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About Ultimate Language Tutor

The Ultimate Language Tutor is a vocabulary learning and testing system which helps students of Spanish, French, German or Italian improve their vocabulary knowledge. New vocabulary, verb conjugations, and phrases can be learned using an automated flashcard system. Once the student has mastered the new vocabulary, there are various tests available to test vocabulary proficiency. Any missed words or phrases can be reviewed automatically. Test scores can be saved to show results and progress. With the registered version, users can add their own vocabulary libraries.

Language Libraries Available

There are pre-made libraries available for Spanish, French, German and Italian. The Library Builder which comes with the Registered version of the Ultimate Language Tutor allows you to create vocabulary libraries for any or all of the above languages. With the registered version you also receive an additional pre-made library in the language you register. For example, if you Register the Spanish Ultimate Language Tutor (also called Ultimate Spanish), you will receive an expanded library of Spanish vocabulary words and the library builder which allows you to create your own vocabulary libraries.

The language libraries are set up to allow learning, testing and review of a fixed number of vocabulary words. Each language library may contain from 0 to 102 each of nouns, verbs, verb conjugations, misc. words, and phrases. Most students choose to create a different library file for each week's or chapter's vocabulary list. Once the words in one library are mastered, other libraries are created.

System Requirements

Hardware Requirements

- n IBM Compatible Computer with an 80286 or higher microprocessor
- n EGA, VGA, Super VGA, XGA, 8514/A or compatible graphics card
- n Mouse

Software Requirements

- n MS-DOS 3.1 or higher operating system
- n MS-Windows 3.0 or higher version of Windows

Changing Settings

Settings can be changed from the main menu. Options preceded by a check mark are active.

Test Type Setting

There are two kinds of tests, multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank. The multiple choice test is the easier of the two. You may wish to use the multiple choice test as a pre-test and the fill-in-the-blank test as the real thing. When you set the test type to multiple choice, you are given a word or phrase which you must match with one of the four choices which appear on-screen. When the test type is set to fill-in-the-blank, you are given a word or phrase, and you must type in the corresponding answer.

Language Setting

There are two possible language settings, English to Language and Language to English (Language=either Spanish, French, German or Italian). If the language setting is English to Language, then during the test you will be given an English word or phrase, and you will be required to type-in (or choose for the multiple choice test) the matching answer in the language you are studying. If you have the language setting set to Language to English, then the test will work in just the opposite way.

Sound Setting

You can toggle sound to on or off. When sound is set on, the sound option will be marked with a check mark.

Multiple Choice

The multiple choice test is the easier of the two test types. You may wish to use the multiple choice test as a pretest which helps to build your familiarity with a vocabulary list.

Loading a language library

Before you take a test, you must load a language library. Select "File" from the main menu. Then choose "Load a Library." This brings up a file directory box. Choose the library you wish to load by clicking on its name and then clicking on the "OK" button. If you have loaded a valid Ultimate language library file, it will load into memory. To begin the test, choose "Test" from the main menu and then select either Nouns, Verbs, Verb Conjugation, Misc. Vocabulary or Phrases depending on the type of vocabulary you wish to test.

How it works

You are given a word or phrase from the library you chose. Depending on the language settings, the given word or phrase will be in either English or the language you are studying. You are presented with four choices, one of which is a correct translation of the word or phrase given above.

Entering your answer

You can use either the mouse or the keyboard to enter your answer. If you are using a mouse, simply click on the correct answer from the four choices provided. If you are using the keyboard, use the TAB key to cycle through the choices until the correct answer is highlighted and press the ENTER key to select it.

Scoring

Each time you choose the correct answer, the on-screen counter increases the "Correct" counter by one. To avoid distracting you unnecessarily, there is no sound made when you score a correct answer. If you choose an incorrect answer, there is an audible beep (if sound is set on) to alert you that you that a "Learning opportunity" has occurred. If you make a mistake, a box will pop-up on the screen that allows you to review the correct answer.

