

TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGE THROUGH BLENDED LEARNING

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Abstract: This article deals with the effectiveness of using the blended learning method in teaching English. It represents advantages and benefits of blending learning which creates the duty of the learning process to both the teacher and students.

Key words: approach, benefit, learners, online, programme, maximize, improve, opportunity

Blended learning has become one of the most frequent methods and resources to teach EFL. However, with the advent of technology, the concept of blended learning has gained popularity. It involves combining face-to-face classes with virtual learning, providing students with a wide range of materials and resources in a systematic manner. This article aims to explore the different components of blended learning and how they have been utilized in various research studies conducted in different settings. Additionally, it highlights the importance of considering certain factors when designing, implementing, and evaluating this model. Furthermore, it encourages teachers to view blended learning as a unique approach to teaching EFL and leverage the emerging pedagogical tools available. The key to a successful blended learning approach lies in effectively utilizing the strengths of each medium and seamlessly integrated a combination of diverse methods and resources for teaching EFL.

Delivery modes that bring the two learning environments to complement each other. While blended learning is not a new concept, it has been commonly used in distance learning courses by combining self-access content with face-to-face or telephone support. Similarly, 'traditional' courses have always combined various types of teaching methods like lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, and group work offer learners a wide range of learning opportunities. It is important for good teachers to utilize multiple methods or approaches in their teaching, just as good learners should combine different strategies in their learning process. This concept, known as blended learning, involves teachers integrating different forms of media such as print, audio, and video with classroom interaction to enhance learners' output and skills development. What sets blended learning apart is the use of technology to combine all these different media in an online environment. This online space not only enables learner-to-learner interaction but also encourages incidental and exploratory learning. It also allows learners and teachers to stay connected even outside the classroom if they choose to do

so. The removal of physical space and distance as barriers is a significant advantage for learners. Blended learning has various definitions, but they all share the common elements of combining face-to-face and online learning environments in a complementary manner to support learners within and outside the classroom. In simpler terms, blended learning refers to any study program that effectively blends synchronous interactive study and asynchronous individual study. The blended approach offers several benefits for both learners and teachers, such as catering to different learning styles and preferences. Traditional schooling predominantly focused on linguistic and logical teaching methods. Not everyone finds this suitable. Blended learning allows students to work in a manner that suits them without causing distractions to others, as they have the flexibility to study asynchronously for a portion of their coursework. Teachers find it convenient to create study programs that cater to different learning styles, such as visual or aural preferences (utilizing pictures, images, and sounds, such as watching videos or listening to audio) or verbal preferences (using language, such as reading a text).

As a specialist content writer, I will paraphrase the given text without changing its content and ensure that the sentences are in active voice. The goal is to make the content sound humanly written and have an 8th grader readability level. Furthermore, I will avoid using difficult English words.

1. Asking learners to prepare a spoken or written text can be made more logical by using an inductive approach to grammar.

2. A deeper approach to learning is achieved when learners have the ability to watch a video or listen to an audio text multiple times without feeling inadequate. Reading a text quickly to grasp the main idea without feeling rushed also contributes to deeper learning. Online courses offer the advantage of allowing learners to choose their pathway based on their specific needs and interests. They can easily go back to review and refresh their knowledge before moving forward.

3. Providing More Individual Attention. Every teacher is familiar with the challenge of having students at different levels in the same classroom. Typically, there are the faster learners who make up the top 10%, the slower learners who make up the bottom 10%, and the majority of the classroom population, which is about 80%. With limited time and a packed syllabus, it's easy to overlook the needs of those in the top and bottom 10%. However, blended learning offers a solution by allowing teachers to create courses that cater to the specific needs of all learners. Blended learning ensures that high-performing students are given the opportunity to expand their knowledge beyond the requirements of the examination. They can search for answers to their own questions online or even prepare for upcoming topics in advance. On the other hand, slower learners are provided with extra help through structured and graded online activities. They can revise and consolidate classroom content at their own pace and in

their own time. Additionally, they are encouraged to read texts, watch videos, or listen to audio materials before each lesson to better prepare themselves for active participation in the classroom. Furthermore, a blended approach utilizing a Learning Management System allows teachers to easily track and monitor individual learners' progress. This gives them the chance to provide timely feedback, which can help improve learners' performance. With the use of blended learning, teachers can ensure that every student receives the attention they deserve, regardless of their learning pace or abilities.

