

## skype IN EDUCATION

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### ABSTRACT

*21st century educational system makes its classrooms with no boundaries. Technology helps students learn anywhere. Many technological approaches bring the world into your classroom through video conferencing, social networking, etc. Through video conferencing, educators can engage their classrooms and watch students of one class interact with students of another class. Classroom to Classroom interactions bring new joy to students and encourage them to actively participate in discussions. This article recommends Skype as great tool for teaching and learning process. Let's know about the usage of Skype for effective teaching and learning in classroom.*

### INTRODUCTION

Educational Technology and Mobile Learning have been restored to help teachers and educators by using the new technology in education. Technology is designed to promote meaningful teaching and learning, providing educators and students. This technology is to promote the fundamental learning principles essential for academic achievement. It also provides educators with professional development, curriculum, contests and other resources. Skype is a free and easy way for teachers to open up their classroom and lead their students to a world way beyond their campus. With Skype, students can learn from other students, connect with other teachers, and expand their knowledge in amazing ways. Teachers and parents can also benefit from Skype in the classroom.



### WHAT IS SKYPE?

Skype is a software program using voice over IP, or VoIP, technology. IP stands for "internet protocol." Cross platform, multi-lingual, and free to both download and use, Skype software

permits users to make high-quality audio and video "phone calls" over the Internet, send instant messages, and do video conferencing online. It is one of the best voices-over-internet services online and was created in 2003 by Niklas and Janus but later on was owned by Microsoft particularly in the year 2011. Skype has over 663 million registered users as of September 2011, putting it at the top ranks with Face-book and Twitter. Teachers may download and use Skype at school. The slogan of Skype is "the whole world can talk for free".



### SKYPE FOR EDUCATION

Internet connectivity in educational settings provides opportunities for interactive exchange and collaboration between students living on other sides of town or the other side of the planet. These synchronous, real-time discussions using free software like "Skype" can tangibly expand the walls of the traditional classroom and engage students to write, share, and communicate with an authentic audience. Educators interested in helping motivate students to develop both traditional as well as

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twenty-first century literacy skills in the classroom can and should use audio and video conferencing technologies like Skype to literally plug their students into collaborative exchanges with global partner.



Skype for education opens the door to many possibilities. Depending on the type of school, educators can use Skype for everything to improve the quality of education. Chalkboards, textbooks and visual aids have been used to teach, but advancement of the technology has begun altering the way of students in learning. Skype, an application you can download for free on your computer or mobile phone, allows you to make voice and video calls over the Internet. It can also be used in the classroom to expand the educational landscape. From guest lecture, field trips, parental conference and tutoring, Skype has the ability to enrich the learning process for both students and teachers.

#### **THE GUEST LECTURER / SPEAKER**

Guest lecturers can come to your classroom via Skype. Teachers can have authors and other guest speakers who do not have the ability to travel to a classroom speak over Skype to share their ideas. Teachers often invite guest speakers to lecture or inform their students about a particular topic, relying on the speaker's schedule to make it happen. Using Skype in the classroom allows guest lecturers / speakers to talk with students from anywhere in the world at any time, eliminating the need for the speaker to physically be in the classroom. Students can ask the speaker questions in real time using Skype. Students can also receive answers from the speaker in real time.



#### **FIELD TRIPS**

If students aren't able to participate in a field trip due to factors such as budgetary or distance constraints, Skype can be used to bring the field trip into the classroom. While some field trips are meant to be purely for enjoyment's sake, like going to the circus, other trips have a more educational purpose behind them. Sadly, school budgets can prohibit teachers from taking their students everywhere they wish to go. With Skype, the field trip can come to the classroom. For example, if a teacher want to show the museum or highly prohibited industries, try setting up a Skype tour with the guide of a museum or in charge of the industry. This will allow students to take a tour to the important places without leaving the classroom, and on the tightest schedule / budget.

