

Adding a Wiki Activity

A wiki is a web page that can be edited by all registered users. WikiHow and Wikipedia are popular examples. These are great for encouraging collaborative projects to produce a final product, as well as task planning.

The Wiki activity module enables participants to add and edit a collection of web pages. A wiki can be collaborative, with everyone being able to edit it, or individual, where each user has his/her own wiki that only he/she can edit. There are no individual wikis in the LINC courseware, but this feature can be easily set up when setting up new wikis.

A history of previous versions of each page in the wiki is kept, listing the edits made by each participant.

Using the Wiki Activity to Enhance Blended Learning

Wiki activities are most commonly used collaboratively. When used in this way, they provide the opportunity for students to work together to complete tasks outside of the face-to-face classroom. There are a number of these tasks in the LINC courseware, such as sharing Internet research findings, brainstorming ideas, or building a class list. These activities are most effective if they are introduced to students in the face-to-face class. Instructors of LINC 1 or LINC Literacy might find it useful to add to their course a wiki that gives each user an individual wiki. This provides each student with his/her own writing space and could be used for a basic online writing activity, such as typing a composition they may have written in class.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Adding a Wiki Activity

Important note: Since our upgrade to Moodle 3.1, some of the following screenshots may appear slightly different in your course, but the principles remain the same.


1. Click the *Turn editing on* button on your course home page.
2. Click the *Add an activity or resource* link in the topic where you want to add this activity. The *Add an activity or resource* window appears.
3. Select *Wiki* in the left panel under ACTIVITIES.
4. Click the *Add* button.

The *Adding a new Wiki* page appears.


The **General** section is used to update general information about the activity.


▼ General

Wiki name*

Description 

Display description on course page

Wiki mode  Collaborative wiki ▼

First page name* 

5. Type a descriptive name in the *Wiki name* text box.
6. Click the *Show editing tools* tab in the *Description* text box to display the Text editor toolbar if needed.
7. Type detailed instructions for the *Wiki* activity task in the *Description* text box. These are the instructions for students.
8. To display the instructions on the course home page, select *Display description on course page*. (To keep the page less cluttered this is not recommended.)
9. Select the type of wiki using the *Wiki mode* option. *Collaborative wiki* is the default; *Individual wiki* gives each student/user his/her own wiki space that only that student can modify.
10. The *First page name* setting specifies the name of the page.

The **Format** section is used to set the format when editing the wiki pages.

▼ **Format**

Default format ⓘ HTML ▼

Force format ⓘ

11. The *Default format* setting selects the type of toolbar. *HTML* is the courseware standard and it gives users the standard Moodle Text editor. *Creole* is a smaller editing toolbar and it may be especially suitable for students at lower benchmark levels. Please ignore the *NWiki* format.
12. When it is selected, the *Force format* setting removes the option for users to choose the format when creating a new page.

The **Common module settings** section is common to many Moodle activities and resources.

▼ **Common module settings**

Visible Show ▼

ID number ⓘ

Group mode ⓘ No groups ▼

Grouping ⓘ None ▼

13. The *Visible* setting is used to *Show/Hide* the activity. This is identical to using the *Show/Hide* icons when the *Turn editing on* function is enabled on a course home page.
14. The *ID Number* setting sets an ID number for advanced use of the grade book. (This is not used in the LINC courseware.)

15. The *Group* mode setting enables the use of groups. (More information is available in the *Groups* documentation in the Stage 3 *Course Management* section.)
16. The *Grouping* option enables the use of groupings (a collection of groups).

Settings in the **Restrict access** section can be used to limit access to the activity. (More information is available in the *Conditional Release* documentation in the Stage 3 *Course Management* section.)

▼ Restrict access

Access restrictions

None

Add restriction...

17. Upon selecting the *Add restriction...* button a pop up appears.

Settings in the **Activity completion** section are used to set completion tracking, a viewing requirement and the expected completion date. (More information is available in the *Completion Tracking* documentation in the Stage 3 *Course Management* section.)

18. Click the *Save and display* button to preview the activity.

A page with an option to create the first page in the wiki appears if the *Force format option* was not selected.

▼ Editing this page 'First Page'

HTML format ?



19. Click the *Create page* button to add the first page to the wiki.
20. Return to the course home page using the course bread crumb link.

Deployment Tips

- Give tips to students on how to edit the wiki.
- The wiki mode (individual or collaborative) cannot be changed after the wiki is created.
- The *First page* name cannot be formatted after the page is created.
- Refer to the Stage 2 *Managing Wikis* documentation for information about using the *Wiki* activity with your students.