PAT Early Numeracy Screener 2026 trial:

Test administration instructions

CONTENTS

TRIAL INFORMATION

Purpose

This trial is vital to ACER's development of a new **PAT Early Numeracy Screener**. Following the trial, statistical analyses and feedback from participating schools will be used to identify the content that has worked well and is suitable for the final assessment. We anticipate that the screener will be released in early 2027.

Trial period

The trial runs from **Monday 2 March** to **Friday 20 March**. The trial tests, of about 15 – 20 minutes total duration per student, can be completed at any time between these dates.

Participating year levels

The trial is open to **Year 1 students only**.

Content

The trial tests include a range of new content. Each trial test has an A and B version. These contain the same content presented in a different order.

Trial test assignment

ACER is responsible for the assignment of trial tests to students. Students have been assigned a mix of trial tests from **Trial Test 1A to Trial Test 12B**. Note:

- If a student can no longer participate, you can unassign the trial test in your account.
- If you've added a new student and would like them to participate, please send their details securely via https://schoolsupport.acer.org/hc/en-au/requests/new or phone: **1300 006 577**

Resource kits

Additional resources are required for **Trial Tests 4A/4B through to 12A/12B.**

These resources are specified in kits that **can be reused** for students assigned the same trial test number. For example, students assigned **Trial Test 4A or 4B** will require the **Trial Test 4A and 4B resource kit**, which only needs to be **printed once**.

To check which trial test numbers have been assigned:

1. Log into your online school account.
2. Go to the **Students** tab.
3. View the **Active tests** column.
4. Note which trial test has been assigned to each student.
5. Print the corresponding resource kits.

Accessing the resources

- The relevant set of resource kits **will be emailed to you**, based on the tests assigned to your students.
- Alternatively, you can download the resources using the following link after confirming the trial student assignments:

  PAT Standalone trials – PAT Early Numeracy Screener 2026 trial

We recommend using a **paper clip** to hold resource kits together.

Do **not** staple these together as students may be asked to rearrange the resources during the test.

In addition to printed pdfs, you may also need:
- a pencil (for drawing and writing)
- 12 pencils (manipulatives for a question)
- blank sheets of paper
- 22 counters

Trial test administration

The trial is administered in **two sections**, with a checkpoint between them.

1. Independent tasks (student-led) taking about **10 minutes** (including practice questions)
- Completed by students using **headphones**
- Students work independently on their device
- Students are encouraged to attempt as many questions as they can, even if they skip some
- To ensure appropriate support, we recommend testing in **groups of no more than six students**

Student progress is automatically saved. If the browser window is closed, the test will reopen at the **last screen viewed**.

Administration checkpoint
After the independent tasks:
- There is a screen advising students to let their teacher know they have finished
- The browser window can be closed, and the test will reopen at this screen. You can proceed to the interview tasks with each student at your convenience
- On the next screen you enter the current calendar year (**2026**) to continue
- You will also be asked to confirm device, browser, and internet details

2. Interview tasks (teacher-led) taking about **5 – 10 minutes** per student
- Completed **one-to-one** with each student
- Can be completed immediately after the independent tasks **or at another time**
- Must be completed by **Friday 20 March**

Results
Instant **raw score reports** will be available through your online school account.

Please note, however, that the purpose of the trial is to **test the questions**, not to assess individual students.

The reports will show:
- each student's correct and incorrect responses, and
- the percentage of students in your selected group who answered each question correctly

Because this is a trial, we do **not** recommend reviewing the questions in detail with students or going through the answers. At this stage, we do not yet know how well each question will perform, and some questions may not be suitable for inclusion in the final assessment. The trial does, however, provide valuable practice for both students and teachers. It also gives schools the opportunity to directly shape future tests by providing feedback on the trial content.

Teacher expectations
Teachers who administered the tests will be emailed a **short feedback survey**.

Your feedback on
- test content and
- students' experience is critical for improving the final version of the PAT Early Numeracy Screener.

PRIOR TO TESTING

☐ Students can complete the test on a **tablet** or on a **laptop** or **desktop computer**.

