

Kit's Clever Computing: Understanding Algorithms

Follow the Flow: Think Like a Computer!

- **What is an algorithm?** It is a precise sequence of instructions designed to perform a specific task or solve a logical problem.
- **Why must the order matter?** In computing, the sequence is vital; if you change the order of steps, the computer may produce an unexpected or incorrect result.
- **What does it mean to 'debug'?** When an algorithm doesn't work as planned, we must identify and fix the errors, which is known as debugging.
- **How do we represent algorithms?** We often use flowcharts or pseudocode to map out the logic before we write the actual computer program.
- **Is an algorithm only for computers?** No! Everyday tasks, like brushing your teeth or making a sandwich, are algorithms if they are broken down into logical, sequential steps.

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'algorithm' comes from the name of a famous 9th-century mathematician called Al-Khwarizmi. Just like a recipe for baking a cake, an algorithm is a set of rules that computers follow to get a job done perfectly every single time!

Key vocabulary: Algorithm · Sequence · Input · Output · Debug · Logic · Instruction