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Team Based Learning: in-person or online collaborative active learning that enhances problem solving skills

Team Based Learning (TBL) is a structured, small group, collaborative form of learning where learners combine their knowledge to solve problems. TBL has been found to be highly effective at facilitating active learning as learners are required to prepare in advance of sessions and discuss potential solutions to problems with their peers. Despite being relatively underused in the physical sciences, at Keele we have embedded TBL into our chemistry teaching at all levels.[1] The move online during the Covid pandemic has shown that the highly structured set-up, the pre-class preparation and instant feedback mechanisms, as well as the small group peer discussions make TBL an excellent active learning format for online learning. This was facilitated by the introduction of a new free to use online scratchcard, developed at Keele, which can be simply integrated into learning platforms. Both staff and students have found TBL to be an effective way of promoting active collaborative learning, leading to enhanced problem-solving skills.

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/tbl/>

Key words

TBL, active learning, online education, problem-solving

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