Get started with Clicker guide

Use this guide to learn about the key features of Clicker and how to start using Clicker effectively.

Learn the basics of opening and using a Clicker Document with a Clicker Set. Move through the guide to learn about the different Clicker Sets available and how they can be used to suit a range of abilities and ages.

CrickSoftware

/cricksoft @cricksoft USsales@cricksoft.com Toll-free: 1 866 332 7425 www.cricksoft.com

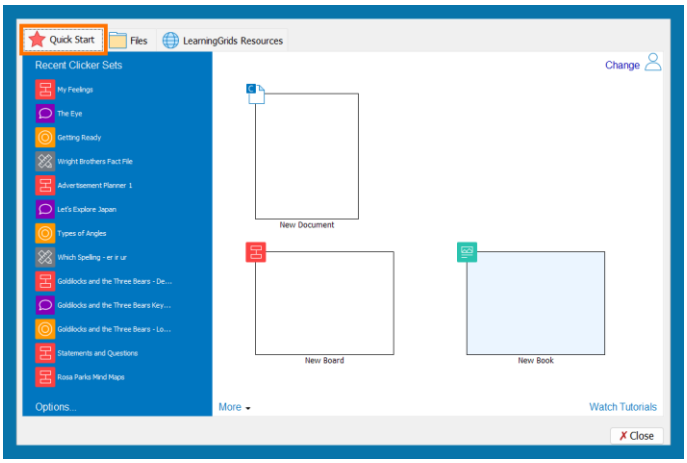
Contents

Opening Clicker 3
Quick Start menu 3
LearningGrids 4
Opening a Clicker Set 6
Using a Clicker Document 7
Speech feedback 7
Voice Notes 8
Predictor 9
Spell Check tool 9
Saving and Printing 11
Using Clicker Sets 13
Sentence Sets 13
Connect Sets 13
Word Banks 14
Clicker Board 14
Matching Sets 15
Clicker Books 15
Talk Sets 16
Clicker Cloze 18
Using Clicker Analytics 19
Create a new Clicker Set 21

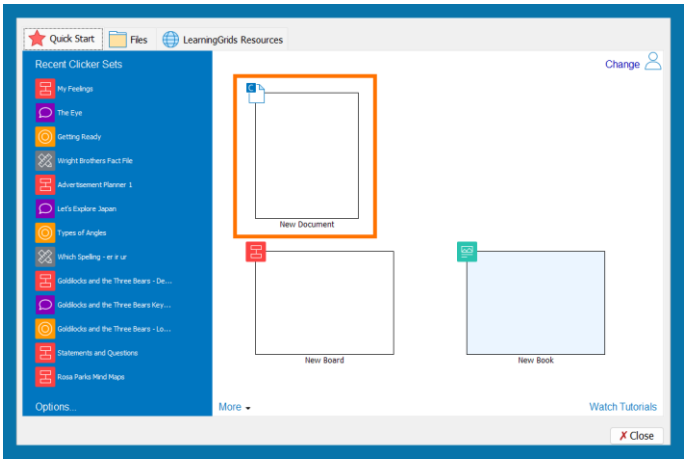
Opening Clicker

To start using Clicker, click to open the software.

Quick Start menu



When you open Clicker, you are presented with the Quick Start menu.

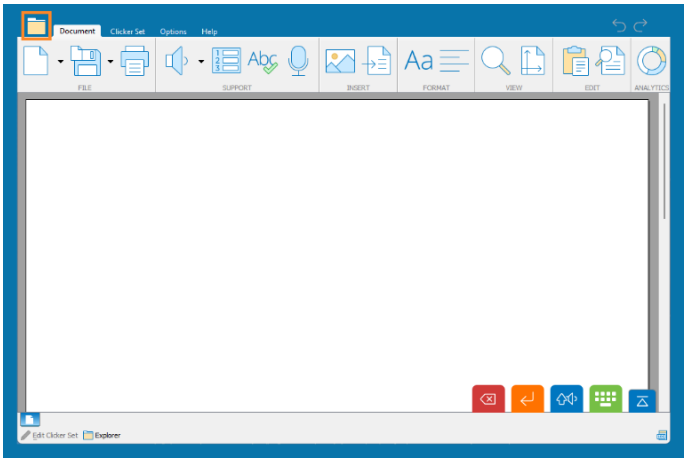


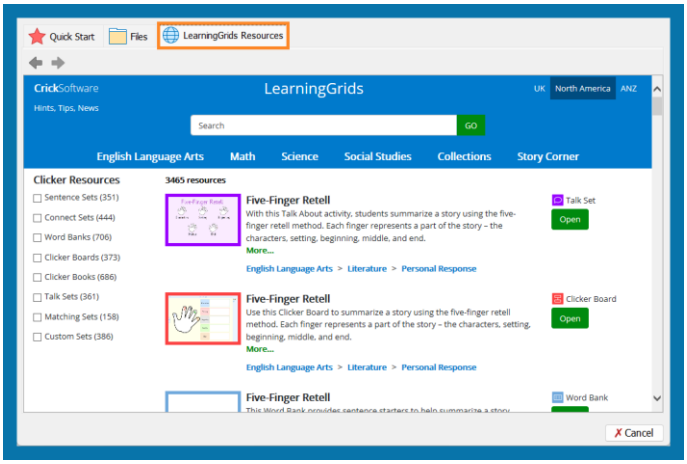
To start writing, click **New Document**

Back to contents

LearningGrids

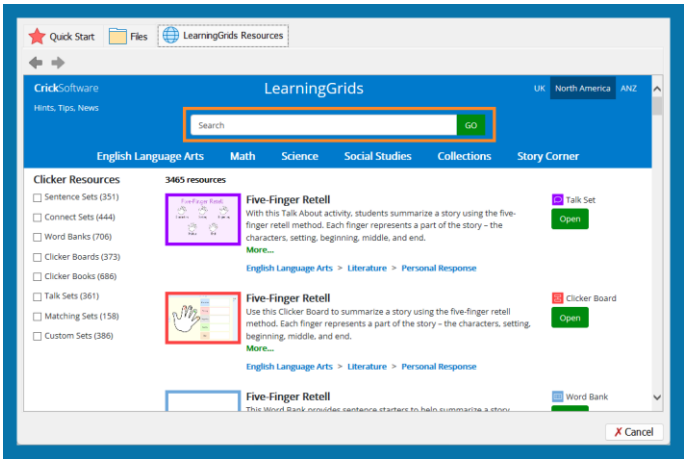
When you use Clicker, you have access to thousands of free ready-to-use Clicker resources which are available in LearningGrids.





