

Algorithms



What Is an Algorithm?

An algorithm is a precise set of instructions that you follow to solve a problem or complete a task.

We use algorithms all the time without even realising it.



Recipes

When you follow a recipe, you follow instructions to complete a task.

The instructions are a step-by-step procedure that need to be followed for your recipe to be successful.



Travelling to School

You follow an algorithm in order to arrive at school safely.

For example:

1. Get in car.
2. Turn left into Provident Street.
3. Turn right into Brunswick Street.
4. Car stops outside gates.
5. Get out of car.
6. Walk towards school gates.

What would be
your algorithm
for travelling to
school?



Getting Dressed

You follow a step-by-step procedure to get dressed in your school uniform every morning.

For example:

1. Put on underwear and socks.
2. Put on trousers.
3. Put on shirt.
4. Put on jumper.
5. Put on shoes.

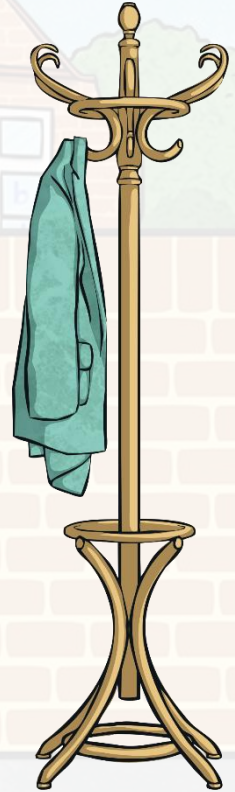


The Order of Algorithms

Algorithms need to happen in the correct order.

What would happen if you put your coat on before your school shirt?

Or you put your shoes on before your socks?



Algorithms in Technology

Digital devices all follow algorithms in order for them to work.

You use an algorithm to tell a computer what to do.

Everything you can do on a computer is able to happen because an algorithm has been written for it.

Clicking a mouse on a laptop, opening an App on your phone and playing a game are all examples of things that have algorithms.





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