all open together, each in its own separate window.
- or-
- c. Run the *Whirlwind WordSearch* application, and from the File Menu, choose "Open...", and navigate to the folder and puzzle document you want, select it, and click the "Open" button.
- Your puzzle document is opened and displayed in a window, and the puzzle is re-created to be exactly the same as when you last saved it. If you had saved it without first creating a puzzle, opening it now it will leave the puzzle empty until you are ready to click the Create button.

3.4. Save a copy of my puzzle to a different document

You may want to start with one puzzle document, but then save the changes you make into a second new (copy) document, without altering your original puzzle document.

- Open the original puzzle document, as in section 3.3 above.
- Make any changes for the new document copy.
- Choose "Save As..." from the File menu (do *not* choose "Save" because that will simply update onto your existing document.)
- You will be prompted for a new file name to save this file as. Type in a file name different from the original document.
- A new document will be created and written to a new file (and your original file will be left unchanged.)

You have now "switched over", and you are now working with the new document copy. This means that when you now choose "Save", your changes will be written to this new document copy, not the original.

3.5. Make a very easy puzzle

Very easy puzzles are likely targeted at an audience that is just learning to read. You can set this up with the following options:

- Go to the "Word List" tab. Enter a small number of short words in your word list. Try 3 to 5 words that are 3 to 5 letters long.
- Go to the "Layout" tab. Set the "Puzzle Size" to something fairly small, perhaps from 5 to 8. Note that the larger the "Puzzle Size" you choose, the smaller each letter becomes on the printed puzzle, since the entire puzzle will automatically shrink to fit onto a page. You may also want to choose a **sans-serif font** that is easier to read, and turn off the "Print letters in lower-case" checkbox.
- Go to the "Difficulty" tab. Switch to "Basic" mode. Set the "Difficulty to Solve" slider to "Very Easy" or "Easy". This setting will only place words left-to-right or vertically-down. It will also fill the rest of the puzzle with letters that are *not* in the word-list words, making the puzzle easier to solve.
- Click the Create button to build the puzzle.

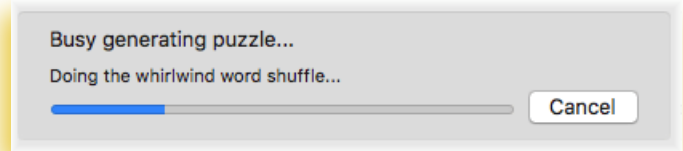
3.6. Make a very hard/tricky puzzle

Very hard puzzles are best suited for seasoned adult puzzle-solvers, and can be set up with the following options:

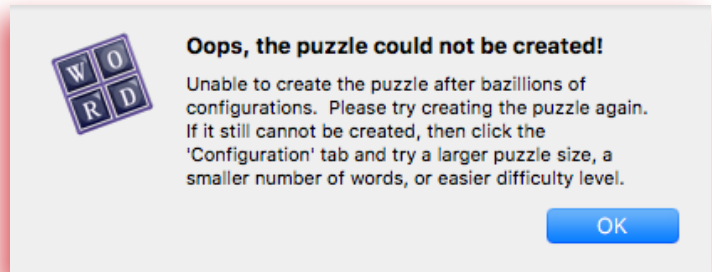
- Go to the "Word List" tab. Enter a large number of words, from 10 to 30 words of any length.
- Go to the "Layout" tab. Set the "Puzzle Size" to something large, between 20 and 35. Note that the larger the "Puzzle Size" you choose, the smaller each letter becomes on the printed puzzle, since the entire puzzle will automatically shrink to fit onto a single printed page.
- Go to the "Difficulty" tab. Set the "Difficulty to Solve" slider to at least "Harder", or up to the "Diabolically-Difficult" setting. These settings will place the words in any of the 8 compass & diagonal directions, and will fill the rest of the puzzle with letters that *are* in the word-list words. If you choose one of the highest two difficulty levels, it will also sprinkle additional short pieces of your words into the puzzle as deceptive "decoy wordlet" patterns.
- If you want to make the puzzle visually more unique and ornate: Under the "Layout" tab in the Puzzle Letters group, choose an *unusual font*, and possibly turn *on* "Print letters in lower-case".
- Or, you could turn on "Advanced" Difficulty Mode, and choose the word directions and overlaps, decoys etc. See section 4.3, Advanced Difficulty.
- Click the Create button to build the puzzle.

Sometimes a puzzle that you design is so complicated that it takes Whirlwind WordSearch a long time to create it. In these cases, it will display a progress bar in the middle of the window,

and continue placing your words in millions of different patterns until it finds a solution that fits all the words in, while removing duplicates and naughty words.



However, if it still cannot fit all your words into the puzzle, it will eventually give up and display an error message. If this happens, you can adjust some of your puzzle settings (different puzzle size, different shape, different difficulty, or fewer words), or just try your luck again and click "Create" to try building it once more. If it is



"busy generating" and you want to interrupt its progress and make some changes, just click the "Cancel" button, and the puzzle will stop building.

3.7. Print my finished puzzle to the printer

After you have opened a puzzle document and created a puzzle layout that you like, it is time to print the puzzle and answer key to the printer. You do not *need* to save your document to disk before printing, however, it is usually a good idea to save your work from time to time, and just before printing is a good time. To save before you print, follow the instructions in section 3.2 above.

- Go to the "Page Details" tab and ensure that the "Print the Puzzle Page" and "Print the Answer Key Page" are turned on. If both are turned off, or if you have not yet created a puzzle, then the Print button and menu item will be disabled, because there is nothing to print.
 - You can now print by either:
 - a. Clicking the [Print] button at the bottom of the window.
- or-**
- b. Choose the "Print..." option under the File menu, and click the Print button.
- or-**
- c. Press the <command>-P keys on the keyboard.
 - Make any changes you need in the print dialog, and click the Print button.

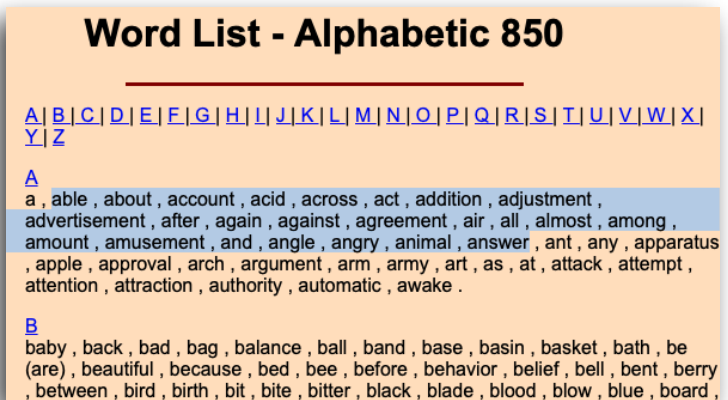
You could instead choose to save the output as a PDF document (for attaching to an e-mail, for example). See section 3.21 below for how to do this.

3.8. Copy a word list from a web page (or document) into my puzzle

There are many places to get lists of interesting words for use in a word search puzzle. You may already have your own list of words in a word processing document, or you may want to find a list of words on the internet. Simply follow these steps to get a list of words from somewhere else into your word search puzzle.

- Create a new puzzle document, as described in section 3.1 above.
 - Now find the word list you want to copy *from*:
 - a. Open your word processor, and open the document that contains your list of words.
- or-**
- b. ...do a search on the web for "free word search" or "vocabulary words" and find one of many sites that gives a list of words that appeals to you. There are many word list collections freely available (not copyrighted) for you to use.

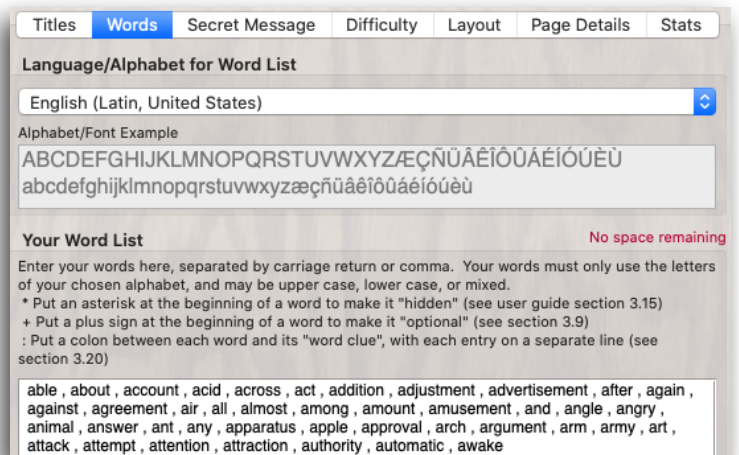
- Let's say we are studying words starting with the letter "A", and now have the following word list to use from a web browser:



- Now choose "Copy" from the Edit menu.
- Switch back to *Whirlwind WordSearch*, click the "Words" tab and click inside the Word List box, and choose "Paste" from the Edit Menu. The words will show up in your word list area now. You can now edit your word list, adding or deleting words to suit your needs.

- Note that the words must be separated by commas or new-lines. If they are not, you will have to reformat them in the text box before the list is ready to create a puzzle from.

- Click the Create button, and you have a word search puzzle ready to go!



3.9. Automatically use the most words possible from a big word list

Perhaps you want to copy or type in a large list of words, and let the software pick the biggest set of those words that would fit in the puzzle size and shape you choose. You can do this by tagging some or all of your words as being "optional", and have *Whirlwind WordSearch* use as many words as it can to make a puzzle.

- If you want to control which words are required, and which ones could be optionally left out, you can individually mark each word you wish to be optional by prefixing it with a '+' character. These marked words will then be considered "nice to have" in the puzzle and not required if they don't fit. When the puzzle is created and it finds that there are too many words to fit into the size and shape you chose, it will remove one of your optional words and try building the puzzle again. When choosing which optional word to remove, *Whirlwind WordSearch* will find the longest optional word to remove first. This guarantees that the fewest number of optional words are removed before successfully making your puzzle. It will remove more optional words, one at a time, and retry until it is successful. If it has removed all the optional words and still cannot build the puzzle, it will then issue an error message that it "could not build the puzzle even after dropping all your optional words from the list." If this happens, you could either make more words optional, or increase the size of the puzzle.

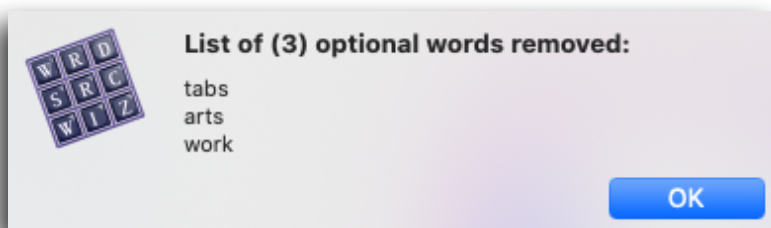
-or-



- If you want to make *all* the words optional, and just see which words it can fit, you can turn on the "Make all words Optional in word list" checkbox under the "Words" tab. This will treat all of your words as optional, and it will fit as many as it can.

If any optional words were dropped, you can view a list of the omitted words, by clicking the "Show Removed 'Optional' Words" button, which will appear just under the Puzzle and Answer Preview display.

Clicking that button will display a sheet that lists which words were removed when creating this puzzle. You can select these words and copy them, in case you wish to paste them into another list or puzzle.

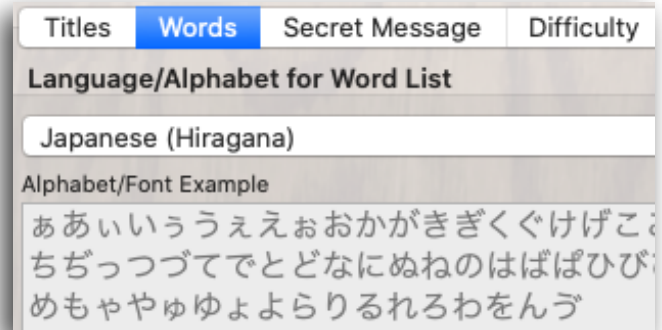


You can also visit the "Stats" tab (see section 4.7) to see the "# of optional words removed".

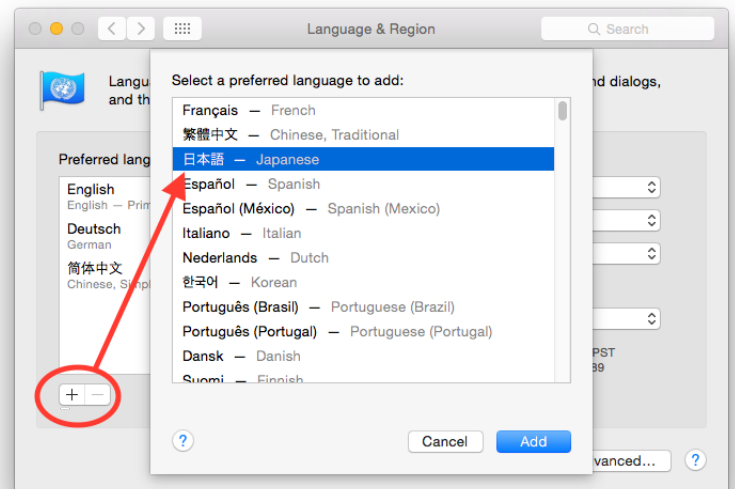
3.10. Create a puzzle in a different language

Whirlwind WordSearch can create word-search puzzles in *many* different languages... not just English or the language your computer is set to use. This makes it easy for you to make puzzles for foreign language vocabulary studies.

- First you must tell *Whirlwind WordSearch* which language you want to use for your puzzle. Choose the "Words" tab, and then choose the Language/Alphabet you want to use from the popup menu. Choosing the language does several things: It selects which alphabetic letters are allowed in your words; It tells it which letters to fill the rest of the puzzle with; It also tells it which language's "naughty words" to look for and remove from the puzzle. You have now switched *Whirlwind WordSearch* to expect your words to use a new language/alphabet.

