ELEARNINGNEWS ARTICLE

Year 3 - number 73 Wednesday 19 june 2019

5 tips to make an online course interactive

One of the main challenges in designing an online training course is to be able to keep students' attention high. Adding interactive elements is one of the best strategies to succeed in this endeavor.

An online course has different characteristics and logics compared to traditional classroom training. It is expected, for example, that it is interactive, ie that the student can interact, in different ways, with the contents of the course and with the other individuals who participate in it.

The interactivity within eLearning serves to create active participation and to make the trainees think that, in this way, they are not forced to passively suffer the contents. This is possible only by constantly stimulating the student's attention. Furthermore, interrupting the canonical study routine allows learning in a simpler and faster way and, consequently, increases motivation.

For this reason, it is essential to implement some strategies to make the online training path more interactive. Here are some tips:

Encourage interaction with other students

Although an online training course is basically solitary, as each student organizes himself individually, it is necessary to encourage group communication. Such as? For example, with group conversations made possible by the appropriate online course forums. Using them you can exchange opinions, resolve doubts and share further information on the topics of the course.

Insert interactive quizzes

We already know that tests at the end of each lesson or at the end of the course are essential to verify the student's degree of learning. However, quizzes can be made much more interactive, for example by inserting video and audio, giving assessments and advice to improve results or changing the test format each time.

Add interactive elements

During the study, it is easy for students to lose concentration and consequently lose some basic information on the way. For this reason, it is essential to set up a learning process that is not purely passive, through textual, audio and video content. In addition to tests, for example, it may be useful to ask questions, request to enter the missing words or give the opportunity to click on the images to discover new information.

Try the "branching scenarios"

Remember those books or comics where you had the chance to make a decision and choose how the story continued? The "branching scenarios" strategy works in a similar way. In this case the student is faced with a real case related to the topic of study, a sort of simulation, and asked to make choices, in such a way that the situation develops up to a certain final.

Focus on gamification

We have already talked in this article of the importance of "gamification" applied to eLearning. This strategy is useful to increase the interactivity of the online course. Adding games within the lessons helps to make the study more compelling, to keep concentration high and, above all, to store information almost without realizing it.