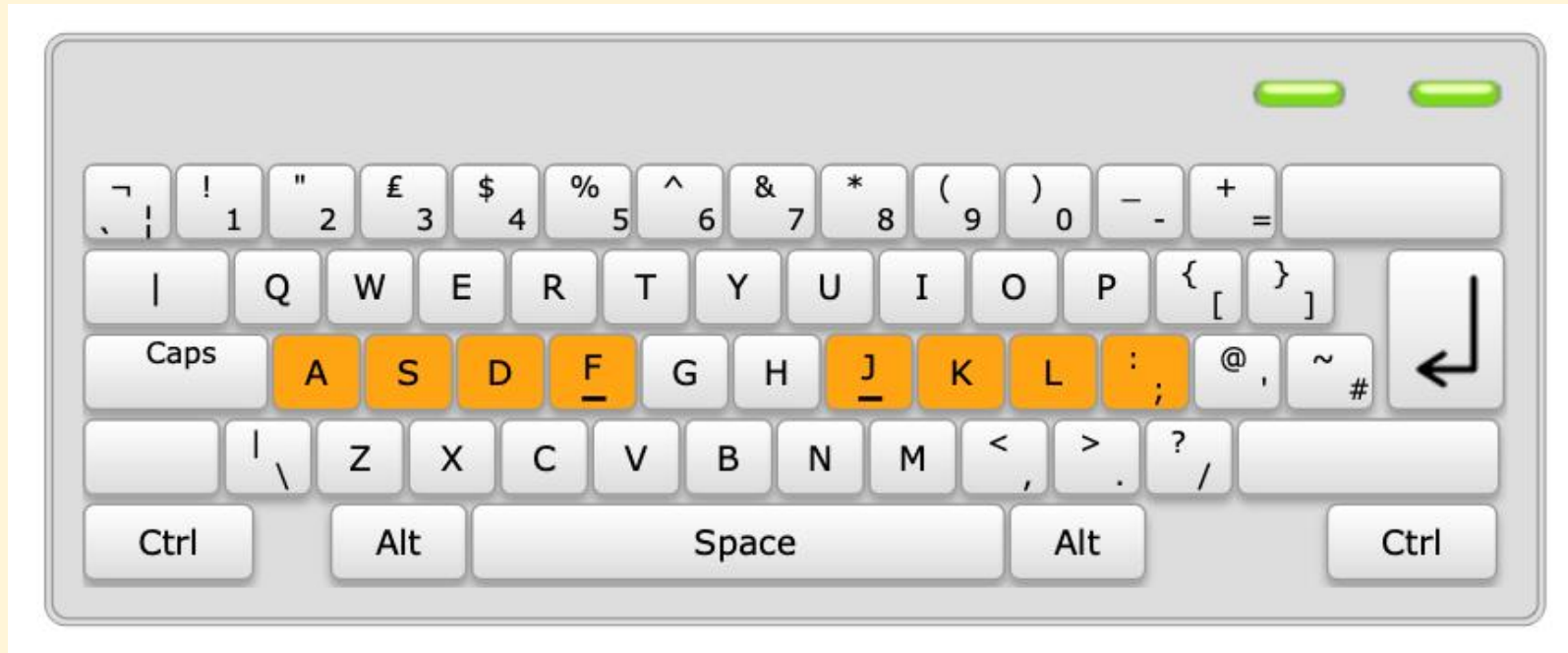




Specialised & Accessible Touch Typing Software

Accommodating:



Neurodivergent, disabled, hearing and visually impaired learners.

Every student will need to type at some stage while at university.

Being able to touch type efficiently reduces anxiety and can make a positive difference in their university experience.

KAZ is a resource students can learn to touch type with and then dip into to refresh when needed.



The Science

The **science** behind touch typing is not how fast your fingers are typing but what's happening in your brain.



When students:



- Type with just two fingers **or**
- Dictate using a scribe or dictation software...

...they use their **conscious** mind.
They think as they work.

This can cause mental overload and anxiety, preventing them working to their full potential and from being fully productive.



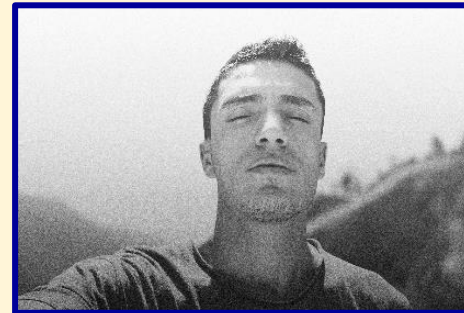
○ However, when they learn to touch type using all digits, the skill is automatised and moves to their **subconscious**, freeing their conscious mind to think and concentrate on more essential literacy skills such as;

- Planning
- Composing
- Processing
- Proof reading
- Editing

It reduces mental load, increasing

productivity and workflow

Why is learning to touch type important for neurodivergent learners?



