

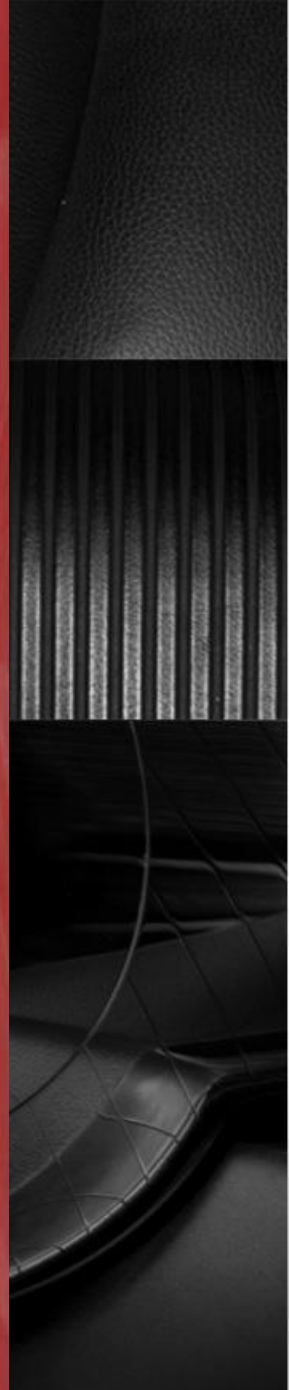
# Synchronous Online Learning

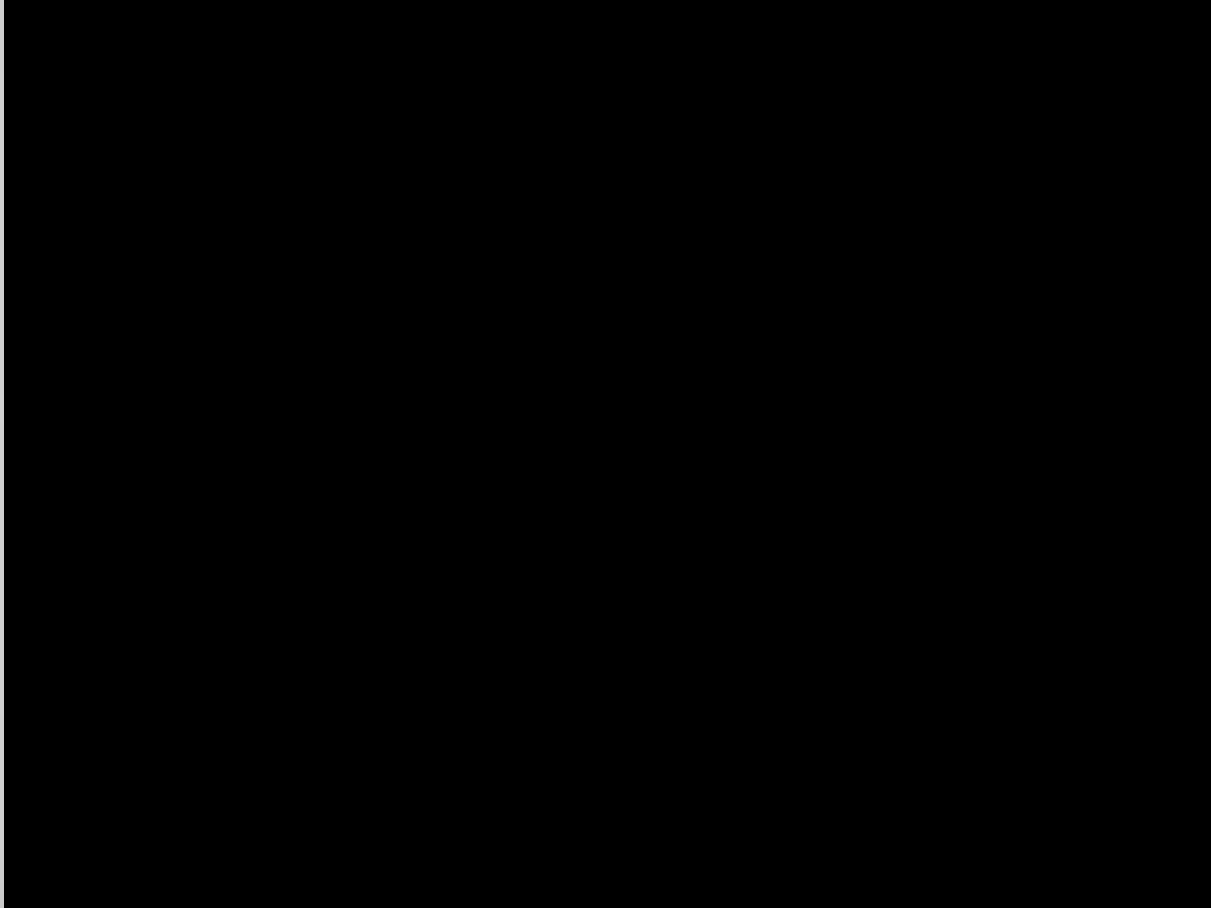
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(ghanashowzdotcom, 2008)