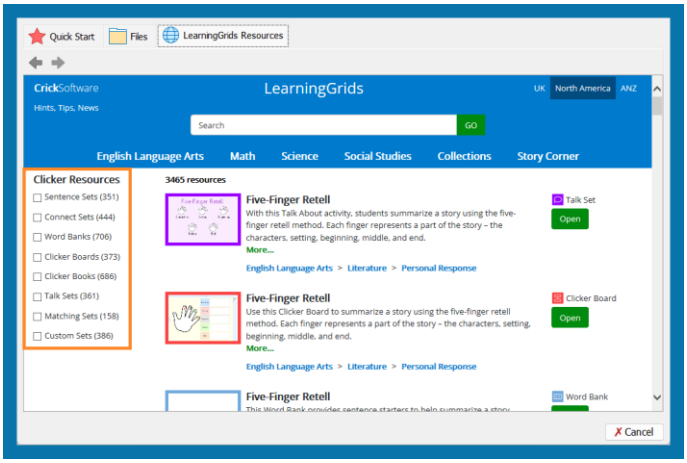
Click in the top-left of the screen to open the file explorer then choose the **LearningGrids Resources** tab.

Follow these steps to practice navigating LearningGrids.

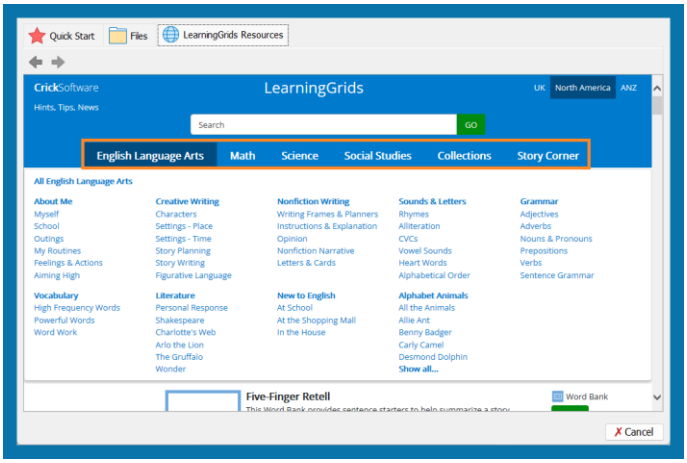


You can use the search bar to search using topic names or key vocabulary. Search for a topic then click **Go**.

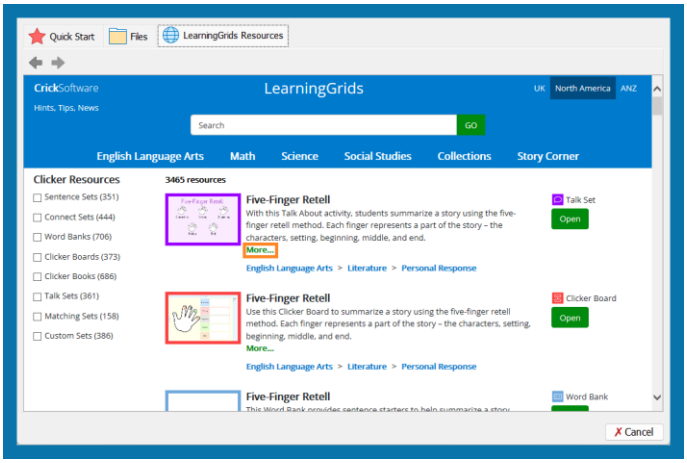
Back to contents



Check the **check boxes** on the left to filter through the different types of resources.



Use the **subject categories** to search for resources suitable for different curriculum areas.

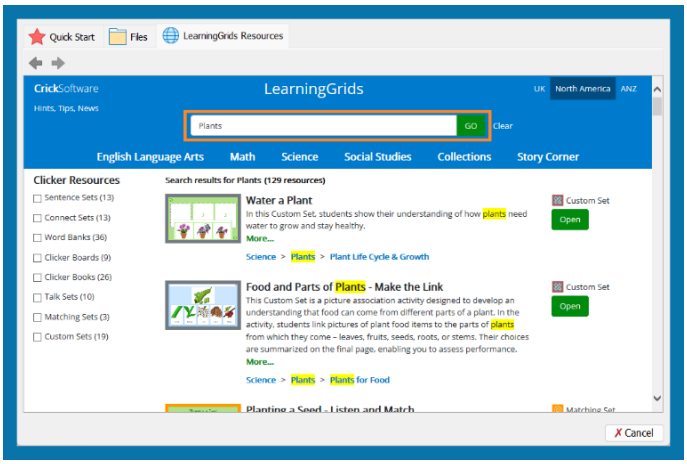


You can find out more about any resource by clicking **More**.

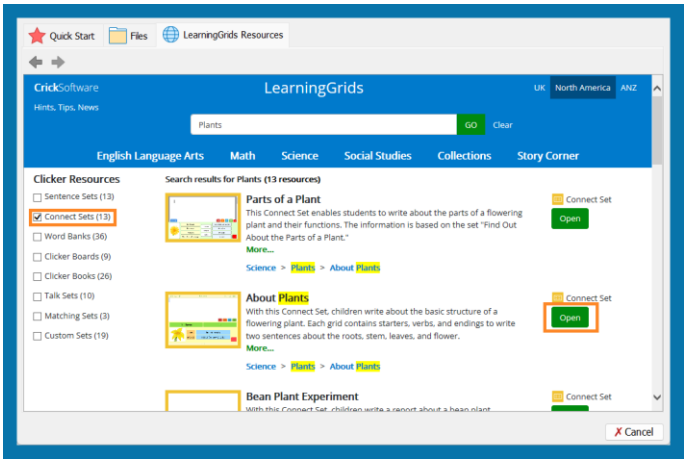
Back to contents

Opening a Clicker Set

Clicker Sets are the resources within Clicker. Each kind of Clicker Set provides a specific writing support or develops a particular literacy skill.



