Learning a foreign language online:

advantages and disadvantages

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Modern students from junior nails master digital technology. They prefer to exchange text messages, play on the Internet and communicate on a social network reading books and going to the theater, not to mention the fact that it will not occur to any of them to write letters by hand. This is a generation that has grown up in a paperless and wireless world; a new tribe of people who have been surrounded since childhood by computers, cell phones and other gadgets. In our rapidly changing world, teachers are also forced to use new technologies that make lessons interesting to students and at the same time empower teachers.

Over the past decade, online learning has ceased to be a bold idea and has long been used

in various educational institutions. Computers are very useful in many aspects of learning. They can greatly facilitate and accelerate many processes - for example, it is known that students are successfully using distance learning using the Internet all over the world. Computer technologies can also be useful when working with students in classes.

The advantage of new technologies is that they allow the student to study the subject at a

convenient pace and mode. In addition, students can choose how much time they will devote to studying this subject, make their own schedule of classes, choose a convenient day and even an hour when nothing will interfere with their studies. Thus, ideally, students take responsibility for their studies.

Skype is a tool to simplify the learning process, it can make this communication more effective. Highlight the main benefits of Skype training. The usual foreign language lessons are probably not the most effective because the group includes too many students. There are differenttextbooks, but the most important aspect is missing - individual communication. Today, using the Internet anytime you want, you can get this communication. There is no backlog, static or postponement. There is also an additional convenience - to build a relationship with one person for a long period of time. Skype classes avoid monotonous and boring exercises.

In the lesson, the teacher and student include Skype, headset and video camera (if desired), download textbooks and begin to study. There is no need to purchase literature. You can copy or download training materials online. In addition to textbooks, additional authentic materials from various sources are used, selected to achieve the personal goals of students. The teacher explains the material, trains students using exercises and secures the material in practice using active games, drilling and role-plays. There are many opportunities to diversify lessons, to make classes take place in a fascinating atmosphere: you can share screenings around Skype, which will save you fromexplaining many things, you can watch videos together or open sites. The teacher motivates to speak from the first lesson, gives useful advice and corrects errors in the chat. The atmosphere of these

classes gives the student the opportunity to liberate and easily leave the comfort zone.

Skype gives us other advantages:

1. It's very convenient. You can learn the language at home or at work (if you have enough time). You only need a few things: a computer with Internet software, headphones and a webcam;

2. It saves you money and time. If you choose this type of class, you save a lot of time, because you are not in a hurry to learn, and this is the main advantage. Lessons in Skype can be held anywhere - where there is the Internet;

3. You can study materials such as texts, tables, audio, video, presentations using a computer. To do this, you do not need to buy textbooks, they can be downloaded and printed. With the Internet, you can listen to audio and watch video, which is not always easy to arrange at an individual meeting or at a lesson in the audience;

4. You can practice with a teacher at any end of the Earth;

5. You don't spend money on public transport and gasoline;

6. Flexible schedule. You can always move the lesson to a more convenient time;

7. The fact that the teacher's attention is drawn to one student, and not to a group, at times increases the effectiveness of the training process;

 As for the disadvantages, the main one is dependence on technical means and Internet accessibility. What if the webcam doesn't work? Many believe that the webcam is always used in Skype lessons, but this is far from the case. Practice shows that while working with a student, the teacher may not use the video camera, thus mobilizing his attention as much as possible. This very effectively develops auditing skills, much faster than during a regular classroom session, where auditing is supported by other types of communication.

 It is believed that Skype lessons are more expensive than individual occupations. That's not always the case. If you want to engage with professionals and at the most convenient time for you, the price can be the same as for an individual lesson.

Who may not be recommended for Skype training?

1. Skype is not the best teaching tool for children under 13 due to their psychological and age characteristics. Children of primary school age lack motivation to learn a foreign language, as well as the ability to focus for a long time.

2. If a person already spends a lot of time at work with a computer, additional time spent on the screen will negatively affect his health.

In parallel with self-improvement, the teacher needs to work on preserving his students and

developing his own brand. We usually set out principles, teaching methods, and information on education on our website. Potential students get acquainted with this information, ask questions of interest to them. This helps them make a choice in our favor. Creativity and the ability to keep up withthe times will be useful here. Undoubtedly, a special responsibility in conducting such classes should fall on the teacher, who acts not only as a consultant on a certain subject, but also as the organizer of the entire educational process at a new stage. That is, the teacher's task is to intensify the cognitive activity of the student in the process of teaching foreign languages. The use of multimedia programs does not exclude traditional methods at all, but is harmoniously combined with them at all

stages of training: familiarization, training, application, control. The use of the computer allows not only to repeatedly increase the efficiency of education, but also to encourage students to continue to study the English language independently. Gaming components may also be present to facilitate understanding and assimilation of the presented material. Success largely depends on how methodically well the material is organized, where part of the classes can be implemented using multimedia courses, and monitoring can be carried out using a testing system. However, it should be noted that the effectiveness of language programs is related to the conditions of the environment in

which they are applied.