

Visual Thesaurus



What Is It?

- The Visual Thesaurus is an interactive dictionary and thesaurus which creates word maps that blossom with meanings and branch to related words.
- One of the topics covered in Darrin's session on 8/3 and 8/6

Features:

- Natural language searching
- The VT suggests a word if you spell it wrong
- Meanings are color-coded to indicate parts of speech
- Hear words pronounced correctly
- See how words are used in different parts of speech
- Historical figures, phrases and trademarks are included
- Right-click on any word to launch an Internet search for images or information
- Leaves your word in the keyword search box so you always know where you began

Recommend using Safari because it doesn't block pop-ups (see later part of presentation).

Example: PENINSULA

- Type PENINSULA first to show word suggestions
- Show audio
- Show meaning of PENINSULA in rollover and on top right in Meanings List
- Click on definition (red dot) to reveal examples of PENINSULAS
- Show right-click: search for images and internet search

01 To start using the Visual Thesaurus, type a word into the search box and click "LOOK IT UP".

next >>

02 The word you entered (i.e., train) appears in the center. It is surrounded by words and meanings that are related to it. The different colored circles represent the different meanings.

To listen to the audio pronunciation of the center word, click the speaker icon next to it.

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03 You can click on any word you see to make it the center and see the words and meanings related to it.

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04 With the Visual Thesaurus, you can filter by parts of speech. Let's say you know you want to simplify the display so you are only looking at verbs. Turn off nouns by clicking on the "off" button next to nouns.

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05 Roll over a meaning (circle) to see its definition and usage examples. Bring it to the center by clicking on it.

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06 Synonyms are connected by solid lines. Dashed lines show other types of relationships. Roll over a dashed line to learn what kind of relationship it is.

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07 All the meanings on the screen are presented on the right, in the Meanings List, separated by parts of speech. Rolling over a meaning in the list is the same as rolling over it in the main display.

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08 If you right-click on a word or meaning in the Visual Thesaurus display (command-click on Macintosh computers), you will see a "pop-up" menu that shows the various actions that can be taken on that word.

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09 Look up another word by typing it into the search box. Not sure how to spell it? The word suggestion panel will open if you spell it wrong.

Click on one of the suggestions (i.e. vacuum) to bring it to the center.

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10 Want to learn about how to use the Visual Thesaurus just by moving your mouse around? Turn on help tips and roll over items in the interface to reveal the help tool tips.

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11 You can change your font size, choose from a selection of presets, hide and show relationships, filter the dictionary and much more by opening the settings panel.

Let's open the settings panel to increase the font size by clicking here.

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12 The settings panel has many sub-panels where you can control various aspects of how the Visual Thesaurus works.

Let's click on "Display Settings" to see all the controls that affect the display.

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