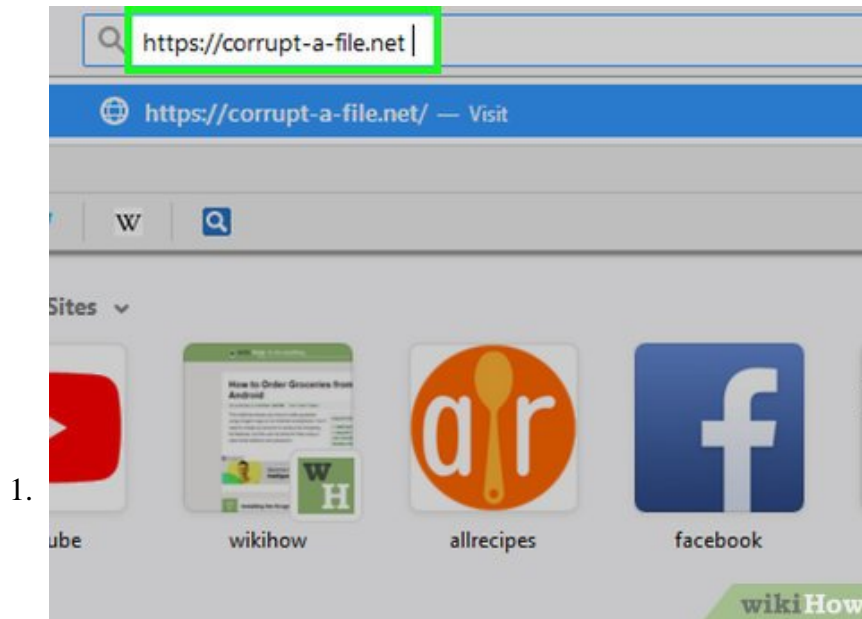


# How to Corrupt a Word File

This wikiHow teaches you how to corrupt a Microsoft Word document so it cannot be opened. Go to <https://corrupt-a-file.net> in a web browser. Corrupt-a-File is a free tool that will corrupt any document you upload.

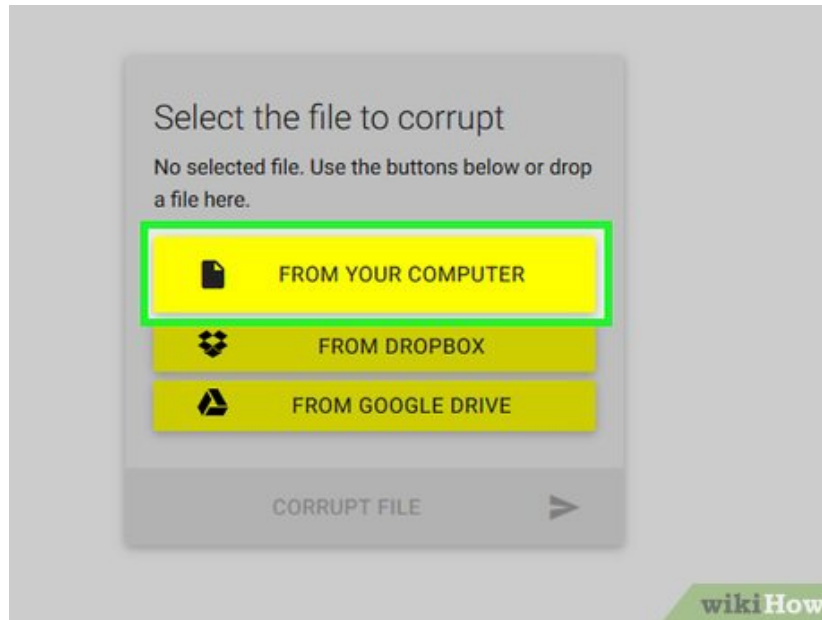
Method 1 of 4:

## Using an Online File Corrupter



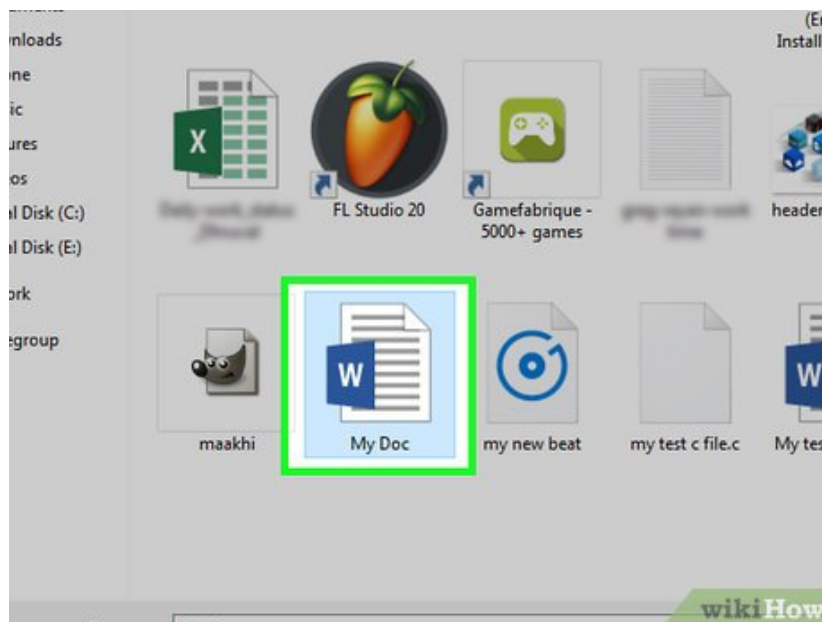
**Go to <https://corrupt-a-file.net> in a web browser.** Corrupt-a-File is a free tool that will corrupt any document you upload.

2.

