

NEWSLETTER

Stepping forward with the concepts of blended learning.

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Editor's Note:

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."
— Mahatma Gandhi

When I stumbled upon the above words it became even more vivid than ever that learning and continuous learning can bring positive results in ones work. Teaching and learning at Eureka has always been a great learning process and we share the idea with all who we meet that our success is due to our rigorous and never ending learning regime.



We ought to bring more learning to our network through this endeavor and would hope that these insights would be utilized in your daily discourses and create impact in our learners life.



I wish you all great health and success and...
"Happy learning."

Best Wishes,
Sarah Javed

Why work with Eureka ?

Since its inception Eureka has promoted a belief of fast success and learning for both its trainees and trainers.

The opportunities that come with Eureka are massive, primarily because they provide a chance of continuous learning and improvement.

It's vision and mission clearly defines the success path we are on and the milestones

Vision & Mission:

Eureka brings Language Education and Communication skill set to the people of Pakistan.

It ensures career success of training seekers through its advanced teaching methodologies and e-learning platform.

It aims at providing students 24/7 access to use technology for learning in the comfort of their home.

Technology has made Eureka's learning model unique and successful for the prime reason of getting students to work as dependent learners to independent learners and finally interdependent learners for life.

Hence we believe that students learn with us for life.

"To stay ahead, you must have your next idea waiting in the wings."

Rosabeth Moss Kanter

What are we training our students on?

In present decade we train our students to be prepared for a future that is extraordinarily uncertain. With rapid technological change and flux in the language use we train ESL learners on contextualized learning scenarios but it still leaves a vacuum if coherence is missed by any of our trainers. We need to keep exceptionally vigilant while bringing real-life discussion to class for the inevitable reason of preparing them to encounter such situations in daily discourses.

Hence our teaching and training requires us to be well informed about the current affairs and latest learning resources. Also to derive meaningful conversation activities out of the concepts being taught becomes crucially important to engage students into spoken practices and interactive learning environment.

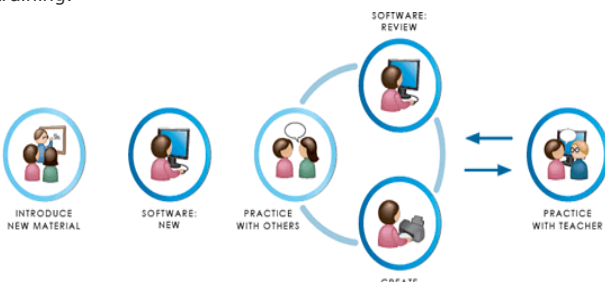
For instance a teacher while encouraging students to speak about personalities and routines asked his students to share their knowledge about a historical figure. However he missed the point that many students in his class weren't history aficionados and had slim chances to speaking over it as they were short supplied with information. In above case had the teacher asked a question about any personality in news these days or a famous/favorite player, actor or singer he would have instigated a lively conversation. Students these days are more likely to speak about Imran khan than Rashid Minhas as per their exposure to news and political on-goings.

Eureka's Blended Learning Environment

In light of above context Eureka is supposed to create a blended learning environment get students to learn successfully and put their learning to effective use. The promise made at the time of admission to teach through trainer and technology is supposed to be met wisely and efficaciously so as to promote trust and satisfaction at all levels.

Our ESL programs use a strategic blended learning method that helps to ensure optimal retention and performance.

Below is a diagram that illustrates our unique blend of self-paced learning, peer collaboration, practice labs, and instructor-led training.



- * Introducing topics and teaching the concepts in class.
- * Orientation training to use the portal for purposeful learning.
- * Conversation practice and activities during class with trainer and peers.
- * Create opportunities for students to perform in additional projects, campus activities, presentations and programs arranged on different events.
- * Review lessons result on portal and send for improvement wherever necessary.
- * Reinforce the concepts taught through warm up activities in preceding classes. Issue Study Pages and video Lessons to witness performance results.

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Types of Learners and Learning Styles: What Everybody Should Know

Types of Learning Styles : The Three Main Types

There are three main types of learning styles: auditory, visual, and kinesthetic. Most people learn best through a combination of the three types of learning styles, but everybody is different.

Auditory Learners: Hear

Auditory learners would rather listen to things being explained than read about them. Reciting information out loud and having music in the background may be a common study method. Other noises may become a distraction resulting in a need for a relatively quiet place.

Visual Learners: See

Visual learners learn best by looking at graphics, watching a demonstration, or reading. For them, it's easy to look at charts and

graphs, but they may have difficulty focusing while listening to an explanation.

Kinesthetic Learners: Touch

Kinesthetic learners process information best through a "hands-on" experience. Actually doing an activity can be the easiest way for them to learn. Sitting still while studying may be difficult, but writing things down makes it easier to understand.



Although most people use a combination of the three learning styles, they usually have a clear preference for one. Knowing and understanding the types of learning styles is important for students of any age. It is advantageous for students to understand their type of learning style early on so that homework and learning may become easier and less stressful in the future. Although it may be tempting to stick with what works, it's important to practice and train the other types of learning styles early on so that, as the students learn, they can utilize the other types just as effectively.

