CAL PREP

California Accelerated Learning

Student Experience Guide

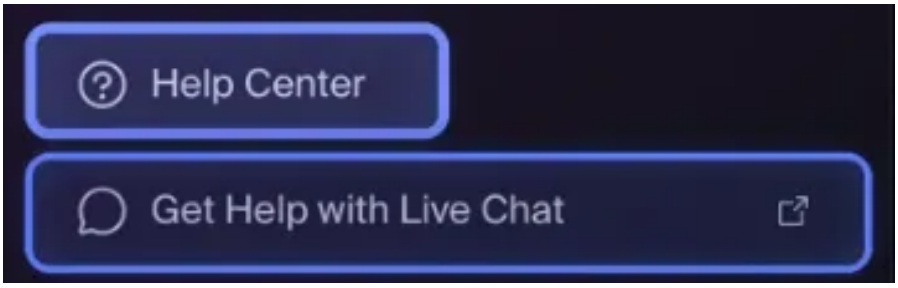
A walkthrough of online learning at CAL Prep

ONLINE MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL | GRADES 6–12

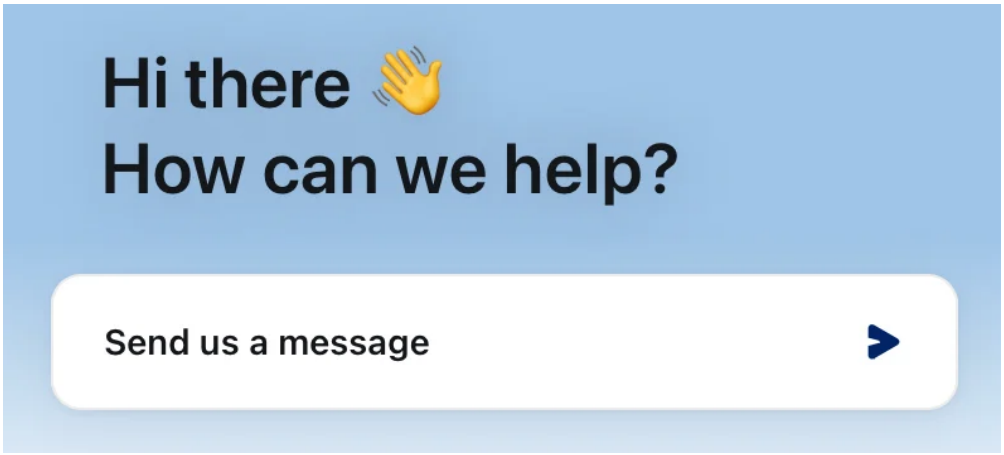
GETTING HELP

Find help when you need it

Use the account menu for technical help. Your academic coach can help you plan your next step.



Help Center and live chat options in the account menu



Example of the live chat welcome screen

For technical questions

Open your account menu and select Help Center for written or video walkthroughs. If live chat is available, select Get Help with Live Chat to message support.

