

# THE HOBBIT

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations! You are about to play the most sophisticated game program yet devised for any microcomputer.

Melbourne House in association with the Tolkien Estate are very proud to be able to present to you THE HOBBIT, an amazing program based on J.R.R. Tolkien's brilliant fantasy novel.

IN THE HOBBIT program, you take on the role of Bilbo, the hobbit. You will be able to roam freely throughout Middle Earth, explore and discover this wonderful enchanted land. You will meet all type of creatures, some friendly, others much less so. Your adventure will be dangerous and exciting - it will be up to you to face the challenges which confront Bilbo.

If you are unfamiliar with hobbits, you should know that hobbits are a little people, about half our height, and smaller than the bearded dwarves. Hobbits have no beards. There is little or no magic about them. For a fuller description you will have to read THE HOBBIT, but this description should be enough for you to realise that most other creatures you will meet in this Adventure, including dwarves, will be bigger and stronger than you.

You will therefore need to exercise all your cunning and skill to survive.

At the point where this Adventure commences Gandalf, who is a wizard, has talked you into entering a new and exciting adventure to help out Thorin, the dwarf.

Your mission is to seek out the evil Dragon and return the treasure he hoards back to your home and place it for safe keeping in the chest. As a secondary mission, you must look out after Thorin and protect him. Should he be killed during the Adventure, it is most unlikely you will be able to survive the dangers ahead of you on your journey!

Best of luck Bilbo: may you return with wonderful tales to tell on a cold evening in front of a log fire.

## COMMUNICATING WITH THE COMPUTER

The computer in this Adventure acts as a go-between for you. You tell the computer in plain ENGLISH exactly what you want to do, and the computer will translate that request and execute it.

The computer will also be your source of information about where you are, what you can see and what the other creatures in the Adventure are doing.

If the computer is not sure of something you meant, or if there is any ambiguity about what you said, it will come back to you with queries for clarification.

The computer has a large vocabulary - it knows over 500 words, and can perform over 50 different actions (made up by over 30 verbs listed at the back of this booklet, combined with over 10 prepositions) so it is capable of very sophisticated communication. The use of plain ENGLISH allows you to enter your instruction in normal sentences.

### The Screen Display

The screen display has been divided into two "windows".

The bottom five lines of the screen is your "communication window" with the computer. Everything you type will be shown here in capital letters, and this part of the screen will scroll independently of the rest of the screen. If for some reason there is confusion about what you typed in, the computer will prompt you in the same "communication window" area.

An obvious example is where you mistype a word, such as DOOR - the computer would return with the prompt - don't understand the word "DOR".

Other messages will also be printed here when the computer is not able to execute what you typed in.

The rest of the screen is the "Adventure window" - this is where you will be able to find out what is happening in the Adventure, what you can see and so on.

The "Adventure window" is shown on the screen in upper and lower case. Every action that you take is also printed on the "Adventure window" (usually in more detail than what you entered!)

Any action that takes place, whether performed by you or one of the other characters will be shown: You take the short strong sword.

Thorin examines the curious map.

Descriptions of the location, objects, what is in the object, and so on, is also shown on the "Adventure window".

The "Adventure window" scrolls independently of the bottom screen. Usually what happens will be able to be printed on the screen without losing anything. Occasionally, such as if you have typed in many sentences at once, or if there is a lot of action going on, the information will take up more than one screen full.

The screen scrolling speed is slow enough to be able to be read at normal reading speed. You may however want to examine a particular message more carefully - holding down any key will stop the scrolling. Taking your hand off the key will return to normal scrolling speed.

## GENERAL CONCEPTS FOR THE HOBBIT ADVENTURE

THE HOBBIT Adventure is an adventure simulation where you have to instruct Bilbo on what to do in various situations.

The map of WILDERLAND, where the action takes place, can be found in the book of THE HOBBIT, and over 50 of the locations described in the book are represented in this Adventure.

On first entering a new location, the computer will give you a full description of where you are, and what the place looks like. You will also be given a list of the visible exits from where you are. It is a good idea to draw a map of the way the different locations connect to each other, should you need to go back or if you should get lost.

The second time you arrive at any location, the computer will give you only a short description of where you are. If you want a complete description again, you can obtain it by asking the computer to have a look around. It's that simple.

On your adventure you will find many strange and wonderful objects. Some may have magical properties, while others may not be what they first seem to be! Some can be used as weapons, others can be eaten, and so on.

