

Kit's Clever Computing: Understanding Algorithms

Think Like a Computer: Break it Down, Step by Step!

- An algorithm is a precise list of instructions that must be followed in the correct order to complete a specific task.
- Computers rely on algorithms to perform every action, from opening a file to playing a game.
- A sequence is the order in which the steps in an algorithm are carried out; if the sequence is wrong, the result will be incorrect.
- Debugging is the process of finding and fixing errors in an algorithm or a piece of computer code.
- Algorithms must be logical and clear so that a computer—or a person—can follow them without getting confused.

Did you know? Did you know? Even your morning routine is an algorithm! If your goal is to get ready for school, your sequence of steps might look like this: 1. Wake up, 2. Brush your teeth, 3. Get dressed, 4. Eat breakfast. If you miss a step or change the order, the final result might not be what you expected!

Key vocabulary: Algorithm · Sequence · Input · Output · Debugging · Logical