☐ Tablets should be held in **landscape** orientation (i.e., horizontally) at all times. Holding the tablet in portrait mode may prevent test content from appearing as intended.
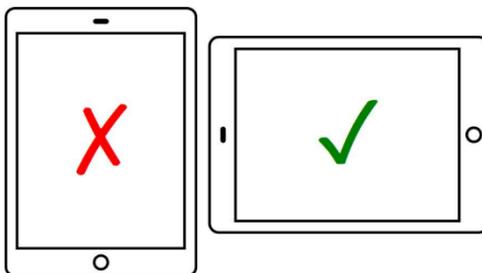
☐ **iPad minis must not be used**, as the screen is too small.

☐ Ensure that all students are listed within your school's online account and have been assigned a trial test.

☐ Schedule your testing date and time. ACER recommends that tests are administered in the morning and not immediately before or after an exciting school event.

  Run the **browser exam** https://oars.acer.edu.au/browserexam/ on a student device to check whether your school's setup meets the minimum technical requirements. Alternatively, send the technical requirements to your school's IT technician. See below.

☐ Make note of your school's online account login page.
  The page URL should be saved on student devices made available via the school's intranet.
  The web address will be similar to: **https://oars.acer.edu.au/your-school-name.**

☐ Download or print a list of your students' login details from the **Students** page within your school's online account.

☐ Download and print any required resource kits based on the trial tests assigned to the students. Trial test assignments can be viewed on the **Students** page in your school's online account.

☐ Determine whether some students require changed testing provisions due to specific learning needs. There is no need to report these accommodations to ACER for the purpose of the technical trial. Please note **that accessible versions of the trial tests are not available.**

Technical requirements

– Minimum browser resolution: **1280 width x 800 height**
– Minimum tablet screen size: **10.2 inches**
– Minimum DSL or cable internet connection: **256 Kbps**
– Compatible computers and devices: PC or laptop, Apple Mac, iPad (not iPad Mini), other tablet devices
– Compatible web browsers (latest versions): Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari, Microsoft Edge
– The following domains must be whitelisted/permitted by the network firewall or security settings:
    ▪ acer.org/
    ▪ acer.edu.au/
    ▪ delivery.acer.edu.au/
    ▪ delivery2.acer.edu.au/

ON TESTING DAYS

Notes

- All students will need headphones
- Instructions are provided in written and audio form
- Administer the test in a quiet environment with consistent instructions
- Students are not automatically timed out — teachers manage timing
- Student progress saves automatically; tests resume at the last question if closed
- If technical problems cause the need to postpone the completion of tests, the browser may be closed without losing progress.

STARTING THE TEST

Once students are seated at their computers or devices, with working headphones, instruct them to load your school's online account login page:

If your students can enter their own username and password, give each student their username and password and ask them to enter this information and then tap Log in.

You may need to assist younger students with entering their username and password.

Please note: Usernames and passwords are **case sensitive**.

Once students have logged in, say:

> **Please follow my instructions and do not click through the screens unless you are told to do so. Please enter the username and password given to you and then tap Log in.**

Students will see a screen listing all assessments currently assigned to them:
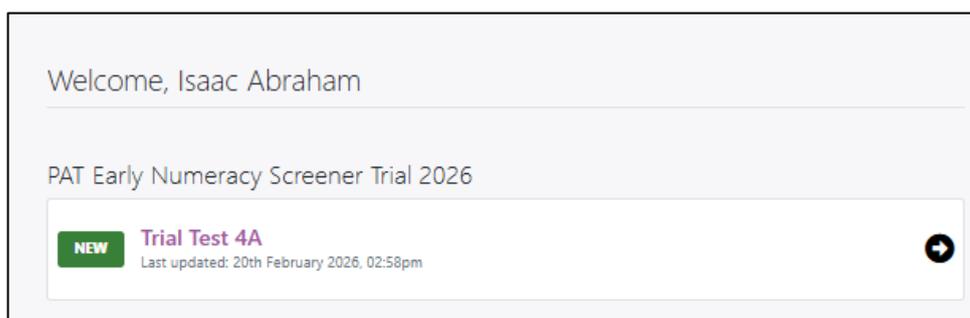
Each student's name will be displayed at the top of the welcome page. Check that all students are logged in with the correct details.

If your students can read their own names, say:

Please raise your hand if the name at the top of the page is not your own.