There are however certain general laws of physics in Wilderland that must be obeyed:

- You cannot lift any object that is too heavy, or, if you are carrying too much, lift another object if that would mean carrying too heavy a load. The same obviously applies to all the other creatures in the Adventure, but as they are likely to be stronger than you are, they may be able to lift things you can't.
- You do not have to be carrying an object in order to be able to use it. For example, if there is a sword lying on the ground, you can say KILL THE GOBLIN WITH THE SWORD. The major exception is if the sword (or any other object you want to do something with) is carried by someone else - as everyone else is stronger than you, they won't let you take anything they are carrying.
- Some objects can act as containers - for example, sacks, barrels, and so on! You cannot put an object into a container if it's too large to fit, nor can you put in or take out any objects if the container is closed.
- Some containers may be transparent, while others not. You will be able to see the contents of any transparent container but if it is not transparent, you will not be able to see inside it unless you open it.
- Liquids behave just like liquids - this means that you can't

carry them around without putting them in a container, if the container breaks the liquid spills to the ground, and so on.

- Some things may be locked - doors are obvious examples, but so may windows, secret caches, and so on. To unlock them you will need the right key.
- Some things are breakable, and you must be careful in how you handle them. In other cases, you may want to deliberately break an object. Be careful what you try to break things with, because you may find that trying to break a door with a bottle, for example, will result in the bottle being broken instead!
- Fighting makes you weaker, as it requires so much energy. You will need to eat regularly to get your strength back, as otherwise you may find yourself too weak to lift even the smallest object. Be warned though - don't be a glutton.

## THE RULES OF INGLISH

With the help of this program, your program is now able to talk to you in INGLISH. What's more, you will be able to talk to the computer in INGLISH, and it will understand what you say!

INGLISH is the most sophisticated natural language recognition program yet developed on any micro-computer, and Melbourne House are very proud to be able to bring this implementation to you in THE HOBBIT program.

The rules of INGLISH are simple - you probably already know INGLISH without even being aware of it.

- Each sentence must have a verb.

As a minimum sentence, you can have just the verb.

For example: RUN  
CLIMB  
WAIT

These sentences are all fine.

The meaning of the verbs may be altered by the use of adverbs, such as:

RUN QUICKLY  
OR VICIOUSLY BREAK THE DOOR

- Normal grammar applies, and the order of the different parts of the sentence is not critical. For example, the following two sentences are both valid, and both have the same meaning:  
WITH THE SWORD CAREFULLY ATTACK THE TROLL  
ATTACK THE TROLL CAREFULLY WITH THE SWORD
- Adjectives which describe objects must come before the noun. If it sounds right it probably is right.  
OPEN THE GREEN DOOR is right  
but OPEN THE DOOR GREEN is not.

This is pretty obvious. If it sounds odd to you, you can be sure the computer is likely to think so too.

- Prepositions, such as WITH, UNDER, ON, OFF and so on, usually come before the noun in INGLISH:  
ATTACK WITH THE SWORD  
PICK UP THE GOLD.

There are some verbs where the preposition could go before or after, or where the more natural sounding sentence is with the preposition last. For example in:  
TURN THE LIGHT ON  
PICK THE GOLD UP  
These are also acceptable.

### Use of AND

You can use the word "AND" in all its normal meaning in INGLISH! This means, among other things, that you can enter more than one sentence at a time.

The following sentences illustrate different meanings of the word AND:  
TAKE THE LAMP AND THE ROPE OUT OF THE BARREL.  
DROP THE SHORT AND THE LONG SWORDS.  
TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN.

With the use of INGLISH, your computer will be able to understand all these sentences correctly!

### Punctuation

Different sentences should be separated by some sort of punctuation - use AND, commas, semi-colons, and full stops as you normally would.

The only limitation placed by the computer on how many sentences you can enter at one time is a total limit of 128 characters.

Of course, keep in mind that each time you do something, the other creatures may also decide to do something and you could end up with some unexpected results if you enter too many commands at once.

### Using ALL, EVERYTHING and EXCEPT

It may not be convenient for you to enter the description of every object in the room if you should wish to pick everything up.

Therefore, you can generalise by the use of ALL, EVERYTHING and EXCEPT, just as you normally would.

You may qualify what you actually want to manipulate - in other words you can say ALL DWARVES, or you can say EVERYTHING EXCEPT GREEN BOTTLES.

