

### 20.1. What is Blended Learning?

This teaching material on media literacy has been developed in accordance with the blended learning education method. So, what exactly is blended learning?

The Oxford Dictionary Definition of Blended Learning:

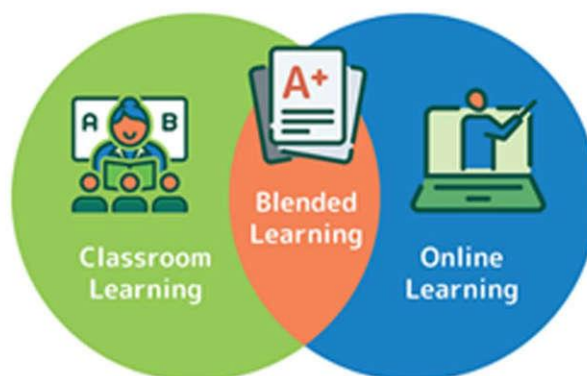
*A style of education in which students learn via electronic and online media as well as traditional face-to-face teaching.*

An excellent website **Teachthought** defines blended learning as an approach to learning that combines *face-to-face* and *online learning* experiences. Ideally, each (*both online and off*) will complement the other by using its particular strength.

According to it, defining hybrid or blended education is a trickier task than one might think - opinions vary wildly on the matter. In a report on the merits and potential of blended education, the *Sloan Consortium* defined hybrid courses as those that “*integrate online with traditional face-to-face class activities in a planned, pedagogically valuable manner*”. Educators probably disagree on what qualifies as ‘*pedagogically valuable*’, but the essence is clear: *Hybrid education uses online technology to not just supplement, but **transform and improve the learning process***.

This does not mean a professor can simply start a chat room or upload lecture videos and say he is leading a hybrid classroom. According to *Education Elements*, which develops hybrid learning technologies, successful blended learning occurs when technology and teaching inform each other: material becomes dynamic when it reaches students of varying learning styles. In other words, hybrid classrooms on the Internet can reach and engage students in a truly **customizable** way. In this scenario, online education is a game-changer, not just a supplement for the status quo. But what does this theoretical model actually look like in practice?

You can read more about the most common types of blended learning [here](#).



## 20.2. Examples of Blended Learning

The aforementioned website *Teachthought* also provides a useful and illustrative chart with 12 Examples Of Blended Learning:

### 12 EXAMPLES OF BLENDED LEARNING



An 8th-grade math ‘flipped classroom’ where students learn what the Pythagorean theorem is and see basic examples of it in use, then practice it the next day in the classroom with the support of peers and/or the teacher

Students do face-to-face group work in a classroom, then go home to analyze that work and turn in a video as an assessment form

A student taking a course online, then receiving face-to-face tutoring between online lessons

A school that uses part-time remote learning and part-time face-to-face, in-person learning

In a project-based learning unit on local waterways, students learn about waterways from a national expert through video conferencing, then take a field trip to a local river to take samples and perform other experiments

A teacher creates a digital playlist of videos for students to work through to complete a unit on alternative energy sources, then take an exam on the material in class

Students write a research paper by taking an online course (a MOOC, for example) on their own, then during in-person instruction, work in small groups to offer feedback during the writing process

Students in a woodworking class build chessboards after being ‘taught’ by observing experts doing the same using virtual reality



### 20.3. Online sources on Blended Learning

The *Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences* produced a useful short video ***What is Blended Learning?***, in which the concept of blended learning is introduced and defined as follows:



“Blended learning describes a fundamental change in education design by utilising a combination of digital learning objects and active learning methods to improve the learning experience and outcomes. A teaching session created with a blended learning model uses the face-to-face teaching time for activities that benefit the most from direct interaction.”



Another Youtube video, ***Blended learning & flipped classroom***, explains what Blended Learning is in detail, and especially illustrates one of its main models - ***Flipped Classroom*** - which is the most commonly used one and proven to be fruitful. It is a type of blended learning where students view their lecture material at home and do coursework in class. Find more videos at [osms.it/more](https://osms.it/more).

Finally, a clip titled ***Blended Learning: Making it Work in Your Classroom*** and produced by *Edutopia* shows an example of what Blended Learning looks like in a classroom, and defines it as “***a school-wide approach to blended learning that allows teachers the flexibility to define and implement online instruction that meets their students’ needs***”.

