

10 E-TOOLS TO FACILITATE LEARNING



1. **e-Mail / Text.** These asynchronous “chat” technologies are a useful way for students and instructors to connect. They are often used for general communication and directed studies.
2. **Skype / FaceTime.** Technologies that offer real-time video/audio offer an opportunity for the “live,” dynamic connection many learners crave. Some technologies limit interactions to one-on-one, whereas others allow for multiple participants.
3. **Google Docs / Wikis.** These collaborative technologies help to foster co-creation and group interaction. These systems enable users to make contributions and adjust the contributions of others, creating an end “product” (e.g., a paper).
4. **Moodle.** This open-source, online learning management system is used by a number of educational institutions. It allows course developers to create a dedicated site for programs and courses where learners can go to access resources and lessons, engage in discussions, submit assignments, and connect with each other.
5. **Recorded PowerPoint.** Although posting PowerPoint files can be a great way to share a presentation, they often don’t have enough depth to appropriately “speak” to the topic. Recorded PowerPoints, however, include an audio track, allowing the presenter to bring the content “to life.”
6. **YouTube / MyCounseling Lab / Vimeo.** Video clips are an excellent way to incorporate multimedia. They can be particularly helpful when illustrating “soft skills” or connecting with learners. Expensive videos developed “in-house” aren’t necessary; instead look to publically available videos or those bundled with course textbooks.
7. **GoToMeeting / GoToWebinar / Adobe Connect.** For live meetings, these technologies provide an opportunity for screen sharing, live video/audio, interactive polls, and discussions to enhance the attendee’s experience.
8. **Blackboard Collaborate / OmniJoin.** A step beyond simple screen-sharing, these interactive technologies permit application sharing and collaboration. Users can create meeting places that can be used over and over again, inviting participants to mark up or zoom in on specific information.
9. **Lynda.com / Franklin Covey.** You can now manage your own learning with access to videos, experts, and courses on a wide-variety of topics. These interactive learning sites provide access to targeted training, on-demand.
10. **Coursera.** Partnering with leading international educational institutions, Coursera offers “MOOCs” (Massive Open Online Courses) on a wide variety of topics. Most of the courses are free, or offered very inexpensively. One course may have thousands of learners engaging in discussions, watching video lectures, and completing readings and assignments.

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