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Vocabulary: learning 学习

At some point in our lives, most of us have attended a school or university lecture. These learning sessions give us some insightful **nugget** of knowledge or can be something we yawn through, trying to keep awake. Whatever our experience, lectures have been and still are the most common teaching **method** in education. But will they exist in the future?

With the growth of the internet and so much information **at our fingertips**, you may think there is no need to gather together at a fixed location clutching a handful of **textbooks**. BBC journalist Matt Pickles, says "research has shown that students remember as little as 10 per cent of their lectures just days afterwards."

Professor Carl Wieman, who campaigns against the traditional lecture, felt talking at students and expecting them to **absorb** knowledge was not that **effective** so he introduced 'active learning' that encourages problem solving in small groups. He listens to them and guides their discussions. The result has been improved exam results. Other new alternatives to the lecture have included **peer-to-peer** learning and **project-based** learning that enable students to link up and work **collaboratively** on projects such as building a computer game.

Sometimes the lecture room is not **conducive** to learning; a boring, colourless room is not necessarily an inspiring place for **stretching the mind**. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology two lecture rooms have been refitted to allow students to sit around small tables with screens showing animated **simulations** to help them visualise **concepts**.

But new learning methods can come at a high financial cost compared to the relatively cheap way of being taught **face-to-face** by an **academic**. The real issue according to Professor Dan Butin, founding dean of the school of education and social policy at Merrimack College in Massachusetts, is that "Academics put thousands of hours of work into their books and much less time into thinking about the **effectiveness** of their teaching style." But he says "the lecture has survived because **research**, not teaching, determines the success of a university and its academics."

So if research quality is a measure of a university's success and money is tight, then the lecture could be here for a little longer. How does that make you feel? How would you improve your lectures?

词汇表

nugget	(一句) 至理名言
method	方式, 方法
at our fingertips	唾手可得的, 近在咫尺的
textbook	教科书
absorb	理解, 掌握 (知识、想法等)
effective	有效的
peer-to-peer	同学间交流的, 互相分享 (知识) 的
project-based	专题式的 (学习模式)
collaboratively	合作地
conducive	有益的, 有帮助的
stretch the mind	拓展思维
simulation	模型
concept	概念, 想法
face-to-face	面对面的
academic	大学老师, 学者
effectiveness	有效性
research	研究

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What has helped us gain access to lots of information at our fingertips?
2. How has 'active learning' improved exam results?
3. True or false: *It can be hard to learn in a dull and boring room.*
4. According to one expert, what is seen as a measure of success for a university?
5. Which word used in the article means making you feel enthusiastic or excited about something?

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. When I'm stressed, I like to _____ myself in a good book.

absorb	method	effective	research
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2. The companies worked _____ to get the project finished on time and on budget.

collaboration	collaborative	collaboratively	collaborated
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3. A hormone injection for men has been shown to be a safe and _____ method of contraception, according to researchers.

method	concept	effective	academic
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4. The judge's said the winning team's _____ is daring and very exciting. It is not the final design but instead a brilliant indication of the team's talent and imagination.

conceptual	concepting	conception	concept
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5. When I came _____ with my ex-boyfriend, I didn't know what to say so I just ran away!

face-to-face	face-on-face	peer-to-peer	face-off
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What has helped us gain access to lots of information at our fingertips?

The growth of the internet.

2. How has 'active learning' improved exam results?

Because students have learned more effectively through problem solving in small groups.

3. True or false: *It can be hard to learn in a dull and boring room.*

True. The article says a boring, colourless room is not necessarily an inspiring place for stretching the mind.

4. According to one expert, what is seen as a measure of success for a university?

Quality of its research is seen as a measure. Prof. Dan Butin says "the lecture has survived because research, not teaching, determines the success of a university and its academics."

5. Which word used in the article means making you feel enthusiastic or excited about something?

Inspiring.

2. 请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. When I'm stressed, I like to **absorb** myself in a good book.

2. The companies worked **collaboratively** to get the project finished on time and on budget.

3. A hormone injection for men has been shown to be a safe and **effective** method of contraception, according to researchers.

4. The judge's said the winning team's **concept** is daring and very exciting. It is not the final design but instead a brilliant indication of the team's talent and imagination.

5. When I came **face-to-face** with my ex-boyfriend, I didn't know what to say so I just ran away!