

# Penfriend

so much more than word prediction



## Welcome to our latest Newsletter! August/September 2011

### *Penfriend just got better...*

It's been a long time since we were last in touch but we've been extremely busy here at Penfriend. If you haven't heard we recently launched Penfriend Version 4 which has a range of new innovative features, including a new look Prediction window with different Styles to choose from and in Penfriend XL there are some excellent quality voices including a French voice 'Suzanne' and a male English, 'William'.

### *Abbreviation Expansion*

Abbreviation Expansion has also been improved so it now accepts unlimited length and number of abbreviations – up to 12 can be displayed at one time!

This means that Abbreviation Expansion could be used to help people with communication difficulties to ask questions and requests, convey their preferences and feelings by typing a simple combination of letters.

### *Penfriend is Expanding!*

As well as improving Penfriend we've also been expanding (not just our abbreviations!) and we are pleased to welcome Craig Mill, Product Development Manager, as a new member of staff. Craig has already made an impact with a new blog, exciting tutorials and some great ideas for new Penfriend developments, so watch this space for news and updates!

To find our more visit the Penfriend website:  
[www.penfriend.biz](http://www.penfriend.biz)



### *Follow Penfriend on Twitter and Facebook*

You can now follow Penfriend on Twitter and Facebook.



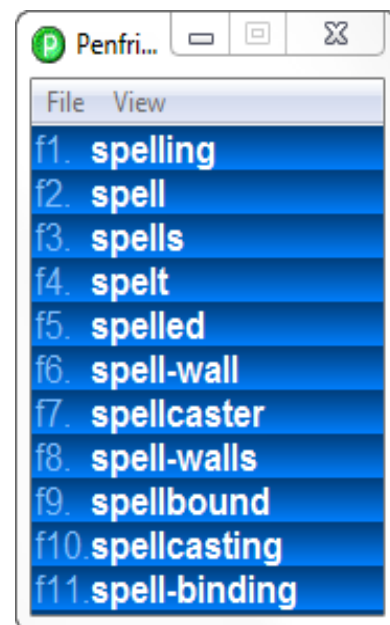
### *Penfriend Version 4*

*New and expanded features in version 4*

**New voices:** new English and French voice in XL products only.

### **Display:**

horizontal and rounded display in Prediction window. The function or number keys can also be greyed out to increase the contrast with the predicted word. Penfriend now learns words in inverted commas and after tabbing.



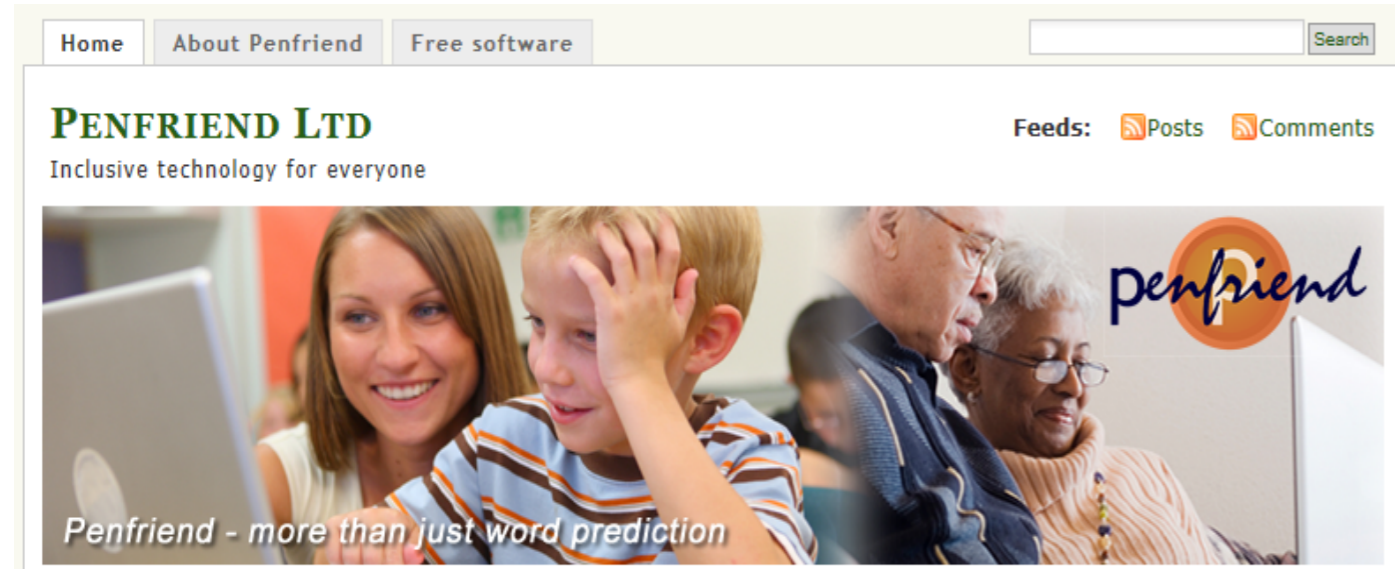
**Empty Lexicon** for simplifying the production of topic lexicons.

