BRITISH
COUNCIL

Online forum

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Synch or asynch?

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British Council English Online

Let's agree on terms

Synchronous

the learner and teacher interact in real time

- Videoconferencing via Zoom/Skype etc, chat

Asynchronous

the learner and teacher are not in the same place at the same time

- Interactive online activities

- Recorded video and audio lectures

- Forums, discussion boards, emails etc

What are the issues?

Synchronous

the learner and teacher interact in real time

- Videoconferencing via Zoom/Skype etc, chat

bandwidth-sensitive
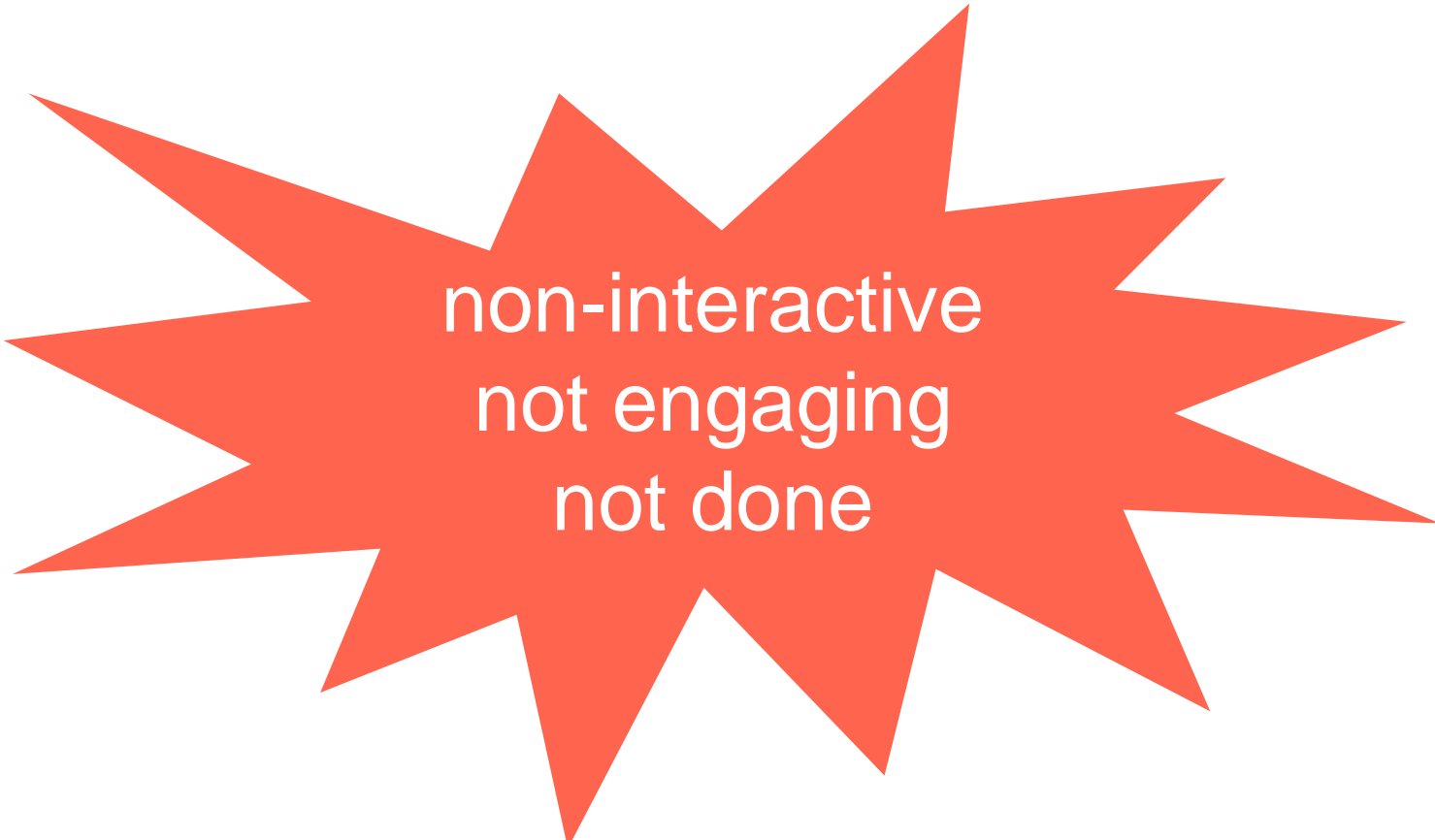tiring
time-fixed

Asynchronous

the learner and teacher are not in the same place at the same time

- Interactive online activities

- Recorded video and audio lectures

- Forums, discussion boards, emails etc

non-interactive
not engaging
not done

We need some kind of balance

Many authors agree that a blend of synchronous and asynchronous activities is needed.
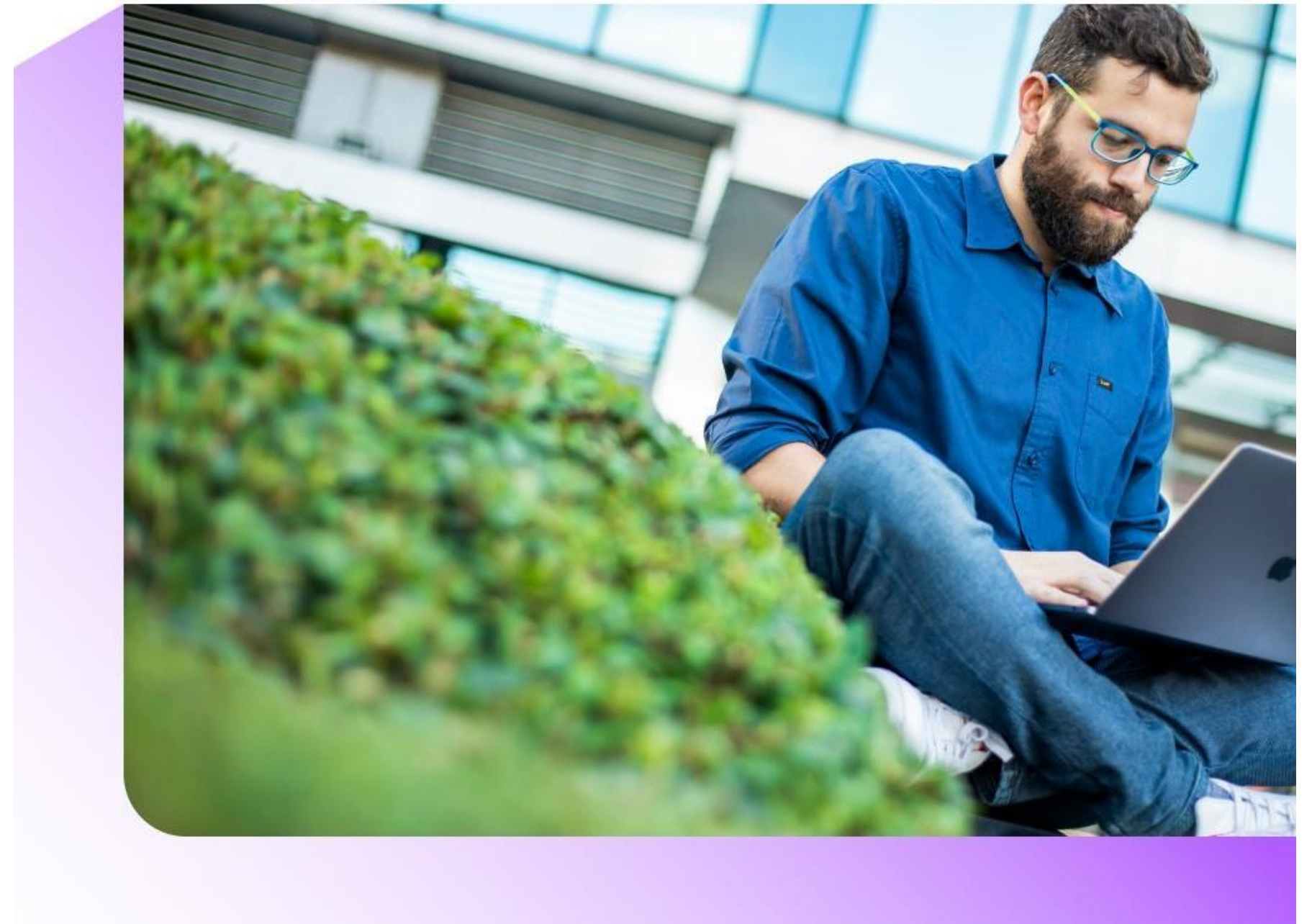
What exactly is the ratio?

