

Adding a Game

Gamification is a trend in online learning and the *Game* activity module allows teachers to create engaging games to help students review vocabulary and content. These games give students a score and the scores can be tracked in the course grade book. Using a course *Glossary*, a *Quiz* or questions from the *Question bank*, teachers can add game activities to a course in just a few steps.

The LearnIT2teach team has prepared a specially-formatted glossary that can be used to create additional vocabulary activities. Teachers can edit this glossary if they choose. The 'game glossary' is not pre-loaded in the courseware, but it is available in the glossary repository and can be added to your course by adding a new glossary to the course. Please refer to the *Deployment Tips* section for more information.

Hangman, *Crossword*, and *Cryptex* games can be created using items from a glossary; however, the site's *Millionaire* game does not use glossary items for its content. This game requires multiple choice questions from the *Question bank* or from quiz activities. Teachers who want to use the *Millionaire* game must add their own multiple-choice questions to the course before they can set up this game. The Stage 3 training provides a section on using the *Quiz* activity module, which explains how to add questions.

Teachers can add the following games to their courses:

Hangman

This game takes words either from a glossary or uses quiz short-answer questions to generate a hangman puzzle. Teachers can set the number of words that each game contains, display the first or last letter of the target word(s), and show the answer at the end if the student does not complete the game successfully.

Crossword

A random crossword puzzle can be generated from either a glossary or short-answer questions in a *Quiz*, or from the *Question bank*. Teachers can specify the maximum number of columns/rows or words that the puzzle contains. Student can click the *Check crossword* button to check whether the answers are correct. Every crossword is dynamic so it is different to every student.

Cryptex

This game is similar to a crossword, except the answers are hidden inside a random cryptex (grid).

Millionaire

This game is modeled after the TV game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. The game displays a series of multiple-choice questions and as each one is answered correctly, the student moves on to the next question in the game until all the questions have been completed. If even one question is answered incorrectly, however, the game is over.

Samples of the four games above are found in the Stage 2/3 Exemplar course. Additional games, such as *Sudoku* and *Snakes 'n' Ladders*, may be added eventually.

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

Using the Game Module Activity to Enhance Blended Learning

Game activities can provide students with a fun - or at least different - way of interacting with the course vocabulary and other content. These activities can also improve their spelling and phonetics. Teachers can use the *Game* module to create follow-up activities based on those in the face-to-face class that students can complete independently. Although the activities are designed to be suitable for individual use, teachers in classrooms with one computer and a projector might be able to facilitate a game with a small class divided into two teams. The *Millionaire* game might be ideal for this, especially if its content were tied into the lesson, and the *Hangman* game might also be good for a short diversion.

Deployment Tips

- Refer to the Adding a Glossary instructions in the Blended Learning Development Activity Guide 1 in the Stage 3 course to add a new course glossary. (Be sure to enable the setting to allow duplicate entries.)
- After adding a new glossary, use the Importing Glossary Items guide in the Course Management section of Stage 2 to populate it with the game-ready glossaries. There is a directory in the Glossary Repository called Glossaries for Games. Open the directory and select the target level. ****IMPORTANT:** It is essential to select the Import categories check box to use a 'games' glossary in a course.**
- Note: Once a game is added to a course, it returns an error message if a teacher tries, while editing it, to associate it with a different set of words. A new game must be added to a course each time, to add different content.
- The game will likely return an error message when adding it if there are non-alphabetic characters in the concept word. If using your own glossary items, it is best to remove all such characters in the glossary concept when adding a vocabulary item.
- Teachers can specify which category in a glossary can be used when setting up a game. This makes it easy to draw on specific groups of words from a single glossary to create a game. The “game glossaries” are organized by level, and the words in each level are categorized by theme or unit and by specific activity.
- If more than one glossary uses a category by the same name, an error may result when attempting to link a game to that category. All of the category names in the game glossaries start with an "x" to ensure they are unique.
- The items in a glossary category can be displayed (and edited) by navigating to a glossary, clicking the Browse by category tab and selecting a category in the All categories drop-down menu.