

SPOKEN TEXT FOR SLIDES

1. This is Aino. Aino takes a Spanish online course. She goes through the materials, listening comprehensions, and quizzes. But is she actually learning something?
2. We identified a problem here. We throw tons of material on students, expecting them to suck it up like a sponge, and then grade half a year's worth of learning with a 1 hour test, somehow hoping it will assess the acquired knowledge.
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4. The problem is that in learning we're just scraping the surface. Research shows that only ~5% of knowledge is retained after lecturing, and complementing it with reading, audio-visual materials increases the number to just 20%. Our survey confirms that this problem also occurs in online learning.
5. But what if we make students learn by.. teaching?
Just think of it, is it possible to effectively explain a concept to someone without actually mastering it?
That's why we want to reimagine the way learners learn.
Up to 90% of information can be retained by practicing peer tutoring.
6. We propose OPET-US, a solution for any online learning platform that incorporates all the tools you need to augment a course curriculum with peer tutoring.
Students who reach a certain progress in a course will be required to organize a collaboration session for those who are just starting.
For example, it could be practicing a conversation in a language course, having a pair programming session, or just explaining a new concept.
This can be held both online and offline, if all participants are willing to meet together.
After that activity, the students give feedback on each other's work.
The course coordinator is free to decide how much of tutoring to include.
In extreme cases, this might replace conventional assessment!
7. This incentivizes deep understanding of the subject and provides interactivity and personal feedback to the course.
8. We believe this approach to learning has the potential to completely change the way we view online learning, and make students stay motivated while focusing on actual learning rather than just passing a test.
9. Our next step is to pilot our method on the biggest learning platform for universities – Moodle.
Moodle is the backbone of Aalto's MyCourses and OpenLearning services.

As an open-source framework, it is highly customizable and thus serves as the perfect testing ground for our idea.

Afterwards, the tool can be scaled to other platforms such as Coursera and Udemy.

10. We're OPET-US, we make online learning a dynamic and collaborative environment, where critical thinking is encouraged within a healthy community.