



What is Target Skills?

Target Skills is a powerful set of learning resources written to help deliver the new standards and core curricula for adult literacy and numeracy.

It comprises:

- an ICT-based initial assessment package, as used by DfES Pathfinders, containing items provided and validated by ASE (a division of NFER-Nelson Ltd)
- a series of ICT teaching materials using a wide range of media (audio, animation, graphics and interactive activities) to explore, practise and test skills
- an optional web-based tracking and management system.

The prototype was piloted extensively, and was recommended for commercialisation by the Institute of Education. Learners and tutors particularly welcomed the assessment.

Each CD can be bought on its own or as part of a pack.

Who's it for?

Target Skills supports learners and their tutors in a wide range of adult education contexts, such as FE colleges, community programmes, family programmes, training organisations, in the workplace and prisons.

The levels in the adult literacy and numeracy national standards correspond to the levels in the national qualification framework, and so the standards are broadly equivalent to levels in the national curriculum for schools. So *Target Skills* is also suitable for use in schools and sixth-form colleges at Key Stage 4 and beyond.

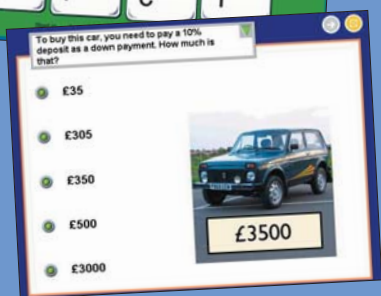
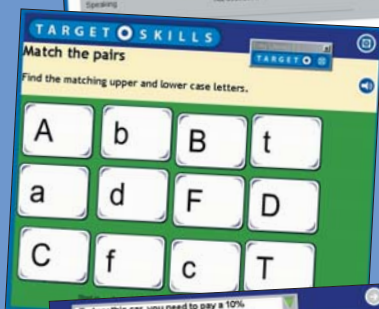
What does it do?

Assessment

Target Skills: Initial Assessment assesses learners against the new standards and curricula in literacy and numeracy, and generates a profile which forms the basis for a learning plan. This plan can then be delivered through *Target Skills* and other materials.

Materials

Target Skills learning materials tackle new aspects of the curricula as well as more traditional areas of literacy and numeracy. They provide specific packages of learning which address specific skills at the relevant level and sub-level (e.g. verbs at E3, percentages at L1).



The
Basic Skills
Agency

CTAD

ASE
Realising Potential

Each package of learning has three elements:

- Find out more – learning material that explains a new skill
- Try it out – a chance for learners to practise what they've learnt
- Check your skills – a short test that confirms learners' learning.

The discs also include a number of integrated tasks. These call for a combination of skills to be put into practice.

Web-based managed learning system

The web site, subscription to which is optional, allows assessment and materials to be delivered and tracked for each learner. It stores an updateable skills profile based on the assessment, and allows tutors to create and maintain a targeted set of learning modules made up from *Target Skills* and other materials.

Tutors can keep track of the learner's progress in working through these materials, and use the web site to manage the delivery of other forms of learning. The web site also provides forums for tutors and learners to communicate with each other.

If learners take the assessment a second time at a later date, the web site produces a measure of the learner's progress between the two assessments.

What's new about it?

Target Skills is one of the only products of its kind that has been devised specifically for the new adult literacy and numeracy standards and core curricula. It uniquely combines an ICT-based assessment against the new standards with ICT material written specifically to help teach the new core curricula. All of this can be managed through an online environment designed specifically with the curricula in mind.

How can I use it?


The skills covered in *Target Skills* underpin broader text-level reading and writing activities and support the component skills of numeracy, providing tools not found elsewhere. *Target Skills* is best used as part of a wider learning programme, as its resources complement other methods of teaching and learning. In particular, it provides materials that learners can work through at their own pace and with various levels of support, which allows tutors to focus their time on support rather than on marking.

The CDs, material and assessment can be accessed in two ways:

- standalone – this allows access to all CD resources (assessment, materials) and generates an end-of-session learning record
- with the management system – this allows resources to be tailored for the individual; all work, including the assessment, is tracked, profiled and stored on the web site.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more about *Target Skills* and see some of the material and details of prices at <http://www.targetskills.net>; or call CTAD's sales team on (01223) 470480.



EMMA
AWARD
NOMINEE

Target Skills was nominated for an International EMMA in the category of Learning 18+. Emmas recognise excellence in the creation of content in digital media, acknowledging best practice and current educational programmes.

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What equipment is needed to run it?

Multimedia computer

- PC or laptop, Pentium® II or better (MMX recommended)
- 50 Mb of free disc space
- 64 Mb RAM
- Sound card
- CD drive (12 speed recommended)
- SVGA monitor min. 800 × 600, 16-bit colour
- Microphone
- Headphones or speakers
- Printer
- Keyboard and mouse

Software

- Windows® 98, WindowsNT® 4 or higher
- Level 4 browser (Internet Explorer 4 comes with Windows® 98, but later versions are preferable)
- E-mail and Internet access (either a modem or via college network – modem recommended, minimum 56 kbps)

Note: A connection to the Internet is required for some activities and to access the *Target Skills* web site. The higher the machine specification, the better the program will run.

Target Skills has been designed to run on a network. For more information contact CTAD.

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