



textexpander



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textexpander



The Customizable Typing Shortcut Utility That Saves You Time!

TextExpander is a utility that helps you type more efficiently and accurately. TextExpander watches what you type and inserts predefined snippets on the fly whenever you enter their corresponding abbreviations. [Read what's new in this version of TextExpander.](#)

- Insert standard greetings, text, and signatures including formatted text and pictures
- Save keystrokes by typing simple abbreviations to get long snippets
- Organize snippets into groups
- Add snippet groups from external files and online sources
- Insert the current date and time in any format you prefer
- Correct typos automatically
- Sync snippets via .Mac
- Print snippets by group
- Type special characters without launching the special characters palette
- Position the cursor wherever you want in your expanded snippet
- For programmers, make editor-independent code templates and invoke AppleScripts
- Import from Textpander, TypeIt4Me (v2 & 3) and Typinator (v1)
- Available in English, German, French, Japanese and Italian

TextExpander is controlled from its own preference pane inside your System Preferences. Designed for ease-of-use, TextExpander blends in perfectly with your operating system.

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System Requirements

Mac OS X 10.4 or above.

Purchasing

TextExpander costs US \$29.95, and may be purchased one of two ways.

1) From the demo itself:

In the TextExpander Preference Pane, go to the "Register" tab and click on "Buy Now."

2) From our online store:

Go to: <http://store.esellerate.net/somm/textexpander>

Updates

You can find the latest version of TextExpander and technical support at: <http://www.smileonmymac.com/textexpander/>

How Do I Install TextExpander?

1. Is a previous version of TextExpander currently running on your Mac?
 - **Yes**, TextExpander is currently running: Please go on with **step 2**.
 - **No**, TextExpander is not running: Please jump directly to **step 5**.
2. Open *System Preferences* ("/Applications/System Preferences.app").
3. Open TextExpander's or Textpander's preference pane and disable it by unchecking the *Enable TextExpander* checkbox.
4. Quit *System Preferences*.
5. Install *TextExpander.prefPane* by double-clicking on its file icon. This is the recommended way to install or upgrade TextExpander.


Alternatively, you can install TextExpander by copying *TextExpander.prefPane* to one of the following folders:

- /Library/PreferencePanes/
- /Users/*your user directory*/Library/PreferencePanes/

Please make sure the new version of *TextExpander.prefPane* replaces any previous version of TextExpander you might have installed. If you're installing TextExpander to a different location, or replacing a version of Textpander please remove the old *TextExpander.prefPane* or *Textpander.prefPane* files manually.

6. Open *System Preferences* ("/Applications/System Preferences.app").
7. Open the *Universal Access* pane and enable access for assistive devices.
8. To start TextExpander, open TextExpander's preference pane, click on the Preferences tab and check the *Enable TextExpander* checkbox.

Where Can I Get Help for TextExpander?

TextExpander's help is available from within its preference pane in System Preferences. Just click on the question mark button  in the lower right corner.

[Help is also available via your web browser.](#)

How Do I Uninstall TextExpander?

Go to TextExpander's preference pane in System Preferences and disable TextExpander.

Choose *Show All* in System Preferences.

Hold down the *control* key and click on the TextExpander icon. Select *Remove*

"TextExpander" Preference Pane from the resulting contextual menu.

Disclaimer

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TextExpander is produced by:

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[Help: What's New in TextExpander](#)

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-
- **TextExpander 2.0** (10-16-2007)
 - Snippet groups
 - Add snippet groups from external files
 - Add snippet groups from URLs (including password-protected URLs with Keychain support)
 - Synchronize snippet groups using .Mac Synchronization
 - Print snippets
 - Hotkeys to enable / disable and to create snippets from selection or clipboard
 - Enable or disable groups on a per-application basis
 - AppleScript snippets, which expand to the result of the script
 - More options for sounds
 - Sound settings on a per-group basis
 - Update snippet groups from URLs and external files at regular intervals
 - Improved performance with large numbers of snippets
 - User interface improvements
 - Additional improvements too numerous to mention
- **TextExpander 1.4.2** (03-06-2006)
 - Fixes problem saving when "Use additional snippets" is checked
- **TextExpander 1.4.1** (09-05-2006)
 - Abbreviations with characters requiring the Option key are fixed
 - Named delimiters (space, tab, return, esc) appear in other languages
 - Other minor fixes
- **TextExpander 1.4** (08-15-2006)
 - User-specified delimiters ("Set Delimiters..." button in Preferences tab)
 - Import comma- and tab-delimited text, RTF, and RTFD files
 - Choose TextExpander or Textpander style menu bar icon in Preferences
 - Sort snippets by date created (helps when locating import groups)
 - Sort snippets by date modified (helps when tracking recent changes)
 - Mac OS X 10.4 required

