

# Language immersion on your computer: TrumpCards



Speaking English is the key to communicating in our rapidly globalizing world. Learning English is much easier when the material used is motivating, offering fun, multi-faceted tools to master speaking, reading and writing. New multimedia programs complement traditional textbook-based classroom learning and encourage independent language learning.

TrumpCards is a new type of interactive multimedia program which combines the best aspects of textbooks and language immersion. There is plenty of spoken English on the CD-ROM, and yet, the student can work at his/her own pace. The core vocabulary of everyday English is built into the program and is used in a communicative setting which seems very authentic.

*TrumpCards* includes almost 2,000 key words used everyday around the house. The program includes activities from 12 environments e.g. from 5 rooms, the bedroom, kitchen, living room, bathroom, children's room, and the yard. The rooms include interactive exercises which use the essential vocabulary needed to describe that room and its contents. By just clicking on a button, the student can replay any part he/she didn't understand – no more rewinding a cassette. The transcripts are also available and can be easily printed out.

The narrator of *TrumpCards* is a native English speaker who guides the learner through everyday events, for example, furnishing a room. The teacher patiently moves the learner forward step by step and, every once in awhile, asks him/her questions or for an opinion. The linguistic structures and colloquial expressions are repeated again and again, and thus will be embedded in the learner's brain. The program is available in British and in American English.

TrumpCards can be used by learners at different levels. They are useful for both children and adults, for school use and for independent study. The vocabulary is suitable for low-level learners, but is challenging enough for students who have studied English at length already. The language used contains grammatical structures that need a certain amount of analysis; but it also motivates the learner to use the learned expressions and idioms outside of the program.

There are a variety of exercises, including the simple matching of words and phrases to the correct pictures, arranging words into meaningful sentences, and writing sentences. As the learner is doing the exercises, he/she gets continual feedback and can rely on the interactive teacher to patiently give instructions and guidance.

In designing this program, an important issue was to make it user-friendly: the program is easy to use and valuable learning time is not spent on figuring out how the program works. Even those inexperienced in computers can be immersed in this virtual English-language experience; you don't have to be a computer expert to learn English with TrumpCards!



- 12 interactive stories
- over 120 exercises
- almost 2000 key words

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