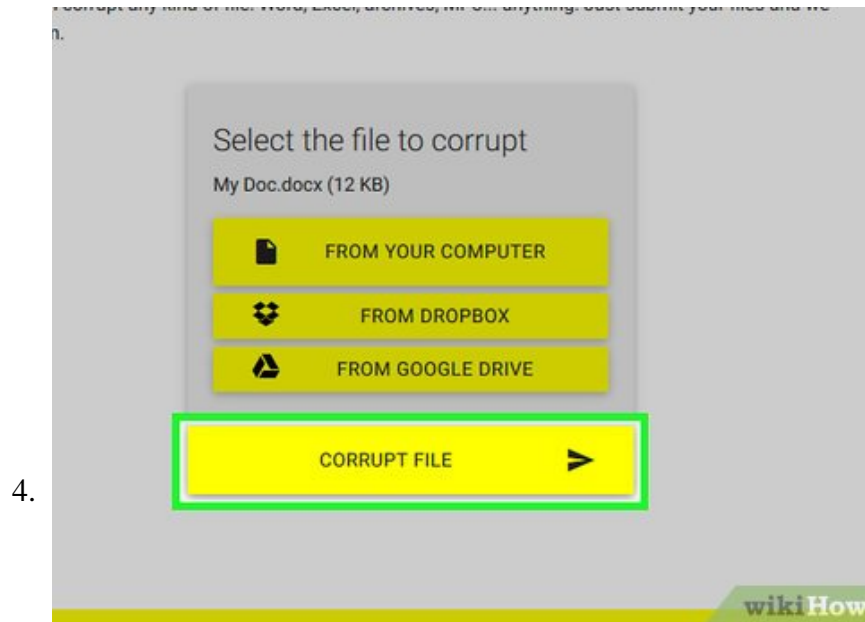


Click **FROM YOUR COMPUTER**. It's under "Select the file to corrupt." This opens your computer's file browser.

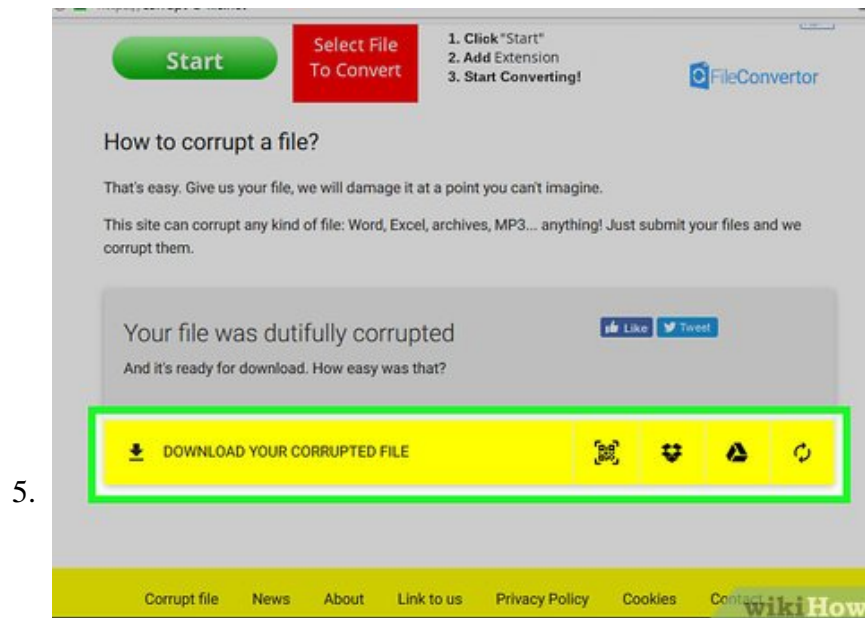
3.



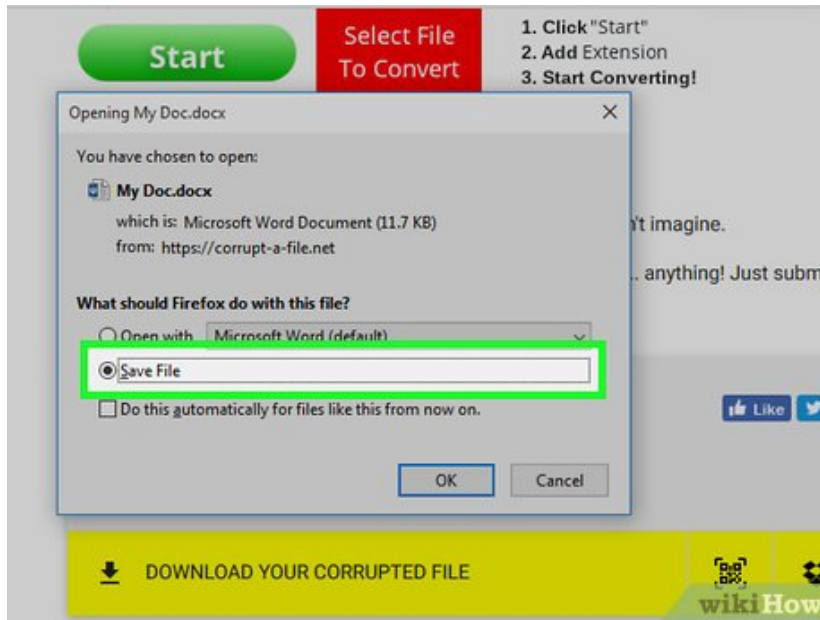
Select the Word document and click **Open**. The name of the file will appear under "Select the file to corrupt."



Click **CORRUPT FILE**. This uploads the file and corrupts it.

