

The Grid 2

Getting started



start here...

your licence agreement

Evaluation (demo) licence

From the date first installed, The Grid 2 will allow unrestricted use for 60 days to allow you to evaluate the software prior to purchase. After this time the software must be activated with a licence code for continued use.

A single licence for an individual

A single user licence allows only the person for whom the program was purchased to use it on any computer. The software may also be used on a computer belonging to an institution, such as a school or hospital, provided that the software is used only by the purchaser on that computer.

A single licence for an institution

A single computer licence allows an institution, such as a school or hospital, to use the software on any one computer that is the property of that institution and is used only on the premises of the licensee. Students, clients or patients should have their own copy for use on their personal computer systems.

Multiple computer licence

A multi computer licence allows an institution, such as a school or hospital, to use the software on the specified number of computers, provided that such computers are the property of that institution and are used only on the premises of the licensee.

Students, clients or patients should have their own copy for use on their personal computer systems. Multi computer licences are available for five, twenty or fifty computers.

Network licence

A network licence allows an institution, such as a school or hospital to install the software on a network server for use by up to 50 users at a time. The software may also be used on stand alone computers that are the property of that institution and are used only on the premises of the licensee.

Students, clients or patients should have their own copy for use on their personal computer systems.

Institutions requiring additional licences for multiple users should contact their distributor for an upgrade.

All licences are supplied with spare tokens that may be used in case of hard drive failure or replacement of the computer. Users who exhaust all spare tokens should contact their distributor.

installation

1) Insert the Grid 2 CD into your computer's CD drive.

If the installation does not start automatically, locate the CD drive under My Computer and double-click in the setup icon.

2) Select the language in which you wish to install the software, and click **Next**.

3) Select **The Grid 2** from the list of programs to install.

You should not need to change the location that the files install to. If you do, please note that if you have other Sensory Software programs they should be installed in the same location.

4) Click **Next** to start the installation.

Speech installation

After The Grid 2 has been installed, you will be prompted to install speech. If you are unsure which voices to install, we recommend installing "Mary, Mike and Sam". The Acapela voices can be installed from the separate CD included.

The Acapela voices require a licence, which is included with The Grid 2. The voices can be evaluated for 30 days without a licence.

Adobe Acrobat Reader

If you wish to view the manuals on your computer (recommended) you will need to install Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Free software evaluation

If you have not yet purchased The Grid 2, you can evaluate the software for 60 days. We want you to be sure that you make the right choice when selecting The Grid 2, so we provide plenty of time to ensure you've made the right decision. During this evaluation period, feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Paid-for software activation

If you have purchased The Grid 2, you can now activate your software. To do this, run Licence Manager from the start menu and follow the instructions on screen.

Programs > Sensory Software > Licence Manager

welcome to the grid 2

Thanks for choosing The Grid 2! This guide will introduce you to The Grid 2, looking at some of the cool features and included resources.

What does The Grid 2 do?

It enables people with physical and sensory disabilities to access a computer without a keyboard and mouse. Your computer can be used for voice output communication and other computer based tasks such as email.

What are grids?

Grids are pages of buttons (called cells). Most cells are used to talk, write sentences, or jump to other grids.

Universal access

The Grid 2 has been designed to be universally accessible. It can be used by people with a wide range of physical difficulties, taking control with a mouse, touchscreen, head pointer or switches.

Voice output communication

The Grid 2 allows instant communication, with cells speaking when they are selected, and sentence building using text or symbols.



More ways to communicate

The Grid 2 allows you to send and receive emails and SMS text messages.

Beyond communication

You can also surf the internet with the web browser, listen to the music player, use the calculator or write, format and save documents with the word processor.

Computer control

Computer control grids allow people unable to use a keyboard and mouse to access Windows and popular applications such as Microsoft Word. In addition to on screen keyboards, tools are included for launching programs and accessing menus and other functions.



