



THE EDITOR'S KNIFE

Offline Editing Toolkit

User Manual & Onboarding Guide

Field: Words & Language · Knife 08 of 50 · \ Offline.Ltd

5 EDITING TOOLS	3 POWER FEATURES	 100% OFFLINE	 UPDATES FREE
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This manual covers everything you need to use The Editor's Knife: a single HTML file containing five professional editing tools and three power features. It runs entirely in your browser — offline, private, and forever yours. Inside you will find detailed instructions for Find & Replace, the Cliché Detector, the Sentence Surgeon, the Consistency Checker, House Style enforcement, plus The Scalpel (one-tap rewrites), The Forge (one-click polish), and The Archive (version timeline).

Version 2.0 · For use with `the_editors_knife.html`

Contents

1 Getting Started

System requirements, first launch, and the email trick

2 Interface Overview

Header, tab bar, content area, and tooltips

3 Saving & File Management

Export, import, and per-tool state backups

4 Find & Replace

Regex-powered search with highlighted preview

5 Cliché Detector

Flags overused phrases and filler words

6 Sentence Surgeon

Long sentences, passive voice, adverbs, and hedging

7 Consistency Checker

Finds inconsistent spellings and capitalisations

8 House Style

Define and enforce custom style rules

9 Power Features

The Scalpel, The Forge, and The Archive

10 Keyboard Shortcuts

Every shortcut at a glance

11 Troubleshooting

Common issues and how to fix them

12 Accuracy & Limitations

What to expect from each tool

13 Glossary

Key terms defined

1 Getting Started

The Editor's Knife is a single HTML file. No installation, no account, no internet connection required. Open it in any modern browser and start editing.

System Requirements

BROWSER	VERSION	NOTES
Chrome / Edge	90+	Full support. Recommended.
Firefox	90+	Full support.
Safari	15+	Full support on macOS and iOS.
Opera / Brave	Recent	Chromium-based; works identically to Chrome.

Opening the Knife

Double-click `the_editors_knife.html` or drag it into your browser window. The welcome modal will appear on first launch, explaining how the file and state system work together.



PRO TIP

E-mail the HTML file to yourself. It will always be waiting in your webmail — your personal editing toolkit on any device, offline, forever. Export your state JSON and e-mail that back too. Knife + state = your complete workspace.

2 Interface Overview

The knife uses a clean, tab-based interface. Everything is contained in a single page with no scrolling between tools — just click a tab to switch.

The Header

The top bar shows the red backslash (⌘) brand mark, the product name, the field category (Words & Language), and the knife number. The left border is coloured with the field accent (■ olive green for this knife).

The Tab Bar

TAB	SHORTCUT	DESCRIPTION
Find & Replace	Ctrl+1	Regex-aware search with highlighted preview and batch replace
Cliché Detector	Ctrl+2	Scans for overused phrases and filler words
Sentence Surgeon	Ctrl+3	Highlights long sentences, passive voice, adverbs, and hedging
Consistency	Ctrl+4	Finds inconsistent spellings and capitalisations
House Style	Ctrl+5	Define and enforce custom rules
■ Files	—	Export/import state, version archive, session info
? Help	Ctrl+H	Searchable documentation and keyboard shortcuts

The active tab is highlighted with a red underline. Tool tabs show the editing tools; system tabs (■ Files and ? Help) manage your workspace.

3 Saving & File Management

Your work is saved automatically to your browser's `localStorage` every time you make a change. But `localStorage` lives only in that browser on that device. To take your work with you, export a state file.

Exporting Your State

1. Open the **Files** tab.
2. Click **Export All** ↓.
3. A JSON file is downloaded containing every tool's data, your house style rules, and all settings.
4. Keep this file alongside your HTML knife file.

Importing a State

1. Open the **Files** tab.
2. Click **Import All** ↑.
3. Select a previously exported JSON file.
4. All tools are restored to their saved state.



CAUTION

Importing a state file will overwrite all current data in every tool. If you have unsaved work, export it first.