To practice opening a Clicker Set, type ‘Plants’ in the search bar then click **Go**.



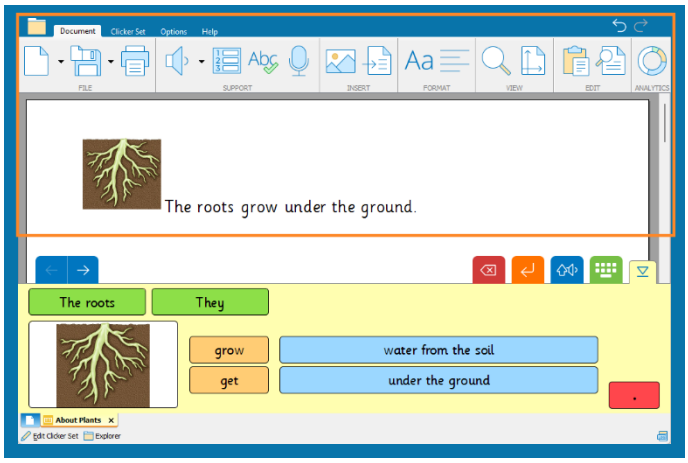
Check the **Connect Sets** box to filter through the resources for Connect Sets.

Open the **About Plants** Connect Set by clicking **Open**.

Back to contents

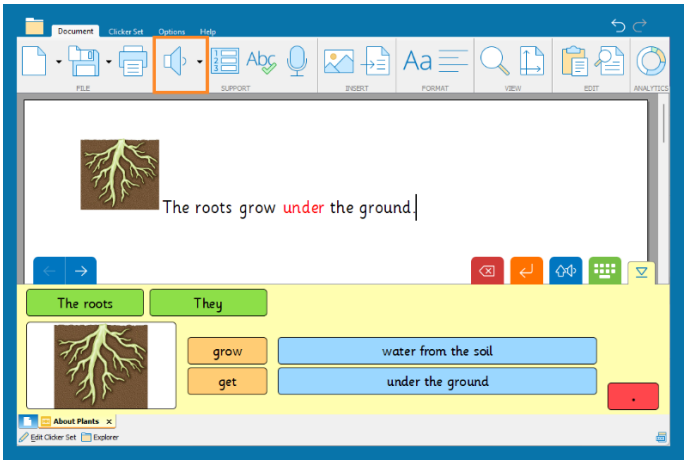
Using a Clicker Document

At the heart of Clicker sits a child-friendly word processor. Watch your students confidently tackle writing tasks with help from Clicker's realistic speech feedback, talking spell checker and word predictor.



Speech feedback

Using the speech support is a fantastic way to encourage learners to proofread their work and identify errors that might have been missed.



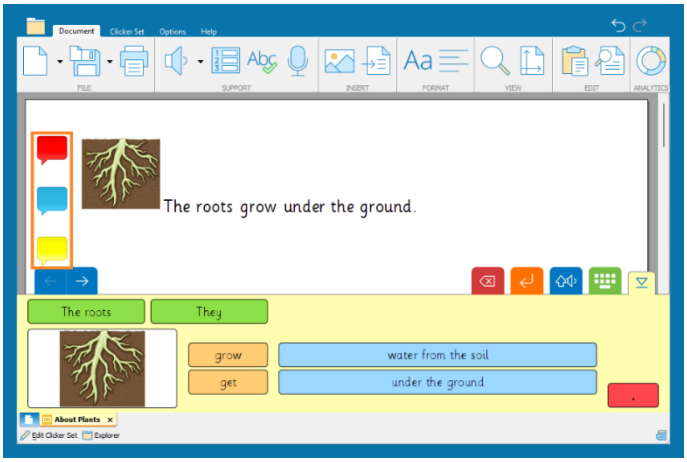
The speech function enables children to immediately hear what they've written, and each word is highlighted in red as it is spoken:

- Enter punctuation to hear your sentence read aloud.
- Highlight text then click to hear a section.
- Click an individual word in the document to hear it.

Back to contents

Voice Notes

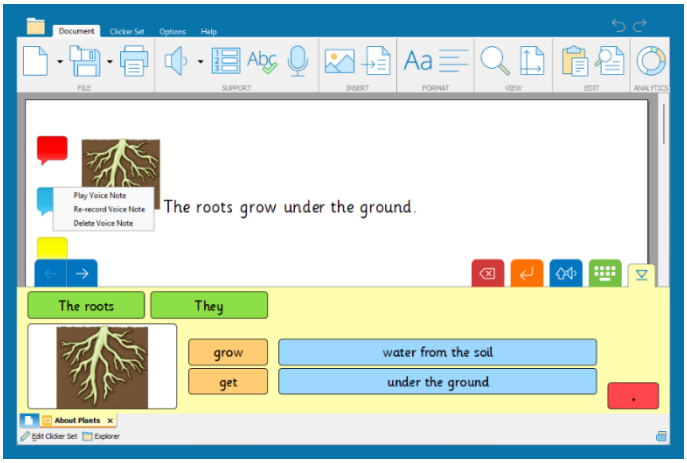
Voice Notes enable learners to record their own ideas before they write. This gives them an opportunity to rehearse their sentences, and offers a powerful way for learners to capture their initial thoughts and ideas:



Record Voice Notes

The Predictor offers vocabulary to improve writing fluency and provide spelling support:

- Click to open the speech recorder.
- Click to start recording, click it again to stop recording.
- Click **Done** when you've finished.
- Up to six Voice Notes can be recorded.



