Myths and Magic Moments for Online Learning
Curt Bonk, Professor, Indiana University
cjbonk@indiana.edu
http://curtbonk.com/

Not a Myth:
I used to be fun...now I am serious

Myth #1: Learning Online is too new!
How PLATO changed the World...in 1960
Cait Etherington, ElearningInside News

Myth #2: You can’t earn a degree online

Myth #3: You have to be a tech whiz to complete online courses

Myth #4. You will get behind
Myth #5. Everyone tends to procrastinate online

Myth #6: Open textbooks cannot be trusted
OER Adoptions on the Rise
Lindsay McKenzie, Inside Higher Ed

Myth #7: You can’t have a personal life.
Focused Ga. Mom Completes College Exam While in Labor, Fox 5, Atlanta

Myth #8: Online learning is too time-consuming
250 MOOCs and Counting: One Man’s Educational Journey, Chronicle of Higher Education
If the MOOC movement has faded, nobody told Jima Ngei. Mr. Ngei, who lives in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, has completed and passed 250.

Myth #9: Credentials take too long
Microcredentials and Nanodegrees
edX Expands MicroMasters Programs With Data Science ("nanodegree")

Myth #10: I’m too young to learn online
From MOOC to bootcamp to MIT
MIT News, Office of Digital Learning
(Jin Wu—from MITx to MIT Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp to master’s student)
Myth #11: I'm too old to learn online
An 80-Year-Old Graduate With an Online Marketing Degree Kept His Promise, The Texas Tribune

Myth #12. Online learning is lonely and not interactive (e.g., Flipgrid)

Myth #13: Online courses do not provide for social presence and caring

Myth #14: Students will be bored and sleepy online

Myth #15. Online learning is lonely (e.g., Poll Everywhere, BlogPolls, BlogPoll, MicroPoll)

Interaction

Although you are not in a classroom physically, it doesn’t mean you can’t interact with fellow students and instructors: Phone, messengers, video chats, emails – they all make eLearning interactive. Some educators have online office hours and others have synchronous chats with experts.

- Synchronous communication technologies
  - Google Hangouts
  - YouTube Live

- Asynchronous communication technologies
  - Discussion forum
  - Blog
  - Slackbot
  - Flickr

Although you are not in a classroom physically, it doesn’t mean you can’t interact with fellow students and instructors: Phone, messengers, video chats, emails – they all make eLearning interactive. Some educators have online office hours and others have synchronous chats with experts.
May 2, 2019
Myth #16: The content is not interactive
What was Leonardo da Vinci doing at your age?, CNN

Myth #17: Online learning is too complicated
Interpreting Interactive Graphs and Infographics
How much rainforest in that chocolate bar?

Myth #18: Online learning is too passive
(Student created documentaries, videos, projects, designs, podcast shows, books, mobile apps, etc.)

Myth #19. Online courses will not be as rigorous as on campus courses
Interactive Labs and Simulations
http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/energy-skat

Myth #20: You will never meet your peers
(Well...there can be meetups!)

Quality
Educational institutions are strict and serious when it comes to online courses, and they run all courses through a rigorous certification process. Plus, online courses might be even better than traditional ones: They make teachers communicate differently, thinking about engagement and effectiveness of their work.
Myth #21: The quality of education is not good enough
Human Embryology Animations
(Valerie O’Loughlin, Indiana University)

Myth #22: If it is not in a textbook, it cannot be high quality
(Nautilus Live allows people to watch expeditions live & listen to scientists in control rooms a discoveries made)

Myth #24: The instructor is in a cramped and small little office
Penguin Science (Penguin Cam), Jean Pennycook
http://www.penguinscience.com

Myth #25: Online courses are impersonal

Myth #26: Online Learning is Not Authentic Enough
Modern medicine breathes new life into virtual training

Personalization
Since interactions are not face-to-face in eLearning, they are planned in ways to engage learners in a dialogue. It’s impossible to remain anonymous and “quiet” if you want to succeed and make the most out of your online course.
Myth #27: Employers will not take online degrees seriously

Myth #28: Creating effective online learning environments is too hard!
Paul Kim, Stanford University

Myth #29: Online learners do not collaborate
(e.g., PiratePad: http://meetingwords.com/)
MeetingWords, Google Docs, NowComment, MixedInk

Myth #30: Highly ranked universities do not believe in online learning
Learning is More Online (Access)
Indiana University, Office of Online Education

Myth #31. Online learning limits creativity

Myth #32: Online learning contents are old
'Siberian unicorn' once walked among early humans
Tara John, CNN
May 13, 2019
Carbon Dioxide Levels In The Atmosphere Hit
Highest Mark In Human History
Nina Golkowski, The Huffington Post
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/co2-levels-hit-new-high_n_5cd9882ae4b0c388e584eb09

Myth #33. Resources are much better on campus than online
Online Referenceware: The Magical Power of Dictionaries
https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Magical-Power-of/242513

Myth #34. I am in this alone.
E-Mentors, Peers, Tutors, Authors, social media, online support groups, and AI Coaches

Myth #35. eLearning makes it easier to cheat.

Myth #36: Feedback is hard to get online
Peer, self, expert, instructor, and system feedback all possible!

Myth #37: Online Learning is mainly Text Based
Interactive Maps, Timelines, Concept Maps, and other visuals
Myth #38: Online learning scratches the surface without depth
Big Questions Online (BQO)
(e.g., Can a Living Creature Be as Big as a Galaxy?)

Myth #39: I will have difficulty reaching my goals
Goal Setting Tools
(e.g., iDoneThis, Milestone Planner, and 43 Things)

Myth #40: In online learning, you cannot show your learning
Mindmap Recaps of Online Discussions

Myth #41: You need broadband access.
MOOCs for Human Development? A Case Study
(agMOOCs in India)
Balaji Venkataraman and Asha Kanwar (COL)
http://www.agmoocs.in/

Myth #42: Online learning requires an internet connection
iPod Learning from the Ice using MIT OCW
(e.g., Wendy Ermold, University of Washington)

Myth #43: I cannot afford online learning
Open Education’s Wide World of Possibilities
Online Learning Myths all done!

Are you happy? My minions are happy!

We are entering a jumping off point...
(South University of Science and Technology of China, Wednesday June 10, 2015)

Introducing the free “TEC-VARIETY” Framework...
http://tec-variety.com/

Any Questions or Comments?

Slides at: TrainingShare.com
Papers: PublicationShare.com
Free book: http://tec-variety.com/
Email: cjbonk@indiana.edu