
Silent learners – what characterizes them

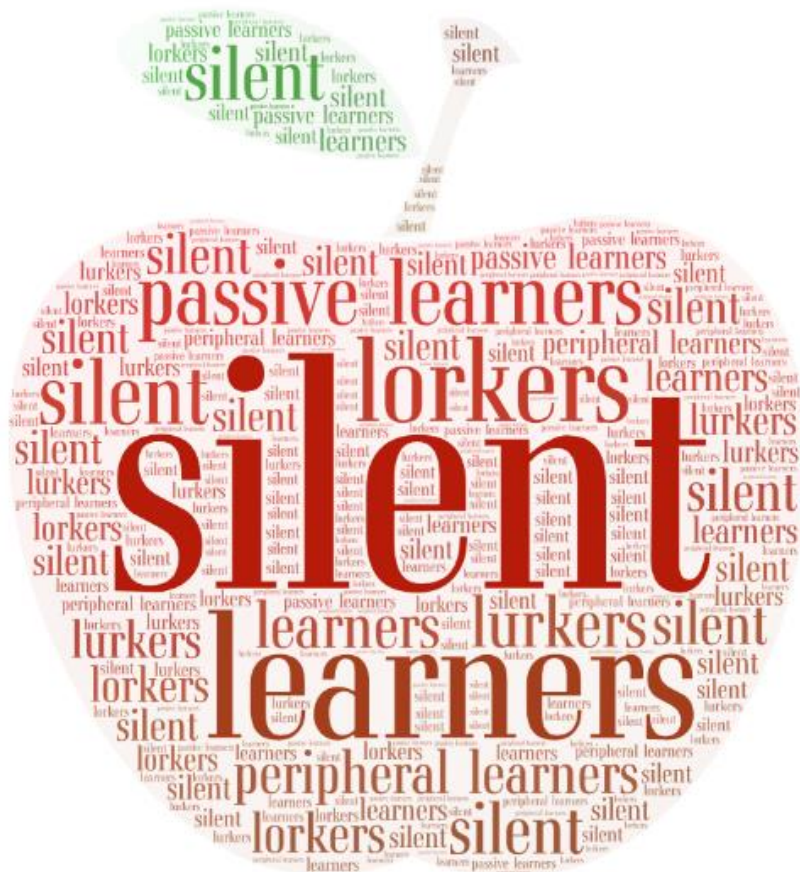
— 27 September 2018 —
Reykjavik



Nordic Network for
Adult Learning



NORDPLUS
Adult



Lorking – Is Lurking Working?

NVL Distans:

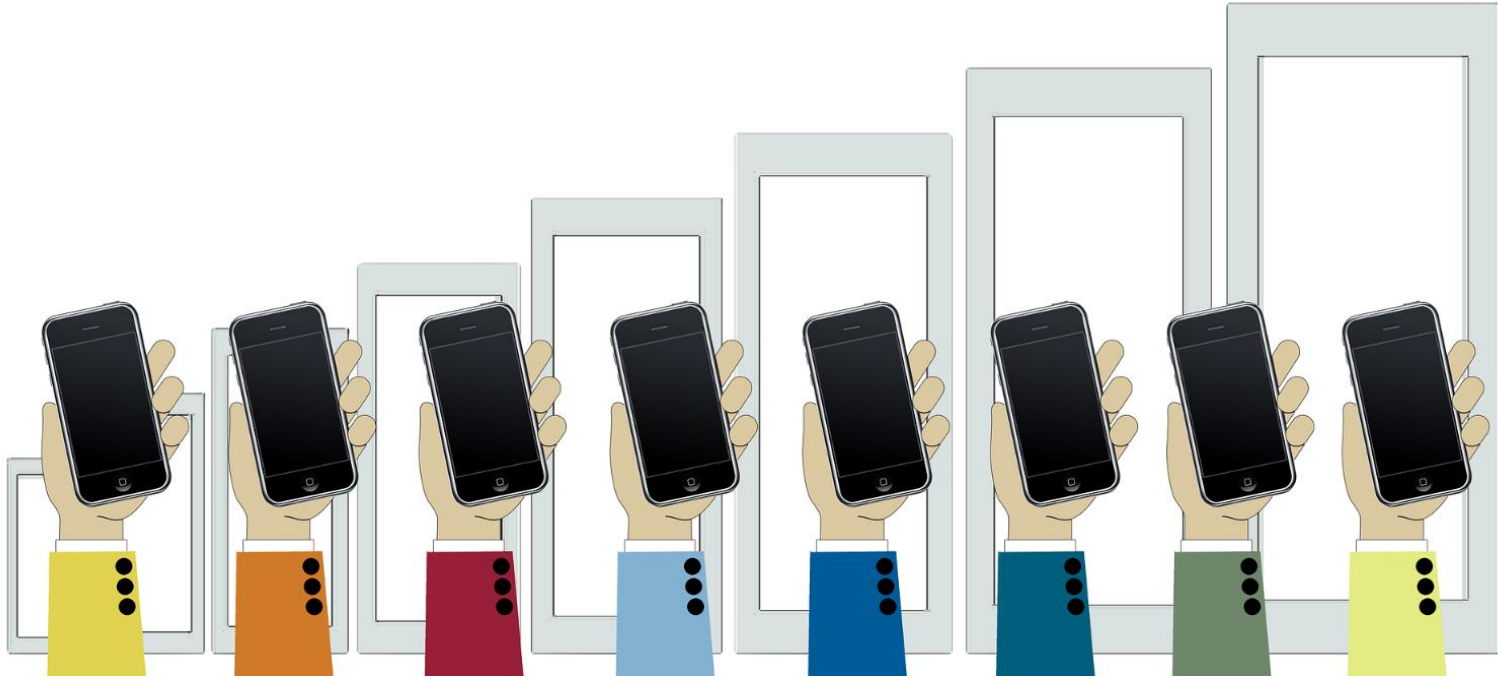
Åland, Faroe islands, Greenland, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden



