



Moodle Teaching Next Level on learn.moodle.org

Database: Share content

Moodle's Database activity allows you to build, display and search a bank of entries on a topic of your choice.

These entries include files, images, links to websites, text and more. They may be moderated before approval, commented on and rated.

Database activity entries can be displayed as a list, and individually, in single view. In this Database activity, Marine Marvels, when the entries are displayed in a list, we see a name and image along with its location in the world. In single view we can also see who added this entry and when. Accessing it with the teacher role we see icons for deleting, editing, approving and unapproving entries. All of these options and more can be set up when adding a Database activity so let's explore it now:

Setting up the Database activity:

Our teacher adds a Database activity by turning on the editing, selecting Database from the activity chooser and giving it a name and description, which can be displayed on the course page by ticking the box. Other settings can be expanded by clicking the links.

Entries:

Here, it's important to decide whether or not to moderate entries before they appear. Note: if you set them to be moderated and never approve them, you can have a useful private sharing area between teachers and individual students.

Should students be able to edit their entries and/or comment on entries? Should there be a limit on entries students must add before they can view others? Should there be a maximum number of entries students can add?

Find out more in the [Moodle documentation](#)



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Ratings:

By default editing and non-editing teachers can rate Database entries but if you want students to do this also, access Permissions from the gear menu in the Database and allow students the capability mod/data:rate

Other settings are similar to other activities but it's worth knowing that in Activity completion you can require a certain number of entries to be added before the Database activity is marked complete.

Fields and presets:

Clicking Save and display then shows a number of tabs. The Fields tab must be dealt with first. Fields means the information boxes course participants must fill in, such as adding text, a file or an image. No fields defined means our teacher hasn't added any of these yet so that's the next task. To save time you could choose a 'predefined set' (preset for short) which means a file of ready-made fields. Find out more about using presets in the Moodle documentation. And there are also a number of presets available on archive.moodle.net, which you can download and then import for your Database activity. But our teacher is going to add fields manually so from the Fields tab he clicks Create new field.

Here are the available fields:

Text input is useful for names of entries.

Ticking required will force the student to enter something here.

With picture fields we can specify the size of image for list view and single view. Usually list view would be smaller than single view.

Find out more in the [Moodle documentation](https://moodle.org/doc)



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Finally we'll add the latitude longitude field so students must enter the location.

Templates:

Templates define how you want the fields displayed. Anything done to the single and lists templates here will determine how they look; the Add template will determine what participants see when they click to add their entry and you can also set up an advanced search template. The simple way to set up your Database easily is to click the Save button for each template as we're doing with the Add template now, but you can edit templates also, to improve the display. For example, if you want the list view to display as a table, you'll need first to disable the editor and then enter the code for the header and footer of your table. And if you're comfortable with code, you can also explore the CSS and other templates. Moodle's documentation will help.

Let's make some simple changes to the single view. The items in brackets are the fields; these are essential. The words in between hashtags are other actions or options so we can add the user name and the time an entry was added by clicking where we want it and then choosing it from the box on the left. Remember to save the template.

Now it's time for our student to add an entry – adding a name, uploading an image, and entering a geographical location.

To summarise:

Database allows you to build, display and search entries on a selected topic.

Find out more in the [Moodle documentation](#)