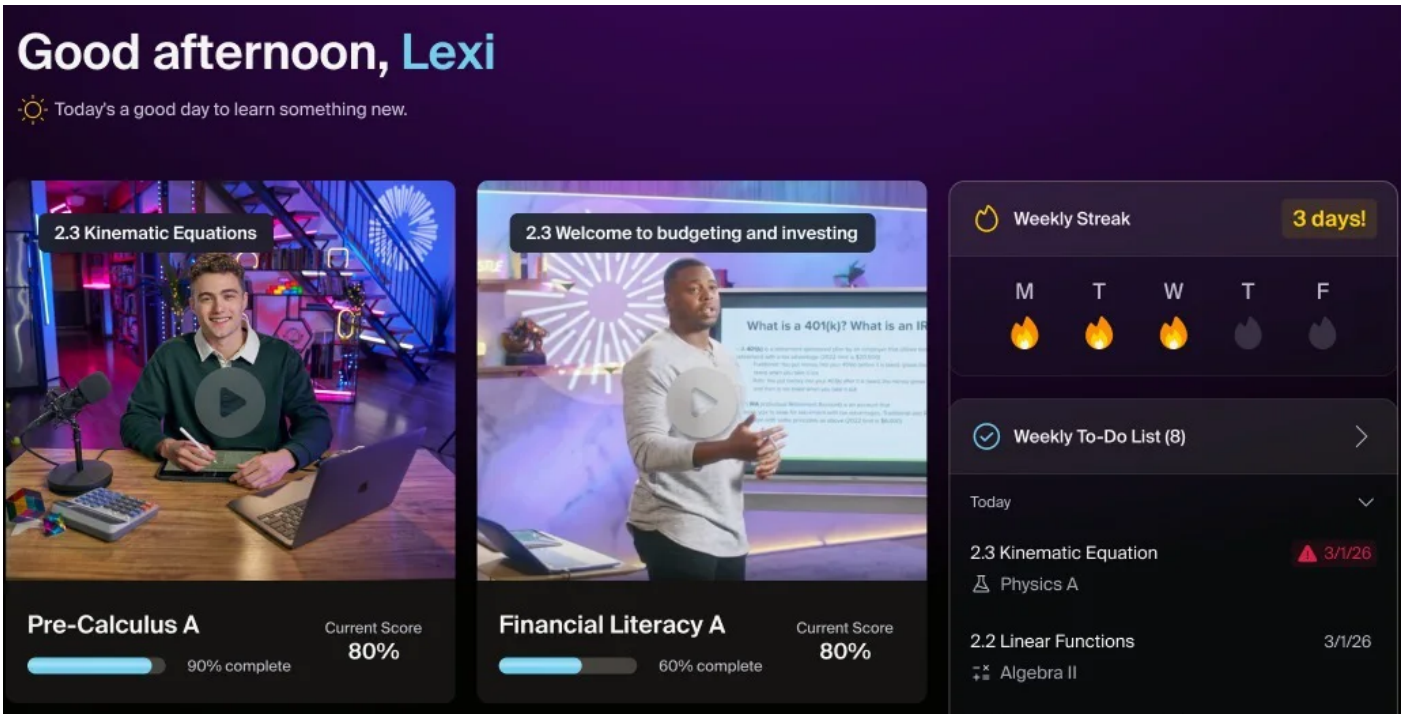
For pacing and accountability

Check in with your CAL Prep academic coach to review progress, set goals, and follow through on your learning plan. Your coach can help coordinate additional support and communicate with your family as needed.

THE DASHBOARD

Pick up where you left off

Your dashboard shows what you were working on and what's coming up.



Course cards, progress bars, weekly streak, and to-do list

Return to a lesson

Select a course card to go back to your current lesson.

Plan this week's work

Use the Weekly To-Do List to check assignments and due dates.