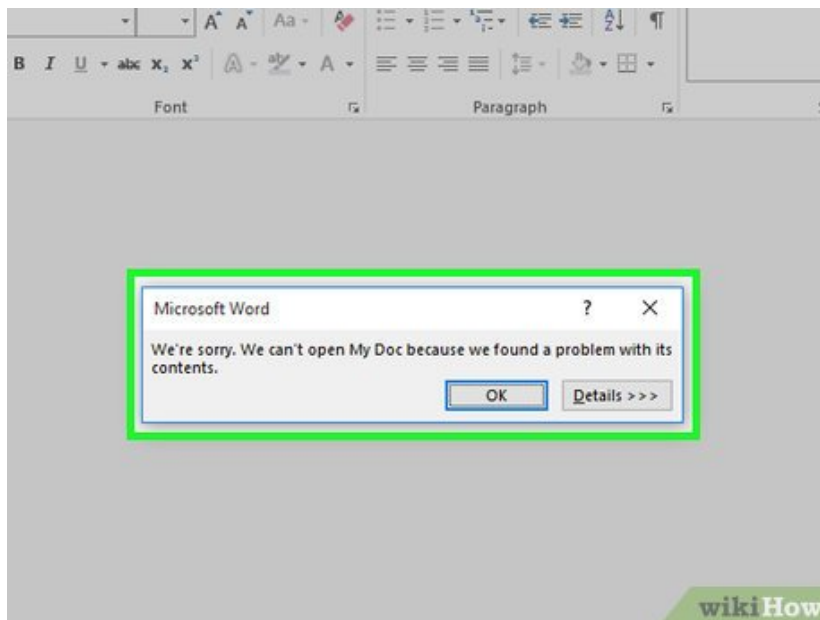


Click **DOWNLOAD YOUR CORRUPTED FILE**. You'll see this option once the file is ready.



6.

Name the file and click **Save** . This downloads the corrupted file to your computer.

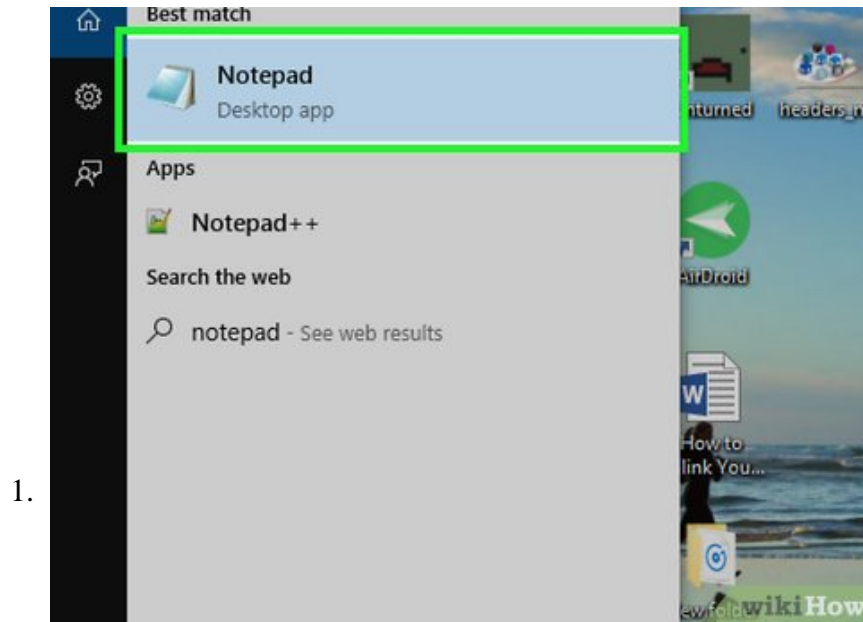


7.

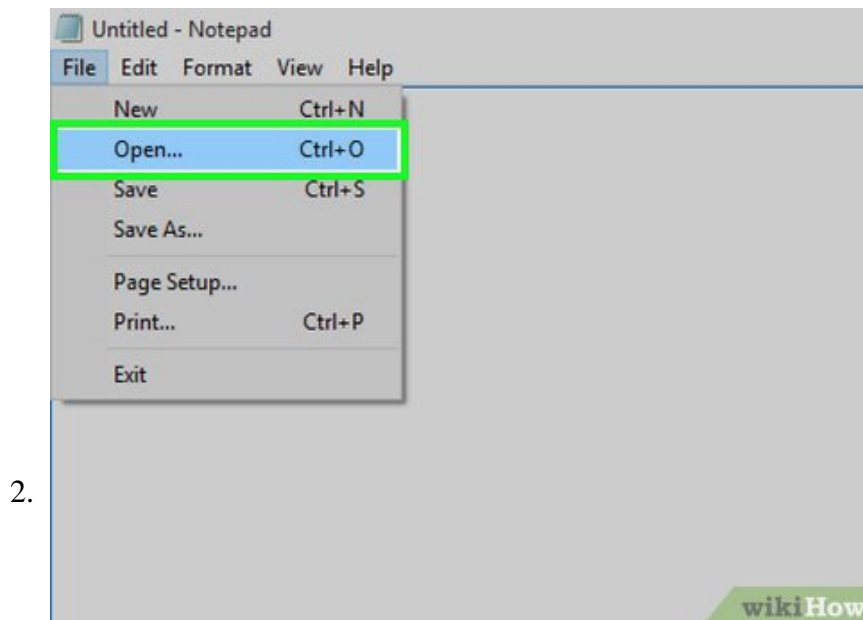
**Try opening the file in Word.** If you have Word on your computer, double-clicking the file should attempt to open it in that app. You'll see an error saying there's a problem with the content. Click **Okay** to proceed, and then Word will try (and fail) to repair or recover the content.

