

4 Ways to Utilize Practice Sets in the Classroom

No matter how many years of experience a teacher has in the classroom, many often struggle to balance various student needs, keep up with administrative demands and meet their districts' curricular goals. To avoid burnout, schools must empower their teachers with better support to make managing the classroom easier. Technology like Google Workspace for Education makes that possible.

Google Classroom enhances learning, simplifies everyday tasks and magnifies insight into student progress, all in a secure digital environment. Its latest addition, <u>practice sets</u>, further automates the manual process of creating classroom materials, grading assignments and providing timely feedback. Here are the various ways teachers can take full advantage of this feature:

1. Assessing Prior Knowledge

Summer learning loss results in the need to recover between 17–34% of the previous year's skills, with math classes accounting for the greatest depletion. Subsequently, teachers spend the first few weeks of school reteaching the fundamentals of their subject, whether students need it or not, before jumping into the curriculum. With practice sets, they can more efficiently assess prior knowledge. For example, math teachers can assign an existing set on day one and use the insights of performance trends to adjust their lessons and revisit the basics with some students or begin the curriculum with others.

2. Differentiated Instruction

Students receive, process and retain information in diverse ways. When teachers tailor their assignments to meet individual needs, preferences and strengths, they foster the most effective learning environment. Practice sets save teachers time by allowing them to differentiate instruction by planning and delivering various checks for understanding in a single class period. When a science teacher creates a practice set, Google's adaptive learning technology will generate a resources section. When a student is struggling with a question, they can select how they'd like to receive additional support (i.e., video tutorials for visual learners, concept cards for verbal learners, etc.).









3. Fostering Student-Centered Learning

Academic success and personal growth are easier to achieve when students play a role in what they learn and how they learn it. Teachers do not always have the capacity to encourage students to take ownership over their education, but practice sets can empower them to take responsibility for the knowledge they acquire. In history class, for example, a teacher can instruct their students to pick a social movement to self-study and then assign a corresponding practice set to complete by a specific due date. Using the included capabilities, teachers can track progress on their assignments and avoid interfering with the flexibility or adaptability of student-centered learning.

4. Learning Continuity

Homework gives students the opportunity to refine the skills they acquired in class. However, it also overwhelms teachers with the additional task of assessing the quality of the completed assignment. With practice sets, student work is instantly graded so teachers don't have to do it themselves. Foreign-language teachers can send students home with a practice set that fosters the learning continuity of new verbs and vocabulary and prepares them for the next lesson without the need for reteaching.

If your district is interested in utilizing the capabilities of practice sets, contact a Google Customer Success Specialist to discuss an upgrade to Google Workspace for Education Teaching and Learning or Plus.





