



# Options Explored

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Information on Logins, Overlap,  
Placement and AutoRoute



## **Introduction**

This document has been written to help tutors new to Units of Sound make the best use of Options for their students. As you gain experience with the program, you will find it easy to make these choices. You are of course teaching students, not a program, and individual student needs can be taken into account.

## **Logins**

### **Tutors**

If you cannot remember your login, or it is showing as not correct, you can ask another tutor to log in with their login and access your Details to check ID and Password for you.

If you are the only tutor then you can click on 'Forgot your password' on the login page. This will generate a generic password that will be emailed to you. If you don't receive it, check your spam folder. However, if it's the ID that is wrong/forgotten then you need to get in touch with the Units of Sound team via the Contact Us page on the website.

### **Students**

If a student forgets the login, you can log in as a tutor and check Details.

## **Reading Overlap**

Setting Reading Overlap on, means that the student will cover each reading page twice. The pages are not set consecutively so that the student doesn't cover the same page twice in the same session. For Overlap, the pages follow a +2 -1 pattern: eg, 7-9-8-10-9-11-10.

How do you know who needs Overlap and who doesn't? It's for anyone who needs extra practice when working through reading. For anyone starting on Stage 1 you should begin with Overlap on as these are the students who have few decoding skills and you will want to build them up carefully. You can take Overlap off at any time.

You may also have students who are on Stage 2 or even 3 who can also benefit from Overlap, such as those with learning difficulties.

There is a balance to be made between speed of working through the program and the speed of learning. If you take Overlap off and then you find that accuracy and fluency are dropping when you carry out the Reading Check – set Overlap back on again.

It is good to remember though that there are plenty of students on Units of Sound who do not need Overlap. These are usually the students who have a relatively small reading deficit and the priority lies on the Spelling spectrum.

As with all the options, once you have experience of Units of Sound with students you will find this an easy option to make.

## **Reading and Spelling Placement**

The Reading and Spelling Placement exercises set the program for each student so that they are working at a level that is comfortable – where it is not so hard that the student is struggling. We expect the majority of students to start with the placement exercises. We do know, however, that some tutors want to set students on Units of Sound using their own criteria and so it is possible not to use the placement exercises. This option should only be taken by tutors who are fully experienced with Units of Sound. It is not recommended for anyone new to the program.

## **Re-doing Placement**

There may be times when a tutor needs to redo Placement, as set out below. This is possible by switching on Placement in the student's Details:

- You feel Placement wasn't done well the first time round and is not an accurate level for the student. For example, your student may have been tired when you carried out Placement, or you may have marked Reading Placement inaccurately.
- If a student has been working on Units of Sound for more than 6 months and you want to redo Placement to see progress. Make sure you either print out the current Overview for comparison purposes. If you don't want to lose the records of what the student has done so far, it is better to set up a new account for the student and carry out Placement from there. That way previous work will still be available to view from the student's original account.
- If a student has had a long break from Units of Sound of more than two months and you want to check level.

## **AutoRoute**

In busy classrooms the tutor does not have the time to monitor which skills areas the students are accessing in a lesson. AutoRoute has been designed to take that task away so that all students will follow a balanced sequence.

In AutoRoute, we have designed a series of set sequences for the student to work through Units of Sound, based on Placement results and the stages they are working on. The AutoRoute sequence will vary depending on Placement results, whether Overlap is on or off, if Reading is being followed, and if Memory and/or Dictation are open or not.

It is not always best to work on one page of each skill area each lesson. If Reading is the priority then a student needs to cover more reading pages than the other three. Also, Spelling, Memory and Dictation all support spelling.

By default, AutoRoute is off as this allows all skills to be open in the first few sessions whilst the tutor is getting the student started. Once the student is confident with all activities in all four skills, AutoRoute can be switched on.