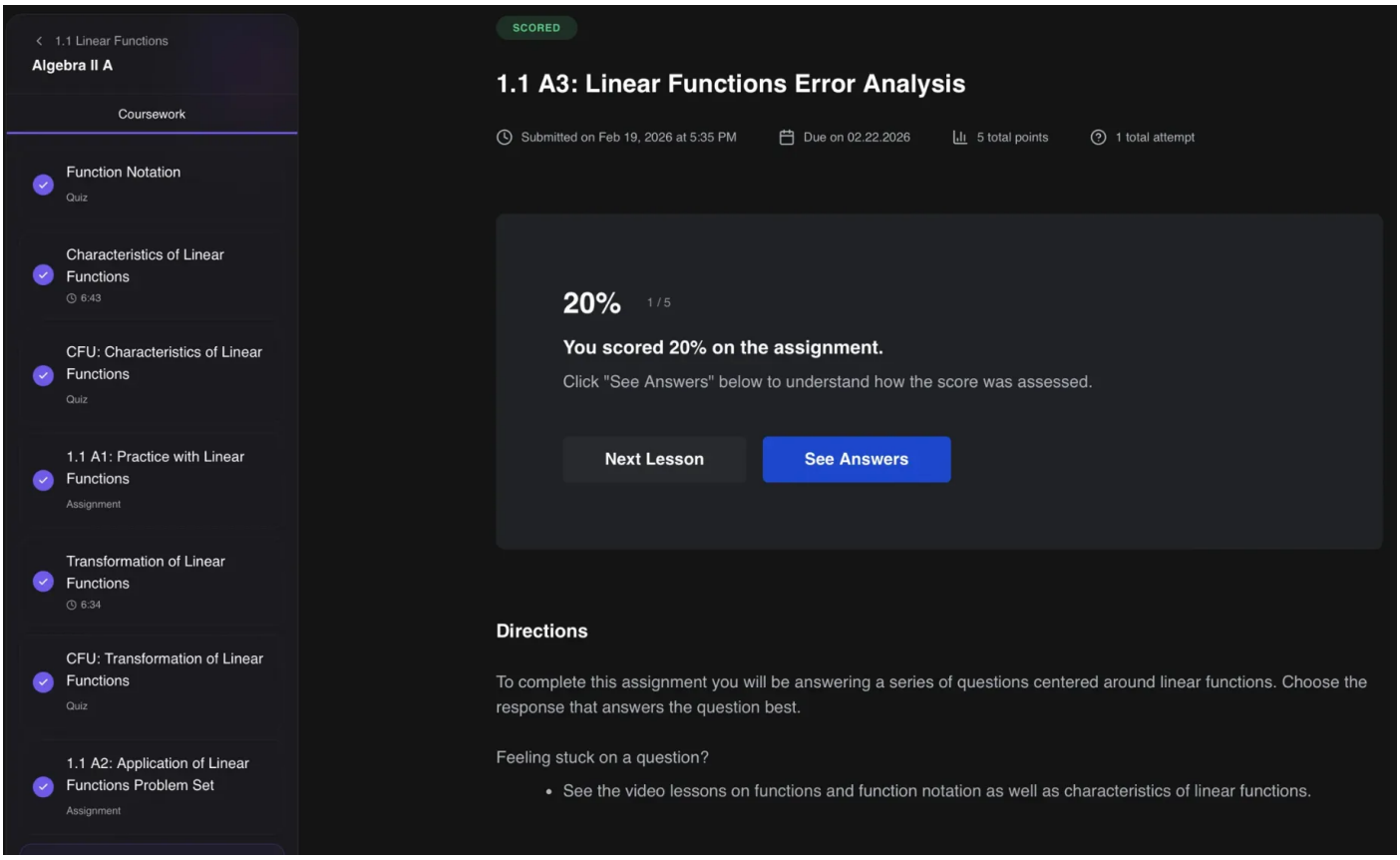
Track your progress

Check the completion bar on each course card. The weekly streak shows how consistently you've logged in.

INSIDE A COURSE

Find your next assignment

Use the coursework menu to see how lessons, quizzes, and assignments fit together.



The coursework menu and a scored assignment

Check what's complete

Look for checkmarks beside completed work. Open a graded assignment to review its score, directions, and available feedback.

Follow your course dates

Check your start date, target dates, and finish date. Use them to plan how much work to complete each week.

VIDEO LESSONS

Watch at your own pace

Recorded lessons let you work through a topic on your schedule.



A recorded science lesson with on-screen captions and playback controls

Use the video controls

Pause to take notes, rewind to revisit a step, and turn on captions when available.

