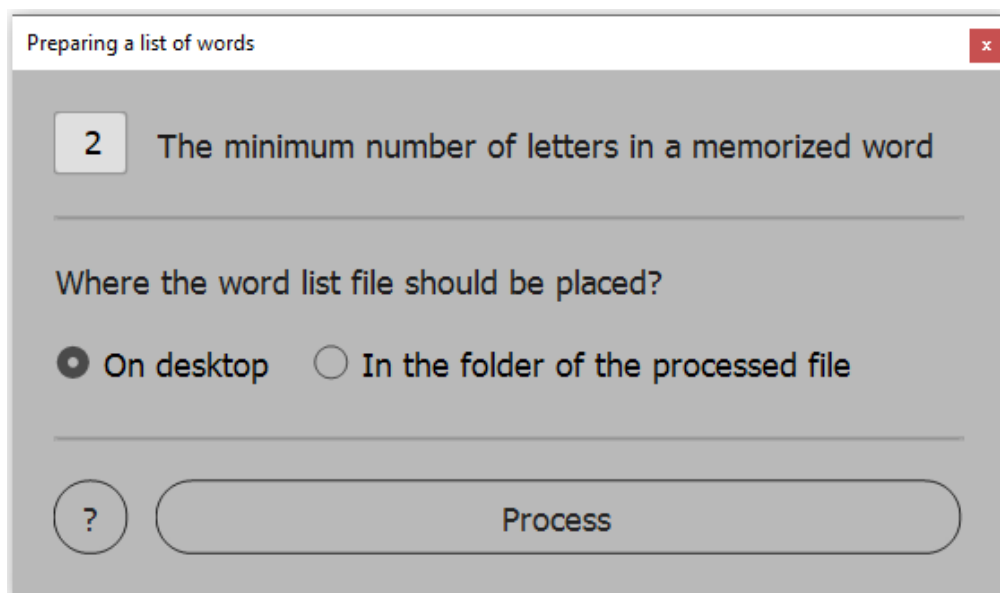# Using custom dictionaries

In correspondence with the program for collecting words marked as erroneous by Speller, the need to be able to exclude certain words from his field of attention, for example, surnames, was discussed.

And since such a request has appeared, why not make a program. It's not difficult to assemble words from a file — each word in its own line. There is only one restriction on this dictionary word file — it should not contain footnotes.

The script **WordsForDictionary.jsx** for solve this task.

You can collect the names so that the speller does not mark them as misspelled words. And since it is the surnames that are needed, then in this script it is possible to exclude initials from consideration, it is enough in the field **The minimum number of letters in a memorized word** type number **2**.
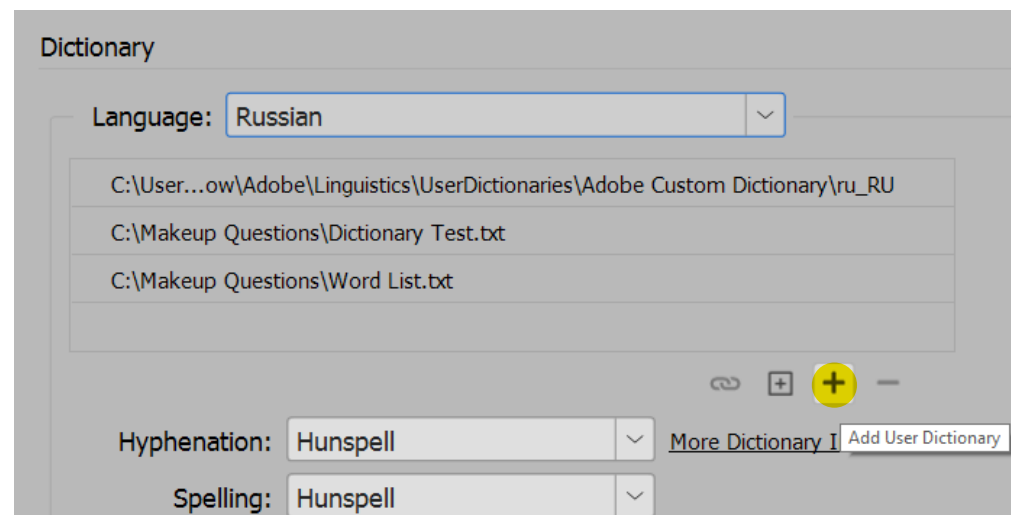