Method 2 of 4:

## Using a Notepad for Windows

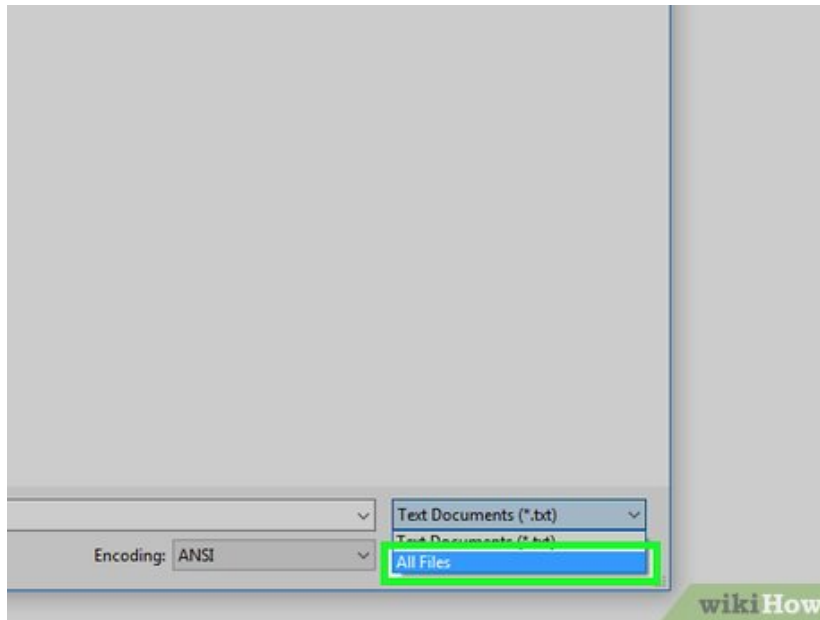


**Open Notepad for Windows.** You'll find it in the Start menu in a menu called **Windows Accessories**.



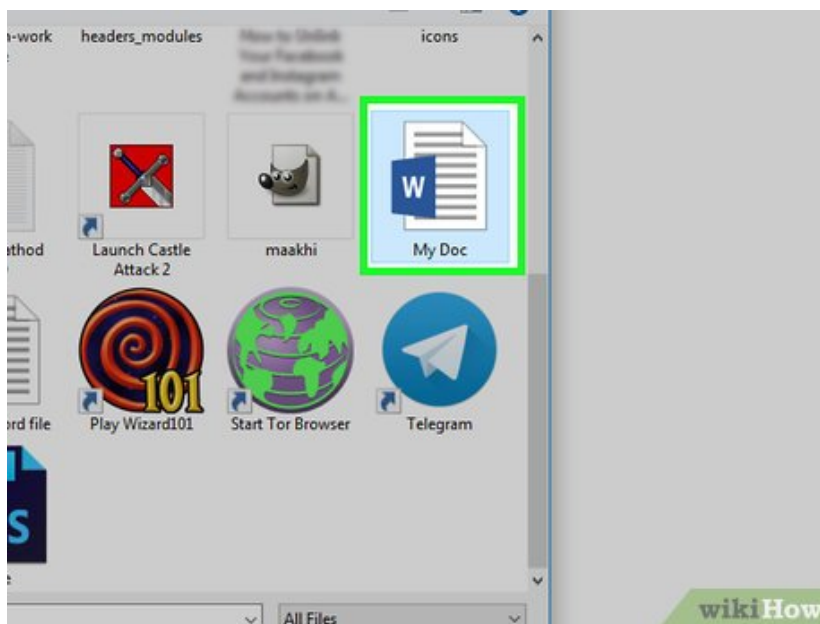
Click the **File** menu and select **Open**. The file browser will appear.

3.



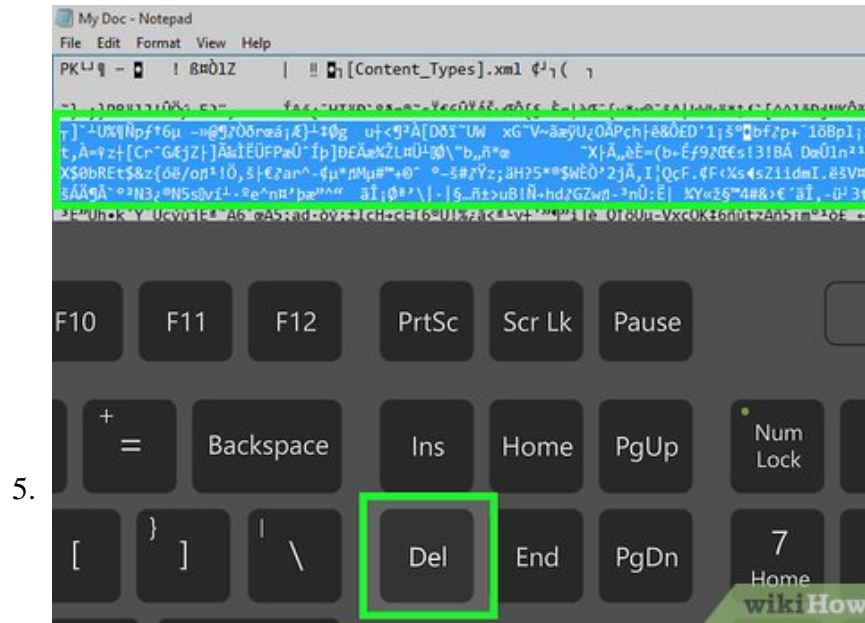
Select **All Files** from the drop-down menu. It's at the bottom-right corner of the file browser—the one set to **Text Documents (\*.txt)** by default.

4.

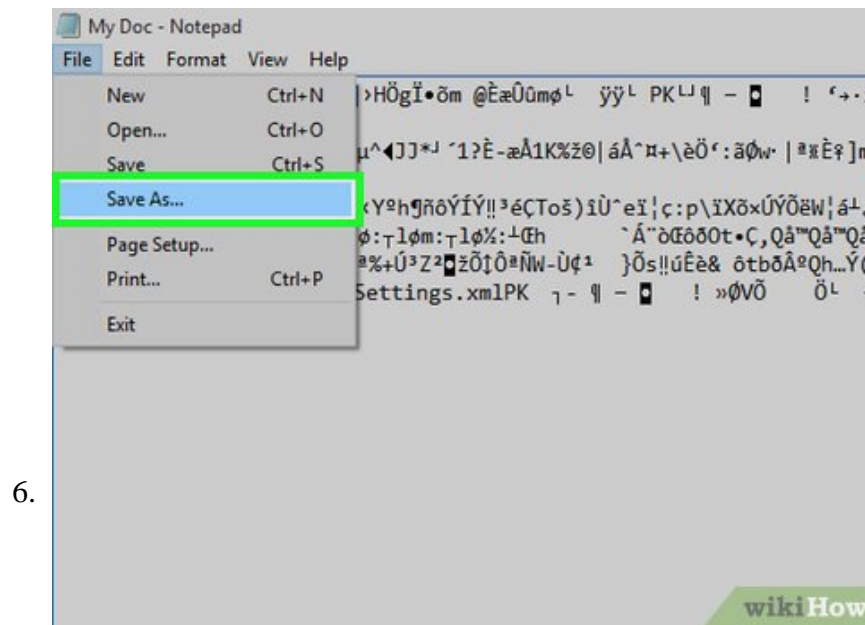


Select the document and click **Open**. A bunch of gibberish will appear in the Notepad window.