When The Grid 2 starts for the first time, you will see a selection screen with a number of users available.

Double click on one of the user pictures to activate that user.

select a user

stalk

Symbol communication

Stalk is a small group of grids for instant communication. The grids are a fun way to introduce key concepts such as symbol sentences and jumping between grids.



dynamic screen

Symbol communication

Dynamic Screen Starter is a simple communication vocabulary for symbol users. These grids provide a structured starting point for developing a larger, personalised communication system.



pragtalk

Symbol communication

PragTalk is a different approach to vocabulary, intended for very young children. Start by selecting "good" or "bad" things to say, and see what options are available.



grid talk

Symbol communication

Grid Talk is a communication vocabulary for people who rely on symbols to identify words but can usually identify the first letter of a word.



The front page provides core vocabulary and hundreds more words are one click away.

star talker

Text communication

Star Talker allows literate writers to speak quickly using a keyboard with prediction. Any message can be saved and quickly recalled. You can also send email and SMS text messages from Star Talker.



computer control

On screen keyboard

Computer Control lets you take control of your computer. Included are on screen keyboard, mouse control and window management tools, along with grids for many popular applications such as Microsoft Word and Windows Messenger.





Each of these circles jumps to a page of things to say.

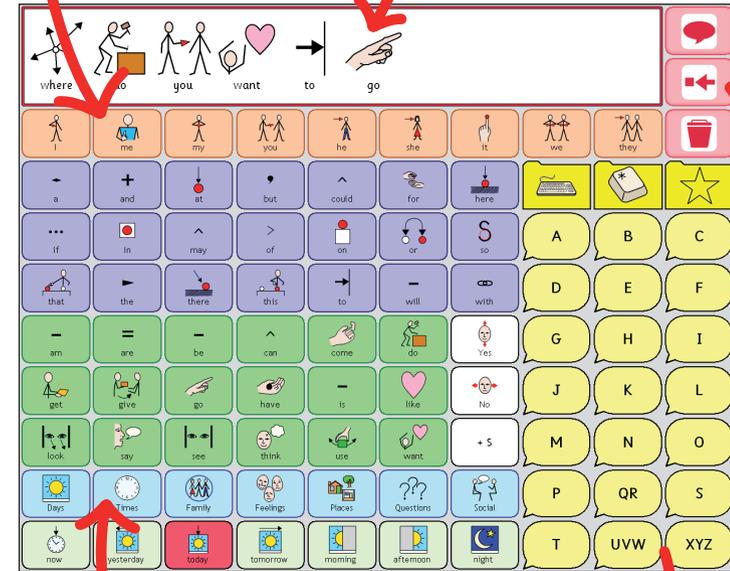
You can easily make new pages or change the ones we made!

Core vocabulary is split into people (orange), small words (blue) and verbs (green).

This is the symbol workspace where you build your sentences.



I wonder what this does?



Action cells: speak, delete word and clear sentence.

The pages each have a sentence bar, where you can see what is being spoken.

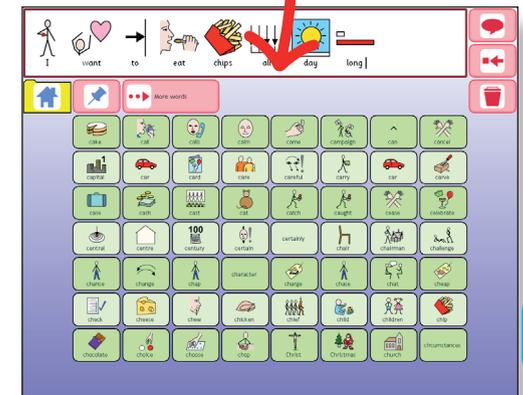
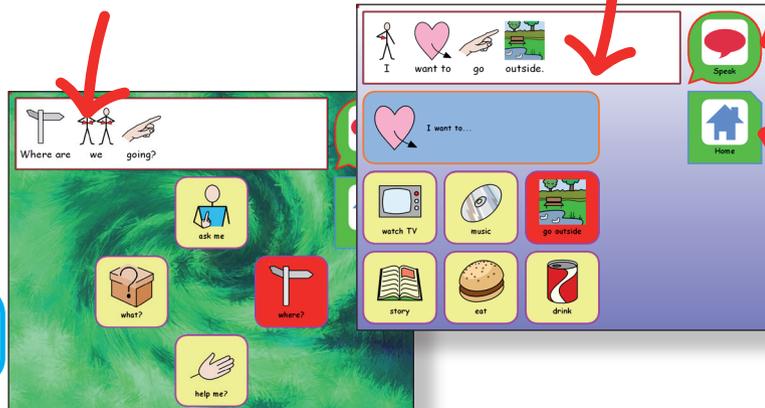
The fun stuff page has some simple sentence building.

