



A Comparison



Dance Mat Typing is a quirky introduction to the skill of touch typing. Its colourful animations and engaging dialogue give a good overview of the keyboard. It is not, however a touch typing tutor. It does not manage students' progression or assess speed or accuracy.

Repetition is the key

Teaching the skill of touch typing requires the development of automaticity, speed and accuracy. It is a kinaesthetic learning process and requires repetition and feedback.

Typing Tournament Online uses a tightly controlled learning progression of over 38,000 words embedded in a mastery learning sequence. Neural pathways are established and matured to develop the skill of touch typing that will stay with the student for the rest of their lives.

Dance Mat Typing It is a simple, effective guide to the keyboard and outlines the principles of touch typing but it cannot perform the task of teaching a class of children the skill of touch typing. It has a very limited set of drills and a tiny bank of exercises and vocabulary. It cannot track and manage the mastery learning progression that a teacher must work through with their students to teach such a skill.

Mastery learning is the key

When students learn to type it is important that they progressively explore the keyboard and not move on to work with new keys until those already introduced have been mastered in terms of both speed and accuracy goals.

With **Typing Tournament Online** the system manages each student's progression ensuring that they master keys in terms of speed and accuracy before presenting them with new keys. This means that teachers don't have to supervise the students to ensure that they are progressing optimally as **Typing Tournament** does this automatically for you.

With **Dance Mat Typing** students are free to move around the activities and choose what they will do next. Although the activities are structured, the progression between them is not governed in any way. This means that teachers have to supervise their students' progression.

Ensuring the use of the right fingers on the right keys

Our research indicates that one of the most important issues when teaching typing is for the teacher to ensure that the students are using the right fingers on the right keys.

Typing Tournament Online features significant scaffolding to actively guide students in the correct placement of their fingers before and whilst typing. This scaffolding significantly reduces the supervision load of the teacher.

Dance Mat Typing has little scaffolding to address this issue. Consequently teachers will need to spend much more time ensuring compliance.

Mobile computing

Dance Mat Typing does not work on mobile devices as the screen display has no facility for textural input at all.

Typing Tournament Online features a bespoke on-screen keyboard which emulates the layout of a computer keyboard with a standard layout.

Compatible with iPads and Android devices.



When used on mobile devices the special on-screen keyboard with standard layout pops up.

Kids can use the same keystrokes on mobile devices as they do on computer keyboards!



Key differential feature comparison		Typing Tournament Online	Dance Mat Typing
Progression	Teaches letters at a consistent rate	✓	Full home row then two letters at a time
	Has students go to the home row at the beginning of each lesson	✓	No
	Students actively channeled through a structured learning experience	✓	Passive progression
	Extends students of all typing skill levels	✓	No
	Progress governed by speed and accuracy goals	✓	No
	Short lessons that work with time limitations	✓	No - Each lesson must be worked through
	Target typing speed set with clear inbuilt strategy to attain it	✓	No analysis of typing speed or accuracy
	Children locked out of activities that are too difficult for them	✓	No control over learning progression
	Teaches the shift key early on	✓	No - Only in the last lesson
	Uses full words as soon as sufficient keys are learnt	Massive vocabulary	A very limited vocabulary
	Engaging prose that motivates children to type through the exercises	✓	No
	As soon as the vocabulary permits engages students in typing passages of text and not isolated words.	✓	No
Access and navigation	Easy to Navigate Website for all ages	✓	Textural instructions
	Dedicated web site that is easily located	✓	No
	Visual and written information on correct ergonomics	✓	Written only
	Free from ads from other sources	✓	Only in UK
Record keeping	Records student progress	✓	No
	Has detailed teacher reports showing progress	✓	No
	Progresses learning based on mastery learning	✓	No
	Printable Certificates from history	✓	No
	Class competitions and leaderboard	✓	No
Other	Has a combination of drills, tests and games	✓	One long lesson/practice run per level
	Has accurate visual QWERTY keyboard	✓	No
	Is locally owned (Australia) and has local technical support	✓	No
	Is age appropriate for both young and old students	✓	No - Targets younger students
	Combination of Intrinsic and Extrinsic motivators	✓	Limited and not cumulative
	Cross Compatible across multiple devices	✓	No - Computer only - Will not work on iPad or Android devices.



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