4. Maximizing social interaction in the classroom is best achieved by utilizing the classroom environment as a social space for communication. Blended learning enhances social interaction by allowing the teacher and the learner to have more time. This extra time allows the teacher to create engaging learning experiences, knowing that learners have already practiced online. In the classroom, the teacher often takes a step back and allows the learners to take the spotlight. They encourage the learners to actively participate and communicate with their peers. Additionally, in face-to-face settings, learners can seek clarification on language-related matters or even take on the role of the teacher by answering questions from their classmates.

5. Creating confident learners is a well-known challenge when it comes to learning a second language. Many students are afraid to speak in class because they worry about making mistakes and appearing foolish in front of their classmates. However, a blended approach offers a solution to this problem. By using a blended approach, students are able to prepare and practice on their own through the use of Learning Management Systems (LMS). These software applications provide e-learning resources and tools, such as tracking student progress and reporting on their work. Additionally, LMS platforms also offer administrative and documentation features. The blended approach not only allows students to learn at their own pace, but it also gives them the opportunity to revise and reinforce what they have learned in the classroom. Furthermore, it provides a platform for additional practice outside of the traditional classroom setting.

6. This interactive input is easily accessible to learners, allowing them to engage with the material in a dynamic and engaging way. Through blended learning, students can access a variety of multimedia resources that enhance their understanding and retention of the content. These resources include videos, audio clips, written texts, and visuals, all of which are carefully selected to cater to the learners' specific needs and interests. By providing a diverse range of interactive materials, blended learning ensures that students are actively involved in their own learning process and are able to personalize their learning experience based on their individual preferences and goals.

7. Receiving timely support is crucial for the learning process as it boosts motivation and enhances learning outcomes. In a blended learning approach,

technology plays a vital role in providing immediate assistance through features like instant feedback, virtual meetings, and a wide range of learning tools. These tools, such as language functions, various activities, cultural insights, grammar explanations, and a glossary, are readily available whenever students require them. Just-in-time support, similar to the flexibility of access, empowers students to take charge of their own learning by promoting decision-making skills. Consequently, this fosters a sense of control and autonomy, serving as a strong motivator for learners.

8. Encouraging exploration and promoting independence are important aspects of learning. We can learn in various ways, whether intentionally or by chance. Blended learning is a great way to encourage learners to discover new things. By browsing the internet, navigating from one page to another, and engaging in different activities, learners can use serendipity to uncover not only what they were originally searching for but also other valuable information. This process allows learners to reflect on their knowledge and what they have learned, enabling them to build upon it and further develop their understanding. As learners become more proficient, their reliance on the teacher gradually decreases, promoting confidence and independence. The ideal teacher-student relationship is one that fades over time, indicating that both parties have successfully fulfilled their roles. The teacher supports the learners' needs and desires, while the learners take responsibility for their own learning. A blended approach, when effectively combined, benefits both the teacher and the learner, allowing them to fulfill their respective roles to the fullest extent.

Blended teaching offers many advantages. First, it enables students to learn at their own pace, which reduces stress and increases motivation. This personalized approach benefits both advanced students and those who may be struggling. Secondly, blended teaching provides flexibility and efficiency. By moving instruction and practice online, teachers can create an engaging classroom environment and spend more time on interactive activities that enhance critical thinking and communication skills. Lastly, the ability to access student data allows teachers to better address individual needs. In summary, blended learning is worth considering as it promotes learner independence and provides students with enhanced learning opportunities, ultimately leading to improved academic outcomes.

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