

WARM-UP

1 Work in pairs. In turns, answer the questions.



1. Do you use any apps or websites to learn something new?
If you do, then which ones do you use the most often? If you don't, then why not?
2. Why do some people decide to study a subject online?
3. What may be the advantages of e-learning as compared to studying in the classroom?

READING / LISTENING

2 Listen to the text and find out the author's opinion on e-learning.



Audio: <https://o-rozewicz.pl/online-learning-audio>

Text © Oskar Rożewicz
Music by www.bensound.com

3 Read the text. Fill in the gaps with the headlines below. There are two headlines you do not need. 

Consistency / Workability / Modernity / Accessibility / Customisation / Independence

text = last page of the worksheet 😊

SPEAKING

4 Do you agree with the author's point of view? Why / Why not? Tell your partner.



VOCABULARY

5 In the text there are 12 highlighted phrases connected with education. Match the phrases with their definitions.



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) to catch on | a) to be able to look for new opportunities and experiences |
| 2) to take attendance | b) someone who is hard-working and shows a lot of enthusiasm |
| 3) to play truant | c) all the subjects or courses offered by a school or other educational facility |
| 4) the three R's | d) to note down the list of the participants during a lesson or course |
| 5) a school curriculum | e) to to be as successful as one can be |
| 6) to make the grade | f) to meet (usually high) expectations |
| 7) to put one's thinking cap on | g) to do something at the highest possible level |
| 8) as best one can | h) to think seriously on the given topic of study |
| 9) to have a lot of ground to cover | i) to understand something after having problems with it at the beginning |
| 10) an eager beaver | j) to not take part in the lesson or course without the required permission |
| 11) to realise one's full potential | k) the three basic skills taught at school – reading, writing, arithmetic |
| 12) to expand one's horizons | l) to have a lot of research or work to do before something is completed |

6 Fill in the gaps with the correct form of phrases from exercise 5.



- a) The [] offered in this facility imposes high expectations on students trying to [].
- b) Mr Smith was [] of his students when he noticed that two of them were [].
- c) The [] started [] the moment he received the assignment.
- d) There are people who believe that in order to [] you need to [] first to know what you can really do.
- e) It was hard for me to [] as I [] before I truly understood what needs to be done.

GRAMMAR

7 Look at the sentences the examples provided.
They are so called “cleft sentences”.



What is unusual about the changed ones? What for do we use this kind of sentences? Discuss in pairs.

The student sent the assignment *on Tuesday*.

-> *It was on Tuesday* that the student sent the assignment.

The biggest change introduced this year is *modern e-learning platform*.

-> *It is the modern e-learning platform* that is the biggest change introduced this year.

The teacher *allowed the students to send the assignments by e-mail*.

-> *What the teacher did was to allow the students to send the assignments by e-mail*.

English starts to be *a really important subject to me*.

-> *What starts to be a really important subject to me* is English.

I need to *study more* to pass my A-levels.

-> *All I have to do is to study more* to pass my A-levels.

For my *birthday* I want to get a new book.

-> *All I want to get for my birthday* is a new book.

8 Complete the sentences using the words in bold and cleft constructions. Use two to five words.



a) I met Mr Smith on Wednesday. **was**

It [] I met Mr Smith.

b) Medical breakthroughs are becoming more common nowadays. **common**

What is [] medical breakthroughs.

c) I need to buy a new computer to play the games I bought yesterday. **is**

All I [] buy a new computer to play the games I bought yesterday.

d) My friend signed up for an online photography course. **what**

[] to sign up for an online photography course.

9 Try to “un-cleft” the sentences **underlined in the text**. Write down your answers in your notebook.



VOCABULARY & GRAMMAR

10 In your notebook, write down 4 sentences that describe your e-learning experiences.
Use the **phrases** introduced during the lesson.



When you've finished, give the sentences to your partner.
Ask him or her to make them more emphatic, using cleft sentences.

SPEAKING

11 Work in groups. The article is written from the point of view of someone who is very enthusiastic about e-learning. Discuss what counter-arguments you could use in a discussion with the article's author.



[EXTRA] WRITING

12 Write an article in which you discuss the advantages & disadvantages of e-learning and present your opinion on it. Use at least 200 words.



Study online!

Take a leap into the 21st century learning



In the year 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was online teaching & learning that hundreds of teachers and students were striving to master.

Many people got their first glimpse at the possibilities connected with digital studying and noticed the positive effects of this kind of education.

However, there is a pressing need to resort to the standard approach to teaching & learning whenever it becomes possible, despite the advantages of the Internet-based schooling. But what if some students decide to choose e-learning in the future? What may be the long-term advantages of using the Internet for the general education?

1.

The first and very important issue tackled by the online education is its availability. What students can do nowadays, due to the modern technology, is to catch on the course content wherever they are! It would not be surprising for people wanting to study abroad to register at any school around the world, thus enhancing one's opportunities and choices. Educators, on the other hand, could very easily take attendance of all of their students efficiently regardless of the place where the students are. No more late-comers or people playing truant!

2.

What another advantage of the Internet-based schooling could be is the uniformity of the general knowledge taught around the world! Having access to online classes could result in all young people learning the three R's, regardless of their nationality and background. What is more, with the unification of the online school curricula, students could have the same requirements for making the grade! This could lead to the world where employers could expect all young people to possess the comparable level of education, which would make the global work market much more competitive.

3.

Online education allows teachers to thoroughly individualise the process of education as well. Owing to e-learning, students can get individual assignments which would encourage them to put their thinking caps on and analyse the given issue as best they can. Additionally, if they have a lot of ground to cover, they can divide their work into individual steps matching their needs and possibilities. This approach to getting knowledge can be very beneficial in the foreseeable future. It is the students' autonomous education that is the biggest benefit of the online schooling.

4.

The arguments mentioned above lead to the next and equally important advantage of online schooling, namely, the possibility of adapting the courses to the students' needs. Every teacher knows so called eager beavers who need individual challenges to realise their full potential. Uniformised education, as achieved through e-learning, can still be used for those who are quick learners to expand their horizons. All they have to do is to study the tasks which will help them to achieve the success suited to their requirements and prospects.

Therefore, considering all the advantages online learning can provide the students, I believe it is essential that the government encourages the transition to Internet-based learning as soon as possible.