

Beyond the Classroom: Remote Learning Days

⚡ Duration: 1 hour

⚡ B2 Level

⚡ Group lesson

⚡ Age: teenagers and adults

⚡ Lesson goals

Students can scan quickly through long and complex texts, locating relevant details.

Students can develop a clear argument, expanding and supporting their points of view at some length with subsidiary points and relevant examples.

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Warm-up

Exercise 1: Read these quotes. Which quote can you agree with? Why?

“ Technology can become the 'wings' that will allow the educational world to fly farther and faster than ever before - if we will allow it. ” - Jenny Arledge

“ The future of education is digital. We live in an increasingly digital world, and education must adapt to that. ” - Lenny Schad

“ The internet could be a very positive step towards education, organization, and participation in a meaningful society. ” - Noam Chomsky

Exercise 2: Read and discuss the questions with your class.

1. Have you ever studied remotely before?
2. Do you think remote learning is here to stay?
3. What technology tools do you use for remote learning?
4. Do you prefer studying in a traditional classroom or remotely? Why?
5. Do you think remote learning will become more popular in the future? Why or why not?



Reading

Exercise 3: Look at the text below. Put the paragraphs into the correct order. Then scan the text and find 3 benefits of remote learning.

Correct order: _____

A. In addition to increased flexibility, remote learning days also help students develop important time management skills. Without the structure of a traditional school day, students must learn to manage their time effectively in order to complete assignments and stay on track with their coursework. This skill is not only valuable in academics, but also in future careers and personal life.

B. In recent years, remote learning days have become more and more common as a regular part of the school schedule, and for good reason. Such days offer numerous benefits to junior high and high school students.

C. Of course, remote learning days are not without their challenges. Some students may struggle with staying motivated and focused while working from home, and there may be technical difficulties or issues with communication between teachers and students. However, with proper planning and support from teachers and parents, these challenges can be overcome.

D. Remote learning days can also have a positive impact on students' mental health by reducing stress levels. Traditional school days can be overwhelming and stressful, with long hours spent in classrooms and constant social interaction. Remote learning days provide a break from this environment and allow students to work in a more comfortable and relaxed setting. This can lead to increased focus and productivity, as well as a sense of control over their own learning.

E. One of the biggest advantages of remote learning days is the increased flexibility they provide. Students can structure their day in a way that works best for them, whether that means starting earlier or later, taking breaks when needed, or working on assignments at their own pace. This flexibility allows students to better balance their academic responsibilities with other activities, such as extracurriculars or part-time jobs.

Exercise 4: What other benefits can you think of? Together with your partner look through the list of advantages and complete the sentences.

1. Provides _____(1) for students and teachers alike.
2. Reduces the risk of spreading contagious _____(2) like flu, colds, etc.
3. Saves time on _____(3) to school, so kids can use this time for studies or hobbies.
4. Easier access to class notes, lectures, and other important material by recording of _____(4) classes.
5. Allows students with _____(5) or psychological trauma access education at-home without additional challenges.

Exercise 5: With your partner look through the list of disadvantages and rank them from the most significant to the least significant. Be ready to prove your point of view.

- Some students might find it hard to stay focused without a teacher right there with them.
- Not being around other kids could make it harder to learn social skills.
- If the internet is slow or doesn't work well, it might be hard to do online classes.
- Asking questions may not be as easy as in a traditional classroom setting.
- Cheating on tests or homework might happen more often in online classes.
- Having no set schedule for going to school could make it hard to eat, sleep and study at the right times.
- Real-time feedback is lacking.

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Speaking

Exercise 6: Get ready for debates. One team is for remote days and the other is against. You should have examples that prove your points.

The following phrases will help you to introduce your arguments:

in my opinion...	another perspective to take into account is...
it seems to me that...	it is worth noting that...
according to research...	in addition to this...
while it is true that...	all I am saying is...
one key point to consider is...	on the top of all that...

Use the dialogue below as a model for your answers. Each of your ideas should be supported by a fact, reason or an example:

Peter: I think remote school days are great. You have more flexibility with your schedule and can avoid the long commute to school.

Sarah: While it is true that you save time on commuting, don't you miss the social interaction with teachers and classmates?

Mike: That's a good point, Sarah. One key point to consider is that remote learning could lead to increased feelings of isolation and loneliness among students.

Peter: Well, according to research, some students actually prefer online classes because they feel less anxious in virtual environments.



Correct answers and teaching tips

Exercise 1: Read these quotes. What is the topic of the lesson? Which quote can you agree with?

Created in the “Famous quotes” tool

Exercise 2: Read and discuss the questions with your class.

Created in the “Discussion questions” tool

Exercise 3: Look at the text below. Put the paragraphs into the correct order. Then scan the text and find 3 benefits of remote learning.

Created in the “Create a text” tool - Descriptive article - Intermediate B1-B2

Correct order: B, E, A, D, C

Exercise 4: What other benefits can you think of? Together with your partner look through the list of advantages and complete the sentences.

Created in the “Advantages and disadvantages” tool + the “Fill in the gap” tool

Possible answers:

1. flexibility
2. illnesses
3. commuting
4. virtual
5. physical disabilities

Exercise 5: With your partner look through the list of disadvantages and rank them from the most significant to the least significant. Be ready to prove your point of view.

Created in the “Advantages and disadvantages” tool

Exercise 6: Get ready for debates. One team is for remote days and the other is against. You should have examples that prove your points.

Created in the “Essential vocabulary” tool + some extra ideas from ChatGPT

Created in the “Dialogue based on topic” tool