

QuanWei

Complete Tiny Dictionary



User's Guide

v1.3.5

INTRODUCTION

QuanWei is a comprehensive Mandarin Chinese <-> English dictionary for Android 1.6 (Donut) or greater. QuanWei's features include:

- Offline dictionary—no network required.
- Chinese and English pronunciation.
- Three search modes: English, Pinyin, Chinese.
- Two search qualifiers: any, exact.
- Two clear options: clear search expression, clear search results.
- Pinyin Chinese input method with autocomplete.
- Diacritic or numeric Pinyin display options.
- Individually selectable fuzzy Pinyin options.
- Fuzzy tone support.
- Add, remove, sort, clear, and email favorite entries.
- List, sort, clear, and email last 100 successful searches.
- List 100 most frequently used Chinese characters.
- List all Pinyin syllables.
- List Chinese characters by stroke count.
- Snapshot feature for taking screen grabs.
- Chinese presentation option for traveling abroad.
- Full screen option and auto-orientation support.
- Screen history option for controlling back button behavior.
- Localization support for English, Chinese, and Italian speakers.

NO NETWORK REQUIRED

QuanWei is designed to work without a network or Internet access. During installation, its resources are downloaded and stored to external memory (for most Android devices, typically an SD card). Following installation, QuanWei is guaranteed to make no network connections other than those you initiate.



NAVIGATION, SCREEN HISTORY, & QUITTING

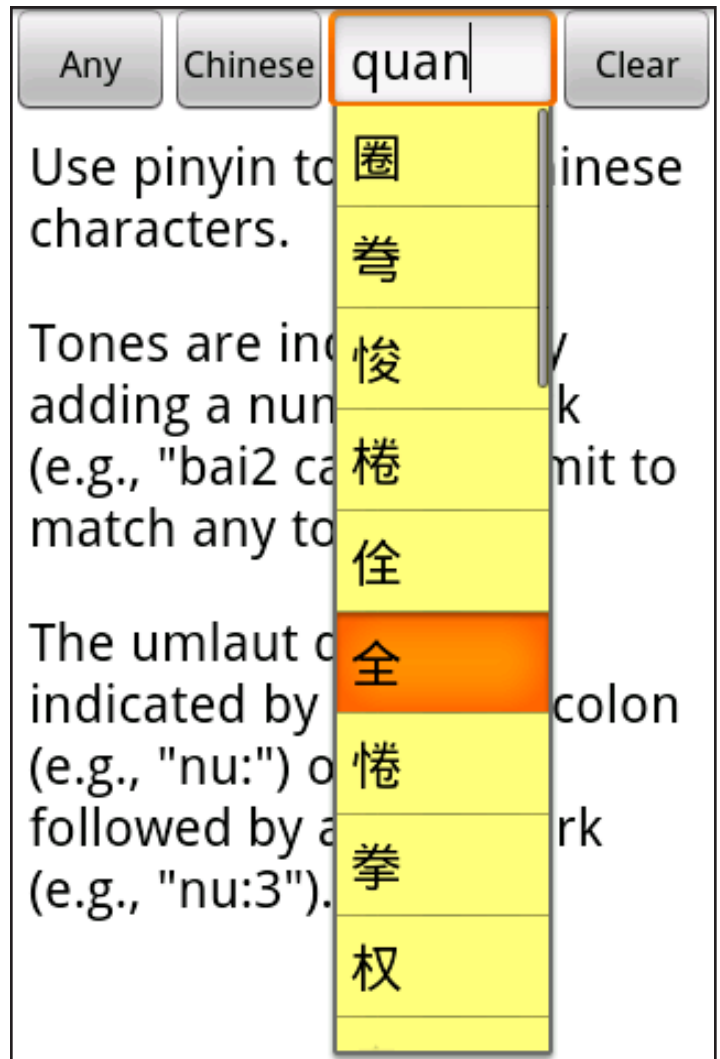
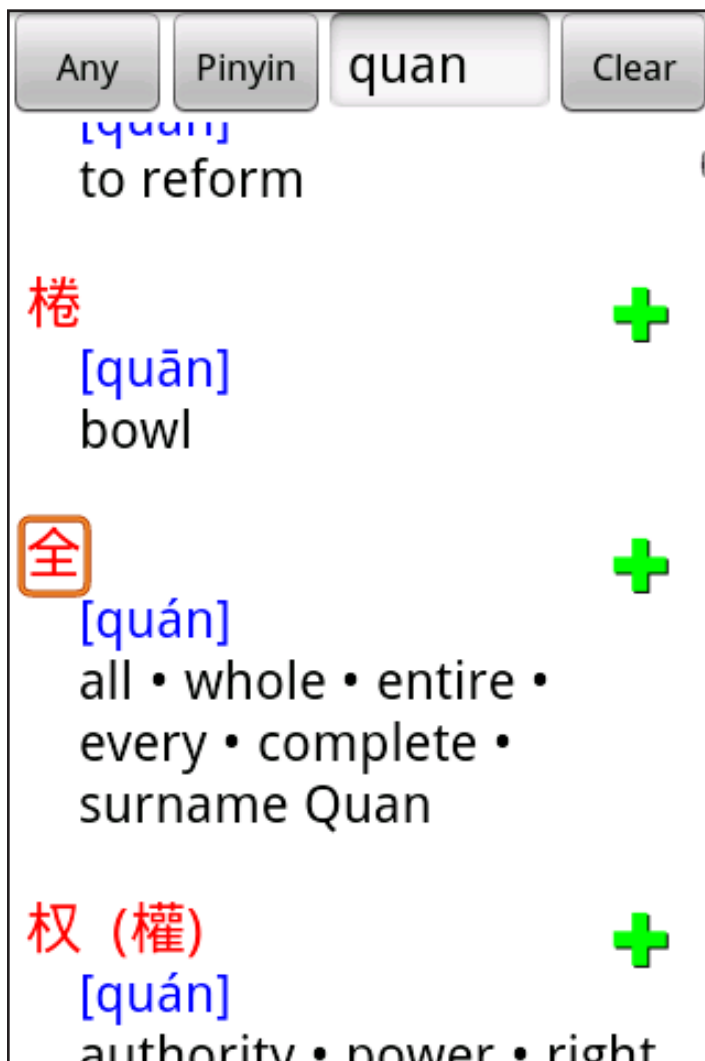
QuanWei has four primary screens: Search, List, Preferences, and About. You can navigate QuanWei's screens using the menu button, which also reveals various contextual options corresponding to each screen. Not all menu options are available on all screens—only those that are appropriate for the screen and its functions. As with typical Android applications, tapping the back key returns you to the previous screen you were on, and quitting the application requires you to back out of any previously remembered screens. However, unlike typical Android application, QuanWei gives you control over how many screens it will



