

GRADEBOOK MODULE

Introduction

The concepts of *grades* and of *gradebook* have been completely revisited in Moodle 1.9. These words and modules were used in earlier version. There are important differences that users who are upgrading to 1.9 need to understand and this should also help new users.

The two central ideas of grading in Moodle 1.9 are:

1. **Grades** are scores attributed to participants in a Moodle course
2. The **gradebook** is a repository of these grades: modules push their grades to it, but the gradebook doesn't push anything back to the modules

The three building blocks of the Gradebook in Moodle 1.9 are

- The [grade category](#)

A grade category groups grade items together, and has settings for affecting these grade items

- The [grade item](#)

A grade item stores a grade for each course participant, and has settings for affecting these grades

- The grade -Student scores in a course

A grade has settings for affecting how it is displayed to the users, as well as [locking](#) and [hiding](#) functions.

As an overview: Grades can be [calculated](#), [aggregated](#) and [displayed](#) in a variety of ways, the many settings having been designed to suit the needs of a great variety of organisations.

Many activities in Moodle, such as [assignments](#), [forums](#) and [quizzes](#) may be given grades. Grades may have numerical values, or words/phrases from a [scale or rating system](#).

Grades can also be used as [outcomes](#) and as arbitrary text attributed to each participant in a course.

How Grades Get Into the Gradebook

Grades pushed by modules

When activity modules produce grades, they use the [gradebook public API](#) to send their grades to the gradebook. These grades are then stored in database tables that are independent of the modules. The grades are still kept in the module database tables, and the gradebook will never access or modify these original grades.

The gradebook, however, provides administrators and teachers with tools for changing the ways in which grades are calculated, aggregated and displayed, as well as [means to change the grades manually](#) (a manual edit of a grade automatically locks the grade in the gradebook, so that the module which originally created the grade can no longer update that grade in the gradebook until the grade is unlocked).

Grades Manually Added by Teachers

Users with Teacher permissions for the course can add "manual" grade items to the gradebook through the Categories and Items section.