

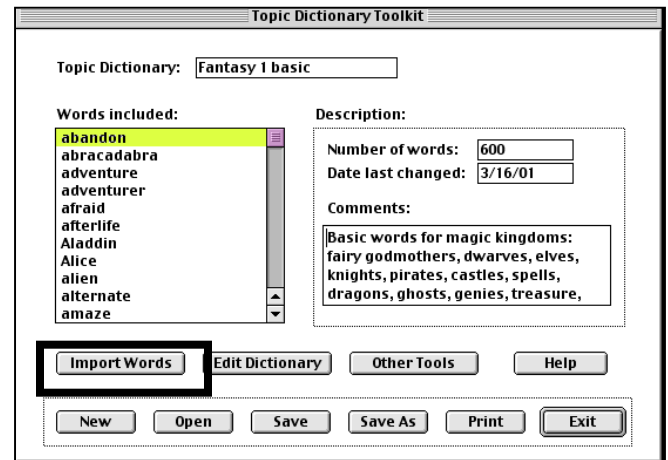
Co:Writer: Creating a New Topic Dictionary

(Adapted from the Co:Writer (Don Johnston, Inc.) Help File)

To assist in writing, a word prediction program can be used to make writing more efficient. Co-Writer is such a program that works with any word processing program. To ensure the words in the dictionary are relevant to the topic, customized dictionaries on different topics can be created from txt files. Creating your own Topic Dictionaries can be done in a variety of ways, depending on the size of the topic and the materials you have on hand. All involve using the Topic Dictionary Toolkit. To use the Topic Dictionary Toolkit, select Topic Dictionary Toolkit from the Dictionaries Menu.

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

2. If you have a text file on the topic, such as a news article, articles from the Internet, or the text file of a public domain story, you can have Co:Writer **Import Words** from the text file.



3. If you don't have a text file, but from printed sources and/or your own knowledge of the topic, you can create a list of the words you want in a word processor document, Co:Writer can import the list.

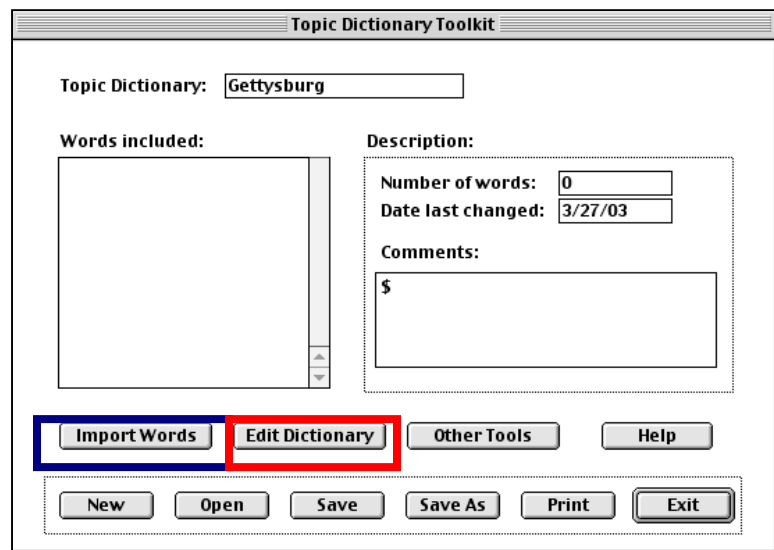
To start a new Topic Dictionary:

1. With MS Word and Co:Writer open, select Topic Dictionary Toolkit from the Dictionaries Menu. To open an existing Topic Dictionary, click Open, then select the dictionary from the scrolling list.

