Times Tables Rock Stars User Guide

The first time you log on, you'll be asked to choose a **Rock Star name** from the selection. (This will be the name associated with them and how they will be identified online for the whole of their Rock Star career so choose carefully!) Children are only identified by their Rock Star name online and not their real name.

Children can also create their own **avatar** to represent them. Playing in the events generates rock star coins which can be spent on items for their avatar. This "currency" is only on Times Table Rock Stars and is not linked to real life money. The only way you can get items for your avatar is by playing Rock Star games. The more you play, the more you earn and the more you improve.

Once you have logged on, you'll have 6 options as to what to play – three options are single player games (Gig/Garage – Studio – Soundcheck) and three options are multiplayer games (Festival – Arena – Rockslam). Here's a brief rundown on each.

Gig

First off, you will need to do a Gig (Garage won't be available yet). Gigs only come up every now and then. They are the baseline assessments to see what your child already knows. As it's the first time you've logged in, you'll need to do a gig to see what you know. In a gig you have 5 minutes to answer as many times tables as you can. They move up the tables in line with the National Curriculum, starting with 10s, 2s and 5s and finishing with 12s. This assessment is the same for everyone and the results will automatically generate the appropriate times tables to work on and show you the ones you know. Not everyone will complete all the times tables in 5 minutes - and that's fine.

Garage

Gig then becomes Garage and is the place to practise your times tables, based on your assessment, and moving up levels as you go (gigs come back after a certain amount of progression in the garage to reassess you automatically). Garage gives you a minute to answer random questions within your generated level. Scoring 20 in a Garage session will move you up to the next level (based on the research showing known number facts should be recalled and entered with 3 seconds). If you struggle with a Gig, the system will move you to the times table you struggled on so you may go back some levels in garage – this is fine. It means you can practise what you struggled with and then try again in the next Gig.

Studio and Soundcheck

Studio is another single player option. It gives you a minute to see how many you can answer (random questions up to 12x12) in order to set your Rock Star performer status! Soundcheck gives you 25 random questions (up to 12x12 with 6 seconds per question in line with end of Year 4 expectations set by the government). This is great practise for the test Year 4s get at the end of the year. These two options test all times tables up to 12x12, and the associated division facts, not the automatically selected ones based on level so may be challenging if not all number facts are known. Anyone can try these out at any time.

The multiplayer options give children the chance to play with other Rock Stars!

Festivals

Festivals are **live** events to play off with anyone in the world (all times tables up to 12x12) – pick an event and go! Check the leader board at the end to see how you compare and try to improve your performance each time.

Arena

Arena will give you the chance to play with others from school at your generated times table level **live** – pick an event and go! Remember, these two events are live, so your classmates will need to be online at the same time as you for you to play together in Arena.

Rockslam

Finally, Rockslam lets you challenge anyone at the school at any time in all times tables up to 12x12. You'll need to know their Rock Star name to challenge them - or just pick someone at random from a class. Rockslams are not live, the challenge will be waiting next time they log on. You don't have to accept a challenge.

Only Garage is set to your generated level and so children may find the other events tricky as they cover all the times tables, even the ones that may be outside their current range. That doesn't stop them from having a go though.

A big part of this programme is response times and knowing facts. It may take more than 3 seconds to answer a question, that doesn't mean your child can not do the question. This is designed to improve fluency and recall. Improved fluency allows children to progress in related maths skills. For each Rock Star, there are the challenges of being the fastest in the class/school, the most improved performer, the highest earner and challenging people around the world.

There is no messaging system within Times Table Rock Stars, online activity is limited to a scoreboard at the end of the event to see how you compared to others. Again, only the Rock Star name is displayed.

Finally, there is also a free Times Table Rock Stars app (provide by Maths Circle) so you can download and practise on other devices. To logon to this, you'll need to say what school you are a member of before logging in as above.