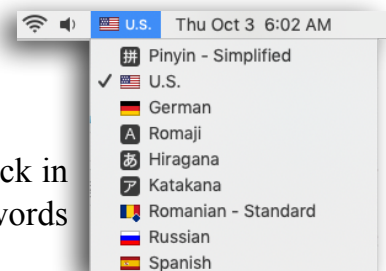


- Next, you need to tell your Macintosh to let you type the letters from this newly chosen alphabet. To do this, first open the "System Preferences" panel in your dock. Now choose the "Language and Region" item, and add the language you want from the "Preferred Languages" (or older "Input Sources") list. Either drag the one you want to the top of the list, or if it isn't listed, click the [+] button at the bottom of the list to add it first.



- To make an easy shortcut to switch languages, go to the "Keyboard" section in the "System Preferences" panel, and under the "Input Sources" tab, turn on the "Show Input menu in menu bar" option at the bottom of that tab.
- Now from the menu bar at the top of your screen, choose the same input language here for your computer, that you chose in *Whirlwind WordSearch* for your words.

This will allow you to type letters in that alphabet. Now you can click in the word list box of *Whirlwind WordSearch* and start typing your words in this new language.



When you are finished, you can switch back to your regular keyboard language again via the "Input Menu" you just added.

3.11. Add a "Secret Message" within my puzzle

One interesting variation that you can add to your word search puzzle is to lay a message into the remaining spaces between the word list words. That way, after all the words have been found and crossed out, some or all of the remaining letters will spell out a message that you

provide. Your message is started at the left side of the puzzle, and letters are always laid across from left to right, line by line down the puzzle, skipping over any puzzle words, until the entire message is added to the puzzle. If your message does not completely fill the puzzle, then the remaining puzzle spaces around it are filled with extra letters, just like a regular word search puzzle. Only the alphabetic letters of your typed secret message are used; Any punctuation or spaces or letters that are not in your current alphabet are automatically skipped/removed.

You can optionally add a prompt on your printed puzzle page, alerting your reader to also look for your secret message. To enable this prompt feature, go to the "Secret Message" tab and under "Prompt to display on printed puzzle page" simply type a short hint that you want printed on the puzzle page. You may want to type something like "After finding the movie words, find the famous movie quote."

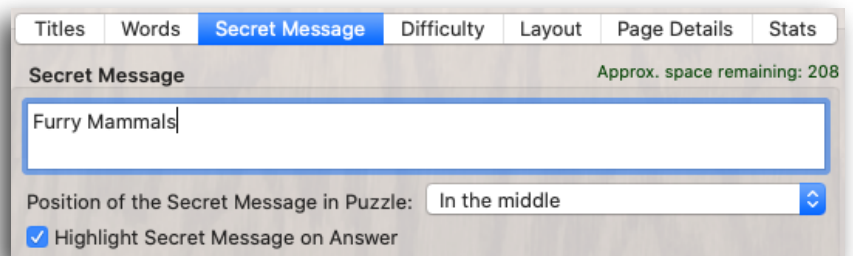
To help you see where your message will show up, it can be displayed in the Preview area with a darker gray background so it is easier for you to see where it is positioned. Show the Preview Answer, by turning on "Preview as: Answer" at the top of the preview area. Then under the Preview area, turn on "Show secret message". Here is an example, showing your words placed in the puzzle (circled), and the secret message "FURRYMAMMALS" in darker squares filled in around the words:



To print this gray box highlighting in the final printed Answer key, go to the "Secret Message" tab, and turn on the checkbox: "Highlight Secret Message on Answer"

To add your own secret message to a puzzle, do the following:

- Create a new puzzle document, as described in section 3.1 above, and add Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Lemur, and Gnu to the word list.
- You will now "hide" the message "Furry Mammals" in the rest of the puzzle. Click the "Secret Message" tab, and type "Furry Mammals" into the text box:
- You can also choose the "position" popup menu to change where the message shows up in the puzzle: near the top, near the bottom, centered in the middle, or at a random position, or you can require it to exactly fill every empty space in the puzzle.
- Now set the size and difficulty and shape of the puzzle in the "Layout" and "Difficulty" tabs, and create the puzzle.



- If *Whirlwind WordSearch* can successfully fit your words and your secret message in around the words, it will display the “Puzzle Preview” with darkened squares where your secret message was added.

If your Secret Message is too long for the puzzle and number of words, such that there is not enough free space to add the entire message, then the puzzle will not be generated and you will get an error letting you know of the problem.

If you chose to "Exactly Fill" the secret message text, the software will lay in all the words, and then attempt to lay your secret message in to *exactly* fill all remaining spaces in the puzzle. If the secret message is too short or too long, you will see an error message telling you how many letters to add or remove. You can then change the puzzle size or shape, overlapping behavior, length of the secret message, or add/delete word list words, and re-create the puzzle until you get it just right. As you type letters in the secret message box, an “approx. space remaining” prompt displays below the text box, helping you determining how much space you have left.

Oops, the puzzle could not be created!

Unable to create the puzzle after bazillions of attempts, because there are not enough empty letter spaces in the puzzle to exactly fit your 'Secret Message' text;

You need to increase the puzzle size by 7, or reduce the size of your words or secret message by that many letters.

Note: This feature is not available in the Lite version of this software.

3.12. Create many different puzzle layouts from the same word list

You might wish to use a single word list and create a number of different puzzles from it. Perhaps you are passing them out to a classroom and want to discourage cheating, or you may just want to add variety by choosing different shapes for each. The technique below assumes that you simply need to quickly print a bunch of different puzzles and their answer keys from a single word list, and then be done.

- Create a new puzzle document, and type in your word list.
- Make your initial set of changes in the different tabs to set up your first puzzle.
- In the "Page Details" tab, you will want to turn on the option "Print the Puzzle Page", and probably turn on "Print the Answer Page" too if you need the corresponding keys to each puzzle.
- Click the "Create" button to make your first puzzle.
- Go to the File menu and choose the "Print" menu item to print this puzzle.
- Now make the changes you want to set up the next puzzle, change its shape, or simply click the Create button again to create a different puzzle layout.
- Now go up to the File menu and choose "Print" again, and print this new puzzle.

Repeat these last 2 steps, changing the puzzle and printing again, as many times as you need. Note that each puzzle and answer page you print will share the same "Specific Puzzle

Identification Number" (SPIN) printed at the bottom of the page. This lets you match up the puzzle and its associated answer key.

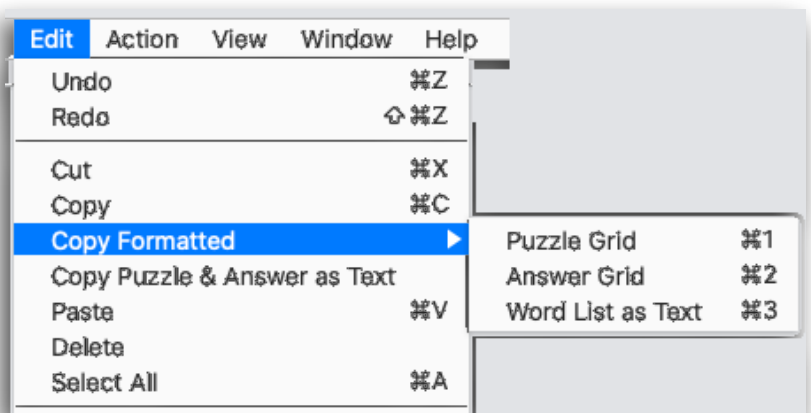
For a related way of creating many puzzles, see the tip at the end of section 3.15.

3.13. Export puzzles & answers into my page layout document for publishing

You may have a newsletter that is yearning for a puzzle page, or perhaps you want to add a logo and your own text along with the puzzle. Or you may want to create a number of different puzzles, and publish them in your own book. In these instances, you will want to extract just the puzzle, the word list, and its associated answer key, and paste them into a separate word processing document, so you can do your own fancy page layout with them.

- Using *Whirlwind WordSearch*, customize and create the puzzle that you want to add.

- From the Edit menu, choose the "Copy Formatted<" item, which will open a sub-menu of more options. These options will let you copy the word search puzzle grid and answer grid as high quality PDF images to the clipboard. Choose "Copy Formatted< Puzzle Grid"¹.



- You must copy the puzzle grid, answer grid, and word list separately. This is because you likely want to place the word list above, below, or wrapped around the puzzle, with a different font size, etc. and the answer grid as a different size at the end of the book. So keeping each puzzle item separate will give you this extra page layout flexibility.
- Now start up your word processing or page layout application, and open the document that you want to add the puzzle to.
- From your word processing application, choose "Paste" from the Edit menu, and move and resize the resulting puzzle "object" to its final spot in your document.
- You can also choose Edit< Copy Formatted< Word List as Text. You can then paste this into a text-box in your page layout software. The word list will be formatted just as you set it in the "Page Details" tab regarding case, numbering, sorting, etc. This allows you to change its position, size, font, color, etc. in your page layout software.

¹ You could also copy these by typing the keyboard shortcuts <Command>-1, <Command>-2 or <Command>-3

Here's an example of the puzzle dropped into a newsletter with an interesting background showing through:



NOTE! Before we continue, there is something you should know about copying the puzzle this way. This copied puzzle is a "vector object", not a "bit-mapped object". This is good and bad news.

The *good news* is that when you copy this puzzle into your word processor and resize it, it will retain a crisp high-quality look. That is, it will not look fuzzy or blocky, but will remain sharp. It also only copies the letters and lines, so if you paste it over a background texture, the background will show through nicely, which is often what you want (see the example to the left.)

The *bad news* is that because the letters and lines are thin and it is an object "full of holes", you may find it difficult to click on a part of it to select it and move or resize it. Try increasing the magnification or "zoom level" in your word processor to make it easier to grab and move this object.

You can repeat this Copy-and-Paste process to copy the puzzle's word list and answer key into your word processing document. If you are creating a booklet of puzzles, you can easily create and copy-and-paste any number of your puzzle creations this way.

-or-

For even more advanced options and work-flow flexibility, you may want to export the puzzles and/or answer keys to separate files, and import those files into other software where you can lay it out nicely for publishing. Exporting gives you additional file format options, and much higher resolution/quality options, useful when importing to other publishing software.

After generating a puzzle you like, you can export a copy of it via the File:Export Files... menu item. You will be presented with an Export window, with a number of options you can alter to choose what to export and the format to export.

Export Files

Write Puzzle file ☒ and Answer file

File Name: FindingMyWords-1Puz_222
File Format: 2500x2500 dimension PDF files

File size and format

Width and height of the exported graphic file in pixels, from 64 to 6000 pixels.
Note that at 300 DPI, 300 pixels equals one inch.

Puzzle export file format:

File Naming

File name starts with:

☒ Add export-counter to file name
Export-counter starting value:

☐ Add SPIN to exported file name

Destination Directory

Choose directory for export files:

As you change these settings, they will be remembered for future exports. And along the top is a box holding the proposed filename example and the currently chosen file size and format. These will change as you update any of the settings below.

Write Puzzle File [x] and Answer File: The puzzle file will always be exported, and here you can also enable the automatic exporting of the answer file too. They will have the same file names, ending in either “_1Puz” or “_2Ans”.

Width and Height of exported graphic file...: This "size" setting lets you choose how large the puzzle image will be when you export it. This is only used for the image formats (PNG, JPEG, PDF, SVG.) The text-based formats don't need or use it. See section 3.13 above for more information on exporting puzzle files.

Puzzle export file format: You can choose what file format to use when saving your exported puzzles and answer keys.

PDF: This is a high quality (vector) publishing file format, readable by many word processing and page layout applications.

PNG, JPEG: These are graphic image file formats, readable by many photo and image editing and word processing and page layout applications.

SVG: This is a vector graphic file format readable by many web browsers and some page layout and graphic editing applications. It is non-interactive, but can be directly added to a web page, or imported and used to create an interactive game, or even into CNC or 3D printing machines. Let your creative imagination chew on that for a while! It is important to note that SVG format, unlike PDF and PNG/JPEG, cannot capture and use your computer's fonts for drawing letters, so the font used in SVG is a generic font. You can manually edit the SVG file after export and alter the font specification to your needs.

Note: The size and format are limited in the Lite version of this software.

File name starts with: This string will be used as the beginning of both the puzzle and answer export file names.

Add export-counter to exported file name: Turn this on to add an export-counter into the file name that increments each time you export. This lets you build multiple puzzles with the same puzzle setup, and export each of them with automatically-unique filenames, e.g., “MyPuzzle_1_1Puz.png”, “MyPuzzle_2_1Puz.png”, “MyPuzzle_3_1Puz.png”.

Export-counter starting value: This lets you choose a starting value for the export-counter that is added to your filenames. For example, if you set this to 222, then every time you start the application and start exporting, your first exported puzzle files will start with that export-counter value, e.g., “MyPuzzle_222_1Puz.png”. Then each time you export again, the files will get the next-higher export number, e.g., “MyPuzzle_223_1Puz.png”, etc.

Add SPIN to exported file name: Turning this on will append the current SPIN number to the file name too, so you can easily export and compare multiple saved files from one document, that may just differ by the SPIN, i.e., where the words got placed.

Choose directory for export files: This lets you pick a directory to write all your exported puzzle/answer files.

Note: Just like the **Edit:Copy** command above, the export command will export just the puzzle or answer grid image. It will not include your title or your word list, since it is assumed you will be laying out the puzzle in your own fancy ways. You can separately extract your word list by either (1) selecting the words in the Word List text box and copying them, or (2) choosing **Edit:Copy Image of:Word List**, or (3) choosing **Edit:Copy Puzzle/Answer as Text** and pasting the entire text block into a text editor, and extracting the formatted ordered list of words.

Exporting will be disabled if you have not yet created a puzzle.

3.14. Make the application remember my settings for all new puzzles

You may be creating many puzzles that all have the same shape, size, and difficulty level, or even the same title and subtitle, and you don't want to set those options each time you start the application with a new document. Here's how you can have *Whirlwind WordSearch* "remember" your current settings and use them for all new puzzles.

- Open a new empty puzzle document, or open one you have already created.
- Make any needed changes under the different tabs to reflect how you want new puzzle documents to be preset.
- Now, under the "Whirlwind WordSearch" menu, choose "Remember Current Settings", and most of these settings² under the tabs will be remembered on your computer and used when you create any new puzzle documents.