Otherwise, you may have to inspect the devices yourself to check. Once you have ensured all students are logged in with the correct names, they may open the test. Say:

Once you enter the test, you will listen to the voice and complete some practice questions.
If you have any questions or cannot hear the audio once we begin the test, raise your hand.
Please tap the arrow under PAT Early Numeracy Screener Trial 2026.

Check that the instructions have been understood. You can answer any questions about the test but not the test content. Say:

**Please put on your headphones, and then tap the arrow to begin.**

Check that the students have begun their tests. Students can tap the blue audio button in the lower left corner of the screen or on the response buttons to replay the audio.

IMPORTANT NOTES: There is intentionally **no back button** within the interface, so students should continue working through the questions. For students completing **Trial Tests 1A to 6B**, some questions intentionally **do not include audio**. Moreover, the audio for some questions **cannot be replayed**; this is also intentional. Encourage students to keep going

After approximately **10 minutes**, check whether all students have completed the questions. If not, additional time may be provided for any students who are still working in an engaged manner.

You may need to remind students to raise their hand once they have completed the test, and/or monitor their device screens to confirm completion.

When a student reaches the end of the student-administered section of the test, the following screen will appear:

STOP

You have finished.

Let your teacher know.
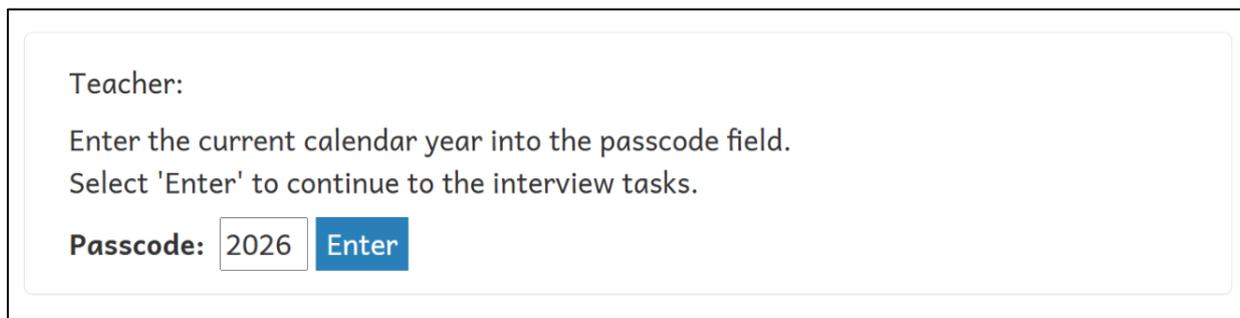
Teacher: tap the arrow to go to the next screen.
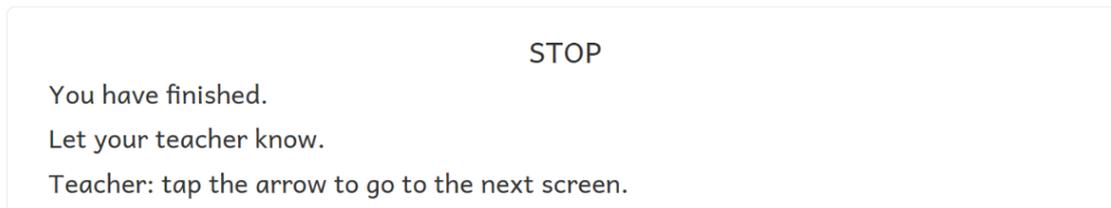
At this point the test administrator may choose one of the following options:
- Ask students to work quietly on another activity while each student is brought one-at-a-time to complete the teacher-administered interview section within the same session; or
- Record which students have completed their independent tasks section and complete the teacher-administered interview tasks section with each student at a later, convenient time.

Progress will be saved automatically. The interview section can be administered at any point within the trial period up to **Friday 20 March.**

Test administration Checkpoint:

The following pages will appear, and the information will need to be entered by the teacher within each test for each student:

Teacher:

Enter the current calendar year into the passcode field.
Select 'Enter' to continue to the interview tasks.

Passcode: 2026 Enter

What device did the student use to complete the independent tasks?

iPad using touch

Android tablet using touch

Desktop with mouse

Laptop with mouse or touchpad

Chromebook with mouse or trackpad

Not sure or other

Which browser did the student use?

