



About Online Coach

What is Online Coach?

Online Coach is interactive software specifically designed to help adolescents build their reading power. The Online Coach gives struggling readers and English language learners a private, risk-free way to develop reading skills, practice pronunciation and fluency, and acquire academic vocabulary, using the software's structured supports. Online Coach is available with selections from the Edge and Inside programs, encompassing grades 6-12.

For whose use is the Online Coach designed?

Online Coach is the perfect complement for both Inside and Edge curricula since it includes most of the reading selections available in the textbooks. It can also be an effective stand-alone tool to allow one-on-one fluency coaching for English language learners, striving readers, and students in Special Education.

Does a student need to use the same computer each time they use Online Coach?

No, the results from the student session are saved on the server and are accessible from any computer the student would use. If the student uses the same computer, he will not have to record the voice profile again after the first use.

Are any of the textbook reading selections not available in Online Coach?

The following *Edge* selections are not available in the *Online Coach* due to online copyright restrictions: Level A: *Getting a Job*; Level B: *Superman and Me*; Level C: *My Left Foot*, *Touching the Earth*.

How is Online Coach installed and can the system be installed on the district server?

The designated district administrator/technology person's access on the portal will provide access to a Downloads menu, where they will download the Online Coach installer. They may deploy the installation to each individual student workstation via their district server, or they may elect to install the application on each workstation, one at a time. At the customer's request, NGSP will provide the software and library installers on a DVD.

Will Online Coach work on a computer using a program like DeepFreeze?

While not optimal, districts using DeepFreeze or other software that deletes student information daily are compatible with Online Coach. When a student uses Online Coach, they save all of their audio files on the client machine. If the student data is erased, the student will not be able to hear earlier recordings of his or her work. In the event the computer is not connected to the internet and the erasing program runs before the data is uploaded, the student's data for that day will also be lost.

Do you have suggestions for teachers about when and how to fit in the Online Coach, i.e. when does it fit into the daily schedule?

This depends on whether class is held in a single period or follows block scheduling. ELLs may benefit from using the Listen mode in the Online Coach before reading the selection with the class. The auditory support, comprehension coaching, and extensive glossary will give these students more understanding of the selection in order to respond to the higher-level literary analysis tasks in the student edition. Other students may benefit from using the Online Coach to revisit the text after reading in class (for either silent reading or oral reading fluency practice). Selections have been chunked into relatively short segments (5 to 10 minutes each) to allow Online Coach to fit into a regular class period.



What are the system requirements?

The system requirements can be downloaded from

http://www.ngsp.com/Portals/0/Downloads/Edge_Online_Coach_System_Requirements.pdf for Edge or

http://www.ngsp.com/Portals/0/Downloads/Inside_Online_Coach_System_Requirements.pdf for Inside.

Accessories

Does Online Coach come with headsets?

Headsets must be purchased separately through the sources listed below.

Can I use a store-bought headset with Online Coach?

A noise-canceling headset is required. Macintosh users must use a USB headset. You can purchase a headset with these features from a store, but use of non-recommended headsets will likely affect product performance. Recommended headsets include: Andrea® NC-185 and Andrea® NC-95.

Where can we purchase new headsets?

National Geographic School Publishing sells one compatible model, or you can purchase recommended headsets from the manufacturers' web sites.

Account Set Up

How does information for our students, teachers and principals get into the system?

We will forward a Data Import Template when we receive your order. The template includes spreadsheets for Teachers' and Students' and Administrators' information, which Bookette Software will load into the system.

How long does it take to complete the Teacher/Administrator data import?

Bookette Software requires 5-7 business days to complete the data import after receiving the template. You will receive an email confirmation once the template is loaded.

Who maintains the student information after it is loaded into the system?

You can edit student information online at any time by opening a student's profile. District administrators can move student profiles between schools with the Transfer Students tool.

How do student results get into the system?

Results are uploaded from the Online Coach software at the end of each usage session.

Student Profiles

Can I export student test data to another district scoring system for comparative reporting?

Yes. You can extract student data in a comma-delimited format using the Export tool.

Viewing Reports

Can I compare data for several classes in my school?

If you are logged in as a school administrator, the Teacher-At-A-Glance link will show the scores for each teacher's class. By clicking the teacher's name, you can drill down to group or student view.



Can I compare data for several schools in my district?

As a district administrator, the District-At-A-Glance link will show the scores for each school in the district. By clicking on the school name, you can drill down to the teacher, group, or student level.

How do students see their results?

Students may log in through either *Inside Learning* or the *Learning Edge* with their username and password. By clicking on Take a Test & View Results, the students can choose the tab for View Results to see their current program usage.

Accessibility

What accessibility is built into Online Coach?

Online Coach is generally compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794d) in 1998. Accessibility options can be set to override application settings for text color and size with operating system settings, and to provide visual dialog boxes for all audio messages.

Additionally, *Online Coach* has many user features that are integrated into the user interface and provide improved accessibility for all users, regardless of settings. These features include: low-vision sensitive color combinations; tooltips for text labels and bitmap elements; keyboard access, and keyboard shortcuts and alternate navigation.

Will this program work for someone with a speech impediment or an accent?

Most people with a speech impediment or an accent can use this program. The very first time the user completes the microphone check, he or she must also complete the voice customization process. The process is built into the initial microphone check and allows the speech recognizer to fine-tune recognition to the student's voice. Also, the speech recognition settings can be adjusted to be less strict with regard to pronunciation, thus accommodating the speech impediment or accent to some degree. (The teacher will need to review student performance closely to make sure that the reduced pronunciation strictness is not allowing too many mispronounced or misread words.) If the customization process and speech recognition settings adjustments do not improve the user's experience with *Online Coach*, please contact customer support for assistance.

How does this program work for someone with hearing impairments?

The user can receive text dialog boxes for all audio cues. This functionality can be turned on in the Accessibility section of the administration tool. In the Workstation Edition, go to Setup, then select Accessibility. In the Network edition, go to Student Settings and select Accessibility.

How does this program work for someone with visual impairments?

This program can work for users with moderate visual impairments. Audio cues are found throughout the product. Also, using the Accessibility settings (see the user's guide), the user can adjust the font size so that it is larger (using the computer settings), except for the passage text in the software. For that text, and to enlarge all text further, the user can use the magnifier that comes with most computers. See your computer manual for assistance with the magnifier feature.



Online Coach

Online Coach Frequently Asked Questions

Can someone with reduced motor skills use this program?

This program can work for users with moderate motor skill impairments. The program can accommodate single switch devices. Keyboard access is available for all commands.

Can someone with dyslexia use this program?

Yes. Speech recognition settings can be adjusted to increase the time before audio interventions, thus providing for additional processing time by the user.

User Support

Whom do I contact about ordering?

Contact your local sales representative or National Geographic Customer Service at 888-915-3276.

Will Hampton-Brown work with customers on the set-up of Online Coach?

Yes, NGSP will work hands-on with customers on data setup, installation, scanning preparation, and so on. The regional consultants, in coordination with Research and Staff Development and eMarketing, provide teacher/user level product orientation training which shows the end-user how to navigate the application. On going technical support for the duration of the subscription is available from NGSP at no additional cost.