



TAX STARTER

How to Use This App

A practical guide to getting the most out of Tax Starter — how it's set up, what each tool is for, and how to use it alongside the Intuit Academy Tax Level 1 syllabus.

USER GUIDE

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The Syllabus Was Never The Trainer

Intuit's goal for the Tax Level 1 syllabus isn't to make you a tax expert — it's to make you a customer specialist who happens to know tax. The course bombards you with technical material, but what it's actually training is how you respond to customers and present yourself. The hard data — the forms, the schedules, the actual mechanics of a return — is secondary, a backdrop to the real curriculum.

That's fine for Intuit's purpose. It's a problem for yours. You still have to pass a technical exam and sit an on-camera interview where you're expected to explain that “secondary” material with confidence. The syllabus gives you one linear pass at it — see it once, take a note, answer once, move on — with no repetition and nothing that tells you what actually stuck.

Tax Starter is the piece the syllabus was never built to be: a trainer for the technical content itself. It takes the same curriculum, breaks it into the eight topics the exam actually covers, and drills you on it — repeatedly, adaptively, until it's not just something you were shown once, but something you know.

Built For a Bigger Screen

Tax Starter is a web-based platform, built for use on a PC, laptop, or any larger-screened device — that's where the full experience lives.

Need to study on the go? A mobile version is available too, at [\[mobile version — link pending\]](#).

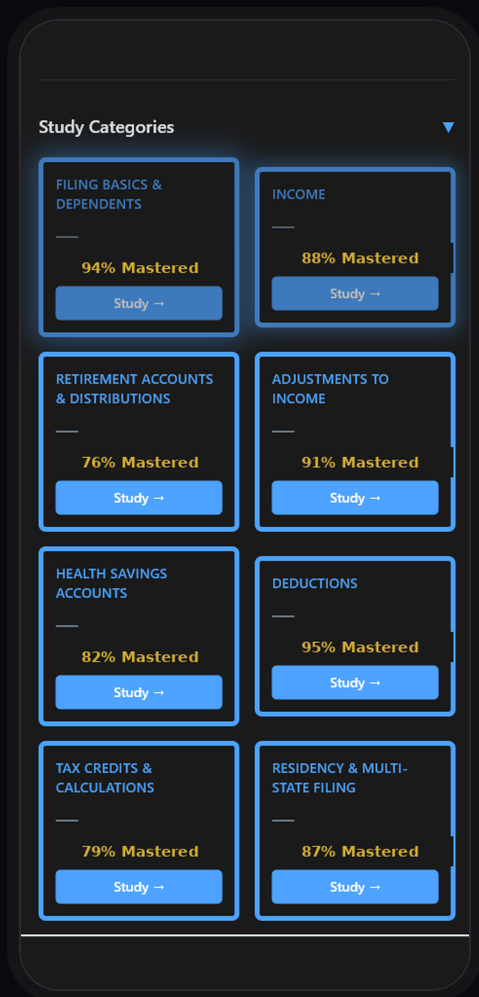
03 — GETTING SET UP

Pick The Level That Suits You

Right after you open the app, you pick the level that suits you: **Full Curriculum** — start from the beginning, everything loaded and ready to go (Beginner). **Hot Topics** — targets topics based on where your knowledge already stands, finding your weak spots first (Professional). **Refresher** — quick tools built to keep your existing knowledge sharp and your mind in focus (Expert).

Nothing here is locked in — whichever you pick, you can still explore the full question bank. From there, Tax Starter builds your study plan and shows it back to you on one screen, with a one-tap way to adjust any of it later.





04 — YOUR DASHBOARD

The Hub To Studying

All 8 topics are laid out with a live mastery percentage each: Filing Basics & Dependents, Income, Adjustments to Income, Deductions, Retirement Accounts & Distributions, Health Savings Accounts, Tax Credits & Calculations, and Residency & Multi-State Filing.

Tap any category's "Study" button to jump straight into a session on just that topic. Once a subject is mastered, it moves into the Mastered section at the bottom — still available if you want to review it, just out of the way while you focus on what's left.

Progress saves automatically, so you can close the browser and pick up right where you left off.

The 60 Second Trainers Hub

From the home screen, "60 Second Trainers" is the hub for focused practice — five tools built for whenever you've got a few minutes rather than a full study session.

Flash Cards

The time-proven method of retention this subject matter was built around.

Scenario Drills

The retention engine of the group. Pick a specific category and it drills just that topic; leave it open and it automatically pulls from whatever categories you're scoring below mastery on first, so even a quick burst lands where your attention is needed most.

Rapid Fire

Quick-hitting questions with two options. Choose one, or it moves on to the next question without waiting.

Glossary Quiz

We recommend starting here. You need to master the forms and schedules first, since a multitude of other questions on the exam assume you already know them.

Interview Prep

Practice explaining your answers out loud — the specific skill the on-camera interview tests.

