

Whirlwind WordSearch

Press Kit Guide

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Overview

Whirlwind WordSearch is an easy-to-use and powerful Macintosh-based word search puzzle maker.

It creates word search puzzles from a user's lists of words... in many shapes, sizes, colors and languages.

The final puzzles (and their answer keys) can be exported as high-quality PDF or PNG image files, ready to copy to a word processor for re-printing in books, newsletters, social media/blogs, or classroom handouts. They can also be exported to SVG format for web display or importing into other exotic software applications.

The generated puzzles are copyright/royalty-free. The user can re-publish the puzzles for their own use, with no requirement for licensing or even referencing Whirlwind WordSearch as the software used.

There are many free word search products on the web, but they have limited formatting and size options, and often do not scan the final puzzle for accidentally-added naughty words, which makes them *not* classroom-safe. Whirlwind WordSearch is way ahead of the competition with its support of “naughty-word-squashing” in all its supported languages, as well as easy adjustment of difficulty levels, many fun shapes, and the ability to open and save all your created puzzle documents, behaving just like a word processor.

Reviewer - Free Promo Code

Please feel free to request a “Promo Code” from me if you wish to receive a free fully-functioning version of the software to review. <mailto:note@schwansongs.com>

Requirements/Pricing/Info

Product Name: Whirlwind WordSearch

Hardware/Software Requirements: Runs on a Macintosh, Intel or Apple Silicon, under Mac OS 10.12 or newer.

Price: \$19.99 USD, and a separate free “Lite” version also available

Latest Version: version 4.6.3, released January 2023

Download: The software is available on the Apple App Store, and there is a free “Lite” version available as well, with a reduced set of features. The Lite version is available both on the Apple App Store and directly downloadable from the Product Web Page. See enclosed “FeatureComparison.png” chart to review the feature differences between the full and lite versions.

Feature List

- Easily customize your puzzles, choosing different colors, fonts, and sizes for the puzzle letters and titles. Choose to draw cell grid lines or not, or just draw an outline around the puzzle.
- Choose from many built-in puzzle shapes: Square, Rectangle, Circle, Heart, Diamond, Bow-tie, Pinwheel, X, Plus-sign, Checkers, UL-Wedge, LL-Wedge, UR-Wedge, LR-Wedge, Square-hole, Donut, Crescent, Cross, Onion Dome, Right-Arrow, Left-Arrow, Up-Arrow, Down-Arrow, Up-Triangle, Down-Triangle, 4-Clover, Square-Peg, Round-Hole, Mushroom, Pentagon, Hexagon, Octagon, Trapezoid, Chevron-Up, Chevron-Down, Chevron-Left, Chevron-Right, 4-star, 5-star, 6-star, Oval-Easy, Oval-Up.
- Create puzzles ranging in size from 4-by-4 up to 50-by-50 letters (that's a lot of words!)
- Create puzzles with words in English, Numbers (Arabic), Catalan, Czech, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese-Hiragana, Japanese-Katakana, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Sanskrit-Latin, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Welsh.
- There are two difficulty modes, "Basic" and "Advanced". "Basic Difficulty Mode" lets you simply move a slider from "very easy" puzzles to "very hard" puzzles, without worrying about all the details of how it works. For more control, "Advanced Difficulty Mode" lets you control each of the fine-grained parameters yourself.
- All created puzzles are yours to use and publish and make money with, no copyright restrictions or restrictive "commercial use" clauses!
- Export high-quality puzzles and answer keys to a number of different file formats for web, newsletters, worksheets, books, or other publications: PDF, PNG, JPEG, SVG, TEXT, ipuz
- Show "word clue" phrases instead of the words themselves, to make puzzles even more challenging.
- Add a "secret message" into your puzzle, which will be inserted between your words as a secondary puzzle to solve.
- Add "hidden words" into your puzzle that are not shown in the word list or answer key (for adding copyrights or extra credit words.)
- You can use compound-words (Blue Jay), words with apostrophes (O'Hara), or use entire phrases (May The Force Be With You).
- Extend the built-in naughty word list with your own extra words, which will be removed from any puzzles if found in the random letters.
- Add your own "permanent hidden words", which will always be added to any word search puzzles you make. Perfect for adding your name or company name as a "watermark" to all your puzzles.
- Pour lots of words into your word list. Whirlwind WordSearch will automatically figure out how to make a puzzle from as many words as it can and tell you which ones it left out.

