



The New Blended, a Case for Blended Online Learning

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Abstract

Blended learning has proven to be a powerful approach to acquire languages. Is blended “last decade”? It depends. Many educators have been trying to provide practical opportunities for learners and teachers to make language learning student-centered, useful, sustainable and as effective as blended methods have been. However, as technology becomes obsolete, so do the learning approaches that can keep a student engaged. Myngle has taken the lessons from the past and it is re-applying them with new technology. By combining lessons online with a live teacher and the asynchronous tool called Aula Virtual de Español (AVE) by Instituto Cervantes, Myngle is proving that “blended” is not old; it just needs a facelift.

Today’s technology allows us to combine several different instruction delivery methods. In late 2009, Myngle joined forces with the AVE program to provide its students with a comprehensive learning experience. AVE is a web-based self-study program for Spanish. Students can enter the ‘classroom’ at any time. A tutor trained by Instituto Cervantes in the content and methodology of the AVE, can assist the student inside AVE and the tutor is also a teacher on Myngle and can meet the same student for live meetings following the curriculum of the AVE.

The attention that only another experienced human being can give to student is not replace with the internet or other digital tools. Rather, the internet now allows the same attention to occur across continents. One could argue that meeting another person online, despite video, audio, and other technical capabilities is not enough to match the interaction with a persona across the table. Communication and language learning is more than just words and images.