If you need to make changes to these presets, simply make the changes you want and choose the "Remember Current Settings" menu item again, and it will remember these new settings, until you "remember" different settings later on.

3.15. Hide a word in the puzzle, but not shown in the word list

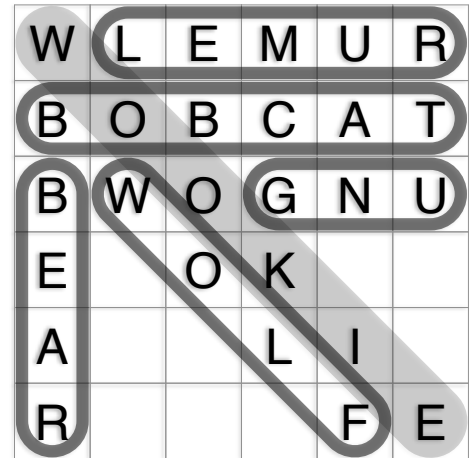
There are times when you may want to put extra words into the puzzle without having them shown in the word list. For example, you may want to add several "unlisted" bonus words in the puzzle, giving extra credit for those who find them. Or, you may want to add your name or company name in there as a kind of "copyright watermark". This is easy to do.

- Simply put an asterisk "*" at the beginning of a word (with no space between the asterisk and the first letter), and that word will become "hidden" in the word list. It *will* be placed in the

² Your "word list" is *not* remembered with this technique since you usually want different words for each puzzle. If you *do* want to create many puzzles with the same word list instead, see section 3.12 above.

puzzle, but *will not* show up in the printed word list or in the answer key. For example, if you wanted the word "wookie" to be in the puzzle, but not show up in the printed list of words to find: **lemur, gnu, bobcat, *wookie, wolf, bear**

- You can also choose to optionally have your hidden words *shown* on the printed/exported Answer Page. For example, you may want to temporarily do this and print a single master answer key just for yourself, showing *all* the words, hidden or not. To do this, simply choose the "Page Details" tab, and turn *on* the checkbox labeled: "Show Hidden words in the Answer Key". Any "hidden words" (e.g. "wookie" in the example above) will then show up in the printed answer key with a solid gray background behind them. Remember to toggle it back *off* if you want to print the answer key without them shown.
- You may want to see the hidden word placement in the Preview Answer, but *not* highlight the hidden words in the final printed/exported Answer page. To do this, turn *off* the "Page Details:Show Hidden words in the Answer Key" checkbox, and turn *on* the "Show hidden words" checkbox under the Preview area.



You can quickly hide/remove any of your words by prefixing them with an asterisk, wherever they are in your word list. Just remember that although they are not listed in your final word list, they are still placed in the puzzle.

Tip: This could also be used to create several different customized puzzles from a single large word list, just by moving the asterisks to different sets of words and re-creating a new puzzle.

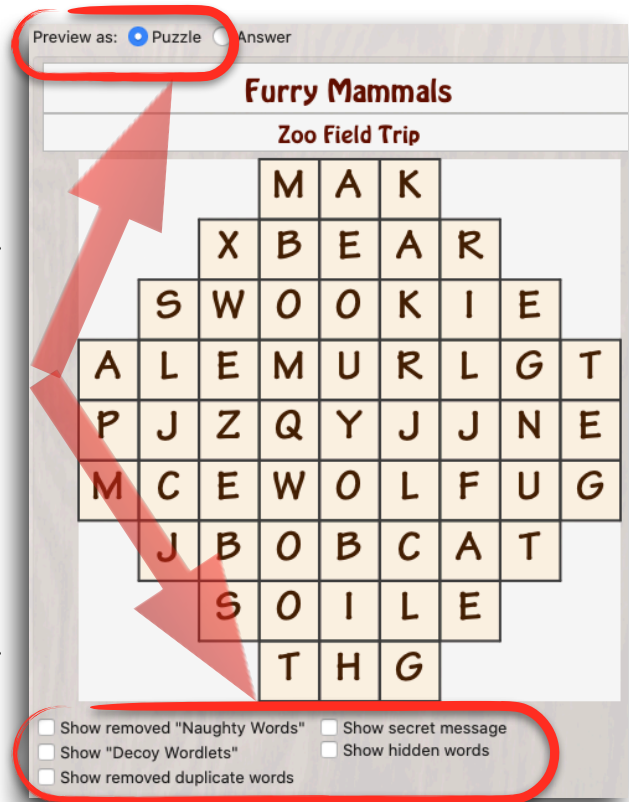
If you find yourself wanting to have a certain word or words *always* hidden in *all of your puzzles*, you can do this by adding the words via the "Hidden Words" pane of the Settings window. See section 4.9, Settings:Hidden Words for more information.

Note: This feature is not available in the Lite version of this software.

3.16. Solve my puzzle on-screen without printing it

There are times when you may want to create a word search puzzle just for yourself and quickly solve it visually on the computer. In this case, you do not want to see the answer, just the puzzle. This is easy to do.

- First change the “Preview as” style at the top of the Preview area to “Puzzle.”
- Next, *turn off* all the checkboxes under the Preview area that display extra indicators on the puzzle.
- Now add your words and create a word search puzzle. It will be displayed on-screen without the answer key or any other hint lines added.
- Once you have visually found all the words, or if you need to peek at the answer key for a hint, change the “Preview as” style to "Answer", and they will all be shown. Switch it back to “Puzzle” to hide the answers.



3.17. Add a compound word with a space/hyphen/apostrophe

Sometimes you may need to add a single “compound word” (composed of multiple words), normally separated by a space, hyphen, or apostrophe (sometimes called a "single quote character".) In the printed word list, you would want the compound word displayed intact with the space/hyphen/apostrophe shown. However, inside the puzzle, you want it removed and have the words run together along the same line.

For example, consider the hyphenated word X-RAY. This word will show the hyphen in the printed word list as "X-RAY", but will be hidden inside the puzzle as "XRAY". The hyphen will be left in the word for display, and removed when it is put in the puzzle.

If your word has an apostrophe ('), for example O'Hara, then the apostrophe will be left in the word for display, and removed when it is put in the puzzle, treated just like the hyphen. Note that it must be the regular apostrophe, and not a “smart/curly” single-quote character which word processors often use.

Finally, to allow a compound word (or phrase) containing spaces, *Whirlwind WordSearch* requires that you separate each "word" in the word list with either a comma, or a new-line. It will collect all the letters and spaces in between, and treat it as a single compound word or phrase. For example, to use the compound word "Blue Jay" as a single word, enter it as "Blue Jay," in your word list, and it will display as "Blue Jay" in the printed key, and will be "BLUEJAY" in the puzzle.

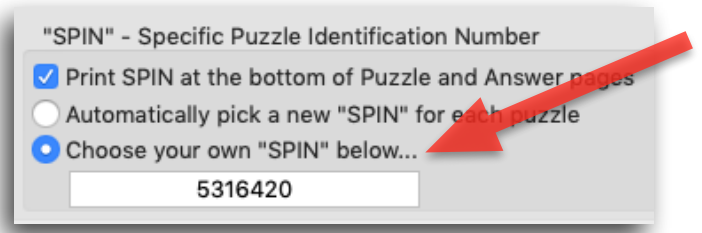
Note: You can even create a word search puzzle of phrases instead of single words by separating each phrase with a new-line or comma, e.g. "Stanley Kubrik, It's full of stars"

3.18. "Lock" the word layout while changing other puzzle aspects

What if you created the perfect puzzle layout and the answer key is sent out, but your editor now wants you to change the font used for the puzzle letters, or show (or remove) the grid lines and re-print the puzzle?

This can be done. Many aesthetic aspects of the puzzle can be changed, and the puzzle can be re-created without changing the layout of the words. Here's how.

Once you have generated a puzzle you like, and want to 'lock the words into place', simply go to the "Page Details" tab, and near the bottom, click "Choose your own SPIN below".



This will lock in and keep using the current SPIN value used for this puzzle, and therefore re-use the same word layout pattern for all future puzzles, no matter how often you click "CREATE".

Then you can change display-related things like Title/subtitle text, puzzle letter font, secret message hint style, or the grid display, and then re-create the puzzle, and your word search words will still be in their original place, based on that unchanging SPIN value.

Note: If you change other aspects of the puzzle though, a whole different puzzle layout will be created from that same SPIN value. For example, if you change the puzzle size, shape, difficulty, or change any of the words or secret message or secret message position, the puzzle *must* change its layout. This is because *Whirlwind WordSearch* has to re-check the new words or secret message text and find new places for them to guarantee no accidentally created duplicate or naughty words snuck into the new positions.

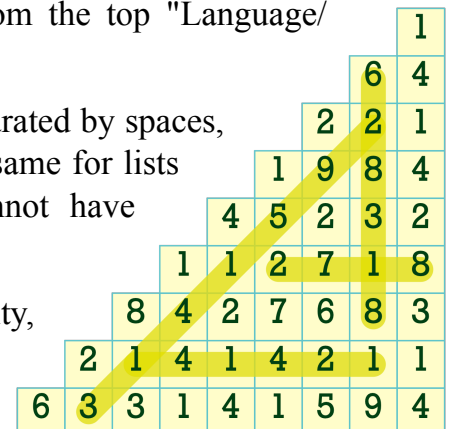
3.19. Create a puzzle with only number sequences

You may want to create a puzzle consisting only of numbers, to offer a puzzle with a different kind of challenge.

First, under the "Words" tab, choose "Numbers (Arabic)" from the top "Language/Alphabet for Word List" section.

Then, enter your list of number sequences in the word list, separated by spaces, commas, or new-lines. The rules for lists of numbers are the same for lists of words; Each must be at least 2 characters long, cannot have duplicates, and cannot be longer than the puzzle dimension, etc.

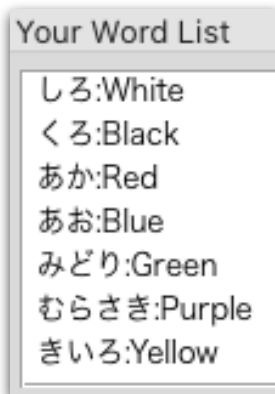
Choose the rest of the puzzle settings, like font, color, difficulty, and click the Create button, and *Whirlwind WordSearch* will make a numbers-only puzzle.



3.20. Create a puzzle with "Word Clue" phrases for the words

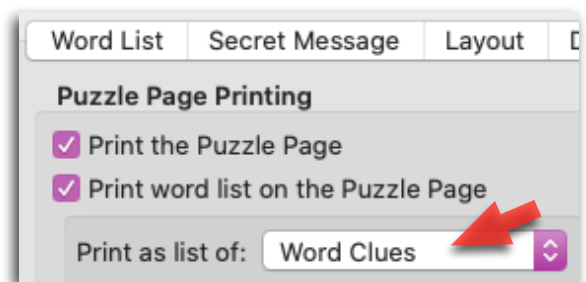
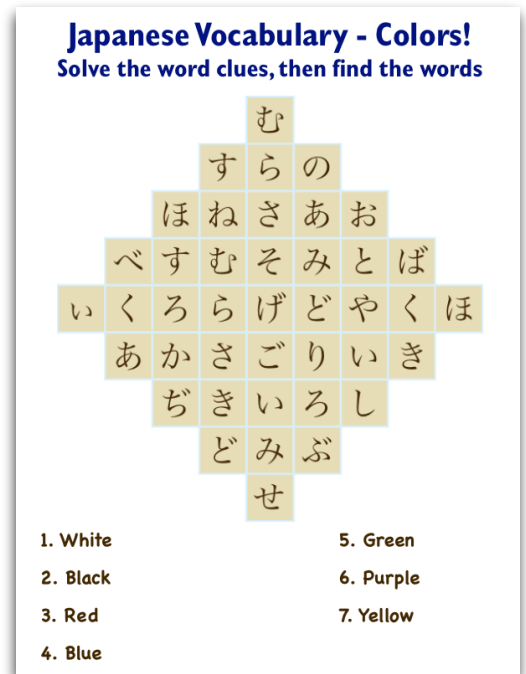
You may want to create a puzzle of words, but instead of printing the list of words to look for, you instead want to print "word clue" phrases for the words. The user would then have to guess the word from the clue, then find the word in the puzzle, making the puzzle a tougher challenge. Note that although the puzzle words must be composed from letters of the chosen alphabet, the word clue phrases can be any text in any alphabet, so you can have the clues be in a completely different language if you wish.

To start, you must enter each word and its associated clue together on a single line. The word comes first, followed by a colon character (:), and then the word's clue phrase, followed by a new-line. For example:

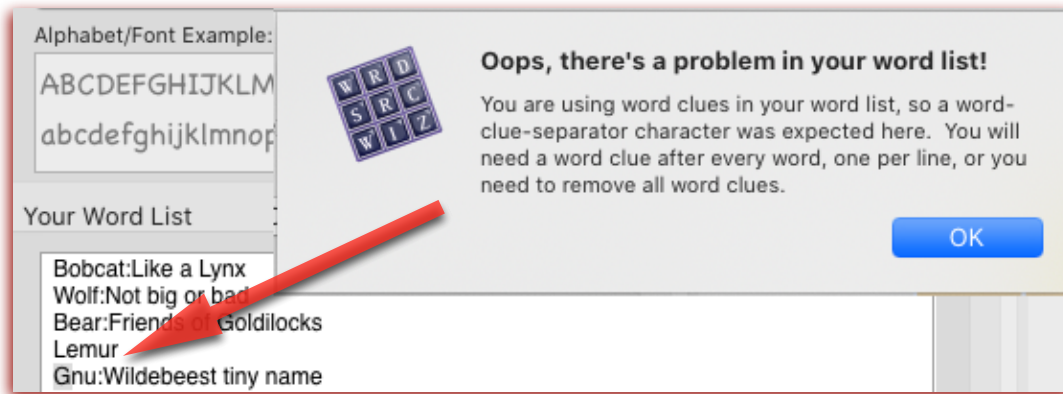


Choose the rest of your puzzle settings, like font, color, difficulty, then click the Create button, and *Whirlwind WordSearch* will make the puzzle with your words, as usual.