British Council English Online

a blend of asynch and synch learning

What is English Online exactly?

- **100% online course for adults**

- **Live online classes**

- **Interactive learning portal**

- **CEFR levels A1-C1**

- **General and Workplace English**

What's the lesson structure?

Every English Online Lesson is a simple combination of three elements:

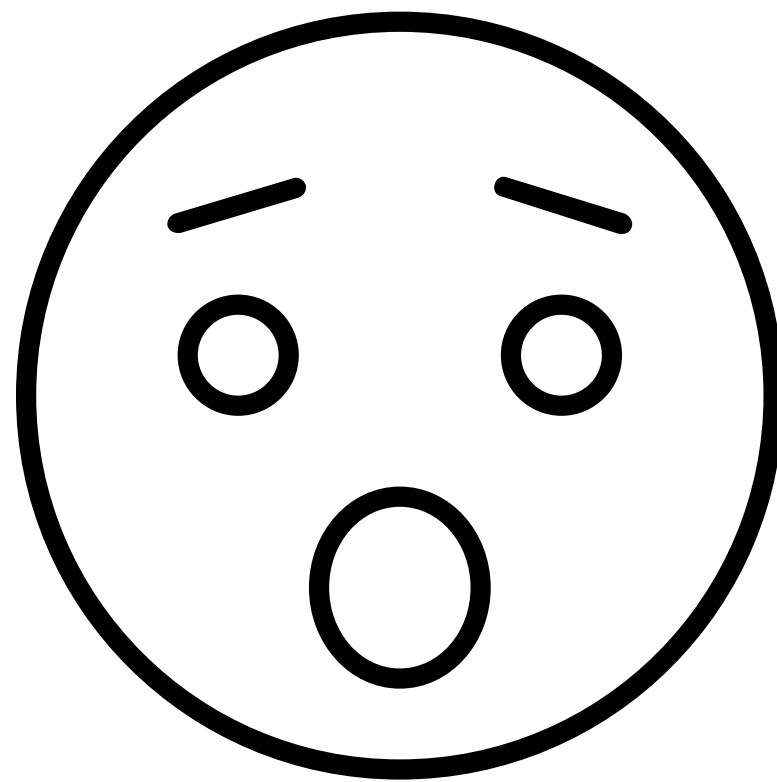| Asynch	Synch	Asynch
Pre-class activities • *controlled language practice* • *contextualisation* • *input texts*	**Live class** • *freer practice of language and speaking* • *collaboration* • *interaction*	**Post-class activities** • *vocabulary cards* • *more input text activities* • *extra language practice*

What makes it special?

More than 90% of English Online learners regularly complete the pre-class and post-class activities.

Why is it effective?