**Minimise** option to temporarily stop Penfriend predicting when typing numbers or website addresses. Unlimited length and number of abbreviations.

For a full list of features in Version 4 visit the Penfriend website.

## The new Penfriend blog

New tutorials and updates



One of the main benefits of Penfriend is the program's high quality and ease-of-use. A customer recently wrote to say "the great thing about Penfriend is that it does exactly what it says without any fuss and it's so easy to use". While we pride ourselves that Penfriend is such an easy-to-use program we realise Penfriend has so much more to offer so we've developed a number of tutorials on 'getting the best of Penfriend' which can be accessed from the new Penfriend blog: <http://bit.ly/penfriendblog>

So if you want to find out how Penfriend works alongside online word processors and social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook or learn how to 'Type with Mouse' or even download some free high frequency lexicons, you can find all this and more on the Penfriend blog.

### Developing a Community of Resources

Penfriend is keen to develop a community of resources. To date we have received lexicons and step-by-step tutorials which are available to freely download. Why not get involved and contribute to the growing bank of resources? If you would like to contribute, then please send your resource to us here at Penfriend.

### New developments

#### Penfriend providing value for money

With economic cuts hitting the public sector, in particular schools and other learning organisations, we're doing our best at Penfriend to support you. It's true that Penfriend hasn't increased its software prices for many years, it's also a fact that our software is exceptional value but we want to help even more.

At the heart of Penfriend is an intuitive and powerful word prediction engine, but Penfriend offers so much more; the Clipboard Reader with word and sentence highlighting combined with text-to-speech, flexible Abbreviation Expansion to help cut down repetitive tasks and a Screen Reader that will read information wherever the mouse

is placed on the desktop – beneficial for reading documents and web pages. Penfriend is looking at how we can provide these exceptional features as stand-alone products as low cost alternatives to support you organisation, your learners and your budget.



If you have ideas on how you would like to see Penfriend develop in the future then please send your suggestions to: [sales@penfriend.biz](mailto:sales@penfriend.biz)

**Penfriend also offers flexible methods of buying or even leasing. If you are a region why not lease Penfriend? It could be as cheap as £1.00 per computer!!!**

## Extending Penfriend

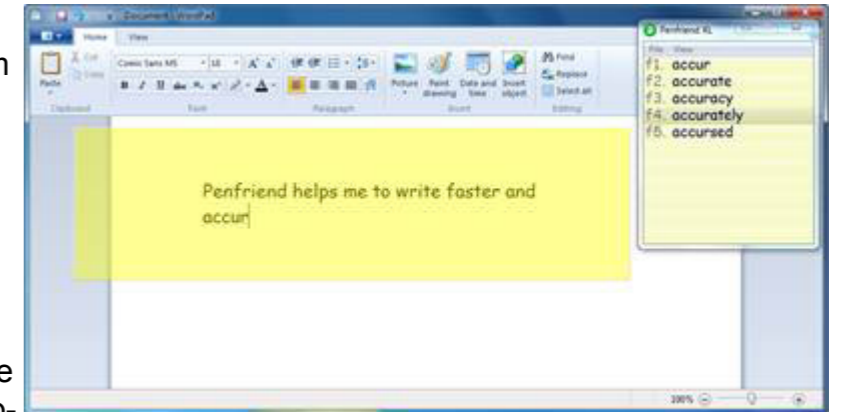
Extending Penfriend's usability with free software

Penfriend recently received a collection of High Frequency wordlist lexicons from a colleague at the [Ace Centre](#) – we've made them available to download from the blog.

Penfriend has some extremely customisable features, in particular the range of options for changing the colour background of the prediction window, the on-screen keyboard and powerful text-to-speech.

However some people may also require additional support when using their word processor alongside Penfriend, for example changing the background colour to suit their personal preferences.

From mouse tracking to software to help with visual stress you can find something on the Penfriend [Free Software section of our blog](#).



### Penfriend suite of literacy tools

When was the last time you looked at Penfriend? Penfriend features a comprehensive suite of literacy tools and so much more! Penfriend can support people of all abilities and ages.

If you have a literacy difficulty such as dyslexia then Penfriend can help with spelling and grammar. As well as predicting words when you type, Penfriend will read text aloud from websites, documents, in fact any Windows text-based program.

#### Penfriend and your favourite apps

Penfriend even works alongside online apps such as Google Docs, Microsoft SkyDrive and all your favourite social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter.

### Contact US

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Download a trial copy of Penfriend from our website. If you want to buy after you've tried...then buy online via Google Checkout.

***And don't forget... Penfriend doesn't try to do everything but what it does, it does well.***

