Read Manual

What is it?

Read was developed to help you learning a foreign language. The main function of this program is to produce list of words for given text in order of appearance.

Why it can be useful? Let's take for example book Robin Hood, by J. Walker McSpadden which can be freely obtained from http://www.gutenberg.org (Project Gutenberg website). This book contains 1737 sections (i.e. group of text separated by one or more empty lines between them). This book contains 5980 unique words, so if you know them you can easily read this book (in fact you do not need to know all words, because some of them are names, some of them are plural and meaning some of them may be deducted basing on text). But to read first section you need to know only 11 words, to read second 29 new words, to read third only 1 new word. First few section contains headers and index, so there are not to many new words. Sections 38 contains 12 new words, 39 – 13, 40 – 33, 41 – 79, 42 – 44, 43 – 60, 44 – 51, 45 – 29, 46 – 33, and so on. When you learn first 200 – 400 words usually the next sections will have lower number of new words than previous sections (so for example you have to learn 0-20 words to read section). So you can gradually read book in foreign language memorizing only new words without prior learning vocabulary.

This program contains simple memorization techniques – "flashcards" – you are shown word and then definition till you memorize it. You can export words to QA SuperMemo file (see www.supermemo.com). SuperMemo in my opinion is one of the best memorizing tools.

Unfortunately this program is not Unicode ready, so both your native and foreign language should use the same locale, because String operations are based on current Windows locale.

How to use it - Dictionary.

Read contains 2 windows: Dictionary window and Files window.
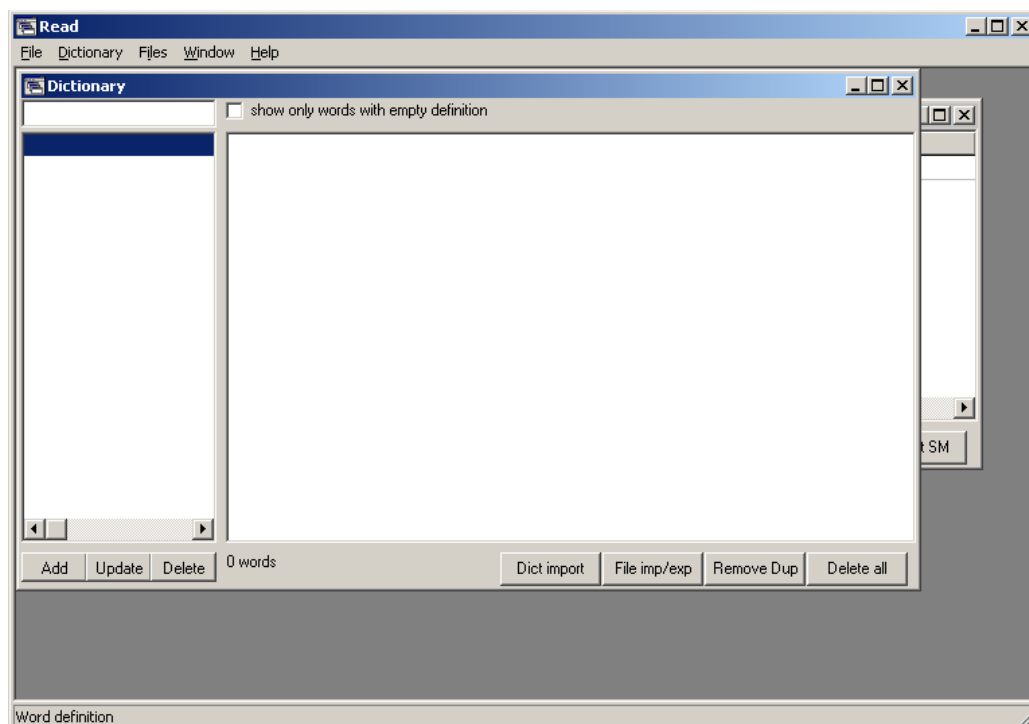
This window contains several elements (line by line from left to right):
- field for seeking words – you enter there word or part of word to start search words in dictionary
- "show only words with empty definitions" – toggle useful when you want to know which definitions needs to be entered (words without definitions can be created for given text (function Files->Copy words without definition to dictionary)
- list of words in dictionary
- definition of selected word in list of words
- Add, Update, Delete – buttons to manually update dictionary
- Dict import – button for importing dictionaries in dict format
- File imp/exp – button for importing/exporting dictionary to/from file
- Remove dup – removing duplicates
- Delete all – delete all words from dictionary

After first run the first thing you should do is to create dictionary (choose Window->Dictionary to switch to Dictionary window).
To use this program you must create dictionary. You can import dictionaries in dict format or add it by yourself.

