

# LARC Digest #1



## (e)TANDEM LEARNING

(e)Tandem learning is a practice that joins learners of **different native languages** via face-to-face (Tandem) or online (eTandem) communication as they attempt to **learn each other's languages**.

# LARC Faculty Report #1 (e)Tandem Learning

## How might this help my students?

Through participation in an eTandem exchange, students can benefit from genuine interaction with native speakers in real-time exchanges. These kinds of linguistically and culturally rich interactions are typically reserved for those students studying abroad. However, through eTandem learning, students can get a taste of what it might be like to directly engage with a native speaker from another culture.



## How could I implement this in my own teaching?

There are several possible implementation modes for teachers. 1) Allow students to seek out these virtual partnerships on their own. This model allows for a somewhat autonomous integration where students create and maintain these partnerships on their own. 2) The second option is a teacher-facilitated partnership between two classes. Students from both classes might be paired off in groups or in triads depending on the size of each class. 3) A third, kind of implementation would be to invite virtual "guest speakers" via Skype or Zoom to attend one of your class sessions. For this last version, students might prepare some questions to ask the virtual visitor during their online visit to your class.



## Where's the research?

[Kato, Spring, and Mori \(2016\)](#) report significant improvement in the listening and speaking abilities of students who participated in a Japanese-English eTandem program. They emphasized the importance of structured and highly integrated eTandem programs. [Jauregi and Bañados \(2008\)](#) discussed an effective eTandem partnership between 20 Spanish students in the Netherlands with 20 preservice Spanish teachers in Chile. They noted both linguistic and cultural gains from the 2-month exchange. [Click here](#) for more related articles on eTandem learning.



For more information, email Paul at [sebastianpl@appstate.edu](mailto:sebastianpl@appstate.edu) to schedule a one-on-one consultation session regarding this topic.