

## **Communication Challenges Defined Script**

For purposes of this lesson the communication challenges have been categorized as four different types of barriers you should be aware of when designing and interacting within distance learning experiences. As you know, participation within distance learning greatly depends on being able to access the learning experience. Technological barriers arise when the chosen technology is unfamiliar, when the instructor poorly designed the course and created navigation barriers and failed to utilize the technology to its full advantage. Further, there might be poor communication channels within the distance learning platform that were not planned for during the course design. Finally, accommodations for different learning styles and disabilities might not have been met within the course design. All of these make up technological barriers that could negatively impact communication within technology barriers.

With contextual barriers, you will find distance learning scenarios are often overly simplified during learning, which often can cause students to apply problem solving differently than they might in an authentic situation. This ultimately affects the student's ability to recall and use relevant knowledge outside of the distance learning experience. Contextual barriers also apply to the overall difficulty students have in communication within distance learning environments. Time-zone variations prevent synchronous communication and the overall lack of connection through asynchronous communication lead to these challenges.

With social cultural barriers, the distance learning experiences around the world are becoming more diverse and therefore greatly impacting these barriers. Often this creates communication barriers, wherein miscommunication and inadvertent offense are the primary concerns of participants. Without proper facilitation by the instructor, participants might avoid fully interacting with the distance learning experience because of these concerns. This is further evident in the lack of face-to-face social interaction. Without social-context cues, participants lack social presence needed to avoid miscommunication and inadvertent offense during exchanges on a distance learning platform.

Lastly, psychological barriers present as communication challenges with the degradation of interactions within the classroom. This leads to confusion, anxiousness, frustration, and isolation. Within distance learning, the students just do not have that sense of community within distance learning that they would have in a traditional classroom.

These are the barriers which we will be reviewing in more detail during this lesson. Please click review the definitions for each barrier below before advancing to the next lesson plan.