- **TextExpander 1.3.1** (06-06-2006)

- Dramatically improved performance for large snippet libraries
- Option to insert snippets using cross-platform compatible image format (PNG)
- Fixed crashing bug when using date / time in formatted text

- **TextExpander 1.3** (05-23-2006)

- Refer to other snippets as variables via "%snippet:[abbreviation]%" ...
- You can now create snippets directly from selected text by means of the TextExpander Service.
- TextExpander's preference pane can now be resized vertically.
- Abbreviations can now be corrected during typing with the backspace key.
- Fixed a bug where TextExpander did not insert snippets correctly while a hybrid keyboard layout (e.g., Dvorak Querty) was active.
- Added initial Japanese localization by Akira Ikeda.
- Available Languages: English, French, German, Japanese.

- **Textpander 1.2.2** (01-19-2006)

- Both Textpander's preference pane and the background process are universal binaries now. This means that Textpander runs natively on both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs.
- Available Languages: English, French, German.

- **Textpander 1.2.1** (12-09-2005)

- The snippets list now supports copy & paste. In addition to the obvious purpose of duplicating snippets (which was already possible by doing an [option]-drag, by the way), you can also create new snippets by pasting text to the snippets list. Moreover, copying from the snippets list populates your clipboard with a list of the selected snippets and their respective abbreviations. Paste that into a text file and apply your formatting to create a snippets cheat sheet.
- Textpander now works with iTerm.
- Available Languages: English, French, German.

- **Textpander 1.2** (10-28-2005)

- Fixed a bug in Textpander's external snippets parser. This will solve most problems experienced by users who have imported or subscribed to their Typelt4Me snippets. (You don't have to re-import those. Textpander fixes corrupted snippets automatically.)
- You can now add a clipboard placeholder (%clipboard) to have Textpander insert the current clipboard content into a snippet on expansion. (Only the clipboard's plain text representation is used here.)

- Textpander can now import or subscribe to "nlang" files from Nisus Writer.
- Textpander Help should now work on Mac OS X 10.3.9.
- Added a French localization by Hervé Roth.
- Available Languages: English, French, German.

• **Textpander 1.1** (08-29-2005)

- If you have configured Textpander to "Expand automatically when... a delimiter character has been typed after an abbreviation", you can now choose whether the delimiter character that triggered the expansion should vanish on expansion ("keep delimiter"/"abandon delimiter"). To override this setting for a specific snippet, add a "Keep delimiter" specifier ("%+"), without the surrounding quotation marks) or an "Abandon delimiter" specifier ("%-") to the very end of your snippet.
- You can now use your own local snippets collection and subscribe to a remote snippets file at the same time.
- Improved Textpander's compatibility with the Terminal and other applications that don't behave like standard OS X text editors.
- Available Languages: English, German.

• **Textpander 1.0** (08-22-2005)

- Initial release.
- Available Languages: English, German.

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[Help](#): Accessing TextExpander and Getting Started

TextExpander is a preference pane. It can be accessed one of two ways:

Via System Preferences

You can open System Preferences via the Apple menu (small Apple icon in the top left corner of your display). If TextExpander has been installed, you will see the TextExpander icon in System Preferences. (For more details about installing, see "[How Do I Install TextExpander?](#)")

Via Menu Bar

When TextExpander is enabled, you will see its icon in your menu bar. Click the icon and choose *TextExpander Preferences...* to access the preference pane.

For more detailed information about the TextExpander preference pane, see:

- [Snippets Tab](#)
- [Preferences Tab](#)

Getting Started

To start using TextExpander, just type! TextExpander watches what you type and inserts predefined snippets on the fly whenever you enter their corresponding abbreviations. (For more details on creating snippets, see "[Creating and Editing Snippets](#).")

