



*Get the most out of your
lessons!*

6 Tips for Online Classes

ALTINI YARIMA

INTRODUCTION

We are seeing now more than ever how learning is shifting from traditional classrooms to virtual platforms. If you've never taken an online class before, this guide is for you!

I'm Altini and I enjoy making material to help students improve their English or Spanish.

Please stay tuned for more resources!

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1 Communicate in advance

Communicate with the teacher before the session starts. Explain what you hope to gain from the class. Try to write in your target language, this way the teacher can get a glimpse of your level (at least in writing skills).

When you communicate with the teacher prior to the session, it gives the idea that you are a serious student. This also gives the teacher an opportunity to prepare and personalize the class.

Specify your strengths and weaknesses in your target language. Also, don't have unrealistic expectations.

2 Prepare Yourself

How can you prepare yourself? Anytime you have doubts, make a list of them so that you can ask your teacher. If you have any questions, homework, articles, etc. bring it to the class! This may sound overly obvious, but you'd be surprised how many students forget to do this.

Also, don't be afraid to ask tons & tons of questions! There is nothing wrong or embarrassing about wanting clarification. Don't forget to also take notes during class. It'll be very difficult to try to remember everything that was said.

3 Is homework helpful?

Yes! I encourage all students to do some type of homework. This will vary person to person. Some of my students complete an entire chapter of work for homework, while others simply define a few words to be discussed in the next class. Homework is a great way to hold yourself accountable for what you've learned.

If your teacher does not assign you homework, you've got two options. 1) Ask for it! Or, 2) make up your own homework. This can be as simple as using new words you've learned in class and trying to come up with a sentence on your own. In class, your teacher can correct these sentences. The idea of homework is to practice, with the idea of moving new information into long-term memory.

4 Be punctual and respectful!

Please arrive for class on time (Ideally 2-3 minutes early, because we know how the internet is perfect all the time). Will your teacher use Skype, Zoom or some other platform? You want to find out before the class begins.

Be mindful that your teacher may have several classes before or after yours.

Check your internet connection and video BEFORE the class starts. If you need to cancel or be late, please inform your teacher with as much notice as possible. Otherwise... be ready to suffer the consequences.

Make sure doors are shut and there will be no distractions. Every minute counts!

5 Give Feedback

Be sure that you are HONEST with your teacher about your opinion of the class. Tell him/her what you liked the most and what you liked least.

This way, future classes will get better and better.

Discuss specific plans for future classes.

Know that your teacher wants to personalize your class as much as possible.

Ask for regular feedback from your teacher on what you can do to improve.

6 Try different teachers

I cannot emphasize this enough! Every teacher is different. When you try different teachers, you'll hear different accents, come across different teaching methods, and ultimately decide who suits you best.

Try professional teachers and informal tutors. Everyone has something different to offer. Take advantage of a trial session if a teacher offers it. Expect the first class to be more of a "show and tell" introductory lesson.



*Do you know what a
foreign accent is?*

It's a sign of bravery.

AMY CHUA