Importing dict files
Dict files contains from definition file and index file. Files can be obtained from ftp://ftp.aioe.org/pub/dict . For example Latin - English dictionary is composed from 2 files: lat-eng.index and lat-eng.dict.dz . After downloading files you need to unzip *.dz file (you can use Total Commander to unzip such file, enter to archive and copy lat-eng.dict file to another directory).
After choosing "Dict import" button there will appear new window:
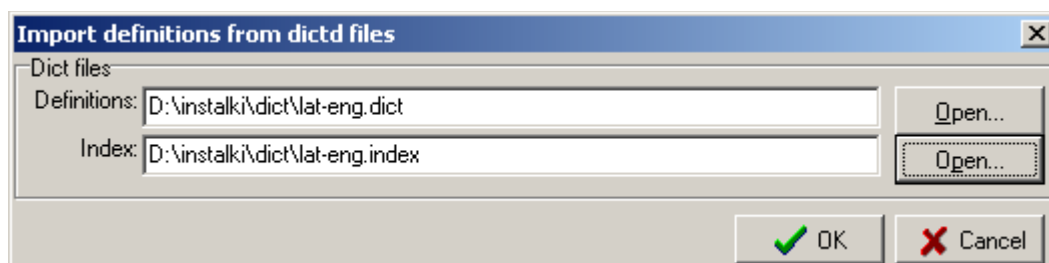
After entering correct paths choose "OK" and after some time dictionary will be imported :
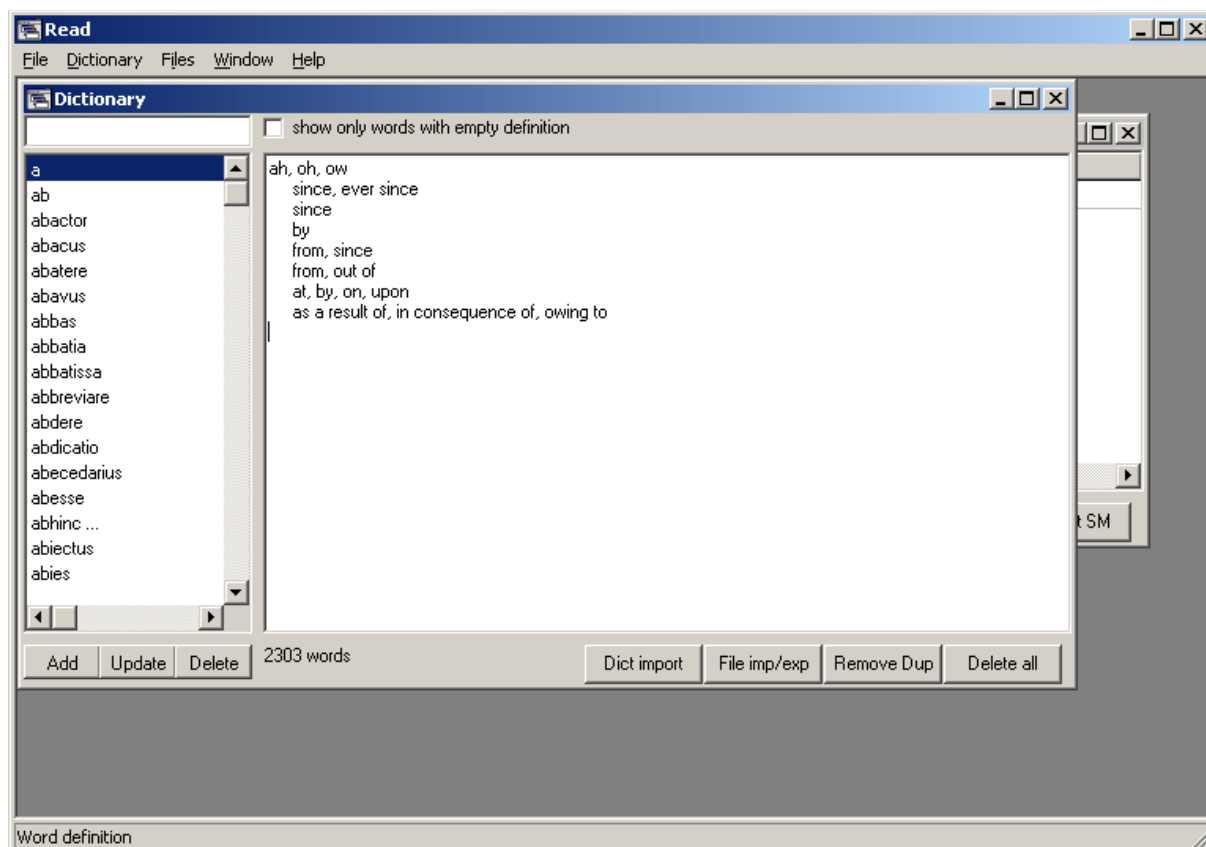
Dict dictionaries can be good base to create your own dictionary (the main problem with dict definitions is that they are too long and have too many meanings; you should try to create short and concise definitions whenever it is possible).