Play Voice Notes

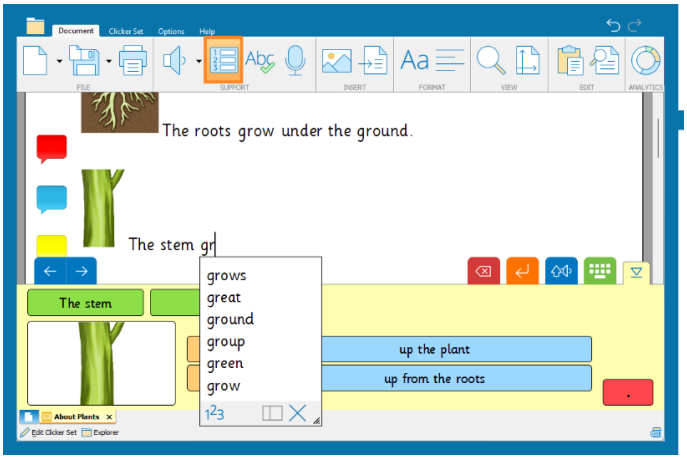
Play Voice Notes at any time while writing:

- Each Voice Note appears as a colored speech bubble to the left of the document.
- Click a Voice Note to hear it.

Back to contents

Predictor

The Predictor offers vocabulary to improve writing fluency and provide spelling support.

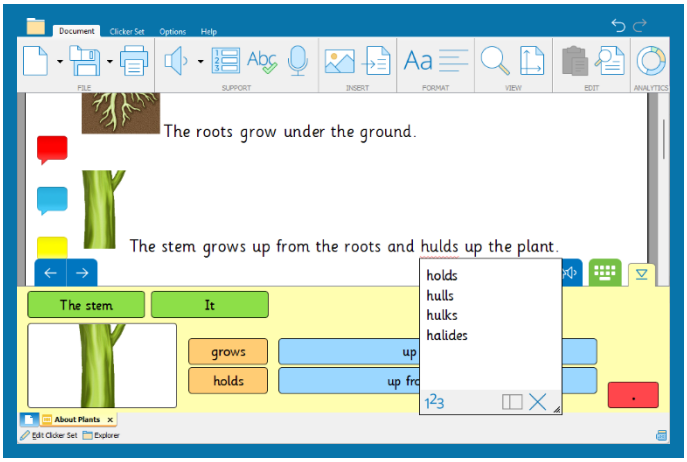


The Predictor suggests options even when words are misspelled and will include words from open resources in Clicker:

- Click to start using the Predictor.
- Click a word in the Predictor to use it.
- Right-click a word in the Predictor to hear it.

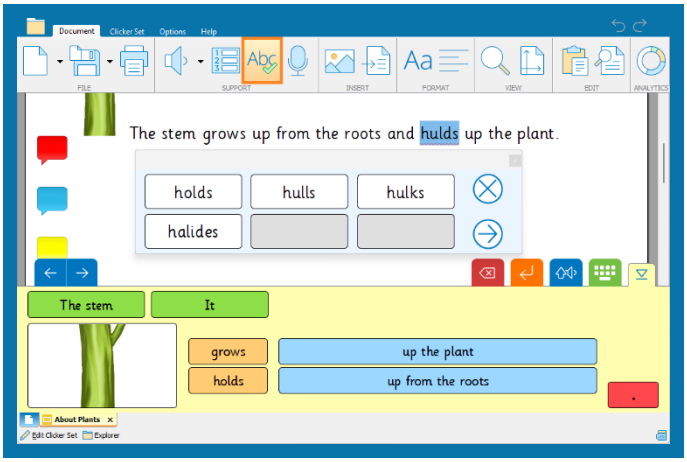
Spell Check tool

Spell Check promotes writing independence in your learners by enabling them to make informed decisions to fix their mistakes.



- If a spelling error has been made:
  - A red line will appear underneath the incorrect spelling.
  - Clicker will read out the incorrect spelling when reading the sentence.

Back to contents



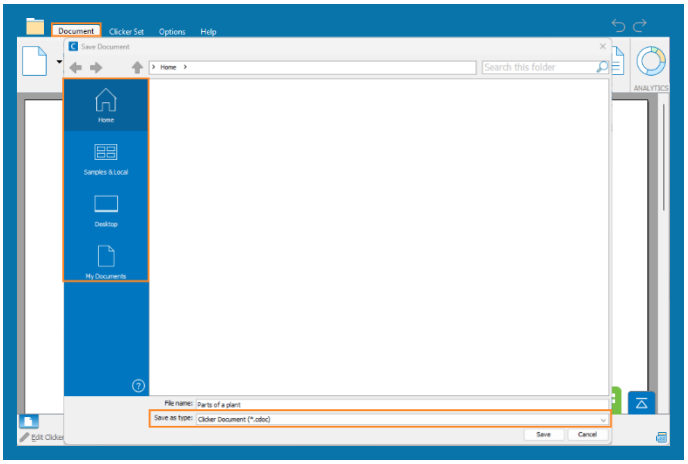
- Right-click on the word to see spelling suggestions or click Abc to open the Spell Check box.
- The spelling suggestions will appear in the Spell Check box.
- Right-click a suggestion to hear it.
- Click on a suggestion to add it into the document.

Back to contents

Saving and Printing

Save a Clicker Document

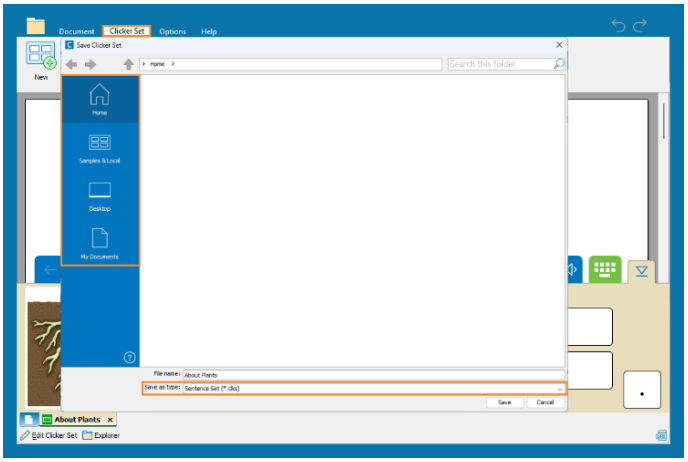
Save a child's writing in a Clicker Document to continue later:



- Go to the **Document ribbon** and click .
- Enter a file name and click Save.

