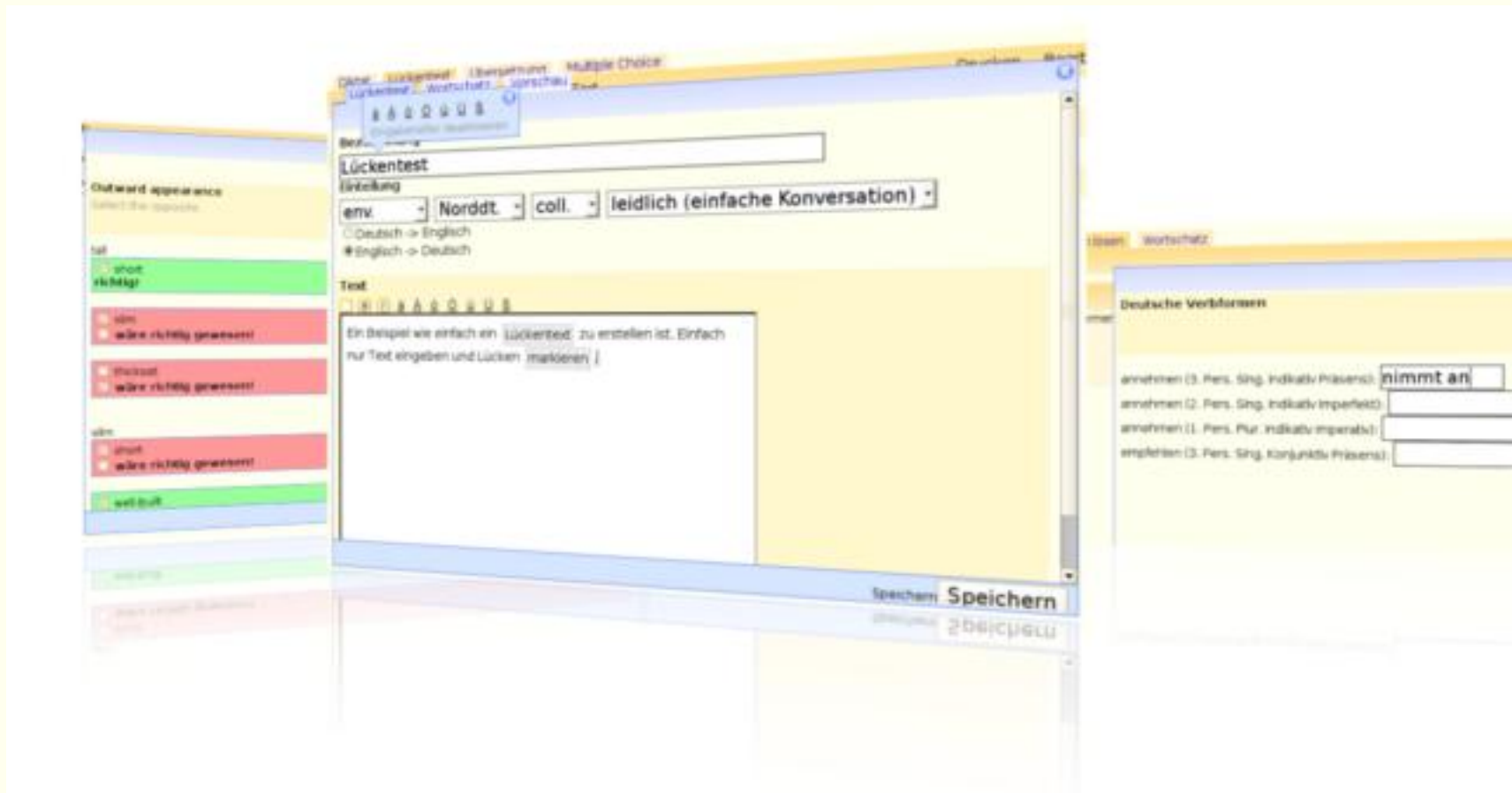


New language trainer and co-operation with Linguatec

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Almost a year ago we started developing our vocabulary trainer into a more powerful language trainer. The word *finished* will probably never apply to this kind of tool seeing that not only language is subject to constant change, but also the way we learn and the possibilities the WWW offers. So we simply decided to release an official announcement regarding the latest developments on which we worked over the last months.



Below you will find a brief summary of the most important new features of the **vocab trainer**. Detailed instructions can be found in the **user guide**:

- Apart from learning vocabulary on your own, you can now also team up with other users and set up a **study group** to share word lists, create and solve exercises, put together lessons and communicate with each other via the group's own discussion forum.
- In addition to the two existing vocabulary study modes, the new trainer version also offers a slide show mode. Other new features include printing word pairs on flash cards or as a list, and much more besides.
- Study groups can be organised as **teacher/student** groups or they can be set up to give all members the same access/editing rights. In the first case, the "teacher" provides content for "students" to use as learning material, in the second case all members may contribute content and work with it.
- The different types of learning activities currently include reading exercises, dictations, translation exercises, gap-fill exercises and multiple choice tests. Uploading content couldn't be easier and is largely a matter of copying and pasting from documents on your computer (for details please read the user guide). Each exercise can be complemented with a list of words that are relevant to the exercise for ease of understanding. Exercises may be uploaded as stand-alone exercises or as parts of a unit.
- For certain exercises the software highlights mistakes automatically and displays the solution (dictation, gap-fill exercise and multiple choice test). For other exercises, such as translations, users can view a sample solution. Furthermore, completed exercises can be sent back to the tutor/peer who set the exercise who in turn can mark the exercise and return the corrected version to the sender.
- A co-operation agreement with **Linguattec GmbH** allows us to provide a read aloud feature for reading exercises, translations and dictations in different languages. Although **Voice Reader** generates synthetic speech, the quality is remarkable and comes quite close to human speech. The read aloud feature is available for all languages for which we offer dictionaries (for Chinese the text needs to be in simplified Chinese). **Voice Reader** allows you to listen to a dictation without interruptions or with pauses and repetitions so that you can easily type along while listening to the text. Alternatively, users may also record their own dictations which they can then upload as MP3 files.

To improve ease of use, the check boxes to select word pairs and the corresponding **Save** button at the top left-hand side of the results table are now displayed whether you are logged in or not. In case you are not logged in you will be redirected to the login screen when you click **Save**.

If this brief overview has made you want to learn more about the vocabulary trainer you will find detailed instructions in the **user guide** which you can also print out as a PDF.

We hope you enjoy working with the new language trainer!
Your LEO team