

What Is an Algorithm?

An algorithm is a precise set of instructions that you follow to solve a problem or complete a task.

We use algorithms all the time without even realising it.



You follow an algorithm twice a day when you brush your teeth.

1. Put a small amount of toothpaste on your toothbrush.
2. Brush your teeth for two minutes.
3. Spit out.
4. Rinse your toothbrush.

Algorithms need to happen in the correct order.

What would happen if you rinsed your toothbrush before you had brushed your teeth? You would wash the toothpaste off!

Digital devices, like computers and Beebots, all follow algorithms so they can work.

Key vocabulary	
algorithm	instructions
computers	digital