How do online classes with Instituto Exclusivo work?

Even if you don't consider yourself very technologically savvy, you will be surprised at how easy, convenient, and efficient our online learning system really is.

After you've submitted your goals, expectations and previous language experience to us during the online registration process, we will assign you a teacher and a class time. Your teacher will take care to address your specific interests and to cater your potential curriculum with i.e. to promote rapid progress (with a little fun along the way!)

Using your preferred telephone and video program (e.g., Skype), your assigned teacher will call you at the agreed upon time. Upon answering, the session is initiated, and you will be able to both hear and see your teacher through live streaming video. To start, you and your teacher will converse casually as well as review your intentions with the language. After having reviewed your history and through an assessment of your current capabilities, the teacher will initiate more formal learning exercises to demonstrate the power of this learning method.

There are a couple of unique advantages to internet learning. First, there is a "chat" feature in programs like Skype that allows your teacher to provide a constant stream of feedback simultaneously while you are conversing. Imagine the following: each time you're fumbling for a word or forgetting a conjugation, your teacher types it in right before your eyes for immediate reinforcement. To compound the advantage of this feature, everything that is inputted in the "chat" function can be copied and pasted in a text program (e.g., Microsoft Word) for future reference!

Another great feature of this learning method is the use of educational materials similar to that which you would use in a normal in-person classroom (or perhaps better!). Before each class, your teacher will email you relevant materials to facilitate the learning process. These may include textbook exercises, poems, or even audio and video clips or website links. These can be then be reviewed (if you did them as homework) or completed live with your teacher during the lesson. Furthermore, if your teacher observes that you may benefit from another educational source that he/she has on hand, he/she will send them to you live through email or your VOiP program.

Lastly, for those who may have concerns about the learning curve of using a program with which you are not currently familiar, rest assured, our teachers are extremely upbeat, patient and willing to help you at whatever pace you require. In fact, we will even organize a specialized training course (in German, English, Dutch or Spanish) just to alleviate these concerns quickly. Just ask!

We hope you can see by now that learning a language over the internet is truly unmatched in its convenience, price and customization in efficiently working toward your specific language goals!

Online classes: What do I need to get started?

You will need the following hard-ware for your online classes:

1. A computer

2. An internet connection (even a dial-up modem connection of 28Kbps is sufficient)

3. A head-set (head-phones and a microphone, commonly sold together)

4. A web-cam (this is optional; all our teachers have web-cams, so you will be able to see them. If you want the teacher to see you too, you will need a web-cam as well)

Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOiP) Programs for Internet Learning

Your VOiP program options are numerous, and our teachers are familiar with nearly all of them. The most popular options include Skype, MSN Messenger, and Googletalk.

Getting Started with Skype

Should you choose Skype as your VOiP program (this is the program most used by current students), the following steps will prepare you for your first online class:

1. Download the Skype program: Go to www.Skype.com and click on "download latest version". Follow the on-screen instructions for installing Skype.

2. Register as a Skype user: Choose "register now" and follow the instructions

3. Test your Skype program and head-set: Choose "Skype test call" in your contact list and follow the on-screen instructions for testing the sound. You should be able to hear the test voice as well as your own response if everything is configured and functioning correctly

4. Inform us of your Skype name by sending an e-mail to info@instituto-exclusivo.com

5. Your assigned teacher will contact you shortly thereafter on Skype. Please click on "share my contact-details…"!! This will allow us to contact you when the class starts.

Thank you for choosing Instituto Exclusivo and best of luck in your studies!

Anne Marie van Swinderen

Directora Instituto Exclusivo i.e