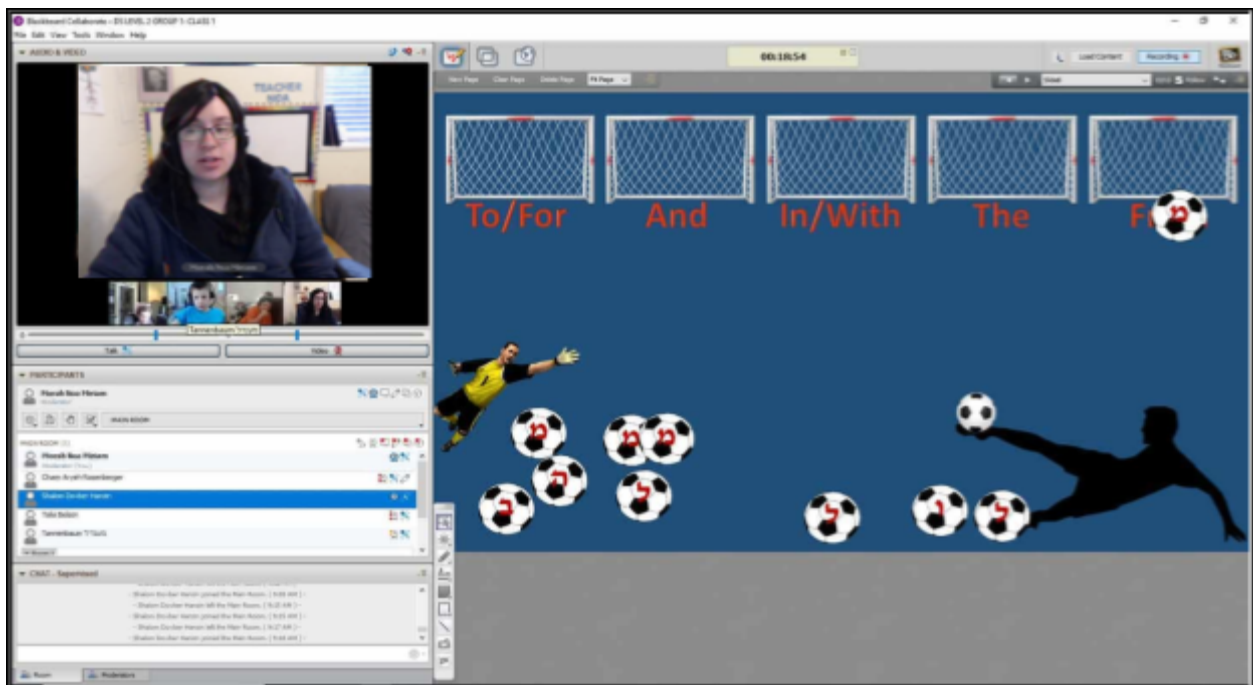


# Tips for Online Classes

**Coronavirus has forced many schools to utilize “distance learning.”  
We’ve been doing this for 14 years; we’re here to help!**

This guide is generic to all live online classes, no matter which platform you choose to use.

