SYNCHRONOUS
VERSUS
ASYNCHRONOUS

COMPARING THE 2 TYPES OF ONLINE LEARNING

What is Synchronous *Learning?*

A real-time, instructor-led online learning event in which all learners are logged on at the same time and communicate directly with each other.

Key Features

- Akin to F2F instruction
- Interaction occur via audio, video conferencing
- Live webinars, instant messaging, or virtual classrooms tools
- Still uses digital resources, an LMS, and online Instructional design techniques

Pros/Cons

- Immediate feedback, Interaction, and engagement with the learning community
- Students may feel they are not receiving individual attention

Best For

- Office hours/Q&A Sessions
- Guest Lectures
- Explaining difficult concept
- Live sessions should be voluntary;
- Recording should be made available or alternative form of content provided

What is Asynchronous *Learning?*

Learning in which interaction between instructors and students occurs intermittently with a time delay.

Key Features

- Most common form of global online learning
- Teachers create learning experiences for students to work at their own pace.
- Digital documents, videos, & discussion boards used.
- Learner-centered approach

Pros/Cons

- Provides learner time & control to absorb content
- Delayed access to instructor feedback and engagement
- Allows students to learn on their schedule
- Learners may feel isolated

Best For

- Flexibility: consider learners in fully online programs or taking more than one course online
- Teach self-paced/time management skills
- Better content absorbing
- Best for accessibility & universal design