1) The three components form a complete whole (not seen as 'extra')

2) The asynch activities are short and easy to complete (low entry threshold)

3) The asynch activities provide immediate feedback and error correction (automated)

4) The teacher in live class emphasizes the importance of asynch via a variety of techniques:

- direct advice
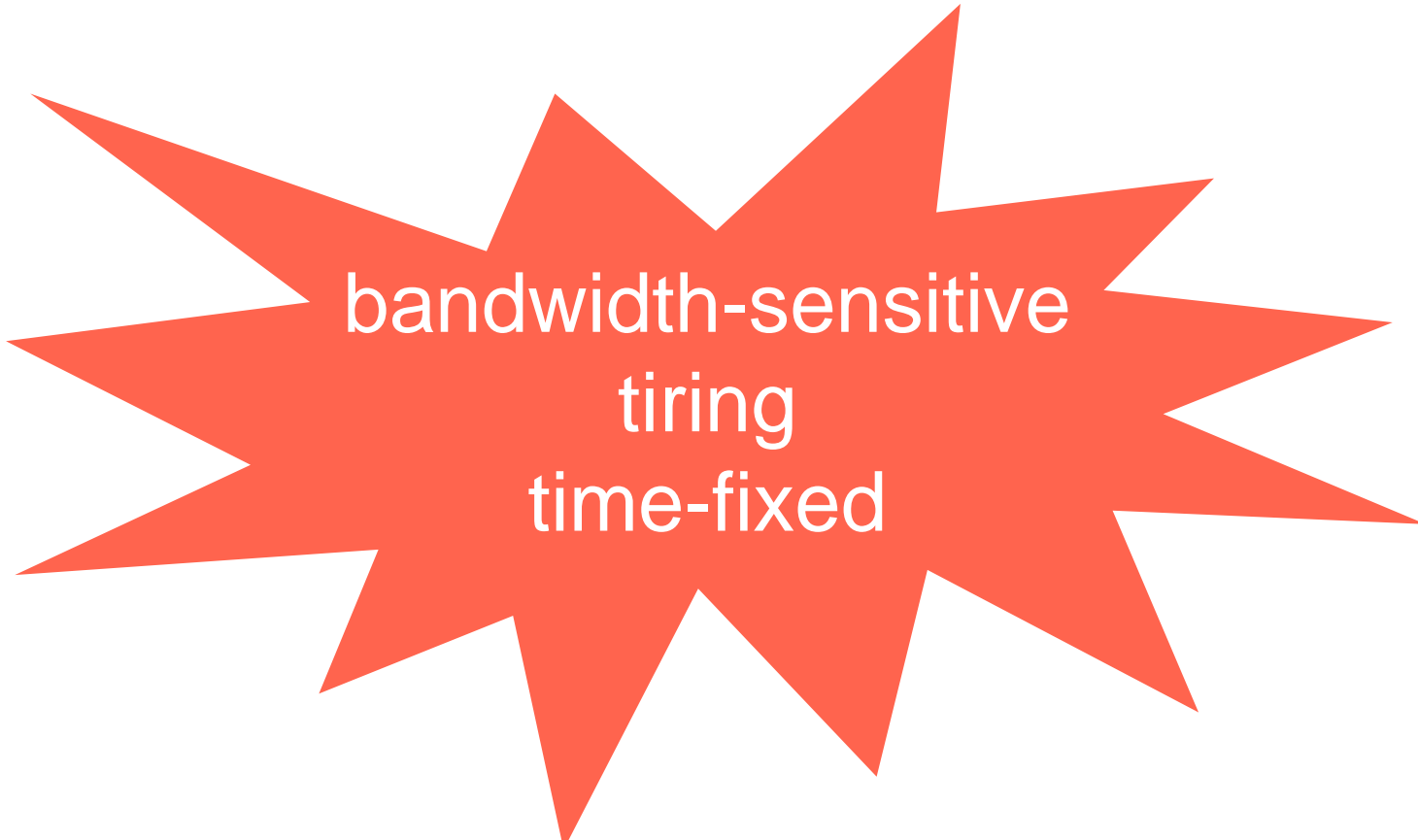
- review activities