Per-Tool Export

Each tool can be exported individually from the **Files** tab. This is useful when you want to share just your house style rules with a colleague without sending your entire workspace.



PRO TIP

Name your state files descriptively: `editor.knife.state_novel_draft.json`, `editor.knife.state_blog_style.json`. Keep different configurations for different projects.

4 Find & Replace

Tab: Find & Replace · Shortcut: Ctrl+I

A full-featured find and replace with case sensitivity, whole-word matching, and JavaScript regular expression support. Matches are highlighted live in the preview. Replace one at a time or all at once.

Inputs

FIELD	DESCRIPTION
Your Text	The text to search. Paste or type directly.
Find	The search term. Supports plain text or /regex/ when regex mode is on.
Replace with	The replacement text. Supports \$1, \$2 capture groups in regex mode.
Case sensitive	Toggle. When on, “The” and “the” are treated as different.
Whole word	Toggle. Prevents partial matches (“the” won’t match “other”).
Regex	Toggle. Enables JavaScript regular expression syntax in the Find field.

Outputs

FIELD	DESCRIPTION
Match count	Number of matches found. Shows current/total when navigating.
Preview	Live highlighted preview. Current match in green, others in yellow.

Actions

Replace All replaces every match at once. **Replace Next** replaces only the currently highlighted match and advances. **Copy Result** copies the full text (with replacements applied) to your clipboard.



PRO TIP

Use whole-word mode to avoid partial matches — searching for “the” won’t match “other” or “theme.” In regex mode, use capture groups: find `(\d+)px` and replace with `$1rem`.

5 Cliché Detector

Tab: Cliché Detector · Shortcut: Ctrl+2

Scans your text for over 90 common clichés and overused business phrases, plus 30+ filler words that add bulk without meaning. Each is highlighted in the preview and listed with a count.

Outputs

FIELD	DESCRIPTION
Clichés	Number of cliché phrases detected.
Filler Words	Number of filler words detected.
Clean Score	Percentage of text that is cliché/filler-free. Aim for 95%+.
Highlighted Text	Preview with clichés in amber, filler in red. Each is clickable (see The Scalpel).
Issues Found	Sorted list of detected phrases with counts.

Common Clichés Detected

The detector flags phrases like: “low-hanging fruit,” “think outside the box,” “moving forward,” “paradigm shift,” “perfect storm,” “synergy,” “leverage,” “utilize,” “disrupt,” and many more. The filler list includes: “very,” “really,” “just,” “basically,” “literally,” “in order to,” “due to the fact.”



PRO TIP

Not every cliché is a crime. Sometimes a familiar phrase is the clearest way to say something. Use the detector to make *conscious choices*, not to eliminate every match blindly.

6 Sentence Surgeon

Tab: Sentence Surgeon · Shortcut: Ctrl+3

Analyses your text at the sentence level and highlights four common weaknesses. Each category can be toggled on or off independently.

Detection Categories

CATEGORY	COLOUR	WHAT IT FLAGS
Long sentences	Red underline	Sentences over 25 words. Consider splitting or trimming.
Passive voice	Blue	Constructions like “was written,” “has been shown.” Detects be + past participle patterns including modals.
Adverbs	Yellow	Words ending in -ly (excluding non-adverbs like “only,” “family”). Often a sign the verb is too weak.
Hedging	Purple	Words like “somewhat,” “perhaps,” “slightly,” “tends to.” Weaken your authority.

Outputs

FIELD	DESCRIPTION
Long Sentences	Count of sentences exceeding 25 words.
Passive Voice	Count of passive constructions detected.
Adverbs	Count of -ly adverbs found.
Hedging	Count of hedging phrases found.
Avg Sent. Len	Average sentence length in words across the entire text.



PRO TIP

Use the toggle buttons to focus on one issue at a time. Fixing long sentences first often resolves the other problems naturally.

7 Consistency Checker

Tab: Consistency · Shortcut: Ctrl+4

Scans your text for words and phrases that appear in multiple forms — different capitalisations, hyphenation, or spelling variants. Common catches include: email/e-mail, website/web site, OK/okay, grey/gray, organisation/organization, and inconsistent capitalisation of proper nouns.