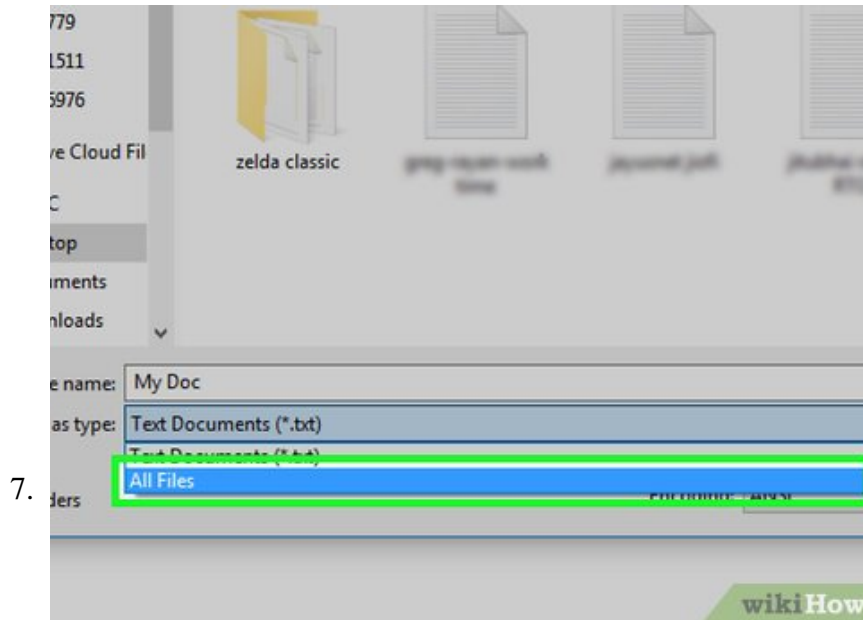
1. You can use any Word document you wish—the content doesn't matter since nobody will be able to open the file.



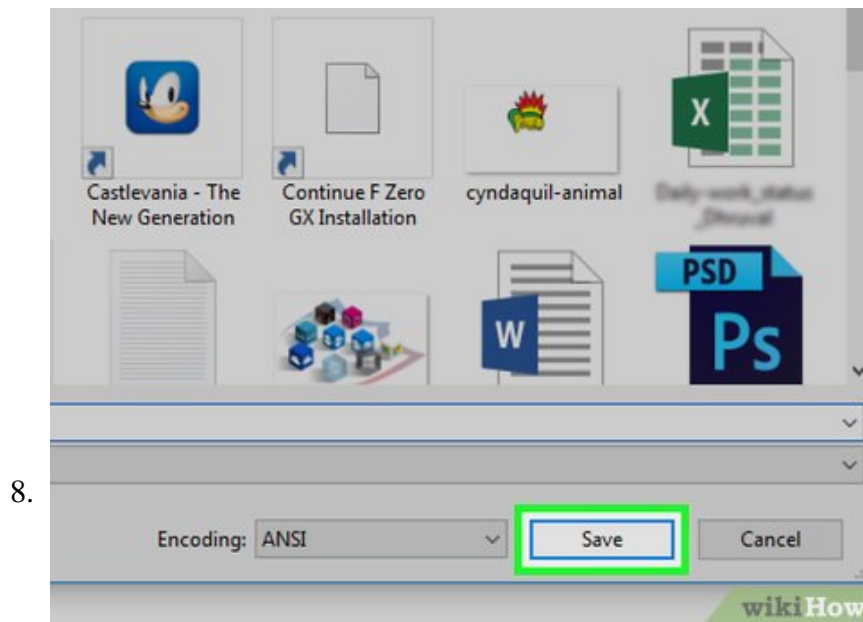
Delete several lines of text. Seven or eight lines should be enough.



Click the **File** menu and select **Save As**. The "Save As" window will appear.

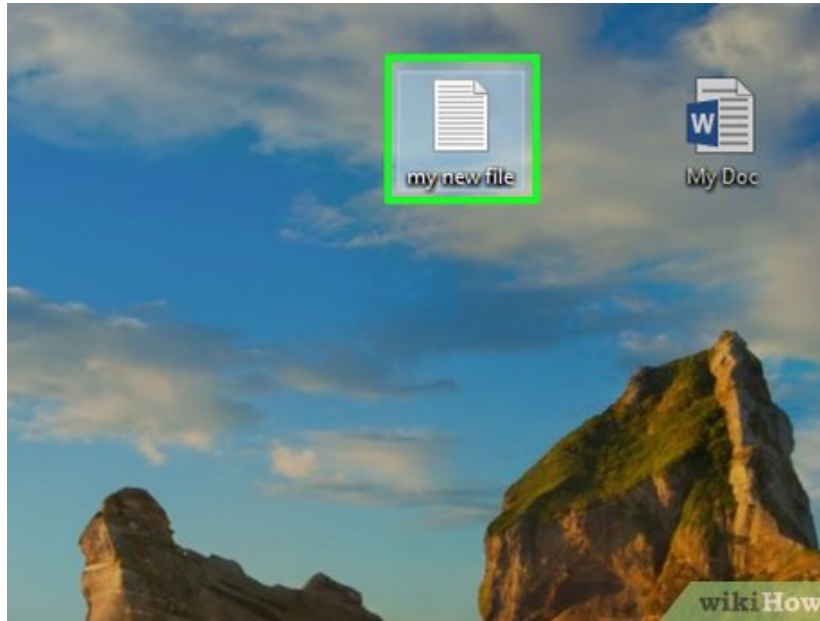


Select **All Files** from the "Save As Type" menu. It's at the bottom of the window.



