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A DESCRIPTION OF THE SOFTCAT COMPUTER ASSISTED TEACHING SYSTEM

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The CATS system is a set of computer programs that are used by instructors to create effective lessons without the need for programming skills or a computer background. The system can be mastered by teachers in a very short time. Using the system allows instructors additional class time to concentrate on more complex material. Lessons can be developed so that bright students can get through them quickly and others can go at a slower pace. Tests can be prepared with the system to evaluate material learned at an earlier time. Items for testing can be randomly selected from a pool to create a unique test screen in response to incorrect answers.

Additional features of the system include:

- * uses English commands
- * has extensive student testing ability with sound and graphic rewards
- * has extensive graphic and animation capabilities
- * has extensive answer analysis ability
- * runs on many different microcomputers (IBM, Apple, HP, etc.)
- * has multiple fonts and variable intercharacter spacing
- * allows simple creation of rectangles, ellipses, arcs and line drawings
- * has color, object shading, rotation, and scaling
- * has character, word, and numeric cursor position selection
- * uses unordered and synonymous multiple fields
- * uses unconditional and conditional branching
- * records student performance
- * easy to use for the student
- * allows extensive testing and validation of course lessons
- * sustains student interest by requiring frequent performance
- * student is constantly challenged to recall basic principles, solve problems
- * programs can be written to anticipate 90% of likely incorrect responses, or partially correct responses
- * allows positive recognition for both correct and partially correct responses
- * allows branching slower learner into appropriate review