

## Aleks FAQ

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### **Why doesn't ALEKS always allow me to study whatever topic I want to?**

ALEKS guides you through the specific curriculum your instructor has chosen. After ALEKS assesses your current Knowledge State and your goal, it will determine which topics you are ready to learn next. Other topics may not be available to you yet because ALEKS has determined that you're not yet ready to learn them. ALEKS tries to ensure that you are only learning the topics for which you have demonstrated readiness.

### **What is "MyPie" and how do I add topics to it?**

Your pie illustrates your current level of knowledge in a subject. If you roll your mouse over a "slice" of your pie, you can choose from a list of topics shown in a pop-up window that appears next to the pie slice. Not every slice is available at a given time. As you progress through the material, you will be able to access new topics until you have mastered all of them.

You fill in your pie and achieve mastery in the subject matter by working in the Learning Mode on concepts and skills that the assessment has determined you are most "ready to learn." The goal is to fill in the pie completely.

### **Why is "MyPie" empty after a new assessment?**

Most likely, you had a recent assessment and answered "I don't know" (or "I haven't learned this yet") to every question. You will need to ask your instructor, if you are enrolled directly into his/her class, to request a new assessment. If your instructor does not have access directly to your account, please ask your instructor to contact ALEKS Customer Support to request a new assessment for you.

### **When I click on a slice of my pie chart, why does ALEKS tell me "No Topics available"?**

When you get this message, it means that the next topic(s) that you want to study from the slice have one or more prerequisite topics in other slices that you must complete first.

### **What is an ALEKS assessment?**

The purpose of an ALEKS assessment is to determine your current Knowledge State in a particular subject. When you take an assessment, ALEKS will ask you between 15 and 35 questions. During the assessment, you will not be told whether your answers are correct or incorrect. If you don't know how to answer a question, do not guess. Instead, click on the "I Don't Know" (or "I haven't learned this yet") button, which appears below each question.

You will always be assessed when you first register with ALEKS. You will also be automatically assessed at regular intervals during your use of ALEKS, and you will also be assessed if your teacher or instructor schedules you for an assessment.

### **Why does ALEKS periodically give me new assessments?**

ALEKS periodically reassesses you to confirm your retention of the topics you have studied in your ALEKS course. These periodic assessments are called "automatic" assessments and are given based on your rate of progress in ALEKS and on the amount of time you have spent working in ALEKS.

The results of such an assessment may indicate the need for you to further review topics previously deemed "mastered." These topics and perhaps others that depend upon them are then returned to the ALEKS pie slices and made available for learning again. The ALEKS assessment mechanism ensures that you make maximum progress in learning and retaining the subject matter in your ALEKS course.

### **In a new assessment, why must I review a topic I have already mastered?**

If you demonstrate mastery of a particular topic in an assessment, ALEKS may expect you to demonstrate continued mastery of that topic in subsequent assessments. If you seem to need review, ALEKS will subtract that topic (and possibly other topics that depend upon it) from your pie, making them available again for selection in Learning Mode.

For this reason, you should always try to do your best on every assessment. Only answer "I Don't Know" (or "I haven't learned this yet") to problems you truly do not know how to do. If you believe you know how to work through a problem, you should try to answer it.