

Soft-Pak software instructions

The Soft-Pak is Windows software (will not work on a Mac).

OVERVIEW

Think of this process in 2 basic parts: UNZIP, then INSTALL.

Step 1: Basically, you will have received the Soft-Pak installation files within your Math Mammoth download. The Math Mammoth download file is in compressed form (a zip file), so you need to "UNZIP" it — also called "extracting". Once you unzip this file, you will then install the Soft-Pak.

Step 2: You then simply run the [setup.exe](#) file found in the Soft-Pak folder, and the Soft-Pak is installed.

DETAILED STEPS to FOLLOW

(Please close all other applications before installing)

If you received Soft-Pak on a Math Mammoth CD, skip steps 1-3.

1. Download the Math Mammoth zip file.
2. Navigate to the directory where you DOWNLOADED the Math Mammoth zip file (use FILES EXPLORER). This could be your default download folder or some other folder you selected when starting the download.
3. UNZIP (extract) the Math Mammoth zip file. Most likely, you do that by RIGHT-clicking the zip file and choosing "Extract...". If, instead, you have downloaded Soft-Pak as a single zip file, then unzip that. Either way, after unzipping/extracting, the Soft-Pak files are placed in the Soft-Pak folder for use in installing.
4. Navigate to the Soft-Pak folder. There, select the SETUP.EXE file to run. That will install the Soft-Pak.
5. **NOTE:** setup checks to see if your system has any newer system files than those being installed and offers to let you keep them, if so. Should this occur, select **YES** when prompted to retain the newer version you already may have.
6. Once installed, click START, PROGRAMS, then SELECT SOFTBASICS SOFTPAK and choose any of the 6 programs.

If desired, removal of the Soft-Pak may be done by using the automatic removal option provided in your specific Windows system.

NOTE: Due to security features built into Windows, when you run our setup.exe file to install, you may see the statement "An unidentified program wants to access your computer: setup.exe." This is perfectly normal and simply means the file has not been registered with a company like VeriSign. This is not necessary and the setup program which is used has been created using Microsoft's Visual Basic 6 and is designed to install programs on Microsoft Windows computers. Proceed with no concern. Depending upon which scanner you use, as the Soft-Pak installs and then as you run each program, you may see the scanner display a message. These programs have been thoroughly scanned by multiple scanners over many years and they have been found to be clean of any issues. You may proceed without concern.

The Softbasics Soft-Pak has been revised to include 6 programs:

- Math Maker — for printing out 1-35 copies of math activities/tests with optional answer keys.
- Math Master — for completing the math activities on screen, with printable session results for recordkeeping.
- Math User — 900 on-screen math word problems with built-in calculator - critical for applying true math mastery.
- True/False Math Challenger — motivational activities that test math fact mastery with true/false items.
- Language Arts Master — spelling/reading/usage/grammar - with printable activities and answer keys. 4000 words included.
- List Maker — to add Personal Word Lists for spelling/reading/pronunciation for use in L. A. Master.

The Soft-Pak is designed to assist both the student and the instructor. The instructor can select from a huge array of options to target areas of need, and printables and on-screen activities make the Soft-Pak valuable since all students can be involved (paper work or screen work at once). Also, each skill or method is explained clearly and a SEE option is built in so the student and teacher can see an answer or how to do some process rather than just trying to work the problems with no explanation. This helps the instructor in reviewing each process and the student in learning it and then trying to master it.

The Soft-Pak programs have been revised with new features and screens - you may now simply

click the background screen in most activities to change the color (white, gray, blue). You may also change text size in L. A. Master by clicking the text box. In addition, by clicking the text boxes that offer helpful hints and information, you may scroll through each set of facts or examples. Other less obvious changes have been made to make these programs more comprehensive and easier to use. Due to the extremely large number of options built in to each activity (to allow the teacher and student to target very specific areas of mastery), there are necessarily multiple option buttons. It is very important to read the HELP options BEFORE trying most activities. Once the user has tried several activities, it will become easier to use all others, due to the common selection and input methods employed.

All programs use the same method: CHOOSE, COMPLETE, then CHOOSE another activity. Click CHOOSE to return to the selection page for another choice or Click EXIT TWICE at any time to EXIT the program - very simple to shutdown.

Math Master is the most comprehensive program, offering a huge number of options to use to achieve math mastery. The SAME option may be selected over and over until mastery is achieved (due to random generation of problems, each set is different). Also, in all drop-down lists, the difficulty level is easy to follow: top to bottom, easy to hard. Young children must be assisted with Math Master to get started but even 6 year olds quickly pick it up. All input is with the mouse, clicking choices and then answer buttons 0-9 to enter the correct number.

Start with Addition, Add Facts 1-6. Click the Enter button for each problem, enter the answer by clicking the number buttons 0-9, then click Enter for each, then click Choose to select another. Most activities allow the user to set conditions. In T/F Math Challenger, you may also use the Review option in "Look Over Here" to study any number set 1-12 and then practice it with other activities. Some options allow for a timer to be used to encourage the student to react quickly to answer each item, clicking either t or f.

Math User is for older students. It displays 3 levels of math word problems: levels A, B, C - easiest to most difficult. There is a calculator provided (active only when a problem is displayed). Click Clear to reuse after each use, including adding 2 numbers. The student should be encouraged to use the calculator for large number work. These same 900 True/False and Multiple Choice math word problems may also be printed out in Math Maker. True mastery is only achieved when the student can solve these real world problems.

Math Maker is used to print out math activities (with or without optional answer keys). A Preview Option may be selected to see an example of the type of math problem to be included (usually sets of 10 or 20 per activity). Turn Preview OFF to then select the activity to print. It is recommended for daily practice that users print on both sides of the page to conserve costs - simply reinsert the paper into the printer paper tray. Due to the small amount of ink used, you may print many of these math pages with minimal cost (as opposed to full text pages in a word processor). Also, only print out answer keys as needed for larger number work. For classrooms, up to 35 copies may be printed, if needed, but it is not recommended - a copier is a better option after a master is printed, if possible.

Most answer keys line up vertically with the activity sheet for easy correcting, when needed. Also, self-grading is an excellent technique for young students to use, since it re-inforces the correct answer for any errors that may occur.

Non-math programs: Language Arts Master and List Maker

The Language Arts Master includes over 4000 words for spelling, reading, and pronunciation, along with usage (there, their, they're), writing mechanics (spelling, capitalization, apostrophes, etc), reading speed and recall, and a non-threatening section on grammar (parts of speech, subjects and verbs, phrases and clauses, and sentence structure). A new feature, Grammar Overview, is now included in this new version. It is an excellent review of all basic grammar and serves as a good reminder and study guide for both teacher/parent and student. This L. A. program is very effective for oral reading practice with young readers (using the 4000 words plus the sets of phrases, clauses, and sentences). List Maker may be used to add your own Personal word lists for use in L. A. Master.

After carefully following the install/activation steps above, if you have any questions, please send any message through the contact form on the MathMammoth website:

<https://www.mathmammoth.com/contact.php>

Thank you and I hope you enjoy the programs!