

UNDERSTANDING THE IXL SMARTSCORE

A guide for teachers and parents



IXL's SmartScore is a unique scoring system designed to give the best possible information on students' true understanding of a skill.

Unlike a percentage score, SmartScore takes into account several factors, including questions answered correctly and incorrectly, question difficulty, recent answers, and consistency.

How it works

Learning and Practicing (0-80)

From 0-80, we consider students to be learning and practicing a skill. As they build confidence in these early stages of a skill, there will be large SmartScore increases for correct answers and low penalties for incorrect answers.

Achieving Proficiency (80-90)

From 80-90, students are refining their skills and building from mid-level to high-level rigor questions. By the time a student reaches a SmartScore of 90, they have achieved "excellence" by showing they are consistently capable of working through high-rigor questions. We often recommend 80 or 90 as a good goal to set for students.

CHALLENGE ZONE (90-100)

At a SmartScore of 90, students enter the Challenge Zone. Questions in this stage will be rigorous, and students must prove that they can consistently answer these questions correctly in order to achieve mastery (100). Throughout the Challenge Zone, SmartScore increases for correct answers will be small (1-2 points) and penalties for incorrect answers will be larger (3-8 points). Students will need to answer as many as 10 questions correctly in a row to achieve mastery.

For most skills on IXL, students will have to complete a minimum of 28 questions to earn a SmartScore of 100. When a student achieves a score of 100 on IXL, you can feel confident that they have truly mastered that skill.

The IXL SmartScore



CHALLENGE ZONE TIPS FOR STUDENTS

For students working on IXL, it is important to understand SmartScore and know what to expect, especially in the Challenge Zone. Here are a few helpful tips to share with students.

- Don't rush! Challenge Zone questions can be tough, and students will need to get several correct answers in a row to reach 100. Encourage students to check their answers, work carefully, and use the knowledge they've gained from earlier questions in the skill.
- Use IXL's explanations! The Challenge Zone is about solidifying your skills, so if students miss a question, they should read the explanation to get the key steps and strategies they need.
- Remember that 100 is always within reach! SmartScore is a measure of progress, so no matter how many questions students miss along the way, they always have the chance to reach mastery in a skill on IXL.