

DEBUGGING

Coding can be a process of trial and error—testing out ideas and seeing if they work. It is pretty common to make mistakes when doing this. A bug is another name for a mistake in a piece of code that stops it from working correctly. Debugging means fixing those mistakes. You'll find the answers to these questions on page 33.

Bugs for breakfast

Get started with debugging by finding the mistake in these instructions for making a piece of toast:

- Get a piece of bread.
- 2 Put it in the toaster.
- 3 Spread butter on the toast.
- Take the toast out of the toaster.

B wrong

Here are some commands to draw a letter "b," like the one shown here. But what's wrong with the commands?



Logo bug

This rectangle is 100 pixels high and 300 pixels wide.

300

This code should draw the rectangle—but there's a bug or two somewhere!

fd **100**

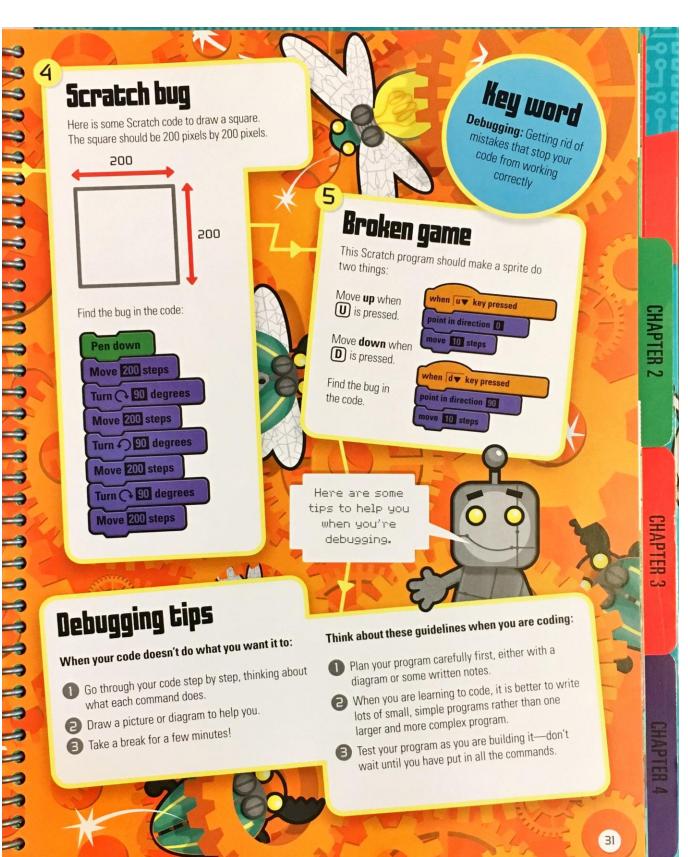
rt **90**

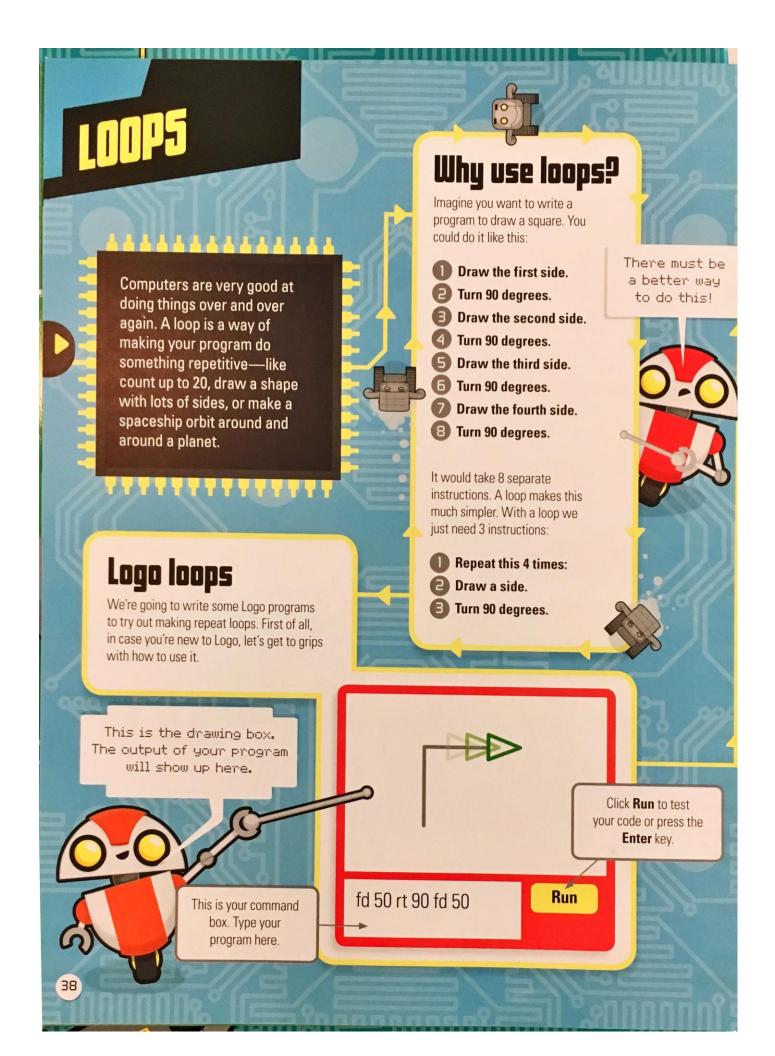
fd **300**

righrtt 90 fd 100

rt **90**

fd **90**





LOOPS IN SCRATCH

Now we're going to look at how we can use loops in Scratch. Loops work the same way in Scratch as in Logo, but instead of typing your commands, you drag and drop them. Let's give it a try.

Draw a square

If you wanted to draw a square in Logo, you would type:

repeat 4 [fd 10 rt 90]

Run

In Scratch, we can create the same code by dragging **Repeat**, **Move**, and **Turn** blocks:

Go to the Scratch website then click **Create** or **Try it out**. Turn to page 4 for help. Now click on the **Scripts** tab in the center of the Scratch screen. Choose the **Control** group.