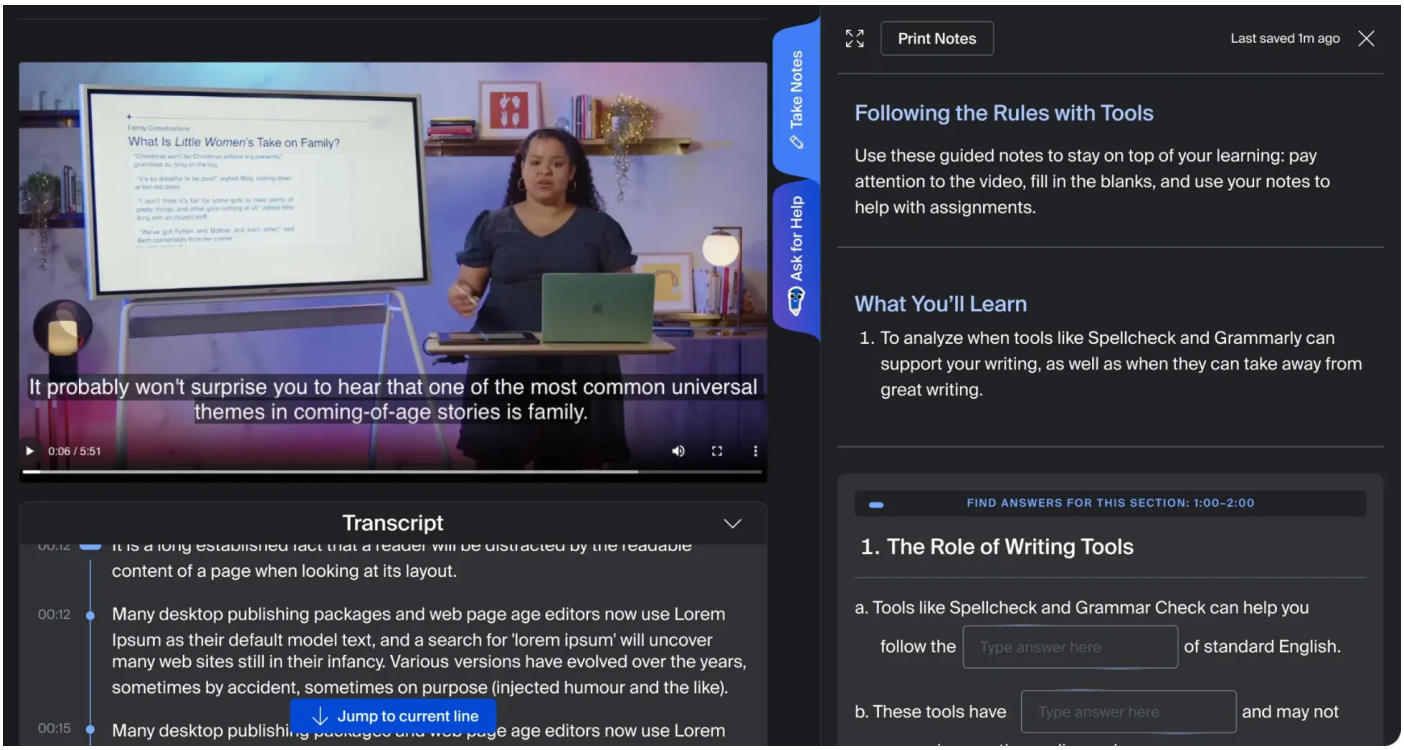
Try it as you watch

Before replaying a worked example, try the next step yourself and then compare it with the explanation.

GUIDED NOTES

Take notes as you watch

Some lessons have guided notes that open beside the video.



Video lesson beside the guided notes panel

Open Take Notes

Fill in the blanks as you watch. Use the timestamps in the notes to find the part of the lesson you need.

