
Using the Teacher-Led CogAT Digital Practice Activities: A Step-by-Step Guide

This guide will help you use the teacher-led CogAT Digital Practice Activities. The Practice Activities introduce students to the thinking skills and question types they may see on CogAT.

Part 1: Purpose of the Practice Activities

Using the Practice Activities helps level the playing field and prepare all students for upcoming testing. The Practice Activities are especially helpful for young students, English language learners (ELLs), and for situations when test scores are used to help make high-stakes decisions about students. The Practice Activities familiarize students with the test item formats, so that they understand how to answer the test questions successfully. When students answer the actual test questions, they encounter complexities not presented in the Practice Activities and must apply their reasoning skills to figure out how the new elements relate to the original task.

Part 2: Planning for the Practice Activities

If the Practice Activities will be used, confirm that the testing schedule allows time for their administration (allow about 15 minutes per subtest). The Practice Activities for all three batteries may be provided during the week prior to administering CogAT, or the Practice Activities for a particular battery (V, Q, or N) may be provided the day before that battery is administered. The testing schedule for each grade or class using Practice Activities should specify the following information:

- which Practice Activities will be administered to whom
- the date, time, location, and test administrator for each practice session

Practice Activities are available for all levels in paper-and-pencil and digital format for all subtests, except for Sentence Completion. Sentence Completion is so commonly used as a format that it should not require additional practice.

Part 3: Using the Digital Practice Activities

1. **Display the slide deck** on your classroom projector or interactive display.
2. Reinforce that this is **not a test**, but an opportunity to practice reasoning and thinking strategies.
3. Facilitate the Practice Activities.
 - a. When using the “script only” version, display the slideshow in **presenter mode** so you can read the script in the notes;
4. While you present the Practice Activities, **have students share their responses and reasoning**. Use the script to help them understand which answer is correct and why.

Note:

- **Do not edit or alter** the slides or the scripting to ensure uniformity in student experience and guidance provided.
- Use the **red stop sign icons** as natural breaks to pause for discussion, check understanding, or manage classroom pacing.

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