### The Difference Between Synchronous & Asynchronous Learning

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<thead>
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<th>Synchronous Learning</th>
<th>Asynchronous Learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definition</strong></td>
<td>A student-centered learning method using online resources to facilitate information outside the constraints of time and place among people.</td>
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<td>Conducting instant messaging, live chats and video conferencing for real-time learning</td>
<td>Interacting with course management systems, communicating using email, posting in discussion forums and reading articles</td>
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#### Synchronous e-Learning

Synchronous learning occurs when remote students enroll in a class that is paced at particular intervals that must be attended/completed according to a specific schedule.

- **Shared Whiteboard**
  - A shared environment allows multiple students/instructors to collaborate on a discussion with text and drawings.
- **Virtual Classrooms**
  - Instructors lead classes that are broadcasted in real-time to remote students over an Internet connection.
- **Scheduled Online Examinations**
  - Much like a traditional in-person class, exams are scheduled to be completed at a specific time and date, but are administered online.

#### Asynchronous e-Learning

Asynchronous e-learning occurs when students begin and complete a training course at different times, according to their own schedule. Common features of asynchronous e-learning include:

- **Message Boards**
  - Many such courses are augmented with message boards, allowing learners to post questions and comments on a central board for other users to see.
- **Discussion Groups**
  - Going one step further than message boards, discussion groups allow students in the same course to discuss the material in real time.
- **Self-Paced Courses**
  - These are courses that can be completed at one’s own pace. There may be assignments and checkpoints along the way, but there are no deadlines for completion.