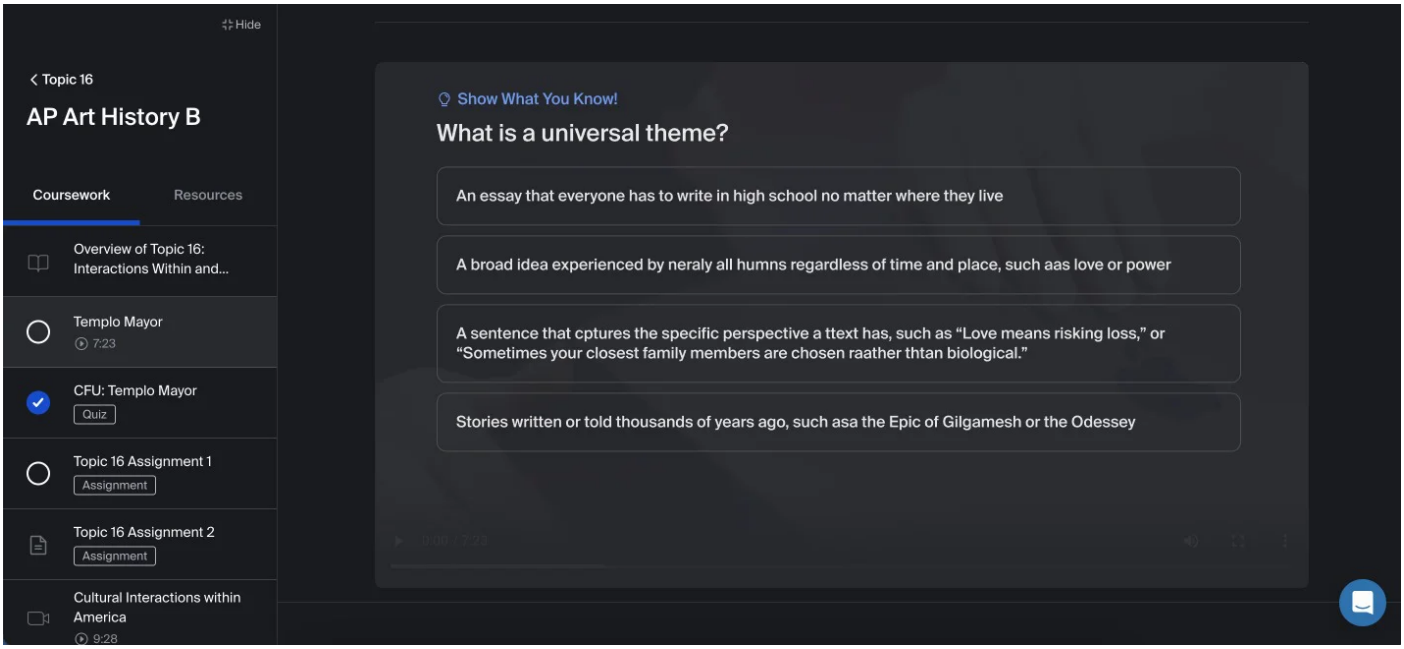
Save your notes for review

Use Print Notes where available to keep a copy for studying.

QUICK CHECKS

Check your understanding

Some lessons pause for a short “Show What You Know” question.



An in-lesson multiple-choice question

Try the question before moving on

Answer from memory, then use the feedback to decide whether to continue or replay the explanation.

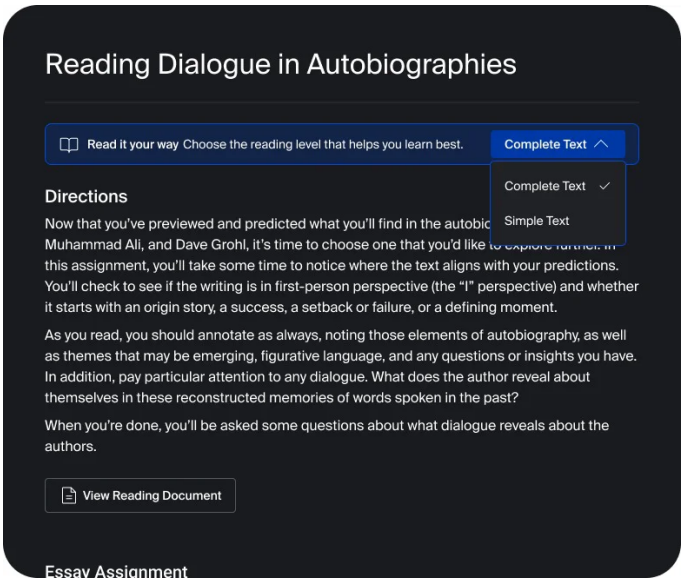
Notice what you’re missing

If you’re unsure, write down the idea or step you want to revisit before the next assignment.

