

Co:Writer

Using Topic Dictionaries

Assistive Technology Training Online

University at Buffalo - The State University of New York
USDE# H324M980014
<http://at-training.com>

Activity

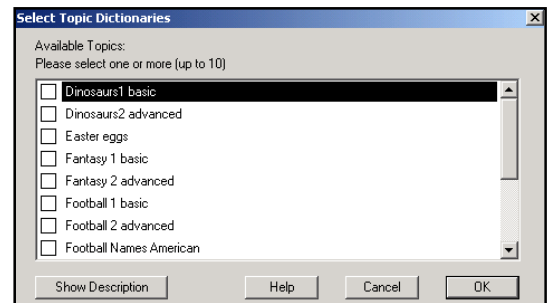
In addition to the Main Dictionary and the Personal and Collected Words Dictionaries, Co:Writer can draw its guesses from one or more Topic Dictionaries. A Topic Dictionary is one that has been created to add or boost the guesses for words and names on a particular theme.

Learn to use the Topic Dictionaries included with Co:Writer, add words to existing Topic Dictionaries to customize them to meet your needs and create new dictionaries based on topics that are not included with Co:Writer. Finally, discover where to find additional Topic Dictionaries to download from the Internet.

Instructions

1. Select a Topic Dictionary

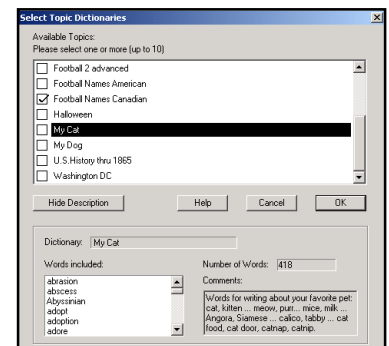
- From the **Dictionaries Menu** select **Topic Dictionaries**. In the **Select Topic Dictionaries** dialog box, you will see a list of available topic dictionaries.



- Click **Show Description** to display more information on the topic dictionary, including a sample word list, number of words and a description of the dictionary.

Note: The **Words Included** field displays only the first 100 words in the selected topic dictionary. Use the **Topic Dictionary Toolkit** or **Dictionary Editor** to see the entire word list.

- Click the checkbox next to the topic you want to select. You can select up to ten Topic Dictionaries.
- Select **OK** to accept your choice. Active Topic Dictionaries will be stored as part of your writer file. Co:Writer will automatically load them until you de-select (uncheck) them in the **Select Topic Dictionaries** dialog.



- Try It!
- From the **Dictionaries Menu** choose **Select Topic Dictionary**.
- Select **My Cat**. Click **OK**.
- Type the letter **K**. You should notice that Co:Writer quickly begins predicting topic-specific words.



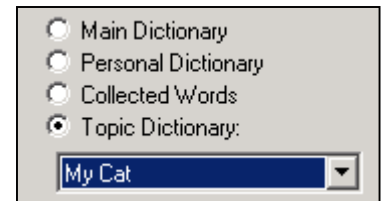
- Because you chose a topic dictionary, Co:Writer assumes you intend to write about the topic, and boosts the frequency score of the words in the topic dictionary.

2. Edit an Existing Topic Dictionary

You may want to edit an existing topic dictionary to change the number of words included in that topic. You can do this two ways:

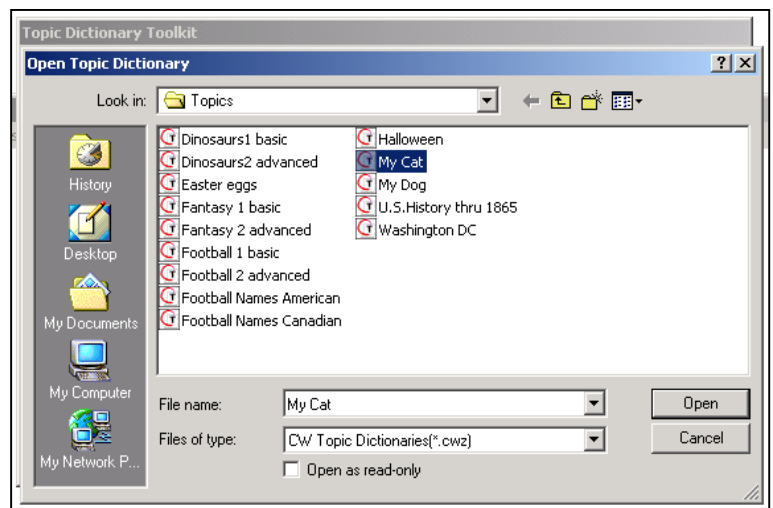
To Edit Active Topic Dictionaries:

- Select **Edit Active Dictionaries** from the **Dictionaries** menu.
- Select **Topic Dictionaries** from the dialog box and pull down the arrow to select Topic Dictionary you would like to edit.
- Edit your dictionary in the same manner you edit your Collected Words Dictionary. Remember to save your work before clicking **Done**.



To Edit Any Topic Dictionary:

- Select **Topic Dictionary Toolkit** from the **Dictionaries** menu.
- Select **Open** to open your list of Topic Dictionaries. Choose the dictionary you would like to edit by clicking on it once. Click **Open**.
- Select **Edit Dictionary**, and edit your dictionary in the same manner you edit your Collected Words Dictionary. Remember to save your work before clicking **Done**.



3. Creating a New Topic Dictionary

Customized dictionaries let teachers and students create a list of topic specific words that directly relate to subjects covered in the curriculum, or, of special interest to students.