This cell speaks the sentence...

...and this one goes back to the home page.

When you select one of the blue topic cells, common words are displayed in the bottom row. After selecting a verb, you can choose a different ending.

The letter cells link to pages with word lists.



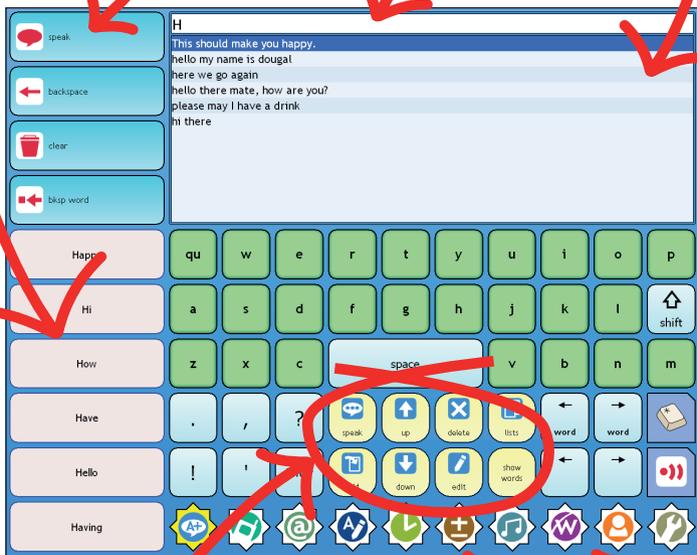


Prediction cells make writing with Star Talker fast and accurate.

Action cells for speaking and deleting your sentence.

Write what you want to say in the sentence bar at the top.

Your saved messages are shown here. Quickly search saved messages by typing a key word.

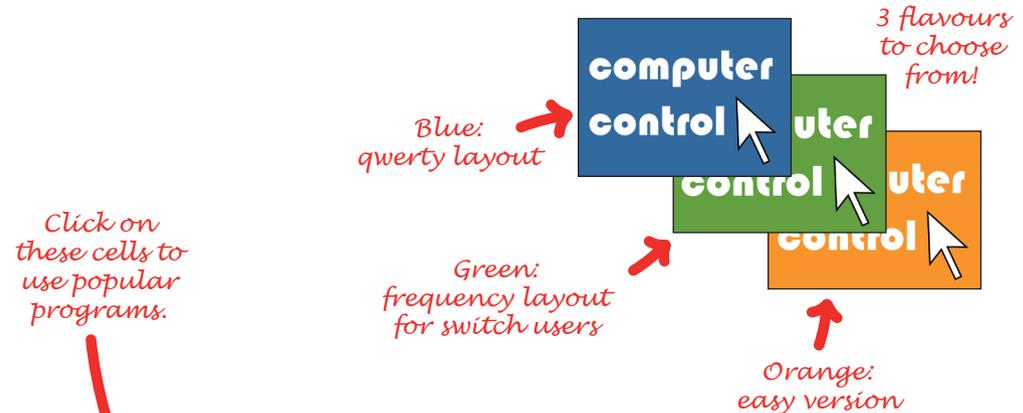


Punctuation & numbers.

