

LESSON 6: October 28 to November 4

Hello to

Carrie Donna Erin Hector Holly Kevin Monica Qingqing Rebecca Whitney



- Team 1 - Carrie and Whitney (FL and NY)
- Team 2 - Kevin and Qingqing (NY and WA)
- Team 3 - Donna and Erin (TX and WA)
- Team 4 - Rebecca and Holly (NY and TX)
- Team 5 - Hector and Monica (NY and TX)

Happy Lesson 6 everyone,

I have built a web page for you on "apps" that contain several general principles about apps and software, lots of articles and a database of apps (in Google Docs) that will grow with time as I develop it. This is public and I hope you will use this even after this course ends.

summercore.com/apps

Principle One: The Difficulty Principle

Learning to use software or an app is not necessarily easy. Some software programs and some app are easy to use but most programs are involved, have many nuances and details and it takes time, practice and support to become good with them. In the first Summercore Primer from 1985, there is a graphic to illustrate that "software is more like a violin than a blender." In fact, we have said for almost 30 years that you can rate software (and now apps) by these categories similar to movies:

G: generally easy

PG: personal guidance appreciated

R: really tough without help

X: extremely complicated even with help

Principle Two: The Snob Principle

There are many wonderful creative software programs that facilitate audio, video and visually intriguing projects. But this does not mean that drill and practice is bad. A very significant part of education requires practice. There are so many computer people and people who travel to schools and speak to faculty that are disdainful and negative about drill and practice apps. Yes, of course education is much more than learning math facts, vocabulary words and spelling. But it is not an either/or proposition. Yes, projects are open ended and encourage creativity, problem-solving and innovative thinking. But it is not an either/or proposition. There is no kinder phrase I can use to describe this phenomenon other than "intellectual snobbery or intellectual elitism." Frequently and interesting, the people who espouse this point of view are people who have never taught in schools.

Principle Three: The Money Principle

Software budget should match hardware budget. I have been saying this since the 1980s and numerous people recognize this as an important theme. Back in the early computer days, I would tell a family buying a \$1500 computer to make sure they spent another \$1000 or more on software. The apps on an iPad are what make the machine interesting, diverse and powerful. Schools that give individual teachers or departments iTunes gift cards or budget allocations for apps are doing the right thing. Yes, there are many wonderful free apps, but it is ridiculous to buy 25 iPads for almost 10K and not have a "software budget" or an "app budget" to spend a few thousand dollars on apps.

So the assignment this week is to spend some time on summercore.com/apps and see what I have organized for you.

Lesson 6: Drill and Practice Apps

The assignment for this week which I will call **6.1** is to find one new drill and practice program **THAT YOU HAVE NEVER PREVIOUSLY USED** and learn to use it. I have created short videos on many of the following apps and you will see this all organized on the apps page. You do not need to watch all the videos but they are there for you to give you quick looks. I have also added videos by other people on each app since there are many people out there producing high quality You Tube videos on how to use a specific app.

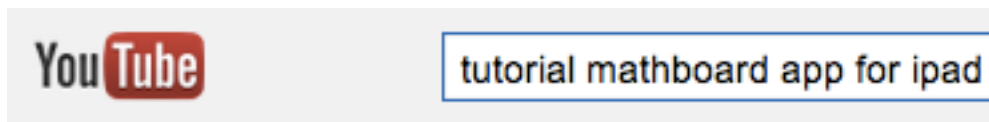


Here are the ones I have identified for you.

Please let me know if you have others to recommend but reminder that assignment 6.1 is to find a Drill and Practice app that you have never used! Thanks!

10,000 Mandarin Chinese Audio Sentences
 A+ Spelling (thanks Erin)
 Fractions Mathboard
 Futaba
 IXL
 Mandarin
 Math Bingo
 MathBoard
 Peek by Evernote
 Quizlet
 SpellBoard
 StudyBlue
 Vocabulary Builder 1

By the way (and some of you know this already), when I want to learn more about an APP, I generally go to YouTube and type something like this into the SEARCH box like this



The results are so frequently very satisfying!

After you learn to use one of these apps, assignment 6.2 is write a short paragraph on the wiki about the app you chose. That is your relatively easy part of the assignment for this week.

The harder part (assignment 6.3) is that I want you to make a 2 minute video in which you show a few aspects of the app and talk about it. All you need to do is have a colleague, friend, student or family member take of video of you with iPad #2 as you use iPad #1. This video then gets uploaded to YouTube with the setting of only those with the link can see it. This is just what you did with a previous assignment even though some of you have had to figure out which gmail account to use. Those of you with problematic gmail accounts are welcome to the email address of the



Larry Bird Doll (e-mail= larrybirddoll@gmail.com) with the password that I have given or will give to you.

