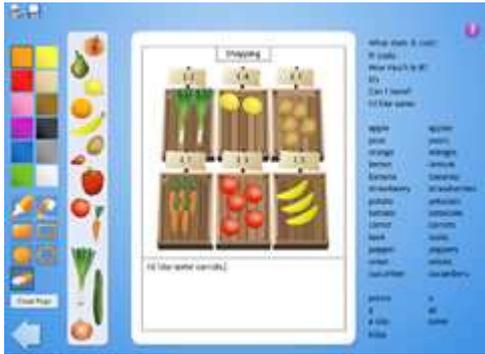


2Simple's '2Start English'



2Simple's new to English software '2Start English' has been designed to meet the needs of learners right across Key Stage 2. Designed in consultation with two EMA services, this product thoroughly deserves its place amongst other materials that aim to accelerate English language acquisition for new to English pupils. Like many resources within this genre, '2Start English' tends to focus on typical themes associated with attending school or everyday life rather than the context of the curriculum.

The materials are based around the six common themes of 'colours, numbers, animals, food, the classroom and all about me'. Each theme is supported by a similar range of activities and the interface has a consistent design that supports access.

2Simple's software is usually beautifully produced and '2Start English' is no exception. The art work is clear, colourful and culturally sensitive. Words and graphics are supported with oral narrations and most scenes contain charming animations that help to convey meaning.

One of the main sections within the resource introduces the user to children from all over the world who are able to speak about themselves via first language and English. This is a nice touch and new children will really appreciate seeing and hearing children from their own linguistic and cultural background. Practitioners may also be able to use this feature to promote intercultural understanding and help prepare their class for a new arrival.

'2Start English' features a number of typical school-based stories supported by real photographs and oral narration. These act as a natural starting point within each theme and help to set the context for a range of activities that suit different learning styles. One activity allows children to explore a typical scene and another allows them to play around by creating

their own. Literacy activities based on the story include, vocabulary matching exercises, jumbled sentences and choosing the correct sentence. Writing frames assist learners in building compositions with words and pictures. There are also a range of printable worksheets that tie in with each theme.

The online version of '2Start English' is available via 2Simple's 'Purple Mash' online learning space. Here a user can create their own personalised avatar that accompanies them on their journey through the various topics. When a pupil completes an activity their achievement is recorded by the system and their overall progress can be reviewed by them at any time. Teachers can also track the progress of all their pupils within the program.

'2Start English' should not be over-used or supplant quality classroom teaching. However, as a short-burst intervention it definitely has its place alongside other new to English materials.



For full details go to <http://www.2simple.com/2Startenglish/> or <http://www.purplemash.com/>

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