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WEBINAR AS A MEANS OF TEACHING ENGLISH AT TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

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Nowadays, webinars are widely used for teaching English assisting students to enhance their knowledge in a foreign language. A webinar is considered to be an effective instructive tool, especially, teaching English remotely. As a rule, webinars are conducted over the Internet in the form of a seminar or a workshop, accompanied by a presentation and discussion. The paper focuses on implementing a webinar technology at the Belarussian National Technical University for teaching English to the students specializing in programming. The topic of the prepared webinar is 'Running a business meeting'. The main purpose of the webinar is to develop listening and communicative skills of students on the topic. The academic material is presented using PowerPoint presentation software. The main points of the presentation are displayed in the form of slides. The presentation is divided into several parts. At the beginning, attention is drawn to the types of meetings held in business environment and new active words and expressions are explained through definitions. Then the students listen to the embedded recording of a business meeting and perform a quiz in the form of a multiple choice to check the general understanding of the content. Further, the language and techniques used by the participants of the meeting are discussed in detail. The useful expressions of starting a meeting, introducing yourself, wishing people a good day, or making a positive comment are provided on slides.

Next, a few examples of speaking about the meeting outlines are described. The most important thing about running a meeting is participation in discussion where people have to make, accept or reject suggestions. So, the most common phrases for making, accepting and rejecting suggestions from the dialogue are analyzed and new possible examples are shown. Finally, the students practice what they have learnt doing some tasks on the slides. Thus, webinar technology is very beneficial for students to keep them motivated and concentrated on the topic.