

Step – Teaching writing skills in online lessons

Task 1

Watch Lindsay and Marie Therese talking about teaching writing skills online and take notes on the things below to help you do the next task.

Answer

Activities done in and out of the lesson	The actual writing part of a lesson will probably be done at home but pre-writing and post-writing tasks can be done in class.
Lesson structure	As in a face-to-face lesson, the teacher will perhaps show a model, analyse the structure/layout and some language, do some language input and then give feedback to the learner after they've written the text.
Writing sub-skills	Teachers might want to do some work on sub-skills during the lesson such as punctuation, linking ideas, helping learners to use a wider variety of vocabulary or word order.
Feedback on writing	When learners send their work online, there are a few different ways of giving feedback using digital tools. More on that later in the course!

Task 2

Imagine you're teaching a writing lesson to a B2-level one-to-one adult learner, who's preparing for university. The lesson focus is on structuring a paragraph in an essay.

Read these five tasks which make up the lesson. Which are you likely to do in class? Which are you likely to do out of class? Why? Use your notes from task 1 to help you.

Task 2 Answer

1: You provide the learner with a model essay paragraph and ask the learner to identify where the main point is stated (the topic sentence) and the purpose of the other sentences (supporting details).

This is best done in the lesson as the task is short and the learner will need support from you.

2: You ask the learner to put five sentences in the correct order to create a cohesive and coherent paragraph.

This is best done in the lesson as it checks the learner's understanding of paragraph structure.

3: You ask the learner to write an essay paragraph on a topic already discussed in a previous lesson.

This could be done either in the lesson or for homework. If the paragraph will take the learner some time, it might be best done at home. However, it could be done collaboratively in class, with you guiding the learner, e.g. What's your topic sentence going to be? You could also have a combination of the two, with some preparation done together in class, and the learner finishing the paragraph for homework.

4: You ask the learner to write a complete essay.

This is best done at home as the learner will need time to think, plan and write.

5: You provide feedback to the learner on the quality of their essay.

This can be done orally in the next lesson or it could be given in oral or written form for the learner to review at home. Either way, it's a good idea to check learners have understood your feedback, as the message a teacher wants to convey is sometimes misunderstood.