remember (from 0 to 5). The default is 0—none—which effectively turns the back key into a dedicated quit button, since in this case there are no previously remembered screens to back out of. At the opposite extreme, a history of 5 means that QuanWei will remember the last 5 screens you navigated to, with older ones dropping off as newer ones are added.

PINYIN VERSUS CHINESE SEARCHING

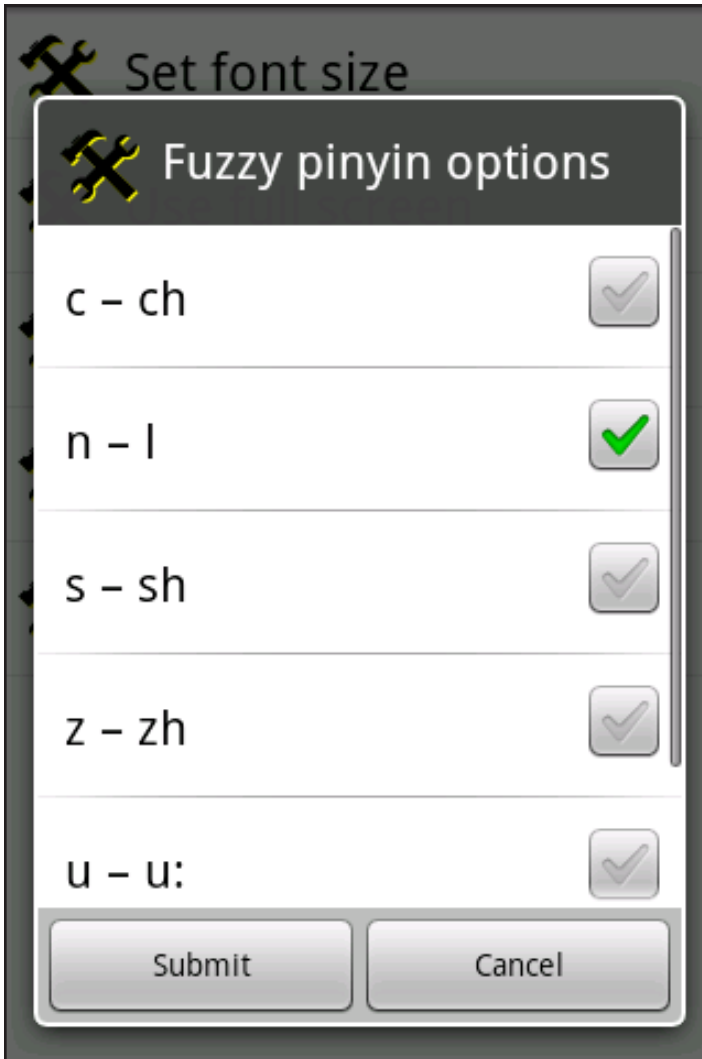
QuanWei distinguishes between a Pinyin search and a Chinese search. They both require you to enter Pinyin. What's the difference? Pinyin searches attempt to match Chinese characters or words by sound alone. This is useful since you may know how a word is pronounced without knowing the Chinese characters



