Getting Ready for CSW24

Now that NZ has adopted CSW24, I thought it would be a good idea to write a little how-to guide on updating your Scrabble software. Most of the updates are quite simple, but if you get stuck, I'd be happy to help – just email me at earlydylan@gmail.com. Happy downloading, updating and installing.

Zyzzyva

Zyzzyva v24.0 is the latest version and can be downloaded from https://scrabble.collinsdictionary.com/tools/. Follow these instructions to Install the Zyzzyva v24.0
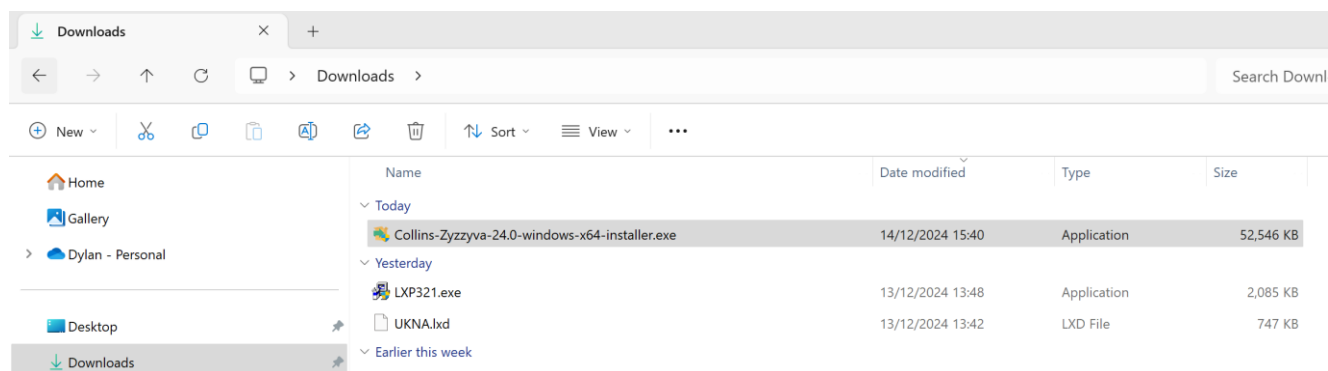
Step 1: Preparation

- If you use Zyzzyva card box, back it up before installing the new version of Zyzzyva. Copy the file called Anagrams.db to a separate location in case it gets deleted during the installation. Here's an example of where to find it C:\Users\dylan\.collinszyzzyva\quiz\data\CSW19
- If you already have an older version of Zyzzyva on your machine, you don't need to uninstall it but make sure it's closed otherwise it may interfere with the installation and corrupt the new version.
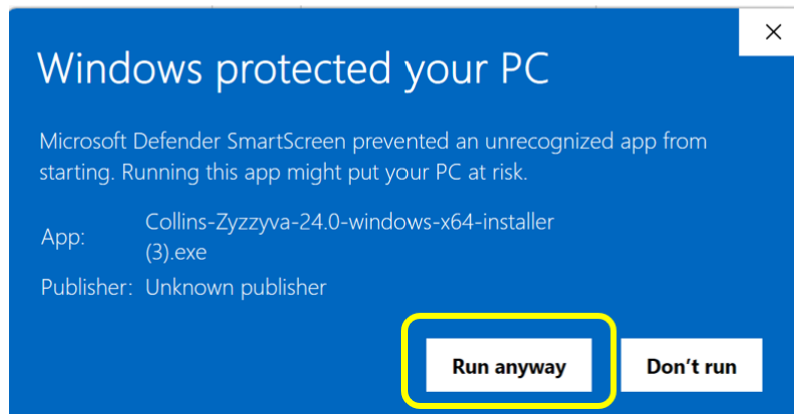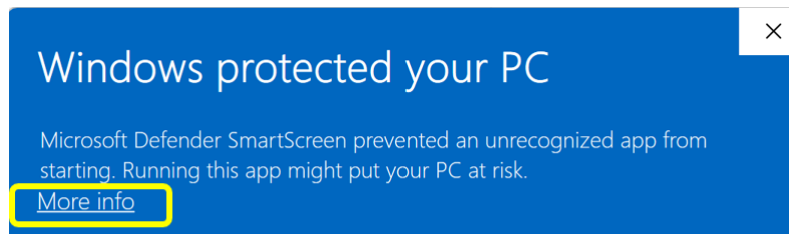- Make sure you have enough data for a 52 Mb download.

Step 2: Download Zyzzyva v24

- In your internet browser, navigate to https://scrabble.collinsdictionary.com/tools/ and click the relevant option, e.g. Windows 64 bit. There is a separate file for Mac OS users.

