

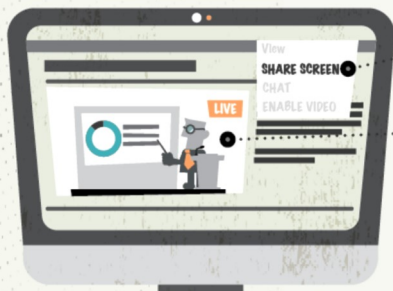
Lorraine Elementary School

The Difference Between Synchronous & Asynchronous Learning

	Synchronous Learning	Asynchronous Learning
DEFINITION	Learning that involves a group of students engaging in learning at the same time.	A student-centered learning method using online resources to facilitate information outside the constraints of time and place among people.
ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES	Conducting instant messaging, live chats and video conferencing for real-time learning	Interacting with course management systems, communicating using email, posting in discussion forums and reading articles

SYNCHRONOUS e-LEARNING

Synchronous learning occurs when remote students enroll in a class that is paced at particular intervals that must be attended/completed according to a specific schedule.



Shared Whiteboard

A shared environment allows multiple students/instructors to collaborate on a discussion with text and drawings.

Virtual Classrooms

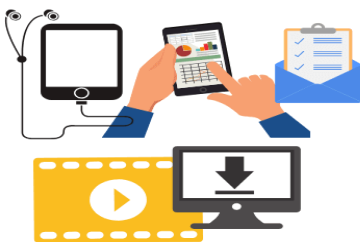
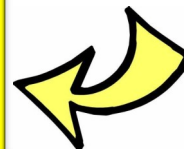
Instructors lead classes that are broadcasted in real time to remote students over an Internet connection.

Scheduled Online Examinations

Much like a traditional in-person class, exams are scheduled to be completed at a specific time and date, but are administered online.



TOGETHER



ALONE



ASYNCHRONOUS e-LEARNING

Asynchronous e-learning occurs when students begin and complete a training course at different times, according to their own schedule. Common features of asynchronous e-learning include:



Message Boards

Many such courses are augmented with message boards, allowing learners to post questions and comments on a central board for other users to see.

Discussion Groups

Going one step further than message boards, discussion groups allow students in the same course to discuss the material in real time.

Self-Paced Courses

These are courses that can be completed at one's own pace. There may be assignments and checkpoints along the way, but there are no deadlines for completion.