

Correct Misspelled Words as You Type
WordPerfect Magazine
By Roger Gagon

The included QCORRECT.WPM macro automatically corrects commonly misspelled and misused words as you type. The macro is used by the included QCORRECT.WPK keyboard. Make sure the keyboard is in your default macros directory, such as c:\wp51\macros.

Any misspelled words included in the replacement word list* will be corrected as you type. To select the keyboard, press Setup (Shift-F1), (5) Keyboard Layout, highlight QCORRECT and press (1) Select and Exit (F7). Then type as you normally do.

What the macro does

The macro automatically does the following:

- Corrects spelling errors
- Replaces two initial caps with one initial cap (e.g. ,from TWo to Two)
- Capitalizes words that should always be capitalized, such as I, months of the year and days of the week
- Capitalizes acronyms with correct mixed case, such as PCs, TVs and MHz
- Inserts diacriticals in words, such as fiancé and protégé
- Converts specified text to an equivalent symbol (e.g., from 1/2 to ½)

Limitations of the macro

- The macro can't be used to split one word into two words, such as awhile into a while.
- The macro won't correct spelling errors inside character pairs, such as (teh), {teh}, "teh," and "teh."
- Don't expect the macro to correct all forms of a word. For example, it may correct sandwich, but that doesn't mean it will automatically correct sandwiches or sandwiched.
- When you press the (Space Bar) to activate the macro, a *Please Wait* message flickers on the status line. Unfortunately, you can't turn this flicker off completely. It's not too noticeable, but don't be alarmed if you see it.

Using the macro

To use the macro, make sure you are in the QCORRECT.WPK keyboard. Now just type as you normally would. Each time you press the (Space Bar), the macro checks the word to the left of the cursor to see if any corrections are necessary. If for any reason you need to temporarily disable the macro, press (Ctrl+6). To turn the macro back on, press (Ctrl+6) twice.

Adding words for correction

To add words to the macro you will need to edit it by pressing (Home), Macro Define (Ctrl-F10), type *qcorrect* and press (2) Edit.

Move to the bottom of the macro by pressing (Home), (Home) and (Down Arrow). Press (Left Arrow), (Enter), (Up Arrow) to move the {Return} code down and position the cursor on the blank lines. Continue to follow the pattern of assigning variables by pressing Macro Commands (Ctrl-PgUp), highlighting the {ASSIGN} command then (Enter).

Next type the misspelled word (or abbreviation) followed by a tilde (~), then type the correct word followed by another tilde (~). For example, an addition would be {ASSIGN}wp~WordPerfect~. Make sure the {RETURN} command is the last line of the macro. Then press Exit (F7) to save the macro.

Understanding the macro

A large portion of the macro tells WordPerfect what to do when the (Space Bar) is pressed under certain conditions. If the cursor is at the beginning of a document, lines 1-2 tell the macro to insert a space and quit. Likewise, if the character to the left of the cursor is a space or some character other than an alpha character (a-z), lines 3-4 insert a space and quit. Line 5 makes sure you're at a document editing screen. If you're not, line 5 inserts a space and quits. If you are, a hard space is inserted as a place marker.

Line 6 checks to see if the macro has already been executed during this WordPerfect session by sensing the presence of a variable (XYZ). If the variable hasn't been assigned, the macro calls label Assign on line 53 and assigns all the correctly spelled words to variable names with the corresponding incorrect spellings (lines 54-71). The {RETURN} command on line 72 returns macro execution to line 7.

Line 8 checks to see if the character to the left is an alpha character. The word to the left of the cursor is assigned to variable Word on line 10. Lines 11-16 determine if the word is followed by a punctuation mark and remove it if one is found. Lines 17-20 replace the misspelled word with the correctly spelled word.

Lines 21-26 check the case of the first three characters in the original word so the macro can make sure the correct case is restored. If you type Sucess, for example, you don't want the macro to replace it with success or SUCCESS; you want Success.

Lines 27-46 ensure that the macro restores the correct case. Within these lines, lines 32-41 check the case of the replacement word to see if a particular case was intended. If, for example, you intend to replace pcs with PCs, lines 32-41 make sure these two initial caps are preserved and not changed to Pcs on lines 35-36 or 39-40. These four lines correct two initial capital letters that are not intended nor included in the replacement word list, such as THe.

Line 51 of the macro wraps things up by finding the hard space place marker and replacing it with a regular space.

★ ★ ★

** The included QCORRECT.TXT file contains the words that are used in the QCORRECT.WPM macro. To view this list, press Retrieve (Shift+F10), type qcorrect.txt and press (Enter). This file is for information purposes only. Do not try to use it to add words to the list.*