Now under the "Page Details" tab, change the popup menu under "Puzzle Page Printing" from "Print words" to "Print word clues". This changes only how the puzzle will print, and does not affect the generated puzzle at all. When you print the completed puzzle, it will now print your clues *instead of* your words on the puzzle page. Note that on the Answer page, both the clues AND words will be combined and printed together.



If you add clues to one or more words, they must *all* have clues. If you forget to add a clue to the end of one of your words, you will get an error that highlights the word *just after* the word where you forgot to add the clue, which looks like this:

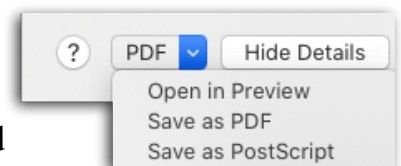


Note: The "Print word clues" feature is not available in the Lite version of this software.

3.21. Save the puzzle page as a PDF file for e-mailing or printing later

What if you want to save your nicely laid out puzzle and answer pages as a file that you can send to somebody else, but they do not have this software? Maybe you want to take the puzzle to a copy/print center to get color copies printed? Here's how to save the puzzle and/or answer pages as a PDF file, readable by other computers:

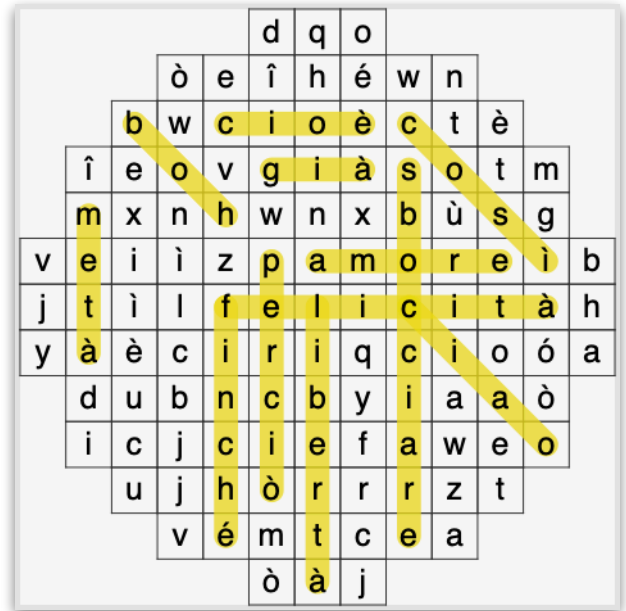
- Set up and create your puzzle
- Under the Page Details tab, turn on "Print the Puzzle Page." If you want to print the answer page, then also turn on "Print the Answer Page". If you want a separate PDF file for the puzzle and the answer pages, then do this section twice, and select the Puzzle page, then do it again selecting the Answer page.
- Choose "Print" from the File menu.
- At the lower left corner of the Print dialog, click the "PDF" popup, and choose "Save as PDF" from the menu.
- Pick a file name and location, and it will write the two printed pages as a single PDF document.



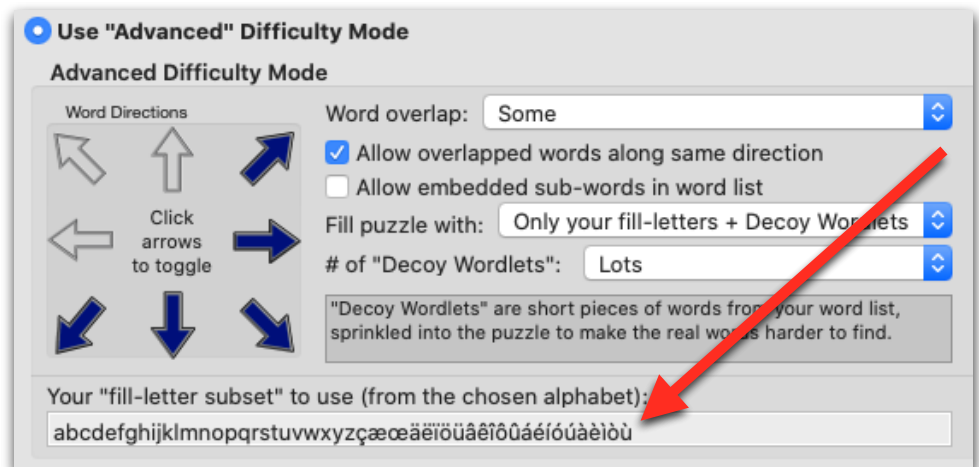
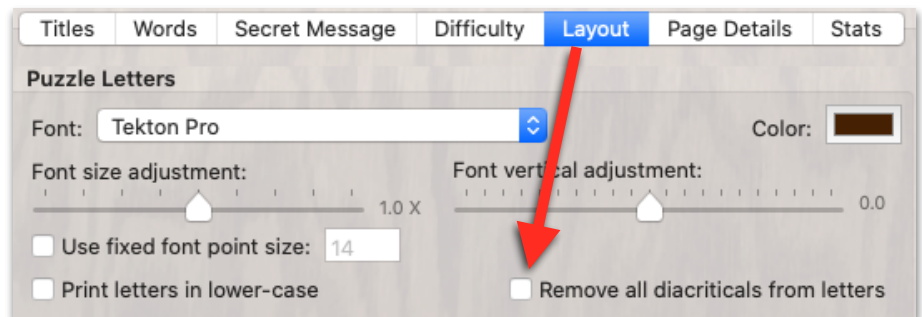
Note: If you want the Puzzle Page and Answer Page saved as two separate documents, do these steps twice, once by turning on the Puzzle Page and printing to PDF, and again by turning on the Answer Page and printing to PDF.

3.22. Remove distracting diacriticals from the puzzle

Many non-English languages use special letters with diacritical marks over them. These are good for allowing you to spell some more complicated words properly. Whirlwind WordSearch normally leaves your word's diacriticals intact when they are added into the puzzle, since removing a diacritical can sometimes change the meaning of the word. However, people using some languages *expect* all diacriticals to be removed when making their word search puzzles³. So, here is how you can remove the diacriticals from the puzzle to make it "cleaner" looking:



- First, set up your puzzle and add your word list words properly spelled *with* their diacriticals intact. This will insure that they are displayed properly with their diacriticals in the word list.
- Then under the Layout tab, turn on "Remove all diacriticals from letters".
- Optionally to be extra tidy, under the Difficulty tab, choose "Advanced Difficulty Mode" and choose to Fill the puzzle with "Only your fill-letters...". Then look at the under "fill-letter subset" letters at the very bottom of the Advanced box, and delete any letters in the box that you do not want used as fill-letters.



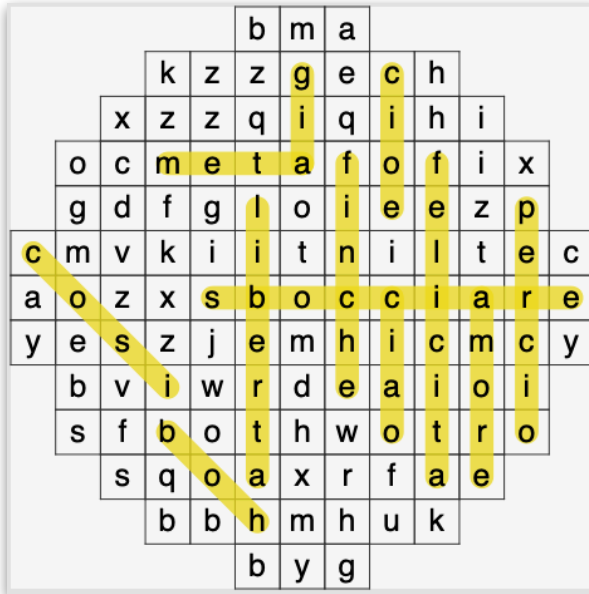
³ For example, Italian word-search publishers!

- For example, change it to look like this:

Your "fill-letter subset" to use (from the chosen alphabet):

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

- Then, when you create the puzzle, none of your words or the extra fill letters will have diacriticals in the puzzle.

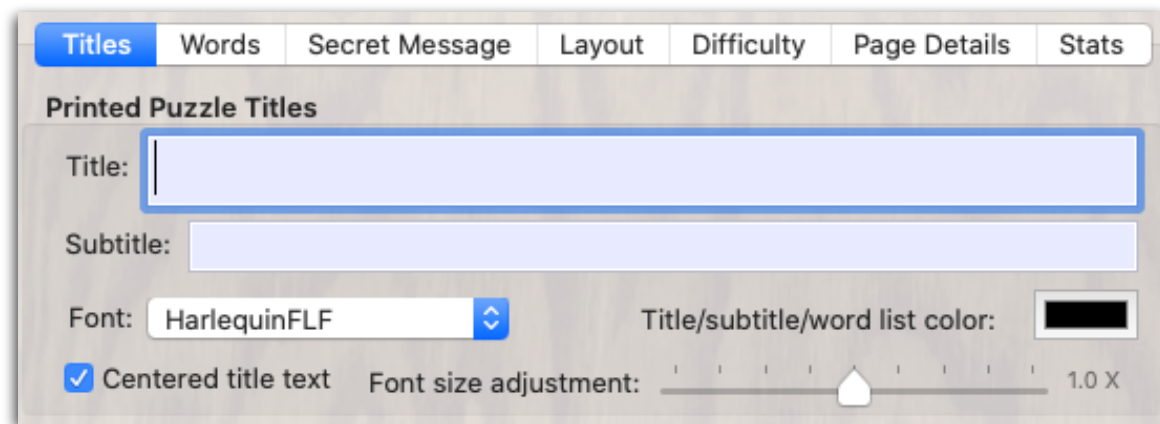


4. Detailed Reference: What does this button do?

This section offers more detailed descriptions of each of the tabs and their individual options. You can also hover your mouse over different options and menus, and a "tool-tip" text box will give you more information about that item.

4.1. Titles Tab

The Titles tab is where you choose the title and subtitle to print above your puzzle on the printed page. They are optional and can be blank.



Printed Puzzle Titles

Title/Subtitle: You can enter text in the Title and Subtitle/Description fields, and that text will be printed at the top of your printed puzzle pages. You can also leave either or both fields blank, since they are optional. The title field is printed in a slightly larger font size, while the subtitle is a little smaller allowing more text on the subtitle line. If you type in title or subtitle strings that are too long, the text will wrap to a second line at the edge of the page when it is printed. Tip: If you want a lot of title text and no subtitle, you can leave the title string blank, and instead use the subtitle string for your text, giving you more room for longer text, and also reduce the Title/Subtitle "font size adjustment" slider to shrink the font for even more room.

Font: You can print the title and subtitle text using any font that is installed on your computer. Please note that not every font can display alphabetic letters in languages other than English, so you may need to experiment to see which ones work and look best for your purposes.

Title/Subtitle/word list color: Click the color-well to pick a new color to be used for the titles and the word list. Note that the color of the letters within the puzzle grid are set separately; See the Layout tab below.

Centered title text: Turn this on to center the printed title and subtitle. Turn it off for left-justification, useful for multi-line subtitles.

Font size adjustment: Fine-tune the size of the printed title and subtitle text. Sliding it down to the left will make the text grow smaller, and sliding it to the right of center will make it grow larger. An approximate display of how the text will print is shown above the puzzle in the Preview area.

Note: The "font size adjustment" is not available in the Lite version of this software.

As an example, if you typed the following in the Title and Subtitle fields:



Printed Puzzle Titles

Title: Zoo Field Trip - Furry Mammals

Subtitle: Name: _____ Date: __/__/____

Font: Helvetica Title/subtitle/word list color: [Dark Blue]

☒ Centered title text Font size adjustment: 1.1 X



then the top of the printed page would look like this:

4.2. Words Tab

The Words tab is where you choose the language used for your word list, and where you enter the list of words you want placed into the puzzle. It is easy to enter your words into the puzzle. Click on the "Words" tab, then choose a language/alphabet from the popup menu, then click in the word-list text box and start typing each word.

The screenshot shows the 'Words' tab interface with several callouts:

- Choose your puzzle language/alphabet here**: Points to the 'Language/Alphabet for Word List' dropdown menu, which is currently set to 'English (Latin, United States)'.
- Approximate letter space remaining in puzzle as you type**: Points to the 'Alphabet/Font Example' box, which displays the letters 'ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZÆÇÑÜÀÁÊËÌÍÎÏÐÑÒÓÔÕÖ' and their lowercase equivalents.
- Example alphabet letters shown here**: Points to the 'Alphabet/Font Example' box.
- Type your puzzle words/clues here**: Points to the 'Your Word List' text input area.
- Total words found in your word list shown here**: Points to the 'Copy Formatted Word List' button, which displays '6 words'.

The 'Your Word List' section includes instructions: 'Enter your words here, separated by commas. Your words must only use the letters of your chosen alphabet, and may be upper case, lower case, or mixed.' It also provides tips: '* Put an asterisk at the beginning of a word to make it "hidden" (see user guide section 3.15)', '+ Put a plus sign at the beginning of a word to make it "optional" (see section 3.9)', and ': Put a colon between each word and its "word clue", with each entry on a separate line (see section 3.20)'. The word list currently contains: 'lemur', 'gnu', 'bobcat', 'wolf', 'bear', and '*wookie'.

Language/Alphabet

The "Language/Alphabet for Word List" box (near the top) lets you choose a different language (and alphabet) from the popup menu, and it displays all the letters you may use in your word list and hidden message. When you choose a different language/alphabet, the list of allowed letters will change to match your new alphabet choice. It also switches to a special list of "naughty words" just for that language, and uses that list to find and remove any randomly created ones from each puzzle you generate.

Your Word List

Your words must only use the letters available in the alphabet you choose, but they can be upper case, lower case, or mixed case. Each word must be separated from others by either a comma or a new-line. Your word capitalization and your ordering of words will be preserved when they are

printed as a list on the puzzle and answer pages (unless you choose to alphabetize and capitalize them via "Page Details" tab.) Of course, when the words are placed inside the puzzle grid, the case of their letters will all be upper-case, unless you chose the "Print letters in lower case" checkbox.

