

# How to start with blended learning: an overview of all the blended tools

You can find an explanation and how-to-start guide for the following tools:

- Plickers
- Mentimeter
- Google Jamboard
- Miro
- Padlet
- MindMeister
- Flip
- Canva

## Interacting

### Plickers ([www.plickers.com](http://www.plickers.com))

Plickers is an educational tool that collects student responses in seconds. It enables you as a teacher to assess students' understanding in real-time. Plickers is a good tool for students who can't yet write or read well, since it uses a physical card to provide an answer. [How to get started with Plickers?](#)

Plickers is free to use, where you can create an unlimited number of classes with up to 5 question slides.

#### What do you need?

- ✦ Create a (free) Plickers account.
- ✦ A screen to show your questions.
- ✦ Plickers cards for your students: each student will need a Plickers card ([see example](#)).
- ✦ A mobile device with the Plickers app to scan the results.



#### How does it work?

1. Prepare your questions!
  - Add students to your Plickers Classes.
  - Assign each student a card number.
2. Print out the Plickers cards.
3. Hand out the appropriate card to each student in your classroom.
4. Display your questions to your students.
  - Students will provide their answers by holding up their Plickers cards and orientating them in a certain way.
5. Scan student answers with your mobile device.
  - Scan the cards with the Plickers mobile app to collect student answers. You will see live answers on your mobile device.
6. Review results on the screen.

- When a Plickers session is complete, student reports and scoresheets are provided at [plickers.com](https://plickers.com), which can be used to keep track of individual and collective performance over time. It's even possible to download results for further analysis.

### **Mentimeter** ([www.mentimeter.com](https://www.mentimeter.com))

Mentimeter is an interactive presentation tool that allows you to engage your students in a more dynamic and participative way. You can create presentations that incorporate real-time polls, quizzes, word clouds, and other interactive features that help students engage with the content being presented. [How to get started with Mentimeter?](#)

Mentimeter is free to use, where you can create unlimited presentations with up to 2 question slides.

#### **What do you need?**

- ✦ Create a (free) Mentimeter account.
- ✦ A screen to display your slides.
- ✦ A device for each student to participate in the Mentimeter.

#### **How does it work?**

1. Create a presentation by clicking on "New Presentation". You can choose from a range of different presentation templates or create your own design.
2. Add up to 2 free slides to your presentation by clicking on "Add Slide". There are a range of different slide types including polls, quizzes, word clouds, and more.  

**!** If you want more than 2 slides per presentation, you will need a paid account. **How to solve this?** You can make unlimited presentations of 2 slides.
3. Once the presentation is complete, teachers can share it with their students by sending a link or sharing the QR-code. You can also let your students go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and let them put in the personal presentation code.
4. Present your Mentimeter presentation by either displaying it on a screen or share their screen with students. As the presentation progresses, students can respond to the interactive features using a device.
5. At the end of a presentation or in real-time, you can check the results of your students. You can also download the results and use them to inform their teaching.

### **Kahoot** ([www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com))

Kahoot is an interactive game-based learning platform that allows teachers to create quizzes, discussions, and surveys for their students. Kahoot games are easy to create and can be used to promote student engagement, collaboration, and learning. Kahoot is a good tool for students who cannot yet read well, since it uses colours. [How to get started with Kahoot?](#)

Kahoot is free to use, but you can only use two features in your questions (Multiple choice and True-False).

#### **What do you need?**

- ❑ Create a (free) Kahoot account.
- ❑ A screen to display your slides.
- ❑ A device for each student to participate in the Mentimeter.

#### **How does it work?**

1. Create a quiz by clicking on the "New Kahoot" button. You can choose from a range of different quiz types, including multiple-choice, true/false, and open-ended questions. You can also set a limited answer time and add images and videos to enhance your quiz.

! With the free account, you only can choose 'multiple choice' and 'true/false'.

2. Invite your students to play the quiz by sharing the game PIN. Your students will need to insert the PIN on [www.kahoot.it](http://www.kahoot.it). You can also share a QR-code or URL. Students can then join the game on their own devices.
3. Start the game! You will see the questions with the responses. You will also see a ranking after each question.

## Collaborating and brainstorming

### **Google Jamboard** ([www.jamboard.google.com](http://www.jamboard.google.com))

Google Jamboard is a digital whiteboard platform that allows you to let your students collaborate in real-time. It's a tool that can be used for brainstorming, note-taking, and other collaborative activities. It allows students to by allowing visualise their learning and thinking.

Google Jamboard is free to use if you have a Google account.

