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## Co Writer 6

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## Co Writer

Manufactured by: Don Johnson Special Needs Ltd. Language supported: English Only

### What is Co- Writer?

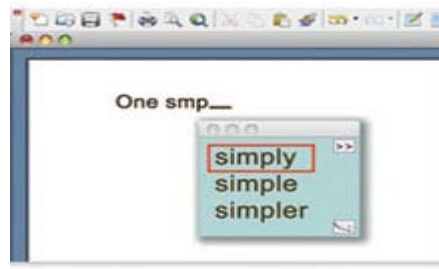
Co Writer 6 is an independent intelligent word prediction program that works with any program that accepts text. As you type Co Writer interprets spelling and grammar mistakes and offers word suggestions in real time. Co writer can team with any application including Microsoft Word, Outlook, Firefox, and Internet Explorer and supports many web based writing activities such as e-mail, blogging Face book and instant messaging.

### Who will benefit from Co Writer?

People who have bad handwriting or find it difficult to handwrite, students with dyslexia or who have difficulties with spelling, someone with a physical disabilities that makes typing difficult or someone who finds it difficult to put their thoughts in to writing.

## Features

- Word Prediction
- Personal Dictionaries
- Topic Dictionaries
- Flexspell
- Word Bank
- Speech anywhere



Word prediction helps alleviate the physical and cognitive stress of text generation. For people who fatigue or who have a physical disability or short term injury Co Writer reduces the number of keystrokes required to complete a word .Word prediction reduces the time it takes to complete a sentence. A writer has the time to concentrate on the quality of the writing and not worry about the mechanics of key entry. Flexspell is equipped with thousands of phonetic spelling patterns, this accommodates students who spell words like they sound. It can be set to predict a word after just one letter has been typed e.g. u will predict you, or after more than one letter e.g. let predicts letter.

The personal dictionary allows a user to add words and phrases that are relevant to them, such as names and places. The topic Dictionaries and word bank help automatically present a list of topic –specific words whenever a Topic Dictionary is selected this can help prompt and give

ideas to students who have a writer's block or difficulty putting their thoughts down on paper. Text can be read back to you at any time by highlighting the piece of text. This can allow user to proof read documents and helps user to spot errors which have been made.

## Installation

Installation of Co writer on a PC is a very easy. It comes with a CD and a wizard and will automatically take you through the step by step installation process once CD is inserted into the pc.

## System Requirements

- Processor: Pentium 4/ G5/ 1.6Ghz
- Windows: XP or above, Windows 7 32bit, Windows 7 64bit (Dual-Core processor required.)
- Mac OS: 10.4 - 10.6
- RAM: 512MB
- HDD: 400MB
- Sound card / speakers: Sound blaster or compatible

## Training

There are very easy step by step tutorials available which can be taken at users own pace. However this product is very intuitive and does not require much training to use the basic functions. However in order to gain maximum benefit from the software it is advisable for a user to complete the training videos available on line at

<http://www.donjohnston.com/support/cow6tutorials/> . There is also a 30 minute tutorial available for teachers called "Train in 30": available at following web address:  
[http://www.donjohnston.com/pdf/solo6/CoWriter\\_6\\_Train-in-30.pdf](http://www.donjohnston.com/pdf/solo6/CoWriter_6_Train-in-30.pdf)

## Summary

Co Writer 6 is one example of software that can support people with dyslexia or physical difficulties that make writing difficult when using a computer. There are a range of options available, and finding the right solution for a person with a disability requires a thorough analysis of the person's needs and a careful matching of the appropriate software features to meet these needs.

For those interested in finding out more about solutions for writing difficulties that best meets their needs the Advice and Assessment team at the Mada Center will be happy to meet and discuss all available options.

For further information contact the MADA Qatar Assistive Technology Center, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Al Nasr Tower B, Al Corniche Road, West Bay, Doha, Qatar. P.O. Box 24230. Ph: +974 44594050

## References

<http://www.donjohnston.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWEKwJ-BBJ4> Tutorial on the basics of Co writer

<http://www.dyslexia.com/>

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