

## Clicker 5

### Creating a Custom ClickerGrid

#### Introduction

Clicker 5 is a talking word processor that has the ability to combine graphics, text and speech in custom reading and writing environments that can effectively support students' reading comprehension and written output. One of the most powerful features of the program is the ease with which you can create your own custom ClickerGrids which will meet your specific student and program needs. In this tutorial, you will learn how to create a custom word grid from one of the many templates that come with the program.

This tutorial assumes...

- you have the Clicker 5 program installed on your computer's hard drive. Please refer to the installation and set up instructions that came with your software.  
NOTE: If you have Clicker 4 installed on your computer, you are NOT required to uninstall it first. Installation of Clicker 5 will not affect your Clicker 4 installation but will integrate your existing Clicker 4 grids into the Clicker 5 Explorer.

#### Learning Objectives

Completion of this tutorial will give you experience...

- creating and saving a ClickerGrid from a template
- adjusting grid properties
- modifying cells and adjusting cell properties
- creating a starting document for the Grid set

#### Case Study

Elissa is a Grade 6 student with cerebral palsy. While she is able to use the regular mouse and keyboard for simple typing, the effort is exhausting and she cannot produce enough written output to reflect her understanding or keep up with the class. She has used Clicker 4 in the past for journal writing and her school based team, after upgrading her program to Clicker 5, wanted to expand her use into content areas. Working together, Elissa's classroom teacher and Special Education Assistant prepared simple word grids that contained vocabulary from various Science and Social Studies units. Her classroom teacher was in the habit of creating worksheets in Microsoft Word and then printing them out for her students to complete. She continued to do so, but to accommodate Elissa, her SEA created a new ClickerGrid set and then copied and pasted the worksheet text into the ClickerWriter area. She then added the necessary vocabulary to the ClickerGrid to fill in the blanks or complete the sentences. Elissa was also able to use the custom word banks and the built in keyboard grid to write about the topics being explored. Her team has found that Elissa picks up much more information during class than they expected and she is better able to demonstrate her understanding of concepts being presented in a shorter amount of time.

## Creating a New Clicker 5 Grid Set

1

Launch Clicker 5 from your Programs List (or the alias on your desktop).

Unless you have created a Home page, the first screen that opens up is ClickerExplorer.

Click on the **Create new Grid Set...** link in the Clicker 5 Tasks area of ClickerExplorer.



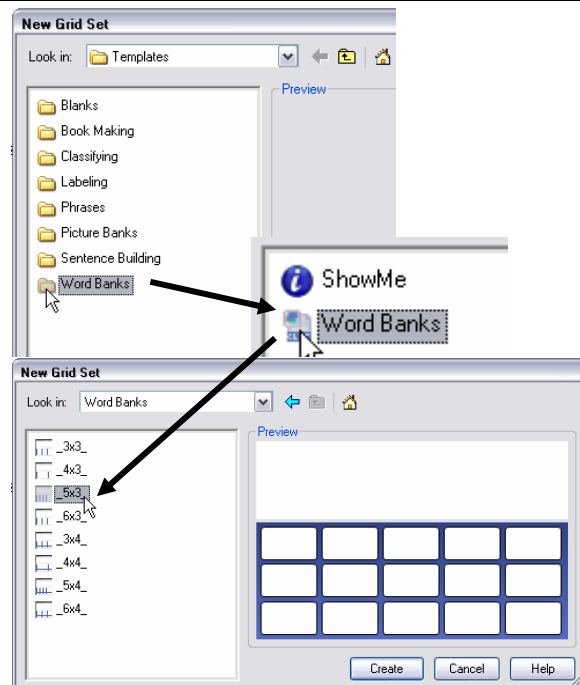
2

The New Grid Set window will open up showing you subfolders containing a variety of Grid templates.

To create a simple Word Bank grid, **double-click** on the **Word Banks** folder to open it.

**Double-click** on the **Word Banks** template icon to see the available templates.

**Click** on one of the available templates to see a preview of it. When you have found one you want to use, click **Create**.

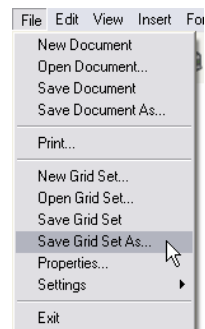


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When your new Grid opens, save it by going to **File** > **Save Grid Set as...**

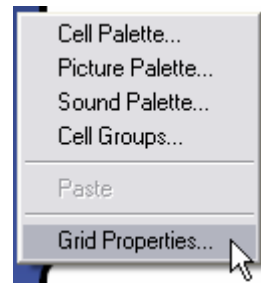
Name your new Grid set and navigate to the folder where you plan on saving your grids. Click **Save**.

Remember to save your Grid periodically when working on it.



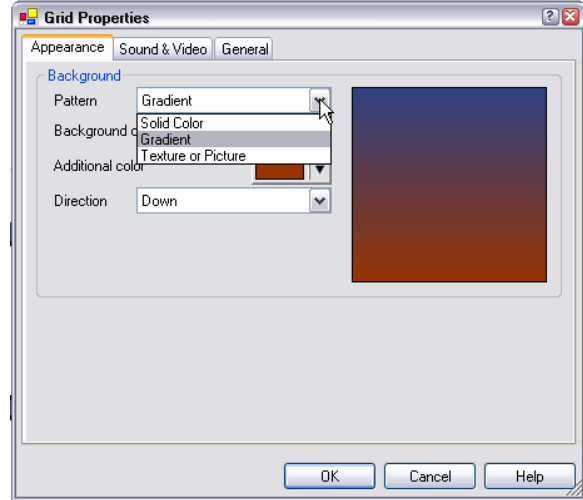
## Adjusting the Grid Properties

- 1 You can customize how your new Grid looks by adjusting the Grid properties.
- 1 Place your cursor somewhere in the grid area (not on a cell) and press **Ctrl-right click** (Macintosh – **Ctrl-click**). Select **Grid properties...** from the context menu.



- 2 On the Grid Properties window that opens up, under the **Appearance** tab, you can adjust the **Pattern** and **Background color** of your new grid.
- 2 Choose the background for your grid. Click **OK** to exit the window.

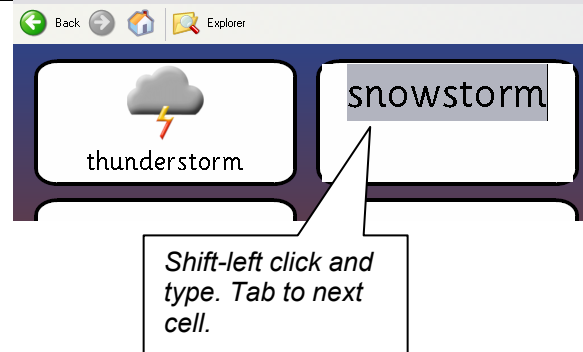
**NOTE:** You can also access Grid properties by going to **Grid > Grid Properties...** in the menu at the top of ClickerWriter.



## Modifying Cells and Adjusting Cell Properties

- 1 To add text to the cells in your new grid, **Shift-left click** (Macintosh – **Shift-click**) on any cell and type in the text. You can move from one cell to the next by pressing the **Tab** key on your keyboard.

- 1 **NOTE:** This assumes your User Preferences are set to allow editing of the cells. If you can't edit the cell text, go to Options > **User Preferences...** and under the **Editing** tab, make sure **Allow Edit Mode to be used** is selected.



- 2 Depending on what text you are entering you may or may not get pictures appearing in the cells. You can adjust what, if any graphics, are