Is lurking online ok?



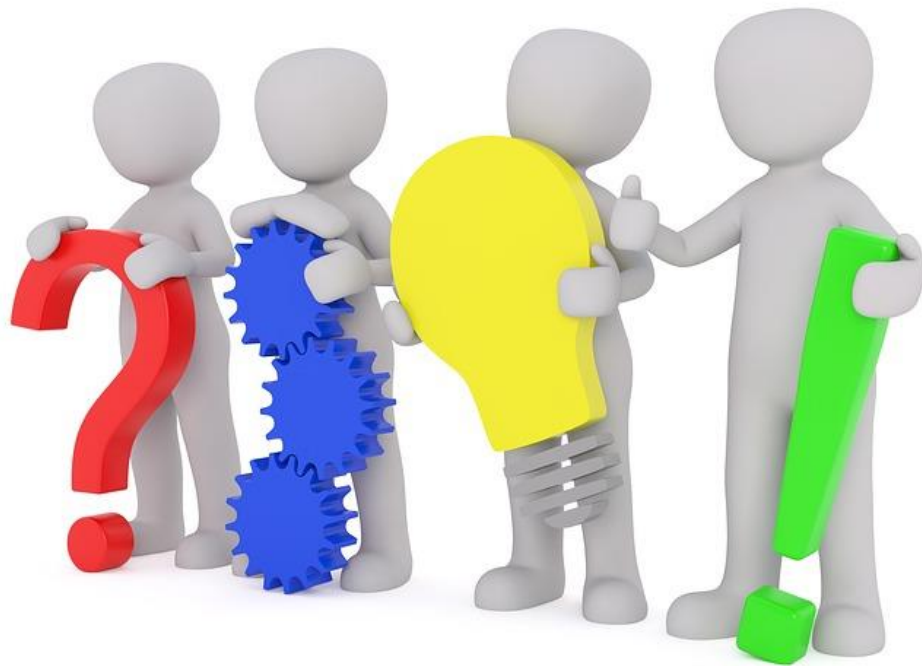
Silence is visible in classroom



but online you don't exist unless you leave a sign



They all have a reason



introverts

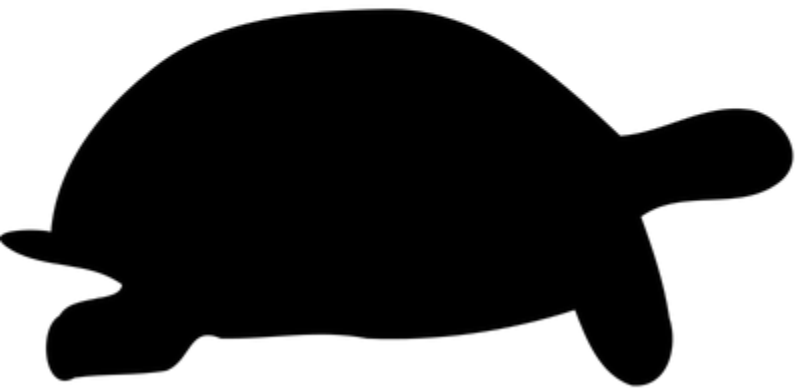


contextual silence



Photo: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4725114>

”I need more time to think before contributing”



” I feel overwhelmed & ignored by extroverts”





**Not familiar with
the rules or etiquette
of participation**

” In my culture
it is not polite
to question
the teacher”

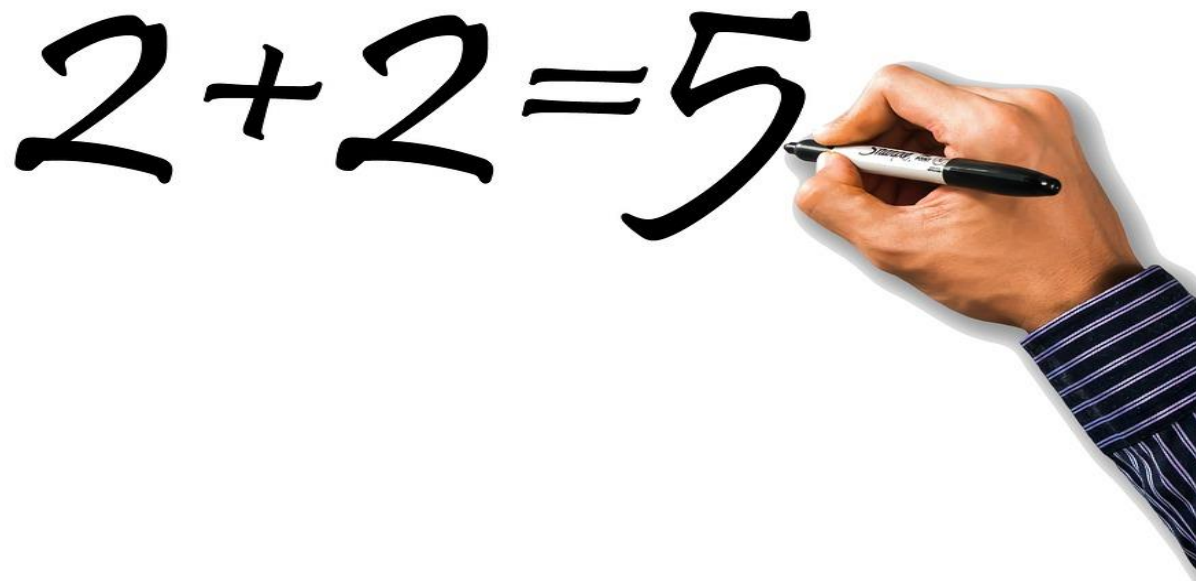




” I’m not fluent in the language”

"I have low confidence"

"I'm afraid of making mistakes and saying something stupid"



Multitasking



“I got what I needed and then I left”





"I'm only interested in the certificate"
"I was forced by my employer"

Booooring



Lessons learnt

- raising consciousness, interest and discussion
- more understanding of silent learners and their reasons
- more respect for various kinds of learners
- value of feeling of belonging even if not taking active part
- diverse learning materials & assignments
- individual flexible learning paths for individual learners

one size does not fit all



**individual paths for
individual learners**

"We started this project looking at the silent learners or "lurkers" in online courses but as the project progressed we realized that the issue we were investigating was inclusion."

"Rather than focus a significant effort on encouraging adult learners to participate in active forum use, the emphasis may need to be shifted to ensuring that appropriate/sufficient material is available to 'passive' learners."



We explored if online learning activities can be organized so that it would make silent learners feel more comfortable and included.

Silent learners – a guide

<https://ec.europa.eu/epale/en/resource-centre/content/silent-learners-guide>

<https://silentlearnersblog.wordpress.com/>

Silent learners

A NordPlus project investigating different forms of participation in online learning and their meaning for organizers





Thank you!

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