themselves. Pinyin searches typically result in a number of matches, since Chinese is replete with homophones, and the same basic pronunciation can refer to many different Chinese characters. A Chinese search, by contrast, is a search for a specific set of Chinese characters. In this case, Pinyin is merely used to select the characters of interest. The actual search is for the characters themselves and not the Pinyin.

ANY VERSUS EXACT

QuanWei supports two search qualifiers: *any* and *exact*. *Any* finds any occurrence of the search term regardless of word boundaries; *Exact* uses word boundaries and assumes you're looking for a specific term that is not part of a larger term.



FUZZY TONES

When entering Pinyin, you can omit one or more tone marks. Syllables lacking tones will match any tone, and will consequently result in a more general search (and, typically, a greater number of matches). QuanWei supports four tonal markers:

- 1 – flat
- 2 – rising
- 3 – dipping (falling then rising)
- 4 – falling

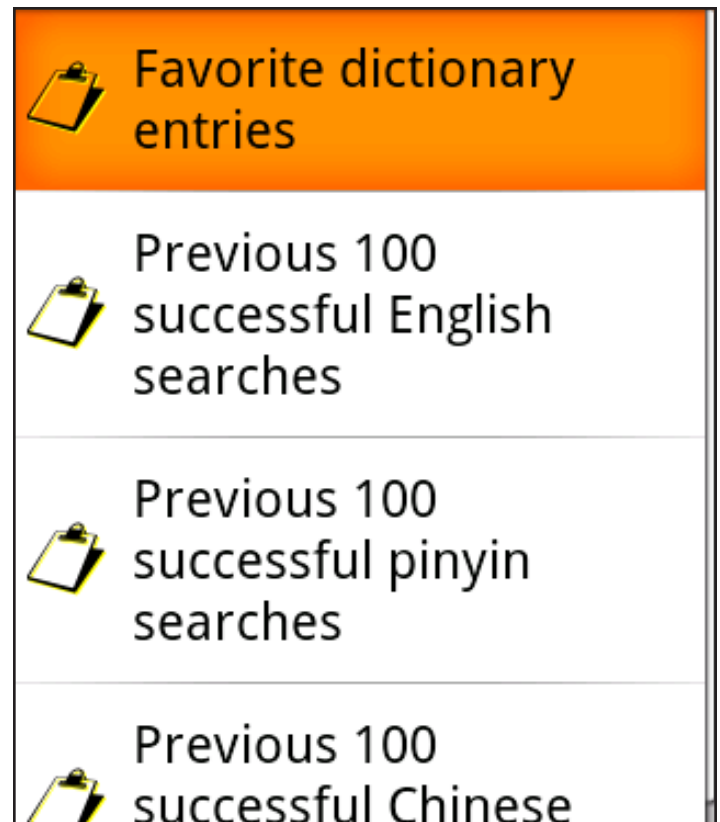
In search results these marks will appear as either numeric or diacritic marks depending on your preference.

FUZZY PINYIN OPTIONS

QuanWei's fuzzy Pinyin options (accessible from the Preferences screen) allows you to selectively blur the distinction between certain Chinese syllables. This is useful when you're unable to discern a difference between these syllables (perhaps due to an unfamiliarity with the language, or perhaps because the region itself makes no such distinction). This feature works for both Pinyin and Chinese searches.

FAVORITES

You can add entries to a favorites list (accessible from the List screen) by pressing the green plus (+) icons. If a word does not have an icon, it indicates that the word has already been added. The list can be sorted, cleared, or emailed, and will persist when you quit and relaunch the application. QuanWei will also automatically remember your successful searches, and will sort them into separate lists according to the search type.



