



# Parent's Guide to **Accelerated Math Live™**

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

POWERED BY  
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Your child will be using Accelerated Math software for math practice and tests. This guide is designed to answer your questions about Accelerated Math. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher or visit the Accelerated Math website at [www.renlearn.com/am](http://www.renlearn.com/am).

## What is Accelerated Math?

Accelerated Math is computer software that helps teachers manage and monitor students' mathematics practice and mastery. Your child completes a daily, personalized 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 a NEO 2 or 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 the student had trouble with.

Students using Accelerated Math receive individualized daily assignments that challenge them on the skills they need to work on most. Because each assignment is personalized, students can work together toward a better understanding of a math concept without being able to copy from one another.

Teachers working with Accelerated Math get a computer report and can zero in 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 daily assignments because they move at their own pace and receive personalized practice. With their teacher's help, students set goals for themselves and achieve them. Best of all, their success makes them realize that math can be fun!

Accelerated Math™  
**Practice**  
Thursday, September 21, 2006 09:55:34 AM

Ms. Alvarez  
Grade 4  
Lincoln Elementary School

Form Number 1885

Victor Chavez

Objectives: (3 of 3 listed)  
85. Subtract Money Expressions  
86. W.P. Subtract money expressions  
87. Estimate sums and differences of money

1.  $\begin{array}{r} \$6.10 \\ - \$0.32 \\ \hline \end{array}$  [A] \$5.78 [B] \$5.63 [C] \$6.42 [D] \$6.78

2.  $\begin{array}{r} \$96.78 \\ - \$34.30 \\ \hline \end{array}$  [A] \$62.48 [B] \$52.48 [C] \$61.48 [D] \$62.47

Accelerated Math  
Stop Practice Jacob Arnold 1 of 6 answered +

+ Problem Help Flag

1. What is the least common multiple of 4 and 15?

A 45

B 56

C 60

D 120

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Samples of Assignments on the Computer and on Paper

## Because most of the problems in Accelerated Math are multiple-choice, couldn't my child simply use the process of elimination to get the correct answer?

Answer choices aren't random. The incorrect choices for a given problem represent common mistakes for that type of problem. A student who works 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 her work in addition to entering or marking answers?

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

## Isn't the paper-and-pencil method of learning math old-fashioned?

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

### **When my child brings home Accelerated Math assignments, there aren't examples of how to work those problems. How can we be sure we're 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. If your child's school has Accelerated Math Live, your child can also see worked examples of problems in Renaissance Home Connect and view definitions of terms in the math glossary (see page 4). If your child is working on the Accelerated Math software on a computer or tablet, your child can also see worked examples in the software.

### **How does the school determine my child's math level?**

Teachers determine your child's math level in one of three ways: a STAR Math™ test, a grade equivalent score from a standardized test, or using their sound professional judgment based on their knowledge of your child.

### **What is a STAR Math test?**

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

### **My child is not strong in math. Can he/she still use Accelerated Math?**

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

### **Doesn't using the computer harm the teacher-student connection?**

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

### **My child loves computers. Wouldn't he do better learning math at the computer?**

Actually, no. There is a large body of research that shows teachers provide better instruction than computers. Accelerated Math puts teachers, not computers, at the center 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 Math?**

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

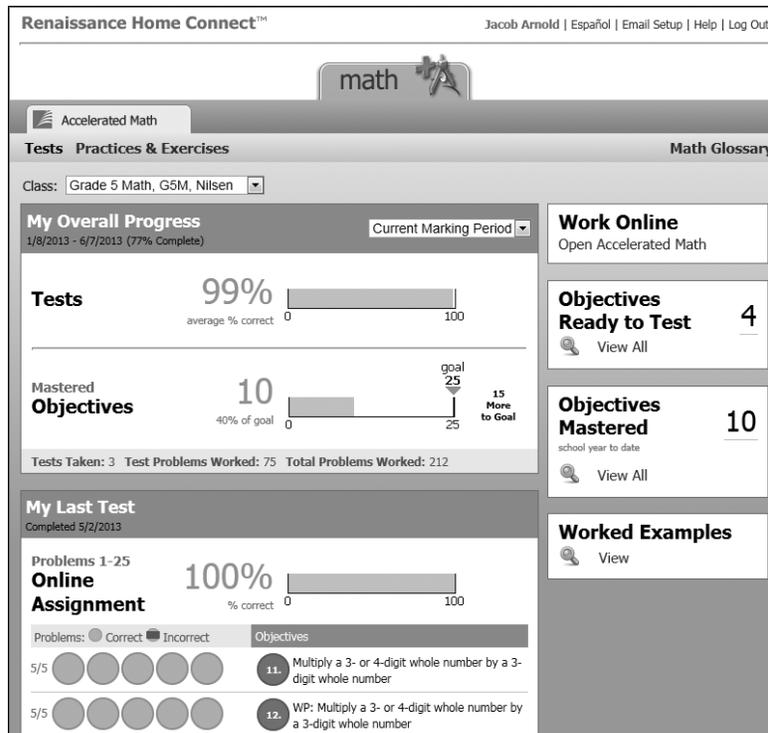
### **What kinds of math problems are available?**

Accelerated Math offers a wide range of math content for Kindergarten through Calculus. Your child's teacher will select content containing objectives that match his/her students' current levels. Extended Response problems are also available to help teachers improve students' critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

## 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 gives you 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.

If your child's school has Accelerated Math Live, you can access your child's Accelerated Math 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 toward goals and objectives mastered. You can only access information about your child. In addition, your child can open the Accelerated Math software through Renaissance Home Connect and (if your child's teacher has the scoring option turned on) complete or score practices and exercises. Your child may also receive extra practice on math facts using MathFacts 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 Math?

If more than one child in your home is using the Accelerated Math Live, 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.

## What if my child's primary language is Spanish?

After logging in to Renaissance Home Connect, click **Español** in the upper-right corner of the page to see Renaissance Home Connect in Spanish instead of English.