#### **STUDENT TO STUDENT**

While students learn best from their teachers, they can also benefit by learning from each other by using Skype. For example, if students are studying in Delhi, they can Skype other students in Tamil Nadu to gain the subject information. Students learning a foreign language can Skype with students fluent in that language. Even in the summer vacation time, students can Skype with students in foreign country who is experienced in different languages. Student to student interactions may allow certain students to feel more at ease since they are speaking / learning with peers as compared to an authority figure.



### **PARENTAL CONFERENCES AND TUTORING**

For parents who are too busy to come to the classroom for parent-teacher conferences, they can use Skype to connect by audio, video and/or chat. Parents could also observe their children through Skype, with the teacher's cooperation. Parents often wish to be more involved with their children education, but schedules can make this a hassle from time to time. With Skype, you have the option of using your Web cam during a call, so parents can have face-to-face conferences with teacher of their children, allowing them to stay updated on any and all recent developments within the classroom.



If you need to tutor a student, Skype allows you to do that through its video feature. You can have your camera pointed to a blackboard so the student can see it as you are explaining the lesson. Teachers can also use Skype to express concerns about a specific child with her parents, without requiring the parent to physically come into class. Students who need tutors, but can't physically meet them, can have tutoring sessions using Skype instead. Tutors can use Skype to visually show students how to solve a particular problem in the comfort of their own home.

### **AFTER SCHOOL HELP**

Use Skype as a tool to provide after school help to students needing extra attention. Tutors, teachers, or librarians can be available at set times in the afternoons for student access.

### **CONNECT SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

Students who may have to be out of the classroom due to special needs or any other requirements don't have to miss any special events in the classroom with Skype.

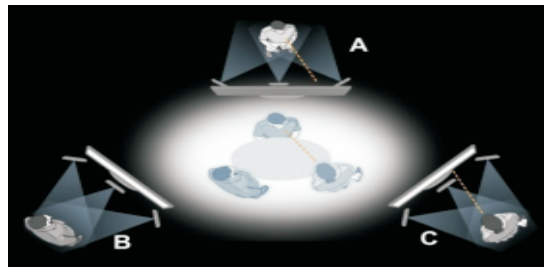
### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Teachers can use Skype to access professional development opportunities, such as watching conference presentations. With a computer set up in a central location, teachers can Skype into a training conference, thus saving schools travel costs. Teacher can share their idea to another teacher without leaving his class room. He will the present a paper to the audience of any seminar, conference and workshop through this Skype.



### **CONDUCT DEBATES AND DISCUSSIONS**

Once your classroom is set in front of another classroom using Skype, you will have numerous ways to engage the students of your class in discussions and debates. These interactions not only improve students' knowledge but also bring them new energy to learn new things.



### **IMPORTANCE OF SKYPE IN EDUCATION**

1. Skype as an easy and inexpensive way of communication between people all over the world, open the door to a wide range of activities that can improve student engagement and comprehension.
2. Interacting with people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds help students understand cultural differences and learn about history and social norms.
3. Skype is the most important to the students in learning a new language. It can connect them to native speakers everywhere in the world

- and let them fine-tune their foreign language skills.
4. Learning becomes more authentic, inspirational, and engaging when it transcends the walls of the classroom.
  5. Skype offers an easy way for students and instructors to engage in synchronous communication.
  12. In case of issues with a student, teachers can use Skype to hold a video conference session with a parent who, because of circumstance, could not attend physically to the school.
  13. Teachers can use Skype to collaborate with each other. They can, for instance, do peer tutoring by having an experienced teacher or mentor teacher watch one teaching via Skype and then give valuable feedback to him/her.

### **USES OF SKYPE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

1. Teachers can use video conferencing to hold teaching sessions with their students while being away from the classroom.
2. Teachers can have guest speakers talk directly with students using video conferencing, these speakers can be for instance, authors, producers, or other teachers or even students.
3. Skype can be used in a language classroom to help students improve their linguistic skills via speaking to native speakers of the target language.
4. Use Skype as a tool to provide after school help to students needing extra attention.
5. Skype can be used to help students with disabilities, special needs or who are absent to catch up with the class from home.
6. Teachers can connect their classes via Skype with other classes on the other side of the world.
7. Students can use Skype to do peer teaching and also to forge lasting and solid friendships with each other are it locally or internationally.
8. Students can use it to collaborate on classroom projects and assignments by making free video calls and even video conferencing.
9. If you take your class on a field trip, then Skype will make you able to connect with parents or other classes to share your experience with them.
10. Teachers can use Skype for professional development mainly by connecting to other educators and watching and sharing conference presentations.
11. Teachers can use Skype to share student's classroom work with their parents.