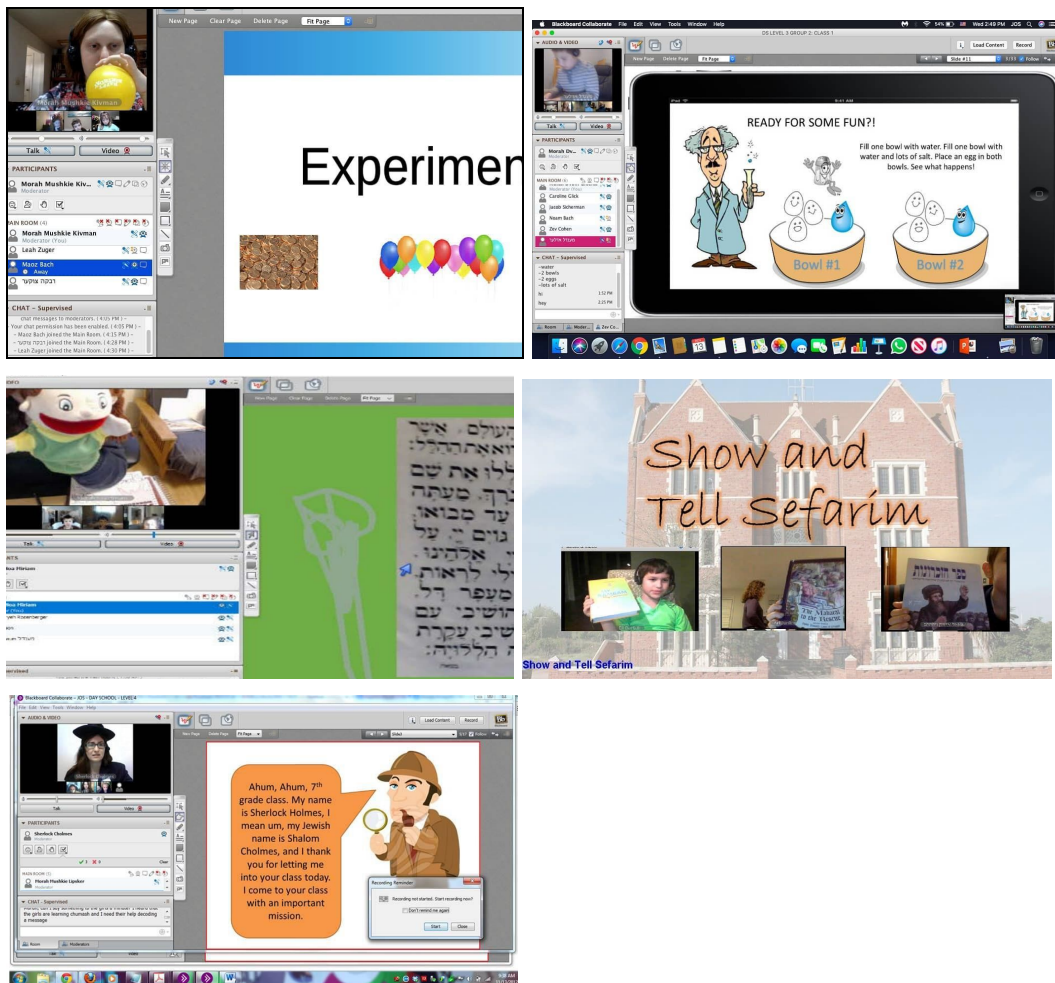


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## Part 1: General Tips for Online Learning

- Recognize that it will take time for students to learn the online platform and build that in to your instruction time.
- You can begin each of the first few lessons by demonstrating how to use the platform and/or have an instructional PPT that shows them how to navigate the platform.
- Students should take a break from looking at the screen every 20 minutes. Follow the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, remind students to take 20 seconds, to look at something about 20 feet away.
- If you have a limit on how many students can be on video at once, have set, timed intervals to switch students. Make sure each student is seen.
- Dress professionally, as you would in a brick and mortar classroom and students should do the same. It changes the atmosphere a lot when students come in pajamas.
- Keep in mind that activities take a lot longer online. Don't overcomplicate activities. Making origami or Blooms Balls, that might work in a traditional classroom, will take a few times as long in an online classroom.
- Like in a regular classroom, if you send a list of supplies for them to have ready, not all students may have them. Be prepared with a back up so students without supplies can still feel included.
- Have students write on the board as much as possible. As much as students love writing on whiteboards / chalkboards, this is even more exciting! Try to designate spaces for different students. You can also have students draw different shapes for different tasks.
- Even if you are an experienced teacher, observe another teacher who is more tech savvy. Your best learning moments come from observing other teachers.
- Start off the day on an exciting note, so the students want to come on time! As one parent from Nashville said, "My son's teacher knew that the students loved Itche Kadoozy videos, so he made their faces on the Itche Kadoozy characters" and put things like that on the board each morning.
- Learn the platform! Learn it well! Utilize all the tools available in your platform, to keep things exciting.
- Technology can be tricky. Make sure your camera and headset is in working order and have backup on hand if possible.
- Think of online learning as a "brick and mortar" classroom. EVERYTHING CAN BE DONE ONLINE! Have students dress up, you as a the teacher can come dressed up, conduct experiments on screen, bring in puppets, show and tell, etc. Don't limit your mindset to online learning.