Levels the playing field

Instils confidence

Increases productivity & efficiency

Reduces anxiety

Used in exams

It also:

Helps with challenges that impact the writing process.

Provides an alternate method for communicating and independent learning

and is often the key to accessing other assistive technology.

Differences that can impact the writing process:

Dyslexia

Tourette's Syndrome

Visual Impairment

Dyspraxia

ASD

Meares-Irlen Syndrome

Hearing Impairment

ADHD

Dysgraphia

Mental Health Challenges

Challenges such as:

- Difficulties with processing, spelling & speech
- Brain fog/mental fatigue - reduced focus/concentration
- Poor working memory
- Slow work rate
- Problems with concentration & time management
- Poor motor skills
- Difficulties with verbal & non-verbal communication
- Visual disturbances / impairment
- Hearing impairment / deafness
- Lack of confidence and anxiety

Students' needs:

Touch typing offers students a quick and alternative way to express themselves, especially when dictation software is proving problematic due to:

- Anxiety
- Stuttering
- Poor concentration
- Inability to multi-task



Why KAZ?

- KAZ's inclusive software was developed with advice and guidance from the Dyslexia Research and the Thomas Pocklington Trusts (Charity for the Blind & Visually Impaired).
- It offers a unique teaching method that can be particularly beneficial for learners who struggle with traditional teaching methods.
- It differs from free and other paid typing software as it caters to all, mainstream, neurodivergent, hearing and visually impaired learners.
- Its multi-sensory approach, structured and focussed teaching techniques, dedicated module aiding short memory and customisable features provide valuable support while learning the skill and helps tailor the course to each learner.

Tried, Tested & Proven

- The KAZ method was tried, tested and proven to work by the **Open University**.
- They were so impressed that they wrote a 'white paper' on its effectiveness.



Do your students type with just two fingers, miss keys, mix up keys or forget the correct keys to use?

How to check if they need to learn to touch type

Test them

Free 90-second typing test on our website.

Observe

Are they typing with all or just two fingers?

<35wpm

They need to learn to touch type.



Do you need KAZ?
Take our **FREE** typing test

<https://kaz-type.com>

Challenge

Visual disturbances,
impairment and processing

How KAZ can help

○ At the start of the course, KAZ's customisable 'preference screen' helps address visual disturbances, impairment and processing challenges by offering learners a selection of preferences.

Preferences include:

- VI mode
- Specialised filter screens that minimise blurring, steady letter movement and help address white screen glare
- Selection of font colours for contrast
- Dyslexia-friendly typefaces for ease of reading
- Selection of font sizes to prevent the crowding and fusing of letters
- Customised feature for students diagnosed with Meares-Irlen Syndrome and have an RGB reference

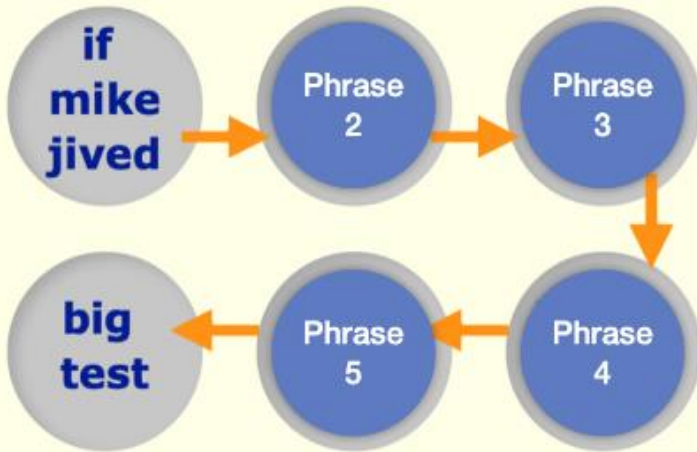
Once chosen, preferences are 'saved' and applied throughout the course, tailoring it for optimum visibility and comfort.

