

Online Tutors



Going to India to get help with your homework sounds rather extreme. Yet this is what over 2,000 students in the United States and elsewhere do – online – every day.

New advances in technology make it possible for tutors in one country to help students who live thousands or kilometres away. The only necessity is that both have got access to a computer with Internet capability. Students and tutors can discuss material using an instant messaging service, but using a voice-over connection and a hands-free headset makes communication easier. So do digital “pencils” and writing pads, which look like enhanced mouse pads. Participants can write on these simulated whiteboards so that the data appears on both computer screens at the same time. Students can also use a scanner to transmit copies of tests or assignments received from their schools.

The main advantage of this system is financial. Students can pay up to \$100 an hour for personal tutoring in the US. In contrast, one Indian company offers the option of either registering for a month and receiving an unlimited number of lessons for \$100, or paying \$2.50 for each hour. This brings the cost of a lesson down to approximately the price of a cup of coffee. Such affordable tutoring is welcome to many in the US today, where about one-third of secondary-school students fail to graduate.

Tutors, who must have a university degree, find this arrangement to their advantage. Their training includes analysing teaching methods, as well as learning about US educational curricula. They also learn about American English: they are taught to modify their accent so that they’re more easily understood by teenagers in the West, and they learn current US slang. In return, they are well paid by Indian standards, earning approximately \$300 a month.

So if you need help in maths, science or English, you may want to consider turning to a teacher in Bangalore or New Delhi. And when you pass your test, you will be happy to say “DHAN-YA-VAD” (*thank you* in Hindi).

1.- Choose the correct answer.

- For online tutoring, teachers and students must ...
 - be linked to the Internet.
 - have a voice-over connection with a headset.
 - have digital pencils and writing pads.
- An hour of online tutoring from India ...
 - causes a failure rate of about one-third.
 - is about as expensive as a cup of coffee.
 - costs about \$100.
- Indian online tutors ...
 - don’t all have university degrees.
 - mustn’t have an accent.
 - learn about US educational requirements.

2.- Answer the questions.

- How many students pay for online tutoring from India?
- Why are tutors taught about American English?
- What are benefits for online tutors in India?

3.- Rewrite the following sentences without changing the original meaning.

- Students can also use a scanner to transmit copies of tests.
A scanner...
- Tutors receive special training in teaching methods, as well as learning about US educational curricula.
Not only do tutors receive special training in teaching methods, but...
- The student said that she was happy that she had passed the test.
The student said, “

4.- Find words or expressions in the text that mean:

- simultaneously (paragraph)
- possibility (paragraph)
- not expensive (paragraph)
- present (paragraph)