- Automatically finds and removes randomly-generated "naughty" words in any of your chosen languages.
- Supports Dark Mode and Full-Screen mode.
- Work without a net... you never need an internet connection to create, save, and print your puzzles.
- Save your puzzle files, and open them again later to instantly create whole new puzzles, or share them with other Whirlwind WordSearch users.
- Comprehensive User Guide contains 50+ pages of tutorials and tips and describes every option, getting you up-to-speed right away. Advanced features are explained, helping you create high-quality and personalized puzzles.

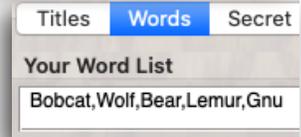
Quick Usage Tutorial

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.

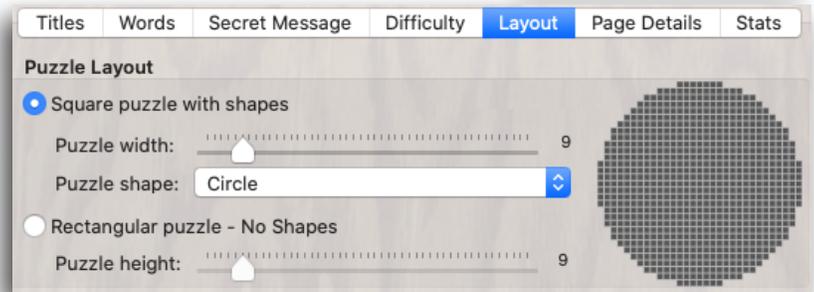
1. **Title:** Click the "Titles" tab, and type in a title of "Zoo Field Trip - Furry Mammals".



2. **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 spaces or commas: **Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, Lemur, Gnu**



3. **Layout:** Click the "Layout" tab next, and type in a title of "Zoo Field Trip - Furry Mammals". Your longest word (Bobcat) is 6 letters long, which means your "puzzle size" must be at least 6 letters or bigger. So, set the "Puzzle width" slider to 10, and choose a "Circle" Puzzle Shape.



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

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

6. **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!



Testimonials

These are copied from recent reviews on the App Store:

Very happy! - The software is tremendously increasing my workflow. It is creating fantastic word search puzzle for different puzzle makers with different requirements! Love it.

Fantastic - Thank you. From what I've seen, it's the best on the market. I like that I can keep my creations on my computer. With other software online, you don't know if the puzzles you create are captured and resold. I'd like to pay more money to have more puzzle types, like crosswords, soduko, etc. added. The attention to detail is impeccable. Thank you again.

Top Software - A great Tool to create puzzles. I worked with it for some time and I like especially the easy handling and the shortcuts to export the puzzles to word. Absolute Buy-Recommendation! Viele Funktionen und sehr einfach zu bedienen. Auch die Shortcuts für den Export sind sehr praktisch. Absolute Kaufempfehlung!

A++ Great Program Highly Recommended - was looking for a program to write word searches and decided to check the app store and was surprised to find this program. It didn't have many reviews, but what was there was positive and it was not expensive, so I took a chance. I couldn't be happier with my decision. The program is very easy to use. You just enter the words that you want and it creates a word search with a list of words, and it also creates a solution. You can export that in PDF format or as text. You can adjust everything- the size of the grid, whether the words are uppercase or lower, the difficulty of the puzzle, etc. Puzzles can be anywhere from very easy with just horizontal and vertical words to the most difficult puzzles, which would have words going in all directions and diagonals, crossing each other, and having the random letters throughout the grid that are similar to the letters in the search words, making it difficult to find the real search terms. I had to contact the developer to ask how to do something and he responded promptly, and I had overlooked part of the user guide. Very easy. Great price. Great service. A++

