

Jennifer Morelock

Saturday Feb 3 at 6:08pm

Websites Reviewed

<https://www.khanacademy.org/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

<https://www.buzzmath.com/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Compare and Contrast

Design

Khan Academy and Buzzmath are both designed very well. There are two ways to look at both websites, from a teacher's point of view or a student's. While looking at the design from a teacher's prospective, Buzzmath is easy to locate rosters, settings, assignments, materials, etc. Khan Academy is also designed to be able to find these resources easily. Buzzmath is slightly more difficult to navigate as you need to set up a "school calendar" in order to use most of the features. Khan Academy is visually less striking than Buzzmath. Khan Academy has very few colors, is mostly text, and seems to be less inviting to students. Buzzmath is full of color, pictures, and visuals to gain student interest. Both websites are easily linked back to the home page.

Content

Khan Academy and Buzzmath both offer, lessons and practice problems. Khan Academy also offers videos while Buzzmath also offers a "gaming" aspect. Khan Academy breaks down math topics slightly more than Buzzmath, but both do go into detail in their "lessons." The lessons, practice problems, and videos on Khan Academy, while very accurate and descriptive, can be somewhat boring for students. They are mainly black and white, and the videos are simply a man talking through the steps while writing on a screen. Buzzmath lessons are also accurate and descriptive, but in a colorful and interactive way. Students would be engaged longer with Buzzmath than with Khan Academy. Both are easy to have students join as they give a class code for students to "join." Khan Academy also offers more topics than just math, Buzzmath is strictly math topics.

Credibility

Both sites are very credible. They are written well with very few errors, links all work, etc. All material on both sites is original content and it is current. There is a difference in pricing, Khan Academy is a free website and Buzzmath has different levels, there is a free level, but you can also pay to upgrade to premium.

Identification of the strengths and weaknesses of each site

Strengths and Weaknesses of Khan Academy

Khan Academy does has several strengths, one being it is free, students can join and it will keep track of progress and teachers can keep track of progress as well. It is has very in-depth material for not only math, but Science, Engineering, Economics, Finance, Computing, etc. It is fairly easy to navigate for both students and teachers. Some of the weaknesses of Khan Academy

include the visual design. It is not very inviting as far as color, pictures, etc. While the information is there, it is less than appealing.

Strengths and weaknesses of Buzzmath

Buzzmath also has several strengths. It is very interactive in its lessons and the design is very inviting for students. The site is easy to navigate and find information on fairly quickly. Students and teachers are able to track progress easily as well. Some of the weaknesses of Buzzmath is that some of the features require a fee and also the setup for classes is more involved than Khan Academy.

Use Cases

Khan Academy

A student is looking for more information on how to add and subtract fractions. The student goes to the main page of Khan Academy, the student can choose a grade level or search for a topic. The student searches for adding and subtracting fractions. Several results are shown including videos and practice. The student chooses the first on the list, a video entitled, "Adding and Subtracting Fractions." When the student gets to the page, they find not only the video but also a link to practice problems that the student can attempt after watching the video. In order for the student to "pass" the practice problems, they must get 7 problems in a row. When the student finishes the video and practice problems, there is a link to the next lesson which is word problems. The student can also log in and save their progress.

Buzzmath

A teacher is looking for a resource to help her students. She goes to the main page of Buzzmath and logs into it using her google account. She is given the option to pay and "Go Premium" but decides to just use the free materials. She is able to create classes and give her students a code to join. Once her students join, they can either work on lessons they choose or work on lessons the teacher has assigned. The teacher can assign lessons based on the individual student or as a class. Once students complete lessons, she can see exactly how they did on each practice session. The teacher can then use this information to assign new lessons or reteach.

Kiara Jones

Saturday Feb 3 at 8:59pm

Hi Jennifer!

I definitely liked Khan Academy's layout. I felt like it was clean and easy to navigate. And although I've used the site before, it still would seem credible to me if I was a first time user. For me Buzzmath's site seemed juvenile to me which works if it was aimed for younger kids I'm sure, but because of that it seemed not as credible to me and I wouldn't be drawn to subscribe from them. For your site I think that if you are aiming to cater to younger kids, having a clean layout like Khan Academy but vibrant colors will appease to both the kids and their parents.

Courtney McFarland

Yesterday Feb 4 at 2:16pm

Jennifer,

One of the first things I noticed on Buzzmath was the use of color on their page compared to Khan Academy. Most defiantly would draw me in more if I were a student. I also noticed that Buzzmath has the "schools trusting us" on the bottom of their homepage. That instantly made me think that Buzzmath was a more reliable site. One of the first things I noticed for Khan Academy is it seemed very easy to navigate. When you first go on the site they have the "learner, start here," "teachers, start here" and "parents, start here." I also like how Khan Academy you can learn more than just math. Overall I think Khan Academy you can get more out of the site without having to subscribe, but could use more graphics.

Great post!