

WriteOnline

Update. January 2012.

To support learning how to use the Write Online mind-mapping option, WorkSpace, Crick has added **pdf guides**. These may be accessed even if you do not have the program and make a good introduction to making a mind-map.

Update. May 2010.

Words in the WriteOnline predictor, the Wordbars and the spellchecker are now all speech supported.

WriteOnline from Cricksoft now includes additional new features such as **Workspace** where concept maps and diagrams can be created easily. These fully integrate with the program to help support the writing process. Available by online subscription, but can also be installed directly on to your computer if preferred.

WriteOnline v1.6 was new in December 2010. It includes a number of enhancements. See the list of upgrades for each version on **Cricksoft web.Excellent 90 second videos** show how teachers can customise the software for pupils' needs.

BDA Contact magazine. May 2008. Page 35.



WriteOnline



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Imagine a situation where a Dyslexic learner needs I.C.T. tools to help them read and write information.

We have many excellent I.C.T. tools and programs available for use at school, at home or at work. However, a key problem for many users of I.C.T. is that the tools they need may only be available at home or on school computers but not both. The tools themselves vary according to the situation. Users often wish such tools were available in any situation such as school, library, college or internet cafe. This is where WriteOnLine ticks more boxes than many similar products. It offers a range of useful I.C.T. tools, but, as the name suggests, it is available to anyone with a user account, where they can access the internet. It is even available off line for a limited period so users can continue their work, for example if it had been started on a laptop that then has no internet access whilst on a journey. For those not at schools or colleges where Write On Line user accounts are available, home user licenses can be purchased.

The nature of this online program means it can be regularly updated and upgraded automatically without any additional effort from the user.

Write OnLine combines key tools to help many with learning needs in the area of written information. Tools can be selected and personalised to meet a wide range of needs. These include a Word processor, an onscreen wordbank and text prediction all with speech support. The wordprocessor resembles a cut down version of MS Word, but with the added bonus of full speech support highlighting words as they are spoken. This enables users to not only hear what they have written but can copy and paste information they need to access as well.

The toolbar can be customised to suit the user with common tools such as highlighters and undo. A key tool available for use with the word processor, especially when using technical vocabulary or complex phrases, is a version of the popular Wordbar already available from Cricksoft. Wordbars are tabular on screen wordbanks of useful vocabulary and phrases that sit neatly at the bottom of the screen.

Predicted words from keystrokes can again be entered into the text saving typing and spelling concerns and enabling the user to write at speed.

Users will choose the tools most useful to them and may like only one of the options at one time, the Wordbar or the predictive text. However if a Wordbar is open, but hidden on the screen, the predictor will automatically predict words from the technical vocabulary in that Wordbar as well as from the lexicon used, offering yet further options to users who want to limit the tools on screen.

Like any word processor, all documents can be saved or copied into other applications such as MS Word.

For teachers and pupils there is also an additional side bar where each can add notes, as a way of additional information. Teachers can also add comments that can be signposted within the document text, so the user can see where the comment relates to their work. Teachers can also see where a great deal of copying and pasting has occurred enabling them to comment on possible plagiarism if suspected.

In its current format WriteOnline offers tools and flexibility that will not only help the Dyslexic user but many who need I.C.T. tools wherever they are typing text.

Whilst there are some preferred features that are not currently available such as background colour option, spoken spellchecker and teacher comments, these will no doubt be added as a seamless upgrade to all users in the near future.

Write on Line is available from Cricksoft www.cricksoft.com