

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 229: Symbols in Text Files

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Well now, here is something different! Sometimes one needs to create or edit a simple text file, like those created by Notepad or other text editors, but not a word processing file like those created by Microsoft Word. Yet, one would like to include a special symbol of some sort in the plain text file. Well you can easily do it.

Start a test of this ability by clicking your desktop somewhere (not near an existing icon), and selecting NEW, then TEXT FILE. Then open the new text file, which will be blank at this point. Put your cursor at the beginning of the file and click it. Then press and hold the ALT key and type a number shown in one of the boxes in the table below, then let go of the keys. The symbol will appear. As an example, if you press and hold the alt key and then type the number 12, the scientific symbol for female (Venus symbol, ♀) will appear. Similarly, press and hold the alt key and the number 11, when you let go, the scientific symbol for male (Mars symbol, ♂) will appear.

Be sure to use the keypad on your desktop keyboard, or it will not work. For laptops, you may have to invoke a keypad first. Experiment.

This is not an exclusive list, so experiment yourself with other numbers to reveal other symbols.

1 ☺	2 ☹	3 ♥	4 ♦	5 ♣	6 ♠	7 •
8 ■	9 ○	10 ◼	11 ♂	12 ♀	13 ♪	14 🎵
15 ☀	16 ►	17 ◄	18 ⇅	19 !!	20 ¶	21 §
22 —	23 ↕	24 ↑	25 ↓	26 →	27 ←	28 ⊥
29 ↔	30 ▲	31 ▼	33 !	127 △	128 Ç	129 ü
130 é	251 √					

Happy computing!