

Testing & Evaluation Sheet	
LanguageTool	
1. Tool Overview	
Name:	Language Tool
Category:	Language Tool
Purpose:	Open-source AI writing assistant that detects grammar, spelling, and style errors in multiple languages to improve writing.
Date Tested	4/29/2025
Status:	<b>Deployed</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational - Actively running/maintained <input type="checkbox"/> In Testing - Currently being evaluated or piloted <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive/Deprecated - No longer maintained or functional
Deployment Architecture:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A standalone software - Runs entirely locally (e.g., runs on computer and doesn't depend on external server) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A locally hosted service with separate server and client component - Run both backend/frontend yourself (e.g., backend could be on a local network, or self-hosted on cloud) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A service with a local client that's hosted by a third party - You install a client on your device, but it connects to and depends on a remote server (e.g., Signal: install app (client), but Signal's servers handle message relaying, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> A service that is hosted by a third party but can also be self-hosted
Version:	Browser: 8.19.4 Windows: 1.1.0.0 Mobile: 1.2.3
2. Installation & Setup	
OS Compatibility	Browser: Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Opera Desktop: macOS, Windows, Linux Mobile: iOS, Android
Installation Manual:	No

Installation Steps:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Go to <a href="https://languagetool.org">Languagetool.org</a></li> <li>2. Click on the hamburger menu and go to the respective OS page</li> <li>3. Click on the appropriate OS you are using</li> <li>4. Download from the respective store or click the “Alternative download” button</li> </ol> <p>Note:</p>
Mention if command-line setup or special configurations are needed	No special commands are needed to install
Common Installation Issues & Fixes:	N/A
User Documentation:	Yes
Required Technical Knowledge	Beginner

### 3. Testing & Evaluation

<u>Category</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Score</u>
<b>Operational Functionality:</b>	<p><b>Functionality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The tool is mostly non-functional with many broken features and bugs.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Several broken features or bugs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Minor bugs or issues</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mostly functional with few bugs or no bugs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fully functional with no bugs</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Browser extension and mobile app worked as intended, however desktop app downloaded but never opened</i></p> <p><b>Internet Dependence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tool requires use of the internet (unless you download the desktop version which can be used offline).</li> <li>• Functions on a 2G &amp; 3G network, however speeds may vary</li> </ul> <p><b>Localization &amp; Language Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has 30 different languages in various stages of localization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Chinese [does not specify simplified or traditional], Japanese</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2.7

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Note: Chinese &amp; Japanese as seems to be in the process of localization with minimal code for translation</i></li> <li>● Very active localization community <sup>1</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Mobile Accessibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mobile application functions as intended</li> <li>● Some errors with grammatical issues</li> <li>● Works with other languages and automatically changes the language it fixes grammar for</li> </ul>	
<b>Usability for Non-Technical Users</b>	<p><b>Ease of Installation &amp; Deployment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Browser:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Easy to install as it is a one click process from the webstore</li> <li>○ Took under 10 minutes to install</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Desktop:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Easy to install, can either install from the OS respective webstore or click the download button and download the file there</li> <li>○ Took under 10 minutes to install</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>App:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Easy to install as it is a one click process from the webstore</li> <li>○ Took under 10 minutes to install</li> </ul> </li> <li>● FAQ does not provide a date of the last update date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Note: FAQ page is limited with few pages</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>User Onboarding Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Browser:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Easy to install as it is a one click process from the webstore</li> <li>○ Took under 10 minutes to install</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Desktop:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Easy to install, can either install from the OS respective webstore or click the download button and download the file there</li> <li>○ Took under 10 minutes to install</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>App:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is in-app pop ups telling the user what settings they have to allow</li> <li>○ Both describes and provides images</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Technical Experience Level Required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Yes, the installation process is easy</li> <li>● Interface is menu driven with no commands needed</li> </ul>	4.7

<sup>1</sup> <https://dev.languagetool.org/languages>

<b>Security &amp; Privacy Strength</b>	<p><b>Encryption Standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not encrypt any data</li> <li>• Only mention of data security is “commercially reasonable steps to protect your personal data from unauthorized access...”<sup>2</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Known Strength resilience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The website “Languetool.org” is not being blocked by China’s Firewall</li> <li>• Does not have built in circumvention software</li> <li>• No known risks, however there is no publicly available security audits</li> </ul> <p><b>Comparison with Known Standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within website, reviewers find the software safe and reliable</li> </ul> <p><b>Data Minimization</b></p> <p>When you use any of our Services, we collect the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usage information (such as the date and time of visits, pages viewed, links to/from any page, and time spent in a session)</li> <li>• Device information (such as your internet protocol (IP) address, Internet service provider, operating system, computer model, language settings and CPU details, referrer URL, time zone information, data volume transferred, access status/ HTTP status code, and web browser type)</li> <li>• Inference Information about your usage of LanguageTool, such as whether you are a frequent document uploader or user of a particular feature.</li> <li>• Location information (approximated, based on your IP address).</li> </ul> <p>When you use our Apps and Extensions, we collect the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date and time of your usage</li> <li>• Length of the text</li> <li>• Language of the input text (but not the text itself)</li> <li>• Duration of processing</li> <li>• Number and type of errors detected, the page from which the request was sent (e.g. languagetool.org)</li> <li>• App or extension version number</li> <li>• Date of installation</li> <li>• A randomly generated ID assigned to the input text</li> </ul>	<p>2.6</p>
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<sup>2</sup> <https://languagetool.org/legal/privacy#part-one-data-security>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the event you uninstall, we also collect the number of times the add-on was used and the URL of the page where the add-on was last used.</li> <li>• An anonymously generated internal ID for error rules whenever you accept or ignore correction suggestions. When you ignore a suggestion, we also store the text fragment underlined as incorrect and 15 characters to the right and left of it to track and avoid future errors in our system.</li> <li>• In the rare circumstance that you experience an internal software error, we may store an anonymized record of the error for up to 14 days so that we can identify and fix the issue.</li> <li>• To improve the speed of our software, we store checked records and the errors found in them for up to 15 minutes on our servers in the main memory (not on a permanent storage medium). The storage is done without IP address or other information that would allow the records to be assigned to a person.</li> <li>• Only if you have an account on languagetool.org and if you are logged into the add-on with that account: Our extension contacts our servers periodically (about once a day) to let us know that you are an active user. The data collected for this purpose includes your browser type (e.g. Firefox) and the email address connected to the account you're using. This allows us to track user activity and improve our software.</li> </ul> <p><b>Privacy Policy Accessibility and Clarity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The privacy policy is available on the bottom of the website. The language the policy is easy for a native English speaker to read and understand</li> </ul>	
<b>Maintenance/Sustainability</b>	<p><b>Community support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a LanguageTool Forum to ask for help</li> </ul> <p><b>Development active status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most recent update 3/27/2025</li> <li>• Development team is quick often</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding and Sponsorship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LanguageTool is part of the larger company Learnéo</li> <li>• Language Tool has paid versions</li> <li>• The company seems to be financially stable</li> </ul>	4.3
<b>Performance / Effectiveness &amp; Reliability</b>	<p><b>Testing Environment Setup:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Device:</b> HP Zbook 11th Gen Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-11800H @ 2.30GHz</li> <li>• <b>OS:</b> Windows</li> </ul>	3.0

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Network:</b> Wifi</li> </ul> <p><b>User Experience Observations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>App:</b> App is decently responsive with a couple of seconds for the software to detect grammar issues</li> <li>• <b>Desktop:</b> N/A was not able to open software</li> <li>• <b>Browser:</b> App is decently responsive with a couple of seconds for the software to detect grammar issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Speed &amp; Responsiveness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loading time: The initial load of google docs is relatively slow</li> </ul> <p><b>Resource Usage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Using Lighthouse:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The page loads slowly and is not efficient</li> <li>○ ~30–50 ms — good network latency</li> <li>○ Initial document load pulls around 10–20 MB of assets</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Resource Usage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memory Usage: ~39,256K</li> <li>• CPU: 0.2 %</li> </ul> <p><b>Network Performance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low bandwidth and low latency under normal conditions. It is unlikely to cause significant network slowdowns unless very large texts are checked repeatedly in a short period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reliability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are available reviews on the webstores</li> <li>• No readily available 3rd party audits</li> <li>• Software is consistent in and functional</li> </ul>	
<b>Deployment Considerations:</b>	<p><b>Open Source &amp; Transparency:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, all of the code is available on their Github page</li> </ul> <p><b>Cloud vs. Local Deployment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It can be run via the cloud or through local deployment</li> </ul> <p><b>Dependencies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependencies are well documented on their Github page</li> <li>• Dependencies are not needed to use the software</li> </ul> <p><b>Post-Deployment Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, relatively easy. Once set up, the local server can run continuously with minimal upkeep</li> <li>• Configuration files and documentation make updates straightforward.</li> <li>• For Docker users, updates involve simply pulling the latest image and restarting the container.</li> <li>• The project is open-source and modular, with good structure and clear file organization</li> </ul>	

	<b>Merge/Sustainability:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LanguageTool is actively maintained with regular commits.</li> <li>• Community contributions are welcomed, especially for new languages or rules.</li> <li>• There is a contributors guide available for first-time developers.</li> <li>• The GitHub repository follows a typical fork-and-pull-request workflow</li> </ul>
<b>4. Testing Scenarios</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Basic Usage</b></li> </ul>	<b>Mobile</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to type text, upload text, type in multiple languages</li> <li>• Required users to sign in</li> </ul> <b>Desktop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was not able to open the software.</li> <li>• Download both through the Windows App store and through their website.</li> </ul> <b>Browser</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated with Google Docs efficiently, took a couple of seconds for software to double-check the spelling and grammar after typing</li> <li>• Able to use without having to sign in</li> <li>• Able to add words to a personal dictionary</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Copy &amp; Pasting</b></li> </ul>	<b>Website</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to copy and paste text into their website grammar checker</li> <li>• Only available for 2,000 characters in their free version</li> </ul>
<b>5. Insights &amp; Recommendations</b>	
<b>Key Findings</b>	<b>Strengths:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple interface suitable for both technical and non-technical users.</li> <li>• Provides instant grammar, spelling, and style suggestions while typing.</li> <li>• Allows for personal dictionaries and rule adjustments.</li> </ul> <b>Weaknesses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The browser extension relies on cloud-based checks unless self-hosted</li> <li>• Restricts advanced checks and text length unless upgraded.</li> <li>• Performance testing showed extensions can impact load time and responsiveness.</li> </ul>

<b>Suggested Improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add full offline availability</li> <li>• Increase security protocols with end-to-end encryption</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Tools:</b>	Grammalecte, Vale
<b>License</b>	LGPL-2.1 license
<b>Cost/Resource Implications</b>	<p><b>Total Cost of Ownership:</b></p> <p>Pricing Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Free Version:</b> Available at no cost. It provides basic grammar and spelling checks, but has limited advanced features and shorter text length limits.</li> <li>• <b>Premium (for individuals):</b> Costs around <b>\$59.90 per year</b> (or about <b>\$4.99 per month</b> if billed annually). This includes advanced grammar and style checking, enhanced vocabulary suggestions, and the ability to check longer texts (up to around 150,000 characters at once).</li> <li>• <b>Teams (for businesses):</b> Starts at about <b>\$109 per user per year</b>. It includes all Premium features plus team management functions, centralized billing, and options for organizational use.</li> <li>• <b>Enterprise Plans:</b> Pricing is customized based on the organization's needs. Enterprise plans offer features like API access for integration into your own systems, service-level agreements (SLAs), enhanced support, and deployment flexibility (including self-hosted options).</li> <li>• <b>Self-Hosting the Open-Source Version:</b> The open-source version of LanguageTool is free under an LGPL license. However, self-hosting comes with indirect costs: you'll need to pay for server infrastructure, allocate IT staff time for setup and maintenance, and handle updates and security patches yourself. No official technical support is included unless separately contracted.</li> </ul>
<b>Why is this useful to civil societies in authoritarian environments?</b>	Improves language communication, allowing for CSOs to better communicate their ideas. Since the software doesn't have any circumvention built into the software, the risk of this software being blocked is lower.