

EDUCATION & LEARNING / STUDYING

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Digital classrooms, e-learning platforms, and studying with AI

Activity 1: Tech in education — helpful or distracting?

Discuss these questions with a partner:

1. Do you prefer studying online or in a traditional face-to-face classroom? Why?
2. What digital tools or apps do you regularly use for learning English or other subjects?
3. How do you feel about using AI tools (like chat assistants or automated tutors) for schoolwork?
4. What is the biggest advantage of learning online compared to sitting in a classroom?
5. Have you ever experienced technical problems during an online lesson or test? What happened?
6. Do social media and smartphones make studying easier or much harder?

Activity 2: Compare online vs. traditional learning

Work with a partner. Read the statements below. Decide if online learning or traditional classroom learning is better suited for each situation and give reasons using the expressions box.

1. Preparing for a speaking exam with a group of international students.
2. Learning complex practical skills like laboratory experiments or woodworking.
3. Studying while balancing a full-time job and family commitments.
4. Staying motivated and avoiding procrastination over a long semester.
5. Asking quick clarifying questions during a complicated lecture.

Use these expressions:

- On the one hand... but on the other hand...
- While online learning offers flexibility, traditional classes provide...
- It really depends on how self-disciplined the learner is.
- I'd argue that face-to-face interaction is essential for...

REAL ENGLISH BOX

Useful expressions for talking about online learning & technology:

- To log in / log off — I need to log in to my student portal before the session starts.
- To glitch / freeze — My connection glitched, so I missed the teacher's instructions.
- Self-paced learning — I prefer self-paced courses because I can study at night.
- Tech-savvy — She is very tech-savvy and adapted to the new app instantly.
- To lose focus — It's easy to lose focus when studying on a laptop with notifications on.
- User-friendly — The learning app is so user-friendly that even total beginners can use it.

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Activity 3: Name that tech concept! ("Who Am I?")

Read each real-life scenario or statement below. Identify which term from the word bank best describes the situation.

platform • self-paced course • screen fatigue • interactive media
to stream • user-friendly interface • distance learning • digital literacy

1. "I don't have to join a live video call at a specific time. I can watch the recorded lectures and submit my homework whenever it fits into my schedule."

   👉 **Term:** _____

2. "After spending six straight hours staring at my laptop for classes and writing essays, my eyes are dry, my head hurts, and I can't focus."

   👉 **Term:** _____

3. "Our school uses Canvas. It's where teachers post assignments, upload PDFs, grade papers, and make announcements."

   👉 **Term:** _____

4. "I didn't download the video file to my hard drive; I just watched it directly on YouTube while connected to Wi-Fi."

   👉 **Term:** _____

5. "Even though my grandmother isn't very good with computers, she found the new learning app simple to navigate because the buttons and menu were so clear."

   👉 **Term:** _____

6. "She can quickly evaluate if a website is trustworthy, format documents, write professional emails, and protect her password online."

   👉 **Term:** _____

7. "Rather than just reading a static textbook, the lesson included click-to-play audio clips, mini-quizzes, and drag-and-drop exercises."

   👉 **Term:** _____

8. "He is completing his master's degree from a university in Spain while living in South America, taking all of his classes online."

   👉 **Term:** _____

Activity 4: Design an online course

Imagine you are designing a brand-new online learning module for adult English learners. Work with a partner to outline your course concept.

Course Topic / Focus: _____

Target Audience: _____

Key Features (Select 3):

- [__] Weekly live video discussions
- [__] Self-paced interactive quizzes
- [__] AI-powered speaking practice
- [__] Peer video feedback groups
- [__] Downloadable audio summaries

Explain your choices to another pair. Why did you choose these features, and how will they keep students engaged?

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Activity 5: Problem-solving digital scenarios

Work with a partner. Choose one scenario below and create a short 2-minute dialogue between a student and a teacher/advisor proposing solutions using tech strategies.

- **Scenario A:** A student is struggling with online screen fatigue and loses concentration during 2-hour video lectures.
- **Scenario B:** A student wants to use AI to improve their writing, but is afraid of becoming overly dependent on it.
- **Scenario C:** A student lives in a remote area with unstable internet and frequently misses live assignment submission deadlines.

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Teacher's Key

Activity

1. A self-paced course
2. Screen fatigue
3. A platform
4. To stream
5. A user-friendly interface
6. Digital literacy
7. Interactive media
8. Distance learning

Activities 1, 3, 4 and 5:
Answers will vary. Encourage students to use technical vocabulary appropriately and support their reasoning with structured arguments.

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