Chrome   Edge   Safari   Firefox   Other

How was the student connected to the internet?

WiFi

Ethernet

Cellular data

What device are you using for the interview tasks?

iPad using touch

Android tablet using touch

Desktop with mouse

Laptop with mouse or touchpad

Chromebook with mouse or trackpad

Other

Trial tests 1 – 3 require no resources and have the following text:

The following 9 tasks look similar to the independent tasks completed by the student, but must be administered by a teacher.

Please read all text aloud to the student, including the answer options.

You can repeat the text and answer options as many times as the student requests. Please also select the response buttons on the student's behalf, where it makes sense to do so.

Trial tests 4 – 12 will require resources and have the following text:

The tasks that follow are for teachers to deliver in an interview style.

Bold text is the teacher script which must be read exactly to ensure consistency and validity of the assessment. The teacher can repeat the text and answer options as many times as the student requests unless otherwise noted.

Italic text provides instructions and information about any actions and materials needed.

There is no back button for the interview tasks in this trial so please proceed carefully. Once the interview tasks are complete you will see this screen:

Thank you, you have completed the trial test.

If there is anything you would like us to know about this test, including the student's engagement, please record it below.

On the final screen you will select the 'x' button to submit the trial test.

You will then be taken back to the student's page of assigned tests, and the result will now be available to report on within your school's online account.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter any problems when administering the tests, contact ACER for support:

Phone: **1300 006 577**   Email: **school.support@acer.org**

Why can't my student log in?

There are several possible causes:

- Logins are case sensitive. Check that the student is entering their username and password correctly.
- Some devices and browsers will automatically capitalise some words or automatically fill login fields with saved details. The student should be able to overwrite these automatic suggestions by typing their complete details. If the problem persists, check the browser or device settings, or use another web browser.
- Check that the student is on the correct login page.
- If you have a staff login, check that the student's login details are correct by logging in to the account with your staff login details and clicking the student's name on the **Students** page.

Why is the test not appearing for my student?

The test is not currently assigned to the student. Please contact ACER to assign the test to your student.

Can I close a test if it hasn't been submitted?

Yes. If you have a staff login, follow the steps below to close a student's test:

1. Log in to your school's account using your staff login.

2. Click **Students** and locate the student's name in your list. (You will see the unfinished test listed in the **Active tests** column and marked with a pencil icon).

3. Click the check box next to the student's name and then click **Tests > Close unfinished tests**.

4. Select the test you need to close and then click **Close test**.

GENERATING REPORTS

After your students have completed their test, you can view reports through your school's online account.

A reminder that this assessment is part of a **trial**. Results should **not** be used to make important decisions about a student's learning. The questions and scoring are still being tested, and not all students complete the same set of questions. Any results generated are **preliminary** and are used to improve the assessment for future use.

The reports for the trial forms should be generated from the **Students** page of your OARS account by following the steps below:

- Log in to your school's online account: (https://oars.acer.edu.au/your-school-name).
- Go to the **Students** page
- Select the group of students you want to include in the report (you may want to filter by year level and/or tags)
- Click **Select all X students**
- Click **Generate Report**
- Choose **PAT Early Numeracy Screener Trial 2026**
- Choose **Group Report**
- Choose the test form (e.g. Form 4A)
- Specify the time period (optional)
- Click **Generate Report**, Click **View Report.**

Reports can be saved as a spreadsheet by selecting **Download** and choosing **Table (Excel file)**.

You may also select **View charts** to display and print charts showing the student performance. Charts can be sorted by question number or the percentage of correct responses to each question.

The trial reports display:
- the raw scores achieved by each student, and
- the percentage of students within the group that answered each question correctly

Individual test questions cannot be viewed within the Group Report. However, you can preview the trial tests using the test preview feature from the **Students** section:

- Log in to your OARS account
- Go to the **Students** page
- Click the **Tests** button
- Choose **Preview** from the drop-down menu
- Choose **PAT Early Numeracy Screener Trial 2026**
- Choose the test form (e.g. 4A)
- Click **Preview**

The test will then appear as it was presented to students.

For assistance with generating reports, please contact the ACER School Support team: