TreeSheets

Welcome to TreeSheets!

(1) This file is a live tutorial. Simply by following along with the numbers in front of the text, you can learn to use all TreeSheets functionality quickly and easily!

The basics

(2) You found step 2! Good, now lets try inserting text. Each of these text boxes is called a "cell". See the empty cell between (2) and (3)? Click anywhere inside it to select it

(3) The cell above should be selected (have a thick black border around it). Now type something, and you see any text ends up in the selected cell. Notice how when you started typing, a cursor appeared, and the selection box became thinner. This signals the cell is in text edit mode, so things like cursor keys, delete etc, work on the current text. You can also double click to get into text edit mode, or press enter. To exit, press enter again, or press escape, or just select another cell.

(4) There is an even better way to insert text however. See the dotted lines between cells? These we call "grid lines". Select (click on) the grid line between (4) and (5)

(5) The line above here should be highlighted. Now start typing text again, and notice how a new cell automatically got inserted between (4) and (5). This also works on the borders of the cells. This is the natural way to extend any TreeSheet: find a location where you want to add information, and just start typing!

(6) You can also navigate across grid lines and cells without using the mouse, for even quicker editing: make sure this cell is selected, and then press cursor key UP and DOWN a few times.

(7) Deleting cells works in just the same way. Make sure you got any grid line above selected, and then press BACKSPACE to remove the cell above it (or before it), or press DELETE to remove the cell below it (or after it). This works analogous to how text editors and word processors work. Alternatively, simply selecting any cells (by clicking/dragging) and then pressing DELETE to remove all of them also works.

(8) If you have deleted a bunch of lines above (hopefully not this one!) now is a good time to try out undo! Press CTRL+Z repeatedly to bring your deletions back. TreeSheets has unlimited undo, so just holding down CTRL+Z for a while will restore the document back to its original state. CTRL+Y redoes.

> On OS X, wherever this tutorial refers to CTRL, use CMD instead. ALT is the same as the OPTION key.

Grids

(9) As you may have already noticed, TreeSheets can nest grids of cells. Each cell can contain its own grid. This cell for example has a sub grid.

Tequila	2
Gran Marnier	1
Lime juice	0.5

(10) To add a grid to any cell, select the cell and press INSERT. Try it on this cell, you should get a 1x1 grid below this text

(11) Try expanding the cell you made in (10) by selecting one of its 4 gridlines and typing text until you have at least a 3x3 grid. Also try moving around it with the cursor keys in all directions.

(12) Now let's try moving things around in grids. Select an entire column in a grid (such as the numbers in the grid contained in (9)) by dragging from the top cell in the row to the bottom. Much like in spreadsheets (and unlike some other applications), dragging in TreeSheets is for expanding a selection, not for moving. Now Press CTRL+LEFT cursor key or CTRL+RIGHT to shift the data around.

(13) You can copy cells, for example, select this one, copy with CTRL+C, then select any grid line above and press CTRL+V. If you select multiple cells, the selection will be inserted at the destination as multiple lines. Try it. Cutting (CTRL+X) or Deleting multiple cell selections works similarly intuitively. If inserting cells "inline" on a paste is undesirable, you can always create a new grid first, and then paste on that, to create hierarchy.

Cell formatting & Zoom

(14) Text in a cell is akin to a single paragraph. It is split up in lines automatically depending on the column width of whatever column it is in. How wide the columns should be depends on how you prefer to structure your TreeSheet overall. You can see the column width in the status bar (for the column the mouse is over). Make sure this cell is selected, and then hold ALT and roll the mousewheel to see what happens (or ALT+PGUP/PGDN). This cell should be reformatted automatically, as well as other cells in this column, and any grids inside this column. Note that the column width specifies the maximum number of characters per line, so it won't make a grid wider once every cell is on a single line.

> On some Mac keyboards, PGUP/PGDN is emulated with FN+UP/DOWN. Also, the scrollwheel is instead a swipe on the trackpad (or magic mouse).

(15) A more powerfull option to change the space a cell takes up on screen (good for indicating the relative importance of something) is to change the text size. Select this cell, hold SHIFT and roll the mousewheel (or SHIFT+PGUP/PGDN).

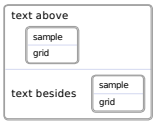
(16) Notice how if you keep making it smaller, eventually text will be rendered as individual pixels. This may seem useless, but is actually a neat way of information management that replaces folding/unfolding of hierarchies so prevalent in other applications.

(17) For example, this cell contains a tiny grid. Select this cell, then hold CTRL and roll the mouse wheel forward 3x to zoom into this cell (or CTRL+PGUP/PGDN).

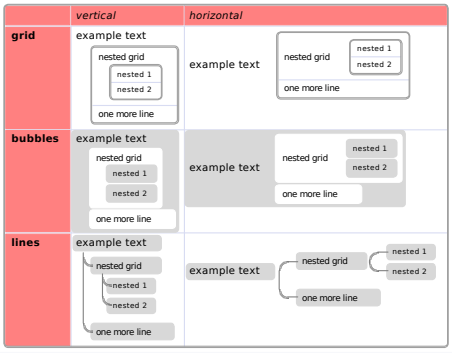
if instead you prefer to completely hide a grid out of sight, you can using folding (F10 on Windows, CTRL+F10 on other platforms). Try pressing it repeatedly on this cell to see the effect

Rendering and Layout

You can toggle text placement to above the grid (vertical layout, like much of this document) or besides (horizontal layout) by pressing F7 on any selection:



You can also choose from 3 different rendering methods to show nesting, Grid (like most of this document), Bubbles and Lines (see the Edit -> Layout Render Style menu). Together with horizontal/vertical, this gives 6 different styles:



The different styles tend to work the best if you apply them to a whole document, but they can be set on a per cell basis if you want.

> The "grid" style is best for editing, as it shows most clearly where you can insert new data.
>
> "bubbles" work best if you assign individual cell background colors. If you leave all cells the same color, TreeSheets automatically chooses alternate colors to avoid bubbles becoming invisible.
>
> The "lines" style is nice for mindmap style documents.

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