- reflection activities

Outcomes

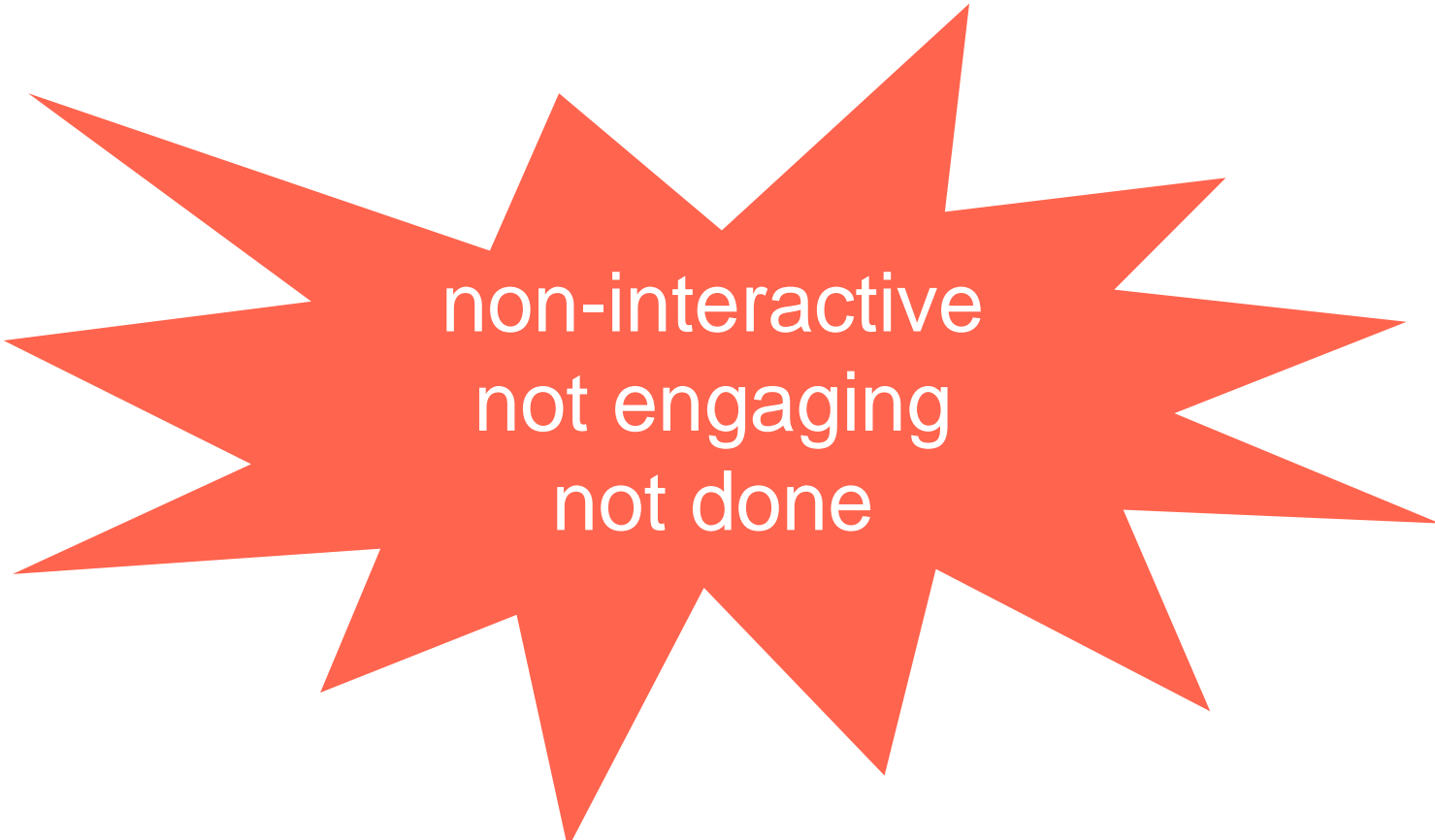# If the balance is right…

Synchronous activities

- include only what needs live interaction

- are not tiring or too time-consuming

Asynchronous activities

- offer immediate feedback

- allow to learn at own pace

- are seen as essential

- are **easy** to do

bandwidth-sensitive
tiring
time-fixed

non-interactive
not engaging
not done

Questions?