Please do NOT exceed 2 minutes by much. This is important
Please speak loud when you talk. That is the biggest mistake with videos.
Please do NOT worry about mistakes while you show some aspects of the app.
Please have fun and enjoy this. No one but me will see this unless you choose to have someone else see it. I promise you that you will set your YouTube video to be ANYONE WITH THE LINK can view and no one else will ever see it unless you invite the person or grant permission.
Please do not worry about showing all the features of the app -- just a few.

You have to choose an app that you have never used before. It does NOT have to be one of the ones from the drill and practice section of my apps webpage.

summercore.com/apps

By the way, If you know of 1 or more good drill and practice programs that not on the list, please let me know and I will add to it. Erin told me about A+ Spelling and that is why that is now on the list.

Here are a few comments on some of the Drill and Practice apps.

- MathBoard, Fractions MathBoard and SpellBoard are all made by the company and are very high quality.
- Futaba is different from most other apps and allows you to have 2 students (free version) or 4 students (paid version) play a competitive game with each other. The Futaba people have given the 10 of you a free coupon code to use the PAID version. Details below.
- Khan Academy is originally for math, but now branching out into Humanities and Science. It is incredibly well funded and has "intelligent drill and practice" that moves you up or down a level based on how you do on problems. All math teachers absolutely must check out Khan Academy which goes all the way down to Grade 3 Math.
- Peek is a cool program that lets lets you make up drill and practice flashcards using Evernote that then result in self-quizzes on your iPad where you use your "real



physical cover" or "an imitation digital cover" to practice the flashcards by "peeking" at a portion of the screen.

- Quizlet is a classic flashcard creation program that is high quality. You can make up your flashcards on your Mac or PC and do either "flashcard mode" or "scatter mode" where you are given a grid of questions and answers on rectangular tiles and you have to match the ones that correspond.

Below are FUTABA CODES generously given to us by the company. This code is for the commercial version of Futaba. If this interests you, start with the free version and see if you like the program. If you want to use the commercial version, this is your code and your instructions for installing linked below.

6NRMXJMH7JNN -- Carrie
EMNPNMTNAJ7E -- Donna
YTKH6NKAN9TP -- Erin
WMT9PLJXRPAH -- Hector
X4XTRJJ73J79 -- Holly
TTYR3T6XN6WW -- Kevin
7YARXWHJWMP6 -- Monica
6P9WEK7L6JNA -- Qingqing
AEXEE63MMR4J -- Rebecca
A3KFRR4ETXYW -- Whitney

Redeeming?

<http://www.innerfence.com/howto/redeem-free-promo-code-for-iphone-app-from-iphone-or-itunes>

or

http://portables.about.com/od/newsandviews/ss/iPad-tutorials_7.htm

or

<http://www.appventions.com/content/how-redeem-app-store-promo-codes-your-ipad>

or

http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1574?viewlocale=en_US&locale=en_US

Final assignment which I will call **6.4** and you have seen before

Please look at the Wiki again and questions 12-22 (the second batch of 11) and enter your 1 or 2 word comment.

HW SUMMARY

Assignment 6A: Read this handout

Assignment 6B: Watch these videos mentioned in the reading. Remember that these videos are posted for redundancy on summercore.com/videos

Assignment 6C: Schedule a 30 minute phone call or video chat with me

Assignment 6D: Please contribute to our WIKI which is located at the tinyurl.com/sconlineipads webpage. Make sure you read through the 11 iPad skills for the week with the added videos and add your short comment with "ok" or a few words next to your name. The goal is to make sure you are good with the 11 skills before we go onto the next one

Assignment 6E:

6.1 Please choose 1 of the Drill and Practice apps on summercore.com/apps

6.2 Please write a short paragraph about the app and what you liked or did not like about it

6.3 Please make a 2 minute video about the app and share with me as a private link

6.4 Please look at the Wiki again and questions 12-22 (the second batch of 11) and enter your 1 or 2 word comment.

LONG RANGE OVER MULTIPLE WEEKS

HW due Oct 28th (today) Enter onto our WIKI a short description of the Columbus Day New World project or activity that you are planning.

HW 8.1 due Nov 11th The assignment is to work with your partner(s) and jointly write a paragraph or two on our WIKI about one of the featured projects that you found intriguing

HW 9.1 due Nov 18th The Columbus Day New World project is done and you have shared in a paragraph or two on our WIKI how it went.

Have a good week,

Steve



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