Fill in the Blank

Loading a language library

Before you take a test, you must load a language library. Select "File" from the main menu. Then choose "Load a Library." This brings up a file directory box. Choose the library you wish to load by clicking on its name and then clicking on the "OK" button. If you have loaded a valid Ultimate language library file, it will load into memory. To begin the test, choose "Test" from the main menu and then select either Nouns, Verbs, Verb Conjugation, Misc. Vocabulary or Phrases depending on the type of vocabulary you wish to test.

How it works

You are given a word or phrase from the library you chose. Depending on the language settings, the given word or phrase will be in either English or the language you are studying. You must type in the correct translation of the word given above.

Entering your answer

You use a combination of the mouse and keyboard to enter your answer. You must use your mouse to select from the "special characters" if the word or phrase you are entering requires one. For example if the word you are entering has an "é" in it, you must click on that special character's button. Typing a regular "e" would result in an incorrect answer. If you maximize the test window's size, you will notice that a representation of a computer keyboard appears on the screen. You can click the buttons on this keyboard to enter your answers without having to use the keyboard at all, but it will probably require more time to enter your answer using this method.

Scoring

Each time you choose the correct answer, the on-screen counter increases the "Correct" counter by one. To avoid distracting you unnecessarily, there is no sound made when you score a correct answer. If you choose an incorrect answer, there is an audible beep (if sound is set on) to alert you that you that a "Learning opportunity" has occurred. If you make a mistake, a box will pop-up on the screen that allows you to review the correct answer.

Saving Test Scores

After taking a test, you will be asked if you wish to save the test results. If you choose to save the test results choose "Yes." If you choose to save the test results, a window will pop-up on your screen. If your name already appears in this window, then simply highlight your name by clicking on it once. Then all you need to do to save your test score is to click on the "Save" button. If you change your mind, simply click on the "Cancel" button and your test score will not be saved.

Adding your name

If this is your first time to save a test score, your name will not appear in the list box of user names. Adding your name to the list is very easy. Simply click on the "Add" button. This will bring up a small text box on the bottom of the window. Type in your full name and press Enter. This will instantly add your to the list box. Then highlight your name by clicking on it once and click on the "Save" button to save your test score.

Viewing Test Scores

You can view your test scores by selecting "View Test Scores" from the "File" menu.

Reviewing your scores

When you choose "View Test Scores" from the "File" menu, a window will pop-up on the screen that shows the results from your saved test scores. If you have saved several test scores, you may have to use the scroll bars to view your more recent test scores. For each test score saved, the date of the test, the name of the library file used, the vocabulary type (Nouns, Verbs, etc.), the number of correct answers, the number of incorrect answers, and the percentage correct are displayed. At the bottom of the window, your overall number of correct, incorrect, percentage correct, and rating are displayed.

Ratings

Your rating is based on one point for each correct answer from all tests saved minus two points for each incorrect answer from all tests.

Top 10 Students

To view the ratings of the top ten students, choose "Top 10 Students" from the "File" menu. If only one person uses this copy of the Ultimate Language Tutor, then only one name will appear on the top ten list.

Ratings

The top ten ranking is based on a simple rating system. For each student all correct and incorrect answers are calculated by adding the scores from all the saved tests taken by each student. A student's rating is based on awarding one point for each correct answer and subtracting two points for each incorrect answer. This formula awards a student for both a high percentage of correct answers and for high level of usage. To achieve a high rating and ranking, a student must show both a high level of quality of work (a high percentage of correct answers) and a large quantity of work (a large number of tests taken).

Adding a New Language Library

With the registered version of the Ultimate Language Tutor you get a built-in library builder utility. With the library builder you can create a new library file or edit an existing library. A library file can contain up to 102 sets of each of the vocabulary types (Nouns, Verbs, Verb Conjugation, Misc. Vocabulary or Phrases). Many students prefer to create a number of relatively small library files. If you are studying a language and using a text book, you may wish to create a separate library file for each chapter of the book. You may wish to simply enter all the new vocabulary words in the chapter under Misc. Vocabulary, add conjugations for all the verbs in the chapter's vocabulary list to Verb Conjugation, and add a number of phrases introduced in the chapter under the Phrases category.

