

# Teaching with WhatsApp

## Introduction

In this document, you will learn how to set up a group and use WhatsApp as a teaching platform for remote lessons.



WhatsApp has some advantages over other remote teaching platforms in that it is connectivity light, works on mobile devices as well as computers and is already a very popular app and so many students will already have it on their device and know how to use it.

## Tech tip

WhatsApp is commonly known as a text messaging app, but it can be used to create groups and to deliver lessons or training sessions to groups or individuals.

WhatsApp has several useful features for delivering group lessons. You can use it to deliver both synchronous and asynchronous lessons.

You can use it for group video conferences or group audio conferences as well as to deliver attachments, images, links to online resources and both video and audio messages.

WhatsApp can be installed on both phones and computers: <https://www.whatsapp.com/>

**Webinar time reference:** All

**Level:** WhatsApp is suitable for use with ages 16 and older

**Aim:** To enable the delivery of remote lessons through WhatsApp

## Preparation:

- Download and install WhatsApp onto your mobile device and your computer. We recommend that when you teach you use your computer rather than your mobile device as the computer interface is more user-friendly for teaching.
- Create a new group on WhatsApp and add the students that you want to teach to the group.
- Post an introductory video message telling the students about how you will use the app with them and share a schedule for your live classes (if you intend to deliver live classes)
- Prepare some tasks that students can do before the lesson and share them with the group.
- Prepare the materials and tasks that you will use during the lesson (worksheets are best converted to images to make them easier to share during the lesson).
- If you want to use a presentation, convert your slides to images that you can share during the lesson.
- Prepare some post lesson materials that students can use to consolidate what they learn during the lesson.

## Procedure

- When you are ready to start your live class, ask students to send a thumbs up emoji to let you know they are ready to start.
- Depending on how you want to deliver your class, start sharing your video/audio and start posting the materials and activities.
- Remember, it's best to post the instructions first using text and then post the materials.
- When you want students to participate or interact, ask them to turn on their video or audio.
- If the students' connectivity is poor, you can ask them to respond by posting audio messages or typing in text.

- Work through your activities and provide feedback as the students respond.
- At the end of the lesson, post a summary or ask students to post a summary of what they have learned from the lesson.
- Share some homework/follow-up tasks that the students can use to consolidate what they have learned.

### Additional resources

#### Teaching on WhatsApp

- This guide provides instructions on how to design and deliver an interactive training course through the WhatsApp messaging platform. Drawing on the Grassroots' pilot teaching leadership and storytelling through WhatsApp, the document shares tips on pedagogy, participant engagement, and the technical aspects of launching a distance-learning course on WhatsApp.

<https://www.ictworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Grassroot-Whatsapp-Guide.pdf>

#### LearnEnglish Teens

- Here you can find lots of materials and activities that you can use to develop your students' skills, grammar, and vocabulary. These activities can be adapted for delivery through WhatsApp and can be shared for your students to do as homework activities.

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/>

#### Using mobile messenger apps to teach English remotely

- Using a mobile messenger app such as WhatsApp is one way to support the remote learning of English and other subjects. This is especially useful when learners or teachers can only use the internet on their mobile phones or have limited data. There are a variety of ways that these apps can be used. You will need to think about the situation that most of your students are in and then design your approach and activities.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-mobile-messenger-apps-teach-english-remotely>

## **Navigating language learning through WhatsApp during the lockdown**

- Watch a recording of Abigail Ekangouo Awanga's session about using WhatsApp for learning at the IATEFL British Council World Teachers' Day web conference 2020.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/navigating-language-learning-through-whatsapp-during-lockdown>

## **Using WhatsApp for interactive tasks**

- As teachers, we are constantly looking for opportunities to exploit the learning potential of the tools and resources that our learners are already using. WhatsApp, or other free messaging platforms, are now almost ubiquitous in many contexts. This interactive workshop reports on a project designed to increase EFL learners' exposure to English outside class through a programme of tasks on the social media platform 'WhatsApp'.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-whatsapp-interactive-tasks>

## **Teaching pathways: Skills for remote teaching**

- In this practical five-week course, you will develop the skills you need for remote teaching and reflect on how they relate to your learners' learning. You will learn about different approaches to remote teaching and consider what factors make the transition from the physical to online classroom successful.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/teaching-pathways-skills-remote-teaching>

## **Remote teaching tips**

- This publication offers a range of practical tips and advice for remote teaching in all contexts.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/remote-teaching-tips>

## **Getting started with online teaching**

- Many classes and school systems all over the world are taking steps to offer lessons online. However, stepping into the digital world overnight can be challenging for many teachers. This guide is useful for teachers and teacher educators who have little experience of online teaching and need some advice on where to start.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/getting-started-online-teaching>

## Lesson planning for teaching live online

- While there are many similarities between face-to-face lessons and virtual lessons, there are a lot of differences too. Take a look at these ideas for structuring live online lessons.

<https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/lesson-planning-teaching-live-online>