

USE OF MOODLE FOR TEACHING ENGLISH TO HOSPITALITY STUDENTS

The specific features of the Moodle platform functioning by the students specialized in Hospitality and Restaurant Management at UEPA are viewed.

Distance learning has been actively used and developed in recent years, especially in Ukraine. Analyzing a certain number of articles, it can be concluded that learning through computer technologies is quite successful, as statistics show that students have demonstrated higher or significantly higher results in many disciplines due to the use of state-of-the-art equipment, which provides access to a larger volume of educational materials, interactive tools, the ability to independently plan their studies, and an individualized approach to each student.

Ukrainian universities use the platform Moodle which has all elements of the mentioned above efficient activities. They have all chances to “acquire communicative competence, including digital communication competence”. Furthermore, the role of a teacher in some cases “might be substituted by a smart robot that could provide effective communication”[3].

Moodle is a versatile and widely-used Learning Management System (LMS) that can be effectively employed for teaching English to hospitality students. Here are some key ways in which Moodle can be utilized in this context:

Interactive Lessons: Moodle offers tools for creating engaging and interactive lessons. You can include quizzes, assignments, and discussion forums to foster active participation and knowledge retention.

Centralized Content Repository: Moodle allows you to create a centralized repository for all English teaching materials, including textbooks, articles, videos, and interactive content. This makes it easy for both students and instructors to access resources from a single location.

Feedback and Progress Tracking: Moodle allows instructors to track student progress and provides students with the ability to monitor their own progress. It is important for students to know how they are performing and where they can improve.

Discussion Forums: Hospitality and Restaurant Management students can benefit from discussion forums to practice communication skills. You can create topics related to common scenarios in the hospitality industry and encourage students to engage in role-playing and problem-solving discussions.

Collaborative Projects: Moodle supports collaborative learning. Students can work together on group projects related to the hospitality sector, where they need to use English for planning, presenting, and reporting.

Multimedia Integration: It allows to incorporate multimedia elements, for instance, videos and audio recordings into the courses. For Hospitality and Restaurant Management students, this can include training videos, interviews with industry professionals, or simulations of real-life scenarios.

Language Practice Activities: Moodle can host various language practice activities, such as vocabulary quizzes, pronunciation exercises, and grammar drills. These activities can be tailored to the specific language needs of hospitality students.

Mobile Accessibility: Moodle is accessible via mobile devices, which is crucial for

hospitality students who may be working part-time or have irregular schedules.

Customization: You can customize Moodle to suit your specific course requirements and the unique needs of your hospitality students.

The list of advantages of the Moodle platform in this work is incomplete, but includes the most important ones.

It should be also mentioned that within the framework of distance learning, the Ministry of Education and Science, in partnership with Cambridge University and in collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Transformation in Ukraine, has implemented a model for higher education institutions to access the Cambridge Empower course. A diagnostic module is provided with the course to help determine the individual's English language proficiency level and place them into the appropriate group for studying with the Empower course. Invited university representatives also have the option to supplement the courses with their own modules tailored to the institution's educational profile and specific specialties. At UEPA, this mode has already been practiced, and students can participate in this course completely free of charge.

In conclusion, Moodle is a powerful platform for teaching English to hospitality students because it offers a flexible and interactive learning environment, allowing for the integration of language skills with practical knowledge related to the hospitality industry. By leveraging its features effectively, instructors can enhance language proficiency and prepare students for successful careers in the field.

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