To add a new language library, select "Add a New Library" from the "Build" menu. You will be asked whether you actually want to add a new library verses editing an existing library. Answer yes by clicking on the "Yes" button. You will then be asked to enter a name for the library file you will create. The name can be up to eight characters long. You should choose a name which is descriptive like "Spanish", "French1", "Vocab2" or "Week7."

If you enter a valid library name which doesn't already exist, a window will pop-up on your screen. In this window you will be prompted for the language of your new library file. Select either Spanish, French, German or Italian. You will then be prompted for the type of vocabulary you wish to enter first. Your choices are Nouns, Verbs, Verb Conjugation, Misc. Vocabulary or Phrases. For example: if you decide to add Verbs first when creating a new library file, you can later edit the library file and add additional verbs or other types of vocabulary (Nouns, Verb Conjugation, Misc. Vocabulary or Phrases).

For each word you add to the library file, you type the English form of the word or phrase, press ENTER, type the translation of the word or phrase in the language you are studying, and hit the ENTER key again. If you need to use the special characters, simply click on the button which corresponds to the needed special character.

When adding verb conjugations, you will notice that things work a little differently than explained above. For verb conjugations you add the infinitive form of the verb and then the first, second and third person singular forms of the verb and then the first, second and third person plural forms of the verb.

At any time during the process of adding new vocabulary to your newly created library file, you can edit the words already entered. Click on the "Edit" button. This will bring up a list box containing the words already added. If you have added a lot of words, you may need to use the scroll bar to get to the most recently added words. Highlight a word by clicking on it. You can then edit the entry by clicking the "Edit" button or delete the entry by clicking on the "Delete" button. When you are done editing, click on the "Done" button. You can then resume adding additional words or phrases.

After you have finished adding vocabulary to your newly created library, select "Save," and you will be returned to the main menu. If you wish to cancel, click on the "Cancel" button. Please note: if you select "Cancel," none of the words you have entered to the library will be saved. The library file will still exist, but it will be completely empty.

Editing a Language Library

With the registered version of the Ultimate Language Tutor you get a built-in library builder utility. With the library builder you can create a new library file or edit an existing library.

To edit an existing library file, select "Edit a Library" from the "Build" menu. You will be asked for the name of the file which you can select from the file directory list box which will pop-up on your screen. Select the library file you wish to edit by clicking on it and then clicking on the "OK" button. You will then be asked to choose from Nouns, Verbs, Verb Conjugations, Misc. Vocabulary or Phrases. Choose the vocabulary type you wish to edit by clicking on that choice.

For each word you add to the library file, you type the English form of the word or phrase, press ENTER, type the translation of the word or phrase in the language you are studying, and hit the ENTER key again. If you need to use the special characters, simply click on the button which corresponds to the needed special character.

When adding verb conjugations, you will notice that things work a little differently than explained above. For verb conjugations you add the infinitive form of the verb and then the first, second and third person singular forms of the verb and then the first, second and third person plural forms of the verb.

At any time during the process of adding new vocabulary to the library file you are editing, you can edit the words already entered. Click on the "Edit" button. This will bring up a list box containing the words already added. If you have added a lot of words, you may need to use the scroll bar to get to the most recently added words. Highlight a word by clicking on it. You can then edit the entry by clicking the "Edit" button or delete the entry by clicking on the "Delete" button. When you are done editing, click on the "Done" button. You can then resume adding additional words or phrases.

After you have finished adding vocabulary to the library you are editing, select "Save," and you will be returned to the main menu. If you wish to cancel, click on the "Cancel" button. Please note: if you select "Cancel," none of the words you have just added to the library will be saved. The library file will return to the original state it was in before you began to edit it.

Reviewing Missed Words

The Ultimate Language Tutor contains a very useful module designed to help you review and learn vocabulary both before and after test taking. After you take a test, you are given the opportunity to review any words you missed. The words you missed on the test are fed into the Learn module automatically.