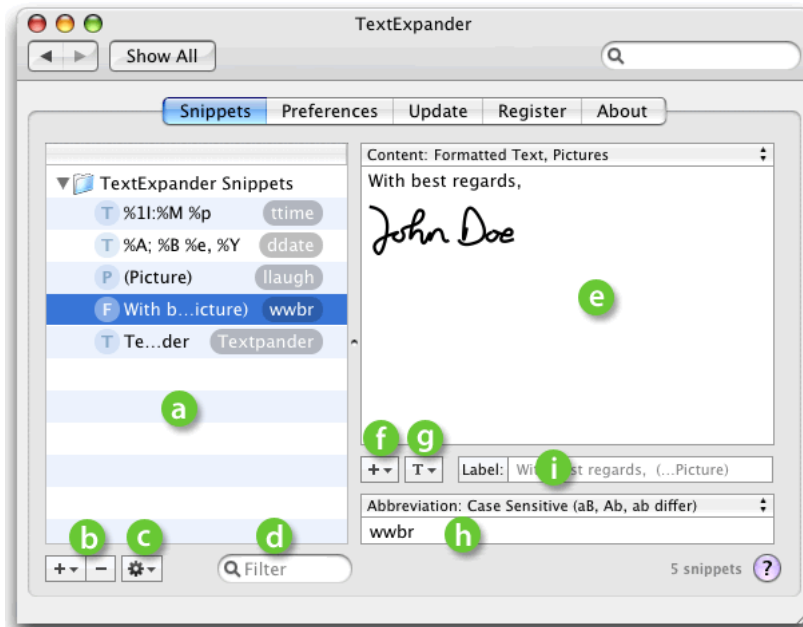
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[Help](#): Guided Tour – Snippets Tab



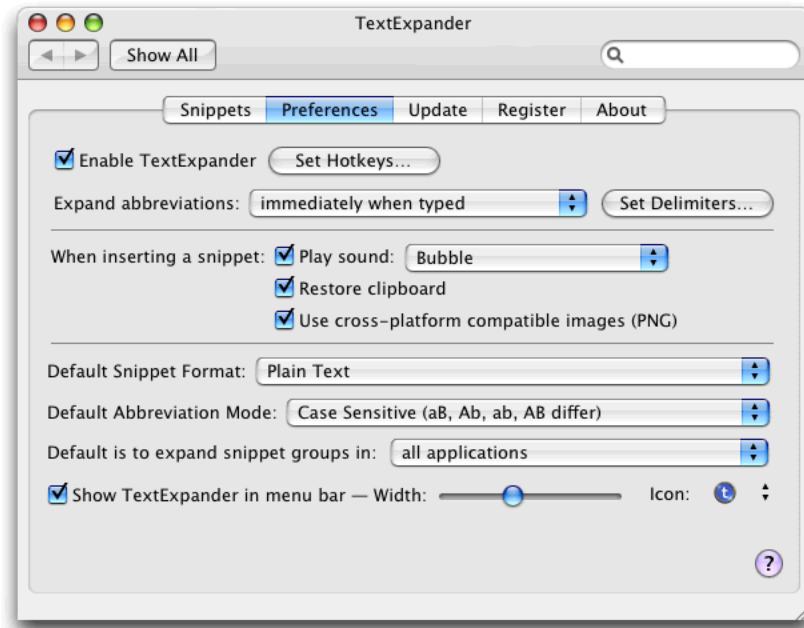
1. Snippets and groups list
2. Add / delete snippets and groups (see "[Creating and Editing Snippets](#)" and "[Grouping Snippets and Importing Groups](#)")
3. Tool menu (see "[Sorting and Searching](#)" and "[Saving and Printing Your Snippets](#)")
4. Filter
5. Snippet content (see "[Creating and Editing Snippets](#)")
6. Insert built-in macros: date, time, clipboard, cursor position etc. (see "[Creating and Editing Snippets: Macros](#)")
7. Formatted text style options (see "[Creating and Editing Snippets: Using Formatted Text](#)")
8. Snippet abbreviation, case sensitivity setting (see "[Creating and Editing Snippets: Setting Case Sensitivity](#)")
9. Snippet label (see "[Creating and Editing Snippets: Labeling Snippets](#)")



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[Help: Guided Tour – Preferences Tab](#)



Enable TextExpander

Check this box to enable TextExpander. Uncheck it to disable TextExpander.