The Dress Rehearsal

Reachable straight from the home screen whenever you're ready — no gate, no requirement to clear everything else first.

It's deliberately bigger than the real thing — more questions than the actual Intuit Academy Tax Level 1 exam. That's not padding; it's built that way so that finishing it means you actually know the material, not just that you got lucky enough to pass a shorter test.

07 — THE GLOSSARY

A Reference, Not a Reading List

Reachable from the home screen (Glossary of Terms), this is a pure reference — quick, plain-English definitions for every term you'll run into in the app and on the exam, grouped by category.

The first group, Forms & Schedules, doesn't just define each one — Form 1040, Schedules 1, 2, 3, A, B, C — it tells you exactly which line on each flows into which line on the next, the part most study guides skip.

Use it as a lookup while you're working through the syllabus or drilling questions. This is also why the Glossary Quiz is the recommended starting point in the 60 Second Trainers hub — mastering the forms and schedules here first is what unlocks a multitude of other questions elsewhere in the app.

Tax  Starter:

Glossary of Terms

Quick definitions for the terms you'll see throughout the app and on the exam, grouped by category.

Forms & Schedules

Form 1040 — The main federal individual income tax return — everything else ultimately feeds into it.

Schedule 1 — Reports additional income (like unemployment or business income) and adjustments to income (like student loan interest or an IRA deduction). Additional income totals on Schedule 1, line 10, flow to Form 1040, line 8; adjustments total on line 26 flow to Form 1040, line 10.

Schedule 2 — Reports additional taxes owed beyond the regular tax calculation, such as self-employment tax. Line 3 (like the alternative minimum tax) flows to Form 1040, line 17; line 21 (including self-employment tax) flows to Form 1040, line 23.

Schedule 3 — Reports additional credits and payments not entered directly on Form 1040, like education credits or estimated tax payments. Nonrefundable credits on line 8 flow to Form 1040, line 20; other payments and refundable credits on line 15 flow to Form 1040, line 31.

Schedule A — Used to itemize deductions instead of taking the standard deduction. The total on Schedule A, line 17, carries to Form 1040, line 12e.

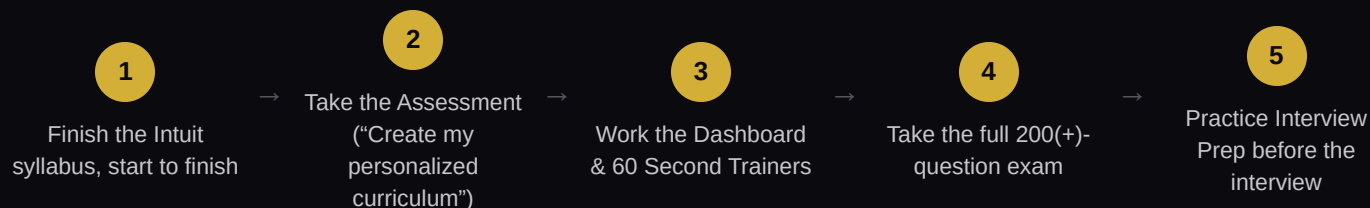
Schedule B — Reports interest and dividend income over the IRS threshold that requires it to be itemized. That interest and dividend income feed Form 1040, lines 2b and 3b.

Schedule C — Reports profit or loss from a sole proprietorship or self-employment activity. Net profit or loss carries to Schedule 1, line 3, which flows into Form 1040, line 8.

How To Sequence It

Go through the Intuit syllabus first, start to finish. Don't try to run it side by side with Tax Starter — there's no need to interleave them.

Once you're done, the gap will be obvious. Unless you're already a tax professional, finishing that single linear pass is enough to know you're not ready for the test yet.



Here's the most efficient way to start in Tax Starter: take the Assessment first ("Create my personalized curriculum" on the home screen). It's the true reflection of what you actually know, and it builds your curriculum around that — not a guess, not a generic starting point. If you've already got 2 or 3 topics down cold, the Assessment moves those straight into the Mastered section for you. They're not gone — the content's always there if you want to revisit it — they're just out of your way while you focus on what's actually left to learn.

Passing It vs. Being Ready For It

Passing the exam and being ready for the interview are two different milestones. The exam checks whether you picked the right answer. The interview checks whether you can explain why — out loud, on camera, in real time, to someone evaluating how you'd sound to an actual customer.

That's the flip side of the gap this guide started with: Intuit's syllabus already trained the presentation half of the job — how you come across, how you handle a customer conversation. What it didn't give you was the technical confidence to back that up when the question gets specific. Knowing an answer and being able to defend it out loud aren't the same skill, and the interview is built to test the second one.

Interview Prep, in the 60 Second Trainers hub, is built for exactly this — practicing the actual skill of explaining your answers out loud, so the first time you do it isn't during the interview itself.