Challenge

Time
Management

e.g. ADHD

The Basics



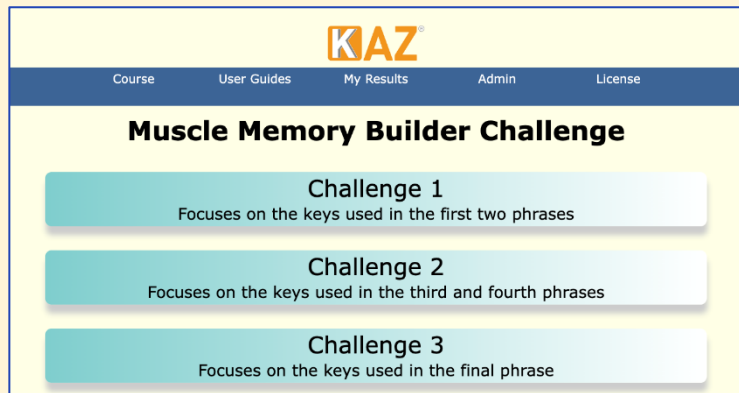
How KAZ can help

- The 'Basics' section of the KAZ course teaches the a-z keys using five scientifically structured phrases, which take approximately 20 minutes each. It is based on the Pomodoro Technique – a time management method which involves working in short intervals, followed by short breaks.
- It is designed to help learners resist self-interruptions and retain complete focus. Each Pomodoro is dedicated to learning one phrase using the keys taught in that lesson, and each break offers a chance to rest and reset before returning their attention to the next Pomodoro and phrase.
- The learner repeats this cycle of Pomodoro intervals and short breaks until all five phrases are completed.
- The method helps structure learning into short, focused periods and can help learners with challenges such as ADHD who struggle with concentration and time management.

Challenge

Short Memory

e.g. Dyslexia, Dysgraphia

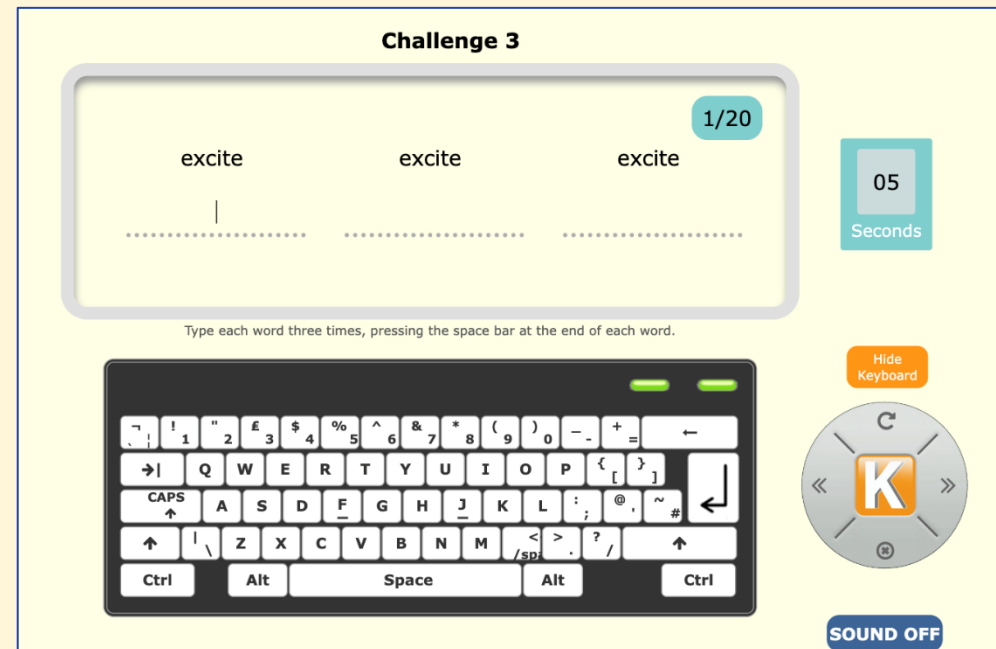


The screenshot shows the KAZ logo at the top, followed by navigation links: Course, User Guides, My Results, Admin, and License. Below this is the title "Muscle Memory Builder Challenge". Three challenge options are listed in light blue boxes:

- Challenge 1**
Focuses on the keys used in the first two phrases
- Challenge 2**
Focuses on the keys used in the third and fourth phrases
- Challenge 3**
Focuses on the keys used in the final phrase

How KAZ can help

- The 'Challenge' modules was developed following feedback from assessors who were concerned about students with short memory. They were developed as a quick revision of keys and to help develop muscle memory.



The screenshot shows the "Challenge 3" interface. At the top, it says "Challenge 3" and "1/20". Below this, the word "excite" is displayed three times, each followed by a dotted line for typing. A vertical cursor is positioned at the start of the first dotted line. To the right, a "Seconds" timer shows "05". Below the typing area, the instruction reads: "Type each word three times, pressing the space bar at the end of each word." At the bottom, there is a virtual keyboard with a large "K" key highlighted. To the right of the keyboard, there is a "Hide Keyboard" button, a circular navigation pad with a "K" key, and a "SOUND OFF" button.