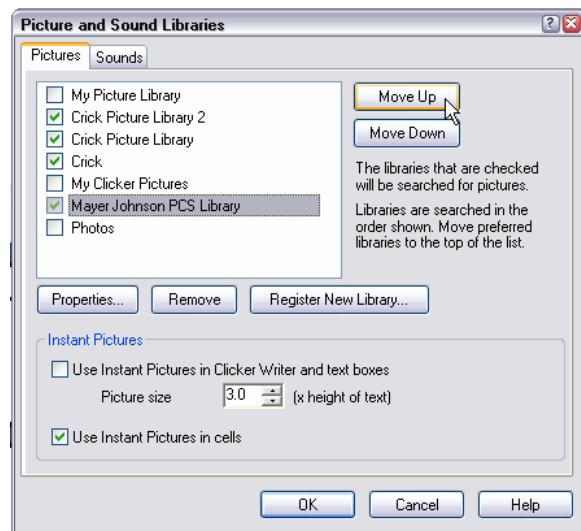
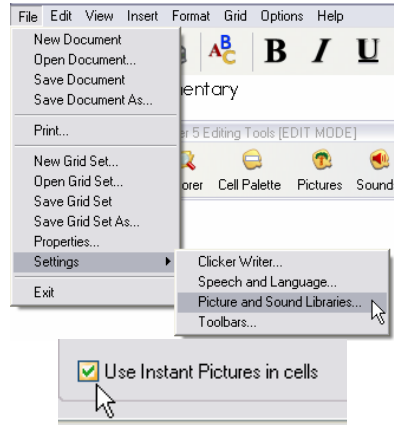
displayed as you type in cells by going to **File > Settings > Picture and Sound Libraries...**

If you don't want pictures appearing in the cells as you type, deselect **Instant Pictures in cells**.

If you want pictures in the cells as you type, you should organize the Picture libraries in the order you want them searched. Click next to the specific **Picture Libraries** you want Clicker to search as you type.

To determine the order in which the libraries are searched, highlight a selected library and click the **Move Up** or **Move Down** button to place it where you want in the list. Clicker will search in the first selected library first – if it can't find a picture to match the text, it will move to the next library in the list and so on. If it can't find any pictures in any of the selected libraries, no picture will be placed in the cell.

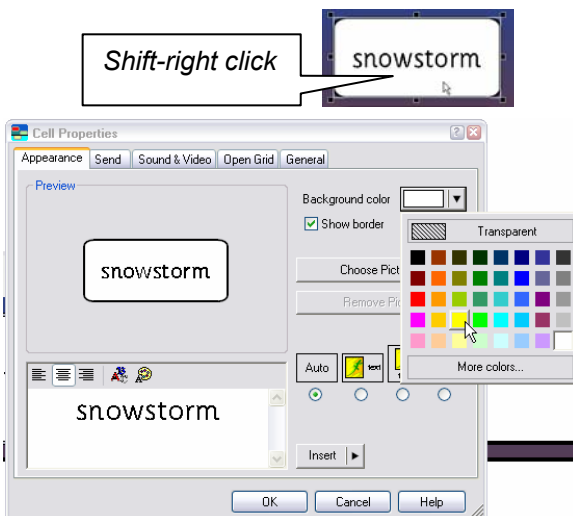
**NOTE:** If you want to use your own pictures, refer to the "Using Web Images in Clicker 5" tutorial and demonstration for instructions on creating and registering Picture Libraries.



After you have entered the text in your cells, you can adjust the individual cell's properties.

**Shift-right click** in a cell to open the Cell properties window (Macintosh – **Ctrl-click**).

Under the **Appearance** tab, you can change the **Background color** of the cell by choosing a color from the drop down menu.

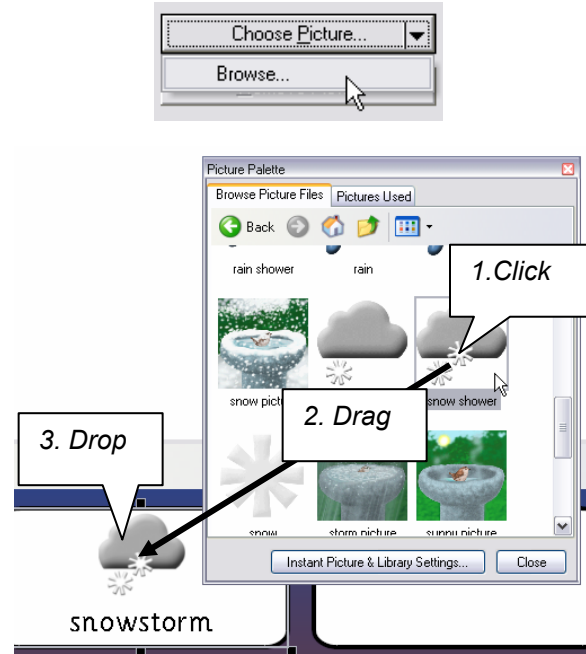


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You can also choose to have the text beside or above the graphic and you can change the text and text attributes in the text area of the window.

