



Distance Teaching

How to keep students active by adjusting lesson pace



STUDY

New language introduction followed by controlled practice

- sharing your screen with students
- using video conferencing
- avoiding lengthy teacher talking time
- varying the pace of the lesson and the type of activities
- keeping students as active as possible

When you assign controlled practice activities to students during the “Study” stage of a synchronous online lesson, they often get tired physically, because they have to sit in the same place in front of their monitors and look at the screen. Here are some tips that you can use while teaching remotely.

- Try to vary the focus of students’ attention. Not all the tasks have to be done online. You can present new language by sharing your screen during the online lesson, but then ask students to do practise exercises in their paper textbooks. They will shift their eye focus from one object to another, thus letting their eyes rest.
- While learning different topics you can ask students to move. For example, you can practise imperatives, giving and following commands, like “stand up”, “sit down”, “turn left”, “turn right”, etc.
- You can ask students to point at different objects in their surroundings while learning topical vocabulary. For example, point at some pieces of furniture.

- You can ask students to close their eyes, listen to the sounds outside and describe what they are hearing using sentences in the Present Continuous.

Activating students with miming games

- You can play a miming game if students’ cameras are on. You can assign the action to be mimed to an individual student with the help of a private message in the Zoom chat window.
- You can give the lead role to one of the students so that they present a physical movement that the rest of the group (including the teacher) has to imitate.
- Students can point to different parts of the world, mime emotions, kinds of sport, cooking vocabulary, etc.

Focusing on listening tasks

- Students can listen to textbook audio recordings with their eyes closed and then open their eyes, read the tape script if necessary and do post listening activities.