



# Gapmaster

is a program for creating gap-filling exercises. It allows teachers to write texts containing gaps, each with several alternative correct answers, as well as its own hints. The gapped text may be in the form of a continuous cloze text or a mixture of instructions and gapped items. Each exercise can also have an Introduction, Help pages, Glossary, a Video snip and a Picture and Sound help. Each gapped item can have a Sound, Text or Picture hint.

As a learner, you can move freely around the text using the mouse and fill the gaps in any order. A major feature is the program's *Exploratory mode*, which allows you to try out a range of different answers for the same gap. The various kinds of help available include a *shape* feature which guides you towards the alternative you seem to be making for as well as a text, picture or sound hint for each gap. The teacher may have also provided a *Glossary* of words with their definitions and example sentences which the learner may consult at will. *Gapmaster* also has a *Test mode*, which as in an examination delays all feedback till the end of the exercise and then allows learners to review their answers.

Authoring *Gapmaster* files is very straightforward. Answers are simply highlighted, you click on 'Gap' or the Gap button and they appear in the answer box below. Alternative correct possibilities can be typed in and separated by backslashes. If sounds, pictures or video clips are available anywhere on the system (.wavs, .bmps or .avis) they can be easily located by the teacher and "attached" to an exercise as a whole or to individual question items or gapped words.

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*Gapmaster* can have endless applications in language learning (and in most other subjects). Here are some possibilities:

- Sentence completion, focusing on grammar, vocabulary and usage.
- Adapted cloze exercises with alternative answers
- Comprehension questions of various kinds.
- Word-building exercises, gapping out prefixes and suffixes.
- Gapped out punctuation.

