

Trending terms: *Présentiel* and *distanciel*\*

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In the wake of the pandemic, there has been a sea change in the methods of holding training and meetings leading to the popularity of two French terms: *présentiel* and *distanciel*. Although it is commonly used in French now, *présentiel* is considered a calque of an English word, “presential,” which is in the dictionary (I had to check), but far from popular in English. A term with the opposite meaning, *distanciel*, appears to be a blend of “distance” and a suffix similar to the words *courriel* [email] and *pourriel* [spam] coined in Quebec. Distance learning is not necessarily on a computer as it can be on TV, by teleconference or other means. Keeping in mind that “distance learning” is not necessarily online, the top English translations of *distanciel* are virtual, online, distance and remote.

**A quick survey gives these choices for the translation of *formation présentielle/distancielle* in English:**

Classroom / remote training

Face-to-face / distance training

Onsite / online training

In-person / virtual training

Blended training (*formation mixte*) is another trendy expression which combines the two concepts, e.g.,

*Aujourd’hui la formation mixte combine parfois des heures en présentiel et des heures en distanciel.*

Courses today are sometimes blended training of face-to-face hours and online learning hours.

Moreover, to translate *réunions présentielles*, we’re now seeing face-to-face, in-person and onsite meetings and for *réunions distancielles*, the options include distance, online, virtual and remote meetings in English. *Présentiel* and *distanciel* are a reflection of the inventiveness of Quebec French terminology to describe technological advances in the same mould as *clavardage* [chat], *courriel* and *pourriel*. Despite the fact that some writers have called this useful neologism an anglicism, *distanciel* has been included in the 2022 Petit Robert (*présentiel* was already accepted).<sup>1</sup>

For more information, see the BTB’s *Vocabulary on Distance Teaching and Telework*:

<https://www.btb.termiumplus.gc.ca/publications/teletravail-telework-fra.html> (French link).

<https://www.btb.termiumplus.gc.ca/publications/teletravail-telework-eng.html> (English link).

\*The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.

1. <https://www.lerobert.com/mots-nouveaux-petit-robert.html#:~:text=Les%20mots%20%22d%C3%A9confinement%22%20et%20%22,entrent%20officiellement%20dans%20le%20dictionnaire.&text=Le%20%22d%C3%A9confinement%22%20fait%20son%20entr%C3%A9e%20dans%20le%20dictionnaire.&text=Lady%20Gaga%2C%20sexto%2C%20story%20et,dans%20le%20Petit%20Robert%202021.&text=%C2%AB%20D%C3%A9confinement%20%C2%BB%20est%20d%C3%A9sormais%20dans%20le,covid%20%C2%BB%20et%20%C2%AB%20nareux%20%C2%BB.>

