

How to Fix a Keyboard That Has the Wrong Characters

Three Methods: [On a PC](#) [Code Page Conversion Tables on a PC](#) [On a Mac](#)

For some of us, typing fast and typing accurately is challenge enough. It really makes it hard when your keyboard has gone a little haywire! Sometimes keyboards get their letters "rearranged," making typing virtually impossible. However, in most cases, there is a way to fix it.

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Method 1 of 3: On a PC

1 Open up the Control Panel. This can be done by either pressing WIN + R, then typing "Control" (without quotes) or going to **My Computer** and clicking "Control Panel" in the **Other Places** area on the left.

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2 Look for "Regional and Language Options". The categories are alphabetized, so finding it shouldn't be hard. Once you find it, double-click on it. A window should come up with the tabs "Regional Options," "Language Options," and "Advanced" tabs at the top.

3 Select the "Regional Options" tab. There, you will find a pull down menu, a **Samples** section, and a **Location** menu. Make sure that both menus are set to your local region's settings.

4 Click on the "Customize" button next to the top pull down menu. Sometimes these settings can interfere with your keyboard.

5 Click on the Numbers tab. Check the **Measurement system:"** field, and verify your measurement system is set to whatever system your region uses.

- Once the **Numbers** tab is set, verify **Currency**, **Time**, and **Date** settings are all correct, then close the "Customize Regional Options" window.

6 Click on **Languages tab**. Then click on the **Details** button. Choose your regional language from "Default Input language" menu, then choose the keyboard of your language from the "Installed Services" window.

7 Click the **Apply button at the bottom**. Then click **Apply** at the bottom of the "Regional and Language Settings" window.

8 Restart your computer, then test out the keys using a word processing program such as Notepad or Microsoft Word. If the problem persists, it may be a hardware issue.

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Method 2 of 3: Code Page Conversion Tables on a PC

1 Log on as an administrator. You must be an admin or a member of the Administrators group in order to complete this procedure. If your computer is connected to a network, network policy settings may also prevent you from completing this procedure.

2 Open Regional and Language Options in Control Panel.

3 Select the **Advanced tab**. Under Code page conversion tables, do either of the following:

- Select the check box next to the code page conversion table that you want to install.
- Uncheck the box next to the code page conversion table you want to remove.

4 Click **Apply**. This will lock in your changes.

5 **Note:** Code page conversion tables that are shown in the list but not editable were installed automatically by Windows, and cannot be removed.

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Method 3 of 3: On a Mac

- 1** **Open System Preferences.** Click on the Apple menu, then select **System Preferences...**
- 2** **Click on Language & Text.** On the top row of the "System Preferences" window, in the **Personal** row, click on the "Language & Text" icon.
- 3** **Click on the Language button.** Make sure your language is at the top of the list in the window to the left.
- 4** **Click on the Text button.** On the right side of the window, check to make sure either the **Spelling** menu is either "Automatic by Language" (the default), or to your language. While you're there, verify your settings for **Word Break:** and **Smart Quotes:** are set as you prefer. On the left side, if **Use symbol and text substitution** is checked, scroll through the list and make sure that there is nothing set that might replace a typed character with something else—in case somebody pranked you.
- 5** **Click on the Formats button.** Verify all formats are as you prefer. There's little chance that this would interfere with wrong characters, but it's worth verifying just in case.
- 6** **Click on the Input Sources button.** Make sure your input source is set to your country (it should be already selected and locked in), and that the **Input source options** are set to use the same source in all documents, as shown.
- 7** **Restart your Mac.** Test you keys and see if they are working as expected. If not, it may be a hardware problem—you may need a replacement keyboard.

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We could really use your help!

Yes **No**

Yes **No**

Yes **No**

Yes **No**

Tips

- If setup for multiple languages (default for some countries), left-Shift+CTRL can toggle between them (Windows default mapping). The mapping can be changed in the **Regional Settings**, and additional languages can be turned on or off.
- If the above steps didn't work, then your keyboard may be broken. Most good USB keyboards cost about \$15 - if you want a wireless keyboard, be prepared to spend a bit more.
- As an alternative, use a macro scripting program such as [AutoHotkey](#) (open source and free) or [AutoIt](#) (freeware). Create macros that type the correct key value, then map them to the key that is producing the incorrect key value.

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Article Info

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