Note: For TextExpander to work, you must have support for assistive devices enabled in the Universal Access System Preference. For more details, see "[How Do I Install TextExpander?](#)".

Set Hotkeys...

Click this button and these options will appear in a new window:

- **Use Hotkey to enable and disable TextExpander**
- **Use Hotkey to create snippet from selection**
- **Use Hotkey to create snippet from Clipboard**

To set a hot key, click the "Push to set Hot Key" button, then press the desired Hot Key combination (for example, Control + 1, Option + S). Hot Key combinations must include Control, Option or Command.

If you use hot keys to create snippets, the Snippets pane will open, and the selected text or Clipboard contents will be pasted automatically. You will then need to create an abbreviation for the snippet. See "[Creating and Editing Snippets](#)" for more detail.

Expand abbreviations:

TextExpander expansions can be triggered three ways:

- **immediately**

When you type an abbreviation, the expansion will occur immediately

- **at delimiter (keep delimiter)**

You must type a "delimiter" key (such as space or tab) to trigger the expansion; the delimiter will remain after the expansion

- **at delimiter (abandon delimiter)**

As with the previous option, a delimiter must be typed to trigger the expansion, but the delimiter will not remain in place after the expansion.

If you choose to use one of the delimiter options, click the button **Set Delimiters...** to select the desired delimiter key. There are over 30 delimiters to choose from, including most punctuation keys, as well as space, return, tab and esc.

When inserting a snippet:

You can specify what happens when a snippet expands in TextExpander by checking the boxes in this section.

- **Play sound**

You can choose the default sound that TextExpander makes when an expansion is triggered. (You can also specify a sound for individual snippet groups in the Snippets pane; see "[Grouping Snippets and Importing Groups](#).")

- **Restore clipboard**

TextExpander uses the Clipboard in the expansion process. With the option checked, TextExpander will restore the Clipboard to the contents it had prior to the expansion.

- **Use cross-platform compatible images (PNGs)**

If you use images in your snippets, TextExpander will always paste the image in PNG format when the snippet is expanded. Some programs, like Microsoft Entourage, work much better with PNGs. Uncheck this option if you want your images to be pasted in their original file format, such as JPG or GIF.

Default Snippet Format:

TextExpander snippets can have one of two formats: Plain Text and Formatted Text, Pictures. You can change the format in the snippet editor. (See "[Creating and Editing Snippets](#)")

Default Abbreviation Mode:

TextExpander has three options relating to case sensitivity:

- **Case Sensitive (aB, Ab, ab, AB differ)**

Example: "YT" will expand to "Yours Truly", "yt" will not.

- **Ignore Case (aB, Ab, ab, AB same)**

Example: either "YT" or "yt" will expand to "Yours Truly"

- **Adapt Snippet to Case of Abbreviation**

Example: "YT" will expand to "Yours Truly", "Yt" will expand to "Yours truly"

Default is to expand snippets in:

You can customize which applications will work with TextExpander

- **all applications**

By default, TextExpander is enabled for all applications.

- **all applications except...**

Excludes specified applications from working with TextExpander.

- **only these applications...**

Specifies which applications will work with TextExpander.

Show TextExpander in menu bar

Here you can specify the width of the list of snippets that appears when you click on the TextExpander icon in the menu bar. You can also choose the style of the TextExpander icon itself.

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[Help: Creating and Editing Snippets](#)

Four Steps to Creating a Basic Snippet

1. Open the TextExpander Preference Pane by clicking on the TextExpander icon in the menubar and choosing "TextExpander Preferences..."
2. Click on the plus sign button  below the snippet list on the left and choose "New Snippet".
3. Add the snippet content in to the "Content" box on the right.
4. Assign an abbreviation in the "Abbreviation" box below the content.

For more details, see the [Snippets Tab Guided Tour](#).

What Makes a Good Abbreviation


A good abbreviation is:

- short
- easy to remember
- unlikely to be typed by accident
- unique

Duplicating an abbreviations first character (ddate, ssig, zzip) is one way of creating abbreviations that meet these criteria.

If abbreviations conflict, they will be highlighted in red. Conflicting abbreviations will not trigger expansions.