Challenge

Slow work rate

e.g. Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, ADHD, Tourettes

How KAZ can help

- Quick and accurate typing can reduce the time spent on a piece of work and often increases productivity and the quality of the work produced – helping with online assessments exams and dissertations.
- KAZ's 'SpeedBuilder' module offers two options for developing speed and accuracy. This is to ensure learners with greater challenges can build their efficiency slowly and without stress.

Challenge

Difficulty with spelling

Students with differences such as dyslexia usually downgrade their vocabulary to play safe, using words they know they can spell correctly.

How KAZ can help

- In the 'Challenge' modules, students are presented with words they must type three times. They first see the word, then hear it and lastly, have to type it. This repetition helps ingrain spelling to 'muscle memory'. Eventually, spellings become a series of finger movements and patterns on a keyboard, dramatically reducing the likelihood of transposing and misspelling words.
- The method also trains students to recognise words by sight, saving the decoding process, which often causes problems when reading.
- KAZ's site licenses allow for the upload of course-specific vocabulary, allowing students to learn to type and spell essential vocabulary simultaneously.

Challenge

Poor coordination,
fine/gross motor skills &
physical dexterity

(Can make writing tiresome and even painful.)

e.g. Dyspraxia, dysgraphia

How KAZ can help

- Teaching typing skills can help reduce physical pressure, cramp and pain in the hands and wrists, as lightly tapping keys on a keyboard can prove much easier than gripping and manipulating a pen or pencil.
- With practice and repetition, typing can enhance/develop fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination and physical dexterity.

Challenge

Difficulties with social interaction

Students with mental illness or ASD can find social interaction extremely challenging. The whole concept can cause anxiety and negative self-talk and can lead to depression.

e.g. ASD, Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD)

How KAZ can help

- Teaching typing skills enables students to communicate with their fellow students and tutors without the need for social interaction on challenging days.
- Work can be submitted efficiently online.
- Students are also reassured by the fact that computers do not have faces or emotions.
- The KAZ course is an tutorial designed to be used independently, allowing students to learn the skill from wherever they feel most comfortable.

Challenge

Difficulties with verbal
/ non-verbal
communication

e.g. ASD, Apraxia

How KAZ can help

- Teaching typing skills offers students an alternate form of communication. Their newfound ability to communicate can help build self-confidence and improve morale.

Challenge

Poor and untidy
handwriting

(Causing embarrassment, frustration and anxiety).

Perfectionism

(Due to obsessive compulsive behavior - can also lead to frustration and anxiety).

How KAZ can help

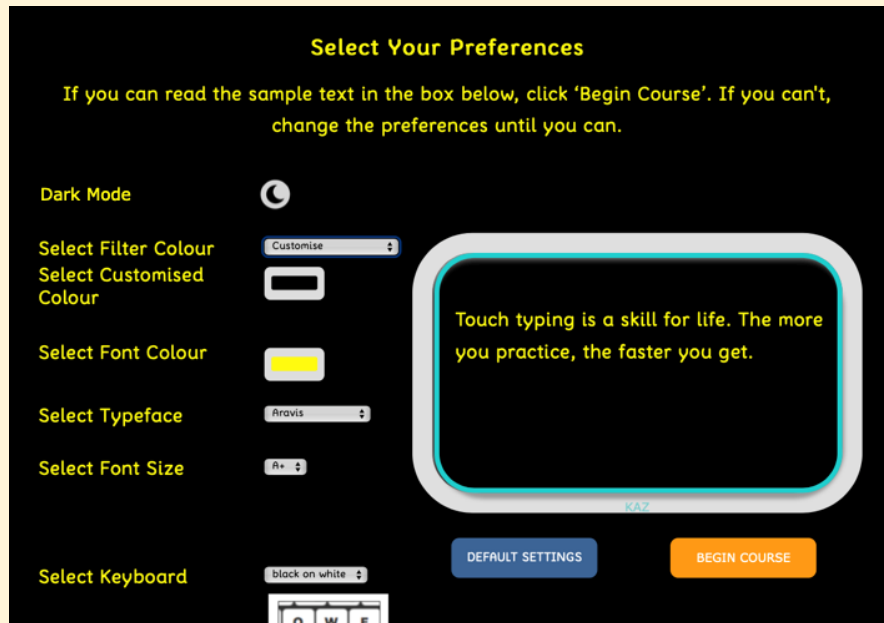
- Teaching typing skills eliminates the need for neat or perfect handwriting, as it automatises the translation of thoughts and ideas into written language.
- The need for accurate letter formation and spacing words on a page is eliminated.
- Errors can easily be edited, without messy crossings out, resulting in neat and presentable work - automatically boosting confidence and self-esteem.

