

THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210213-online-lecture.html>

A university professor in Singapore gave a two-hour online lecture but didn't realize he was on mute. Professor Wang, who teaches maths, was not aware that throughout his online presentation, the microphone on his computer was switched off. This meant that none of the students attending his online class heard what professor Wang was talking about. His university switched his classes online to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. His lecture started well but then it froze. The video came back but the mic was off and professor Wang did not notice. One of his students says it might have been because the professor was using an iPad and not a computer.

Students tried many times to contact professor Wang during the lesson but could not get through to him. They waved their arms and even tried calling him on his personal phone. A video of the moment he understood his mic was off has gone viral on the Internet. It has received more than 653,000 views. After realizing what happened, professor Wang appeared shocked and stressed. He said he was upset at the thought of wasting two hours of his students' time. He has offered to redo the lecture at a different time so his students do not miss that class. One of his students posted on social media about the professor's mishap. She wrote: "I took a class under him before and he teaches well. I feel bad for him."

Sources: <https://news.yahoo.com/singaporean-professor-lectures-2-hours-190353801.html>
<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/ny-singapore-professor-mute-lesson-20210210-pm24owto3rh5xho52fwa575zi4-story.html>
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9247009/Maths-professor-Singapore-delivers-two-hour-lecture-Zoom-realise-mute.html>

WARM-UPS

1. ONLINE LECTURES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about online lectures. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

university / professor / on mute / presentation / microphone / spread / classes / iPad / contact / lesson / video / Internet / shocked / wasting time / students / mishap

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ONLINE CLASSES: Students A **strongly** believe online classes are better than face-to-face classes; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. ONLINE: What are the pros and cons of teaching these things online? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Pros	Cons
Maths		
Art		
Yoga		
English		
Coding		
Physics		

5. MATHS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "math". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. UNIVERSITY: Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful thing to study at university at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Maths
- English
- Economics
- Coding
- Medicine
- Journalism
- Engineering
- Architecture

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. realize | a. Of a computer screen that suddenly stops, with no movement or control of the cursor. |
| 2. throughout | b. Suddenly understand or become aware of something. |
| 3. attending | c. Make smaller. |
| 4. switched | d. From the beginning to the end. |
| 5. reduce | e. Changed something in place of something else. |
| 6. spread | f. Being present at an event, meeting, or function. |
| 7. froze | g. The movement of something across a larger and larger area. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8. contact | h. Get in touch with or communicate with someone. |
| 9. waved | i. An unlucky accident. |
| 10. viral | j. Moved ones hands or arms from side to side. |
| 11. upset | k. Repeat an action. |
| 12. wasting | l. Everywhere online or on social media. |
| 13. redo | m. Made unhappy. |
| 14. mishap | n. Using something unnecessarily or for no reason. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210213-online-lecture.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The professor in the article teaches computer coding. **T / F**
- b. Not a single student heard what the professor was saying. **T / F**
- c. The article said the professor froze. **T / F**
- d. A student blamed the mishap on an iPad. **T / F**
- e. Students waved their phones at the professor. **T / F**
- f. A video of the professor has gone viral on the Internet. **T / F**
- g. The professor is sad because he wasted his students' time. **T / F**
- h. The professor said he would not redo the lecture. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. lecture | a. get in touch with |
| 2. aware | b. changed |
| 3. throughout | c. accident |
| 4. switched | d. conscious |
| 5. froze | e. troubled |
| 6. contact | f. stopped |
| 7. moment | g. class |
| 8. appeared | h. time |
| 9. upset | i. for the whole of |
| 10. mishap | j. seemed |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. A university professor in Singapore gave a | a. on the Internet |
| 2. didn't realize he | b. presentation |
| 3. throughout his online | c. the lecture |
| 4. help reduce the spread | d. was on mute |
| 5. His lecture started well | e. contact professor Wang |
| 6. Students tried many times to | f. for him |
| 7. gone viral | g. two-hour online lecture |
| 8. wasting two hours of | h. but then it froze |
| 9. He has offered to redo | i. his students' time |
| 10. I feel bad | j. of COVID-19 |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210213-online-lecture.html>

1. In which country was the professor teaching online?
2. What does the professor teach?
3. What did the university want to stop the spread of?
4. What happened to the professor's lecture after it started?
5. What did a student say the problem might have been?
6. What did students wave?
7. How many views has a YouTube video had?
8. How did the professor appear to feel in a video?
9. What has the professor offered to redo?
10. How does one of the professor's students feel about the mishap?

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2102/210213-online-lecture.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'online' and 'lecture'.

online	lecture

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• aware• none• switched• well• back• might	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• contact• arms• moment• shocked• redo• bad
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ONLINE LECTURES DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'online'?
3. What did you think of maths classes?
4. Do you think online or face-to-face classes are better?
5. What do you think of online classes?
6. What do you think of two-hour lectures?
7. What do you think of using technology in the classroom?
8. How good are you at using technology?
9. Why might it be difficult for teachers to teach online?
10. Is a computer or iPad better?

Professor lectures for two hours online - on mute - 13th February, 2021
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ONLINE LECTURES DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'lecture'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What are the good and bad things about online classes?
15. How could the students have alerted their professor?
16. How upset would you be if that happened to you?
17. What advice do you have for the professor?
18. How do you feel about wasting time?
19. When was the last time you were shocked?
20. What questions would you like to ask the professor?