



Blend it!

In 2003 blended learning was recognized to be one of the top ten emerging trends in the knowledge delivery industry by the American Society for Training and Development.¹

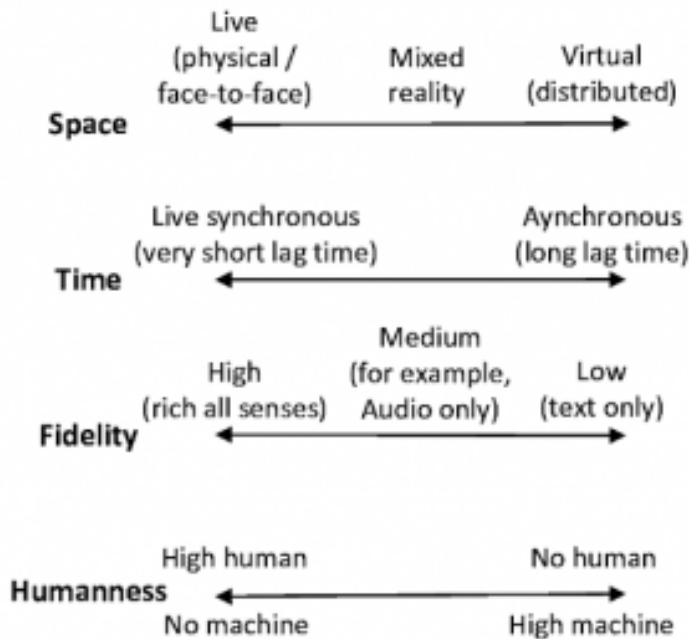
Nowadays the pandemic has brought back the need **to find** new ways to deliver knowledge and blended learning can be a good solution. But, what do we mean **by** blended learning?



There are a lot of definitions that have been given but the main concept is always the same: mixing face to face teaching with multiple online learning techniques and materials.²

Since 2002, when some University in California started delivering knowledge using both face-to-face lessons and internet, there has been no fixed pattern for blended learning but the possibilities are endless.

In 20 years many changes have occurred and online possibilities are now many more and diverse. Moreover, the new challenges of Didattica a Distanza **have given** us the chance to explore new possibilities.



The elements that play a role in Blended learning are mainly four: Space, Time, Fidelity and Humanness. The different mix of the four elements gives life to an infinite number of activities³ such as flipped classroom, team-based learning, experiential learning, problem-based learning, cooperative learning and many more.

¹ Graham, Dziuban, Blended learning environments, Handbook of Research on Educational Communications and Technology: A Project of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology, 2007.

² G.Picciano, Blended Learning: Research Perspectives, Volume 2, Routledge, 2013.

³ Curtis, Bonk, Graham, The Handbook of Blended Learning: Global Perspectives, Local Designs, 2005.

PROS AND CONS

Like every other teaching approach, blended learning has both pros and cons.

PROS

- Personalisation – blended learning gives the possibility to match students' needs
- Time management – Online materials are available anywhere at any time
- 360° Educational experience thanks to the varied material provided

CONS

- Organising a blended **unit** is time consuming
- Technology sometimes can be challenging
- Time spent in front of a screen increases

EXAMPLES

The following examples are meant to be just general outlines of what teachers can plan for a blended teaching unit.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF... | FOCUS ON WORK

- Vocabulary for jobs and skills required
- Interview somebody asking him/her about the tasks involved in his/her job and the skills needed
- TV Series – Dirty jobs. Let your students choose **an** episode and investigate a particular job that is not that common in their area
- Strange jobs around the world – group research (Dabawalla, Train pusher, Smokejumper...)
- Write a paragraph on the job you find perfect for your teacher

WHERE LIFE IS TOUGH | FOCUS ON WAR LITERATURE

- Intro war literature
- Station learning – music, art, poems, photography during wars
- Voices from battlefields. Use the podcasts spotify offers to investigate the topic
- https://www.ted.com/talks/emtithal_mahmoud_a_young_poet_tells_the_story_of_darfur/transcript#t-65101
- Poem analysis

START CREATING YOUR OWN BLENDED LESSON

<https://ed.ted.com/videos>