

can empower all the learners to turn their dream of mastering another language into reality.

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LEARNING ENGLISH USING THE ZOOM PLATFORM FIRSTHAND: PROS AND CONS

KATERYNA STECHENKO, student

SVITLANA SMOLINA, Associate Professor, PhD in Education, Scientific Adviser

T. H. Shevchenko National University “Chernihiv Colehium”

The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered new ways of studying. Nowadays, when everything is closed due to the quarantine, including different educational institutions, online learning, especially learning English, is becoming more and more popular.

English is the main intermediary language and global communication tool that connects people around the world. All educational institutions are looking toward online learning platforms to continue with the process of educating students. In this case, Zoom has become one of the most popular and convenient programs for distance learning, and especially learning English.

Zoom is a video conferencing and calling software loved by many educators for its broad functionality, reliable connection, and smooth operation. However, as with most teaching methods, online learning through Zoom has also its own set of positives and negatives.

This software has a lot of pros. Initially, it is quality connection. This is the main and indisputable advantage of the service in comparison with its direct competitor Skype and other similar services. People come to Zoom due to the fact that the connection never fails and the sound is clear. While learning English online, the sound quality plays an important role. It makes easier for students to understand the speaker/tutor and is vital for learning new words and their pronunciation.

Another advantage is the presence of an electronic board where students can write, draw, take notes, and sort out mistakes or new words. A teacher may use figures to clearly explain the rules and structures of English language. Moreover, control of the board can be given to students so that they complete a word or write an answer. This creates a kind of interaction and makes the studying process more interesting.

Also, one of the main bonuses is the opportunity to work in pairs or mini-groups within the conference for individual exercises. The process is exactly the same as in real life. However, in Zoom, the groups do not interfere with each other and hear only themselves. By the way, this advantage helps to develop soft skills and establish communication between students.

At the same time, there are some disadvantages of using Zoom for learning English. Once you increase the number of guests invited to the conference to 3 or more, the lesson time is limited to 40 minutes. Of course, you may bypass this limitation buying a special proposal. However, not all teachers can afford it. As a result, after 40 minutes students have to re-enter the conference. This is not always convenient while doing some exercises on the screen or speaking.

Another disadvantage is that the interface is a little bit complex. Many teachers complained that at first they did not fully understand how to use the platform's functions. Before working with Zoom, you need to spend some time getting to know the platform. So, learning the interface system is time-consuming. This is natural in any such case and requires only practice.

To sum up, nowadays, online platforms have become the most flexible and accessible forms of studying for many who want to gain knowledge, especially students. As a result, the number of people using Zoom for learning, in particular learning English, is constantly increasing. And despite the fact that, there are some drawbacks such as complicated interface and time limit, there are still more advantages. That is why the popularity of using Zoom for learning English is stable.

PECULIARITIES OF LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE BY CADETS OF HIGHER MILITARY EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS

KIRIL STETSENKO, cadet

OLGA V. MYSECHKO, PhD in Education, Language Adviser

Bogdan Khmelnytskyi National Academy of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, Khmelnytskyi

Every language, especially English, has a complex grammatical structure and a tremendous amount of vocabulary, requiring a unique approach and a lot of efforts to learn. Many books and articles have been written on methods and