

What to expect from digital language classes

Below is a useful guide to help you with your digital language learning journey with the King's Language Centre (LC).

It highlights key tools and tips for maximising your online learning experience, be it pre-class preparation, homework, or accessing additional learning resources.

Digital platforms

The LC will be delivering online language classes using Microsoft Teams (MT): you will be guided and supported by your language tutor to independently use these platforms and to engage with them in a creative, educational way.



KEATS

KEATS is the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) for King's students, where you will find all of the information related to your language module or short course. You will find the Syllabus, important dates, assessment criteria (if applicable), useful links, resources, teaching materials, videos, podcasts, and also the opportunity to discuss with your peers via a Class Forum.



Discussion Forum

A very useful way to interact with your peers and with your tutor outside class time is by using the KEATS Discussion Forum, which can add great value to your language learning experience. You can post messages in the target language and engage with your peers in a more informal way. Your tutor might also ask you to carry out some structured tasks via the Forum.

Online class interaction (Synchronous teaching)

During your digital language class, you will be asked to interact with your tutor and with your peers as you would have done in an in-person environment. There will be spontaneous learning but also a set of structured activities to follow and to actively engage with. Your cooperation and your participation with these activities is very important for the smooth running of the digital experience, and for your own learning progress.



Class duration

The online seminar or class duration will be the same as a taught face-to-face class, although it might be delivered slightly differently and might be split into different sections to prevent digital cognitive overload. Your tutor will guide you through the structure, which might vary from week to week, according to specific learning objectives.



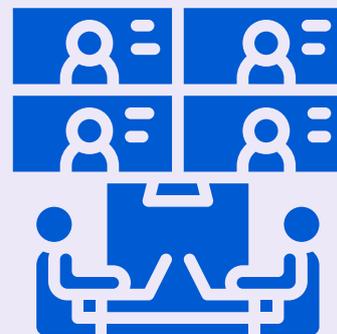
Breakout rooms

You will be guided by your tutor in joining breakout rooms where you will be able to work with your peers in small groups carrying out tasks, working on a project, or doing some presentations in the target language. The tutor will navigate in between all breakout rooms to offer support and guidance if needed and to provide feedback.



"Netiquette"

In order to create a collaborative, supportive and positive digital learning environment, your tutor will guide you through some important netiquette rules to be followed and respected so that everybody can participate in class activities and digital resources can be used effectively.



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Below is a useful guide to help you with your digital language learning journey with the King's Language Centre (LC).

It will highlight key tools and tips on how to prepare for, during and after a class.

Preparation for the next class (Asynchronous teaching)

At times your homework tasks will be essential as preparation for the next class, so that the time spent online will be maximized. These tasks might be linked to new resources and material the tutor will ask you to explore on your own, at your own pace, before discussing them together during the online class. These activities will be essential for your independent learning and to develop your capacity for reflectivity and autonomous learning in a foreign language.



Homework (Asynchronous teaching)

You will be assigned weekly homework tasks for revision and consolidation, as you would in a face-to-face situation. These tasks will be carried out asynchronously, at your own pace. On KEATS you will find plenty of supporting activities for your live online class, to encourage your active learning and your continuous engagement with the target language.



Accessibility & inclusion

Your tutor will be careful to include everybody in participating on both synchronous and asynchronous activities, and will be sure to design teaching resources that are easy to navigate and accessible to use accordingly for students of varying abilities.



Technical issues

You might encounter some technical issues while being online and with asynchronous tasks. Your tutor will guide and support you with the digital learning environment as best they can, however, if you need specific technical support we suggest you contact the College IT service: 88888@kcl.ac.uk



Assessment & Feedback

Assessment & Feedback are part of a continuous process while you are learning a language, even if your module or course does not include a formal assessment structure. The same applies to your digital language learning. Your tutor will provide you with plenty of synchronous and asynchronous opportunities to check on your learning and feedback and guide you through your language learning experience. You will also be asked to reflect on your own learning and to carry out some self-and peer-assessment tasks that would support you in becoming a life-long independent language learner.

