

THE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ONLINE TEACHERS' GUIDE

A journey towards effective online teaching

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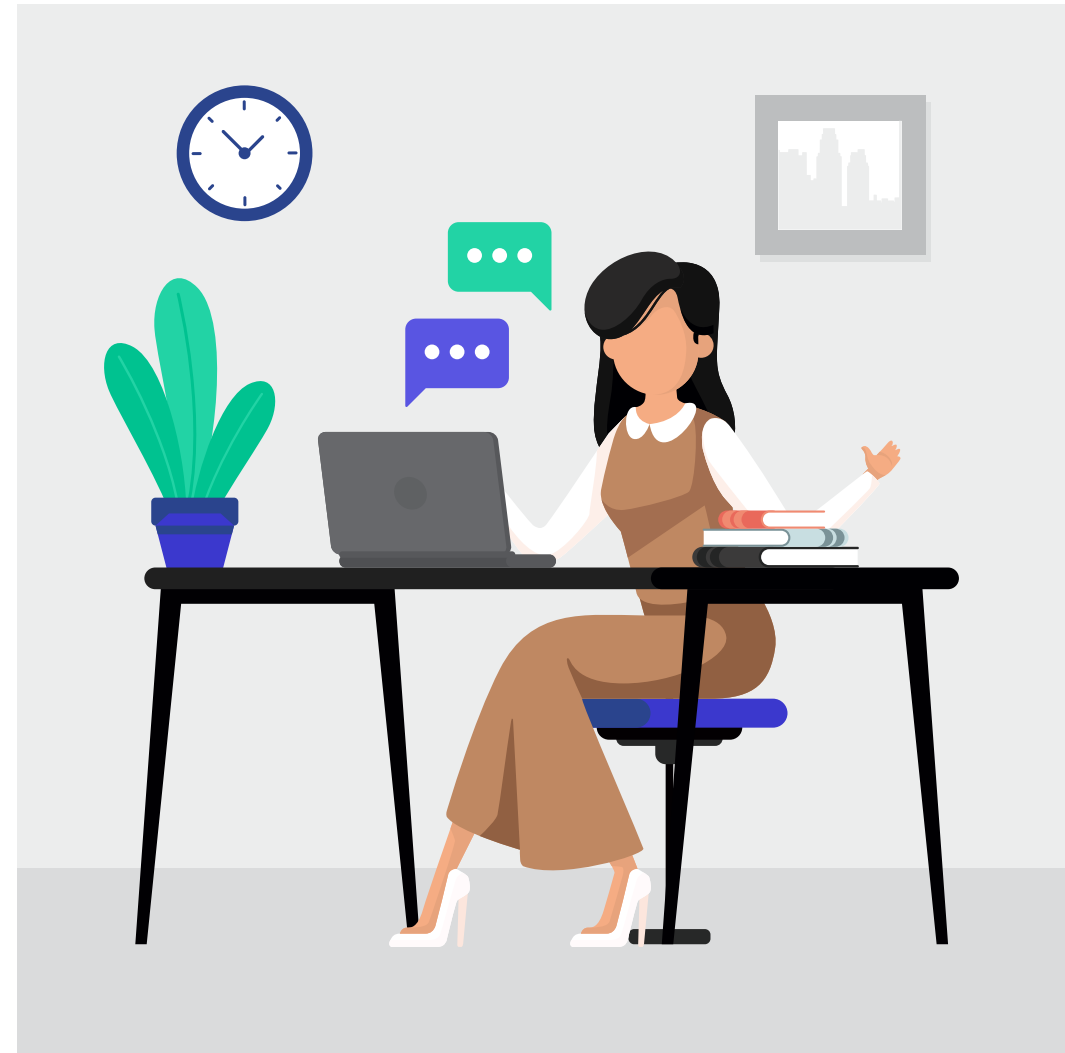
Introduction

A good teacher can change a person's life. Every teacher wants to **influence their students** to become productive members of society. Achieving this requires exceptional teaching methods and a way to inspire them.

The question on everyone's mind is: what makes a "good teacher"? While the answer is more complicated than this, **good teachers** are the ones that inject their **personality** into their lessons, while also being organized and creative.

However, this is easier to achieve during face to face classes than in the online learning environment. In fact, even great teachers have learned that **effective e-teaching methods** require a different approach.

They've found that the **shift to e-learning** is an opportunity to reassess their content since a lackluster **online instruction design** cannot be helped by a teacher's personality, and the flaws in a lesson plan become more evident online.



