

Skill Sharpeners

Put some thrill in the drill!



Subjects like math, reading and geography have more facts than MacDonaldis has french fries.

It is good to practice these facts, and if you can have fun while you do, well, that's all the better. Here's a collection of free websites to put some thrill in the drill.

Hate math? Visit **MATH DOODLES** www.mathdoodles.com

Artist and computer programmer Daren Carstens loves math. He says "I am a lover of math...and interactive games and puzzles can make even the most advanced ideas understandable." Daren designed Math Doodles to help you discover how fun and playful math can be. Hint: Try to race against the timer for your best time. Best for 2nd grade-up.



Are you a good profreader? Find out at **THE EDUCATION PLACE**

www.eduplace.com/edugames.html

Six games let you pick your own grade level, and then practice spelling, reading and geography skills and facts. This site comes from a textbook publisher Houghton Mifflin. Don't miss the brain teasers! Best for grades 1-5.



Test your logical thinking, at **RIVERDEEP**

www.riverdeep.net/products/downloads/play_online.jhtml

Here's a site where you can play some select quality software activities for math, reading and problem solving, from Millie's Math House, the Zoombinies and others. For preschool on up.



Are you a geo-champ? Find out at **GEOBEE!**

www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee

Every year, thousands of kids compete to see who knows the most geography facts. To see how you rate, try one of the fast paced multiple choice tests at National Geographic Kids. For grades 4-9.



Practice parts of speech, with **MAD LIBS**

www.penguinputnam.com/static/packages/us/yreaders/madlibs/madlibsgame2.html

Give me a noun _____. Now give me an adjective _____. Once you plug in about a dozen of these prompts, you'll see your words, woven into a story. We can't think of a better way to learn the parts of speech. For grades 2-up.



Give Your Brain some Fun, at **FUNBRAIN** www.funbrain.com



One of the oldest and best collections of free games has been helping millions of kids sharpen their skills over the years. This site has had many owners; the latest is Pearson Education, another textbook publisher. For grades 1-up.

You can **earn** extra money **making** **leves**.
Click on the word that is spelled wrong.

Get your drill at **PLUS MATH** www.aplusmath.com

Looking for some no-frills math practice, minus the gimmicks? This site contains sets of math flashcards, where you can choose the subject and grade you need. There's also a game of concentration and other games, and self-checking worksheets. Caution, don't click on the advertisements. For grades 2-up.



In choosing the links on this page, we first considered ease of use, and then looked at accuracy, relevance and developmental appropriateness. CTR has no business connection with any of these links. This page is designed for parents and children to do together. To report a bad link, please email info@childrensoftware.com. You'll find direct access to past columns at www.littleclickers.com

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