

# SYNCHRONOUS AND ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

## WHEN TO USE SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

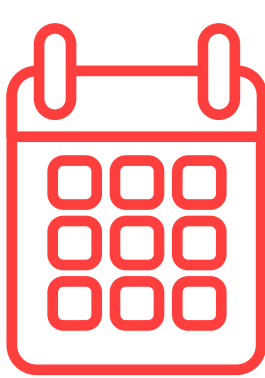
## WHEN TO USE ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

Design your course so that synchronous learning activities make the most of the interactive nature of synchronous learning while complementing the asynchronous activities.



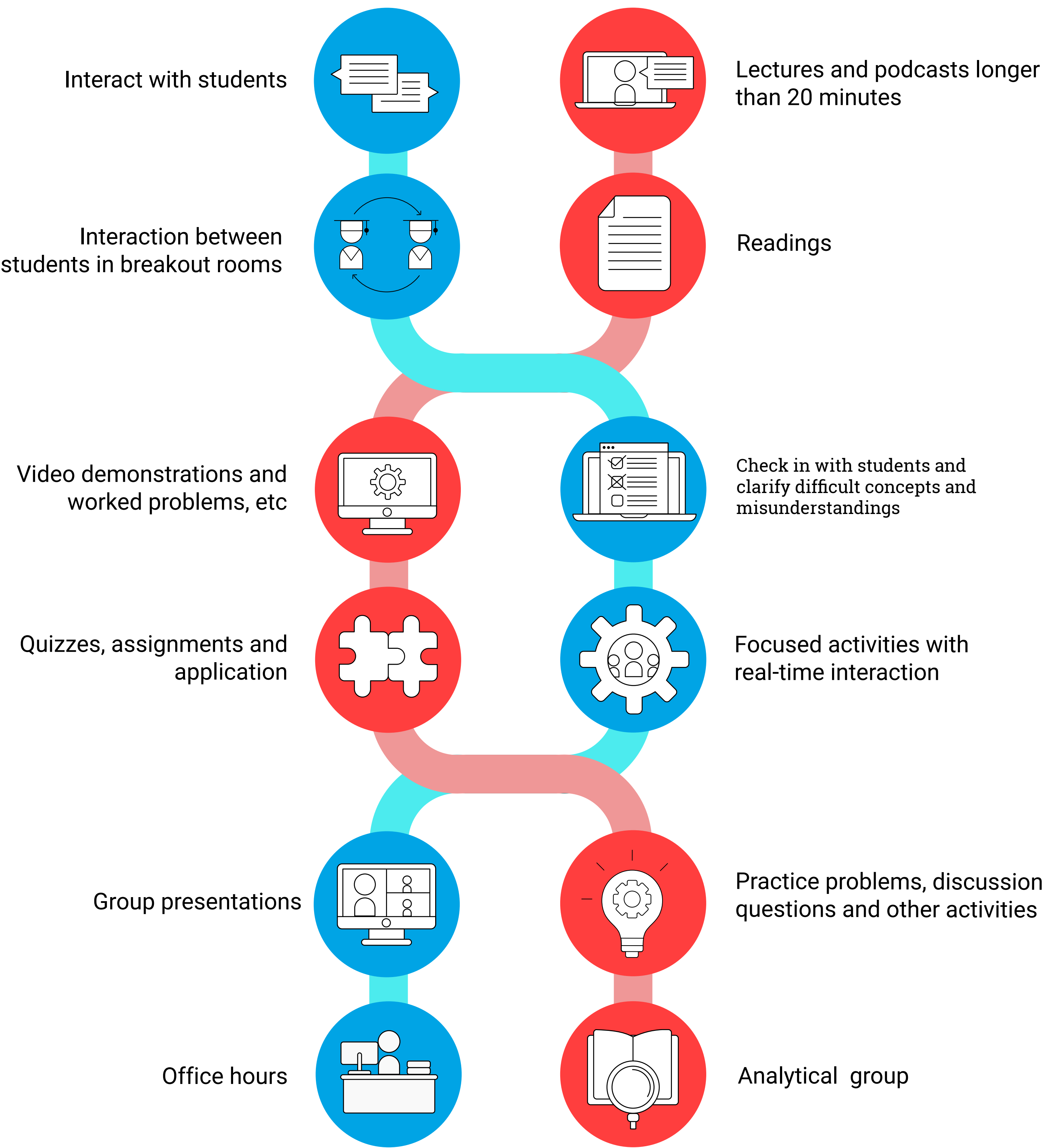
### WHAT IS SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING?

Synchronous Learning is any activity in an online course that happens in **real-time**, like a Zoom meeting or a chat. Use synchronous activities to facilitate student interaction and build teacher presence.



### WHAT IS ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING?

Asynchronous Learning is all the other activities in an online course that students can complete **on their own schedule**. Use Asynchronous Activities for course activities that benefit from students taking the time to carefully consider and analyze content and engage in constructive exchanges.



## THING TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING YOUR CLASS



### ADVANTAGES OF SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- ✓ Provides opportunity for asking & answering of questions in real time, as they come up
- ✓ Provides opportunity for spontaneous interaction and exchange between students and with the instructor
- ✓ Provides opportunity for instructors to get feedback on student learning
- ✓ Adds the “human” element
- ✓ Builds the classroom community
- ✓ Increases the number or “social” interactions (interactions not related to course content)

### DISADVANTAGES OF SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- Synchronous learning can widen the divide for learners with:
- ✗ Certain disabilities
  - ✗ Unstable Internet access
  - ✗ Inequitable access to device and other equipment
  - ✗ Caregiving responsibilities
  - ✗ No access to a suitable space to participate
  - ✗ Time zone differences



### ADVANTAGES OF ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- ✓ Students can complete work on their own timetable (a huge advantage in today’s context)
- ✓ Students have the opportunity to take the necessary time to digest, and repeat/reread content that is difficult in order to deepen understanding
- ✓ Students have time to compose and revise responses in asynchronous class discussions, increasing access to those with language and other barriers.

### DISADVANTAGES OF ASYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

- ✗ Without proper motivation, it is possible for students to put off completing weekly work and fall behind
- ✗ Students can feel isolated or disconnected from the instructor and other students

