ELEARNINGNEWS ARTICLE

Year 3 - number 67 Wednesday 08 may 2019

5 design elements to make an online course effective - Infographic

An online course allows you to insert a wide variety of design elements that help to involve students and improve learning opportunities. However, it is essential that the interface is as intuitive as possible.

While being an essential part of the training process, an online course cannot be based solely on the quality of textual content. Another essential element that plays a fundamental role in the process, in fact, is the design of the course at the design level.

In fact, you can't expect an online course to be like a simple book to browse through. On the contrary, the design of the platform is fundamental in order to involve the students and improve learning without obstacles. There are several design elements to consider in order to make an online course more effective. Here are the main ones:

1. Develop an intuitive graphical interface

The GUI (Graphical User Interface), that is the graphical interface, is the most visible part of an online course where students do not come directly in contact with a teacher or a classroom, but with a screen. For this reason, in addition to being aesthetically appealing, the graphical interface must above all be intuitive, i.e. easy to use. This means that it must be studied, created and adapted to the training path. Simplicity is always the best way to choose in these cases, to prevent students from losing themselves on the platform.

2. Use graphic elements

One of the most complex goals of an online course is to keep the students' attention high. Also, in this case, the graphics help us. The textual contents, in fact, must often be interspersed with other types of graphic elements. It is the case of images and diagrams, short videos, time lines, gifs to attract attention and infographics that serve to summarize the main concepts and data in a single shot.

3. Add interactive elements

The online courses open the doors to a series of unthinkable possibilities in traditional education. In fact, the graphical interface allows you to enter not only static but also interactive graphic elements. In this way, the student has the possibility to explore new contents and in-depth information only by passing the mouse (hot spot) or by clicking on elements such as time lines and buttons. However, these elements should not be abused to avoid losing the attention of the students.

4. Audio content

The visual and textual contents can be further integrated with the use of rapid and concise audio. Let us remember, however, that the objective is to deepen and not to repeat further the information already included in the main contents.

5. Evaluations

Online training allows you to discover, during the same training course, the learning level of each student. For this reason, a course worthy of respect must contain, in each module, small interactive assessment tests that allow students to know the progress made and to correct any mistakes made in the tests, filling the gaps in the training process.