Perfect - I've been looking for a program that would let me create my own word searches for a long time and I am so happy for this one! The app works perfectly and allows for quite a bit of customization (you can even copy the word search puzzle image and the word list separately into a word processor.) I love the different difficulty settings which control things such as how many directions the words can go in and whether or not there are randomly generated fake-outs with partial words from your list. The different shapes the puzzles can take give them a fresh, fun look. You can even include a hidden message inside the puzzle which is fun to discover. This app also has some of the best customer support I've ever seen. I had a problem with something and the developer emailed me back personally and quickly with multiple ways I could fix it and now everything is perfect. There is also an extensive user guide. The word searches look professional when printed, like something I would have copied from a book. I would definitely recommend this app and this developer.

Useful Links

Product Web Page Link

<http://www.schwansongs.com/whirlwind/>

AppStore Links

Macintosh Version:

Full: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/whirlwind-wordsearch/id594336686?ls=1&mt=12>

Lite: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/whirlwind-wordsearch/id1491642640?ls=1&mt=12>

Promo Video Link (older version)

<http://youtu.be/exdQBjJvGo4>

FAQs

- *Can I make my own puzzle book with these puzzles and sell the book without royalty or copyright issues?*
- Yes you can... Any puzzles you create using Whirlwind WordSearch are completely yours to give away or sell, no royalty payments or copyrights on your puzzles, you don't even need to mention this software.
- *Is this an interactive game I play on the computer?* - No, this is software that will generate PDF or printed puzzles and their solutions.
- *Can I save the puzzles as PDF files instead of printing them?* - Yes you can... Open your puzzle in Whirlwind WordSearch and click the "Print" button, and from the Print dialog, near the bottom is a popup menu. Choose "Save as PDF" from there, and it will write it as a PDF file to your computer. Or, choose the "File:Export:" menu and choose to export just the puzzle, or answer key, or both to PDF file.
- *Can I export the puzzles as text and import them as tables, to add my own formatting?* - Yes you can... Open your puzzle in Whirlwind WordSearch and choose "Copy as Text" from the Edit menu, and paste into your word processor, and convert the tab-delimited puzzle and answer into a table, and format it. Or, choose the "File:Export:" menu and choose to export just the puzzle, or answer key, or both to a text file.
- *If I save a wordsearch puzzle document, then later re-open it, will it keep the same word layout?* - Yes, if you open a saved document, it will be laid out exactly the same way that you saved it. The only exception to this is if you open a document that was saved in an older version of the software, for example, opening a document created with version 3.0 using Whirlwind 4.0. So many features and advanced settings changed that it cannot exactly re-create the older layout.
- *Can I use a multi-word phrase as a single "word" entry?* - Yes. You can add phrases like "may the force be with you", or compound words like "Blue Jay. Simply add each multi-word phrase on its

own separate line in the word list box. You can also paste in a list of words and phrases, and as long as each "item" is separated by a comma, it will be seen as a single word item.

About

SchwanSongs - The Company

SchwanSongs is a sole-proprietor-operated company, operated by myself, Eduard Schwan. I specialize in writing Macintosh and iOS software for education and entertainment.

Eduard Schwan - The Author

I spent my first lifetime in San Diego California, USA, writing various kinds of software including educational, language translation, tax preparation, and video/photo editing, as well as raising children and publishing a computer graphics book.

I am now enjoying my second lifetime with my wife, surrounded by eagles and owls in the forests of Washington State. I am busily writing and publishing my own software and books, composing music, making music videos, photographing wildlife, perfecting his home-roasted coffee, traveling and exploring, and still learning and creating new things every day.

Contact Me

I have endeavored to offer as much information as I can think of here, but I may have missed something you need... please don't hesitate to e-mail me and I will answer any questions you may have!

Please contact me at:

Eduard Schwan, Sole Proprietor

e-mail: note@schwansongs.com or schwansongs@gmail.com

web: www.schwansongs.com