Save a Clicker Set

Save a Clicker Set that you've created or edited:



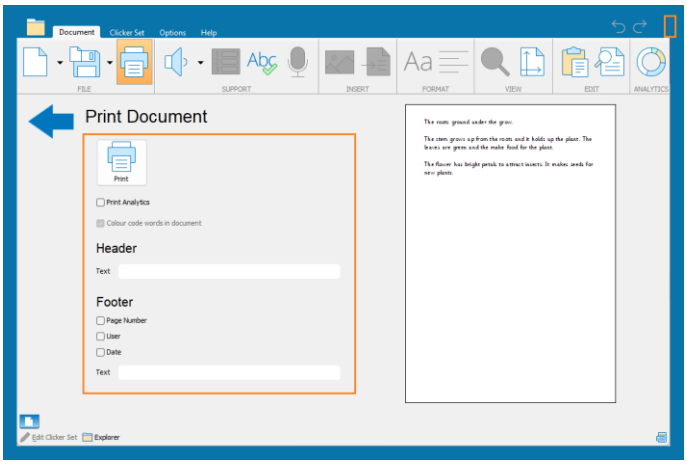
- Go to the **Clicker Set ribbon** and click .
- Enter a file name and click Save.

For more information about saving options, see our Saving, sharing and printing tutorial.

Back to contents

Print a Clicker Document

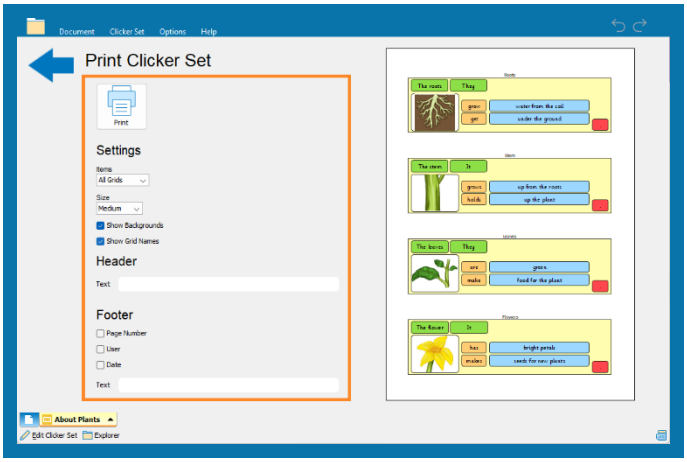
Print a child's work to keep a physical record of their progress:



- Go to the **Document ribbon** and click .
- Click the **Print button** to send the document to your printer.

Print a Clicker Set

Print a resource to use away from the computer:



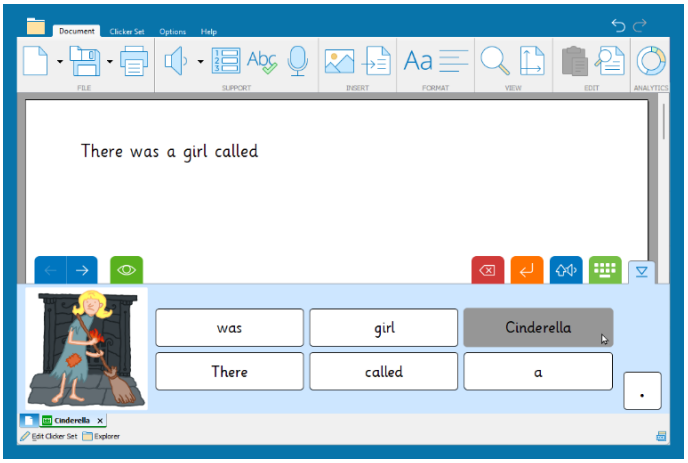
- When a Clicker Set is open:
  - Go to the **Clicker Set ribbon** and click .
  - Click the **Print button** and send the Clicker Set to the printer.

Back to contents

Using Clicker Sets

Sentence Sets

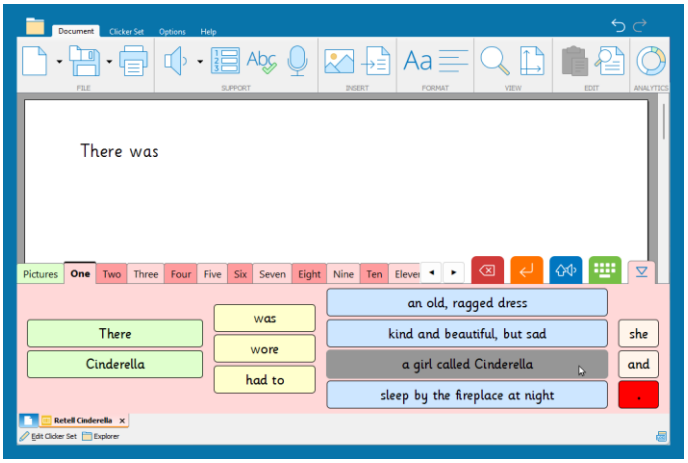
A Sentence Set contains a series of grids that enable learners to write simple sentences. Each grid in a Sentence Set contains all the words you need to build a sentence.



- Click a word in the Sentence Set to add it to your document.
- Right-click a word in the Sentence Set to hear it.
- Punctuate the sentence, to hear it.
- Click to move to the next sentence.
- Click to view the model sentence for additional support.