2. Click on New and enter a name (Gettysburg) for the new dictionary.



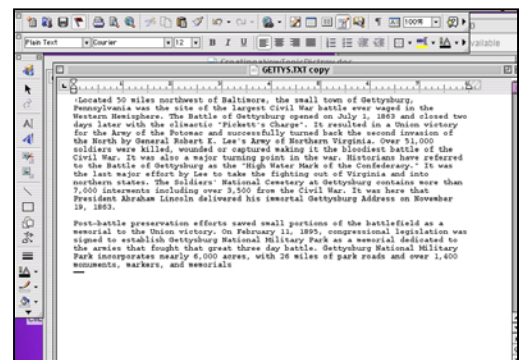
3. To enter words, click the **Edit Dictionary** button in the Toolkit dialog (to enter words by hand) or click on Import Words to import words from a text file or word list. **Import Words** lets you build a dictionary from a text file, which can be paragraphs of text (see Importing Text) or a simple word list (see Importing a Word List).



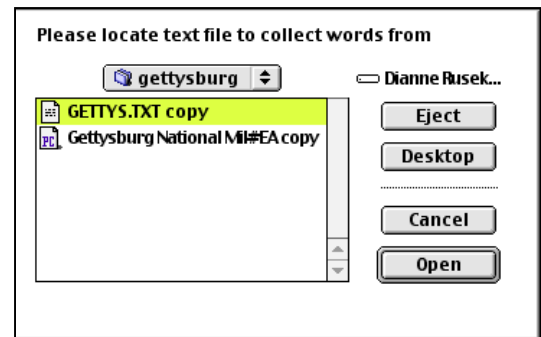
4. You can collect words to include in the topic dictionary from a txt file. This requires that you locate or create a file and “save as” a txt file. You must then save it in either Co Writer’s text or writer file folders. This is what we are going to do to create the Gettysburg dictionary.

NOTE: We had previously located information on Gettysburg through the Internet. Please see the **Developing a Text Document Addendum** for directions on how to change a document or internet site into workable text.

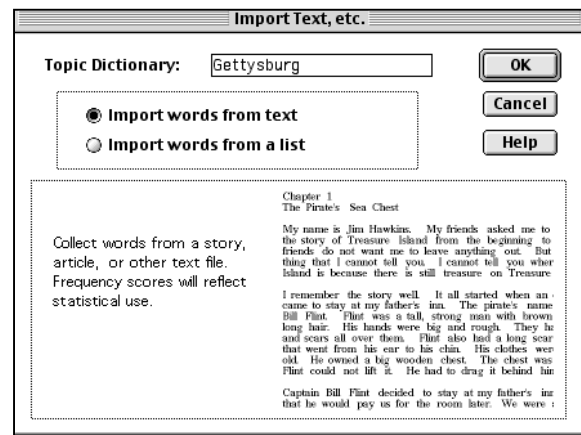
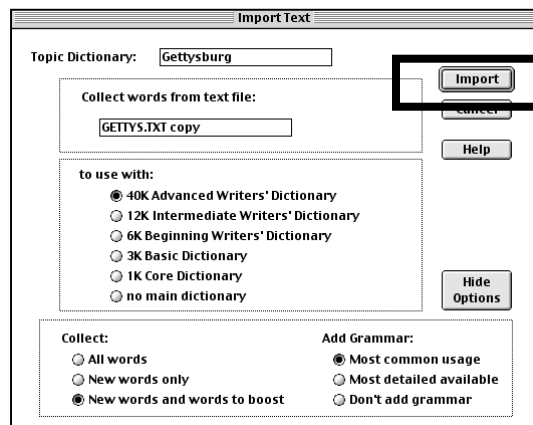
The text from the Gettysburg Battleground website was copied and pasted into a new MS Word document. It was “saved as” a plain text format in the Gettysburg folder within the AT folder on your desktop. (gettysburg.txt)



From the Dictionary Toolkit window, select Open.
From the desktop open the AT folder and then the Gettysburg folder. Select the Gettysburg.txt file to open.



Several options are provided in selecting the number and type of words from the text to be added to the dictionary. Select the options that you want. Click on Import.



The program selected 25 words from the text. You can then select **Edit Dictionary** to review the list and add/remove any of the words.

Let's Try It! As a student begins writing, words from the Gettysburg topical dictionary appear as choices.