# Advantages of Online Synchronous Learning

- Prompt feedback. Much like the headmaster in the video on the previous slide was able to address and question his eager English student synchronous online learning allows the facilitator to provide immediate feedback (Finkelstein, 2006).
- Contact with the student outside the classroom. In our video the headmaster was helping his student learn outside of the structured classroom which is very similar to instant messaging and chat tools (Finkelstein, 2006).
- Social interaction. In live conversation either audio or instant messaging students have the ability to share ideas that are related to the curriculum and continue to build upon each others thoughts just like the student adjusted his words for ingredients to his headmaster (Finkelstein, 2006).



# Disadvantages of Online Synchronous Learning

- Technological limitations. Students will not always have equipment and software that is compatible with all of the tools at the facilitators disposal (Mark, PhD, 2004).
- Time constraints and personal obligations of learners. Some students look to online learning for the flexibility that it has for working around their already full lives. Online synchronous learning does require a commitment for the student to log in at a specified time (Finkelstein, 2006).
- Self paced. The online synchronous learning environment does not always allow for learners to go back and review the thoughts and comments of their peers before responding to them (Ashley, 2009).



# Facilitating Online Synchronous Learning

- Set expectations and ground rules. By addressing the most basic of questions and concerns at the beginning of class interruptions and distractions can be minimized and even avoided (Finkelstein, 2006).
- Involve learners. Using chat, polls, discussion, and white boards help to make the learning experience interactive and engaging for the learner (Finkelstein, 2006).
- Utilize the assistance of others. It is challenging to manage the online learning environment, interact with learners, and key into behaviors or responses that indicate further information may be required therefor a partner or partners to share in the tasks help to make the experience a good one for everyone (Finkelstein, 2006).



# Tools for Online Synchronous Learning

- Messaging tools. Instant messenger and chat tools allow learners to communicate directly with each other to avoid disrupting lecture or when audio communication is not available. The text within this tool can be formatted such as all caps, colored, or font changed to help convey the feelings of the learner. Emoticons can also enhance emotional expression in the chat environment (Finkelstein, 2006).
- Wireless modems and mobile devices. These tools allow the learner to take the classroom with them wherever they may be. With mobile access the learner will not be limited to a specific location to log in they will have the flexibility to log in from home, work, while traveling or even while running errands (Bitter & Legacy, 2008).



## Tools for Online Synchronous Learning Continued

- Desktop sharing software. These types of programs allow multiple learners to see the information that the facilitator is displaying on their screen including presentations, websites, programs and documents. Many desktop sharing programs have the ability to share white board space where learners can collaboratively work together on a single visual diagram (Finkelstein, 2006).
- Video conferencing. With the introduction of web cams and more recently face time on mobile devices learners and instructors can now see the person they are working with. This allows for the reading of facial expressions and body language that communicates at a level beyond what words alone can do (Finkelstein, 2006).



# References

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