#### **What do you need?**

- ❑ A Google account for you and each of your students.
- ❑ An (interactive) digital whiteboard to display your Jamboard to the class.
- ❑ A tablet or laptop for your students to work on the Jamboard.

### How does it work?

1. Create a Jamboard on [www.jamboard.google.com](https://www.jamboard.google.com) or on the app. You will see a white 'frame' in the middle with a toolbar on the left-hand side of the screen.
2. You can change the background of the canvas by clicking on 'change background'.
3. Once you created the Jamboard, you can add content to the board using the toolbar on the left-hand side of the screen. You can add text, images, sticky notes, and other interactive elements to the board. You can use it as a whiteboard tool on your interactive whiteboard in your classroom.
4. You can create multiple frames to your Jamboard, by clicking on the two-frame icon at the top of the screen. In that way, you can structure your course or give a group of students a specific task/frame on the Jamboard.



### Collaborate and brainstorm!

- a. You can share the Jamboard with your students by sending a link or inviting them to join the board via email. Students can access the Jamboard using their own devices, such as laptops, tablets, or smartphones.
  - b. Collaborate in real-time! As students join the Jam, they can collaborate in real-time by adding their own content, commenting on others' work, and moving elements around on the board. *In that way, you can let your students collaborate or brainstorm on a frame of the Jamboard from their own devices. You as a teacher will see what's happening in real-time.*
5. Save and share: Once your Jamboard is complete or finished, you can save it to your Google Drive account or export it as a PDF or image file.

### **Miro** ([www.miro.com](https://www.miro.com))

Miro is a digital whiteboard and collaboration platform that can be used in the classroom to promote creativity, collaboration, and visual thinking. Miro allows teachers and students to work together in real-time, creating and sharing ideas, mind maps, diagrams, and other visual materials.

With the free version, you can create up to three boards. With the paid version, you can create an unlimited number of boards.

### What do you need?

- ❑ A Miro for you and each of your students (you can use your Google or Microsoft account to log in).
- ❑ An (interactive) digital whiteboard to display your Miro to the class.



- ✦ A tablet or laptop for your students to work on the Miro.

How does it work?

1. Create a (free) account on the Miro website.
2. Create a new board by clicking on the "Create new board" button. You can choose from a range of different templates or create a custom design.

! With the free version, you can create up to three boards. With the paid version, you can create an unlimited number of boards.

3. You can customize the board by adding text, images, icons, and other visual elements. They can also use sticky notes, arrows, and lines to connect different ideas and concepts such as mind maps, brainstorm templates...

### Collaborate and brainstorm!

- a. You can invite your students to join the board by sharing the board's URL or sending an email invitation. Students can access the board using their own devices.
- b. Collaborate in real-time! Students can collaborate in real-time by adding their own content, commenting on others' work, and moving elements around on the board.

! Make sure to set some ground rules on the use of Miro before using it.

4. Save and share: Once the board is complete, you can save it to your Miro account or export it as a PDF or image file.

### **Padlet** ([www.padlet.com](http://www.padlet.com))

Padlet is an online post-it wall that allows teachers and students to create interactive walls for sharing and collaborating on various types of content. Padlet can be used in the classroom to encourage student engagement, brainstorming, stimulate collaboration. Students can share ideas inside and outside the classroom environment.

Padlet is free to use and with a free account, you can create as many Padlets as you want, but you can only use 3 active Padlets. **How to solve this?** You can archive Padlets you're not using and bring them back later.

### **What do you need?**

- ✦ A (free) Padlet account for you.
- ✦ Your students can also create a Padlet account if they want to create Padlets themselves.
- ✦ A screen to show your Padlet to the students.

- A device for each (group of) student to provide input in the Padlet.

### How does it work?

1. Create an account on the Padlet website. You can sign up for a free account or choose from a range of paid plans with more advanced features.
2. Create a new Padlet by clicking on the "Create a Padlet" button. You can choose from seven different templates: a wall, a list, a storyboard, columns, a map, a canvas, and a timeline. Each template has its own features.
3. You can customize the Padlet by changing the title, background, URL... A Padlet can be used to ask questions to your students, brainstorm, vote, collecting ideas... You can also set privacy settings, including who can view and edit the Padlet.
4. You also have additional features, such as a voting and commenting option. This can be handy if you want to know which idea is the most popular during a brainstorm.