Step 3: Install Zyzzyva v24

- In Windows Explorer, navigate to your Downloads folder and double click the executable file "Collins-Zyzzyva-24.0-windows-x64-installer.exe".
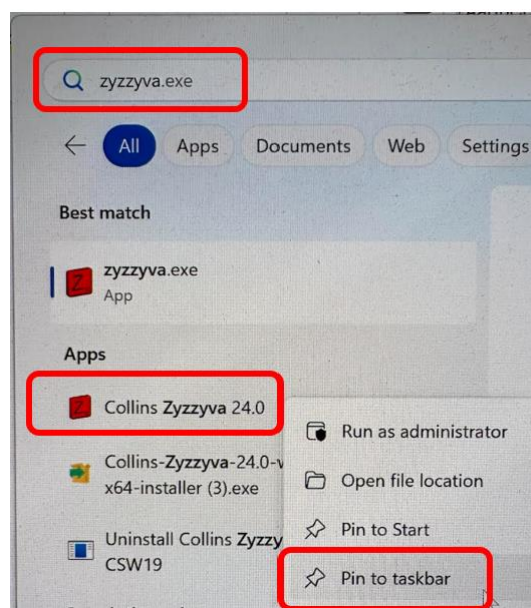

- Override your antivirus programme temporarily if it prevents you from running the executable file. On a typical Windows machine, you will click "More info" and "Run anyway".

- Follow the setup wizard prompts and accept the licence agreement until Zyzzyva has been installed.
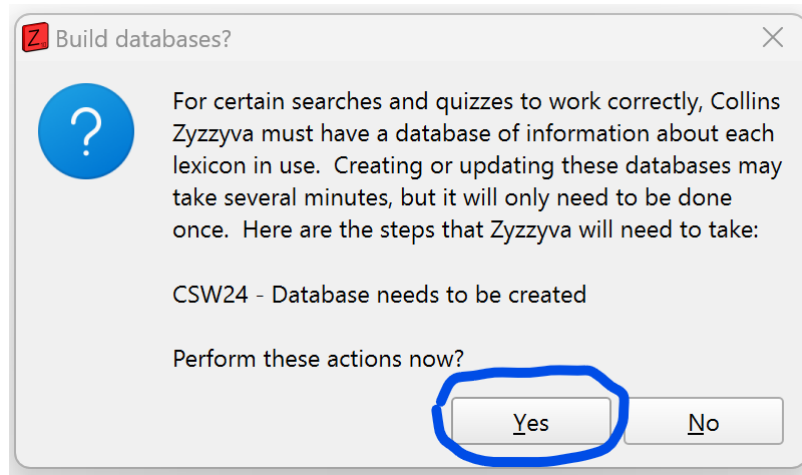
Step 4: Open Zyzzyva v24

- After installation, open the programme by clicking Start and typing Zyzzyva into the search box. Collins Zyzzyva 24.0 will appear under Apps.
- Right-click it and select "Pin to taskbar". This will put a new icon permanently on your taskbar at the bottom of the screen. Note: It looks identical to the older version of Zyzzyva but you can tell the difference by hovering over the icon with your mouse.
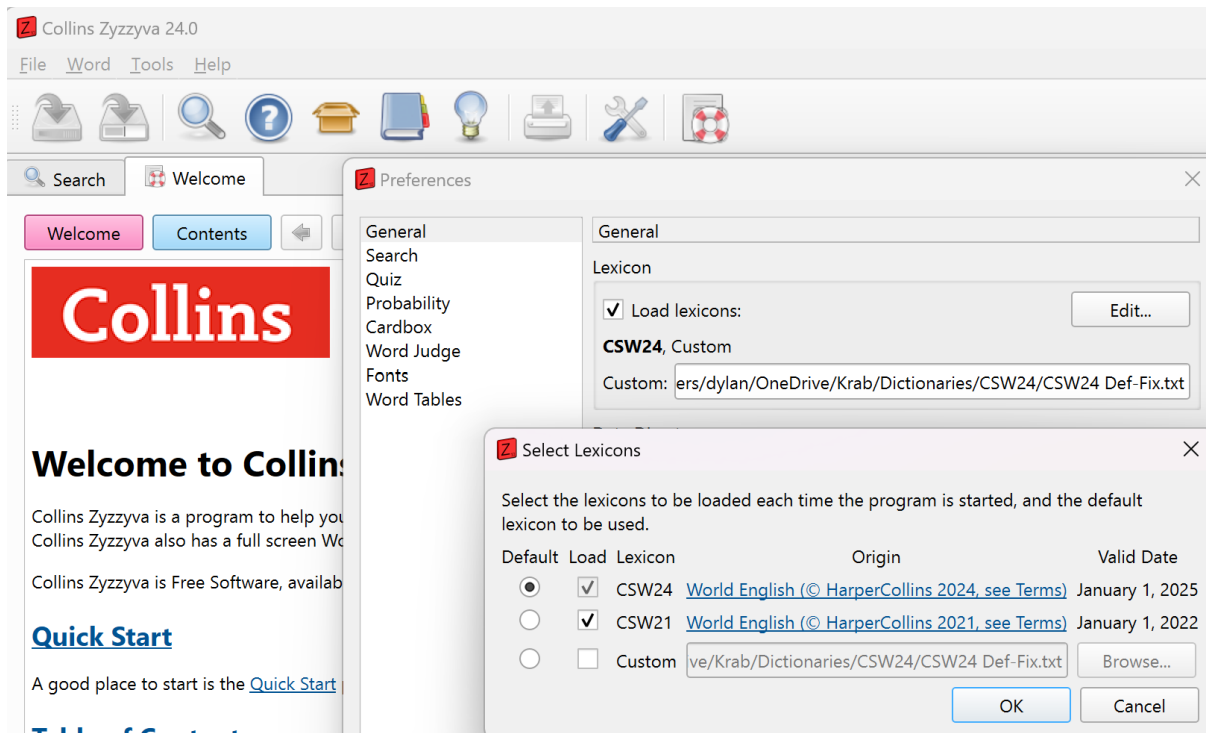- Click the Zyzzyva v24 icon to open it.