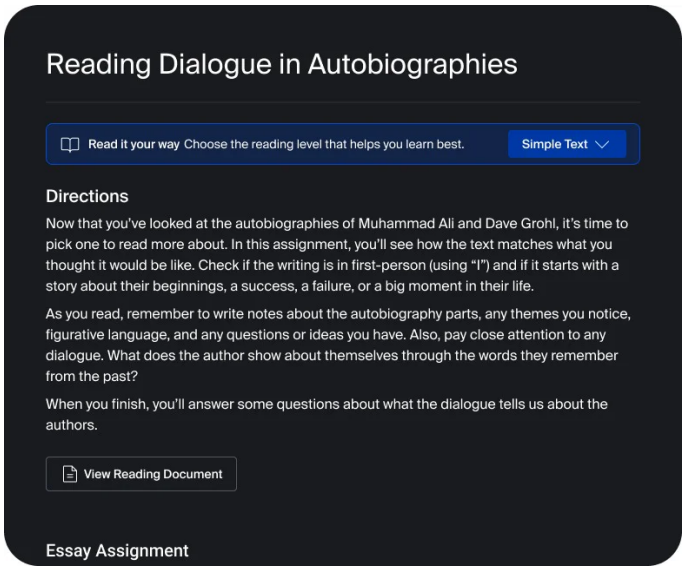
READING TOOLS

Choose a reading level

On supported assignments, switch between two versions of the same reading.