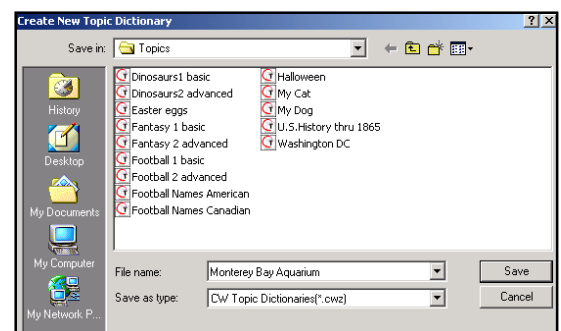
Creating your own Topic Dictionary can be done in a variety of ways, depending on the size of the topic and the materials you have on hand. All involve the **Topic Dictionary Toolkit**. To create new Topic Dictionaries you can:

Toolkit. To create new Topic Dictionaries you can:

- Enter words by hand
- Import a list
- Import a text file
- Download new Topic Dictionaries from the Internet
- Share Topic Dictionaries with colleagues

Enter Words by Hand. If a limited number of words are involved, you can use the Toolkit Editor to enter the words by hand.

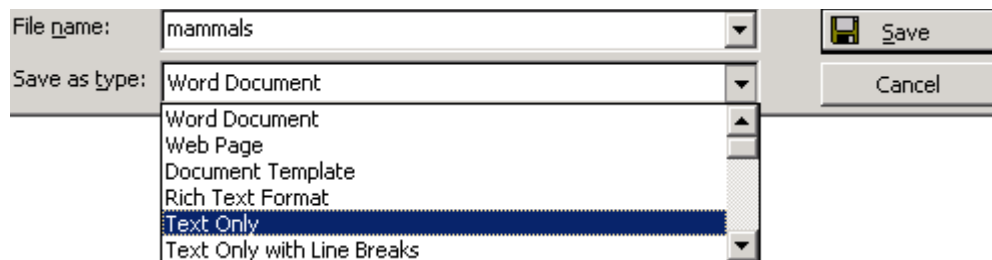
- Select **Topic Dictionary Toolkit** (Dictionaries menu).
- Click **New**.
- Enter a name for the new dictionary. Click **Save**.
- Type a brief description in the **Comments** field.
- Click **Edit Dictionary**.
- Type the word in the **Word** field.
- Click **Add Word** or press **Return**.
- **Try It!** Make a **Topic Dictionary** of 15-20 words.



- Your students are excited about the new class pet, a hamster. You can enter the name of the pet, its food and its characteristics.
- A fire prevention specialist spoke to your class — you took notes during her talk and jotted down key words, to help your students write a report.
- Your class took a field trip to the local aquarium — you want to enter the name of the aquarium and the names of the most popular creatures.
- Continue adding words until you are done. Click **Save** periodically if you are adding lots of words.
- When you are finished, click **Save** to save your dictionary and click **Done**.
- If you want the topic dictionary to be active, click **Yes** at the prompt. If you do not, click **No**.

Import a List. If you don't have a text file, but you have created a list of the words you want from printed sources and/or your own knowledge of the topic, Co:Writer can import the list for you.

- Create a list of 10 mammals in a word processing document and save it. In the **Save as type:** box, pull down the menu and select **Text Only**. Click **Save**.



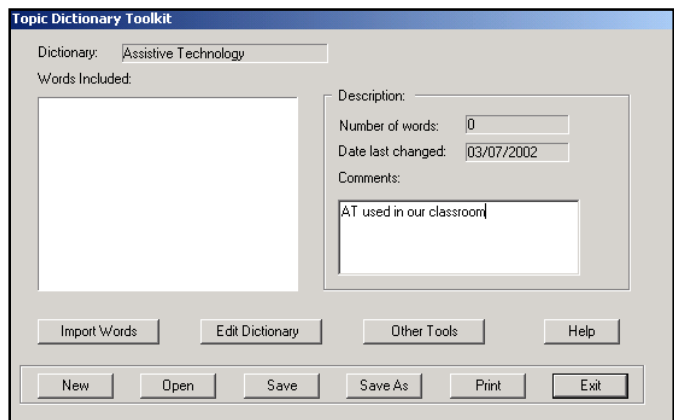
- “ Wake Up” Co:Writer by pressing the +/- key and select **Topic Dictionary Toolkit** from the **Dictionaries** menu.
- Click **New**.
- Enter a name for the new dictionary, Mammals.

- Type a brief description in the **Comments** field.
- Click **Import Words**.
- Select **Import words from a list**.
- Click **OK**.
- Locate your text file.
- Click **Open**.
- Click **Import**.
- If you want the topic dictionary to be active, click **Yes**. If you do not, click **No**.
- When you are finished, click **Exit**.

Import a Text File. If you have a text file (you must save the document as **Text Only**) on a desired topic, you can you can have Co:Writer import words from the text file for you.

- Select **Topic Dictionary Toolkit** from the **Dictionaries** menu.

- Click **New**
- Enter a name for the new dictionary. Click **Save**.
- Type a brief description in the **Comments** field.



- Click **Import Words**.
- Select **Import words from text**. Click **OK**.
- Locate the text file to be imported, then click **Open**.
- Click **Import**. When you are finished, click **Exit**.

- If you want the topic dictionary to be active, click **Yes**. If you do not, click **No**.

Note: Documents and lists to be imported must be saved as Text or Text Only (.txt) files.

Download Topic Dictionaries from Don Johnston.

- Click on the Don Johnston link or paste the web address into your browser.
<http://www.donjohnston.com/>
- On the left side of the web page, select **Our Downloads**. Select the Topic Dictionaries you would like to download by choosing **American English, British English** or **Start To Finish Titles**.
- Choose the dictionaries you would like to download by clicking once on a topic. Select **Mac** for Macintosh, or **Win** for PC.

Share Topic Dictionary Files

- Simply copy your topic dictionary to a floppy disk or compact disk. It will automatically save it in the proper file format.