

Professor lectures for two hours online - on mute

13th February, 2021



A university professor in Singapore gave a two-hour online lecture but didn't realize he was on mute. Professor Wang, who teaches maths, was not aware that throughout his online presentation, the microphone on his

computer was switched off. This meant that none of the students attending his online class heard what professor Wang was talking about. His university switched his classes online to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. His lecture started well but then it froze. The video came back but the mic was off and professor Wang did not notice. One of his students says it might have been because the professor was using an iPad and not a computer.

Students tried many times to contact professor Wang during the lesson but could not get through to him. They waved their arms and even tried calling him on his personal phone. A video of the moment he understood his mic was off has gone viral on the Internet. It has received more than 653,000 views. After realizing what happened, professor Wang appeared shocked and stressed. He said he was upset at the thought of wasting two hours of his students' time. He has offered to redo the lecture at a different time so his students do not miss that class. One of his students posted on social media about the professor's mishap. She wrote: "I took a class under him before and he teaches well. I feel bad for him."

Sources: yahoo.com / nydailynews.com / dailymail.co.uk

Writing

Online lectures are better than face-to-face lectures. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

university / professor / on mute / presentation / microphone / spread / classes / iPad / contact / lesson / video / Internet / shocked / wasting time / students / mishap

True / False

- a) The professor in the article teaches computer coding. T / F
- b) Not a single student heard what the professor was saying. T / F
- c) The article said the professor froze. T / F
- d) A student blamed the mishap on an iPad. T / F
- e) Students waved their phones at the professor. T / F
- f) A video of the professor has gone viral on the Internet. T / F
- g) The professor is sad because he wasted his students' time. T / F
- h) The professor said he would not redo the lecture. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. lecture | a. get in touch with |
| 2. aware | b. changed |
| 3. throughout | c. accident |
| 4. switched | d. conscious |
| 5. froze | e. troubled |
| 6. contact | f. stopped |
| 7. moment | g. class |
| 8. appeared | h. time |
| 9. upset | i. for the whole of |
| 10. mishap | j. seemed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What did you think of maths classes?
- b) Do you think online or face-to-face classes are better?
- c) What do you think of online classes?
- d) What do you think of two-hour lectures?
- e) What do you think of using technology in the classroom?
- f) How good are you at using technology?
- g) Why might it be difficult for teachers to teach online?
- h) Is a computer or iPad better?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. A university professor in Singapore gave a | a. on the Internet |
| 2. didn't realize he | b. presentation |
| 3. throughout his online | c. the lecture |
| 4. help reduce the spread | d. was on mute |
| 5. His lecture started well | e. contact professor Wang |
| 6. Students tried many times to | f. for him |
| 7. gone viral | g. two-hour online lecture |
| 8. wasting two hours of | h. but then it froze |
| 9. He has offered to redo | i. his students' time |
| 10. I feel bad | j. of COVID-19 |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are the good and bad things about online classes?
- How could the students have alerted their professor?
- How upset would you be if that happened to you?
- What advice do you have for the professor?
- How do you feel about wasting time?
- When was the last time you were shocked?
- What questions would you like to ask the professor?

Spelling

- didn't eeialrz he was on mute
- ghhturotuo his online presentation
- students atndntegi his online class
- help dcreue the spread of COVID-19
- but then it eforz
- professor Wang did not ectnoi
- ncaotct professor Wang
- gone aivlr on the Internet
- shocked and sdseters
- upset at the thought of angstwi two hours
- He has offered to roed the lecture
- the professor's phaism

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Maths

You think maths is the most useful subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): English, coding or economics.

Role B – English

You think English is the most useful subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): maths, coding or economics.

Role C – Coding

You think coding is the most useful subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): English, maths or economics.

Role D – Economics

You think economics is the most useful subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): English, coding or maths.

Speaking – University

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful thing to study at university at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| • Medicine | • Maths |
| • Journalism | • English |
| • Engineering | • Economics |
| • Architecture | • Coding |

Answers – True False

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

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.