**WORKING WITH WORD**

**Microsoft Word** is a [word processor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Word_processor) developed by [Microsoft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft). It was first released on October 25, 1983under the name *Multi-Tool Word* for [Xenix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xenix" \o "Xenix) systems  Subsequent versions were later written for several other platforms including [IBM PCs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IBM_PC) running [DOS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DOS) (1983), [Apple Macintosh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_Macintosh) running [Classic Mac OS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classic_Mac_OS) (1985), [AT&T Unix PC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AT%26T_Unix_PC) (1985), [Atari ST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atari_ST) (1988), [OS/2](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OS/2) (1989), [Microsoft Windows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows) (1989), [SCO Unix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SCO_Unix) (1994), and [macOS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MacOS" \o "MacOS) (2001). Commercial versions of Word are licensed as a standalone product or as a component of [Microsoft Office](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Office), [Windows RT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_RT) or the discontinued [Microsoft Works suite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Works). [Microsoft Word Viewer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Word_Viewer) and [Office Online](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Office_Online) are [freeware](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freeware) editions of Word with limited features.

In 1981, Microsoft hired [Charles Simonyi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Simonyi), the primary developer of [Bravo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bravo_(software)), the first [GUI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GUI) [word processor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Word_processor), which was developed at [Xerox PARC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PARC_(company)).[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Word#cite_note-pcworld_word25-8) Simonyi started work on a word processor called *Multi-Tool Word* and soon hired [Richard Brodie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Brodie_(programmer)), a former Xerox intern, who became the primary software engineer Microsoft announced Multi-Tool Word for [Xenix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xenix" \o "Xenix)nd MS-DOS in 1983. Its name was soon simplified to *Microsoft Word* Free demonstration copies of the application were bundled with the November 1983 issue of [*PC World*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PC_World_(magazine)), making it the first to be distributed on-disk with a [magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine)  That year Microsoft demonstrated Word running on [Windows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows) Unlike most MS-DOS programs at the time, Microsoft Word was designed to be used with a mouse  Advertisements depicted the [Microsoft Mouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Mouse), and described Word as a [WYSIWYG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WYSIWYG), windowed word processor with the ability to [undo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undo) and display bold, italic, and underlined text  although it could not render [fonts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Font)  It was not initially popular, since its user interface was different from the leading word processor at the time, [WordStar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WordStar). However, Microsoft steadily improved the product, releasing versions 2.0 through 5.0 over the next six years. In 1985, Microsoft [ported](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porting) Word to [Mac OS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classic_Mac_OS). This was made easier by Word for DOS having been designed for use with high-resolution displays and laser printers, even though none were yet available to the general public  Following the precedents of LisaWrite and MacWrite, Word for Mac OS added true WYSIWYG features. It fulfilled a need for a word processor that was more capable than [MacWrite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MacWrite)  After its release, Word for Mac OS's sales were higher than its MS-DOS counterpart for at least four years

The second release of Word for Mac OS, shipped in 1987, was named Word 3.0 to synchronize its version number with Word for DOS; this was Microsoft's first attempt to synchronize version numbers across platforms. Word 3.0 included numerous internal enhancements and new features, including the first implementation of the [Rich Text Format](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rich_Text_Format) (RTF) specification, but was plagued with bugs. Within a few months, Word 3.0 was superseded by a more stable Word 3.01, which was mailed free to all registered users of 3.0  After MacWrite Pro was discontinued in the mid-1990s, Word for Mac OS never had any serious rivals. Word 5.1 for Mac OS, released in 1992, was a very popular word processor owing to its elegance, relative ease of use and feature set. Many users say it is the best version of Word for Mac OS ever created. In 1986, an agreement between [Atari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atari) and Microsoft brought Word to the [Atari ST](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atari_ST)under the name *Microsoft Write*. The Atari ST version was a port of Word 1.05 for the Mac OS and was never updated due to the outstanding degree of [software piracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_piracy) on the Atari platform.