KIDSPELL

KIDSPELL is a spelling program for children. KIDSPELL associates   a picture with   a word so that children can enjoy spelling words. KIDSPELL is a user-configurable spelling program.

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HOW TO PLAY

There are two ways to play, "Guess What" and "Spell This." The current mode is shown in the window caption.

Guess What !

A user types a word and hits <RETURN> key.   If the word is in the current word-list, then a picture associated with the word is shown.   If the word is not in the word-list, then a picture of   three question marks appears.

Spell This !

There are two options:random and sequential.   The option characterizes the way a picture is picked up from a word-list.

In either option, a picture is shown and a cursor is blinking. You type a word and hit <RETURN> key.   If the spelling is correct, then a picture with "GOOD" shows up and the next picture will come up. If the spelling is wrong, a picture of "WRONG" with a sad face appears and then the correct spelling will appear at the bottom so that you can type the word again. Until you have the correct spelling, the picture will not change.

HOW TO CUSTOMIZE

The best feature of KIDSPELL is that you can customize your word-list and associated bitmaps to your heart's content.

You can create a new word-list. You can customize the word-list by adding a word or deleting a word of a particular word-list.   For example, I included numbers.lis   for spelling numbers and alphabet.lis for just learning A,B,Cs on the keyboard.

Create a new word-list

For example, if you want to create your own word-list, then pick <Words> in the menu and then pick <Change the word-list>.   The dialog window shows up with the existing word-list files.   If   you type in a non-existing word-list and click <OK>, then a new word-list file with empty list will be created.   The word-list filename must end with ".lis". Note that the game option changes to "Guess What!"

Add a word to a word-list

First, you create a bitmap with a bitmap editor or Paintbrush which comes free as one of Windows accesories.   Or pick a bitmap among what you have. Remember that a bitmap will take space on your hard disk.   A reasonable size is 16 color x 72 pixel width x 72 pixel height.

A bitmap file must be in DIB format (Windows v3 format with .bmp extension). KIDSPELL can display a bitmap whose size is the limit of your machine's capability under Windows and up to 256 colors. KIDSPELL will expand a bitmap to fit the size of the KIDSPELL window. A bitmap whose size is bigger than the KIDSPELL window is shown only the part of it.

If you create a bitmap, you must save it   with extention .bmp in the subdirectory called "data" where you installed KIDSPELL.   If you want to use an existing bitmap, you must copy it in this subdirectory.   KIDSPELL will look only at this subdirectory to find a bitmap associated with a word.

Now start KIDSPELL and pick <Words> in the menu and then pick <Add a word>. You have the box for a new word, the box for a bitmap, and then the list of bitmaps in the subdirectory.   If you click one of the bitmaps, it will be in the bitmap name box.   Type a word you want to associate with and then click on <Done>.   You can view a shrinked bitmap in this dialog box.   Use the shrinked bitmap as only a reference, since a bitmap is sometimes garbled when reduced.

Delete a word from the list

Just pick <Words> in the menu and then pick <Delete a word>. You find a word box and a list of words in the current word-list. If you click on a word in the list box, then it is copied into a word box. Click <OK> to delete it.

Warning in customization

Do not remove kidspell.his, question.bmp, correct.bmp, and wrong.bmp. Without these files, KIDSPELL does not run.   If you do not like them, edit them.

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Please send me comments to my compuserve account. I will try to fix bugs and add more features in future.

You can distribute KIDSPELL to anybody, but you are not allowed to sell.

Please   encourage the author by sending a donation of one dollar.

Thank you.

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CompuServe [71320.1430]