Sometimes dict files contains duplicated words, you should avoid such words – during exporting QA SuperMemo files only first definition will be used – so join definitions and delete duplicated words.
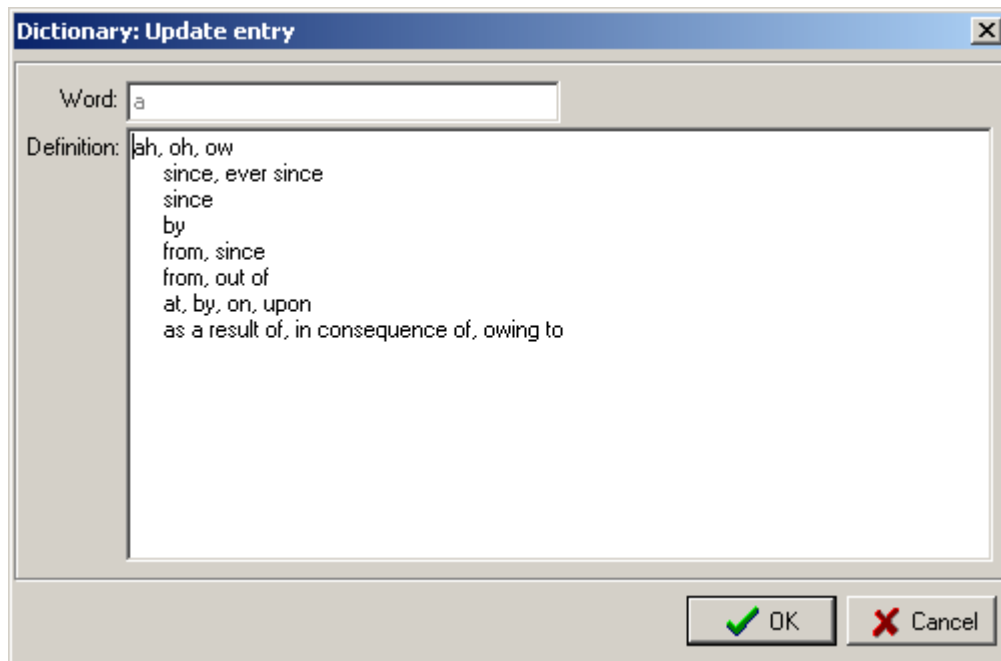
Importing/exporting dictionary to/from file

Choose "File imp/exp" button to import or export dictionary.
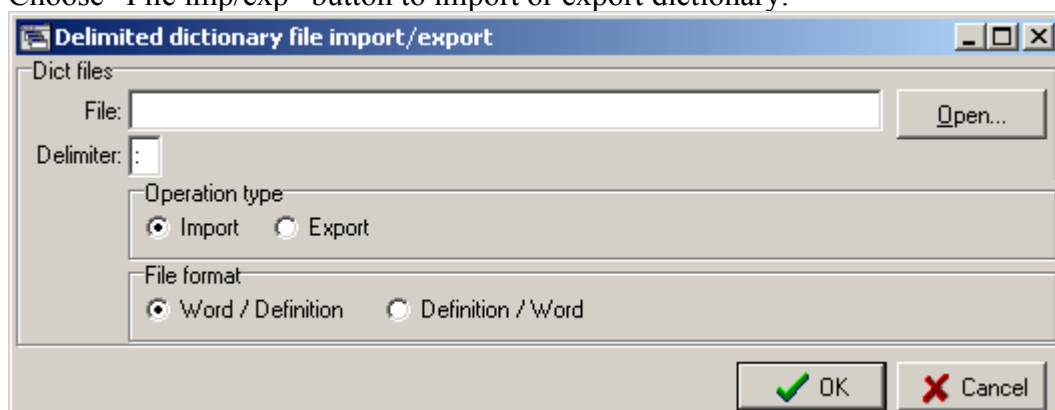
This function can import or export files which have definition in single lines, where word and definition are separated by delimiter (single character). It allows you also export dictionary to such file.