You can also copy a list of words from a word processing document or from the internet. Just copy the words from the other application, then switch to *Whirlwind WordSearch*, click in the word-list text box and choose "Paste" from the Edit menu, and the words will be added to your list. See section 3.8 for detailed instructions on how to do this.

If you are creating a special word search puzzle that displays a list of "word clue" phrases instead of the list of words themselves, you must enter each word (and its associated clue phrase) on a separate line. See section 3.20 for detailed information on this special case.

Whirlwind WordSearch also checks your entire word list for duplicate words, including words that are the same as another word reversed, for example, "tool" and "loot". This is because words can be laid into the puzzle going left to right and right to left, and those two words could look like duplicates inside the puzzle. These will create an error message. You can overcome this by turning on the "Allow duplicates" checkbox under the word list.

You are allowed to enter non-alphabetic punctuation into the word list and secret message text boxes too. *Whirlwind WordSearch* is very lenient, and allows you to type or copy/paste *any* characters into the word list box. However, *before* you create a word search puzzle, you may need to remove extra characters that are not part of your words. The list should include only your words, separated by new-lines or commas.

There are special cases for the space, hyphen (-, or dash), and for the apostrophe (' , or single-quote). These characters will be left in the word for word-list display, but removed when it is put in the puzzle grid. For more information, see section 3.17.

A word search puzzle's size must be at least as large as the letters of your longest word, otherwise that word will never fit in the puzzle. *Whirlwind WordSearch* does check all of your words against the puzzle size you have chosen, but only *after* you click the Create button. This gives you freedom to type long words and then change the puzzle size without being interrupted by annoying error messages. Only when you create the puzzle do any problems get detected and reported to you.

The "Approx. space remaining" number (above the word list) gives you a rough estimate of how many letters are left in the current puzzle based on the words you entered and the puzzle's current size and shape. As you add words to your word list, the number shrinks to show you are running out of room in the puzzle. It also shrinks as you add text to your secret message, which needs room in the puzzle too. This is just an approximate indicator, and does not prevent you from adding many more words than the currently-configured puzzle could hold. It cannot predict how many words might wind up overlapping until you finally create the puzzle. This looseness allows you to later mark certain words as optional (see section 3.9) or as hidden (see section 3.15.)

After you click the "Create" button, *Whirlwind WordSearch* will attempt to create the puzzle and determine if it really can fit all your words in. If not, it will then give you an error message stating that it cannot place all your words. You can then fix the problem in a number of ways; Go to the

Layout tab and increase the puzzle size and/or try a different shape that has more space, or increase the difficulty level (which allows words to overlap and go in additional directions), or remove some words or make some optional, then create the puzzle again.

After you have successfully created a puzzle, the total number of words you entered will be listed under your word list. This is to help you verify that all your words or phrases were entered correctly, and that you got the number that you expected.

Optional Words

Under your word list is the checkbox “Make all words optional in puzzle” which is an option that you can turn on to have Whirlwind WordSearch fit as many words as it can to build a puzzle, then show you which words it could not fit. See section 3.9 for more details about working with optional words.

Note: This feature is only selectable in the Full version of this software.

Duplicate Words

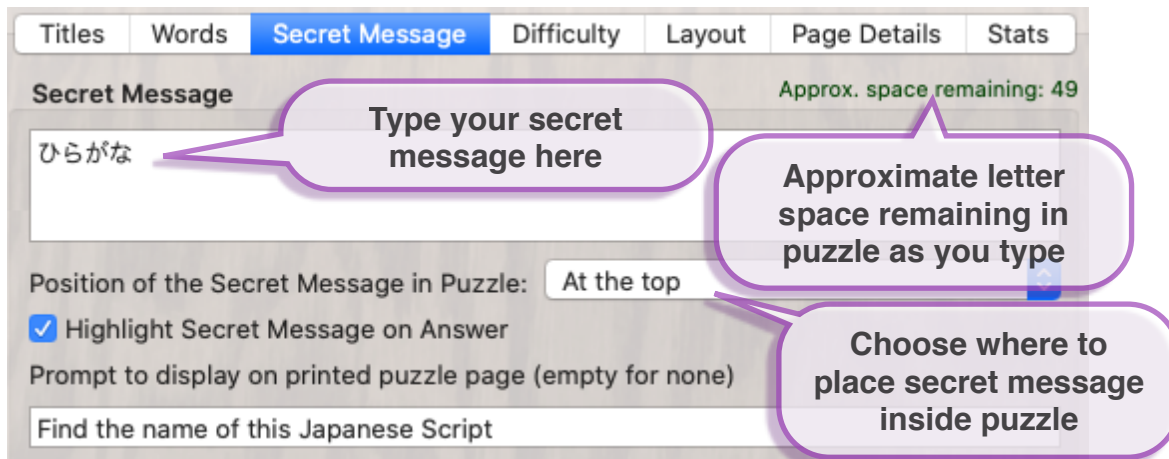
Word search puzzles are usually built from a list of *unique* words. However, you may want to create a puzzle that has two or more copies of the same word or words in the puzzle, or if you want to enter words that are mirrored (e.g. adding "tool" and "loot".) You can allow this by turning on the checkbox "Allow duplicates in word list". *Whirlwind WordSearch* will no longer check for duplicate words, but instead will add every instance of any word you type, however many copies there are. It will also display each copy in the printed word list.

Copy Formatted Word List

This will copy the word list as a formatted carriage-return-separated list to the clipboard, which you can then paste into another document. The words will be capitalized and sorted and numbered per your choices in the Page Details tab. This button is available *after* you create a puzzle.

4.3. Secret Message Tab

The "Secret Message" tab allows you to enter a word, phrase, or sentence, and have it also embedded into the puzzle, after all your puzzle words are laid out in place. It lays the letters out left-to-right, filling in around any word search words already laid into the puzzle.



Secret Message: Enter your secret message text here. Only the alphabetic letters of your typed secret message are used; Any punctuation or spaces or letters that are not in your current alphabet are automatically skipped/removed.

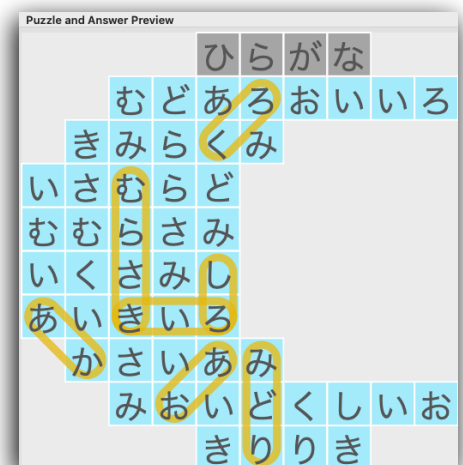
Approx space remaining: Shows roughly how many letters available for your secret message, based on the words you entered and the puzzle's current size and shape. As you add text to your secret message, this number shrinks to show you are running out of room in the puzzle. It also shrinks as you add words in your word list, since they need room in the puzzle too. You must first build a puzzle once to let Whirlwind WordSearch calculate how much space is taken by your words and secret message. After that, this will automatically update as you type.

See section 3.11 above for an example of adding a secret message.

Position of Secret Message in puzzle: You can change where the message shows up in the puzzle: near the top, near the bottom, centered in the middle, or at a random position, or you can even require it to exactly fill every remaining space in the puzzle.

Highlight Secret Message on Answer: If you have added a "Secret Message", then turning this on will print the secret message with gray cells behind each letter. It will be shown this way in the answer Preview area and will also be printed on the Answer page. If turned off, then the secret message will not be specially highlighted this way, and will simply look like all the other random fill letters.

Prompt to display on printed puzzle page: If you have added a "secret message", this will let you choose what "Secret Message" text prompt to print on the puzzle page (under the word list), which lets the user know that there is more to look for. You can

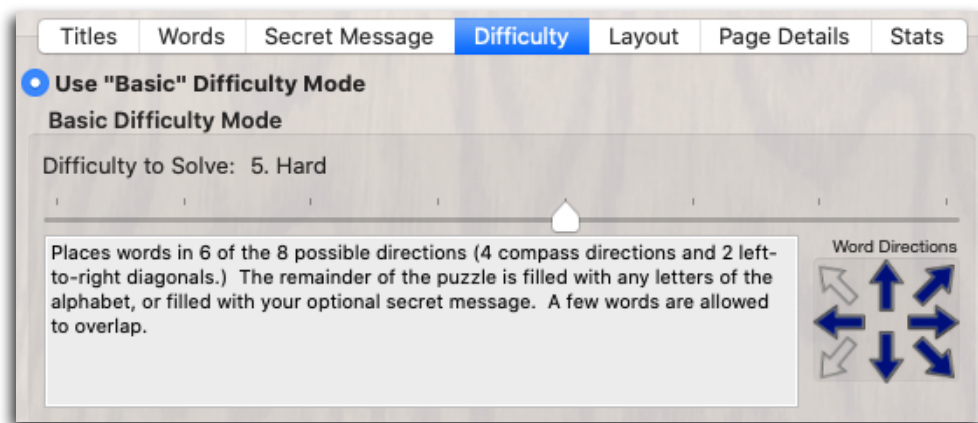


leave this empty to not print anything, or type a hint to look for a secret message, or simply print the full secret message itself. If you added no secret message string (it is empty) then no prompt text will print on the puzzle page.

Note: The "Secret Message" feature is not available in the Lite version of this software.

4.4. Difficulty Tab

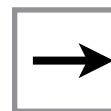
The "Difficulty" tab lets you change how tricky the word search puzzles are to solve. You can use the "Basic Difficulty Mode", which lets you simply move a slider from "very easy" puzzles to "very hard" puzzles, without worrying about all the details of how it works. If you want more control, you can switch to the "Advanced Difficulty Mode", which lets you control each of the fine-grained "difficulty options" yourself. Both the Basic and Advanced modes are covered below.



Basic Difficulty Mode - Difficulty to Solve

Changing the "Difficulty to Solve" slider will alter several obvious and not-so-obvious aspects of the generated puzzle. You can change the puzzle from very easy to solve (for younger children) through diabolically difficult to solve (for experienced adults.) Each of the difficulty levels creates a puzzle with the following features:

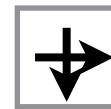
Very Easy (across): Places words only left-to-right. The remainder of the puzzle is filled with letters of the alphabet that are not in the word list (making it much easier to find the words), or filled with your optional secret message. It also ensures that none of your words overlap each other. This easy level is perfect for beginning readers.



Very Easy (down): Places words only top-down. The remainder of the puzzle is filled with letters of the alphabet that are not in the word list (making it much easier to find the words), or filled with your optional secret message. It also ensures that none of your words overlap each other. This easy level is perfect for beginning readers, and especially for Japanese language puzzles.



Easy (across & down): Places words left-to-right or top-down. The remainder of the puzzle is filled with any letters of the alphabet, or filled with your optional secret message. No words are allowed to overlap.



Medium: Places words left-to-right, top-down, or the two forward diagonals from left-to-right. The remainder of the puzzle is filled with any letters of the alphabet, or filled with your optional secret message. No words are allowed to overlap.



Hard: Places words in 6 of the 8 possible directions (4 compass directions and 2 left-to-right diagonals.) The remainder of the puzzle is filled with any letters of the alphabet, or



filled with your optional secret message. A few words are allowed to overlap.

Harder: Places words in any of the eight possible directions (4 compass directions and 4 diagonals.) The remainder of the puzzle is filled with letters of the alphabet that are from your words (making it harder to find the words), or filled with your optional secret message. Some words are allowed to overlap. It also sprinkles in occasional short pieces of words from your word list, creating deceptive "decoy wordlets" to throw your puzzle-solvers off the track as they look for the words. For more information on "decoy wordlets", see "Advanced Difficulty Mode" below, or section 4.6.



Very Difficult: Places words in any of the eight possible directions (4 compass directions and 4 diagonals.) The remainder of the puzzle is filled with letters of the alphabet that are from your words (making it harder to find the words), or filled with your optional secret message. Many words are allowed to overlap, and there are more decoy wordlets.

Diabolically Difficult: This uses the same tricks as 'Very Difficult' above, and after placing your words, it tries to fill up to *half* the remaining empty puzzle space with decoy wordlets.

Note: There are fewer difficulty choices available in the Lite version of this software.

Advanced Difficulty Mode

Switching to this mode replaces the "Basic" difficulty slider above with its individual settings below, letting you change each of the difficulty parameters separately. This gives you much finer control over how your puzzle is created.

Use "Advanced" Difficulty Mode

Advanced Difficulty Mode

Word Directions

Click arrows to toggle

Word overlap: Lots

☐ Allow overlapped words along same direction

☒ Allow embedded sub-words in word list

Fill puzzle with: Only word letters + Decoy Wordlets

of "Decoy Wordlets": Lots

"Decoy Wordlets" are short pieces of words from your word list, sprinkled into the puzzle to make the real words harder to find.

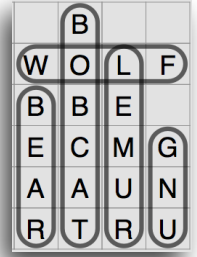
Your "fill-letter subset" to use (from the chosen alphabet):
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzäö

Note: The "Advanced Difficulty Mode" is not available in the Lite version of this software.

Word directions arrows: You can choose which directions are available to place the words. Simply click on any of the direction arrows to toggle that direction "on" or "off". At least one direction must be left on of course, but other than that, any combination of directions is allowed. The words for this puzzle will be placed only in one of these chosen directions.

Word overlap: You can change how many words overlap (word-crossings) in the puzzle. Easy puzzles usually have few or no overlapping words, which requires a slightly larger puzzle size to fit

all the non-overlapping words. Harder puzzles generally will have more overlapping words, and are more compact. Setting the overlap to "Lots" will attempt to overlap *almost every* word with another word, if possible. It tries to overlap words by looking for identical letters shared between two words. Of course if you have a word that has no letters in common with any other words, *Whirlwind WordSearch* will issue a sad, quiet little sigh, roll its eyes and dice, and quietly place the word in a non-overlapping position instead. Setting the overlap to "All" will *require* every word to overlap some other word, and if this is not possible (for example, you still have that word that has no letters in common with any other words) then *Whirlwind WordSearch* will issue an error that it could not create a puzzle with all words overlapped.