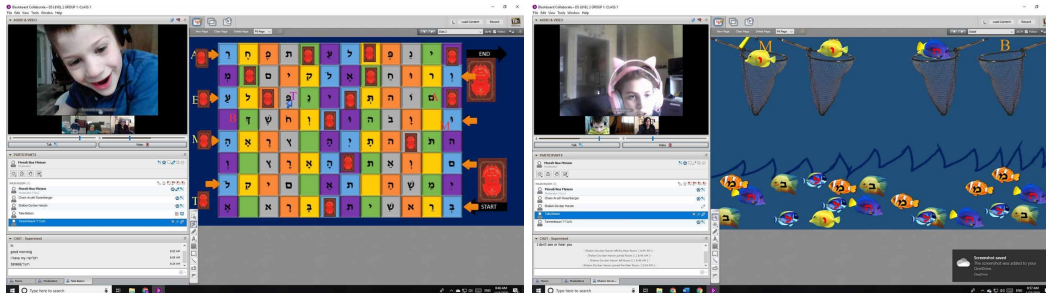




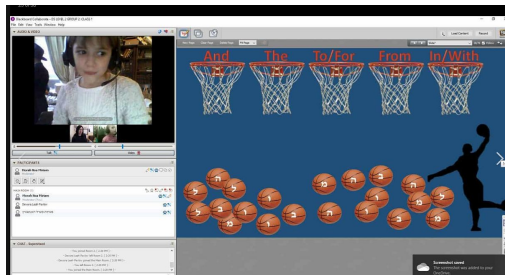
- Have a plain backdrop if possible. If not, be sure the background is clutter free and non distracting.
- Make sure you pay attention to the chat box, especially the private chat, so none of the students' messages get missed.
- When learning online, there can be delays in the audio. Give a five second wait time before calling on students after asking a question.

## Part 2: The Whiteboard

- Try to keep the board engaging. Every few slides can be a “fun page.” [Here’s an easy crossword puzzle maker website.](#)
- Here is a site to make [crossword puzzles in Hebrew.](#)
- Here is a [word search generator.](#) Type in ten words related to the topic and use it as a hook or a review.
- To make your powerpoint more visually appealing, use a preset template instead of white screens. (But not an overly colorful presentation; that can distract the students)
- If your platform allows for it, use animated GIFs. Having an animated emoji is more exciting than a regular emoji - don’t underestimate it.
- Include images and video, and break up long texts.
- Many board games are easy to convert to a whiteboard, such as Boggle, go fish, etc. Just google “template” with the game you want to play and enjoy!



- For practicing Keriah (or adapt to other subjects) put a big tic tac toe board over the words. The students need to answer/read the square they want to use, before putting their O or X in.
- Play sports online with movable balls!

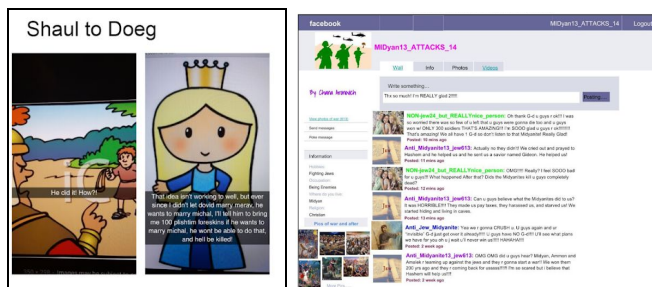


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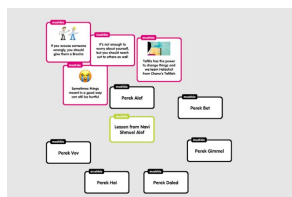
- Use the app “picSpeak.” It takes pictures and makes the lips move to text you provide or to a voice recording. Use pictures of the students or famous personalities to excite the students. For example, George Washington (or someone in your family / a student) can ask the questions that way. You can type in text or record it.
- Students can use [storyboardthat.com](https://storyboardthat.com) to make comic strips about what was learned in class.