Environment control.

These cells are for working with the message list. When writing emails or sms text messages they change to provide the functions you need.

Email, SMS and other workspaces are accessed with the star keys at the bottom of each grid.



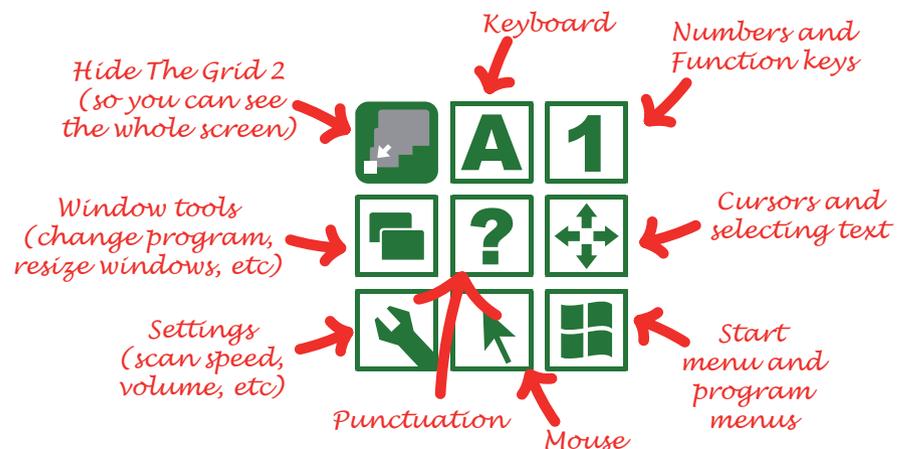
Click on these cells to use popular programs.



Talk takes you to a communication grid with saved messages.

You can also send SMS messages if you have a compatible mobile phone.

These cells appear often and link to important grids

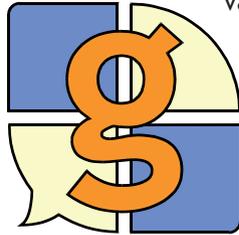


using the grid 2

When you activate a user in The Grid 2, you will see the grids for that user on the screen.

Interaction with grids

If you are using a mouse or touch screen, you can simply click on cells to activate them. All grids can be used with other access technology, including switches, head pointers, eye-gaze detection and joysticks.



Varied appearance

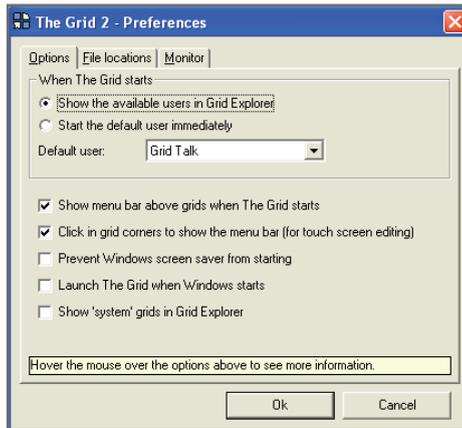
The appearance of the grids can vary widely, and you can change colours, fonts, picture sizes and much more. The grids we provide show just some of the possibilities for the way The Grid 2 can look.

Show / hide menu

If you wish to show or hide the menu, press the F12 key.

configuring the grid 2

There are a couple of program preferences that are useful to change. To open the Preferences window, select **File > Preferences** from the menu.



Launching The Grid 2 when Windows starts

You may wish to have The Grid 2 launch when Windows starts. To do this, tick the box **Launch The Grid when Windows starts**.

Starting with a user

When first installed, The Grid 2 opens showing Grid Explorer. To skip

Grid Explorer and start The Grid 2 with one of the users, select the option **Start the default user immediately**.