Complete Text



Simple Text

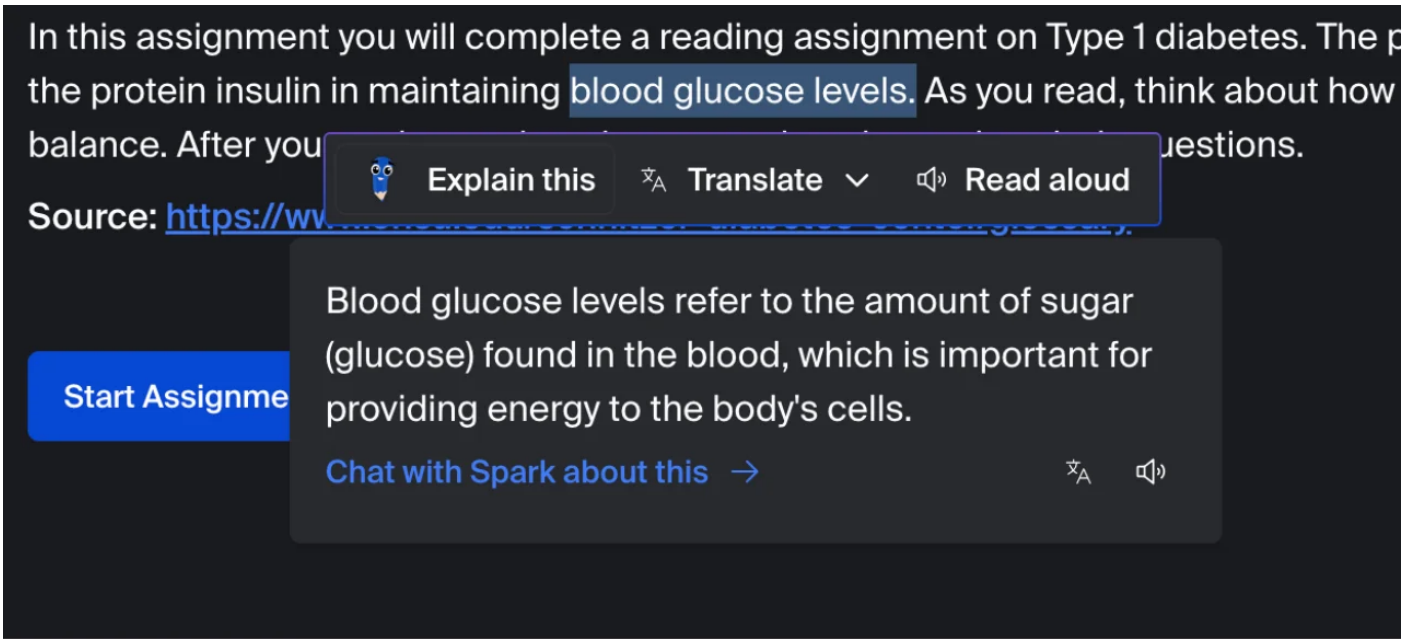
Switch from the assignment

Open the reading-level menu. Use Simple Text to work through a difficult passage, then return to Complete Text when you're ready for the full reading.

TEXT SUPPORT

Get help with a passage

Highlight a word or sentence on a supported page to see the available tools.



Tools that appear above highlighted text

Explain this

Get a simpler explanation of the selected text.

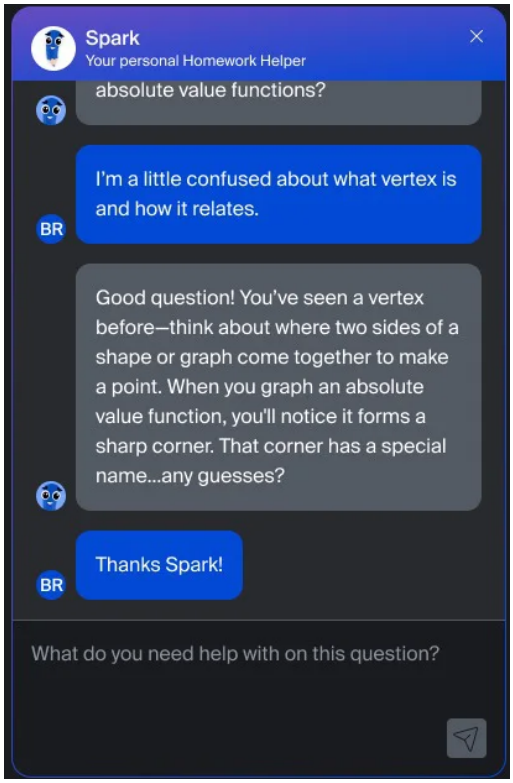
Translate or Read aloud

View the selection in another language or listen to it while you follow along.

IN-LESSON SUPPORT

Ask the built-in AI tutor

When this tool is available in your course, use it for a hint or an explanation.



Example of a student asking about an unfamiliar term

Ask a specific question

Say which part of the problem or lesson is confusing. Try the next step yourself after reading the hint.

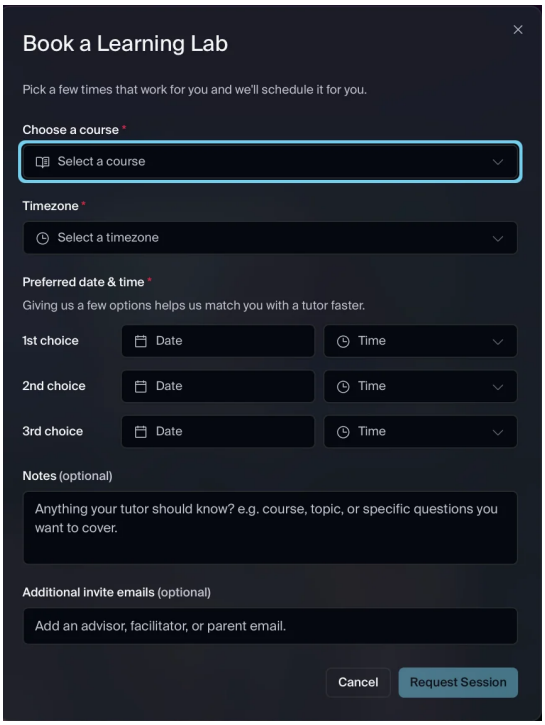
Follow up with a teacher

If you're still unsure, share the question and what you've already tried.