Connect Sets

A Connect Set offers scaffolded writing activities which are more open-ended. With a combination of support and choice, learners are encouraged to extend their writing. This allows them to create a more individual piece of writing with plenty of support:

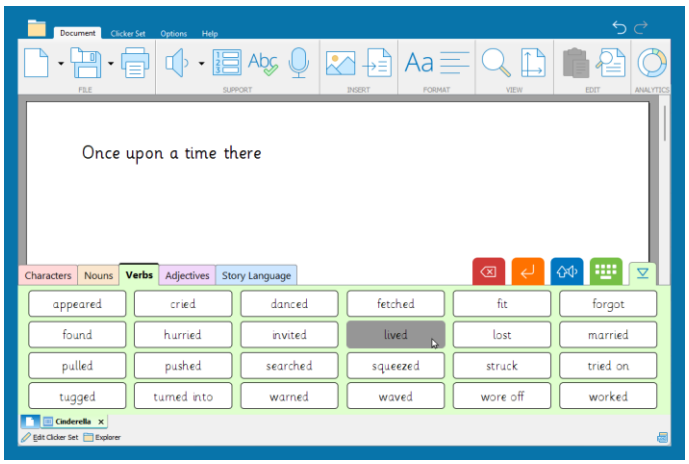


- Click a word or phrase in the Connect Set to add it to your document.
- Right-click a word or phrase in the Connect Set to hear it.
- Punctuate the sentence to hear it.
- Click or use the tabs to move to the next grid.

Back to contents

Word Banks

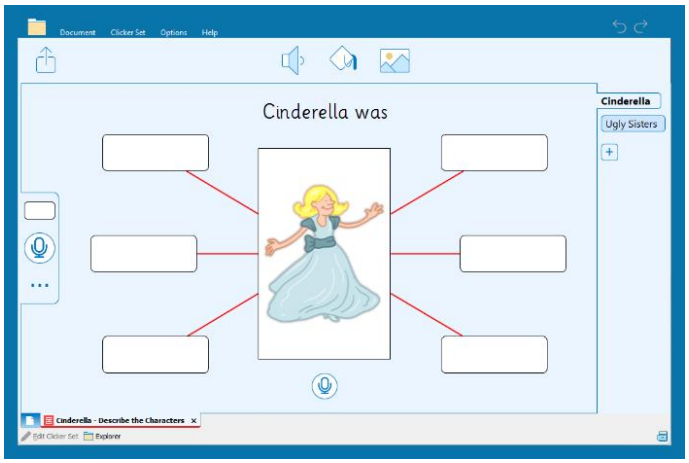
A Word Bank provides alphabetical or topic-based word lists to use alongside the keyboard to write about any subject. Word Banks are ideal for your more independent writers who need support with key subject vocabulary, as they provide learners with access to higher level vocabulary arranged in tabs:



- Click a word in the Word Bank to add it to your document.
- Right-click a word or phrase in the Word Bank to hear it.
- Use the tabs to move between grids.

Clicker Board

Clicker Boards are an easy-to-use mind mapping tool. Use a Clicker Board to help children plan and develop ideas before writing:

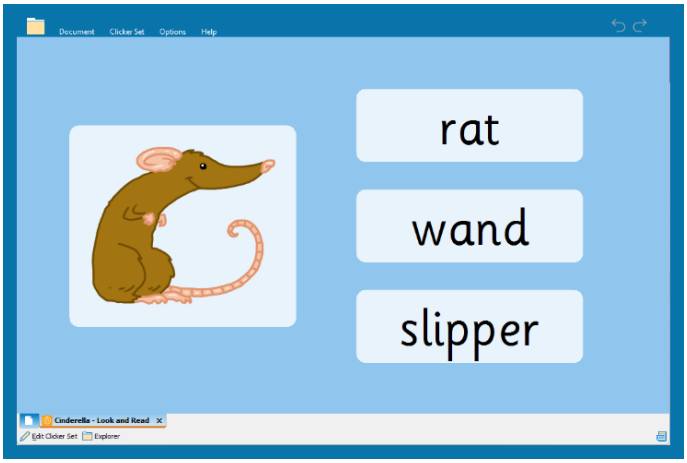


- Double-click a cell to add text.
- Click a cell and then to delete it.
- Click and drag from the circular handles to create a new cell.
- Move between the tabs on the right-hand side to create or access more content.

Back to contents

Matching Sets

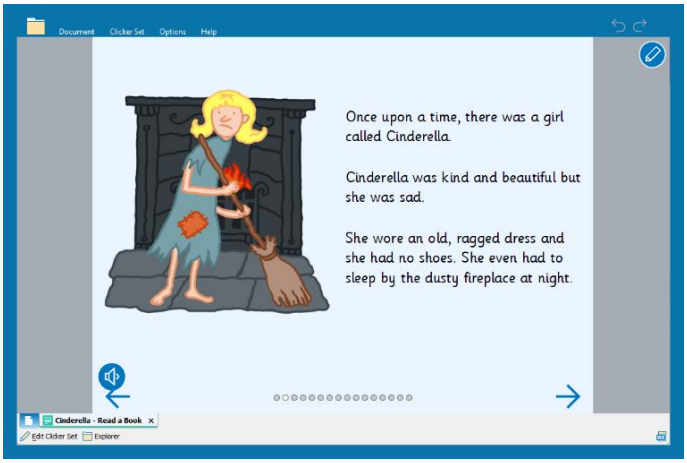
Matching Sets are great for introducing new vocabulary prior to reading or for regular retrieval practice.



- Use the first page to practice.
- Click to start the activity.
- Pick one of the **Choices** to match the **Target**.
- If you get it wrong, you can try again.
- When you get it right, move to the next page by clicking .

Clicker Books

Clicker Books provide on-screen speech supported information books.

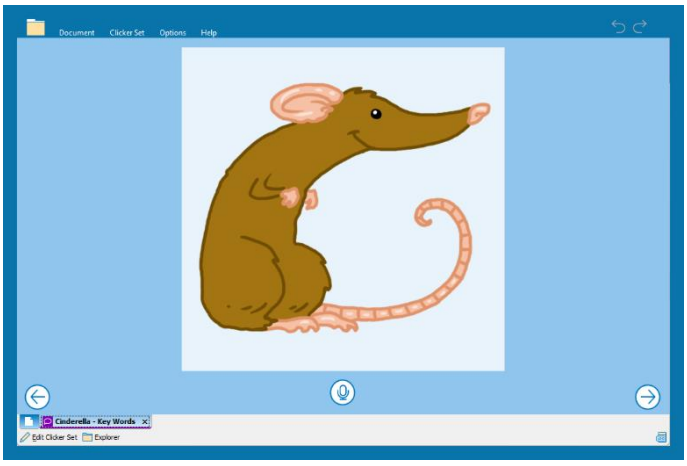


- Move between the pages using the arrows.
- Listen to the text using .
- Click a word to hear it.