Allow overlapped words along same direction: Turn this on to allow overlapping words to join at any angles, including along the same direction (collinear.) Turn this off to insure that overlapped words will always be at odd angles to each other. With this off it makes it easier to distinguish overlapping words on the answer key, which otherwise might run together and look like a single long word.

Allow embedded sub-words in word list: Turn this *on* to *allow* words in your word list that also appear inside other words in your list, like "beard" and "ear", or even "Tarp" and "Rat" (since "rat" is reversed inside the word "**tarp**".) When allowed, Whirlwind is allowed to place "rat" completely inside "tarp." Turn this *off* to detect and flag these possibly-embedded words in your word list as errors.

Fill puzzle with: Here you can choose how to fill the remaining puzzle in different ways:

- Non-word letters: Uses any letters from your alphabet that are not already used in your words.
- Only your fill letters: Uses any letters from your fill-letter subset.
- Only your fill letters+Decoy Wordlets: Uses any letters from your fill-letter subset, and adds decoy wordlets.
- Any letters+Decoy Wordlets: Uses any letters from your alphabet, and adds decoy wordlets.
- Only word letters+Decoy Wordlets: Uses any letters that are used in your words, and adds decoy wordlets.

of "Decoy Wordlets": "Decoy Wordlets" are short pieces of words from your word list, sprinkled into the puzzle to throw your puzzle-solvers off the track as they look for the words. They are added in the empty areas between your words, along with the other "fill letters", and after any "Secret Message" has been laid in. You can change how many of these are added, from none, up to "lots". If you set it to "lots", it will attempt to fill up to half the remaining empty puzzle space with these decoys. This option is only enabled if you chose to add them via "Fill Puzzle With" above.

Your fill-letter subset to use (from the chosen alphabet): Here you can add or remove letters from this list that would normally be used to fill the rest of your puzzle. This subset will be used when you set the "Fill puzzle with" menu to items that refer to "fill letters". This list is initially set to every letter of the chosen alphabet, without the diacritical letters. Each of these letters *must* be

from your chosen alphabet. You can add letters, or delete any letters that you don't want to use as fill letters, but you *must* leave at least a few letters here to allow random filling to work. You may enter either upper or lower case letters, since they will be automatically converted and stored as lower case.

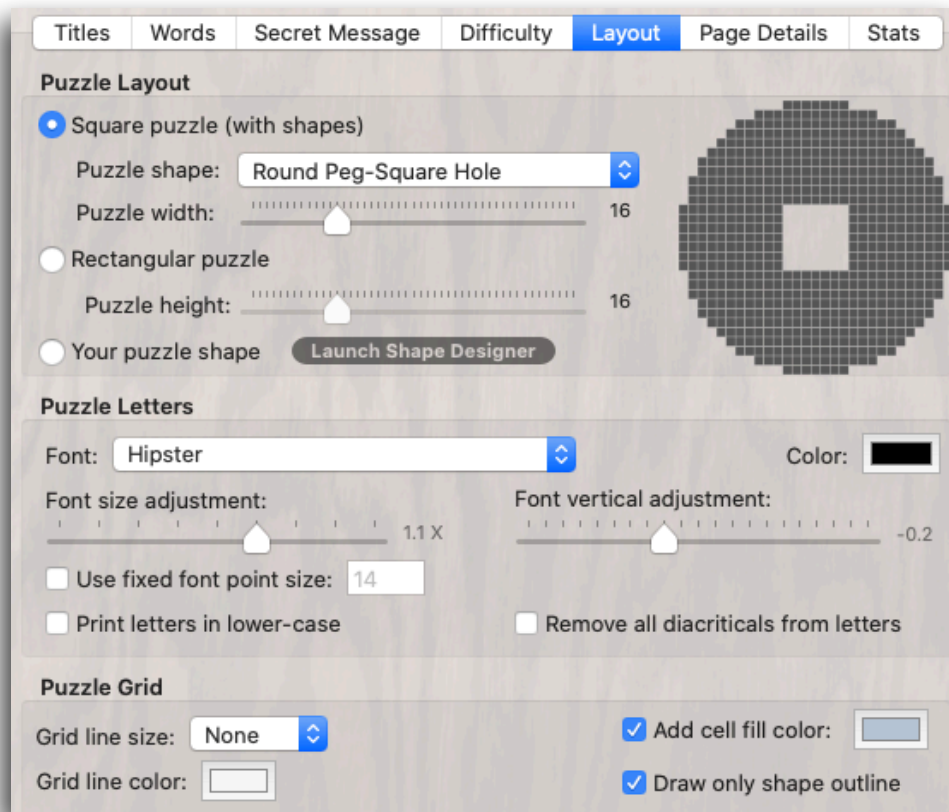
For example, in French, you may want to add the letter ç to the alphabet to randomly fill with. Or, if you want to fill the rest of the puzzle with *only* the letters A, B, and Z, then you would set the "Fill puzzle with" menu to "non-word letters", and then set this text field to "abz".

Tip 1: If you had already removed some letters and now want to refill it with the default full alphabet, you can simply return to the "Words" tab, change the "Alphabet" to another language, then back to your own, and it will reset this field with the alphabet of letters (except those with diacriticals.)

Tip 2: If you want to quickly add all the diacriticals too, you can simply tap the Words tab, select, copy and paste the entire alphabet line from the "Alphabet/Font Example" display, and paste the list of letters here.

4.5. Layout Tab

The Layout tab contains the most common customization settings you might want to change for your puzzle. There are many more settings under the "Difficulty" and "Page Details" tabs, which are covered in other sections.



Puzzle Layout (Shape and Size)

Square puzzles with shapes vs. Rectangular puzzles

If you choose the "Square puzzle" option, you can create puzzles in a variety of sizes and pre-made "cutout shapes", and they will each fit inside a *square* grid, where the width and height of the puzzle are the same. See "Puzzle Shapes" below.

If you choose the "Rectangular puzzle" option, you can create rectangular-shaped puzzles and choose different widths and heights (for long or tall rectangular puzzles.) With this option, you cannot choose any of the "cutout shapes"; Your puzzle will be a rectangular box shape with your chosen aspect ratio.

Puzzle Width and Puzzle Height

This sets the total size (number of letters available) for the puzzle. If you are making Square puzzles, then the width and height will both change together for you. The height or width must be at least as large as the number of letters in your longest word, since a word that is any longer than the puzzle size would never fit. *Whirlwind WordSearch* will allow you to start typing in long words and then change the puzzle size. It is not until you are finished and click the Create button that it

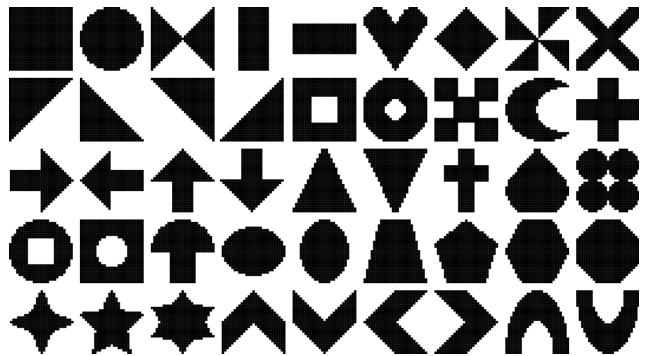
double-checks whether your longest word will fit. At that point, if a word is still too long for the current puzzle size, it will give you an error dialog, telling you what the problem is and how to fix it.

Remember, the bigger the puzzle size, the more letter spaces are available, and therefore the more words can fit into the puzzle. Also, as you increase the size of the puzzle, the overall font size of the letters in the printed puzzle and answer grid will automatically shrink, in order to fit the entire puzzle onto a single printed page.

Puzzle Shape:

If you choose the "Square puzzle", you can then pick a shape other than the default "Square" shape.

The available shapes are: Square, Circle, Bow-tie, Rectangle Tall/Wide, Heart, Diamond, Pinwheel, X, UL-Wedge, LL-Wedge, UR-Wedge, LR-Wedge, Square-hole, Donut, Checkers, Crescent, Plus-sign, Right-Arrow, Left-Arrow, Up-Arrow, Down-Arrow, Up-Triangle, Down-Triangle, Cross, Onion Dome, 4-Clover, Square-Peg, Round-Hole, Mushroom, Oval-Easy, Oval-Up, Trapezoid, Pentagon, Hexagon, Octagon, 4-star, 5-star, 6-star, Chevron-Up, Chevron-Down, Chevron-Left, Chevron-Right, Rainbow-up, Rainbow-down.



When you choose one of these non-square shapes, there are not as many available letter spaces in the puzzle. If you have long words or many words, they may not all fit in these other shapes. To compensate for this and still fit your words in, you will need to increase the puzzle dimension a little. Also, many of these shapes will look nicer & smoother at larger puzzle sizes.

Note: The complete set of shapes are available in the Full version of this software.

Puzzle Letters

Font: You can display the puzzle letters using any font that is installed on your computer. Please note that not every font can display alphabetic letters in languages other than English, so you may need to experiment to see which ones work and look best for your purposes. As you switch fonts, the puzzle grid will immediately re-display in this new font.

Color: Click the color-well to pick a new color for the puzzle and answer letters inside the puzzle grid.

Print letters in lower case: Turn this on to print the letters of the puzzle and answer in lower case, instead of upper case. You may want to turn this OFF for younger puzzle solvers.

Remove all diacriticals from letters: Turn this on to strip any diacritical marks from your words when they are added to the puzzle grid. The diacriticals are always left in-place when your words are displayed in the word list. This “simplified” puzzle display is commonly used in some languages, e.g. Italian. Leaving this off will leave any diacriticals in the letters of your words

when placed in the puzzle grid. To add/remove any diacriticals in the fill-letters around your words, see the related topic “Your fill-letter subset to use” under the “Advanced Difficulty” section 4.4 below, or section 3.22 above.

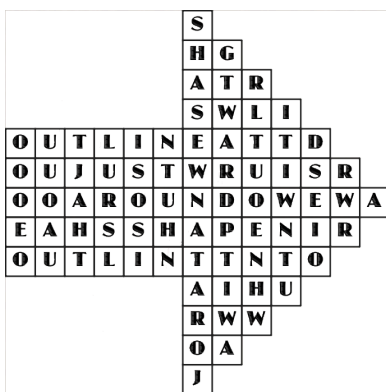
Font size adjustment: This feature lets you fine-tune the size of the letters in the puzzle/answer grid. The basic font size is *automatically* chosen for you based on some factors (size of puzzle, size of printed page), but you may find this calculated size "not quite right" for your needs. Perhaps the font you chose is a little larger or smaller than other fonts. The slider's center position is regular size. Sliding it down to the left will make the letters grow smaller, and sliding it to the right of center will make them grow larger.

Font vertical adjustment: This feature lets you fine-tune the vertical position of the letters in the puzzle/answer grid. Sliding it down to the left will slide the letters below center, and sliding it right will slide them above center. This can be useful if you have an unusual font that doesn't display quite centered vertically, and you need to nudge the letters up or down a bit inside the grid.

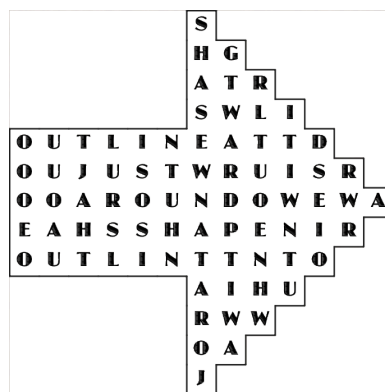
Puzzle Grid

Grid line size: Click the popup menu to choose a new line thickness (in points) for the separator (grid) lines around each letter on the puzzle. If you choose "None", it will draw no grid lines around the puzzle. Note that it will *always* draw grid lines around the Answer Key, since they help show you where the answer words are in the puzzle. 0.5 is a very thin line, and 4.0 is a very thick line.

Draw only shape outline: Turn this on to draw just the outline around the shape, without inner grid lines around letters. Turn it off to draw grid lines around every letter in the shape.



Draw only shape outline: **Off**



Draw only shape outline: **On**

Grid line color: Click the color-well to pick a new color for the puzzle and answer "grid lines".

Add cell fill color: Turn this on to fill each cell square with an opaque background color for printing and for exported image files. If it is on, you can click the color-well to pick a new color for the cell-fill color. If this is off, the cells are transparent and any background will show up behind the letters.

4.6. Page Details Tab

The "Page Details" tab contains many more detailed printed-page options. Although you may not use them as often, they can offer you flexibility in fine-tuning the look of your printed puzzle.

The screenshot shows the 'Page Details' tab with the following settings:

- Puzzle Page Printing:**
 - ☒ Print the Puzzle Page
 - ☒ Print word list on the Puzzle Page
 - ☒ Print Separator Lines
 - ☒ Print SchwanSongs Logo
 - ☒ Alphabetize the printed word list
 - ☒ Print word list as all upper-case
 - ☐ Add numbering to word list
 - Print as list of: Words (Comma-Delim.)
 - Word list font size adjustment: 1.0 X
- Answer Page Printing:**
 - ☒ Print the Answer Page
 - Print Puzzle Letters: Dimmed
 - ☒ Print word list on Answer Page
 - ☐ Print Hidden words in Answer
 - Answer highlight style: Open oval
 - Answer highlight size: Regular
 - Answer highlight color: Black
- "SPIN" - Specific Puzzle Identification Number:**
 - ☒ Print SPIN at the bottom of Puzzle and Answer pages
 - ☒ Automatically pick a new SPIN for each puzzle
 - ☐ Lock in your own SPIN: 314159265358

Note: If you want to see what your printed puzzle will look like without having to print to real paper first, you can first choose to print, and in the print dialog, choose "PDF: Open in Preview" to see the final puzzle/answer pages printed to a separate PDF document on-screen.

Puzzle Page Printing

Print the Puzzle Page: Turn this on to print the page containing the puzzle itself. Turn it off to completely skip the printing of the puzzle page, for example, if you just need to re-print the answer page.

