

Is this an effective online tutor? The free-class scorecard

Fill it in during or just after a free class. Score each line 0 (not seen), 1 (partly), 2 (clearly). 16 or more of 20: book. 10 to 15: one more class. Under 10: look elsewhere.

Quality	What to look for in 30 minutes	0-2
1. Subject depth	Answers a 'why' question without hesitating; corrects a wrong method with the right one	
2. Diagnosis before teaching	The first ten minutes are questions and a short problem, not a lesson	
3. Asks rather than tells	Three questions for every explanation; waits for the answer	
4. Patience	No sigh, no 'as I said'; the same thing explained a second way	
5. Empathy	Notices when the child is lost or embarrassed and changes approach	
6. Structure	Recap, new idea, guided practice, the child alone, summary: in that order	
7. Specific feedback	Names the error ('you added the denominators'), not the grade	
8. The child does the work	The child's hand on the whiteboard for most of the class; the tutor watches every line	
9. Communication with parents	A two-minute plain summary at the end: what the child can do, what is next, one thing to practise	
10. Consistency	Says who will teach next week (the same person) and how the recording and notes arrive	

The five habits of an effective online tutor, in one line each

- ☐ Finds out before teaching
- ☐ The child does the writing
- ☐ Asks instead of tells
- ☐ Names the error, not the grade
- ☐ Ends with a plan you can repeat

Red flags, questions, and the decision

Red flags (any one is a reason to look elsewhere)

- ☐ Starts teaching the topic without checking what the child can do
- ☐ The tutor writes, the child watches
- ☐ Praises everything ('great job!') and names no error
- ☐ Cannot name your child's exact course and next unit
- ☐ A package must be bought before a second class
- ☐ The tutor next week may be someone else
- ☐ No recording, or the recording is theirs not yours
- ☐ The camera is off, or the session is a worksheet on a webcam

Questions to ask after the class

- ☐ What did you find my child can and cannot do?
- ☐ What would the next four classes cover, in order?
- ☐ Will it be you every week, in writing?
- ☐ How will I see progress, and how often?
- ☐ What is the price per hour, billed how?

Scores

Tutor or service	Score / 20	Red flags	Decision

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