Step 5: Setup CSW24

- When you open Zyzzyva v24 for the first time, it will prompt you to build databases. Click Yes to perform these actions now. This allows Zyzzyva to create the lexicons.
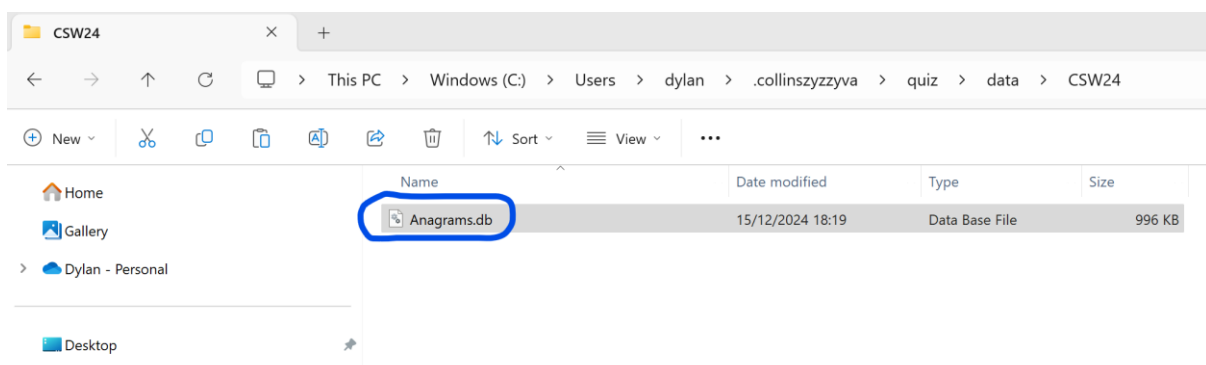
Step 6: Setup CSW21 (Optional but Recommended)

- If you'd like to see the difference between CSW21 and CSW24, then you will need to create the CSW21 database as well.

- Click the preferences icon (spanner and screwdriver) > General > Edit. Then select the lexicons you want to use (CSW24 and CSW21) and click OK. Ensure CSW24 is the default.
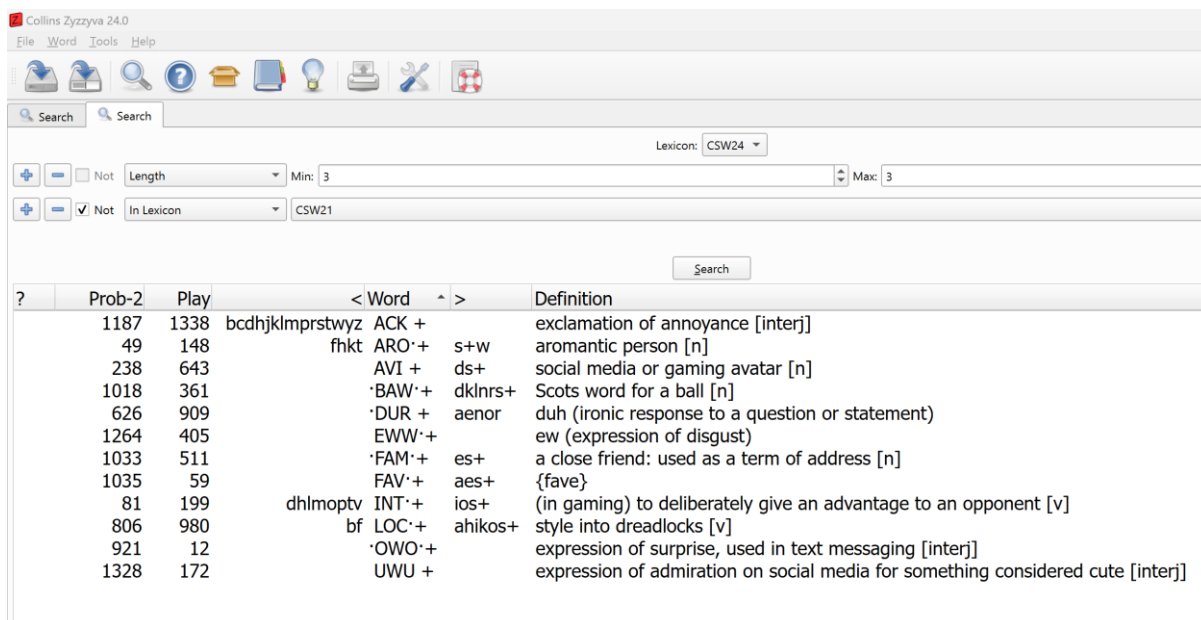

