

Learning how to learn

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TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING (TEL)

Technology enhanced learning (TEL) simply refers to the support of learning activities through technology. It is used sometimes synonymously with E-learning although TEL usually focuses on technological support of any pedagogical learning approach including lectures and other teaching approaches. Technology becomes so intertwined with our lives; therefore it is pertinent to make use of technological discoveries to enhance learning.

TEL can improve acquisition, memorization and impact of knowledge. It can also aid the three C's of learning: control, challenge and commitment which help to establish active and motivated learners.

- Correct use of colour, animation and other technology aids can make information easy to digest for the learner cognitive system, strengthening acquisition of knowledge
- Ability of technology to support learning through pictures, objects and diagrams can enhance memorization of information.
- Through improving management of knowledge process by learners, technology can enhance understanding and ownership of learning leading to better impact and positive behaviour change.
- Using technologies such as videos and mobile learning platforms gives the learner more control over pace and presentation format of learning leading to more convenient and effective learning processes
- Using technology aids such as games and puzzles can transform learning from boring to challenging experience leading to motivation and engagement of learners.
- Control of learning and challenging learning experiences brought in by TEL can lead to more engagement and commitment by learners.

Technology is simply a tool, if used in a better way it can certainly enhance learning. Misuse of technology on the other hand, can be harmful to learning.

Sources

1. Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, University of Glamorgan <http://celt.glam.ac.uk/Enhancing-Learning-Teaching/Technology-Enhanced-Learning>
2. Dror, I., 2008. Technology enhanced learning: the good, the bad and the ugly. <http://users.ecs.soton.ac.uk/id/CT%20technology%20learning%20good%20bad%20ugly.pdf>