

Adaptive Software

Education

Software that adjusts difficulty to a pupil, and where it actually works.

The evidence is best where the domain is structured and answers are objective.

Works best for

Arithmetic fluency and number facts

Vocabulary and spelling practice

Well-defined procedural skills

Scheduling spaced retrieval

Immediate feedback on objective answers

Works poorly for

Extended writing and argument

Open problems with many valid routes

Anything needing a human explanation

Teaching a concept for the first time

Replacing rather than supplementing teaching

Personalised usually means a claim about pacing, not about content. Adjusting difficulty is a real feature; adjusting to a learning style is not.