Updating words in dictionary
To Add/Update/Delete word choose proper button and in new window enter word and its definition and click "OK". Word field is active only in Add function.
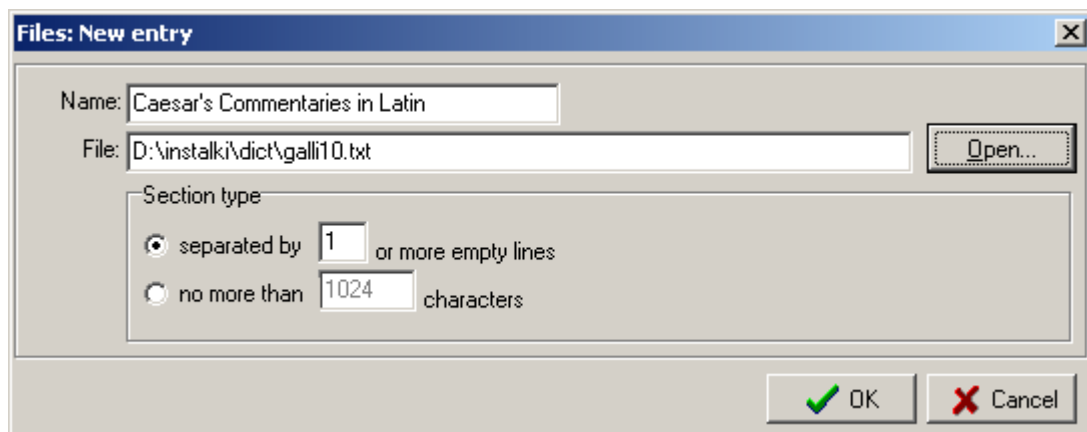
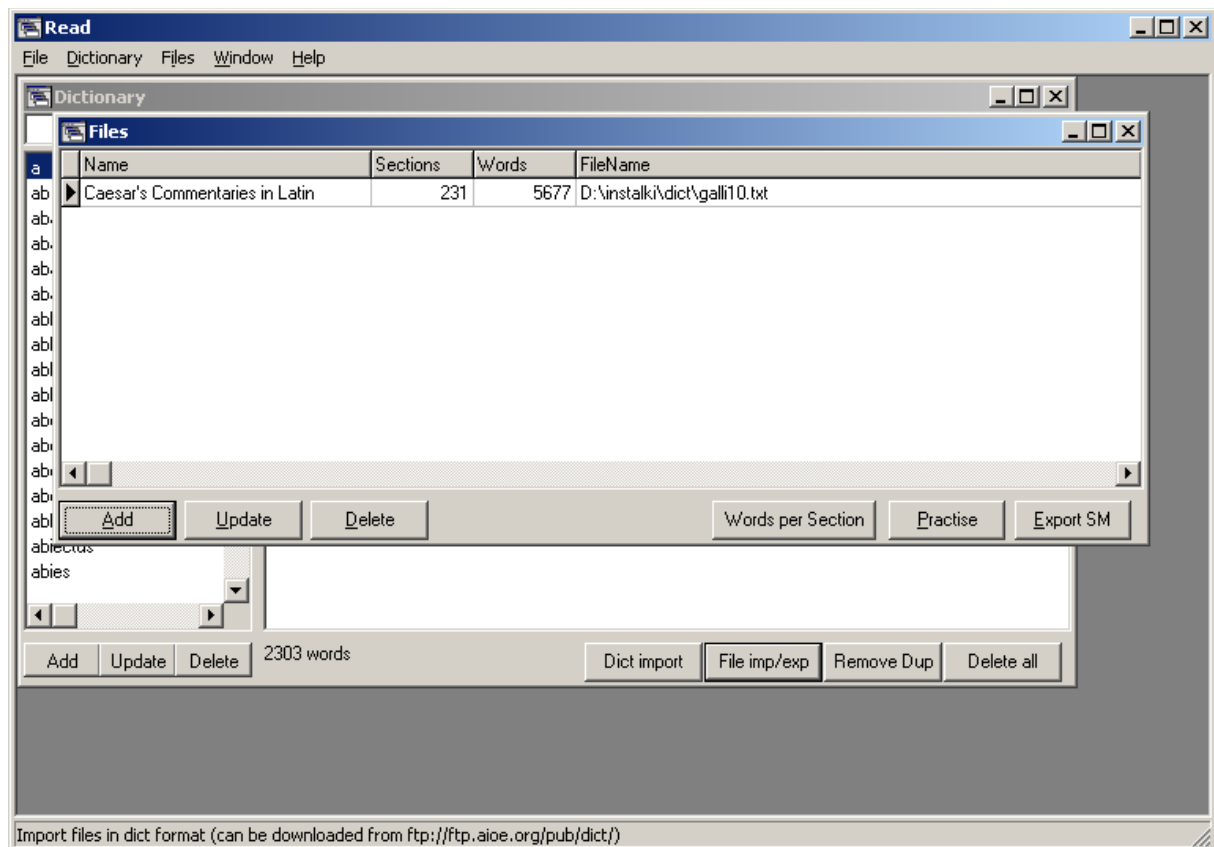# How to use it – files
