identifying one or more of said root string components wherein one or more letters of the identified root string component are each associated with keys that are within a determined threshold distance of a determined point on said input path;

determining a numerical score for each of the identified one or more root string components to establish a relative ranking of the root string components according to the comparison;

comparing or more of said final suffix string components present in said database with said input path, wherein comparing includes comparing a sequence of locations of the keys associated with the letters comprising the spelling of a suffix string component with said input path;

identifying one or more of said suffix string components wherein one or more letters of the identified suffix string component are each associated with keys that are within a determined threshold distance of a determined point on said input path; and

determining a numerical score for each of the identified one or more suffix string components to establish a relative ranking of the suffix string components according to the comparison.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said identifying one or more words stored in the database further comprises identifying one or more words stored in said database that are represented as strings of letters composed from an initial root string component for which said established relative ranking is higher than a determined root string component ranking threshold and from a final suffix string component for which said established relative ranking is higher than a determined suffix string component ranking threshold.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein said determined root string component ranking threshold and said determined suffix string component ranking threshold are determined for each identified word as functions of the indication of frequency of use stored with said identified word.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein one or more of said determined threshold distances, said determined root string component ranking threshold, and said determined suffix string component ranking threshold are all determined as functions of the setting of a single user adjustable control.

55. The method of claim 53, wherein when said numerical score determined for the highest ranked word is no better than a determined first numerical score threshold, one or more of said determined threshold distances, said determined root string component ranking threshold, and said determined suffix string component ranking threshold are increased and said comparing and identifying is repeated using said increased thresholds.

56. The method of claim 53, wherein one or more of said determined threshold distances, said determined root string component ranking threshold, and said determined suffix string component ranking threshold are increased and said comparing and identifying is repeated one or more times using said successively increased thresholds unless:

said numerical score determined for the highest ranked word is better than a determined first numerical score threshold;

the location of the key associated with the first letter comprising the spelling of said highest ranked word is within said determined threshold distance of said initial input path location;

the location of the key associated with the last letter comprising the spelling of said highest ranked word is within said determined threshold distance of said final input path location;

each key location of said sequence of locations of the keys associated with the letters comprising the spelling of said highest ranked word are within said determined threshold distance of a determined point on said input path; and

the sequence of said determined points occur on said input path in the same sequence as said sequence of locations of said keys from which said respective distances are measured.

57. An apparatus comprising:

a device for presenting a displayed keyboard, said displayed keyboard includes a set of keys wherein each letter of the alphabet is associated with at least one key;

an input device which detects a trace of an input path on said displayed keyboard, said input path comprising a sequence of input path locations on or near said displayed keyboard;

an output device;

a database for storing words; and

a processor coupled to the input device, the output device, and the database, the processor comprising:

a first component for recording input path data corresponding to a trace of an input path on said displayed keyboard, wherein said input path data include an initial path location, a sequence of one or more locations along which said input path continues, and a final path location at which said input path terminates;

a second component for identifying one or more words of a set of words stored in a database, one or more of said set of words associated with an indication of frequency of use, wherein one or more letters of each identified word are each associated with keys that are within a determined threshold distance of one or more determined points on said input path; and

a third component for comparing said input path with one or more of said identified words, wherein comparing includes comparing a sequence of locations of the keys associated with the letters comprising the spelling of a word with said input path;

a fourth component for determining a numerical score for one or more of the compared one or more words, wherein determining said numerical score for a word includes:

determining two or more points along said input path, including at least one point at or near said initial path location and one point at or near said final path location, that are designated as points of inflection;