

Starting a BL course

Name: Setting up a course using an online course book

Aim(s): to introduce learners to their course materials

Contexts: all

Level: all

Type of tool: a publisher-produced LMS of your choice; in this example, we refer to Optimise (Macmillan)

Type of materials: LMS / PowerPoint

Suitable for: all

Planning: medium-long

Preparation:

1. Before the course, you will need to familiarise yourself with the range of course components you intend to use. In our example, you first need to select from the students' materials: the printed course book or the ebook usable on a tablet; the student's Resource Centre, which contains Talk2Me videos for use with the flipped classroom model; speaking test videos; worksheets for grammar and vocabulary; the online workbook.

You will need to familiarize yourself with the course itself, which is available in a presentation kit / the Teacher's Resource Centre which includes a Test generator / Class audio CDS

2. Decide what you expect students to do out of class. Which parts will be mandatory, and which optional.
3. Decide how and when you will ask learners to join the platform. In our example, students do this in-class

In the class / outside the class:

1. In the class:

Intro: tell students how the Blended Learning course will proceed. Issue the course book and show students the web address to register. Ask students to use their access code to register and to follow the on-screen instructions. Monitor.

Set the homework. In our example, students will watch the Talk2Me video before the next lesson. Tell students they will be expected to arrive at the next lesson having watched this.

2. Outside the class:

Students watch the video and complete the exercises.

3. In the class:

Work through the exercises with the class. These are designed to activate language and provide communicative in-class tasks.

Continue the course in the same way – ensuring a link between the work students are expected to do outside the class on the platform and the work inside the class.

Variation:

In this example, the teacher wishes to go through the core course with all students, and assign different tasks from the vast range of optional materials to individual learners, depending on their needs e.g. remedial grammar / extra listening.