

## Language learning across borders: use and role of live online sessions

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### **Abstract**

Because distance learning is not constrained by geographic considerations, it offers opportunities in situations where limits are set to traditional training. For students who are not able to attend classroom training for example because of shift work or long travelling time, online courses are often the only way to participate in education programmes. However, self-studying courses require a lot of self-motivation and self-organisation by the learner. For many people it is hard to follow a self-study program from the beginning until the end.

At the same time, collaborative learning means that the learner – though being at home - must not learn alone. He can be part of an (international) learning group and he can be coached by a trainer. For most learners it is easier to organise their learning process if an e-Tutor or e-Coach is involved. Regular communication is often the key to learning success. Today there are many tools available that enable communication with the group and/or the trainer.

The use of live online sessions is one possibility to communicate with the group and/or trainer. In the last years this kind of virtual classroom training has been more and more often used not only because of the very cost effective way of training but also because of the many advantages it offers, especially for language training.

The presentation will give a short introduction to the functions and features of live-online-sessions as well as an overview on the advantages and benefits. Furthermore the challenge to give a good training without direct contact and nonverbal communication is discussed and some solutions are given. The focus will be on the use of online training in a language learning context.