Name the file and click **Save**. This version of the file is now corrupt.

9.

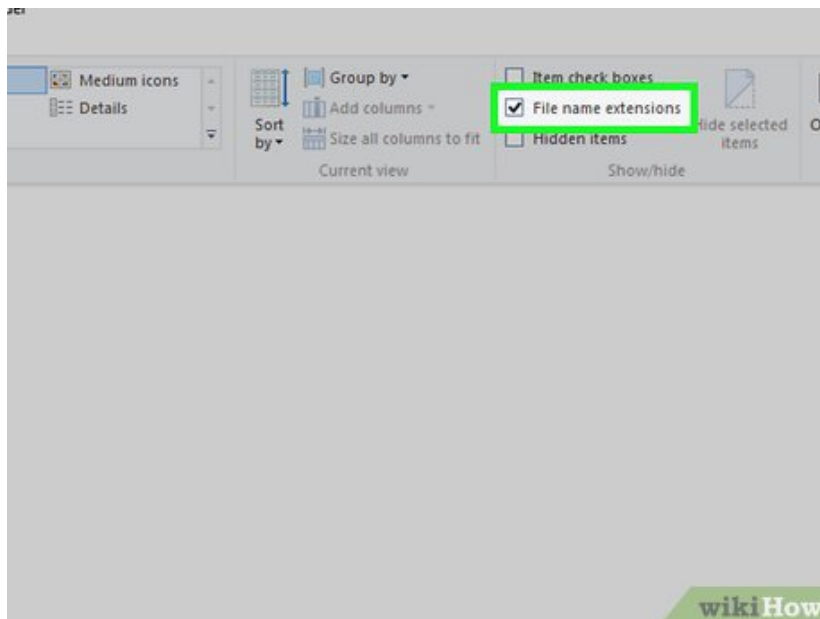


**Try opening the corrupted file in Word.** If you have Word on your computer, double-clicking the file should attempt to open it in that app. You should see an error message saying there is a problem with the content. Click **Okay** to proceed, and then Word will try (and fail) to repair or recover the content.

Method 3 of 4:

## Changing File Extensions in Windows

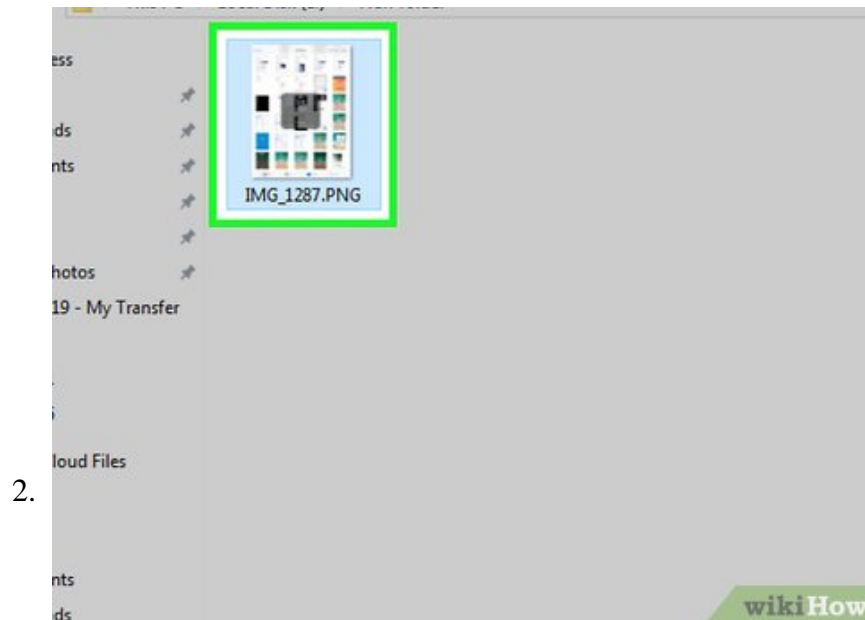
1.



**Make sure file extensions are visible.** File extensions are not shown by default. Here's how to enable them now:

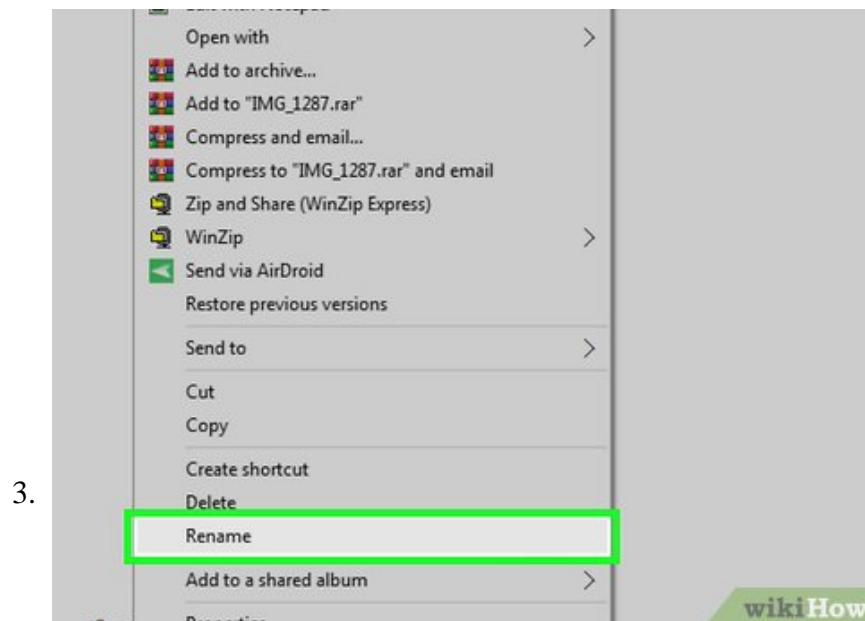
1. Open the Windows search bar and type `file options`.
2. Click **File Explorer Options** in the results list.

