

Parent's Guide to **Accelerated Maths™** **Live**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Your child will be using Accelerated Maths software for maths practice and tests. This guide is designed to answer your questions about Accelerated Maths. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Accelerated Maths website at www.renlearn.co.uk.

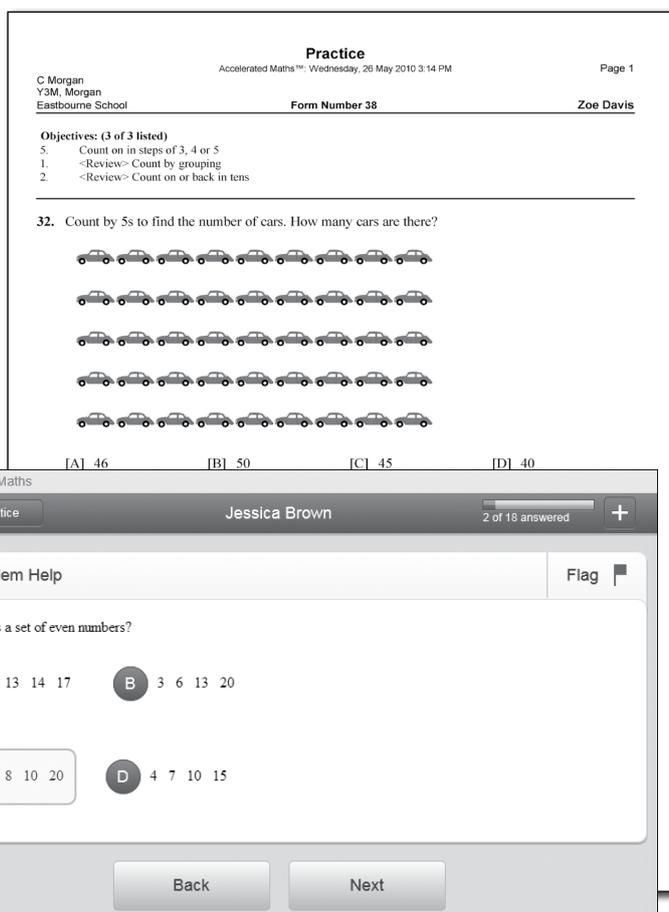
What is Accelerated Maths?

Accelerated Maths is computer software that helps teachers manage and monitor students' mathematics practice and mastery. Your child completes a daily, personalised assignment. Your child may work on the assignment on a computer or tablet or, if it is a paper assignment, your child may enter his or her answers in the software, on a scan card or using NEO 2 or a hand-held Renaissance Responder. A review in the software or an individual report shows both the student and teacher which problems the student answered correctly and incorrectly. The teacher uses the information in the report to help the student with specific concepts. The software then creates the next assignment, including more practice on the concepts with which the student had trouble.

Students using Accelerated Maths receive individualised assignments that challenge them on the skills they need to work on most. Because each assignment is personalised, students can work together towards a better understanding of a maths concept without being able to copy from one another.

Teachers working with Accelerated Maths get a computer report and can focus on specific problem areas for each student. This ensures your child will master those concepts and be successful on future assignments.

Students enjoy working on their assignments because they move at their own pace and receive personalised practice. With their teacher's help, students set targets for themselves and achieve them. Best of all, their success makes them realise that maths can be fun!



Samples of Assignments on the Computer and on Paper

Most of the problems in Accelerated Maths are multiple-choice. Could my child simply use the process of elimination to get the correct answer?

Answer choices are not random. The incorrect choices for a given problem represent common mistakes for that type of problem. A student who tries to solve a problem incorrectly will usually see the incorrect answer and select it. This gives the teacher the opportunity to discuss where the student went wrong.

Does my child still have to show his or her work in addition to entering or marking answers?

Absolutely. Students do their work in a maths notebook or on paper assignment sheets. The teacher can then pinpoint any difficulties students have in working a problem.

Is this paper-and-pencil method of learning maths old-fashioned?

For learning maths, nothing can replace the practice that students get with the paper-and-pencil method. This hands-on method helps students understand how to solve maths problems. It also gives students essential practice on maths skills to ensure mastery of them.

When my child brings home Accelerated Maths assignments, there are no examples of how to work those problems. How can we be sure we are working the problems correctly?

The software generates problem types assigned by the teacher. For many types of problems, there is more than one way to find a solution. Many teachers provide notes, a textbook or handouts to show how to complete the assignments.

How does the school determine my child's maths level?

Teachers determine your child's maths level in one of three ways: a STAR Maths[™] test, a score from a standardised test or by using their sound professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child.

What is a STAR Maths test?

STAR Maths is a computerised maths assessment that uses computer-adaptive technology. Questions continually adjust to your child's responses. If the child's response to a question is correct, the difficulty level of the next question is increased. If the child misses a question, the difficulty level of the next question is reduced. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 15 minutes.

My child is not good at maths. Can he/she still use Accelerated Maths?

Accelerated Maths helps all students become better in maths, from those with special needs to those who are gifted and talented. When children try to solve practice problems at an appropriate level, they experience success. Furthermore, teachers work with students to set appropriate targets based on each child's maths level.

Does using the computer harm the teacher-student connection?