Looks Control
Sound Sensing

Drag a **Repeat** block onto the scripts area on the right.



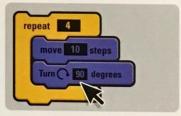
Change the number of loops to repeat to 4.



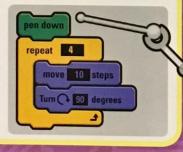
4 Click on the Motion group.



Drag in a **Move** block and a **Turn** block.
Then change the amount to turn to 90 degrees.



Drag a Pen down block from the Pen group.





Click the **Pen down**block to run the
loop. Drag the cat
sprite out of the
way. Your program
will draw a square
on the screen.

Saving your work

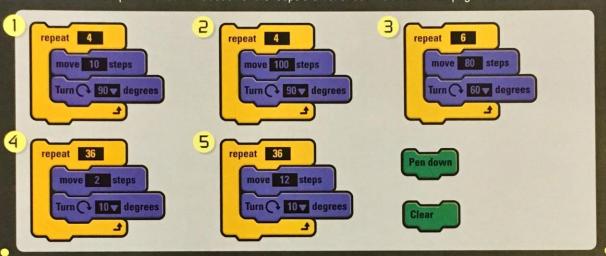
Click the **File** menu at the top of the page on the left. Then click: **New** – to start some new work.

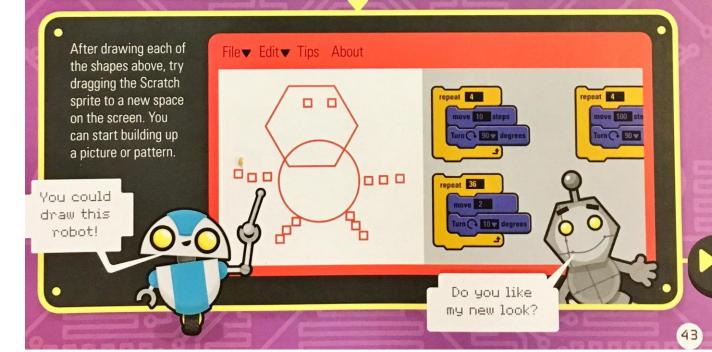
Download to your computer — to save a file on to your computer. **Upload from your computer** — to open a file you saved earlier.



Practicing Scratch loops

Create these 5 loop blocks on the scripts area. You'll also need to drag over a **Pen down** and a **Clear** block. Try clicking on the **Pen down** code block and then on each of the **Repeat** blocks in turn. Click **Clear** to erase your shapes. Test out what each of the loops draws. Check the answers on page 62.



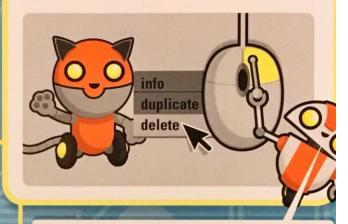


LOOPS FOREVER

Sometimes we need loops that run forever. This is particularly useful in games where we want something to keep happening, like moving a sprite around. We're going to code a game where a fish keeps swimming around the screen, following the mouse pointer.

