

# Abacus helped me think and concentrate better, believe in myself

An abacus is a mental exercise that helps our brain stay refreshed. It is an ancient counting tool consisting of a rectangular frame with beads on the rods. It can be used for performing arithmetic calculations, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. People have been using the abacus for thousands of years.

When I first joined my abacus class, I was a little nervous. The colourful beads on the frame looked confusing, and I wondered how I would ever learn to use them. But after a few weeks, I started to enjoy it. My teacher told us that each bead stands for a number, and by moving them, we can add, subtract, multiply, and even divide.

At first, I made many mistakes, but slowly, I began to understand how the Abacus works. The most exciting part came when we learned mental math. My teacher said we must imagine the beads in our minds. It sounded impossible, but with practice, I could see the beads moving in my head! Now, I can solve big sums faster than before, sometimes even faster than a calculator.

The abacus has also made me more focused and confident. Before, I didn't like math very much, but now it's my favourite subject. I even help my friends at school with their sums. I won fifth place in the national and international abacus competition, and my parents were so proud of me. I'm happy to say that I have inspired my younger sister, who is 5 years old, to join me in the abacus class. Learning the abacus has taught me that practice makes everything possible. It's not just about math, it has helped me think better, concentrate more, and believe in myself. I'm delighted that I joined Abacus classes, and I would tell every kid to try it because it makes learning fun and exciting!

## Student Speak



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