And two places to choose from, where the txt file with the words will be placed: in the folder of the processed file or on the desktop. The script settings are remembered in the script folder.
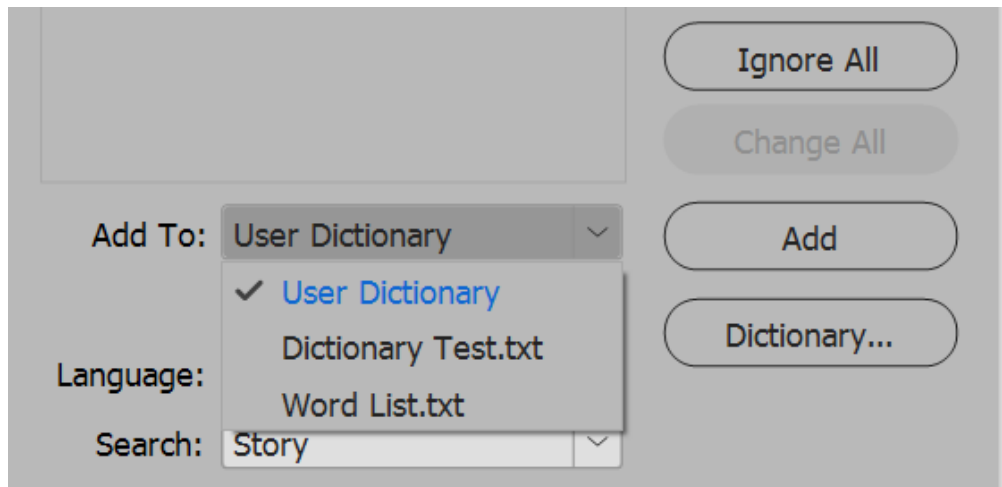
Connecting the collected word lists

So, you have one, or maybe even several files that you need to inform the designer that these are dictionary files. This is done in the Preferences panel. (Edit > Preferences > Dictionary).

The plus sign is shown below (marked with a yellow circle) — it works as a dictionary file selection button. In the screenshot, two files from the folder have already been selected.: **C\Makeup Questions**, this is the folder of the file being processed.

And, accordingly, with the "minus" button, you can remove previously connected dictionaries from the layout.

The connected dictionaries are displayed in the **Check Spelling** panel (Edit > Spelling > Check Spelling).

Option 'User Dictionary'

The first line in this dropdown list — **User Dictionary**. This name does not reflect the purpose of this option in any way. If the user has downloaded only one dictionary, then this menu seems to say that it will work with the user's dictionary. But when you click the **Add** button, the red underline of the speller disappears on the screen, meaning this word is no longer considered an error, but you won't see it in the downloaded dictionary.

The redesign remembers this word, but *in its own file for the words added by the user*, if a specific user dictionary is not selected in that drop-down list. If this option were called, for example, **Not placed in the dictionary words**, it would be closer to what is implemented by this option.

What is this file, and where can we find it? Its name **added.txt** , and on my car it is located here: C:\Users\Mikhail\AppData\LocalLow\Adobe\Linguistics\UserDictionaries\Adobe Custom Dictionary\ru_RU, in the user part of InDesign settings.

So, when user types **Add** button, the words highlighted by the speller are placed in the file **added.txt** if you do not select a specific dictionary in the **Add to:** drop-down menu (option User Dictionary cheched). And when selected, the words will end up in the specified file.

A special way to use a dictionary

And there is also a confusing situation where the contents of the user's dictionary are added to the file **added.txt**.

Menu Edit > Spelling > User Dictionary, panel **User Dictionary** opened, and there's an **Import...** button. You import a new file, its words appear in this panel, and you will see them in the file **added.txt**. But this imported file will not appear in the dictionary list!

When you understand that the words in the file **added.txt** If they were added by mistake, and delete them, then nothing will change in the operation of the speller. It seems that this information is also cached, so to return to its original state, you need to reboot InDesign.

So, if you plan to work with dictionaries, it is important to clearly understand how to load them correctly. InDesign saves information for the processed file, which dictionaries are used. There won't be any problems with that.

It is useful to have a shortcut leading to this service file **added.txt**. You need to be sure that the words placed in it should really only be there, and not in the available dictionaries. Or transfer the words found there to dictionaries.

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