

## 4 Culture

### • Digital learning

#### Aim

Discuss the positive and negative things about digital learning.

#### Warm-up

With books closed, ask students what they know about schools in their country, for example, what different types of school there are, how much time children spend at school each week. Write the words *digital learning* on the board and ask students what they think it means. Elicit some ideas, but do not accept or reject any at this stage. Tell students they are going to learn about *digital learning*.

#### Background

Digital learning is more than just providing students with a laptop or a smart phone. It requires a combination of technology, digital content and instruction. It is also known as "learning facilitated by technology that gives students some element of control over time, place, path and/or pace." Learning is not limited to the school days, to the teachers only or within the walls of a classroom. Students in a digital learning classroom will enjoy a combination of a wide spectrum of practices including lively lessons on TV channels, mobile learning, virtual reality, blended learning, and/or softwares. Moreover, interactive and adaptive software allows students to learn in their own style and at their own pace, making learning personal.

Digital learning is suitable for professional athletes, singers or soldiers ... who are often absent from school. It is very useful during the time of a pandemic or other natural disasters. However, digital learning should not be the key method because it only brings knowledge to learners but lacks skills.

#### Exercise 1

Students work in pairs to answer the questions. Elicit a few possible answers. Students then read the text and check their answers. Check answers with the class.

#### ANSWERS

1 He's at home. 2 He's studying.

#### Exercise 2 1-47

Students read the text and check their sentences in exercise 1. Ask whose sentences were accurate.

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I can discuss the positive and negative things about digital learning.

- 1 Look at the first photo and answer the questions. Then read the text and check your answers.

- Where is Ben?
- What is he doing?

### I can still learn

Most children between five and eighteen in Britain must go to school. But the situation is different for me. I play tennis and I must practise a lot, and I often go to other countries to play in tournaments. How can I still learn? Luckily, digital learning helps me.

When I am absent from school, I do online courses. Computers help me with the subjects, and I can learn at my own speed. When there is no tournament, I come back to school and I can do the tests easily. My friends also help me if I have any problems.

This new learning way makes me happy and keeps me up with my friends. I can still learn when I am not at school. That is why digital learning becomes more and more popular.

\* keep up with: to do whatever is necessary to stay level or equal with someone or something



- 2 1-47 Read and listen to the text and answer the questions.

- Why is Ben sometimes absent from school?
- What helps Ben to keep learning?
- Does Ben still go to school?
- Can Ben pass the tests at school?
- In your opinion, who often does online courses when he or she is absent from school?

- 3 YOUR CULTURE Answer the questions.

- At what age do children usually start school in your country?
- At what age can you leave school?
- Can children in your country do online courses?

- 4 USE IT! Work in groups. Discuss the topic: Is digital learning useful? Why? Follow the instructions.

- Work in pairs and write the positive things about digital learning.
- Join another pair and discuss in your groups. Use some of the expressions in the box.

Digital learning is good for ...  
It is good because ...  
It becomes more and more popular because ...  
However, it cannot replace schools because ...

- Compare your ideas with other groups'.

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#### ANSWERS

- He is sometimes absent from school because he's a tennis player and needs time to practise and play in tournaments.
- Digital learning helps him to keep studying.
- Yes, he does. He still goes to school when there is no tournament.
- Yes, he can do the tests easily.
- Students' own answers.

#### Exercise 3 YOUR CULTURE

Students answer the questions. They can compare their answers in pairs. Check answers with the class.

#### ANSWERS

Students' own answers.

#### Exercise 4 USE IT!

Brainstorm a few positive and negative things about digital learning with the class, e.g. *You can still follow the lessons when you are busy but you cannot understand the lessons as fully as you are at school. Besides,*

*you can't play in school teams or go on school trips.*

Put students into pairs to prepare their ideas. Read through the expressions in the box with the class and check that students understand everything. Put pairs together into groups to discuss their ideas. Ask groups in turn to tell the class if they think that digital learning is a good or bad idea overall.

#### ANSWERS

Students' own answers.

#### Optional activity: Writing

Ask students to imagine they are busy as an athlete and they have to learn at home. Ask them to prepare their ideal weekly timetable. Tell them their timetable should include studying and also sports and social activities. Students can compare their timetables in small groups and decide which one they would most like to follow.