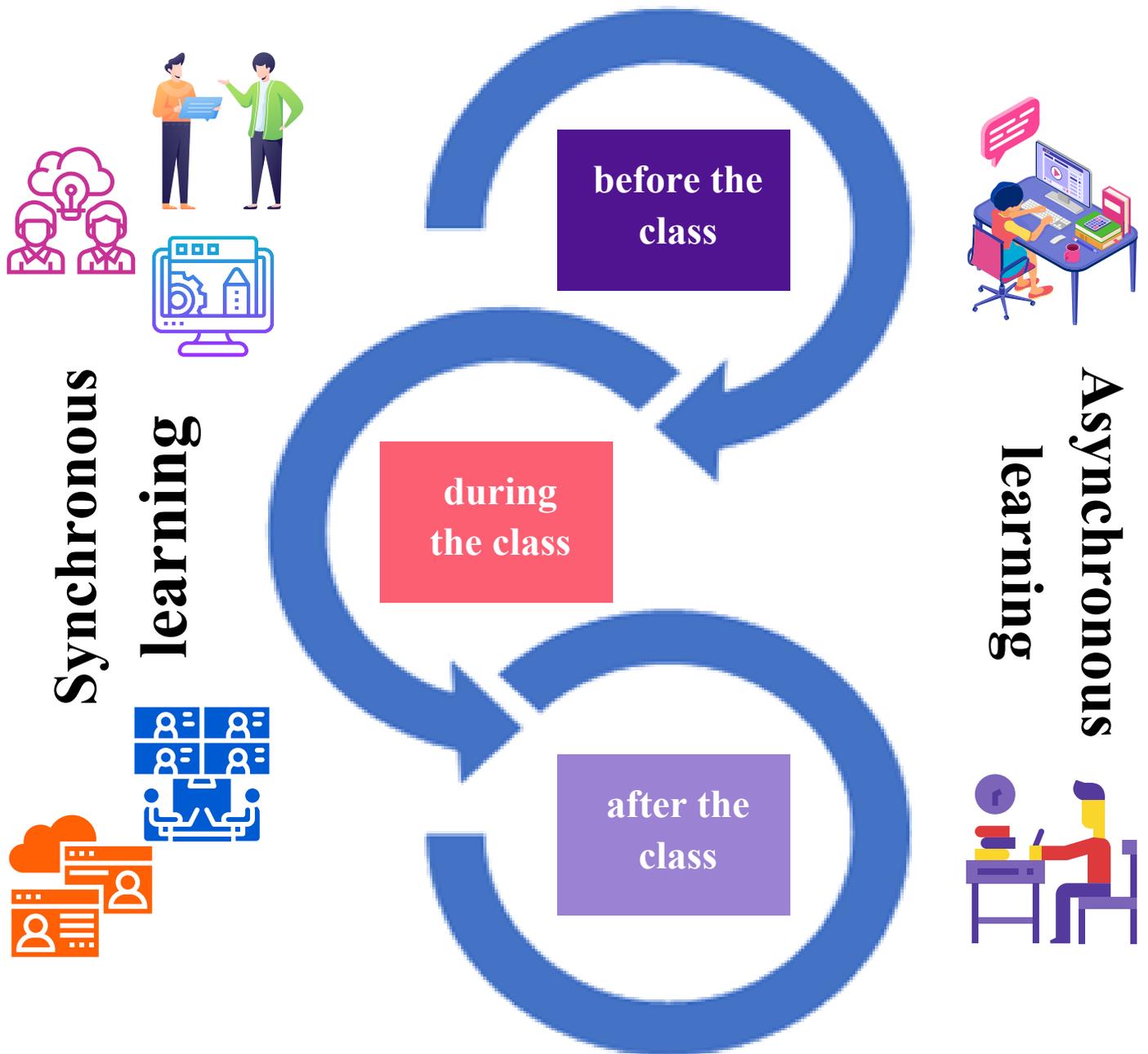
Contact with your tutor

Your tutor can be contacted for personal and academic matters during office hours, if applicable. Our tutors are approachable and ready to support and help when needed. If you need pastoral care, we also suggest you contact your personal tutor or the LC Senior Tutor.



What to expect from **digital** **language classes**

The diagram below might help you to visualise the LC digital language learning experience, including **synchronous** (live online sessions) and **asynchronous** activities (offline sessions carried out on your own, or with your peers before and after each live session)



What to expect from **digital** **language** classes

Independent study,
asynchronous learning;
discovering concepts,
vocabulary and grammar
rules on your own.

Pre-class activities might
include some reading or
listening comprehension
exercises, writing tasks, and
some grammar exercises in
preparation for the live
online class.

Online class, synchronous
learning, interaction with
tutor and peers; further
analysis, practice and
consolidation of concepts
you explored on your own

**before the
class**

**Asynchronous
learning**

**during
the class**

**Synchronous
learning**

**after the
class**

Independent study,
synchronous/peer learning;
further consolidation of
concepts explored during the
online class and preparation
for the next class.

You might be asked to work on
your own, or in small groups in
breakout rooms, and to use the
target language while interacting
online. You might also be asked
to carry out some projects and to
provide feedback to peers in a
collaborative and constructive
way

You might be asked to work
independently or with your
peers on single or
collaborative tasks and
projects in the target
language. Some of these
tasks might help consolidate
your learning, others might
be exploratory in preparation
for a subsequent session

Language Modules: languagecentreinternal@kcl.ac.uk

Evening & Saturday Language courses:

languagecentreshortcourse@kcl.ac.uk