

E-learning

A

E-learning terminology

Look at this glossary of e-learning terminology.

Distance education: Education in which the instructor and the student are in different locations and may also be working at different times.

E-learning: Learning that occurs through the use of digitally delivered content and support.

Synchronous learning: Online learning in which instructors and participants are logged in at the same time and instructors and students communicate directly with each other in real time.

Asynchronous learning: Online learning in which students and instructors can participate **intermittently**¹ at times that suit them individually.

Learning environment: The physical or **virtual**² context for learning.

LMS (learning management system): Software that is used to organise the administration of learning. It allows instructors to register and **track**³ learners, and can record data and provide feedback for all participants.

Online community: A meeting place on the internet for people who share common interests and needs, **facilitating**⁴ contact and **collaboration**⁵ between them.

Learning portal: Website offering **consolidated**⁶ access to **multiple**⁷ sources of educational resources.

¹ stopping and starting repeatedly, not continuously ² that can be experienced via a computer, without the need to go to the physical location ³ follow the progress of ⁴ making easier
⁵ working together with the same goals ⁶ brought together in one place ⁷ very many

B

E-learning environments

Blended learning combines work done in **conventional**¹ classrooms with **computer-mediated**² work. An important feature of blended learning is **the flipped classroom**³, which enables teachers to choose the best combination of in-class and out-of-class work / homework. Online elements of blended learning include **blogs/vlogs**, **wikis**, **fora**⁴ and **webinars**⁵, as well as traditional tasks **monitored**⁶ by an instructor. Students can usually work **at their own pace**⁷. **Peer assessment**⁸ is also made easier and **plagiarism detection software**⁹ can be used to check essays and assignments submitted online. Many universities now also have **virtual campuses** for distance learning and offer **MOOCs**¹⁰ that can be accessed globally. **Mobile learning**¹¹ has also grown in popularity and developments in **adaptive learning**¹² technology are transforming the learning environment.

¹ traditional ² which happens via a computer ³ where work usually done in class can become homework and vice-versa ⁴ a blog is a record of opinions and experiences on the internet; a blog with video is a vlog; a wiki allows users to add and edit content, a forum (plural fora) is a website where people can discuss subjects ⁵ seminars delivered over the internet ⁶ watched and checked ⁷ at their own speed ⁸ where students mark each other's work ⁹ software that checks whether someone has copied someone else's work ¹⁰ massive open online courses: etc. ¹¹ learning via smart phones, tablets, the individual user ¹² learning where the computer changes the feedback it gives according to the behaviour of

Exercises

21.1 Match the examples with e-learning phrases from A opposite.

- 1 a language course in which the teacher gives feedback to work that students deposited online earlier
- 2 a classroom
- 3 a student chat room online where students discuss their courses, problems, etc.
- 4 an engineering course where the teacher and students are in immediate contact, with each other
- 5 a college web page where students can find links to websites connected with their course
- 6 a social work course in which students study at home and correspond with their tutors by phone or email
- 7 software that lets a maths teachers see what work their students have done, how long they spent on it, etc.
- 8 studying geography via a computer rather than in a face-to-face classroom

21.2 Rewrite the underlined parts of the sentences using words and phrases from A opposite.

- 1 The LMS can follow the progress of courses and see how the students are using them.
- 2 The online course provides an environment experienced via the computer which makes learning easier for students.
- 3 Students can access material from very many sources via the learning portal. The portal gives them access all joined together to content, support and services.
- 4 In asynchronous learning, students only interact with their teachers at given times, not continuously. However, online learning encourages working together, sharing the same goals.

21.3 Read what Dr Phelan says about a blended learning programme and complete it with words from B opposite. The first letter of each word is given to help you.

Next semester we'll be going over to the blended learning programme. For the online elements you'll record your experience of the course and any thoughts you have on ¹b....., or ²v..... if you want to use video. And you can work together and edit stuff on ³w..... and leave messages on the ⁴f..... . The good thing is that, for the tasks and exercises, you'll be able to work at your own ⁵p..... . I'll be ⁶m..... your work but I won't be watching you all the time. You'll be assessed in the normal way for the assignments, just as you would in the ⁷c..... classroom, but there'll also be ⁸p..... assessment where you'll assess each other's work. One thing I would warn you about, though: the ⁹p..... detection software is very good these days, so make sure everything you submit is your own work and not copied from the internet or from another student. And you won't have to panic to take notes at lectures and so on because there'll be ¹⁰w..... you can watch at any time.

21.4 Complete the sentences using words from the box.

computer-mediated flipped classroom virtual campus
mobile learning MOOCs adaptive learning

- 1 Smart phones and tablets are useful..... resources.
- 2..... improves as students input their essays to the system. The computer learns about each student's typical behaviour and can give individual feedback.
- 3..... pedagogy only began on a large scale in the first decade of this century. Before that, most learning was done using books in face-to-face classrooms.
- 4 The..... alters the balance between what is done in class and what is done for homework.
- 5 When you enrol as a student in a....., you do not even need to leave your home.
- 6 Popular..... can often attract hundreds of thousands of participants globally.