#### Collaborate and brainstorm!

- a. You can share the Padlet with your students by sharing the URL. Students can then access the Padlet using their own devices.
  - b. Collaborate in real-time! As students join the Padlet, they can collaborate in real-time by adding their own content, commenting on others' work.
  - c. By clicking on the red '+' button, students can add content to your Padlet. You can start the post with a text subject and content, but you can also:
    - Upload a file
    - Take a photo or a video and upload it
    - Upload a link
    - Search an image in the Padlet environment
    - An audio recording
    - Draw
    - And much more...
5. Save and share: Once the Padlet is complete, you can save it to your Padlet account or export it as a PDF or image file.

#### **MindMeister** ([www.mindmeister.com](http://www.mindmeister.com))

MindMeister is an online mind mapping tool that can help teachers and students brainstorm, visualise, and organize their ideas while working together. [More information about MindMeister?](#)

You can create up to 3 mind maps for free in MindMeister.



### What do you need?

- An account for you and your student on MindMeister. You can create your account through your Google account.
- A screen to show your mind map to your students.
- A device for each (group of) student to provide input or work together.

### How does it work?

1. Create a free account on MindMeister.
2. To start a new mind map, click the "New Mind Map" button. Give your mind map a title and start adding ideas.
3. Add topics and subtopics: Use the "Insert" button to add new topics and subtopics to your mind map. You can drag and drop topics to rearrange them or use the keyboard shortcuts to move topics around. Discover this together with your students.
4. You can also customise your mind map by using the "Format" button on the right-hand side of the screen. You can change the style and color of your mind map. You can also add icons, images, and notes to your topics to make your mind map more visually appealing.

#### Collaborate and brainstorm!

- a. Add your students to the mind map by inviting them through their email address or share the link.
  - b. Let your students collaborate on your mind map. You can also use the "Comments" feature to leave feedback or ask questions.
5. Save and export: Once you're finished with your mind map, be sure to save your work. You can export your mind map as a PDF or image file or share it directly from MindMeister.

## Creating

### Flip ([www.flip.com](https://www.flip.com))

Flipgrid is a video discussion platform that allows teachers to engage with their students in an interactive way. You can compare it with TikTok, but in a closed community within your classroom. You can use the tool in your classroom to encourage your student participation by making videos. Within the app, there is a possibility to comment and give feedback on each other's creations, with a moderation option to keep a safe and inclusive environment. [More information on Flip?](#)

Flip is a free app from Microsoft.



### What do you need?

- ❑ An account for you as the teacher and for each student
- ❑ A smartphone, tablet or laptop with a camera for each (group of) student

### How does it work?

1. Sign up for a free account on Flip.
2. Create a new "grid" by giving it a name and a description. A grid is essentially a collection of topics that your students can respond to with video. You can see a grid as a virtual classroom space for your students to post the videos.
3. You can create a new topic by giving it a title and a prompt by clicking on the pink plus. This will provide a specific space for your students to respond on the topic, question, or task that your students will with a video.
4. Share your topic with your students by giving them the unique code or link to the topic. They can then respond to the topic by recording a video on their computer or mobile device.

#### Step-by-step guide for Flip for students:

- ❑ Open the app.
  - ❑ Click on the circle on the bottom of the screen to start the video recording.
  - ❑ Let your students create a video.
  - ❑ There are numerous tools to use during the video making, such as filters, background, sounds, stickers... Explore them beforehand or let your students explore themselves.
  - ❑ Click on your fragments in the right bottom corner to edit.
  - ❑ Go forward on the pink arrow to publish.
  - ❑ Let your students post the video in the right topic.
  - ❑ Post the topic.
5. View and respond to student videos: your students can view their videos and leave comments or feedback. You can also "like" or "star" particularly strong responses to highlight them for the rest of the class.
  6. Share the videos with the rest of the class to encourage discussion and further engagement.

### Canva ([www.canva.com](https://www.canva.com))

Canva is a graphic design platform that allows teachers and students to create content for their classroom projects, such as posters, infographics, cards, videos, presentations, pamphlets... [More information on Canva?](#)

Canva is a free tool for education, where you can get access to all Canva's premium features for free if you're using it for educational purposes.



### What do you need?

- ▣ An account for each student and for you as a teacher.
- ▣ A device for each (group of) students.

### How does it work?

1. Create a free account on Canva for you and your students.
2. Choose a template for various design projects, such as a presentation, poster, or infographic.
3. You can customise everything by changing the text, images, and colors. Canva has a library of free images, icons, and graphics that you can use to personalise your design.
4. Students can work together on a project by sharing the link. This allows for easy collaboration and feedback between peers and you and your students.
5. Save and export when your design is finished. You can export your design as a PDF or image file or share it directly from Canva. After that, you can print your project and share it with others.