

Blackboard Collaborate Facilitates Language Teaching and Learning Virtually

A long-time customer, the blendedschools.net Language Institute has helped school districts deliver live instruction of 9 languages—Arabic, Chinese, ESL, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish—in 59 courses to over 30 schools in 4 states. And with teachers located in Canada, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Japan, and throughout the U.S. With Blackboard Collaborate™ web conferencing, the virtual school's students learn through interaction by listening, speaking, reading, and writing the language.

Catering to different learning styles

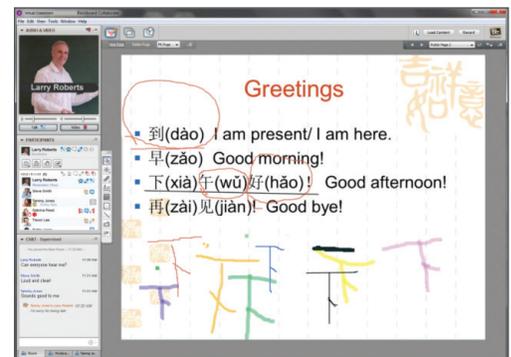
To cater to different learning styles and levels of language proficiency, blendedschools.net uses text, audio, and video. Teachers and students can even use Blackboard Collaborate for typing languages that use multi-byte characters, such as Chinese. Instructors and students can communicate virtually using any language they choose and can change the language by simply changing the language settings on their computer.

Truly collaborative group activities

With Blackboard Collaborate, multiple students—if not the entire class—can select a different color and practice writing characters simultaneously on a virtual whiteboard, allowing the instructor to see and comment. For more complex activities, the instructor can send the students to small-group breakout rooms to work on the activity and then bring them back to the main room to present to the entire class.

No specialized audio/video equipment

High-quality audio and video are critical for language instruction. Both instructors and students must be able to see, say, and hear clearly, especially with complex languages. With Blackboard Collaborate, participants can maximize learning without specialized, and costly, audio/video equipment. New audio echo cancellation enables participants to use the built-in microphone and speakers, eliminating headsets.



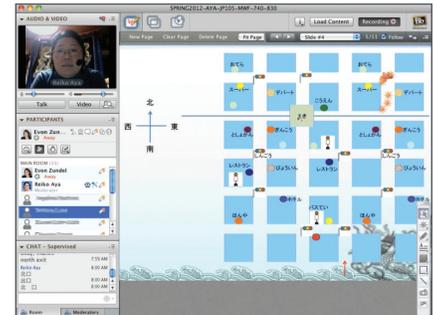
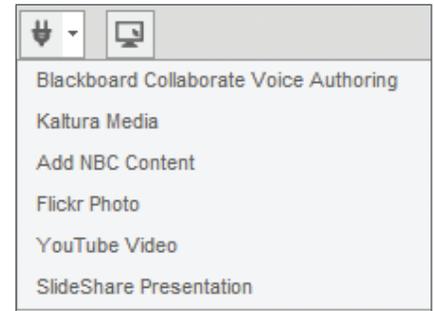
Audio-enhanced discussions and annotations

Blackboard Collaborate voice authoring integrates seamlessly with Blackboard Learn through the Blackboard Collaborate Building Block, so instructors can leave audio annotations for course assignments, test evaluations, discussion boards, and more. To reinforce comprehension and speaking skills, instructors can have students leave text-based content augmented with voice annotations, which can then be graded.

Making it convenient to learn, anywhere, anytime

Because instructors and students are distributed across the U.S., it's critical to be able to accommodate multiple schedules. At blendedschools.net, students can attend their virtual classes from anywhere they have Internet access—school, dorm room, or home. And if students are unable to attend at their regularly scheduled time, they can view an on-demand recording, with audio, chat, whiteboard interactions, and even application sharing displayed just as they were in the live session.

Plus, with new Blackboard Collaborate mobile web conferencing, students can attend classes from their mobile phones and tablets over 3G/4G and WiFi.



Blackboard Products and Functionality Used by blendedschools.net

Blackboard Collaborate Web Conferencing

- ▶ Shared, interactive whiteboards where all students can practice writing characters simultaneously
- ▶ Interactive games and activities
- ▶ Video (webcam) cameras so students can see instructor pronounce
- ▶ Audio conferencing/voice over IP so students can hear instructor pronounce
- ▶ Text chat
- ▶ Polling and emoticons to gauge student comprehension and increase interactivity
- ▶ Recording of sessions for on-demand, asynchronous playback for convenient, anytime learning
- ▶ Multi-language user interface accommodates learners of various cultures

- ▶ Convenient anywhere, anytime access for students

- ▶ Unicode/multi-byte character support allows text to be entered in any language

Blackboard Collaborate Voice Authoring

- ▶ Threaded voice discussion boards
- ▶ Voice annotations via voice-mashup tool

Blackboard Learn

- ▶ Course information
- ▶ Course materials
- ▶ Course communications and announcements
- ▶ Course testing and assignments

Building Block for Blackboard Collaborate Web Conferencing

- ▶ Seamless integration of Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing with Blackboard Learn

“Our completion rate has never been below 90%, which is unheard of in online schools, let alone schools that offer classes for some of the most difficult languages. Along with outstanding instructors, we attribute this success rate to the use Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing.”

Mark Gensimore
VP of Business and Professional Development
blendedschools.net