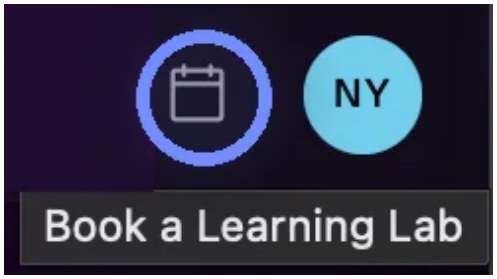
LIVE COURSEWORK SUPPORT

Book a Learning Lab

Where available, request a live session to work through a specific lesson or assignment.



Full Learning Lab request form



Calendar icon and booking option

Open the form

Select the calendar icon, then choose Book a Learning Lab.

Offer a few times

Choose your course and time zone, then enter your preferred dates and times.

Tell the tutor what you need

Add a note about the topic or question. If you'd like, add a parent or advisor's email, then select Request Session.

Ask about coursework or feedback

In courses with teacher support, state-certified teachers grade assignments, provide feedback, and stay in touch about coursework.

HANDS-ON SCIENCE

Explore a virtual lab

Some science courses use simulations to help you practice working with lab equipment.



A simulated lab with equipment, materials, and measurement tools

Start with the activity instructions

Select the materials and tools you need, then follow the steps and record what you observe.

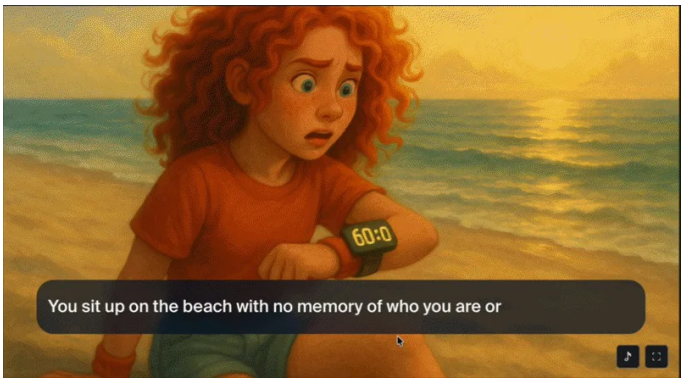
Try another run

Where the simulation allows, repeat a procedure and see how changing one step affects your result.

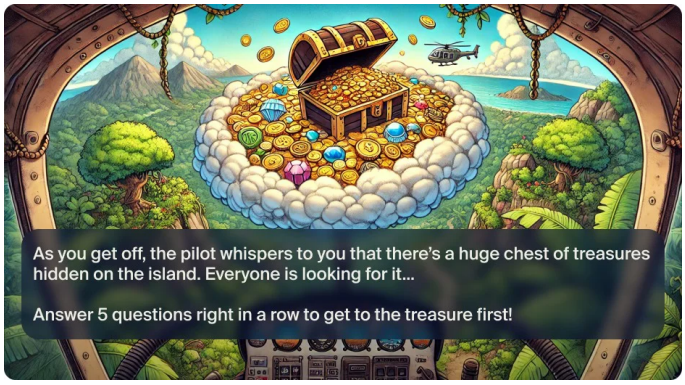
INTERACTIVE LESSONS

Learn through a story or game

In some lessons, the choices you make or the questions you answer move the activity forward.



Interactive story



Game-based challenge

Use the challenge to practice

Read the prompt and try each question. If you get stuck, go back to the lesson and look for the detail or idea you need.

GRADES AND FEEDBACK

Use feedback to improve

Open a scored assignment to see what went well and what to work on next.



Example score, See Answers button, and written feedback

Review your score

Some activities show scores right away. When See Answers is available, select it to review how your work was scored.

Pick one thing to practice

Use the feedback to identify a specific change you can try on your next assignment. Ask your teacher if you need help interpreting the feedback.