

## Introduction

Hot Potatoes is a software package that allows you to make six different types of interactive exercises:

- Multiple-choice quizzes
- Short answer quizzes
- Jumbled sentence exercises
- Crossword exercise
- Matching exercises
- Fill-in-the-blanks exercises

The exercises (called *Hot Potatoes*) are produced as web pages and so need a browser such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator to work. Once created and saved, they can be used on or off line.

The software to create these quizzes can be downloaded from Halfbaked Software [[www.halfbakedsoftware.com](http://www.halfbakedsoftware.com)] and used free of charge by educational establishments. *Hot Potatoes* is very easy to use, but it is a good idea to work your way through the tutorial that comes with the software before you start producing your own *Hot Potatoes*.

## Using the *Hot Potatoes* Resources

You do not need to download the software to try the quizzes since they are produced as web pages. Students can work through *Hot Potatoes* quizzes independently, making them useful for revision. A number of exercises can be linked together providing a means for students to work through a selection of exercises. They could also be used effectively as plenary or perhaps as extension exercises. It is worth searching the Internet for sites that bring together *Hot Potatoes* quizzes and exercises. Students may like to create their own quizzes to use with others in a class.

## Summary of Possible Quizzes

| Type of Hot Potato Exercise                     | Description   |
|---|---|
| <b>Multiple-choice quizzes</b><br>[JBC]         | The multiple choice tests can have any number of answers with the student's score being presented as a percentage as they work through the questions. The example given here is on light and colours.   |
| <b>Short answer quizzes</b><br>[JQuiz]          | Students provide a single word to answer the question or complete the sentence. The example in the Chemistry examples is on linking element names with their symbols. This incorporates pictures demonstrating what can be achieved after some experimenting with <i>Hot Potatoes</i> . |
| <b>Jumbled sentence exercises</b><br>[JMix]     | Students have to arrange a set of jumbled words to make a sentence or jumbled letters to reveal a word making a possible tool to help students understand sentence structures. The example given tests pupils' knowledge of the colour order of the spectrum.                           |
| <b>Crossword exercise</b><br>[JCross]           | A quick way of making online crosswords. Having typed in a list of words JCross will create a crossword and then you write the clues. Crosswords can help to develop pupils' scientific vocabulary. Samples are included in the Chemistry examples.                                     |
| <b>Matching exercises</b><br>[JMatch]           | This can be used either as a way of ordering statements or as a matching exercise. The example here is on the topic of the Environment.   |
| <b>Fill-in-the-blanks exercises</b><br>[JCloze] | Pupils have to fill in the gaps in a sentence. The software also allows you to give hints for the answers. There are numerous exercises in this format, in the Chemistry examples.  |

## Chemistry Examples

The Chemistry collection included has at least one quiz for each of topics in Key Stage 3 Chemistry. These demonstrate how *Hot Potatoes* quizzes can be linked together, incorporating pictures and diagrams. Their clear layout, and structured approach makes them very accessible to many students. All the Key Stage material is covered in this Chemistry collection with some more challenging examples in the Year 9 topics. It is recommended that a teacher should look through the examples to select appropriate examples for the particular class. These examples were created by Phil Brown who has his own website at <http://www.wpbschoolhouse.btinternet.co.uk/index.htm>