Google Meet video conferencing platform improved

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Google has improved its video conferencing platform Meet to be able to compete with other platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. A new feature of Meet is that users can now see the faces of 16 people on their screen. Previously, people could only see four people on their screen at one time, but with Meet's new tiled layout, people can now see 16 participants at once. Meet's new gallery view comes at a time when more and more people are using video conferencing services across the world. Many people are contacting family and friends during lockdown; companies are holding online meetings; and schools and universities have changed their operations to be able to teach online.

Google said the improved Meet platform would help millions around the world in times of lockdown. It wrote: "Remote work has become increasingly necessary for public safety and wellbeing - which makes staying connected, even while we're apart, more important than ever." It added: "Each day, a rapidly growing number of people connect on Google Meet, and we want to make sure they have the features they need to share and be productive." Google said it would introduce more new features such as the ability to block out background noise. This will end the noise of keystrokes as other people type while online. Users will also be able to improve video quality if the lighting in their room is not sufficient.

Sources: *techradar.com / theverge.com / google.com*

Writing

Video conferencing is better than telephone calls. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Google / video conferencing / platforms / faces / screen / participants / connecting / lockdown / remote / necessary / features / productive / background noise / quality

True / False

a) You can see up to 16 faces on a Google Meet screen. T / F

b) The old version of Google Meet only allowed four faces on a screen. T / F

c) The article said more and more people are video conferencing. T / F

d) Universities are yet to change to online teaching. T / F

e) Google said its Meet platform would help millions of people. T / F

f) Google said Google Meet is finished and will not change. T / F

g) There will be no way to block out the sound of typing computer keys. T / F

h) The article said users will soon be able to chat in total darkness. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

1.	**improved**	a.	design
2.	**feature**	b.	finish
3.	**layout**	c.	communicating with
4.	**contacting**	d.	more and more
5.	**operations**	e.	enough
6.	**increasingly**	f.	creative
7.	**connected**	g.	aspect
8.	**productive**	h.	running
9.	**end**	i.	in touch
10.	**sufficient**	j.	advanced

Discussion – Student A

a) What are your experiences of video conferencing?

b) What is the best video conferencing platform?

c) What do you think of video conferencing?

d) Is video conferencing better than using telephones?

e) How many faces should we be able to see on the screen?

f) What are the advantages of video conferencing?

g) What advice do you have for Google Zoom bosses?

h) Is it better to learn online or in classrooms?

Phrase Match

1. be able to compete
2. users can now see the
3. Previously, people could only
4. more and
5. universities have changed their
6. in times of
7. necessary for public safety
8. more important
9. a rapidly growing
10. block out background

a. number of people
b. more people
c. operations
d. and wellbeing
e. see four people
f. than ever
g. with other platforms
h. noise
i. lockdown
j. faces of 16 people

Discussion – Student B

a) What do you think about what you read?
b) How is video conferencing helping people?
c) What do you think of working remotely?
d) What features does a video conferencing platform need?
e) How was your last video chat?
f) What do you think of background noise?
g) What are the disadvantages of video conferencing?
h) What questions would you like to ask Google bosses?

Spelling

1. be able to <u>ocmepet</u> with other platforms
2. the faces of 16 people on their <u>enersc</u>
3. people can now see 16 <u>ntcpitpsarai</u>
4. Meet's new <u>eryallg</u> view
5. people are <u>ottcacnnig</u> family and friends
6. universities have changed their <u>satnriopoe</u>
7. <u>eermot</u> work has become increasingly necessary
8. a <u>idlaryp</u> growing number of people
9. they need to share and be <u>ivcdetrupo</u>
10. introduce more new <u>taesfuer</u>
11. the noise of <u>eyseskkotr</u> as other people type
12. the lighting in their room is not <u>iifsncuetf</u>

Role Play

Role A – Video Conferencing
You think video conferencing is the best way to keep in touch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): social media, phone call or text.

Role B – Social Media
You think social media is the best way to keep in touch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): video conferencing, phone call or text.

Role C – Phone Call
You think phone call is the best way to keep in touch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): social media, video conferencing or text.

Role D – Text
You think text is the best way to keep in touch. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): social media, phone call or video conferencing.

Speaking – Keep in Touch

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways of keeping in touch at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Video conferencing
- Social media
- Face-to-face
- Other _____

- Phone call
- E-mail
- Letter
- Text

Answers – Synonym Match

1.	j	2.	g	3.	a	4.	c	5.	h
6.	d	7.	i	8.	f	9.	b	10.	e

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.