What is an Algorithm?

Video transcript for 'What is an Algorithm?'.

If we want a computer to understand how to do something we need to give it an algorithm.

'Pick up brush'

Algorithm sounds like a big word doesn't it, but actually an algorithm is something very simple, but important.

'Pick up toothbrush'

An algorithm is a list of steps you give to computers to solve a problem or get something done.

Imagine that you need to show someone how you brush your teeth so they can learn how to do it themselves.

You would need to explain all the little steps you do, in the right order, so they can understand how to do it without getting confused.

The instructions would go like this:
1   Open the toothpaste
2   Put a bit of toothpaste on the toothbrush
3   Open your mouth
4   Brush your teeth nicely
5   Rinse your mouth with water
6   Smile

It is important to explain the right steps in the right order, so you can get great results.