

Adding a Database

The **Database** module makes it possible to design and build online forms for students and/or teachers to create, view, and search a bank of record entries (also called ‘records’) about any topic of your choice. The templates and possible fields for the **Database** entries offer an unlimited range of options that includes images, files, URLs, numbers, and text, to name a few. The **Database** forms can be made up of a variety of fields, including checkbox, date, file, latitude/longitude, menu, multi-select menu, number, picture, radio buttons, text field, text area, and URL. The **Database** templates allow teachers to edit the forms and format the student view when they add an entry, view a list of entries, or view single entries. The template editing tools make it possible to create forms with a wide variety of appearances suiting a particular teacher’s needs. It is also possible to re-create real forms that students need to practice within a controlled and private online space. Teachers can add comments and rate/grade student **Database** entries. The entries can also be exported for use elsewhere and the templates/fields can be exported for use as presets in other **Database** activities in the same or other courses. With so many options, the **Database** module provides a great deal of flexibility for teachers and a wide range of opportunities for students to practice their skills.

Using the Database Activity to Enhance Blended Learning

The **Database** module can be used to gather or display information for any purpose, including needs assessment, learner self-reflection, skill-using/practice activities, or even for portfolio skills assessments. Teachers can use the **Database** settings to allow students to see entries by their classmates, or to keep student entries private, as appropriate to the activity. **Databases** are commonly used to give students an online space to collaborate by building a collection of resources about a given topic (for example, community centre programs), displaying student-generated work, gathering information or opinions on a particular subject or maintaining a student log. In addition to these possibilities, the **Database** module can also act as a student file storage area.

The **Database** module can be used as part of a student assessment strategy, particularly for writing skills. In some situations, it may be effective to deliver these online instead of in the classroom. These types of assessments should be carefully considered, especially in settlement language training programs, to ensure that some students are not at a disadvantage or have their results skewed because of their limited knowledge or lack of suitable technology skills.

In addition to assessments, teachers can use the **Database** module to provide students with opportunities to practice the English language. Database activities can be very useful for giving students the opportunity for self/peer assessment and for practice filling in online forms and/or reading online tables of information.

Adding a Database Module Activity

This process has three parts:

1. Part 1: Creating a new **Database** activity and Choosing the **Database** settings,
2. Part 2: Creating the fields for the **Database** entries (also called 'records'),
3. Part 3: Editing the **Database** templates (or using the default templates).

The instructions in this guide are general. For more detailed information about adding a **Database**, please refer to the Moodle Help documents, or the wealth of information that can be found online about Moodle **Database** activities.

Deployment Tips

- The **Database** activity is somewhat complicated but incredibly useful. Start slowly to avoid being overwhelmed by the fields, templates, and tables.
- The **Database** activity can be used to display information for students as well as gather information from them.
- The **Database** activity can be edited and formatted to replicate many real-world forms, both online and paper based.

Video Resource

This is a series of two instructional videos from HRDNZ Moodle Partner about creating **Database** activities.

Database Activity Part 1: <https://youtu.be/0ppAGsuhGcs>

Database Activity Part 2: <https://youtu.be/RRHy7vjCc7E>

Resources

[Moodle documents: Database activity module](https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_activity)

<https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_activity

[Moodle documents: Database settings](https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_settings)

<https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_activity_settings>

[Moodle documents: Building Database](https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Building_Database)

< https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Building_Database >

[Moodle documents: Database Templates](https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_Templates)

< https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_templates >

[Moodle documents: Using Database](https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Using_Database)

< https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Using_Database >

[Moodle documents: Database activity FAQ](https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_activity_FAQ)

< https://docs.moodle.org/39/en/Database_activity_FAQ >