After creating dictionary you can import some files. You need text file to import it to database. Many interesting books in text format can be obtained from Project Gutenberg, let's use for instance "Caesar's Commentaries" in Latin . Choose Files windows -> Add, new window will appear:
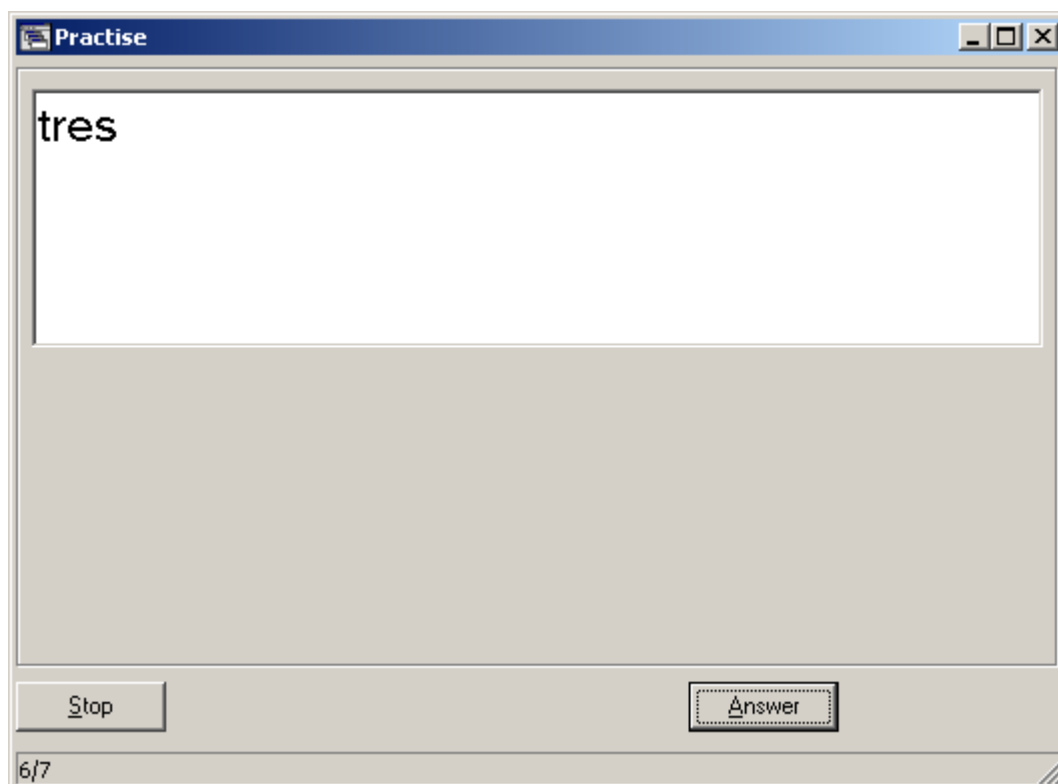