The following are examples of valid sentences:

EAT EVERYTHING  
OPEN ALL EXCEPT THE GREEN BOTTLE  
BREAK ALL BOTTLES EXCEPT THE GREEN ONE.

### Limitations of INGLISH

• To describe an object, you can only use the object's name and its adjectives (if any). For example, if you see that there is some delicious foaming beer in a bottle, you could say:

DRINK BEER  
OR DRINK DELICIOUS BEER  
OR DRINK FOAMING BEER  
OR DRINK DELICIOUS FOAMING BEER  
OR DRINK FOAMING DELICIOUS BEER.

All these would result in quenching your thirst. You cannot use the position of an object as its description. This means that a sentence such as  
DRINK BEER IN BOTTLE  
is not acceptable.

• You cannot have more than one indirect object in a sentence. Basically this means that you cannot specify doing one thing in more than one way.

For example, you could say  
PUT THE ROPE ON THE TABLE  
or you could decide to put it on the chair:  
PUT THE ROPE ON THE CHAIR  
but you cannot put the rope on both the table and on the chair at the same time. You therefore can't say  
PUT THE ROPE ON THE TABLE AND CHAIR  
This is a general rule, and means that you can't say things like:  
ATTACK THE WOLVES WITH EVERYTHING.

We feel that these limitations are fairly minor, and that you should be able to express yourself exactly the way you feel most comfortable.

## FINDING YOUR WAY IN WILDERLAND

There are a number of ways you can tell the computer that you want to move from one location to another. Let's assume that you are at home (Bilbo's home, that is), and the computer tells you:

You are in a comfortable tunnel-like hall  
To the east there is a green door  
- Gandalf goes east. -

You can do any one of the following, all of which are valid.

**Using Special Keys for Fast Movements** (see last two panels overleaf for identification of these keys and additional notes)

These four keys can be used for fast movements in the main directions: north, east, south and west.

Note that these four keys can only be used as the first

key of your command to the computer. You may not, for example, start entering a word, backspace to the beginning of the line and then press one of these keys.

Note also that these keys cannot move you in other directions, such as south-east, up or down.

### Specifying the direction

The eight directions of the compass (north, northeast, east, southeast, and so on ...) and up and down can be specified either by their full spelling, or by abbreviation, or in a sentence.

For example, E. EAST. GO EAST.

RUN EAST. QUICKLY GO EAST. are all valid.

As you may enter more than one sentence at a time, you can use the directions as part of a longer command, such as

TAKE EVERYTHING AND GO EAST  
OR TAKE ALL, E.

If you are very brave, you can try:

E, E, SE, W

### Passing through entrances

If you want to go through an entrance or a passageway, it is quite valid to say, as in this case, GO THROUGH THE GREEN DOOR.

You may also go through window, or any other open passageways.

An interesting point is that you can also LOOK THROUGH doors and windows. This can be very useful if you want to see where you would get to by going in that direction, or to see who is there waiting for you!

### Entering places

If you know where you are going, you can specify the location: as you well know, going east from your home leads you to the loneland.

You may therefore say:

ENTER LONELAND  
OR GO INTO LONELANDS.

### Following other people

If you know, as in this case, that someone you want to talk to has gone out, you can follow them:  
FOLLOW GANDALF.

### Special Crossings

Crossing rivers, ravines, chasms, and so on can be both dangerous and difficult.

You could try to jump across or swim across a river - in some cases, you may be able to use material you find to build a temporary bridge, or use a rope to swing across.

The general instructions for such a crossing would be to secure your means of crossing, and then to  
CROSS RAVINE

## LIGHT AND DARK

In order to reach the Dragon and his treasure, you'll need to go through caves, dungeons and other underground locations.

Some places have natural light, while others are dark and forbidding. It goes without saying that if you go into a location without a light, you won't be able to see anything.

However, you are likely to be disoriented and lose your sense of direction - it is very dangerous to move in the dark.

## SEEING WHERE YOU ARE (C64, AMSTRAD, SPECTRUM & MSX)

In addition to the many ground-breaking features implemented in THE HOBBIT, you will also be able to see the view as Bilbo would see it in most locations you take him to. The view will vary from one machine to another.

As you enter the new location a visual representation will appear on your screen, and the game will pause to enable you to view the scene. Pressing any key will allow you to continue with the game.