Step 6: Restore your Card Box (Optional)

- Copy the card box backup (Anagrams.db) and past it into the new CSW24 folder. The likely pathname is C:\Users\YourName\.collinszyzzyva\quiz\data\CSW24.

Step 7: Search New Words

- To find the new words, ensure CSW24 is the default lexicon, then click Search > Not In Lexicon CSW21. This returns all the new words.
- Tip: It's a good idea to limit your search by word length otherwise it may take a very long time to complete. Typically, new words are suffixed with a plus (+) sign.
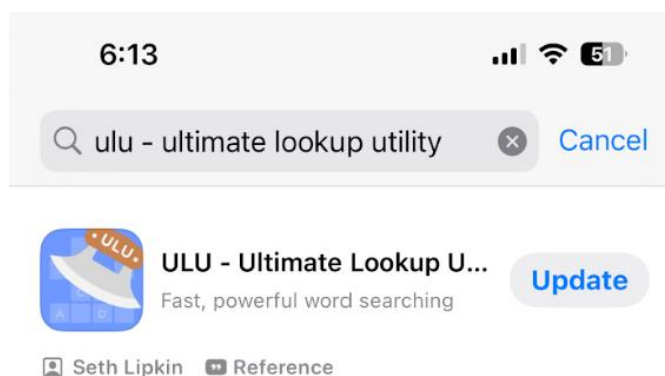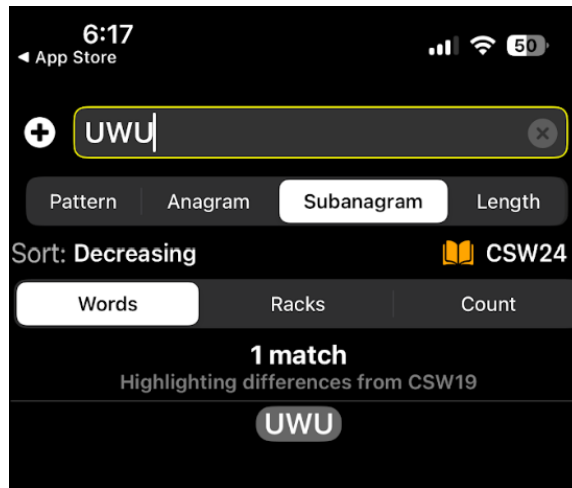

Warning

- Although it's possible to run both old and new versions of Zyzzyva simultaneously, it can cause corruption and is not recommended (as Howard will attest).

ULU

The ULU app for iOS users has been updated with CSW24 by its creator, Seth Lipkin. Simply go to the Apple App Store and search "Ultimate Lookup Utility" and follow the prompts to install or update the app. It includes multiple lexicons, including CSW15, CSW19, CSW22 and CSW24. To view the differences between CSW19 and CSW24, go to Settings and select CSW19 as the Base Lexicon. This will highlight all the new words with a grey lozenge.

Quackle

The creators of Quackle have made it easy to upload any lexicon as a text file.

Step 1: Download CSW24

- Download the full CSW24 word list in text format (3 MB) and save it on your computer.

Step 2: Add Lexicon to Quackle

- Open Quackle, click "Settings" next to History and Choices, then next to "Lexicon", click "Edit".
- Click "Add words from file". In Windows Explorer, browse to the CSW24 text file you saved in Step 1, name the lexicon "CSW24" and click "Save Changes".
- Note: Before you save, check the word count in the Lexicon information section – it should be 280,887 words.
- Click "Build Lexicon Database" to finish the setup.

Step 3: Test

- Test that it worked by starting a new game with yourself as either "Human" or "Player with unknown racks".
- Give yourself a test rack like UUUUWWV and click "Generate Choices". If UWU is one of the moves suggested by Quackle, then you know the update was successful.