Back to contents

Talk Sets

Talk Sets are a powerful tool to develop speaking skills. Talk Sets can build a learner's vocabulary using picture and speech and support those who struggle to express themselves in written form. There are three main types of Talk Sets:

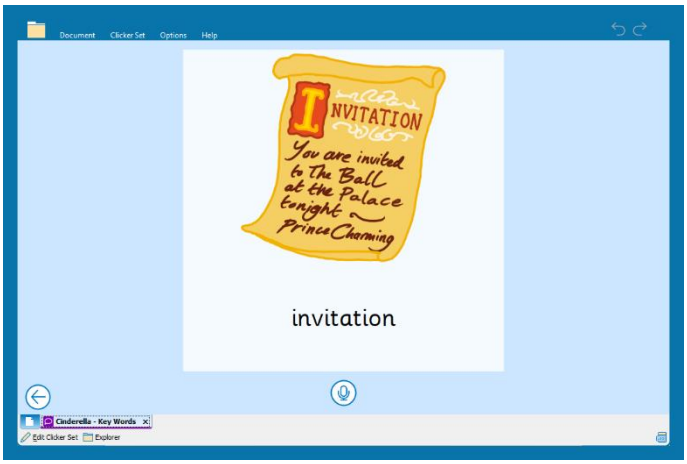


Listen & Say

Children can listen to the word read out and record themselves repeating it:

- Use the first page to practice.
- Use to start the activity.
- Click on the picture to hear the word.
- Click on to open the recorder.
- Make a recording, then click **Done**.
- On the first page, use the speech bubbles to listen to the recordings.

Back to contents

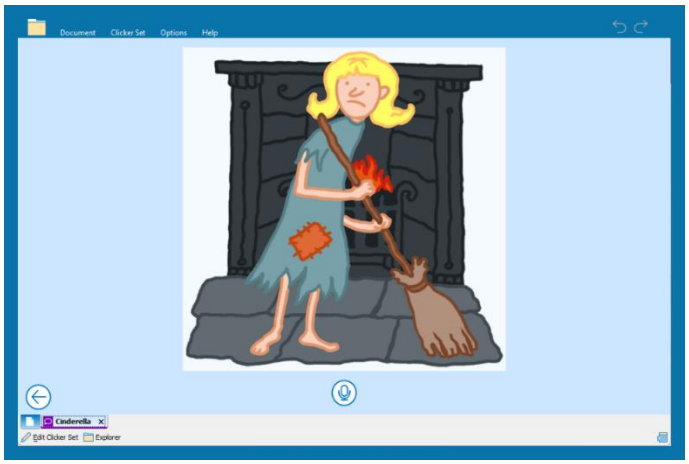


Talk About

Develop children's oral communication skills with Talk About activities. Using picture prompts, encourage learners to record what they know about a topic.

- Click an image to open the recording page.
- Click the microphone buttons to open the recorder.
- Make your recording, then click **Done**.
- Click to return to the start page.
- Use the speech bubbles to listen to the recordings.

Back to contents



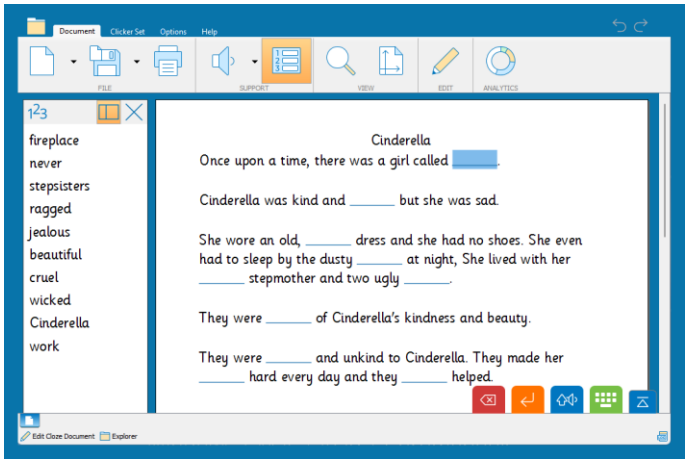
Tell the Story

Support learners retelling stories or explaining processes with Tell the Story activities.

- Click an image to open the recording page.
- Click to open the recorder.
- Make your recording, then click **Done**.
- Click to return to the start page.
- Use the speech bubble to listen to all recordings in the sequence.

Clicker Cloze

Clicker Cloze fill-the-blanks activities are ideal for assessing children's reading comprehension. Clicker Cloze is not a Clicker Set but it is a Clicker activity.

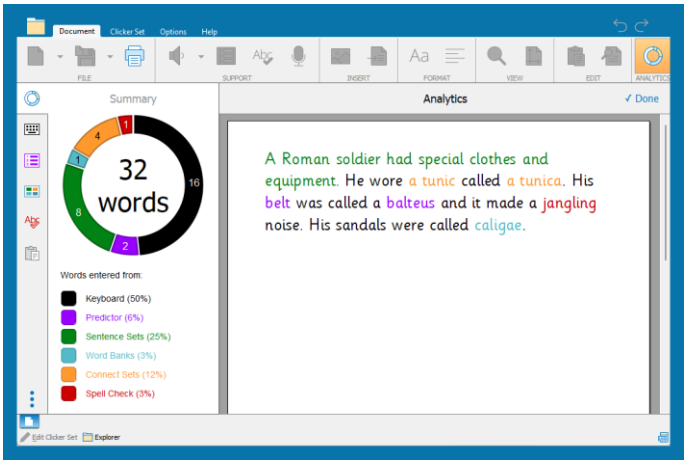


- Click a blank to see the Suggestions.
- Click a Suggestion to fill in the blank.
- Click to hear the sentence.
- Right-click a Suggestion to hear it.

