

Peer Tutoring

Description Peer tutoring is cooperation between two or more students, where one individual acts as the tutor and teaches to the other(s) as tutees. This can occur between students of the same year of study or between students of different years.

Example 1 *Reciprocal Peer Tutoring*

Two students from the same subject of the same year form a dyad (pair). Both of them take turns at being the tutor while the other serves as the tutee. The instructor can have them switch roles for each skill, class, week, or unit.

Example 2 *Cross-Year Peer Tutoring*

Cross-year peer tutoring occurs when the students are from different year-groups. In this type of peer tutoring, the 'older' students as tutors are usually more capable than the 'younger' students as tutees so that tutors can pass their study tips to the tutees.

How Active? In peer tutoring, since the tutors and the tutees are about the same age, it is easier for them to participate in the activity and to be motivated to learn. Before the tutors meet with their peers, they need to prepare the tutorial materials and to approach the teachers to sort out problems and remove misunderstandings.

How Related to Real Life? The major benefit of peer tutoring is in engaging students in peer teaching and learning. Bringing in real life relevance is not the prime focus of this method.

What Learning Outcomes? Peer tutoring helps students strengthen their own understanding of the subject matter. It develops generic skills such as communication and leadership skills. In Example 1, all students have the equal opportunity to be the tutors and experience the valuable leadership. However, in Example 2, only the 'older' students can have the leadership opportunity while the 'younger' students experience personalised instruction and feedback. Peer tutoring also develops character virtues and personal attitudes such as respect, responsibility, empathy, cooperation and persistence, and that is important in affective development.