SORTING

QuanWei sorts search results in different ways according to the type of search. For English and Chinese searches, results are first sorted by the number of Chinese characters (low to high), and then (if possible) by character frequency (frequency data does not exist for all entries). For Pinyin searches, results are sorted by tones (low to high). Also note that some word list options are also automatically sorted as needed.

PRONUNCIATION

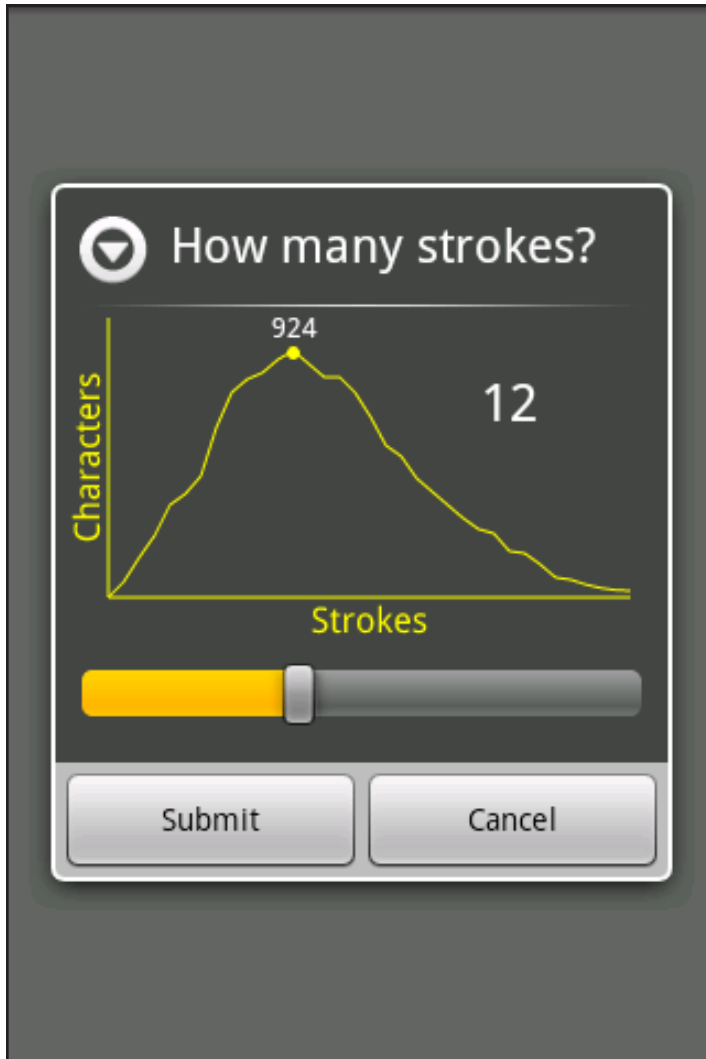
While viewing the results of a search, pressing or clicking on Pinyin will pronounce it using the voice of a real native Mandarin speaker. Pressing or clicking on English will pronounce it using a synthesized English voice. English pronunciation may require you to install appropriate voice data by navigating to: *Settings* -> *Speech synthesis* -> *Install voice data*.

PRESENTATION OVERLAY

Pressing or clicking on Chinese words on certain screens will display them in a large translucent pre-



sentation overlay. Pressing or clicking on the overlay, or navigating to another screen, will remove the overlay and return the display to normal. This feature is useful for displaying a specific Chinese word in such a manner as to direct attention and focus on the word. The overlay is orientation-aware and will appear either horizontally or vertically. It will not interfere with searching or scrolling.



TWO KINDS OF CLEAR

Tapping the clear button clears the search entry box and positions the cursor so that a new search expression can be typed in. Long-pressing the clear button does the same thing but also clears the previous search result.