Print word list on the Puzzle Page: Turn this on to print the list of words underneath the puzzle grid on the Puzzle page. Turn it off to print just the puzzle without the word list underneath. Note that there is a separate checkbox to control the Answer page word list.

Print Separator Lines: Print separator lines between title, puzzle, and word list on the printed puzzle and answer pages. Turn this off to have no separator lines printed there.

Print SchwanSongs Logo: Turn this on to display the "SchwanSongs" company logo at the bottom of the printed puzzle and answer pages.

Note: This option cannot be turned off in the Lite version.

Alphabetize the printed word list: Turn this on to print the list of words sorted in alphabetical order. If this is off, the words will be in the order you listed them in the "Word List".)

Print word list as all upper-case: Turn this on to fully capitalize the list of words when they are printed. If this is off, the words will remain capitalized as you typed them in the "Word List".) This option will be disabled if you have chosen an alphabet that does not have upper/lower case.

Add numbering to word list: Turn this on to add numbering (1,2,3,4) before each word in the printed word list. If this is off, the words will be listed without any numbering.

Print as a list of: Here you can choose how the word list is displayed under your puzzle, and how it is formatted if you copy it to the clipboard via the menu item "Edit:Copy Formatted word list as text". The word list can be a single line separated by commas, which might be best for puzzles with lots of long words or a large word list font size. It can be words separated one-per-line in columns, which looks best if you have them numbered as well. Or if you are using the Word Clues feature, you can show just the word clues, not the words. For more information on the "Word Clues" feature, see section 3.20 above.

Word list font size adjustment: This feature lets you fine-tune the size of the printed word list words. The font size is automatically chosen for you based on several factors (number of words, length of words, size of puzzle), but you may find this calculated size "not quite right" for your needs. Maybe there is one really long word that stretches into the word in the next column and you need to shrink the size a bit. Maybe there are lots of short words, and you want to bump the size up for younger or older readers.

The center position is regular size. Sliding it down to the left will make the words grow smaller, and sliding it to the right of center will make them grow larger. This also gently adjusts the font size of any secret message printed under the puzzle too. If you wish to preview what the change will look like, you must choose "Print", and review the "Print Preview" window to see the change, then cancel the print dialog.

Answer Page Printing

Print the Answer Page: Turn this on to print the page containing the answer key. Turning this off will skip the printing of the answer key page altogether. This is useful if you already printed it and don't need to print it again, or if you have no need for the answers, just the puzzle.

Print word list on the Answer Page: Turn this on to print the list of words underneath the answer grid on the Answer page.

Print Puzzle Letters: This lets you choose how the answer key is filled with "non-answer letters." The remaining letters can either be NEVER shown, or they can be shown in a DIMMED gray color, or they can be shown ALWAYS, the same color as the answer letters. Note that if you set this to NEVER, then the grid-lines will automatically turn back on for the answer key, to help you see where the words are relative to the shape.

Print Hidden words in the answer: Normally, any words that you have marked as "hidden" (with a leading asterisk) in your word list will be hidden (not printed) in the word list and will be hidden in the answer key. Turning this on will show (and print) the hidden words in the answer key, and will be highlighted with an oval background. They will still be omitted from the printed word list.

Answer highlight style: You can highlight the answer key words with "hollow outlined ovals", "solid ovals", or "strike-through lines", whichever you prefer.



Answer highlight size: You can adjust the size/thickness of the highlighting, to make it thinner or thicker than the regular size.

Answer highlight color: Click the color-well to pick a new color for the oval/strike-through lines drawn under the placed words in the answer key.

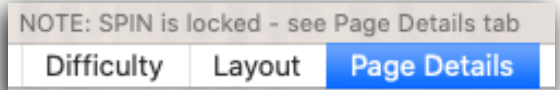
SPIN

Print the "SPIN" at the bottom of Puzzle/Answer pages: Turn this on to list the Specific Puzzle Identification Number, or SPIN, at the bottom of the printed puzzle and answer pages. Each SPIN value specifies a unique placement of the words in the puzzle, and can be used to exactly re-create a particular puzzle layout. It also is the same number for a puzzle and its answer. Think of it as a kind of serial number for the puzzle and answer. This number can be printed at the bottom of the puzzle page and its answer page, so you can easily match up each puzzle page with its answer page.

Automatically pick a new SPIN for each puzzle: Turn this on and the software will automatically pick a new random Specific Puzzle Identification Number (SPIN) for you each time you create a new puzzle. This number is used to choose a particular word solution layout.

Lock in your own SPIN: Enter a decimal integer number in the box, between 1 and 16 digits long. Once you set your own SPIN value, then each time you click the Create button the SPIN value will stay the same, and the puzzle's word layout will also stay the same (for a particular puzzle size, shape, and difficulty setting).

When you have turned this option on, a small warning will display at the top of the set of tabs, reminding you that your puzzle configuration is now "locked" in a certain configuration.



4.7. Stats Tab

This tab displays a number of statistics about the generated puzzle. If no puzzle has been created

Titles	Words	Secret Message	Difficulty	Layout	Page Details	Stats
Information about the Generated Puzzle						
Puzzle Shape		Crescent				
Puzzle Size		9W x 9H				
Puzzle Alphabet		Japanese Hiragana				
S.P.I.N.		684359040				
Difficulty		4				
Total Words Added		2				
Total Unique Letters From Words		4				
Unique Letters From Words		えそひる				
# Decoy Wordlets Added		0				
Total Overlapping Letters		0				
Total Letters in Puzzle		42				
Remaining Spaces in Puzzle		38				
Percentage of Puzzle Filled		9%				
# Zapped Duplicate Words		0				
# Zapped Naughty Words		3				
Total Naughty Word List		23				
Secret Message Text		ひらがな				
Secret Message Placement		top				

yet, then this page will be empty.

Puzzle Shape: The name of the puzzle shape you chose.

Puzzle Size: The width and height of the puzzle in letters.

Puzzle Alphabet: The name of the alphabet you have chosen to use for the puzzle words.

SPIN: The Specific Puzzle Identification Number, used to exactly re-create a particular puzzle layout. See section 4.6 under SPIN for more information.

Difficulty: The level of difficulty used (1-8, or advanced).

Total Words Added: A count of how many words from your word list that got placed into the puzzle.

Total Unique Letters from Words: A count of how many unique letters you used across all the words in your word list.

Optional Words Dropped: A count of how many +optional words from your word list *could not* be placed into the puzzle, and were dropped from the list.

Unique Letters from Words: A consolidated list of each unique alphabetic letter used across all the words in your word list.

Decoy Wordlets added: While the puzzle is being created in the highest difficulty modes, the software sprinkles some pieces of each of your word list words as "decoys" into the puzzle, to trick the puzzle solver. This number is a count of how many decoy wordlets were added. The positions of these added partial words can be shown in the preview window by turning on the "Show Decoy Wordlets" checkbox, described in section 4.8.

Total Overlapping Letters: How many letters overlap (i.e. are shared between words) in the generated puzzle.

Total Letters in Puzzle: A count of how many letter spaces there are in the current puzzle's shape. For a 10x10 "Square" shape, this would be 100 (10 wide by 10 high.) For a 10x10 "Circle", it will be a little less (76) since the rounded corners are not filled with letters.

Remaining Spaces in Puzzle: A count of how many letter spaces there are in the current puzzle's shape that are not part of the placed words. This is a count of all the empty spaces between the words, that normally get filled with random letters, or with your "secret message". Although this number can vary by a few spaces each time you make a new puzzle, it gives a good idea how many letters are available for the "secret message phrase" if you want it to exactly fill that space.

Percentage of Puzzle Filled: The total percentage of letters in the puzzle that are filled with letters from your words, or in other words, how densely the puzzle is filled with your words. The higher the percentage, the longer it will take to generate the puzzle.

of Zapped Duplicate Words: A count of how many duplicate words it found and removed from the generated puzzle. These "eliminated" word positions can be shown in the preview window by turning on the "Show postions of removed duplicate words" checkbox, described in section 4.8.

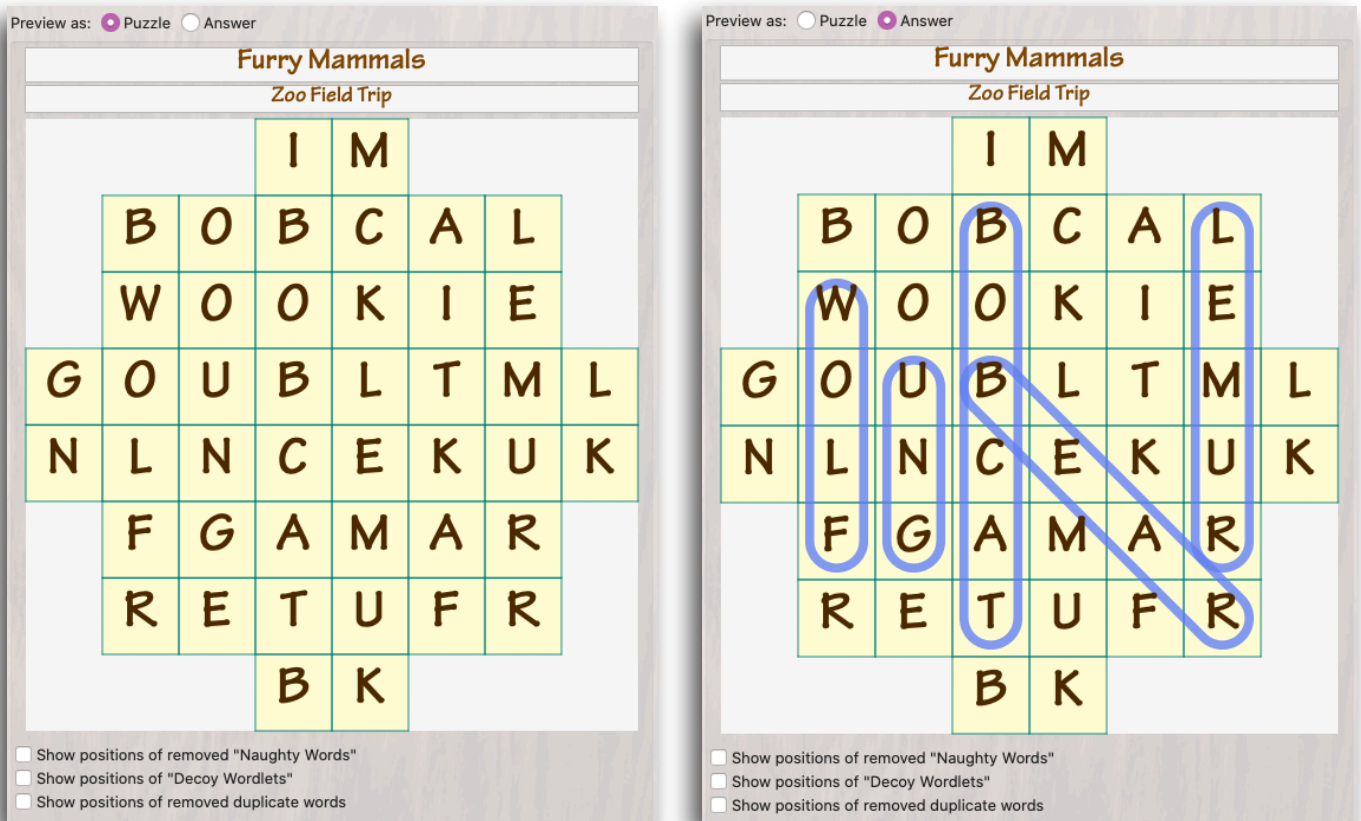
of Zapped Naughty Words: A count of how many naughty words it found and removed from the generated puzzle. These "eliminated" word positions can be shown in the preview window by turning on the "Show removed 'Naughty Words'" checkbox, described in section 4.8. Of course if you are making a word search puzzle with a list of naughty words, those naughty words you intentionally added in your word list will remain in the puzzle, since you *wanted* them there!

Total Naughty Words List: A count of how many naughty words that Whirlwind WordSearch knows about and can eliminate for the language you chose. This includes any "excluded words" you added in the Settings window.

4.8. Preview as Puzzle / Answer

The right side of the window displays a preview of the generated puzzle, or its answer key. If you create a new puzzle, or make changes to the puzzle in the various tabs, they will be shown here.

This shows what your puzzle and answer will look like when you print or export it. It also shows the optional puzzle title and subtitle which will be printed above the puzzle. You can always click the "Create" button again until you see a puzzle layout that you like before you decide to save or print it.

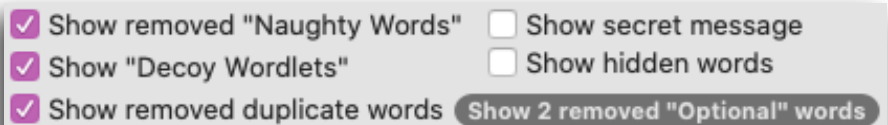


Preview As (Puzzle or Answer): Choose the “Puzzle” radio button to see the puzzle itself, with no answer highlighting. Choose “Answer” to display what the answer key will look like, displaying the positions of the words with your chosen highlight style.

Preview Display Checkboxes

Below the preview display are some checkboxes that can add some display details to the preview area. Changing these checkboxes

does not affect the final printed puzzles, only what is shown in this preview window. These controls can show some of the "behind-the-scenes" work that Whirlwind WordSearch does to create your puzzle.

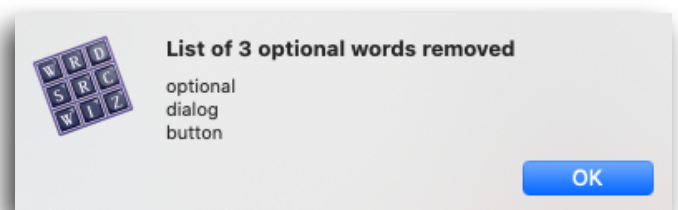


Show removed "Naughty Words": Turn this on to highlight **(in light red strike-through)** any "naughty word" that was detected and removed/alterd during the puzzle-making process. The displayed word will already be "alterd" to no longer be "naughty." Of course, any naughty words that you intentionally added into your word list will remain in the puzzle, since you *wanted* them there... this only removes naughty words that were randomly added when filling the rest of the puzzle. The internal list of naughty words that are detected is based on the language you chose to make the puzzle (see section 3.9.)