Facts about learners;

- ◇ *"Visual learners can make "movies in their minds" of information they are reading. Their movies are often vivid and detailed."*
- ◇ *46% of students say their biggest motivation for enrolling in an online course was to advance their current career.*

Eureka promises to train all sorts of learners on the skill set they seek and so our classes and teaching methodology accommodate the students' preferred method through the concept of 30:60:30 teaching and training model.

To have further clarity how to implement and execute this model productively, we must have clear idea of what exactly is blended learning.

Concept of Blended Learning:

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTa) describe it as a "combination of face-to-face and on-line delivery," which they believe, "suits a wider range of learning styles."

Such a blend of e-learning and class-based learning combines the any time/pace/place advantages of online facilities and materials, often through a mix of media, with opportunities for tutor support.

The most effective learning has always involved the use of different strategies and techniques to maximize knowledge acquisition and skill development. For example, university programs usually combine lectures, seminars, group projects and, quite often industrial visits and placements, to offer students a variety of different learning opportunities.

Many pedagogues have accepted that blended learning is about developing skills and knowledge by engaging and challenging the learner in different ways.

So, Eureka encourages trainers to train students through a blend of learning techniques as mentioned in the blended learning diagram.

Trainers should utilize two hours in 30:60:30 overall distribution. 30 minutes for teaching the concept, 60 minutes for getting the students to practice, drill and speak over the concepts learnt and 30 minutes of reinforcement and evaluating knowledge retention.

To keep things creative and intriguing for trainers, there's a liberty to further categorize the time frame that formulates an interactive session for trainees.

Meaningful portal training that encourages and bonds trainees to the portal resources should be executed to make this method work. Trainers must simply share how to use the tool and what would be the productive outcomes in case of rigorous practice and time invested in these drills and learning.

Hence through this they'd be able to construe how to learn in unsupervised space and improve.

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Things Great Teachers Do Differently

1. Successful teachers have clear objectives

How do you know if you are driving the right way when you are traveling somewhere new? You use the road signs and a map (although nowadays it might be SIRI or a GPS). In the world of education, your objectives for your students act as road signs to your destination. Your plan is the map. Making a plan does not suggest a lack of creativity in your curriculum but rather, gives creativity a framework in which to flourish.

2. Successful teachers have a sense of purpose

We can't all be blessed with "epic" workdays all the time. Sometimes, life is just mundane and tedious. Teachers with a sense of purpose that are able to see the big picture can ride above the hard and boring days because their eye is on something further down the road.

The online curriculum clearly defines the learning objectives and effective teacher would adopt the policy of reading and knowing the purpose before setting out to train the learners.

3. Successful teachers are able to live without immediate feedback

There is nothing worse than sweating over a lesson plan only to have your students walk out of class without so much as a smile or a, "Great job teach!" It's hard to give 100% and not see immediate results. Teachers who rely on that instant gratification will get burned out and disillusioned. Learning, relationships, and education are a messy endeavor, much like nurturing a garden. It takes time, and some dirt, to grow.

4. Successful teachers know when to listen to students and when to ignore them

Right on the heels of the above tip is the concept of discernment with student feedback. A teacher who never listens to his/her students will ultimately fail. A teacher who always listens to his/her students will ultimately fail. It is no simple endeavor to know when to listen and adapt, and when to say, "No- we're going this way because I am the teacher and I see the long term picture."

Creating comfort to use technology deems to be the responsibility of our trainers. If our teachers can get students to work seamlessly with technology we can do them a great favor by making them self-starters and self motivated learners.

5. Successful teachers have a positive attitude

Negative energy zaps creativity and it makes a nice breeding ground for fear of failure. Good teachers have an upbeat mood, a sense of vitality and energy, and see past momentary setbacks to the end goal. Positivity breeds creativity.

6. Successful teachers expect their students to succeed

This concept is similar for parents as well. Students need someone to believe in them. They need a wiser and older person to put stock in their abilities. Set the bar high and then create an environment where it's okay to fail. This will motivate your students to keep trying until they reach the expectation you've set for them.

7. Successful teachers have a sense of humor

Humor and wit make a lasting impression. It reduces stress and frustration, and gives people a chance to look at their circumstances from another point of view. If you interviewed 1000 students about their favorite teacher, I'll bet 95% of them were hysterical.

8. Successful teachers use praise authentically

Students need encouragement yes, but real encouragement. It does no good to praise their work when you know it is only 50% of what they are capable of. You don't want to create an environment where there is no praise or recognition; you want to create one where the praise that you offer is valuable BECAUSE you use it judiciously.

9. Successful teachers know how to take risks

There is a wise saying that reads, "Those who go just a little bit too far are the ones who know just how far one can go." Risk-taking is a part of the successful formula. Your students need to see you try new things in the classroom and they will watch closely how you handle failure in your risk-taking. This is as important as what you are teaching.

10. Successful teachers are consistent

Consistency is not to be confused with "stuck." Consistency means that you do what you say you will do, you don't change your rules based on your mood, and your students can rely on you when they are in need. Teachers who are stuck in their outdated methods may boast consistency, when in fact it is cleverly-masked stubbornness.

While taking a class at Eureka our teachers can be creative to use selected portal activities during class and get students to practice the role plays given.