



version 1.3
November 7, 2007

viaverbi is a vocabulary coach application for Mac OS X. It is designed as a learning aid and uses well proven methods to help you achieve better results in less time.

viaverbi recognizes time as a key factor in the process of memorizing and responds to that by finding the best possible test date for each individual word.

Organization

The learning matter is assembled in units. Every unit may contain an unlimited number of vocabulary items.

Units can be organized into groups which may be nested.

Basic Principle

Every vocabulary item has a learning level assigned. When a new item is entered, it is on level 1. With every (correctly answered) test, the item's level increases.

Time intervals between two tests increase exponentially to the higher levels.

When an item is answered incorrectly in a test, it's level is reset to level 1 regardless of the level it had before.

Reminder

viaverbi „knows“ when an item has to be tested. The number of items due for testing is displayed in the main window for each learning unit.

Additionally, a badge on the dock icon displays the total number of due items.

Data Entry

The entry of the words is an important part of the learning process and should always be done by the student himself. For this reason viaverbi comes without content.

It is still possible to import vocabulary lists (see „Import / Export“).

Tests

Tests always take place in full screen mode to avoid distraction as far as possible.

The student himself decides, if his answers were correct or not. Since supplementary notes, endings and articles are often saved with a word, the automatic rating (which is still available) would be error-prone.

Tests can relate to a specific learning section (unit or group) or cover the complete contents of the viaverbi database.

Generally, items are tested in random order. Overdue items are always brought forward and different languages are processed successively.

Trainings

In addition to tests viaverbi offers trainings, where words are presented in a slideshow-like manner.

Keyboard Support

All keyboard layouts and input methods offered by Mac OS X are supported by viaverbi. Keyboard layout switching is available at data entry and within test sessions.

viaverbi can automatically switch keyboard layouts and input methods as the text cursor moves to input fields of different languages.

Spell Checking

The spell checker built into Mac OS X is available in viaverbi. Some spelling dictionaries are part of the Mac OS X distribution, others can be obtained from third parties.

Statistics

Every test result of every single item is logged. This makes a data pool for comprehensive reports.

Printing

Lists of vocabulary items, based on units or groups, can be put out on a printer.

It is also possible to print statistics.

Data Format

viaverbi uses its own file format for the data file. The inner structure is given by viaverbi's SQLite database backend.

viaverbi has one single data file. Diverse learning matter can be organized within this file.

All vocabulary data is at hand after launching viaverbi. This approach is consistent with the user experience known from applications like iTunes and iPhoto.

Import / Export

Exchange of data with other applications is possible in both directions via CSV format. This format is common between database, spreadsheet and vocabulary applications.

Old content can be archived (and moved to other viaverbi users) with the viaverbi archive format.

System Requirements

viaverbi runs on any Mac with Intel or PowerPC processor and Mac OS X version 10.4 („Tiger“) or better. Mac OS X version 10.5 („Leopard“) requires viaverbi 1.3.