WORD LIST OPTIONS

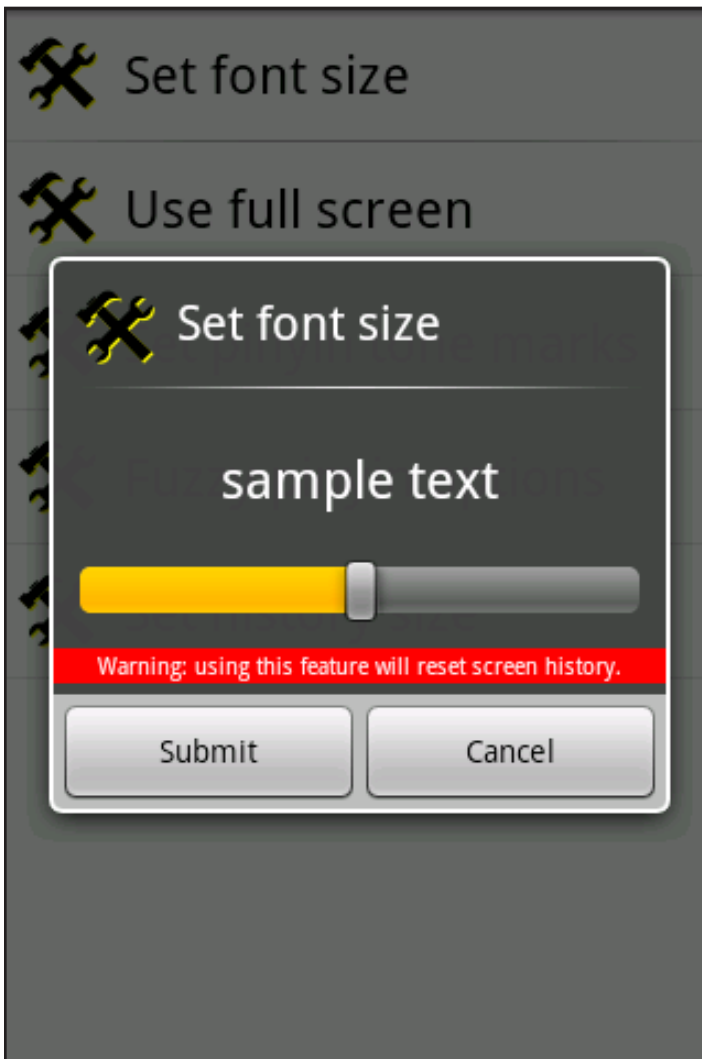
QuanWei offers numerous word list options, consolidated under the List screen. These options include the aforementioned Favorites and successful search lists as well as other useful lists. One notable example is the ability to list all Pinyin syllables used in the Chinese

language (there are surprisingly few, which explains why tones are so crucial!). Another noteworthy example is the ability to list Chinese characters by stroke count. This can be used to look up a character when you don't know how it's pronounced, but you do know (or can guess) the number of strokes that comprise the character. Additionally, the stroke count selection tool presents the distribution in the form of a curve, so you can see which stroke count has the most characters associated with it (12 strokes as it turns out, for a total of 924 characters). As with most word list options, the entries are selectable, and doing so will perform a dictionary search. Thus the stroke count list can also be used to browse interesting or unknown characters of a given complexity.

钢	隘	唉	媵
a	ai	an	an
菩	傲	鼻	奥
an	ao	ao	ao
媪	跋	跋	钹
ao	ba	ba	ba
掰	粃	斑	钣
bai	bai	ban	ban
傍	棒	谤	绑
bang	bang	bang	bang
堡	媯	葆	报
bao	bao	bao	bao
悲	惫	裨	焙
bei	bei	bei	bei

PREFERENCES

QuanWei offers numerous customization options, consolidated under the Preferences screen, some of which (screen history size, Pinyin tone mark preference, fuzzy Pinyin options) have already been discussed. Additional noteworthy examples include the ability to use the full screen (i.e., remove the status bar) and the ability to select the font size used to render dictionary entries. This latter feature is particularly helpful as it relieves eye stress and allows you to adjust QuanWei based on your vision requirements. It also allows QuanWei to adapt to a variety of displays and make best use of the available space.



SNAPSHOT

QuanWei's snapshot feature saves the current screen to your media library as a high-quality JPEG, and offers you the option of emailing or IMing the image. Once part of your media library, the snapshot can be manipulated like any other image. For example, you can use it as wallpaper to remind you to learn a particular word. Image size will vary depending on how well the image lends itself to compression, but will generally fall within a range of 100 to 300k. Snapshot is not available on all screens, and is primarily intended to augment your favorites list by adding additional ways in which to manipulate entries of interest.

COMPATIBILITY

QuanWei is compatible with Android 1.1 and above, however, English pronunciation requires 1.6 (Donut). QuanWei should run without issue on any Android phone running stock firmware. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to test unofficial community-based firmware such as CyanogenMod. As a result, QuanWei may not work properly on Android phones running such firmware.

ABOUT

QuanWei was written by Scott Edward Skinner and An Chen with the help and support of many. QuanWei's dictionary is based on CC-CEDICT—the Creative Commons version of CEDICT. CEDICT was originally started by Paul Denisowski and owes its success to all those who have contributed entries over the years.

CONTACT

We are avid users of our own products and are always looking for ways to improve them. Please send us your questions, comments, and suggestions. Contact us at: quanwei@efferential.com

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