How KAZ can help

Challenge

Visual Impairment

Developed with advice and guidance from the Thomas Pocklington Trust



- KAZ's customisable 'preference screen' offers a 'dark mode' option for visually impaired learners, which can be further adjusted.
- Compatible with JAWS and most other screen readers.
- Compatible with SuperNova and other magnification software, and captioning.
- Includes 'speaking keys' so learners can hear which key they have typed.
- Spoken instruction with auditory feedback on problematic keys.
- Tactile feedback - the software can also be used with a keyboard that has raised or textured keys, allowing learners to feel the keys as they type, helping with accuracy and speed.
- Learners will have an in-zoom feature and the ability to enlarge the screen to the size of their monitor.

Challenge

Hearing Impairment



The screenshot shows the KAZ program's version selection interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'KAZ Online Home', 'User Guides', 'My Results', 'Admin', and 'Log Out'. Below this is a section titled 'Select Your KAZ Version' with three options:

- KAZ with Sound:** Indicated as the 'recommended choice'. It features a headset icon. Description: 'This is our recommended choice. You can change to the "Text version" at anytime during the course by simply clicking on the "Sound Off" button.'
- KAZ Text Version:** Features a person wearing glasses and a 'Sound Off' icon. Description: 'Choose this version if you are working in a quiet environment or if you have hearing difficulties.'
- Audio Description:** Features an 'AD' icon and a person with glasses icon. Description: 'KAZ with keystroke sound is an accessible version for visually impaired users - "speaking" the A-Z keys as they are depressed within the exercises.'

How KAZ can help

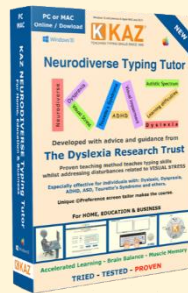
- The KAZ program offers a 'text only', visual learning option, which means hearing impaired learners do not have to rely on audio instruction/cues and feedback.
- Learning typing skills offers students an alternate form of communication. Their new found ability to communicate can help build self-confidence and improve morale.
- Efficient typing skills can help promote independence in education and beyond, as learners can submit assignments digitally, email, fill out forms, or create documents.
- In today's digital age, strong typing skills are highly valued in many industries. By improving their typing skills, learners can increase their job prospects and compete more effectively in the job market.

Available options:

KAZ for DSA

(Download + digital badge)

£95.00



+



openawards



Recommending KAZ:

Learning to touch type equips students with a skill for life which can benefit them in numerous ways whilst at university.

Being a transferable skill, it is also an asset they can carry forward with them into the workplace, for example, in nursing, where dictation on a daily basis is impractical.

SFE has recognised that touch typing is a completely different tool to dictation software, and not a duplication. They are happy for it to be recommended as a stand-alone product or alongside dictation software.

KAZ – normally recommended when discussing:
‘Writing and reviewing academic work’.

Learner Safety

Security

- KAZ takes learner safety seriously. They are members of ico.org.uk and adhere to their strict rules and regulations.
- Unlike free software, their courses do not contain any distractions, pop-ups, or solicitation by email or otherwise.
- All learner data is protected and never shared.
Please view our [Privacy/Data Policy](#) on their website.
- All their courses are secure with their SSL.

Testimonial – ‘Immediate Outcome’

“I had to write to let you know about a recent experience I had with a DSA student who was awarded KAZ Typing Tutor. We had some time left in a session and so we started the typing course. I couldn’t believe that within 45 minutes, they were able to find all the keys on the keyboard and were able to (albeit slowly) touch type!

As an AT Trainer, I don’t see this product recommended enough, it has revolutionised how the student is working. One of the problems with typing out work is that by the time the students have picked out the keys with one or two fingers they have forgotten what they were trying to say. Once they knew where the keys were, they were able to concentrate on what they were thinking and not on the keys. **Sometimes learning new software can be daunting and takes time to become a fluent user. To be able to see an immediate outcome from a tool gives such a confidence boost.**

We were able to customise the screen, the phrases were bite size and they were able to ‘do’ it, so a kinaesthetic learning approach. The student was keen to work on building up speed and as most future job roles will involve computer work, they now have this skill for life!”

Susan Bullock (AT Trainer, Workplace Coach & DSA Assessor)



Touch typing, a fundamental skill that can change lives and university/workplace experiences.

If you have any questions please contact:

sheraleen@kaz-type.com