You can adjust the graphic under the **Appearance** tab by clicking **Choose Picture** and browsing to the location of the picture you want on your computer.

**NOTE:** An easier way to add a graphic to your cells is to go to **Edit** ➤ **Edit Mode** and click on the Picture Palette button. There you can open the Picture Libraries folders or navigate to your own graphics folder and simply **click, drag, and drop** the pictures onto a cell.



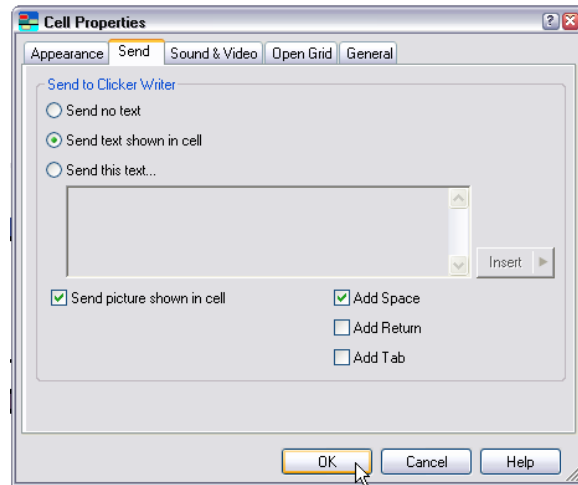
In Cell Properties, under the **Send** tab, you can specify what you would like the cell to do when it is clicked.

You can choose to have it send - to ClickerWriter - the cell text, the cell graphic, both, or some other text that you type in the **Send this text...** field.

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You can also add a **Space**, **Return**, or **Tab** after the text by selecting those options.

When you have finished adjusting the cell properties for the cell, click **OK**.



#### V Tip...

You can change the cell properties, for example the Background color, of more than one cell at once by selecting several. **Ctrl-left click** on all the cells you want to adjust to select them (Macintosh – Option-click). Once they are selected (they will show diagonal lines) **Shift-right click** to access the Cell Properties window (Macintosh – Ctrl-click) where you can change the various cell properties.

## Creating a Starting Document

Clicker 5 allows you to specify what document you would like to open with the Grid set. By default, a blank ClickerWriter document opens up but you can have a document with text open instead.

Go to **File > Settings > ClickerWriter...** and click on the **Starting Document** tab at the top of the Clicker Writer Settings window.

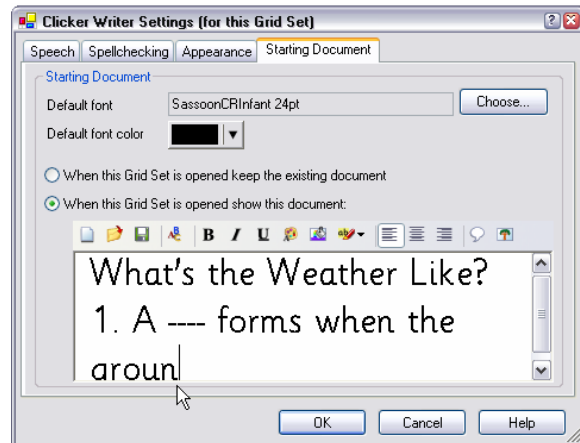
By default the **When this Grid Set is opened keep the existing document option** is selected. If you have nothing in the ClickerWriter area, then a blank document will open.

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If you want a worksheet to open, you can select **When this Grid Set is opened show this document** and type in the field below. You could also use the tools at the top of this field to open an existing document (for Clicker 5 to recognize it, the document must have been previously saved as a complete .html or web page document).

This window also allows you to set the **default font** and **font color** for the ClickerWriter document that is attached to the Grid set, even if it opens as a blank document.

When you have finished setting up the starting document, click **OK**.



This concludes the tutorial on creating a custom Clicker Grid Set. Please look for other tutorials and Clicker 5 demonstrations at [http://www.setbc.org/setbc/access/access\\_clicker5\\_resources.html](http://www.setbc.org/setbc/access/access_clicker5_resources.html).