Faster, Feature-Rich Microsoft Word, 3.0

All the versatility and graphics orientation of Word exists a price, and the price is power of operation. Each iteration of Word has become faster than its predecessor, and this latest version finally makes Word fast enough that it fits in with the average speed of its competitors. It is still somewhat slower than some of the slower programs, such as WordPerfect, but not by much.

Although evident, the penalty for the high graphics content of this program is not crippling. Word 3.0 is now fast enough to be used as a general-purpose word-processing program, and although the screen update and cursor movement are a bit jerky, the program's overall speed is satisfactory. Movement in a document, even a long one, takes place very quickly. Jumps from page to page are fast, though scrolling through a document line by line is relatively slow. We judge the overall speed of Word 3.0 adequate for the task, even if it does not set any records. On an AT, the speed is a bit better.

As to editing, the performance of Word is comparable. Although its menus structure slows down the selection of some common editing functions and the use of function keys for common cursor movements takes some getting used to, the program does what it should do reasonably well. Style sheets, a concept introduced in the original version that lets you standardize complex document formats, have been enhanced.

In output, Word 3.0 includes an on-the-fly major word processor technology. Word 3.0 supports more specific printers than ever, emphasizing the high-end laser printers. (There are 17 possible installations for the HP LaserJet printer.)

Word 3.0 is a flexible and powerful program. It started as a more specialized software, but its latest version is now as fully featured as its competitors. In short, this new version of Microsoft Word is fast enough to be competitive with the major word processing programs for IBM's PCs, bringing it fully into the competition with mainstream office products. Like its competitors, however, it also requires a substantial amount of disk space and memory.

In speed of operation during editing, Word 3.0 performs satisfactorily on a standard 8088-based PC compatible using a hard disk, to the point where users interested in the program's other powers are no longer causing a major sacrifice in responsiveness in editing.
It's an exercise of having numerous choices without making relationships. You must know a great deal about this program to make those choices intelligently. The programs uses a menu structure that is easy, if you are a Multitask user and will be easy if you are not. To eliminate unnecessary functions you must click the escape key and then choose options from a layered menu system that appears at the bottom of the screen. These menus are well-designed, helpfully prompts, and other are self-explanatory. But at the same time, they require a separate process to activate. Many formatting features permit Autotext and other features that help maintain the menu structure, improving usability for truly expert users. The special Word vocabulary, which defines document templates and document type, is being considered for conflict.

Microsoft Word's production of choices provides opportunity for user confusion. For example, Word allows measurements in inches, points, centimeters, yards, and characters and measurements of 10 or 12 points to determine spacing, margins, tabs, and the like. This gives the user great freedom, but because you mix these measurements throughout the document, you can also get lost in your own confusion. The program requires much personalization to suit your tastes.

Microsoft Word takes an approach to text processing that differs substantially from other high-power programs. Word does not attempt to be a complete system. Instead, it provides a complete word processor like WordPerfect does. However, Word also provides a document capability before printing, a capability not used in page-oriented word processing programs such as Multiemos. You need to personalize in order to see accurately what is being done, but Word avoids the other drawbacks of page orientation, such as being unable to see one page at a time.

The program requires much personalization to suit your tastes. The program is not complete, and the ease of use is compromised to some extent. It is not just an exercise of having many choices; it is also an exercise of unnecessary for a powerful program.