How It Works

The checker uses two methods: a built-in list of 30+ known variant groups (email/e-mail, frontend/front-end/front end, etc.) and an automatic scan for any word that appears in multiple capitalisation forms. It ignores sentence-initial capitals to avoid false positives.

Outputs

FIELD	DESCRIPTION
Inconsistencies	Number of variant groups found.
Words Checked	Total word count of the input text.
Inconsistencies Found	List showing each variant group with usage counts.
Highlighted Text	Preview with all inconsistent terms highlighted in amber.

8 House Style

Tab: House Style · Shortcut: Ctrl+5

Define custom rules and check any text against them. Rules persist in your saved state, so you build your style guide once and enforce it forever.

Rule Types

TYPE	EXAMPLE	WHAT IT DOES
Prefer term	“e-mail” → “email”	Flags one form, suggests another.
Ban word	“utilize”	Flags a word that should never appear.
Require capitalisation	“github” → “GitHub”	Ensures a term is always capitalised correctly.

Built-in Presets

Tech Preset — 15 rules covering common software terms: email (not e-mail), login (not log-in), JavaScript, TypeScript, API, CSS, HTML, GitHub capitalisation, plus bans on “utilize,” “leverage,” and “synergy.”

AP Style Preset — 13 rules based on Associated Press style guide basics: email, website, percent (not per cent), toward (not towards), adviser (not advisor), plus bans on redundancies like “very unique” and “past history.”



PRO TIP

Build your house style rules once, export the knife state, and share it with your whole team. Everyone edits to the same standard.

9 Power Features

Version 2.0 introduces three features that transform the knife from a diagnostic tool into a collaborative editing partner: The Scalpel, The Forge, and The Archive.

The Scalpel — Clickable One-Tap Rewrites

Every highlighted mark in every preview is now clickable. Click any cliché, filler word, passive voice construct, hedge, adverb, or style violation and a popover appears with smart replacement suggestions. One more click applies the fix directly to your text.

The Scalpel draws on a built-in library of over 70 cliché replacements, 30+ filler-word alternatives, and 18 hedge-word substitutions. House style rules automatically populate the popover with the correct form. Passive voice and adverb marks show guidance tips for manual rewriting.

The Forge — One-Click Master Polish

The floating “■ Forge This Text” button appears whenever you have text in any tool. Click it and the Forge silently runs all detectors at once — clichés, filler words, hedging, and house style — then opens a categorised diff modal.

The modal shows every proposed change grouped by type, with a summary count for each category. A before/after diff displays deletions in red and insertions in green. Each category has a checkbox to toggle it on or off. Click “Apply Selected Changes” and your text is polished in one shot.



PRO TIP

Set up your House Style rules before forging. The Forge applies those rules automatically alongside the built-in detectors.

The Archive — Automatic Version Timeline

Every 60 seconds (and on every Forge polish), the knife silently saves a snapshot of your text to localStorage. The ■ Files tab shows a vertical timeline of the last 12 versions with timestamps, word counts, and which tools contained data.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION
Compare	Side-by-side view of a past version versus your current text.
Preview	View the full contents of a past version.
Restore	Replace your current text with the selected past version.
■ Snapshot Now	Save a manual snapshot immediately.
Clear Archive	Delete all archived versions.

**PRO TIP**

Before using the Forge, your current version is automatically archived. You can always undo a Forge by restoring the pre-Forge version from the Archive timeline.

10 Keyboard Shortcuts

Global shortcuts available from any tab.

Ctrl + 1	Switch to Find & Replace
Ctrl + 2	Switch to Cliché Detector
Ctrl + 3	Switch to Sentence Surgeon
Ctrl + 4	Switch to Consistency Checker
Ctrl + 5	Switch to House Style
Ctrl + S	Export full knife state (all tools)
Ctrl + H	Open Help tab
Escape	Close any modal or popover

11 Troubleshooting

JavaScript Disabled

The knife requires JavaScript to run. If you see a blank page, check that JavaScript is enabled in your browser settings. Some corporate environments or browser extensions disable JavaScript by default.

