

About DICTION 7

General Information

1. Does DICTION 7 run on a Mac®?
 - Yes. Both a Mac version and Windows version are available for [purchase](#) from the website, www.dictionsoftware.com .
2. What Mac operating systems does it run on?
 - DICTION 7 can run on Mac 10.6 OS and higher.
3. What Windows operating systems does DICTION run on?
 - DICTION 7 can run on Windows® 7 and higher.
4. What if I want to run both DICTION 7 for Mac and DICTION 7 for Windows?
 - You will need to purchase a version of DICTION for each operating system you plan to use.
5. What is the current version of DICTION?
 - The current version is DICTION 7.1.
6. Can I try out DICTION before purchasing it?
 - Yes. A fully operational “[Demo](#)” lets you experiment with all of the program’s options, although it restricts your analysis to the sample texts built into the demo.
7. What are the software licensing terms and conditions for DICTION?
 - DICTION is sold with a single-system, perpetual, end-user license. That is, each purchased software program can only be run on a single computer and does not require an annual license renewal. If you want to run it on multiple computers, you will need to purchase additional copies of the software.
8. Can multiple persons use DICTION on a single system?
 - Multiple persons can use DICTION on a single system by identifying their individual projects. Individual projects can be exported and imported back into DICTION.
9. What happens if my system crashes or I upgrade my system and need a replacement copy of DICTION?
 - When you initially download the program, you should save a back-up copy of the file, DictionInstall_7.1.exe or DictionInstall_macosx.7.1.zip, as part of your archive process in the event that you need to reinstall DICTION.
 - Alternately, you can purchase the Extended Download Service at the time of your purchase of DICTION. This service provides a free replacement copy of DICTION for up to two years in the event you need to reinstall DICTION. Directions to access this service can be found on the bottom of your receipt.
10. How have researchers used DICTION in the past?
 - Go to www.dictionsoftware.com to sample hundreds of studies (under “[DICTION Research](#)”).

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DICTION Features

11. What is distinctive about DICTION?
 - DICTION employs a 10,000 word search routine that can be used with any kind of English language text, thereby giving the user a broad understanding of a text.
 - DICTION lets the user take advantage of a normative database of over 50,000 text files across 50 different message types that have been collected over 40 years of research.
 - DICTION offers the user the flexibility of creating up to 30 custom dictionaries of their choosing, words specific to their areas of research. DICTION is also frequently used for sentiment analysis.
12. Do I have to use DICTION's normative database?
 - No. You can either use DICTION's norming procedures or adopt their own approaches by using raw scores.
13. How does DICTION analyze a text?
 - It mostly uses "dictionaries" or word lists. See all of DICTION's search terms by clicking on *Edit* in the main Toolbar and then click on *View DICTION's Dictionaries*.
14. Does DICTION look for phrases in a text?
 - No. It focuses on individual or hyphenated words only. Therefore, if a dictionary contains the word "third-quarter" it will look for that exact spelling. If the text lists "third quarter" (without the hyphen) it will be identified as two separate words. DICTION treats a word as anything that starts and ends with a blank space.
15. Can DICTION be used to analyze text in a language other than English?
 - The dictionaries and norms of DICTION are based on English. Custom dictionaries could be created for any language; however, you would not be able to utilize the norms for those dictionaries.
16. Can DICTION analyze a lot of files quickly?
 - DICTION offers "Power Mode" for analyzing 1000 or more files within a Project and directly writes the results to a .csv-formatted spreadsheet file. Because of Power Mode, DICTION is one of the fastest programs for text analysis available.
17. Do the standard dictionaries account for both British and American spelling (e.g. behaviour/behavior)?
 - Yes. The standard dictionaries contain words with both British and American spelling.
18. Does DICTION distinguish between upper and lower case letters in the dictionaries?
 - No. Dictionaries are not case-sensitive.

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19. What does the Insistence score measure?
- The Insistence score is a measure of the extent to which nouns or noun-derived adjectives are heavily repeated in a text. Thus, it becomes a measure of whether or not a text “stays on topic.”
20. What is the Elephant?
- The Elephant is the tool in DICTION that “remembers” the information used to determine the Insistence score. During the process of analyzing a passage, DICTION asks you to identify those noun or noun-derived adjectives in the passage. The Elephant stores these designations so you never have to identify these words again. In case you make mistakes, the program does let you edit the list as explained in the manual.
21. Can I compare really long texts to really short texts and be sure I get equivalent information?
- Yes. By default, DICTION provides a 500-word average for all long texts; for short texts, it extrapolates the data to a 500-word norm.
 - DICTION also gives you many other options for processing large texts (e.g., by automatically breaking them up into 500-word units). See Processing Options in Global or Project Settings for more information.
22. Why does DICTION use a 500 word norm?
- Research has found that it takes 500 words to get an accurate understanding of a person’s overall style or of an organization’s general language habits.
23. Can I use DICTION 6 Projects in DICTION 7?
- Yes. DICTION 7 lets you migrate DICTION 6 Project Files.

Need Help

24. What happens if I have problems with my order (e.g., can’t download the software or my payment is incorrect)?
- DICTION uses *MyCommerce* (formerly known as *RegNow*) to distribute the software and collect payment. If you have problems associated with your order, send an email to ordersupport@mycommerce.com.
25. What should I do if I develop computer system problems or upgrade my computer and need to reinstall DICTION?
- *MyCommerce*, our distribution partner, offers at the time of purchase an Extended Download Service to protect you in those circumstances. For a nominal fee, they will provide you a replacement copy of DICTION for up to two years. Otherwise, you should reinstall your back-up copy of the DICTION installation program (DictionInstall_7.1.exe or DictionInstall_Macosx_7.1.zip) that you archived.
26. What happens if I run into problems with the software after buying the program?
- The DICTION staff cannot help with research or conceptual issues, but if the program malfunctions preferably write to us at help@dictionsoftware.com with a

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description of your problem or question. You can also reach DICTION Support by calling (512) 394-8891.

27. Sometimes when copying in the Project Explorer Viewer I get this error "Problems occurred copying the selected resource"? What can I do to enable copying and pasting when this occurs?

- This error may occur when the Project Explorer workspace gets out-of-sync with the underlying file system. To correct, right-click on the Project in the Project Explorer window and select *Refresh* from the drop-down menu. You should now be able to copy and paste within this project.