Using Formatted Text in Snippets


1. Make sure the content format is set to Formatted Text, Pictures, not Plain Text. (To change content format, click on the drop down menu at the top of the Content box.)
2. Add snippet content in the Content box.
3. Select text to be formatted.
4. Click on the  button below the Content window to access Font and Text options for fonts, size, color, and alignment.

Adding Images to Snippets

1. Make sure the content format is set to Formatted Text, Pictures, not Plain Text. (To change content format, click on the drop down menu at the top of the Content box.)
2. Drag your image into the Content box.

3. To remove an image, use the Delete key.

Adding Macros to Snippets

Insert predefined macros to snippets via the plus button  below the Content box. Predefined macros include:

- **Date**

Inserts the day, month and year of the current date in a variety of formats

- **Time**

Inserts the current time in hours, minutes, seconds and AM/PM.

- **Snippet**

Nest a snippet within your snippet. For example, you might want to use your telephone number snippet in your email signature snippet. If your telephone number changes, you need only update one snippet.

- **Clipboard**

Inserts the current Clipboard contents into your snippet.

- **Picture...**

Browse for an image to insert. Images can also be dragged directly into the snippet.

- **Cursor**

Specify where you want the cursor to appear after the snippet is expanded.

TextExpander will reposition the cursor automatically.

Labeling Snippets

By default, a snippet's content appears truncated in the Snippet list on the left and in the window that appears when you click on TextExpander menu bar icon. You can create a short label to appear instead of the truncated contents. Enter the label in the Label field below the Content Box.


Setting Case Sensitivity

A default case sensitivity is set in the Preferences pane. You can change the case sensitivity setting on individual snippets by clicking the drop-down menu bar above the Abbreviation box.

For more details, see the [Preferences Tab Guided Tour](#).

Deleting a Snippet

1. Select the snippet in the Snippet list on the left.


2. Click the minus button  below the Snippet list or use the Delete key on your keyboard.



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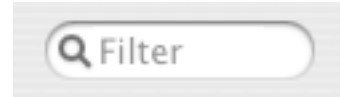


[Help: Sorting and Searching](#)

TextExpander can sort your snippet library in a variety of ways. The sorting options are accessed via the tool menu cog icon  (located beneath the snippet list).

- Sort by content
- Sort by abbreviation
- Sort by date created
- Sort by date modified
- Sort by most recently used

You can also find snippets easily using the Filter box.



Just type in a few letters or a word contained in the snippet or abbreviation you are looking for.

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[Help: Snippet Groups](#)

TextExpander lets you organize your snippets into groups, as well as import snippet groups from external files and the web. Preferences can be set by group, including application exclusion, sounds, and .Mac synchronization. (See "[Group Preferences](#)" below.)

Creating Groups

When you first launch TextExpander, all your snippets will be in one group called "TextExpander Snippets." To create a new group, click on the plus sign (+) below the snippet list to choose from these options:

New Group

Create a new local group. The group's folder will be empty. You can add snippets to the group by clicking on the plus sign (+) again to choose New Snippet. (For more about snippet creation, see "[Creating and Editing Snippets](#)") You can also drag snippets from other groups into the new group's folder.

Add Group from File...

You can add a new group from an existing file of snippets. The allowable file formats for the new group are:

- TextExpander
- TypeIt4Me (v2 and v3)
- Typinator (v1)
- Text files (comma- and tab-separated)
- RTF files (comma- and tab-separated)
- RTFD files (comma- and tab-separated)

Add Group from URL...

You can link to a file of snippets online. Just enter the URL of the snippet file you want to add. The allowable file formats are the same as listed above.

Add Predefined Group

SmileOnMyMac offers three snippet groups that you can link to:

- **AutoCorrect Snippets**

Over 100 of the most commonly-misspelled words in English.

- **HTML Code Snippets**

HTML tags that can be inserted automatically with a couple of keystrokes.

- **TidBITS AutoCorrect Dictionary**

2400+ English-language misspellings based on the exhaustive AutoCorrect Dictionary created by TidBITS publisher Adam Engst and collaborator Micah Alpern. (For more details, go to <http://db.tidbits.com/article/6103>.)

Note: When using AutoCorrect files, TextExpander must be set to expand snippets automatically. See the [Preferences Tab](#) for more details.

Group Preferences

To access a group's preferences, select the group in the list on the left. The following preferences appear on the right:

Name

You can rename the group here.

