

# Distance Teaching

## How to be a cool and effective teacher



### ENGAGE

Warm-up, retrieval practice, prior knowledge activation

- getting students interested in the lesson content from the very first minute
- doing retrieval practice
- creating a more personalised learning experience for students

Teaching in a virtual classroom can be even more challenging than working offline. Moreover, we must remember that learning online can also be more difficult than in the classroom for students. Here are some rules that can help you conduct effective and engaging online lessons:

- Establish clear rules for your online class, share them with students and always try to stick to these rules.
- Use a virtual background rather than showing students your flat or relatives.
- Always start the lesson by asking students how they are feeling. They can be rather tired if they have already had several online lessons before yours and you may have to modify your lesson plan a bit if you want it to be effective.
- Try to include different types of activities in your lesson plan, so that students can switch their attention from computer screens to textbooks or paper exercise books. Don't forget to include visuals, games, music, etc.
- Use flash cards, cartoons, graphs, diagrams and other visual aids for retrieval practice.

- Make sure students know how to use the different functions of the tool you are using for video conferences. For example, show them how to use the Zoom chat window, how to annotate a whiteboard or a shared document, and how to share their screen.
- If you want to use a new Zoom feature or a new tool during the next online lesson, try it out with your friends or colleagues first and make sure that everything works as planned.
- Remember that students may be using different devices with different technical abilities and characteristics, so try to choose tools and apps that fit most devices.
- Remember to keep in touch with students' parents and inform them regularly about their children's progress during online lessons because together we can make distance learning as effective as possible.

