

# Appendix B: Tips for Teaching Distance or Blended Learning

## Tips for Teaching Distance or Blended Learning

Below are some tips for distance teaching with adult learners.

### 1. Be prepared.

- Know your materials.
- Study the online procedures as a student.
- Prepare a method of recording information.

### 2. Be patient, firm, and flexible.

- Students will need to learn academic, digital literacy, study skills, and online learning strategies all at once.
- Provide clear directions.
- Make adjustments in order to meet learners' needs.

### 3. Try to really understand the learner's reasons for studying

**online.**

**4. Don't judge a person by their writing in an email or text message.**

**5. Develop an online persona.**

- **Personality:** Match their speed, expectations, and rhythm.
- **Sense of humor:** Remember that humor can be difficult to interpret without seeing facial expression and body language and knowing the person well.
- **Sixth sense:** What do they mean by that?
- **Educational presence:** Be a resource for the learners' question

**6. Respond quickly and frequently.**

- **Response time:** What can students expect from you? One or two business days? Consider texting students for quick check-ins or to schedule a meeting time.
- **Form letters and emails:** Use BCC to send updates to multiple students at once.
- **Form answers or an FAQ page:** Provide help resources for frequent content questions and technology problems.

**7. Respond appropriately.**

- Watch terms and expressions.
- Never promise something you cannot deliver.
- Protect anonymity.
- Do not take it personally.
- Keep responses nonpolitical, nonreligious, and nonjudgmental.

## **8. Collect necessary information.**

- Send a warm welcome email or video introduction immediately, asking about their current situation, educational background, goals, email address, and computer experience.
- Send Friday Progress Reports that they can just check and email back.
- Use multiple-recipient emails with discretion. Students prefer their anonymity. Send each email separately or use BCC, unless they know they are part of a class.
- Keep a file of individual email correspondence for quick reference.

## **9. Motivate and encourage.**

- Offer certificates or digital badges for completed sections.
- Send praise, ecards, congratulations, digital badges. Ask opinions.
- Ask for help.
- Stay on top of regional happenings to mention in your correspondence.

## **10. Handle duplicate responses.**

- Create a website, community, or Word/email document for posting and sending resources, references, duplicate questions, and website problems that affect everyone.

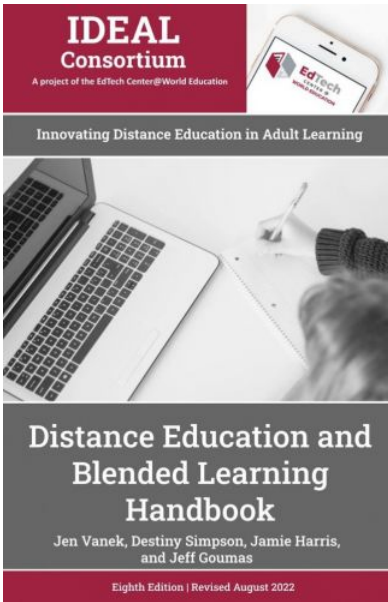
## **11. Set educational expectations.**

- Set expectations for teacher and student responses.
- Work in grammar and spelling gradually.
- Don't always jump right in to solve learners' problems. Allow [productive struggle](#), ask questions to help guide learners, and

provide support when needed to build learners' confidence and skills.

- Use Open Educational Resources (OERs).
- Ask about classes in the students' areas, and offer to find an organization near them.
- Remind students often about their goals and progress towards reaching them.

## **12. Keep yourself motivated, energized, and enthused!**



Vanek, J., Simpson, D., Harris, J., & Goumas, J. (2020). *IDEAL Distance Education and Blended Learning Handbook, 8th Edition*. EdTech Books. [https://edtechbooks.org/ideal\\_dl\\_handbook](https://edtechbooks.org/ideal_dl_handbook)