You should enter name and file locations and then click OK.

Words per Section shows how many words are in each section.
Practise allows you to memorize words from chosen sections using simple flashcards:

On the first screen (not shown here) you choose section range you wish to practise. Then words having definitions in dictionary are chosen to learn. Then all words are displayed in order. First you are shown only word without it's definition (see screen above), after you click "Answer" appears another window:
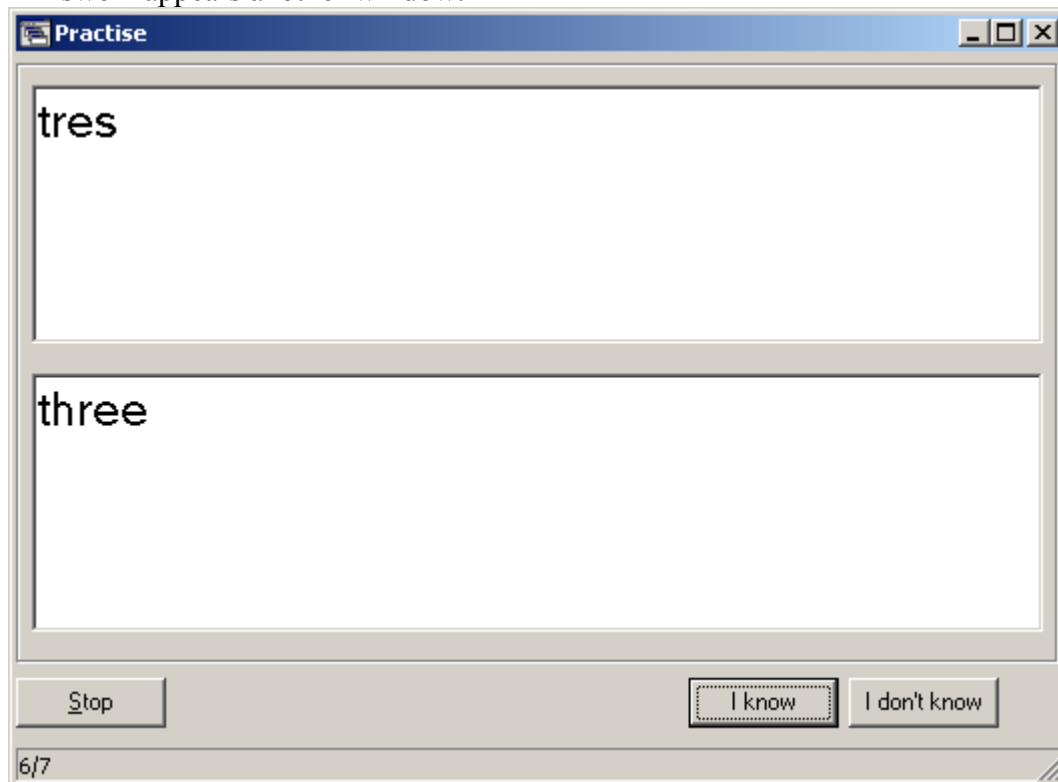
If you choose "I know" the word is removed from queue, otherwise it is added at the end of the queue. Status bar shows words in queue (to memorize)/all words selected for this session.

Export SM is used to export words and definitions to SuperMemo QA file.
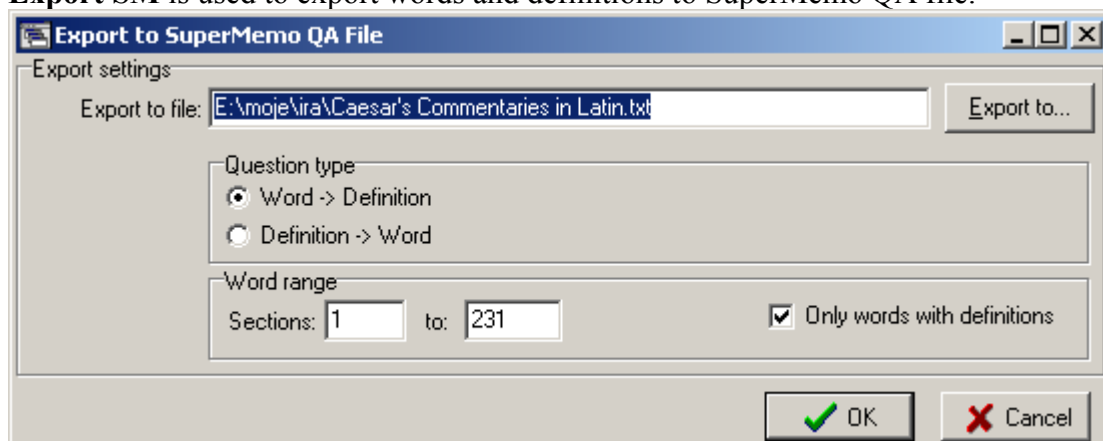
You need to enter filename, question type Q: Word, A: Definition or Q: Definition, A: Word (where Q and A stands for Question and Answer) and word range.