

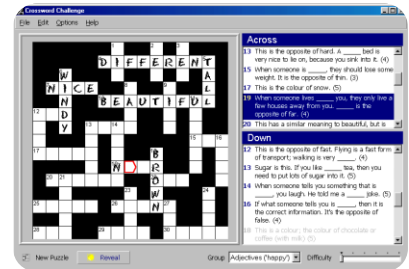


Overview

Crossword Challenge is an easy to use, fully authorable crossword generator which has features not found on other similar programs. Compiled by practising teachers, it features a 3300 word/phrase database, divided into sections on Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Phrasal Verbs/Dependent Prepositions and Idioms/Collocations.

There are six levels, ranging from False beginners to Advanced (Proficiency) level. Clues are similar to the entries you'd find in a learner dictionary, usually with an example of the word in context, in addition to a definition.

All databases are fully adaptable and authorable, and users can also create their own crosswords, specifically tailored to the needs of their students. All crosswords can be printed off for use in the classroom, with no infringement of copyright. The program also features three wordsearch programs, using words, clues and anagrams.



Methodology

The methodology behind Crossword Challenge is to create a program which combines ease of use for teachers, with a true learning experience for students, all built upon a bedrock of carefully chosen lexis. The authors strongly believe that having just a definition of a word is not enough to be able to say you have learnt how to use a word productively. Crossword Challenge therefore adds examples of words used in context, in addition to definitions, in its crossword clues. The definitions themselves are carefully constructed, so that they are of the same English Language level as the words they are defining, so an advanced level student will receive an advanced level definition and contextualised example of a word to go with the advanced level word; whereas a beginner student will receive a very simple definition for the word he is trying to guess.

Syllabus

The lexical syllabus consist of 3300 lexical items, divided into five groups and six levels:

Level	Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Idioms & collocations	Phrasal verbs & dependent prepositions
False Beginner	150	100	100	100	100
Elementary	150	100	100	100	100
Pre-Intermediate	150	100	100	100	100
Intermediate	150	100	100	100	100
Upper Intermediate	150	100	100	100	100
Advanced	150	100	100	100	100

Teaching tips

Teachers can utilise the features contained in the program in the following ways:

- Create new lexical sets based on what a class has studied in a particular lesson
- Let students create crosswords for each other
- Allow one group students to complete half a crossword; another group of students to complete the other half, and then create a speaking and information gap activity by having the students give clues orally.