Show "Decoy Wordlets": Turn this on to highlight **(in light green strike-through)** any partial "decoy wordlets" that were added during the puzzle-making process.

Show removed duplicate words: Turn this on to highlight **(in light blue strike-through)** any accidentally-randomly-created duplicate of one of your words that was found during the puzzle-making process, that were altered/removed.

Show # removed "Optional" words: If there were optional words in your word list that were removed in order to create the puzzle, this button will be displayed just under the preview area. Click it to bring up a dialog that lists the removed words. You can select and copy this list from the dialog, in case you want to paste these words into a new puzzle's word list.

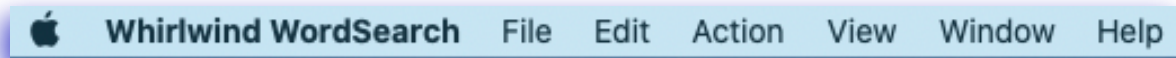


Show secret message: Turn this on to highlight your secret message with a gray background in each cell. This setting only affects the Preview display, not your printed/exported Answer.

Show hidden words: Turn this on to highlight (in light Answer highlight style) any words you marked as "Hidden." This setting only affects the Preview display, not your printed/exported Answer.

4.9. Menu Items

The menus along the top "menu bar" contain special commands for opening/saving/printing puzzle documents, etc. Here are descriptions of the items specific to *Whirlwind WordSearch*.

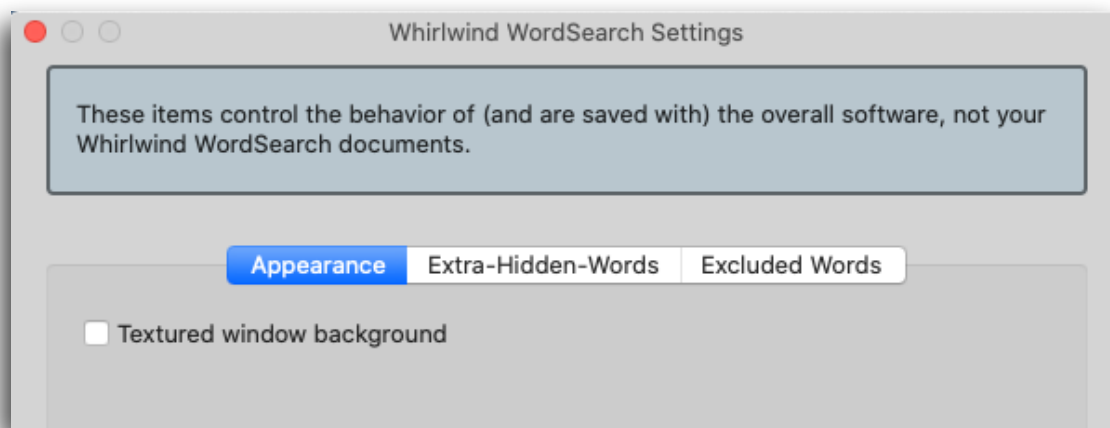


Whirlwind WordSearch: About Whirlwind WordSearch

Choose this item to display a window that gives credit to all the people who helped make this software happen... watch them scroll by and wave as you listen to the fun parade music I wrote.

Whirlwind WordSearch: Settings⁴

Choose this item to open a window that lets you change application-specific settings. When you set the values here, they are used for all future runs of Whirlwind WordSearch for any of your documents, until you change them again here.



Settings: Appearance:

Textured window background: Turn this on to add a wood-grain finish to the main window. Turn it off to have a flat finish. This is aesthetic on-screen only, and does not affect the printed/saved puzzles. This setting change is immediately remembered, and all future documents and launches of the app will use this setting. Unlike the other document-specific settings, this is saved for the application, so it will affect the look of the windows, no matter which documents you open. After 50 years, it is time for wood grain finishes to be popular again (however, orange and avocado-green are forever gone.)

Settings: Extra Hidden Words:

You can add extra words here that will *always* be added to *every* puzzle you make, and will always be hidden, that is, not highlighted in the answer key. You can have a different set of words for each language/alphabet you choose. Each word must be on a separate line and must only consist of letters from the currently chosen language/alphabet. This can be useful for adding your name into every puzzle you make, as a kind of watermark, for example.

⁴ Note that Settings used to be called Preferences, and Apple recently (in MacOS 13/ Ventura) changed this name.

Note that it is possible to accidentally add a word that is too long or has letters from other than your currently-chosen alphabet or is a duplicate of other words in your word list. These problems will be detected later when you try to create the puzzle, and will be displayed via an error message.

Note: This feature is not available in the Lite version of this software.

Settings: Excluded Words:

There is currently a built-in list of “naughty words” that your puzzles are scanned for, and removed if they are randomly created from the extra fill letters in your puzzle. Now you can add your own set of “excluded words” to this built-in list, in case you have your own particular slang/derogatory words you don’t want to accidentally get created in your puzzles. You can have a different list for each language/alphabet you choose. Each word in the list must be on a separate line and must only consist of letters from the language/alphabet you choose. If a word in your list has letters from other than your currently-chosen language/alphabet or is a duplicate of one of the built-in known bad words, it will be quietly ignored.

Note: This feature is not available in the Lite version of this software.

Whirlwind WordSearch: Remember Current Settings

Choose this item to take a “snapshot” of the current document's settings (including title, subtitle, puzzle size & shape, printing options, etc.) Afterward, all new documents you create with Whirlwind Wordsearch will start already filled in with these settings as defaults. It does not remember your current word list. That will always be empty in new documents.

Whirlwind WordSearch: Change Current Colors to B&W

Choose this item to quickly change all font/grid colors to black and white (and gray), best used when printing a book or worksheet. This changes the colors in the currently opened document, and does not save them for other documents. If you want all future new documents to have this setting, you can choose this menu item, then immediately choose “Remember Current Settings” above.

File: New:

Creates a new empty word-search window, which you can build a new puzzle from, and then save as a file if you want to open it later. You can have multiple word search windows open at a time and switch between each of them to work on.

If you are the type of person who reads user manuals thoroughly, then you deserve a special prize now! There is a hidden “easter egg” feature, if you have the English language/alphabet set as the default! Hold down the *Option* key when choosing the “New” menu item, and the new window will open in “Magic Mode”, and if you have the English language chosen, you will see a new button under your word list: [Random Word Fill].

If you click the button, your word list will fill with a random list of (English) words. With bigger puzzle sizes, you get more and longer words. This “easter egg” is perhaps not useful to everyone,

but this can be fun for finding unusual words, or quickly pre-filling a large puzzle to see its layout. And yes, there are probably more easter eggs hiding elsewhere.

File: Open/Save:

These items allow you to save an existing puzzle to a file (including the word list and all your settings), so it can be re-opened later. These files can also be sent to other Whirlwind WordSearch users who can then open and use the puzzle too. These special files can only be opened by Whirlwind WordSearch.

Note: This feature is not available in the Lite version of this software.

File: Export Files...:

Choose to export the **puzzle** image, or the **answer** image for importing to other software. This item will be disabled if you have not yet created a puzzle. You must choose a directory to save your files, and the puzzle/answer files will be saved with file names and the format you chose previously in the Settings window (under the Export tab.) The settings you choose here will be remembered for future export sessions. See section 3.13 for additional information on exporting.

File: Print:

This opens the print dialog and allows you to print one or more copies of your puzzle page (and/or answer page) to a printer.

There is a hidden "easter egg" feature here too. You can print your empty word search grid as an empty template. First set up all the layout options you want to display the shape and grid as you like. Then hold down the *Option* key when choosing the "Print" menu item, and the puzzle page will print, but just as the empty grid, with no letters inside. This was requested long ago by a user who wanted a template to write in their own word search puzzles.

Edit: Copy Formatted:

#1-Puzzle Grid, #2-Answer Grid, #3-Word List as Text: Choose these to copy a (high quality PDF) graphic image of the Puzzle Grid or Answer Grid, or the text list of words, to the clipboard. These items will be disabled if you have not yet created a puzzle.

Edit: Copy Puzzle & Answer as Text:

This will copy a text representation of the puzzle grid, answer grid, and word list to the clipboard. This is most useful if you are an advanced user who wishes to extract the raw puzzle text, and do your own fancy formatting (also see "File Menu:Export WordSearch:" above as another flexible alternative.) The puzzle and answer grid of letters are written in a tab-delimited format, as well as a "pretty-printed" format. This text can easily be imported/pasted into word processors or spreadsheet programs for further formatting. This item will be disabled if you have not yet created a puzzle.

Edit: Copy Formatted Word List as Text:

Copy the word list as a formatted carriage-return-separated list to the clipboard. The words will be capitalized and sorted and numbered per your choices in the Page Details tab. Available *after* you create a puzzle

Action: Create Puzzle:

Choose this to generate a word search puzzle from the words and settings you have chosen. This menu item is equivalent to clicking the "Create" button on the main window.

Action: Stop:

Choose this to interrupt and halt the creation of a word search puzzle in progress.

Help: Whirlwind WordSearch User Guide:

This menu item opens a window that displays this user guide. You can adjust the size of the text by resizing the window larger or smaller. You can also choose "Print" from the File menu, to print a copy of the user guide if you like.

Help: Whirlwind WordSearch Introduction/Tutorial:

This menu item opens a window that displays a multi-tabbed quick introduction, illustrating some of the features of the software. It will open each time you run the software, unless you un-check the "Show this window on startup" box at the bottom of the window. You can always open it later, by choosing this menu item.

Help: Feature Comparison:

This menu item opens a window that displays the feature differences between the Lite and the Full versions of this software.

Help: Contact Author:

This menu item opens an e-mail that you can update with any questions, bugs, or feature requests and send to me. It automatically contains some information about which version of the software you are using, which can help me answer questions for you.

Help: Rate/Review Whirlwind WordSearch:

This menu item opens an Apple App-Store window that lets you add your rating, and write a review for this software, letting others know how you like it. Please consider rating it and possibly writing a sentence or three about it!

Help: Visit Whirlwind WordSearch Product Web Page:

This menu item opens a browser window that displays the product web page for this software.

Help: Visit Company Web Site:

This menu item opens a browser window that displays my company web page, showing all my other interests and projects.

5. Writing Word Search Software is Easy, Right?

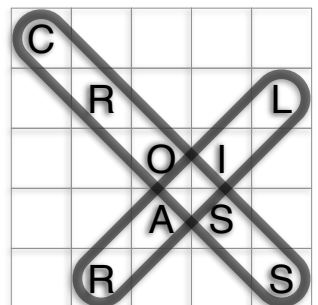
When I began writing this software many years ago, I thought a word-search program would be fairly easy to create. After all, the software just needs to lay a list of words randomly into a grid, and fill the rest of the empty spaces with random letters. What's so hard about that?

As it turns out, some of the free word-search web sites and applications out there do exactly this, and you get what you pay for. But I quickly found that there were some rather interesting, subtle and complex problems that arise with those generated puzzles if you just stop there.

For example, every once in awhile, those randomly sprinkled letters will happen to accidentally create another copy of one of your own word list words in the puzzle. Uh oh, that means that people will find their word in *two* places, not one... or worse, they will just see *the wrong one*, and tell you that your answer key is incorrect! So, how did I fix this? After generating a puzzle, my software searches the entire puzzle looking for duplicate copies of each word, and if a randomly created duplicate word is found, it changes a letter or two to something else. It then re-checks the entire puzzle again in case that change in turn creates a duplicate of some other word. It repeats this "clean-up" until no more problems are found.

Or how about this one... sometimes those random letters will form "naughty words." Uh oh! Perhaps the students may snicker and enjoy finding them, but teachers and parents may not find them so humorous on a school hand-out. So my software searches for and removes any of these accidentally formed words too. But wait... the software can make puzzles in different languages!? Yes, you guessed it. It must have a list of "naughty words" in each language as well! By the way, the research I had to do to obtain lists of dirty words in many different languages is probably worthy of a short humorous novel of its own.

One of the problems that might seem quite simple to the user, but turns out to be quite complex to the software engineer, is how to correctly handle the "Allow words to overlap/share letters" feature. If I simply checked for two words that share one or more letter grid spaces, that is easy. But words can also cross over/between each other at diagonals, such that they don't actually "share" any letters. How do I detect these? It turns out there are some elegant geometry calculations for "Determining if two line segments intersect", so I chose one and got it working (in C++) to find out if words "overlap." My high school teacher was right when he said I would need that geometry someday!



Many other important "finishing touches" were needed to make this software something I am proud of, for example, using terse "user interface" wording on each of the checkboxes and buttons that make sense, writing and updating this giant user guide, testing the software to find and fix yet more complex problems... it is quite a labor of devilishly detailed love. And I hope you love it too! If you do, let me know... write a review... and tell your friends!

And if you don't love it, let me know that too. Please tell me if anything is broken or confusing, and I will endeavor to fix it. If you have ideas for what you would like to see changed or added,

please read section 6 below :-) If you are interested in a behind-the-scenes essay on the creation of this software, you may enjoy reading my blog entry here:

<http://schwansongs.blogspot.com/2013/02/a-whirlwind-of-words.html>

6. Future Features, What's Next?

What new things will be added to this software? Some of that is up to you, the user of this software. Feel free to let me know what features you would most like to see, and I will collect your requests and work on adding the most-requested features into future updates. I have had many people suggest new features or changes, and most of them are now added. Please send your suggestions, critiques, or kudos to note@schwansongs.com or schwansongs@gmail.com

Here are some features that are already on my to-do list. Tell me which you want to see!

- Better workflow/automation support for making puzzle books (coming in 5.0!)
- Localize this application into multiple languages.
- Define your own puzzle shapes (coming in 5.0!)
- Choose other grid line styles/patterns.
- Other export formats and options.
- Add more alphabets/languages.
- Publish more secret "easter egg" features.
- Make an iPhone/iPad "game" that interactively plays these puzzles.
- Have built-in themed word-lists that can be auto-loaded (in each language.)
- Make a "universal language" option to mix multiple languages in one puzzle.



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