3. Click the **View** tab at the top of the window.
4. Remove the check mark from "Hide extensions for known file types" under "Advanced Settings."
5. Click **OK**.



**Find a file that isn't a Word or text document.** You'll want to start with a file that can't be opened in Word, such as an image file (e.g., .jpeg, .gif, .png) or a sound clip (e.g., .wav, .mp3, .ogg). You'll be using this file to make a fake corrupted Word document.

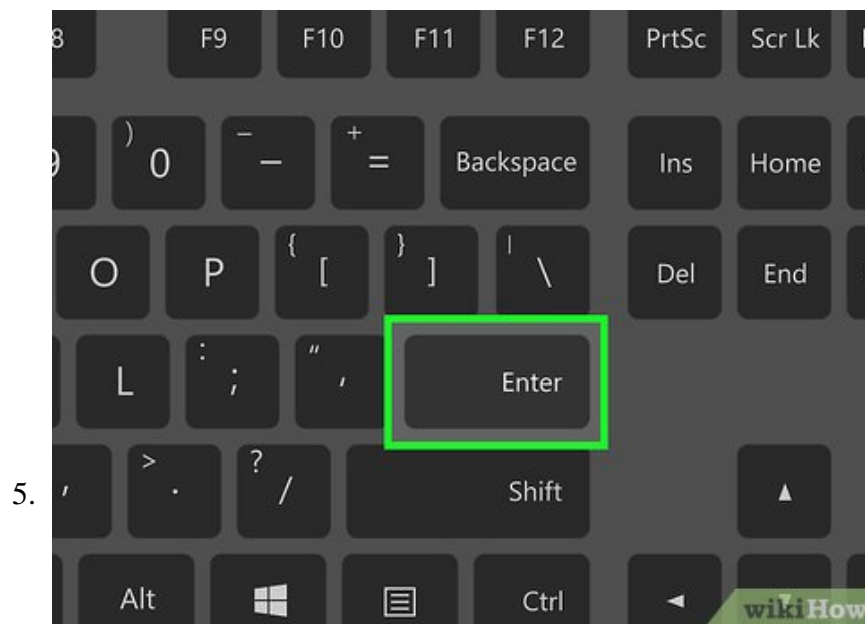
1. Since you'll be corrupting the file, be sure to choose one you don't care about. You can also make a copy of the file before changing its extension if you wish to preserve it.



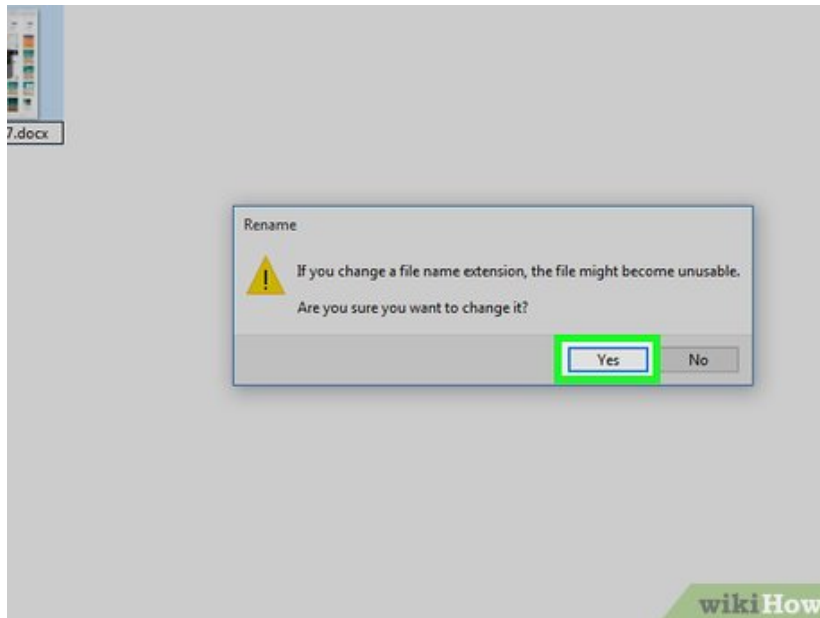
**Right-click the file and select **Rename****. This highlights the file name, which means it's now editable.



Replace the current extension with **.docx** . For example, if you're working with a file called `file.jpg` , replace ".jpg" with `.docx` .



Press **Enter** . You'll see a pop-up asking if you're sure you want to rename the file.



6.

Click **Yes**. The file is now saved as a .docx file. If you try opening the file in Word, you'll see an error that says it's been corrupted.

1. If you want to hide file extensions again, return to the **View** tab in **File Explorer Options** and check the "Hide extensions for known file types" box.

Method 4 of 4:

