

Dear Student,

You are interested in taking an Internet English class but before you do so there are several important factors to consider. **DO NOT** simply skim through this information as it is crucial to your success in this class. I have taught Internet classes for years now and have watched the successes and failures of hundreds of students. I want you to succeed but you need to be honest with yourself and with me. You must read and digest the information offered here and you must honestly pass the self-test or you will likely fail to perform well in an Internet class.

And now for the self-test...

# Self Test

## Are you ready for an Internet course?

If this is your first Internet course then you really should pay attention to these questions and comments. Taking a college course on the Internet is not for everyone. There are three main areas that could dramatically impact your success in a course online:

- Technology including your skills, knowledge, and available equipment
- Learning Style
- Student behavior

This self-test is designed to help you determine if this class is really a good match for your individual technological skills, knowledge, and equipment; your individual learning style; and your individual student skills.

Please be honest with yourself regarding your knowledge and skills when answering the questions as it is your future success that will be impacted.

## What is your primary reason for taking an Internet course?

- Convenience
- Scheduling
- Easier Work Load

Convenience and scheduling are both valid reasons for taking an Internet course. However if you believe that taking an online class will mean an easier work load you will be in for a very rude awakening. The requirements for online are no less than that of any other quality educational program. The successful student will view online as a convenient way to receive their education – not an easier way.

## And now for a review of technology and skills...

**Do you have the knowledge and skills to use the technology needed for this course?**

- Consistent Internet access
- Access to reliable, functional computer
- Microsoft Word or ability to save in rich text
- Create, save, and format word processing documents (including page numbers and headers)
- Copy-and-paste or cut-and-paste from one source to another
- Understand use of search engines
- Email account (not Hotmail) with ability to send and receive attachments
- Ability to forward and reply to emails
- Knowledge of appropriate email etiquette
- Post messages to a discussion board
- Post messages with attachments to a discussion board
- Visit sites by use of hyperlink or URL
- Move forward and backward through sites
- Download files from the Web

Don't try to fool yourself or me. If you don't have these skills you better work on acquiring them ASAP. If you do not know how to attach or upload a document, for example, I am going to notice the very first time you try to turn in an assignment.

Consistent, reliable Internet access is also key. Make sure you have a back up plan for if your home service goes down. Internet access problems is not a valid excuse for missing deadlines etc. If your car breaks down and you can't make it to class you are still counted absent. Your Internet access is your transportation to your Internet class.

**And now for a review of learning styles...**

## What type of learning style works best for you?

If you aren't sure what learning style applies to you then [click here](#)

- Visual learner (you learn best by sight)
- Auditory learner (you learn best by hearing)
- Text learner (you learn best by reading and/or writing)
- Kinaesthetic learner (you learn best by using sensation or performing a task)

When we gather information about the world around us (including the information we need in order to study), we employ all our senses. But some of us employ one sense more than others. The [VARK system](#) assesses how much people rely on:

- Sight (Visual),
- Hearing (Auditory),
- Reading / Writing, and
- Other sensations (Kinaesthetic, which includes touch and temperature as well as movement).

People say things like, 'I'm an auditory learner' (meaning that they are comfortable absorbing information which they've heard or discussed); or 'I'm a kinaesthetic learner' (if they prefer to learn through practical classes and hands-on activities, rather than by reading books and listening to lectures). In fact, each of us uses all available senses to absorb information. But you may find it helpful to confirm what your strengths are with regard to perception. If you want to do this, visit the [VARK website](#), fill in the test, and check your results.

An Internet course simply does not work well for some learning styles. However it is ideally suited for people who learn best by reading and writing.

**And now for a review of your student temperament...**

### **Do you have the right temperament for an internet course?**

- Are you self-disciplined and able to set and keep your goals and tasks
- Do you require regular reminders to keep up-to-date with your course work

An Internet course requires you to be self-motivated and self-disciplined. With the freedom and flexibility of the online environment comes responsibility. The online process takes real commitment and discipline to keep up with the flow of the process. Staying up with the class and completing all work on time is vital. Once a student gets behind, it is almost impossible to catch up. Every semester I see students lose letter grades and even fail simply because they did not realize they were unsuited to taking an Internet class. Some students thrive in an atmosphere where they control the pacing and timing of their work schedule but others struggle. Now, while there is still time to drop and add classes, is the time to really consider this issue as it applies to you, your study and work habits, and your schedule.

**And now for your final evaluation, are you really ready for an Internet class...**

## **Are you ready for an internet course?**

Do you possess:

- The technology skills, knowledge, and equipment necessary
- A learning style suited to the environment
- The right temperament for an Internet course

I stress again that your success in an Internet class is dependent on your being honest with yourself that this class is right for you. If you proceed without the necessary technology skills, knowledge and equipment; without an appropriate learning style; and without the right temperament then you are setting yourself up for failure.

**Good luck,**

**Deanna Mascle**