

13 Things You Need to Know about Online Teaching

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I've been teaching online for years. I've used every possible platform; Skype, Zoom. WhatsApp, FaceTime, Hangouts, Messenger...

Here are some simple pointers:

1. Any Platform can work.

2. Zoom appears to be the most popular. People claim it's the most stable. In my experience it's the Internet connection on both sides that is the most important thing.

3. Take time with a first time online student to lay out some basic rules for how it works best.

- A Simple sign language for STOP. I use a hand up 🖐️ important because talking at the same time does not work.
- Establish Talk - Listen - Sing - Listen... Only one person should be speaking / singing at a time.
- If student is using a playback track it is best to have two devices. Online Video on computer, playback with phone.
- Playback device should NOT be near mic of video conference device. The further away the better.
- Ask student to close other apps, windows, devices that may be using their WiFi. Do the same on your end.
- If connection is bad, don't be afraid to hang up and call back.
- Record and send exercise scales or arpeggios during or after session.
- some platforms allow the student to record the session.

4. Playing scales while your student sings them really does not work. You can play first then they sing. Listen - Repeat. Limit to one person speaking, singing, playing - the other listening. This is really important.

5. Pay attention to physical signs. Mouth position, tongue, tensions, posture...

6. Position of Camera should allow for both of you to be close and be able to back up and stand up to demonstrate so you can see the upper body.

7. Sometimes using headphones, earbuds, with a built in mic clears up the audio connection. Sometimes it doesn't. Be flexible.

8. Prepare pictures, graphics you use a lot on your device so you're ready to send them during session. Most platforms allow for this. Otherwise use email, text...

9. It's possible to share your screen, watch things together and listen to things together. Note: not all platforms have this option.

10. If connection isn't working. Simply switch to audio chat. Or record audio messages and send back and forth. Most kids don't text any more, they send audio texts. The platform isn't important. Every phone does that now days. They are used to this. App Marco Polo is used by many.

11. Be patient and ask for patience. It's an adjustment at first for both sides. It does work and is very effective.

12. Focus more on 1-3 corrections during one session.

13. Ask more questions. How does it feel? What volume level are you using 1-10? Do you have movement? What did you notice? Did that help? Can you repeat that? Etc...

I'm happy to help, coach, connect with anybody that feels they need assistance.

There is NO DIFFERENCE in the progress of my online students and in person students.

Currently I have moved ALL clients online.

Hope this was helpful.

Best wishes!

Stay Safe, Clean & Calm