How has 2020 changed Academic English teaching?

Teachers and students everywhere have responded to the coronavirus pandemic by adapting to new ways of teaching and learning English. This has been, and continues to be, a huge challenge for all teachers on a global scale.

We heard from over 1000 academic English teachers from 99 countries. Each of them shared their experience of how their teaching has been impacted and how their students have been affected. We also wanted to know if, despite the pressures and complexities involved in this situation, there are any positives that have emerged.

### One of the most prominent changes has been

#### Time spent teaching online

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<th>Time spent teaching online</th>
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**Before February 2020:** 53% of teachers didn’t spend any time teaching online. **Teachers spend over 50% online.**

#### Students’ progress

- 51% of teachers are finding that their students’ progress is now/uni00A0slower.
- 21% feel more confident about using technology in their classes.
- 23% say preparing for lessons now takes more time.
- 18% of teachers are telling me that their students' motivation has risen.
- 8% have become more effective at using a variety of materials.

#### The most prominent issues teachers are facing with online lessons are…

- Students’ progress: 41% of teachers say their students’ progress is now/uni00A0slower.
- Technical problems: 27% of teachers say they are facing technical issues.
- Time constraints: 22% of teachers say they are facing time constraints.
- Appropriate materials: 20% of teachers say they are facing difficulties with appropriate materials.
- Offering a variety of activity types: 18% of teachers say they are facing difficulties with offering a variety of activity types.

#### Staying on a positive note…

- The teacher’s attitude towards the situation is a key to success. Here are a few positive notes.
  - “I think that an online element is teaching is here to stay and it’s going to be a great asset.” (Teacher, UK)
  - “I think that the learning curve was incredibly large, but there is a good opportunity with teaching online out of our comfort zones for us to be able to sit on things that we wouldn’t normally do.” (Teacher, Oman)
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This research is part of our ongoing dialogue with teachers of academic English, to help us understand your needs and requirements. The findings will contribute to developing practical teacher support, ideas for product development and topics for the next annual Academic Conference, which takes place at the end of October.

Watch the talks from the 2020 Academic Conference and find out about our Academic English courses.