



## Converting SignWriter Dictionary Files to Sign Documents

SignWriter Dictionary Files are not the same as SignWriter documents. Documents are called .SGN files, and are printed inside the SignWriter program.

Although Dictionary Files are created and edited in SignWriter, after they are created, they are managed and printed with another separate program called the Dictionary Manager. You will find the Dictionary Manager Program in your SW directory. It is called DICT.EXE. Most of the time, you will want to print dictionaries the official way, using the DICT program.

There is one exception. You may have special formatting needs. Perhaps you would like to create dictionaries in an unusual format, or perhaps you would like to do a large editing job on the dictionary, and prefer to work with documents in a big window.

In cases like these, a Dictionary File can be converted to a Document File. Then you can go into the document and change things for special formatting needs. The converted document can then be printed inside SignWriter, without using the DICT program.

### To Convert Dictionary Files to Sign Documents

1. Quit SignWriter. You are now in MS-DOS in the SW directory.
2. Type **dict** and press Enter. This starts the Dictionary Manager program.
3. Type **c** for Convert.
4. Type the name of the dictionary you wish to convert, and then press Enter.

Here is an example of how your screen might look in MS-DOS. The dictionary we are converting in this example is named "verbs":

```
MS-DOS Prompt
Auto
C:\sw\>dict

SignWriter 4.4 Dictionary Manager

Print Merge Convert Repair Info C
Convert what dictionary? verbs
Converting...
Dictionary converted.

C:\sw
```

The Dictionary File is now converted into a document.

5. Next, start the SignWriter program by typing **sw**, and press Enter. The program will open.

6. Notice the File Box on the screen. It lists your SGN documents. In our previous example, we had converted a Dictionary File called "verbs". It was a large dictionary file. In fact, it was so large, that the conversion program had to break the file up into 10 separate SGN document files.

```
C:\SW
-----
verbs
verbs2
verbs3
verbs4
verbs5
verbs6
verbs7
verbs8
verbs9
```

```
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```

```
| Open  New  Print  File  Directory  Setup  Quit
```

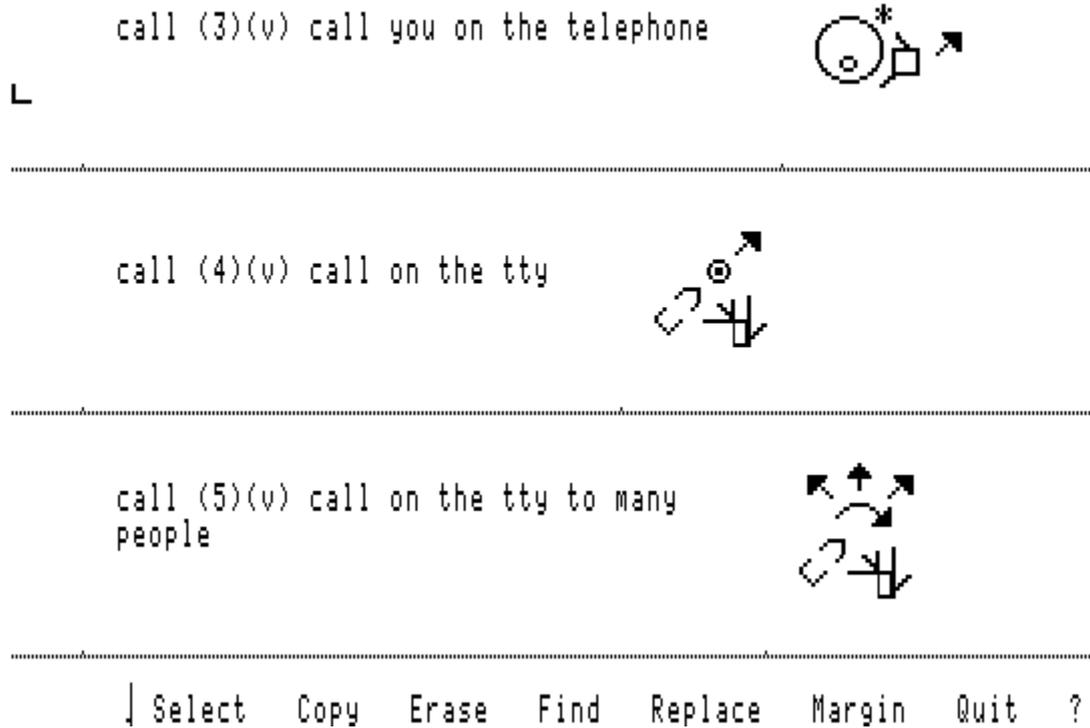
---

7. Open one of the documents, by typing Alt-O:

```
C:\SW
-----
verbs
verbs2
verbs3
verbs4
verbs5
verbs6
verbs7
verbs8
verbs9
```

```
Open | Open what file? verbs2█
```

8. The document opens. As you can see, the dictionary is now in a file, in alphabetical order.

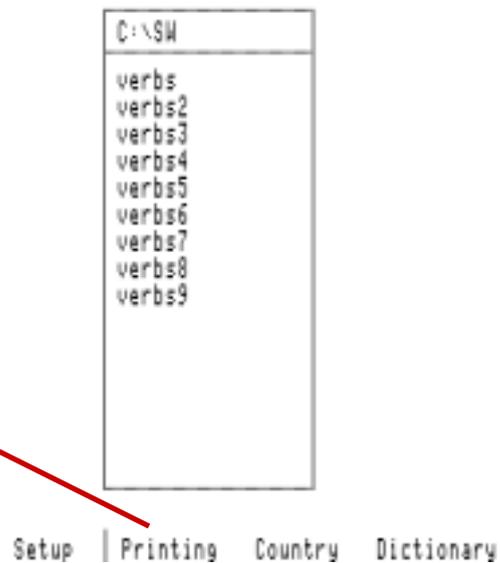


9. You can edit the document, and change its formatting, by copying and pasting.

10. You can also print converted dictionary files within SignWriter. To keep the Dictionary format, you will need to switch to Print Format 7 first, before printing.

**To change to Print Format 7:**

1. On SignWriter's opening screen, type Alt-S for Setup.
2. Type P for Printing



3. Type F  
for Format.

```
C:\SW
verbs
verbs2
verbs3
verbs4
verbs5
verbs6
verbs7
verbs8
verbs9
```

SignWriter  
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Setup | Printer Interface **Format** Numbers Lines

---

4. Type 7  
for Format 7.  
Press Return.

```
C:\SW
verbs
verbs2
verbs3
verbs4
verbs5
verbs6
verbs7
verbs8
verbs9
```

SignWriter  
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Setup | Page format code is 1. New code: 7

---

5. Type P for Print. Type the name  
of the file you wish to print.  
Press Return.

The file will print in Format 7,  
made for converted dictionaries.

```
C:\SW
verbs
verbs2
verbs3
verbs4
verbs5
verbs6
verbs7
verbs8
verbs9
```

SignWriter  
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Print | Print what file? verbs2