Ways to be a good teacher

There are many **qualities** that come to mind when describing **good teachers**. Here are a few that are considered especially important:

Be open to teamwork

A good teacher will put themselves in the **position of a guide**, rather than a leader. You can't carry the burden of learning by yourself, you need to make sure that your students are open to **cooperation and learning**. This requires open communication and a willingness to be flexible with your methods.

Show passion when teaching

Passion for teaching is sometimes lost as it becomes part of a routine. This is something that affects all teachers. Try to find something interesting about your subject that will **reignite the passion** you had for it. It's as easy as learning new tidbits to present to the class. Find something that will pique their interest and try your best to present it as the most interesting fact in existence.

Manage your time well

It's no secret that teachers have a lot of work on their hands. **Time management** is an absolutely essential part of every career, but it's especially important in education. Use as many **helpful tricks** you can to ease the time it takes to prepare subjects. For instance, you can write reminders and flashcards to read before an important presentation. It's a skill that can cut your preparation time by quite a bit.



Never stop learning

Teachers have to be constantly on the lookout for **new information** related to their field. To effectively teach, you need to stay up to date. Teaching itself is a skill that can be worked on as well. There are many learning resources and other tools that help you **improve your craft**. As long as you aim to perfect your profession, you can count on positive results in classrooms and other teaching environments.



Overcome obstacles

Teaching is a very specific job with both **benefits and downsides**. However, what people don't realize is that even during the Summer break teachers keep busy with preparing teaching materials. In a way, teachers never really take a break from teaching. You can deal with bad days and inattentive students once you figure out that these **drawbacks are only temporary**. The main factor that influences the student's education is your quality of teaching.

Habits of highly effective teachers

The characteristics that define a **great online instructor** are in fact not that different from those that define a great face-to-face teacher. It's really important that teachers not allow their natural methodologies, learned skills, and abilities to be masked or muted by technology. Making a conscious decision to see technology as a lens, platform or toolkit will help translate your lessons, rather than transform them.

With that in mind, let's explore the **six habits of effective online teachers**:

1. Focus on learning objectives

One of the biggest mistakes teachers make when **redesigning lesson plans** for the e-learning environment is they forget about the learning objectives. It's essential that you design each online module – not as an exact replica of the real-world lesson, but as a **digital redesign**.

By exploring the full suite of options available within the **learning management system (LMS)** or any other platforms you are using, you can add gaming elements, interactive videos, practice quizzes, social learning, and so much more.

2. Stimulate prior knowledge

Good online teachers explicitly mine for a student's baseline of previous knowledge and build upon that. This **highly personalized approach** is overwhelming in large classrooms, but the online learning environment features fast feedback loops. This means that an opening question or quiz can easily guide you on what students already know.

Once you have established your streams of prior knowledge, you can take each student on a **personalized journey** with the help of competency-based learning.



3. Invite responses

Great online teachers manage to show that they're present for their online courses. Naturally, **synchronous online learning** environments allow for more conversation and interaction.

But what about the **asynchronous environment** – where students are accessing the content in their own time at their own pace? An opening video, per module, is a great place to start and will give the course a face and personality.

Modeling the behavior you want to see is also important here. Invite students to reach out to you, and ensure you have set correct expectations for when you will respond and stick to it.



4. Enthusiasm

The most successful teachers have an **enormous passion** for their subject. Asking teachers to capture that **same enthusiasm online** can be a tricky, but not impossible challenge. The secret is to use what's available to you to magnify your passion, whether it's YouTube videos, PowerPoint voice overs or podcasts. This also helps you **reach more students** as digital tools needn't curb the enthusiasm of the impassioned teacher.

5. Set expectations

E-learning can sometimes take on a free-form style, and that's one of its advantages: **students explore** as much as they want in their own time. However, a **solid set of expectations** at the beginning of the course and module is essential to keep all students on track.

You will have students who want to work through the checklist of expectations and be done with it, and you will have students that are engaged and seek to **immerse themselves** in the subject beyond the listed requirements. It is nonetheless essential that you make clear what the assessment criteria will be, what coursework and homework are required, as well as what students can expect from you in terms of **availability, support, and communication**.



6. Curate

Good online teachers understand that the Internet provides **far more content** than a single teacher could ever hope to create. Some educators go so far as to question the entire concept of **teacher-created content**, with the view that, with the Internet providing nearly everything, why bother creating more?

As curators — rather than creators — of information, teachers are able to focus their students' attention on **quality, in-depth learning** content while freeing up time to engage, debate, and discuss it with students.

Conclusion

Teaching is a profession that requires an enormous amount of patience and dedication. However, it's also one of the most **rewarding professions** out there. By adopting a few key habits, educators can improve their methods both inside and outside of the classroom, offline and online, face to face or distance learning.

However, even the best online teachers out there can't get things done without the right tools.

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