



I CAN Learn® - Cognitive Tutor Comparison

- In a curriculum evaluation conducted by the California Department of Education in the Fall of 2000, Cognitive Tutor (Algebra – Grade 8) was described as follows:
 - This program is not organized and presented in a manner consistent with achieving the goals of standards based mathematics instruction.
 - This program is very difficult for the teacher to use.
 - This program does not contain adequate strategies for student assessment.
 - Concepts and procedures are seldom explained and are rarely accompanied by examples to reinforce lessons.
 - The order in which topics are presented seems relatively random and connections between related topics are rarely made.
 - There are bugs, glitches and typographical oddities in the software.
- In the same curriculum evaluation conducted by the California Department of Education, the I CAN Learn® program (Algebra – Grade 8) was described as follows:
 - This program could serve as a tutorial for first year algebra and above.
 - This program is organized and presented in a consistent manner. Student lessons are well organized and consistent, with initial statement of objectives(s), reviews, videos relating to real-life situations, guided practice problems, student note taking for definitions, and quizzes.
 - The program shows considerable flexibility in determining scope and sequence, pacing and adjusting the level of difficulty.
 - This program contains specific suggestions and illustrative examples of how the teacher can implement some standards-based mathematics lessons.
 - The program presents clear, grade-appropriate explanations of some mathematical concepts, some tools for assessing, and methods for accelerating or decelerating individual student progress.
- The I CAN Learn® program covers 100% of the 26 TCAP objectives listed for the 7th and 8th grades.
- Cognitive Tutor is far less comprehensive in terms of content. Cognitive Tutor has only 16 learning objectives and is described the U.S. Department of Education as being narrowly focused.

- The I CAN Learn[®] program has 131 learning objectives in its Algebra curriculum.
- Cognitive Tutor has no Pre-Algebra component while I CAN Learn[®] has 109 learning objectives in its Pre-Algebra curriculum.
- Cognitive Tutor is a remedial/enrichment tutorial program, while The I CAN Learn[®] program is a full-time curriculum teaching tool.
- Cognitive Tutor is more like an electronic workbook used in a computer lab setting.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program is not an electronic workbook; instead its content is delivered with very rich interactive multi-media presentations.
- Cognitive Tutor is predominantly used in white, middle to upper class schools and therefore has not effectively been tested in inner-city schools with a significant percentage of an at-risk student population.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program is recommended by the U.S. Department of Education as a tool that will improve success rates of the at-risk, inner-city, minority students.
- Cognitive Tutor, according to user feedback, is not very user-friendly. The Cognitive Tutor program also has confusing organization without explicit instructions.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program is very user-friendly and prompts students at every opportunity so that students who are not computer literate are easily able to navigate the learning process without confusion.
- Cognitive Tutor is simply a workbook with some computerized practice problems.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program is a comprehensive, high-tech computer classroom. The I CAN Learn[®] program comes with all computer hardware and peripherals, software, furniture, installation, training and an unparalleled level of technical and pedagogical support. The typical I CAN Learn[®] classroom includes 30 student workstations and one teacher workstation with Windows NT Server.
- Cognitive Tutor charges for a site license fee and an annual fee for product upgrades and support.
- Once installed, there are no fees for product upgrades or support for an I CAN Learn[®] classroom for three years.
- Cognitive Tutor only offers a help desk to report problems and has no hands-on service or technical support.

- The I CAN Learn[®] program has a help desk to report problems. I CAN Learn[®] educational services and/or technical staff take full responsibility for the repair or replacement of all defective classroom equipment and supplies at no cost to the school system.
- Cognitive Tutor relies heavily on certified teachers and because it is supplemental it requires a great deal of staff development to effectively implement the program.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program has the staff development within the program and makes every teacher a better, more effective educator.
- Cognitive Tutor has no ongoing assessment of results after it is implemented.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program has ongoing assessment of student achievement that is conducted on a daily basis and is reported to both the classroom instructor and school administrators.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program is constantly being upgraded and enhanced based on feedback from instructors as well as students.
- The I CAN Learn[®] program is customized to meet the curriculum guidelines of the individual school system.