PCS symbols

If you have the PCS symbols you can tell The Grid 2 where they are installed. Select the **File Locations** tab and then click on **Find**. If the Grid 2 does not find the folder automatically, click **Browse** and

select the folder manually.

The Widgit Rebus symbols are included with The Grid 2.

grid explorer

Users in The Grid 2 have their own grids and settings, so several people with different requirements can use The Grid 2 on the same computer.

Grid Explorer

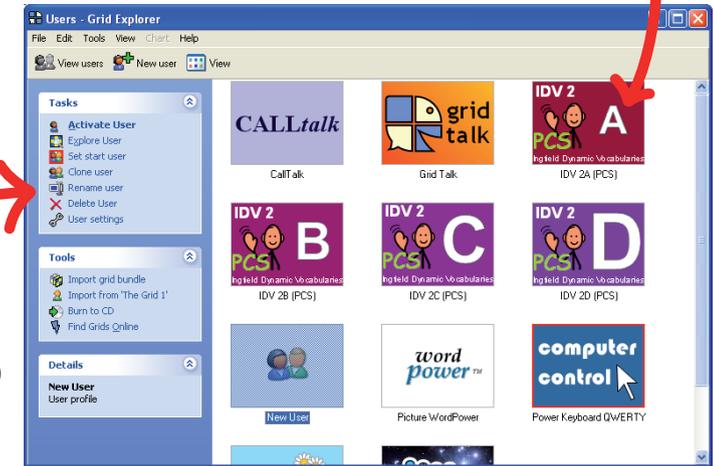
You can see a list of users in Grid Explorer. Grid Explorer usually comes up when The Grid 2 starts. If The Grid 2 is

One really cool feature is the ability to save one or more users to a CD as a backup. Select the user/users that you want to save, and click on **Burn to CD** to start the backup.

These are the users available.

This bar displays common tasks.

configured to start with a user: Press **F12** to display the menu bar (if it is not visible) and select **File > Grid Explorer** from the menu. Click on the **View Users** button.

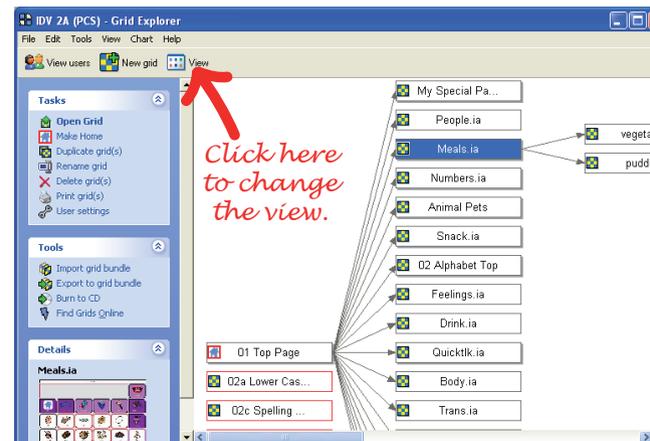


Click on one of the users access options to make a copy of the user, rename the user or other common tasks.

You can see grids for any users by selecting the user and then choosing **Explore Grids**. A new Grid Explorer window will open showing the user's grids.

You can change the way grids are displayed by clicking on the **View** button in the toolbar.

Thumbnail view shows a preview of each grid, and **list view** is good when you have lots of grids. **Chart view** (left) shows how the start grid connects to the other grids.



workspaces

We're going to take a quick look at some of the other workspaces to see what you can do in The Grid 2.

The part of a grid where you write your sentences is called the workspace. Each workspace has its own logo and colour, so when you see these grids you can have a good guess at what these cells will do.

Communication

The Grid 2 lets you write using symbols (the Symbol Chat workspace) or with text (the Text Chat workspace).

 The **Symbol Chat** workspace is for writing symbol sentences for talking. When writing from symbol grids, words appear in the sentence bar with symbols underneath.

The **Text Chat** workspace is for literate users who want to talk. Text appears in the workspace and can be edited or spoken.

 **Text Chat + Messages** adds a message store, so you can save a message that might be useful in the future. To find a saved message, type any of the words from the message and it will be located.

 **Email** and **SMS** workspaces are for sending messages. You can write messages using symbols, and incoming messages can be spoken aloud.

Beyond communication

The following workspaces allow you to do much more than communicate.

 The **Web Browser** workspace takes you online and into cyberspace to view and speak websites.

 Budding authors can use the **Word Processor** workspace to write and format simple documents, and save work to read later.

 There's a **Music Player** which lets you play CDs or music saved on your computer. Use Windows Media Player to save CDs onto your computer and you can then listen to them in The Grid 2.

 The **Computer Control** workspace is the one that lets you interact with other Windows programs. When this workspace is active, The Grid becomes smaller so you can see other programs.

 There are other workspaces too, including a clock, a simple calculator and one for viewing current settings.

 As you jump between grids, you will sometimes see the workspace change. You can also switch between workspaces at any time from the menu above the grids (press **F12** if you can't see the menu).

editing grids

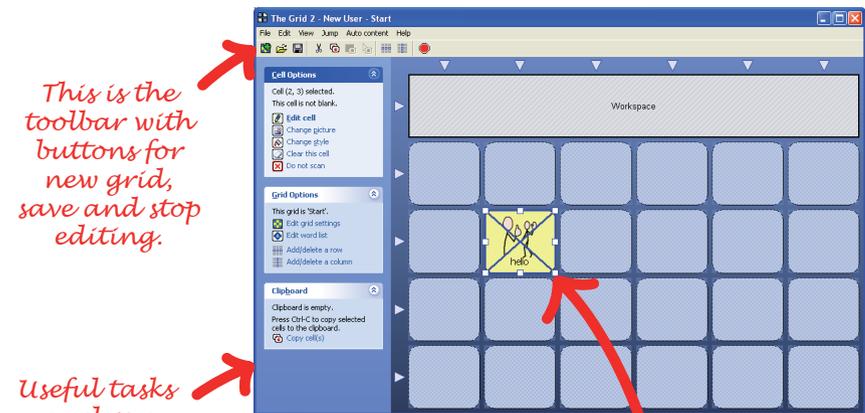
You can make changes to grids by going into Edit Mode. To go into Edit Mode, press **F11** or select **Edit > Edit Mode** from the menu.

Click on a cell to select it. When a cell is selected, you can move it by simply dragging with the mouse. You can also resize it by dragging the white resize boxes that appear on

the edges of the selected cell. *Note that the workspace is a special cell, but it can be moved and resized like the other cells.*

Useful tasks

You will also see useful tasks in the bar on the left side of the screen. These change according to what you have selected.



This is the toolbar with buttons for new grid, save and stop editing.

Useful tasks are shown in this bar.

Selected cells have a blue border with an X through the middle.

Modifying a cell

Select **Edit Cell** to see the settings for the selected cell - here you can change how the cell looks and what it does. There's more information about making cells and editing cells on the training cards.

Grid settings

You can also change settings for a grid - such as the background colour

or picture - by clicking **Edit Grid Settings** (you'll find it in the bar on the left).

When you have finished editing, you can click on the **disk icon** in the toolbar to save your changes. Click on the **red stop icon** (or press **F11**) to leave edit mode and return to normal operation.

changing settings for a user

Each user has a unique configuration for access, speech, email, etc.

If you are in Grid Explorer, select a user and choose **User Settings** from the bar on the left.

If you are viewing a grid, press **F12** to display the menu bar (if it is not visible) and select **Edit > User Settings** from the menu bar.

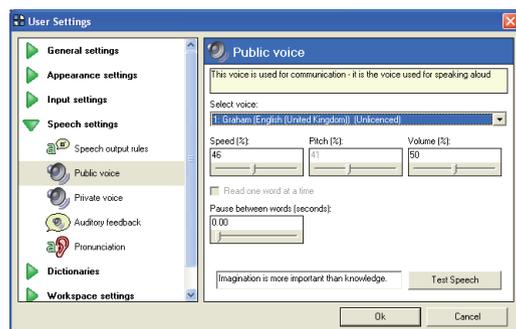
Changing the voice

You can change the voice for a user. Select **Speech settings > Public voice** to select a different voice and change the speed or pitch.

The Grid 2 has a Public Voice for voice output communication and a Private Voice for providing feedback to the user. Many users prefer to have a quieter, faster voice for the private speech.

Choosing what is spoken

Select **Speech settings > Speech output rules** to select what is spoken. As you write words and sentences in The Grid 2, your writing can be spoken.



Read sentences speaks the last sentence when you write a full stop.
Read words speaks each word as it is written. This speaks when you type a space, select predicted words or write whole words from a symbol vocab grid.
Read characters will speak each letter as a word is written.

Switch input

You can control The Grid 2 with one or more switches, and there are comprehensive options for adjusting the speed and other settings to reduce frustration when scanning with switches.

Select **Input Settings > Switch** to see the switch options. First select

Connection and select the type of switch adaptor that you. Once the test lights are showing correctly when you press your switch(es), move on to **Scan pattern** to configure the way that scanning works. You can set up extra switches in **Switch actions**, and finally the **Timing** options allow you to speed up or slow down the scanning.

communication vocabularies

These communication vocabularies have been designed by people with years of experience of communication aids. They are available as add-ons to The Grid 2.

Symbol vocabularies are available with Mayer-Johnson PCS or Widgeit Rebus colour symbols, and the complete symbol sets are included for expanding the vocabulary.

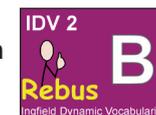
Each one has been redeveloped to take advantage of special features in The Grid 2, such as word lists, email, sms and so on.

All the grids can be customised and new grids can be added to personalise your communication system.

IDV 2

Symbol communication

Ingfield Dynamic Vocabularies are topic based grids for symbol users. On each grid are the building blocks for a sentence, with colour coding to help identify cells.



IDV has four levels, A-D, so you can select the right level to start at and later add extra vocabulary when ready.

CALLtalk

Symbol communication

CALLtalk is designed for more advanced symbol users. Words are arranged by topic, and on each page there are pop-up grids for sentence starters, verbs and small words. This provides quick access to core vocabulary that is consistent across all the grids.



The level of vocabulary in CALLtalk grids is similar to IDV levels C and D.

WordPower

Text communication

WordPower uses a keyboard, picture prediction and core vocabulary to allow most words to be written from one page, making communication with WordPower very fast.



For extended symbol vocabulary, topic pages with word lists are included.

WordPower, Picture WordPower, Scanning WordPower and Mini WordPower are all included in the WordPower package.

online grids

Do you need a grid on a common topic, or for a popular piece of software? Have you made some grids that you think others will find useful? Or perhaps you are simply looking for new ideas for grids?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes' then you should check out our grid sharing website. Here you can find grids that other Grid 2 users have put online, and download

them to your computer.



Don't like what you see? You can leave comments and suggestions for grid authors or other people looking for grids to download.

Think you can do better? You can add your grids to the website and get feedback and suggestions.

<http://grids.sensorysoftware.com>

where to find more information

The training cards accompanying this booklet provide instructions for many useful editing functions.

A longer manual is available to view or print from your computer. It can be located in the Windows Start menu or from the help menus within The Grid 2.

Extra copies of this booklet and the training cards, along with printed copies of the full manual are available on request.

For help and support with The Grid 2, please contact the company you purchased the software from. Answers to common questions can also be found on the Sensory Software website:

<http://www.sensorysoftware.com>

In the UK, support is provided by **Smartbox Assistive Technology Ltd**, who can be contacted by phone, email, or via the website:

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