## Changing File Extensions on a Mac



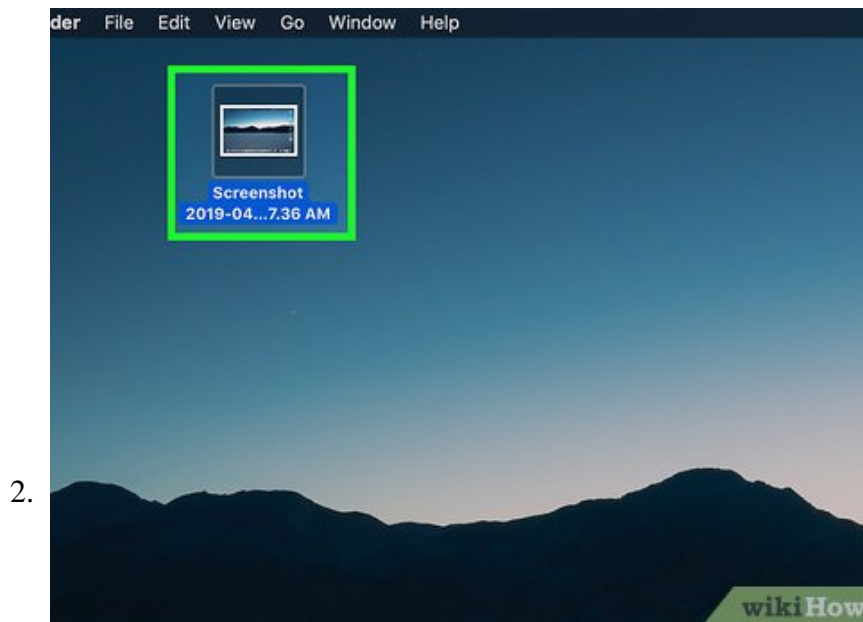
1.

**Make sure file extensions are visible.** File extensions are not shown by default. Here's how to enable them now:<sup>[1]</sup>

1. Open **Finder**



2. Click the **Finder** menu near the top-left corner of the screen.
3. Click **Preferences**.
4. Click the **Advanced** tab (it's the one with the gear).
5. Check the box next to "Show all filename extensions."
6. Click the red circle at the top-left corner of the window to close it.

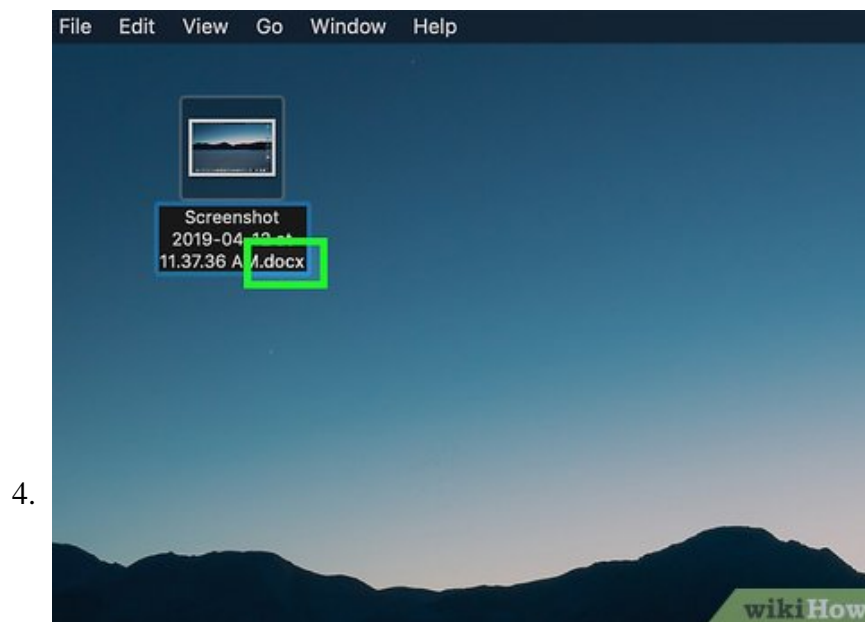


**Find a file that isn't a Word or text document.** You'll want to start with a file that can't be opened in Word, such as an image file (e.g., .jpeg, .gif, .png) or a sound clip (e.g., .wav, .mp3, .ogg). You'll be using this file to make a fake corrupted Word document.

1. Since you'll be corrupting the file, be sure to choose one you don't care about. You can also make a copy of the file before changing its extension if you wish to preserve it.



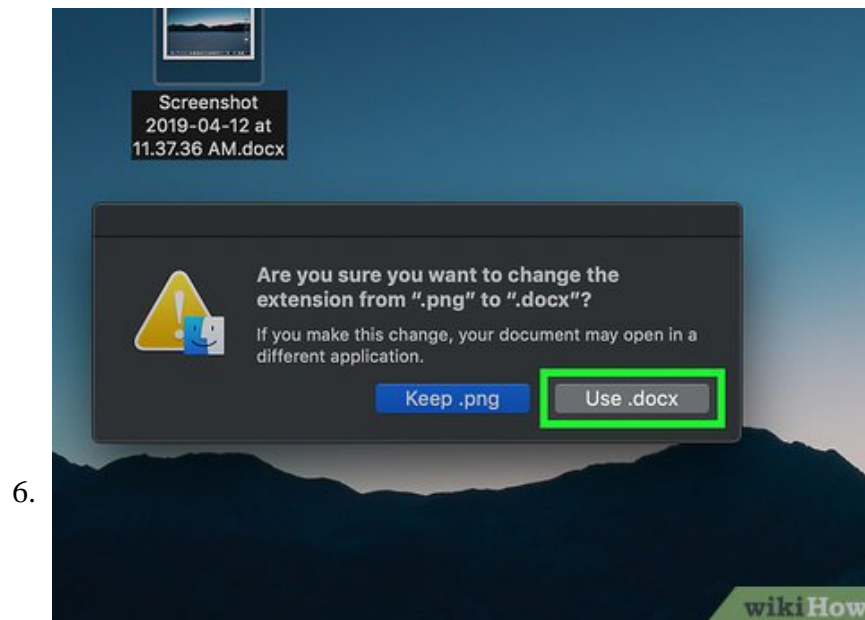
Click the file once to select it and press **Return**. The file name should now be highlighted in blue, which means its' editable.<sup>[2]</sup>



Replace the current extension with **.docx**. For example, if you're working with a file called `file.jpg`, replace ".jpg" with `.docx`.



Press **Return**. You'll see a message asking you if you're sure you want to change the file extension.<sup>[3]</sup>



Click **Use .docx**. The file is now saved as a .docx file. If you try opening the file in Word, you'll see an error that says it's been corrupted.

1. If you want to hide the file extensions in Finder, return to **Finder > Preferences > Advanced** and remove the check mark from "Show all filename extensions."

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