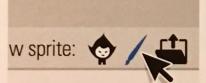
How to code a swimming fish

Start by going to the Scratch website. Delete the main sprite by right-clicking on it and then choosing **Delete**.



Right-clicking means press this button if you're on a PC. If you're on a Mac, press **Control** and click.

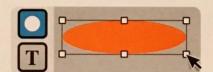
Now make your own fish sprite.
Start by clicking **Paint new sprite**.



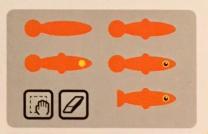
Select the **Ellipse** tool.



Draw a wide ellipse.



Draw more ellipses...and use the **Erase** or **Select** tool to delete the back of its tail.



Now click on the **Scripts** tab next to the red stop button. You're going to drag some code to the scripts area to make the fish swim forward once the program starts.

Drag the **When green flag clicked** block from the **Events** group.



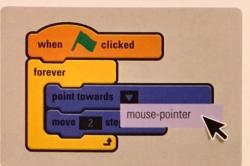
Drag the **Forever** loop block from the **Control** group and the **Move** block from the **Motion** group.

Change the **Move...steps** value to 2 to slow the fish down.

Click the green flag (near the top of the screen) to test your code.

To make the fish change direction, drag the **Point towards** block from the **Motion** group into the loop. Set it to "mouse pointer."

Test your code by clicking the green flag!



Every time the loop repeats, it makes the fish point towards the mouse pointer. It also moves it every loop. Without

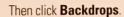
loops, the game wouldn't work!

Download our robots to use as sprites on Scratch! Go to http://www.qed-publishing.co.uk/extraresources.php or scan this:



Now draw your own background picture for the game.

First click Stage.

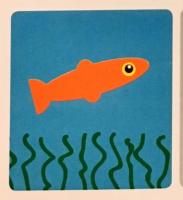








Click the **Fill** tool and choose a blue color. Now click the background to color it in.





Use the **Brush** tool to draw some reeds.



Use the **Line width** slider to change the size of the reeds.



Your program is now complete! Click the green flag icon at the top of the screen to start playing.

REPEAT UNTIL...

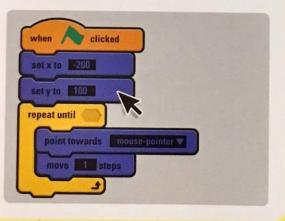
Sometimes we need to stop loops when something happens—for example, if a player in a game bumps into a wall. To program things like this, we use a "repeat until" loop. We are going to code a simple maze game to learn how to use this technique.

Make the Scratch sprite smaller by clicking the **Shrink** icon at the top of the screen, and then clicking the Scratch sprite several times.



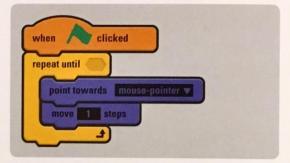
To make the sprite start in the same place each time, drag the **Set x to** and **Set y to** code blocks from the **Motion** group to the scripts area.

Experiment with changing the **Set x** and **Set y** values.



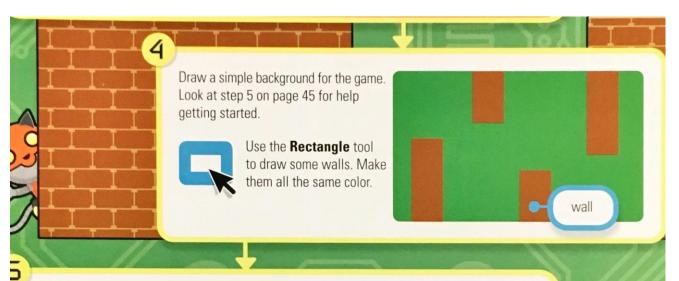
How to code a maze game

Start Scratch. Drag code to the scripts area to make the Scratch sprite move slowly across the screen, pointing towards the mouse pointer.



For help, see steps 3 and 4 on pages 44–45. But use a **Repeat until** block instead of a **Forever** block. Change the speed of the sprite to move 1 step each loop.





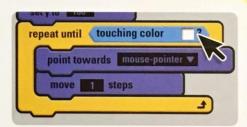
The **Repeat until** block will loop forever because we haven't told it when to stop yet. It needs to repeat until the sprite touches a brown color—the wall color.



Click on the Scratch sprite icon and then the **Scripts** tab to bring your code back.



Click the Sensing group.



Drag a **Touching color** block onto the top of the **Repeat until** block.



Click the colored square then choose the color to check for...



...by clicking one of the walls.



Now your game will play until the sprite hits a wall. Test it by clicking the green flag at the top of the screen. To play again, drag your sprite away from the wall.