Data Disappeared After Clearing Browser Data

The knife stores data in localStorage. Clearing browser data, cookies, or site data will erase your work. Always export your state before clearing browser data.

Import Fails or Shows Wrong Knife Error

The state file's "knife" field must match the knife's KNIFE_ID exactly ("editor" for this knife). State files from other Offline.Ltd knives cannot be imported.

Forge Button Not Appearing

The Forge button only appears when you have more than 20 characters of text in a tool input (Cliché, Surgeon, Consistency, or House Style). The button is hidden on the Find & Replace tab.

Archive Not Saving Versions

The Archive auto-saves every 60 seconds, but only when tool inputs contain text. If you only use Find & Replace, no archive snapshots are created. Use the "■ Snapshot Now" button for manual saves.

Tabs Cut Off on Mobile

On narrow screens, the tab bar scrolls horizontally. Swipe left and right to access all tabs. The ■ Files and ? Help tabs are on the far right.

12 Accuracy & Limitations

The Editor's Knife uses pattern-matching algorithms running entirely in your browser. No AI, no cloud API. This means it is fast, private, and works offline — but it has limitations.

TOOL	TYPICAL ACCURACY	NOTES
Find & Replace	Exact	Literal and regex matching is deterministic.
Cliché Detector	High	90+ phrase list. May miss novel clichés or flag intentional idioms.
Sentence Surgeon	Good	Passive voice uses regex heuristics; may flag some non-passive constructions. Adverb filter excludes 30+ known non-adverbs.
Consistency Checker	Good	30+ known variant groups plus auto-detection. May not catch all domain-specific terms.
House Style	Exact	Rule-based matching is deterministic. Results depend on your rules.
The Scalpel	Suggestive	Alternatives are pre-authored suggestions, not AI-generated. Always review before applying.
The Forge	Batch	Combines all detectors. Same accuracy as individual tools. Review the diff before applying.



DISCLAIMER

The Editor's Knife is a writing aid, not a substitute for professional editing. It flags common patterns and suggests alternatives, but editorial judgement remains yours. Always review changes before publishing.

13 Glossary

Active Voice	A sentence construction where the subject performs the action: “The team wrote the report.” Opposite of passive voice.
Adverb	A word that modifies a verb, adjective, or other adverb, often ending in -ly. Example: “quickly,” “slightly.”
Archive	The version timeline feature that automatically saves snapshots of your text every 60 seconds.
Cliché	An overused phrase that has lost its original impact through repetition. Example: “think outside the box.”
Clean Score	A percentage showing how much of your text is free from clichés and filler words. 100% means none detected.
Consistency	Using the same spelling, capitalisation, or hyphenation for a given term throughout a document.
Filler Word	A word that adds no meaning to a sentence. Examples: “very,” “really,” “just,” “basically.”
Forge	The one-click master polish feature that runs all detectors and applies selected fixes in a single batch.
Hedging	Language that weakens a statement’s authority. Examples: “somewhat,” “perhaps,” “slightly.”
House Style	A set of rules specific to an organisation or publication defining preferred terms, banned words, and capitalisation standards.
localStorage	A browser feature that stores data locally on your device. The knife uses this for auto-save. Data does not leave your machine.
Passive Voice	A sentence construction where the subject receives the action: “The report was written by the team.”
Regex	Regular expression. A pattern-matching syntax for advanced text search. Example: <code>\d+px</code> matches any number followed by “px.”
Scalpel	The clickable one-tap rewrite feature. Click any highlighted mark for instant replacement suggestions.
State File	A JSON file containing all your tool data, settings, and house style rules. Export and import via the Files tab.

Variant Group

A set of spelling or formatting alternatives for the same term (e.g. email/e-mail, grey/gray).

THE EDITOR'S KNIFE

Knife 08 of 50 · Words & Language

Sharp words.

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