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DISTANCE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR ENGLISH CLASSES

Nowadays, distance education is an important part of the educational process. It is widely used in everyday education by universities and schools, state and private. Using technologies of distance education, academic institutions make the educational process personalized, and easily adaptable in accordance with students' needs.

In the beginning of 2020, most of academic institutions went online under the conditions of stay-at-home policy, so those who had already used virtual platforms for teaching definitely were one step ahead of the others.

Among latest technologies used for teaching online, videoconference is on top for English teachers. It connects students and teachers in simultaneous two-way communication. Everyone may see and speak with each other for real-time discussions via the Internet. Classes may be scheduled and can include either one student or the whole group. The most popular resources are Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts and others.

A web conference is a combination of using a Web browser for visuals and an audioconference for discussion. Students communicate with their teachers and collaborate in real-time. Students can show and receive exercises, add text, demonstrate Web sites, share documents and use Web chat. Students can interact with each other to create new content during the course.

Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platforms may be used for extra educational activities. They are free and available for anyone to enroll. MOOCs provide an affordable and flexible way to learn new skills, advance your career and deliver quality educational experiences at scale. Millions of people around the world use MOOCs to learn for a variety of reasons, including: career development, changing careers, college preparations, supplemental learning, lifelong learning, corporate eLearning & training, and more.

To prepare for the TOEFL and IELTS language tests, different ESL courses are available provided by world leading universities. Students learn English vocabulary, writing and conversation to prepare for these important English proficiency tests with online classes. The most popular MOOC projects for English classes are:

Alison – Online courses from experts, available in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

Canvas Network – Course catalogue accessible for free for teachers in order to support lifelong learning and professional development.

Coursera – Online courses taught by instructors from well-recognized universities and companies.

European Schoolnet Academy – Free online professional development courses for teachers in English, French, Italian and other European languages.

EdX – Online courses from leading educational institutions.

iCourse – Chinese and English language courses for university students.

TED-Ed – Online animated lessons in different areas, perfect for ESP classes.

Udemy – English, Spanish and Portuguese language courses on ICT skills and programming.

Course material can also be available on different types of stored media. Multimedia courses may combine text, graphics, audio, video and other elements. Material is designed to be flexible, self-paced, and modular. In some cases, access to the Internet is required. The students learning choices influence how material is presented and reviewed.

Distance education technologies create new challenges and opportunities for teachers. To assist students, teachers have to develop their computer literacy, be flexible and adaptable. Today there is a trend towards online learning, while getting an education face to face will be a privilege for the chosen ones.

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