Location

This indicates where the group's snippet file is located, whether "Local" (within your TextExpander preferences), "External File" (elsewhere on your hard drive) or "URL" (online).

Expand in:

You can disable TextExpander to prevent it from working in specific applications. The default is set in the [Preferences Tab](#), but you can customize which applications work with specific TextExpander groups. The options are:

- **All Applications**

Enables a group to work with all applications. This will override any exclusions set in the Preferences Pane.

- **All Applications, Except...**

Excludes certain applications from working with this group's snippets.

- **Only These Applications...**

Specifies which applications will work with this group's snippets.

- **No Applications (Disable)**

This group's snippets will not work in any application.

Sound:

Choose the alert sound for a snippet expansion from this group.

Synchronize with .Mac

Check this box if you wish to synchronize this group's snippets on multiple computers via .Mac. For more information on using .Mac synchronization, see <http://www.apple.com/support/dotmac/sync/>



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Help: AppleScript Snippets

TextExpander 2.0 introduces a new type of snippet -- AppleScript. You can choose "AppleScript" as the format type then enter an AppleScript such as this one:

```
-- add seconds to current date
set tomorrow to (current date) + (60 * 60 * 24)
-- format result
set result to (year of tomorrow) & "-" & (month of tomorrow as number) & "-" &
(day of tomorrow) as string
-- return result
return result
```

When you enter the abbreviation associated with an AppleScript snippet, the AppleScript will execute and if the snippet has a text result, it will replace the abbreviation.

If you'd like to have access to the abbreviation used to trigger the AppleScript snippet, you'll need to write your script as a textexpander handler such as this:

```
on textexpander(days)
-- assume snippet begins with single character
set days to characters 2 through (count characters of days) of days as string
-- add seconds to current date
set tomorrow to (current date) + (60 * 60 * 24) * (days as number)
-- format result
set result to (year of tomorrow) & "-" & (month of tomorrow as number) & "-" &
(day of tomorrow) as string
-- return result
return result
end textexpander
```

The script above allows you to set up multiple abbreviations with the same script to get different results. For example, you could use the abbreviations "d+1" and "d+2" to get tomorrow's date and the day after tomorrow. Also, you could use "d-1" for yesterday.

AppleScript also offers a "do shell script" command so that you can execute shell scripts or scripts in other scripting languages such as Ruby, PHP, and Perl. For more information on the "do shell script" command, please see Apple's excellent Technical Note 2065:

<http://developer.apple.com/technotes/tn2002/tn2065.html>



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[Help: Saving and Printing Snippets](#)

Saving Snippets


Make local copy of group <group name>

Snippet Groups from External Files and from URLs are not editable. If you'd prefer to edit those snippets, you can select "Make local copy of group <group name>" to make a new local group with the same contents but editable. The new local group will no longer update from its original source, though it can be synchronized via . Mac.

Save a copy of group <group name>...

It's always a good idea to back up your snippets. Select a group, then select "Save a copy of group <group name>..." to back up a group. Select Add Group from File... to restore a saved group.

Printing Snippets

As your snippet groups grow, it can be helpful to print out a list of abbreviations and snippets. Printing can be accessed via the Tool menu cog icon  (located beneath the snippet list).

Print a Single Group

- Select the group.
- Select "Print group <group name>..." from the tool menu

Print All Groups

- Select "Print all groups..." from the tool menu

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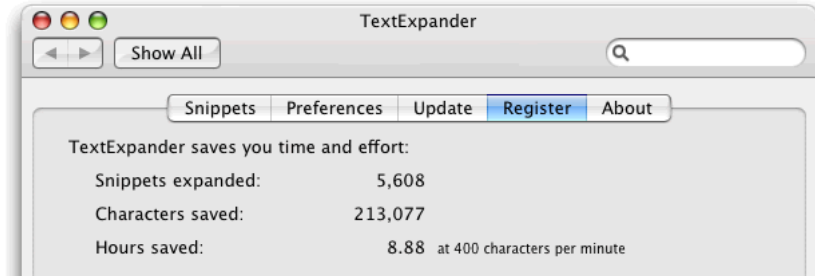


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[Help](#): How Much Time Has TextExpander Saved Me?

Go to the Register tab of the TextExpander preference pane, and find out!



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