- Take polls from the students, using [polllevywhere.com](https://polllevywhere.com), built in polls in the classroom, or even a fork and spoon for yes and no!
- Use google maps and pin locations or have students comment on locations learned about. [Here is a link to Biblical google maps; a list of all locations mentioned in Tanach.](#)
- <https://quizlet.com/> is a great way to have a review of material that students can do on their own/at home. <https://dahbear.org/> is another option geared towards Hebrew and Chumash!
- It's 2020 and teens will be teens! Have students reenact conversations or scenes using a snapchat generator, facebook generator, texting phone, etc. using [this link](#).



- Use [ezpuzzle.com](http://ezpuzzle.com) to create videos for flipped learning. You can insert questions as the video is playing, and once students answer, they can continue watching.
- Use [popplet.com](http://popplet.com) for visuals charts or have the students create mind maps on here.



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#### Part 4: Using the Online Atmosphere to Your Advantage

- Record the lesson for absent students. What an awesome way to show you care.
- At home learning is an amazing time to increase family and home engagement. Have students bring their talents to the classroom, which they otherwise couldn't, ie piano or to show off their dog.
- It's a lot easier to have differentiated instruction online. Without the physical background noise from other groups (that you have in a brick and mortar school) each group can work in their own breakout room and maximize their time distraction free.
- For the **visual** learner (while research argues about what "visual" entails, these ideas can certainly help):
  - Vary the contents on the board; from your pre-prepared slides to what students draw/fill in/comment on.
  - Bring in objects you're speaking about and encourage the students to do the same.
  - As the instructor, you can download webcam effects and can use them when telling over the Parsha, etc. "And then it started raining!!" (Raining effect)
- For the **auditory** learner:
  - Keep your voice full of life and vary your tone so it doesn't sound monotone.
  - Encourage group discussions and have students do as much speaking as possible.
- For the **kinesthetic** learner:
  - Use [Morah Music's exercise tracks](#) to keep the students moving.
  - Encourage students to collect items from around the house that are relevant to the lesson.



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## Part 5: Tech

- Be sure you have a high speed connection. You can [test your internet connection here](#).

Required internet connection speed to ask of your internet provider:	
<b>For 1 student</b> 1.00 mb/s Download speed 1.00 mb/s Upload speed	<b>For 2 students</b> 2.00 mb/s Download speed 1.50 mb/s Upload speed
<b>For 3 students</b> 3.00 mb/s Download speed 2.00 mb/s Upload speed	<b>For 4 students</b> 4.00 mb/s Download speed 2.50 mb/s Upload speed
<b>For 5 students</b> 5.00 mb/s Download speed 3.00 mb/s Upload speed	

- Use a desktop computer for the best experience; the larger the screen the better it is for the students, so recommend that to them.
- If the classroom has delays, turn off some of the student cameras or delete slides from the board which were already used.
- A great headset ensures that there are no background noises and/or echoes. A great headset recommendation [can be found here](#).
- Some platforms won't work on a chromebook. Make sure to test out the platform before choosing a laptop/computer.



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## Jewish Online School

The Nigri International Jewish Online School is a synchronous, live, online classroom teaching Judaics studies around the globe. Thousands of students have graduated from our school over the past 14 years, and some students even returned as teachers to pay it forward!

From Dubai to China, to Mexico to the States; there are 850 students from all over the globe logging in to learn each day.

In light of the Coronavirus, many schools are looking for alternative options to continue students. We've put together some resources to help make this transition as smooth as possible for your students and teachers.

Best of luck!



Questions? Comments?

Email us at [office@jewishonlineschool.com](mailto:office@jewishonlineschool.com)

Call us at 718-713-3080

Stay healthy and safe!



*Prepared by Nigri International Jewish Online School - [jewishonlineschool.com](http://jewishonlineschool.com)*