Back to contents

Using Clicker Analytics

Clicker's Analytics tool gives you a unique insight into each learner's writing process, helping you make informed decisions about their current support levels and the most effective next steps.

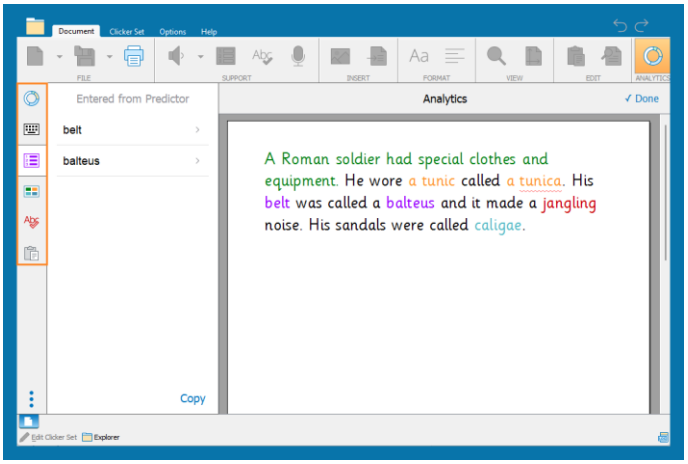


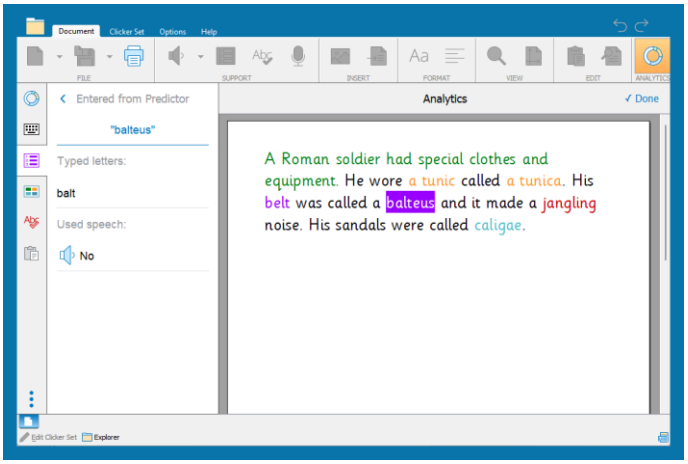
Overview

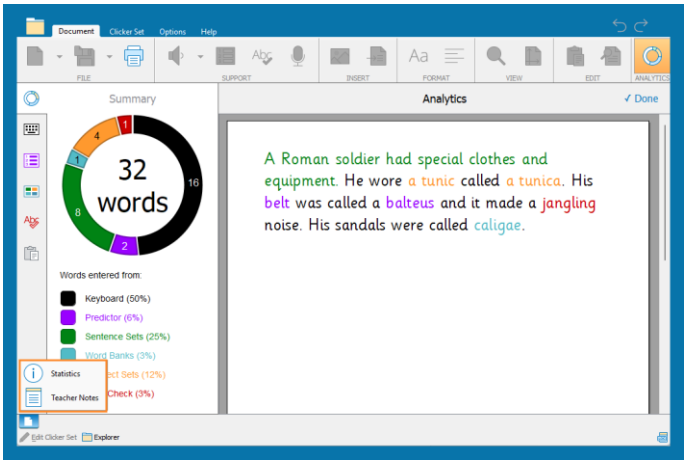
Use Clicker Analytics to see at a glance how your students are using the accommodations you've put in place for them with Clicker, and whether they are ready to progress to new activities and challenges.

- Go to on the Document Ribbon.
- On the left is a summary showing how text has been entered into the document.
- On the right the words in the document are colored according to how they were entered.

Back to contents







Drill down

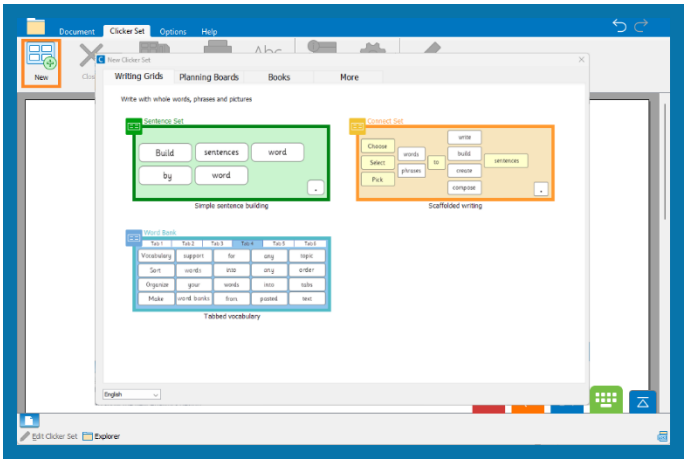
Get more detail about how each word was input:

- Use the six tabs on the left to see all the words input from a particular source.
- Click words in the document on the right to view more information.
- Click ⋮ to see more options:
  - Click **Statistics** to see date and structure information.
  - Click **Teacher Notes** to add or view your notes.
- Click 🖨 to print the document and Analytics information.
- To close the Analytics tool, click on ✓ Done or ◔.
- You can refer back to the Analytics data at any time – it's embedded within the document and easily accessible via the Analytics tool.

Back to contents

Create a new Clicker Set

Clicker makes creating and editing Clicker Sets easier than ever, so that you can quickly provide content for any topic.



Make your own Clicker Sets to support children in different ways:

- Go to the **Clicker Set** ribbon tab.
- Choose **New**.
- Select the type of Clicker Set you want to make.
- Learn how to create and edit Clicker Sets in the Create your own Clicker Sets training guide.

Back to contents

CrickSoftware

us.cricksoft.com/ClickerTutorials/WinMac