The Learn module is a type of "flashcard" program. You start at the first word missed and study the word until the next word appears on the screen. You can set the time interval between words by clicking on the "Time Delay" button. This button is originally set at a ten second delay. The time delay can be set for from 1 to 60 seconds per word. If you need additional time, click on the "Pause" button (looks like this "|||"). To return to the time delay mode, click again on the "Pause" button. You can also move to the first word by clicking on the "<<<" button, to the previous word by clicking the "<" button, or to the next word by clicking the ">" button. You can quit the Learn module at any time by clicking on the "Quit" button.

Learning New Vocabulary

The Ultimate Language Tutor contains a very useful module designed to help you review and learn vocabulary both before and after test taking. To study a vocabulary list, you must first load a library file. Select "Load a Library" from the "File" menu. Choose the library file you wish to use from the file directory list. Then choose the vocabulary type you wish to review from the "Learn" menu. For example: if you wish to study Nouns, click on "Learn" from the main menu and then select "Nouns" from the "Learn" menu.

The Learn module is a type of "flashcard" program. You start at the first word of the vocabulary type selected and study the word until the next word appears on the screen. You can set the time interval between words by clicking on the "Time Delay" button. This button is originally set at a ten second delay. The time delay can be set for from 1 to 60 seconds per word. If you need additional time, click on the "Pause" button (looks like this "||"). To return to the time delay mode, click again on the "Pause" button. You can also move to the first word by clicking on the "<<<" button, to the previous word by clicking the "<" button, or to the next word by clicking the ">" button. You can quit the Learn module at any time by clicking on the "Quit" button.

What is Shareware?

This copy of the Ultimate Language Tutor is Shareware. You can evaluate this product for up to 30 days without obligation, however, if you plan to continue using it after 30 days, you must register.

The shareware version of the Ultimate Language Tutor is fully-functional. You can learn and test yourself with any of the words contained in the included language libraries. However, you must register this product to receive the library builder.

With the library builder available to registered users of the Ultimate Language Tutor, you can add or edit an unlimited number of language files. Registered users also receive an extra pre-made library of vocabulary in the language registered. Currently available languages are Spanish, French, German and Italian. Registered users get quite a lot for a mere \$20!

Millions of computer users have found shareware to be a very safe, fun and risk-free way to buy software. Independent shareware authors, like Ultimate Software, allow computer users to try out a program before buying it. Computer users can obtain a shareware copy of the Ultimate Language Tutor (or other shareware programs) for no-charge from a BBS or a friend, or for a small charge from a shareware disk vendor, retail store or flea market. If you find a shareware program to be useful and plan to continue using it after an evaluation period, then you are required to register it with the program's author.

Registration

There is an Ultimate Language Tutor version for Spanish, French, German and Italian any of which can be ordered for a mere \$20 (US funds). Please be sure to specify language and disk size when ordering. With registration you will receive a library builder which allows you to create an unlimited number of custom libraries with words and phrases of your own choosing. Registered users will also receive extra pre-made libraries for the language ordered.

Send \$20 to: Ultimate Software
P.O. Box 5015
Central Point, OR 97502

Or Phone: 1-800-925-3147 (US and Canada)
1-317-741-5331 (Other Countries)
1-317-286-3182 (FAX)

On-Line: CompuServe: 71203,1301
America On-Line: MarkC51

Payment can be made by check (US and Canada only), money order, VISA or MasterCard. We accept purchase orders from schools and government agencies only. All other parties must prepay.

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Tech Support

We have attempted to make the Ultimate Language Tutor to be as user-friendly as possible, however, if you do require assistance, there are several ways to contact us for product support. If you are calling to register your copy of the Ultimate Language Tutor, you can call our 800 order number. The staff that answers the order number can answer basic questions concerning the added benefits of the registered version verses the shareware. If you are calling for technical support, please do not call the 800 order line but call the technical support number below.

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Title

