LEXLEX.SUP Special Word List
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LEXLEX is a word list of more than 20,000 legal and medical terms, and common "lawyer-used abbreviations" (such as states, abbreviated "Minn" instead of MN, etc.) in a form easily compiled with WordPerfect's SPELL.EXE dictionary maintenance program.

The origin of LEXLEX was a compilation of such words by Maryland attorney Mike Stevens. Since obtaining Mike's original listing, I've expanded it somewhat over the years, and have converted it into one list suitable for compilation in WordPerfect.

Because WordPerfect has many lawyers , they've made special effort to include a number of "our" terms in their larger-than-average spell check dictionary, LEX.WP. But it's by no means complete.

How to put these into your dictionary

The words have been checked for correct spelling, but you might want to retrieve the file into WP and scan through it (it'll take up more than 300 pages). You needn't bother to delete the more obscure terms, because when we compile this list into LEX.WP, WordPerfect's very efficient method of coding is not going to increase the size of LEX.WP appreciably.

1. Copy or move LEXLEX.SUP into your c:\WP51 directory (or a directory of your choice) and make sure SPELL.EXE (which is not used by the WP.EXE program to check spelling, but only for "dictionary management") is present.

2. Run SPELL. A menu will display. Select ADD WORDS TO DICTIONARY.

3. A number of options for adding words will display. WP supports a "common word list" for super-speedy lookups; we don't want LEXLEX there (lawyers' jargon notwithstanding). Neither do we want these terms in one of the "special" dictionaries WP supports, where you would put transient terms such as client names, geographical or technical specifics for one big but rather short-term purpose. Choose ADD TO MAIN WORD LIST (FROM A FILE), and tell SPELL that the file is named C:\WP51\LEXLEX.SUP (or the location of the file).

4. SPELL will begin showing you what it is doing – "writing" alphabetically-grouped words.

6. When it is done, you'll see the main SPELL menu again. Type "0" to quit the SPELL program, and your dictionary has now been updated with that long list of words. Moreover, SPELL has collated the new words, so if by chance some of them were already in there, they aren't duplicated.

Making your own special terminology lists

No doubt the easiest way to do this is by "what comes naturally" when you run the spell checker on your docs and keep telling it to "add word". The file {WP}LEX.SUP gradually builds in size. And as it does, spell checking slows down markedly. Every so often, open the file in WordPerfect, check its contents for misspellings, delete the ones you really don't want in the main dictionary, compile {WP}LEX.SUP, and delete the old one (a new one will be automatically created, the first time you ADD an unrecognized but correct word).

More systematically, especially if you are working on a client matter that has a large specialized vocabulary, so that much of your correspondence and other docs is always evoking unrecognized words such as complex medical or technical matters; foreign country matters; a large but frequently referenced number of personal or other "names" and the like, just type in these words, ending each with a [HRt] hard carriage return into a standard WP file. Make sure the cursor is at the beginning of the last line (that is, a [HRt] ends the last word entered this way). You do not have to alphabetize the words; SPELL will do that.

Use SPELL (as above) to compile this list into either the main dictionary, or use CHANGE/CREATE to create a special dictionary just for this "special" word list. However, there is really no reason for "special" dictionaries any more. There is no need to clutter LEX.WP with transient client names, however; {WP}LEX.SUP can handle a great many of those.