

COVID-19: Will Blended Learning Become the Future of Education?

As the world begins to feel the beneficial effects of the emergency measures (0) against COVID-19, it is time to look to the future. Now that this (1) _____ forced closure of schools has pushed educators all around the world towards a more (2) _____ use of technology to give their students continuity in (3) _____ situations, will school ever be the same again? This is where blended learning comes in. A hybrid of in-person lessons and distance learning, it is (4) _____ the proposed models for the future of the technology-assisted classroom.

There are as many ways to blend face-to-face classroom time and online lessons as there are students. Blended learning reduces physical attendance in favour of video conferencing so as to (5) _____ smaller groups that permit appropriate social distancing; at the same time, we can go back to frontal lessons as the main mode of teaching, with technology supporting the learning process more than ever.

Thus, blended learning is a (6) _____ model for the future of education: the in-person and online components can be combined in any proportion, with neither being inferior or superior to the other when grading or evaluating classroom participation. Students can find a unique blend of the two that (7) _____ their own personal learning styles best and adapt to their family situations and levels of access to technology.

However, this sudden, forced (8) _____ to remote learning has shown one thing – not all households are equally prepared to move on to distance learning. Students need a personal device and a stable internet connection as necessary requirements in order not to (9) _____, and the digital divide between those who can meet the new basic needs of the world and those who cannot is wider than ever. Hence, physical attendance is still the only option for children living in two-income households, (10) _____ view school not only as a place of learning, but also as a safe space that provides adult supervision while both parents are working. This makes blended learning an ideal compromise for a post-pandemic society.



Adapted from: <https://acerforeducation.acer.com/blended-learning/> May 2020

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|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| 0 A on | B for | C about | D against |
| 1 A delayed | B prolonged | C temporary | D intermittent |
| 2 A wide | B expansive | C extensive | D expensive |
| 3 A adverse | B favourable | C auspicious | D acceptable |
| 4 A one | B only | C many | D one of |
| 5 A create | B hamper | C propose | D manufacture |
| 6 A viable | B actual | C believable | D necessary |
| 7 A suit | B suits | C suiting | D are suited |
| 8 A switch | B convert | C shifting | D changing |
| 9 A pull out | B get ahead | C fall behind | D put through |
| 10 A whose | B which | C that | |