### **SKYPE IN THE CLASSROOM**

Skype in the classroom strives to enrich students' learning experiences to discover new cultures, languages and ideas without leaving the classroom. It is excited to collaborate with teaching, like-minded organizations to bring relevant content directly to innovative teachers who are looking to create unforgettable shared learning experiences for their students. Skype announces collaboration with prominent educational organizations to further empower teachers with educational resources through technology by offering Skype in the classroom. This collaboration marks Skype's latest initiative to reach its goal of connecting one million classrooms globally through Skype in the classroom, a free online community that helps teachers use Skype to enrich experiences for students.



### **SETUP OF SKYPE IN CLASSROOM**

Using Skype in the classroom is a highly effective way to open your students' eyes to a whole world far beyond the school grounds. The use of Skype enables teachers to invite a range of different people to speak to their class from anywhere in the world. It enables teachers and students to connect from around the globe sharing their knowledge and experiences, bringing diversity to the class which would not be possible otherwise.



### **SKYPE SOFTWARE**

Download Skype for free from the Skype website. In the address bar of the school's browser, insert the required address and scroll down until you see a download option. Don't hesitate to click as the whole process is quick, easy and completely free.

### **HARDWARE**

Stock up on necessary equipment in the classroom before using Skype. Depending on your computer, your Skype conferencing may need additional hardware devices such as microphones, headphones and webcams. Look into this before use. Give yourself enough time to set up thoroughly. Make sure your microphone/headset is working properly, test the connection and be aware of any potential classroom interferences, such as cellular phones.

### **CONNECT THE GROUP**

Add the contact details of the people you wish to contact on your account and save them. Double click on the saved names and you are now connected. Skype allows you to call other computers as well as phones at a much lower price than a standard phone call. Display the video using a laptop or desktop wired to an overhead projector in front of the class and allows students to interact clearly and openly with their guest lecturer.

### **FIX A SCHEDULE FOR CLASSROOM INTERACTION**

You can see a number of educators on social networks searching for classrooms to interact with their classroom. Skype Education channel helps you find out educators, lessons, classrooms and guest speakers to interact with. As we know, the classrooms we interact with are separated at a greater geographical distance; there is no doubt that there is a Time Zone difference. Fix a schedule which is convenient for both the classrooms to interact with. Classroom interaction helps educators improve students' learning strategies because of the effective interactions between students and students, students and educator, author or a demonstrator.



### **DISADVANTAGES OF USING SKYPE**

Skype is an Internet service that uses voice over Internet protocol technology to allow people from all over the world to communicate. Skype allows individuals to talk for free to other Skype users, but requires that individuals pay for credit when calling land-lines and cell phones. Aside from this disadvantage, there are several other characteristics that you need to consider before using. Skype requires your computer to be turned on and the software up and running in order to make calls. This is a huge disadvantage, as it prevents you from making and receiving calls when your computer is off. When you receive a Skype call when your computer is turned off, the service does record messages if you subscribe to the voice mail feature.

Limited options exist for individuals who would like to use a typical land-line telephone with the Skype software other than a corded USB phone. Skype officially endorses only two types of traditional land-line telephones that can be used with its service: the cordless RTX Dual phone handset and 3G Internet phone. Phones that use Wi-Fi technology are specifically made for Skype users such as the one made by Net Gear are options, but these options are extremely limited as well.

### **CONCLUSION**

Integrating the Skype into education is a highly effective way to open the students' eyes to a whole world far beyond the school grounds. The use of Skype enables teachers to invite a range of different teachers to teach their class from anywhere in the world. It enables teachers and students to connect from around the globe sharing their knowledge and experiences.

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