No. Accelerated Maths actually improves the teacher-student connection because it allows teachers to personalise student practice and work one-on-one with students when needed. However, Accelerated Maths is not a computer instructional program. Though students may enter their answers on a computer or tablet, record them on scan cards or enter them using hand-held Responders or NEO 2s, they work through the problems in a maths notebook or on paper. Unlike Integrated Learning Systems that use computers for instruction, Accelerated Maths uses the computer to do what it does best—create and mark students' work and keep track of their daily maths practice. As a result, teachers enjoy more personal interaction with students to keep them motivated and excited about learning maths.

My child loves computers. Would he or she do better learning maths at the computer?

Actually, no. There is a large body of research which shows that teachers provide better instruction than computers. Accelerated Maths puts teachers, not computers, at the centre of learning because learning is a social process and human contact motivates achievement—computers do not.

Are there any results showing the effectiveness of Accelerated Maths?

Yes. A large and growing body of research supports the effectiveness of Accelerated Maths in a wide variety of classroom settings. In fact, Accelerated Maths has more published research than any other maths program.

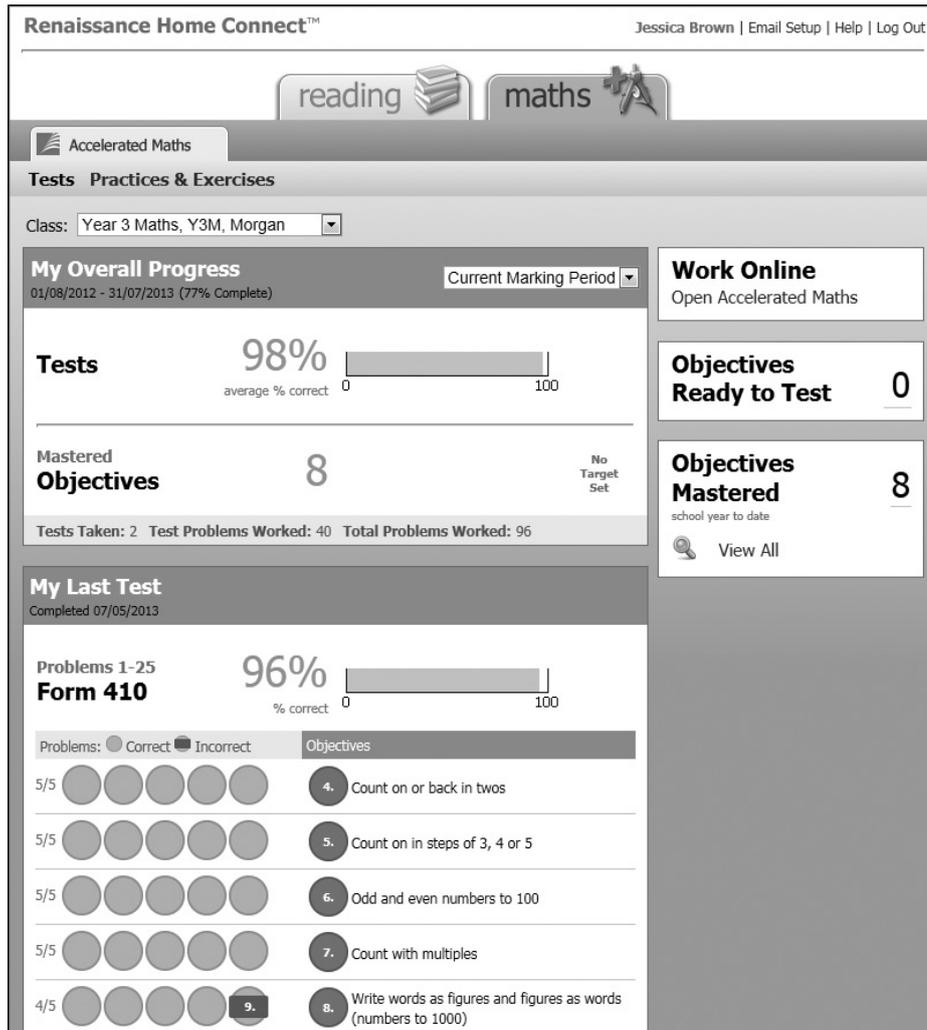
What kinds of maths problems are available?

Accelerated Maths offers maths content for Year 2 to Year 9 and Key Stage 4. Your child's teacher will select content containing objectives that match his/her students' current levels.

How will I know how my child is doing?

As your child completes each assignment, the child either sees a summary of his or her work on a computer or tablet or receives a printed TOPS Report. This provides feedback on your child's understanding of the objectives, and shows cumulative data for the marking period and school year. Teachers may send the TOPS Report home with your child. If so, you should review the report, sign it and send it back to school.

You can access your child's Accelerated Maths information in Renaissance Home Connect from any web-enabled computer. You must first gain access to the program from the school. Once in the program, you can view your child's progress towards targets and objectives mastered. You can only access information about your child. In addition, your child can open the Accelerated Maths software through Renaissance Home Connect to review past work, and if the teacher has set the preference to allow marking, your child can complete or mark practices and exercises in the software. Your child may also receive extra practice on maths facts using MathsFacts in a Flash™ if your child's school also has that program.



Renaissance Home Connect

What if I have more than one child using Accelerated Maths?

The information in the reports is only for the child you choose to view. You must request access to the information for each of your children.

What if I have questions about using Renaissance Home Connect?

After logging in, click **Help** in the upper right-hand corner or contact your child's school.

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