

Life Sentences!

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Life Sentences! is designed to entertain children of all ages. There are no formal rules, no practice drills, no timed tests. Its educational value is tucked away where it can't be avoided...

The child in us delights at computers "talking". This application makes your computer "read" your words. The user tells the computer what to say by clicking on words, pictures of words, or by selecting words from menus. If the user can click the mouse, the computer will talk. This is all the encouragement needed for children to spend time with the program.

All this selecting develops eye hand coordination as the user becomes more expressive. Life Sentences! contains most of the words known as "Basic English". Other words can be typed in but, of course, *this is not a typing program!*

As words are selected they are spoken, then listed one after another. At any time the series of words can be spoken as a sentence. It is not necessary that the words actually form a grammatically correct sentence. The program will re-form the displayed words to give the appearance of a sentence.

The program does not teach that sentences begin with a capital letter and end with punctuation, or that words are separated from one another by a single space. However, these are the rules the program uses. The word series "cat dog boy man" becomes "Cat dog boy man.", capitalizing the first word, removing extra spaces, and adding the period. There is no demand to pay attention to this, it is simply there to be noticed.

Those not yet reading, or just beginning to read, are not hindered. When a word is selected it is displayed and read. The youngest users need not form correct sentences to get the computer to talk.

They will begin associating word appearance with word pronunciation.

Basic facts are established as the user learns where words can be found. She learns that “I” is on the “Who” menu, “above” is on the “Where” menu, “before” is on the “When” menu, any sort of activity is on one of the “Do” menus, words that describe are on the “Qualities” menus. Words like “but” and “the” are not on a menu, but always on the screen, and used often. They find that for some strange reason, words like “is” and “am” are on the “Be” menu. It is hoped that by the time she learns grammar at school she is already familiar with some terms.

Different forms of the words are obtained by holding down the Option and/or Command key. For instance:

<u>no key</u>	<u>Command</u>	<u>Option</u>	<u>Both keys</u>
QUICK	QUICKER	QUICKEST	QUICKLY
SHOW	SHOWED	SHOWS	SHOWING
GO	GONE	GOES	GOING
TRUCK	TRUCKED	TRUCKS	TRUCKING

Users find that the computer reads the sentence with differing inflection, depending on punctuation. A sentence ending with “?” causes a rise in pitch to the last word, “.” a downward final pitch. Commas cause the voice to pause. This shows the impact of punctuation on expression to inexperienced readers.

Again, these lessons are not “taught” - they are learned.

This is because Life Sentences! lessons have nothing to do with the fun!

Use the horizontal scroll bar to control the speed of the voice!

The vertical scroll bar controls the pitch!

Hold down the Option key and Command key when pressing “Speak” and see what your “sentence” looks like backwards! Hear the Mac backwards!

**See if you can “trick” the computer by leaving off punctuation, or
what happens when you use two commas in a row!**

**See how the word “abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz” is actually
pronounced!**

The Menus

File

Quit
Transfer...

Edit

All items, except Undo, work inside the program. The menu is available to desk accessories.

Who

Select personal pronouns from this menu.
Holding down the Option and/or the Command key will yield the plural of the selected pronoun. ie. The pronoun "I" will deliver "we".

Be

Selects forms of "be" (is, are, etc.) from this menu.

When

Select words that describe time from this menu.

Where

Select words that indicate place from this menu.

Quality

Select words that describe from these menus.

	holding down key		
menu word	Command	Option	Both
clean	cleaner	cleanest	cleanly

Do

Select action words from these menus.

	holding down key		
menu word	Command	Option	Both
close	closed	closes	closing

The Screen

General

Commonly used words, mostly conjunctions. Point to the word and click.

Pictures

Point to the picture and click. Option and Command key variations are in effect. Most of the pictures (nouns) may also be used as verbs. Key variations for these are explained in the Verb menu section. ie noun “dress” may also be used as a verb “dress”, “dressed”, “dresses”, “dressing”.

Other pictures will yield the plural form if the Command key is pressed. ie “shoe”, “shoes”.

Exceptions

Animal pictures.

The Command

key (past tense) will yield the name given to the young of the species. ie Command “cow” will yield “calf”.

People.

menu word	_____ holding down key _____		
woman	Command	Option	Both
	mother	women	female
boy	brother	boys	son

Change Pictures

Sets up a new picture selection area.

Speak

Clicking this button will cause the computer to speak the selected words.

portion If a portion of the sentence has been selected, only that will be read and key variations will not be in effect.

Key variations

Command

large The sentence will be read, displaying each word in type, one word at a time.

Option

As the sentence is read the word being read will be highlighted in the sentence.

Command & Option.

BACKWARDS! The sentence will be displayed and read

Erase

Will erase the current sentence.

Horizontal Scroll Bar

Controls the speed of talking.

Vertical Scroll Bar

Controls the pitch of the voice.

I've been told that Life Sentences! may be useful to a variety of folks. Of course, children can have fun with it. How about people learning English? I suppose someone unable to speak could sit down with MacroMaker™ and record sentences that would speak at the press of a key.

Coming Attractions!

- **More pictures, including International Symbols.**
- **More words. Conversion from internal data statements to STR# resources.**
- **Give user ability to add words and pictures.**
- **Scroll text window.**
- **Open, Close and Save text.**
- **Your Suggestions**
- *Progress on these is most definitely relative to response.*

Please send in the very affordable \$10.00 price for Life Sentences!.

Bob Grubb
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picture fonts - **Olney 18** and **Bethesda 18**.