Tech Info Library

Newton: How to Setup Handwriting Recognition (10/94)

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TOPIC ---

How do I setup my Newton to recognize my handwriting?

DISCUSSION --

Your Newton will learn to recognize your handwriting gradually, but you have to
teach it your handwriting style both letter by letter and word by word.

These steps will help your Newton recognize your handwriting:

• Teach the Newton to better understand your handwriting style.
• Teach the Newton how you write individual letters.
• Teach the Newton how you write entire words.
• Review the words in your vocabulary list.
• Review the Recognizers Preference list.

Be sure that the text recognizer button is turned on. The text recognizer button
is at the bottom-left side of your Newton's screen, marked with an A. When it is
on, it appears as a white A on a black background.

Handwriting Style

To teach the Newton to better understand your handwriting style, follow these
steps:

1) Tap the Extras drawer icon at the bottom of the screen, then tap
   Prefs.

2) Tap Handwriting Style in the Preferences Menu.

3) Tap the button that best describes your handwriting under "My
   handwriting style is". You may find that "Mixed Cursive & Printed

works best, unless you exclusively use all-printed or all cursive
writing.

4) Adjust the other preferences so they reflect your writing style. Drag
   the diamonds with the stylus to move them.

5) Make sure that the box at the bottom marked "Configure for guest user"
   is unselected.

Individual Letters

To teach Newton how you write individual letters, follow these steps:

1) Tap the Extras drawer at the bottom of the screen, then tap Prefs.

2) Tap Letter Styles in the Preferences Menu. You will see a dialog box
   which displays a particular letter, number or symbol written in several
   different styles. You can select which character to view at the bottom
   of the dialog box.

3) Select each character, then tap each of the samples and carefully watch
   how Newton draws the letter. Tell your Newton which style or styles you
   use most often, and which you use rarely. When you finish, tap the next
   letter, number or symbol you wish to train Newton to learn to
   recognize, and continue.

Entire Words

To teach Newton how you write entire words, follow these steps:

1) Tap the Extras drawer at the bottom of the screen, then tap Prefs.

2) Tap Handwriting Practice in the Preferences Menu. In this dialog box,
   your Newton will ask you to write a particular word and try to
   recognize it. The more words you practice, the more the Newton learns.

Reviewing your Personal Word List

To review the words in your personal word list, follow these steps:

1) Tap the Extras drawer at the bottom of the screen, then tap Prefs.

2) Tap Recognizers in the Preferences Menu, then click on "Review my word
   list".

   • You may choose to delete words you rarely or never use, so Newton has
     fewer words to compare your writing to before it interprets.

   • Add often-used words which don't appear in a dictionary, such as
     proper names, abbreviations and slang terms.

Recognizers

There are other choices in the Recognizers Menu that will aid handwriting recognition.

- For the best speed and accuracy, select the box next to "words in word lists" and deselect "words not in word lists." This limits the number of words Newton considers when recognizing text.

- Also, deselect as many of the other options such as "names," "telephone numbers," "dates," and "times of day" as possible. This will improve word recognition, particularly when writing in the Notepad and not using numbers.

  If you need to write a number in the Notepad and these options are deactivated, tap the screen where you want the number to appear, then tap the keyboard icon at the bottom of the screen, and type the number in.

Article Change History:
24 Oct 1994 - Reviewed for consistency and updated format.
31 Aug 1994 - Reviewed for accuracy.

Support Information Services

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