

The future of language education in the light of Covid - Lessons learned and ways forward

Case study on experiences of foreign language teaching during the Covid pandemic by
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- A. Please write briefly about a memorable language teaching experience, either particularly challenging or especially successful as an example of your practice during the pandemic:

Who were the learners?

8th grade students of English

What were the aims of the session/lesson?

To discuss and debate the effects of quarantine on students' mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic; to practise English speaking skills

Please write a brief description – the 'story' - of what you did/what happened that made this an especially memorable experience:

It was a joint debate lesson via Zoom during which students from several groups got familiar with the method of debating. They discussed the topic of the importance of students' mental health during the pandemic; worked in groups searching for arguments why students' mental health should or shouldn't be prioritized at the expense of other lessons, and presented their arguments.

What lessons might there be in your experience for language teaching in general beyond the pandemic?

To understand that not only the curriculum but also students' mental health, feelings and emotions should be addressed during the lessons. Also, to make a habit of discussing current affairs in foreign language lessons.

- B. In your context, how have teachers and other colleagues supported each other's professional practice during the pandemic?

Sharing lesson materials and ideas, bringing students together and cooperating on various lessons, trying to make them more interesting and engaging.

- C. What especially important thoughts, experiences or insights have you had about language education during the Covid pandemic?

Modern technologies play an even larger part in our lives than we can imagine, and during such special situations they can definitely help a lot. Sometimes students even become more engaged than during live lessons.

I think in the future it would be good practice to find a balance between online education and live lessons at school.