

Using Graphics

It is possible to use graphics just about anywhere: in Kid Pix Deluxe 3, in Student Writing Center, in Word, in PowerPoint, you just need to do some preparation, and then you will be ready to insert the graphics.

A Word About Graphics

Graphics, images, photos -- they're all the same thing: pictures! There are many file types for graphics: .gif, .jpg, .tiff, .bmp, etc. The most common types .bmp .gif and .jpg.

Bmp (pronounced Bitmap) are the images made from the New Kid Pix (not Kid Pix Deluxe 3). These are one of the few images that can be imported into the Student Writing Center. These are considered a "low quality" image and are somewhat grainy compared to other image file types.

Gifs (some say it with a hard "g" sound, others say it like the peanut butter) are similar to color clipart. They are computer generated or they may look like cartoons. The non-animated gifs are those like the little yellow "under construction" signs, a smiley face button, etc. Other types of gifs are animated--they have movement: shooting stars, cats that frolick, mailboxes that open and close, etc. Gifs are also relatively small in size (as they appear on the screen, that is).

Jpgs (sometimes written as jpeg, and pronounced as jay-peg, regardless of how it is spelled), are usually the photos. They may be photos copied from the Internet, those that you have scanned, or those that you took with a digital camera. Jpegs allow for a choice of compression, which means you can reduce the amount of bytes that a picture has, thus making a picture quicker to load. The smaller it is byte-wise, the quicker the picture will load. Generally, when using photos for a web page or a multi-imaged PowerPoint, keep the byte size smaller. It takes up less room on a disk, too. If this is too technical for you, when you learn to work more with photos, you will learn what reducing the compression means.

Make a Collection

First, you will need to collect some graphics. To do that, you will need to either take some pictures or scan some pictures yourself, or you can save some from some clipart sites.

Sources for good clipart (gif types) are:

<http://www.bellsnwhistles.com>
<http://www.animationfactory.com>
<http://www.gifworks.com>
<http://www.cooltext.com>

These sites also have links to other clipart sites.

Sources for good photos are:

<http://www.corbis.com>
<http://pics4learning.com/>
<http://gallery.yahoo.com/>

To Save a Graphic

- 1) Once you have found a graphic you want to use, right click on the graphic (on a Mac, click and hold), and select "Save Image as..."
- 2) Direct the saving to either your floppy or your hard drive (you may want to make a graphics folder to stay organized).
- 3) Before you save, be sure to note the file name. On some sites, the filename is something like vn2_a. Change the file name to some short name you can recognize (like sun or smiley). DO NOT change the file type. If it is a .gif, it needs to stay that way. Same for a .jpg.
- 4) Once you have a nice, short name and it is going to save to the proper place, click Save.

All of what has been written above is true for using graphics in any application, including PowerPoint and web pages.

Build Your Collection

Save several different graphics to your disk for future use. What about smiley and frowny faces? What about cute animation to show emotion? What about a frustrated look? What about a "New!" or "Flash!" sign? How about some holiday clipart? Be creative.