

Hello everyone!

Since COVID-19 hit, there has been a huge shift in the way people teach, learn and work.

Access to online learning is now more important than ever. Even if at the beginning there were doubts about the results of the online learning, now looks like that more and more people prefer the flexibility, the speed, and the online tools than the traditional face-to-face learning

That's why there is Moodle!

Let's get to know Moodle!

Moodle is an online educational platform that provides custom learning environments for students. Educators can use Moodle to create lessons, manage courses, and interact with teachers and students.

It's easy to use!

- Moodle is a learning platform designed to provide educators, administrators and learners with a single robust, secure and integrated system to create personalised learning environments.

- Moodle in your language

The Moodle community has begun translating Moodle into more than 120 languages (and counting) so users can easily use it, along with plenty of resources, support and community discussions available in various languages.

Let's discover it together!

1) THE FIRST STEP IS TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT

There are several options to create an account.

- You can create an account with your e-mail, and by following the steps that are being asked, then your account is ready to use!
- You can also choose the option to log in with your google or Microsoft account.
- Some courses may allow guest access, in this case all you need to do is to log in as a guest

Let's create an account with google account, click on the google option and select the one Google account you would like to connect with.

2) LET'S GET STARTED!

From the homepage you need to click on GET STARTED TODAY in order to move to the Moodle Cloud, then you click on Get Moodle, after that you go to Start with Trial and Start Your 45 Days Trial.

If you don't already have a Moodle Cloud account then you need to Create a New Account and after you fill your details you are ready to start your free trial.

3) YOU CAN CREATE A COURSE YOURSELF

To create a course yourself go to your site name and log in with your administrator account.

From the left panel there's the navigation drawer, click site administration, click courses tab, add a new course and then add all your course details you need, click save and display and then proceed to post content to add your teaching materials.

4) NOW, SINCE WE HAVE A COURSE IT'S TIME TO ADD COURSE PARTICIPANTS.

First, the participants need an account on your site, this is called Authentication and it's the same for everyone teachers and students. You can create accounts yourself or let people create their own accounts.

-To create accounts yourself – log in with your administrator account and from the left panel click site administrator, to add people one at a time click Users – Add a new user and complete the form. Click generate password and notify user if you want them to get an email with their login details.

-For people to create their own accounts, from the left panel, click site administration, click plugins and scroll down to authentication – manage authentication – open the eye of e-mail bases self-registration and then enable it in the common settings. If you want them to create accounts and or sign it with their google, Facebook or Microsoft account go to the OAuth 2 settings, and you can get more help from the documentation link from the bottom of each screen.

5) ONCE PEOPLE HAVE ACCOUNTS YOU CAN THEN GIVE THEM ACCESS TO COURSES. THIS IS CALLED ENROLMENT AND THIS IS WHERE YOU DECIDE IF SOMEONE IS A TEACHER OR A STUDENT.

As example let's add a participant to a course. Go and click to the course that you created and from the left panel click participants. To add a student click enrol users, find the person and add them to the course. If you want to add a teacher who can edit the course, click enrol users, select teacher from the sign role, find the person and add them to the course.

6) NOW WE WILL SEE HOW STUDENTS SIGN UP TO A COURSE. Go to your course and from the left panel click participants and then from the cog settings icon menu click enrolment methods. Here you can open the eye of self-enrolment so students can access your course. From the settings icon you can even add an enrolment key and other restrictions, you can allow guests into your courses as well.

7) YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE THE BACKGROUND, THE COLOURS AND OTHER ASPECTS.

From the left panel click Site Administration, click Appearance and scroll down to Themes. There are two themes, the current theme boost and classic. Click the Theme Selector to change between themes. It's theme has its own settings page. From here you upload a background image and choose your brand colours.

Why to use Moodle?

Your Moodle site can be accessed via PC, tablet or other mobile device via a web-browser or there's a free mobile app for your phone which can give you structured access to the learning that you need at any time.

Another reason that millions of people across the world are using Moodle is the benefits that provide for both educators and learners.

3 Benefits of using Moodle for the educators

1) Sharing learning materials

(With Moodle's rich resource toolkit, files and links to websites can be shared with learners easily. Pages of learning content – combining text, images and embedded video - can also be quickly created within a course.)

2) Managing access to learning materials

(Group students into year or class groups to automatically provide access to the appropriate learning materials. You can even control when specific course content becomes available to learners.)

3) Updating course content

(You can edit anytime via a browser, update and add course content for learners to access immediately.)

5 Benefits of using Moodle for the learners

1) Ease of use

(it's a great place for the learners, whatever their age, to become confident in using the web within a school-controlled environment.)

2) Engaging content

(With a variety of resource and activity types, learning on Moodle can be fun! Moodle supports a range of media to present or link to learning materials, support the learners and to assess their learning.)

3) Communicating and collaborating with peers

(Using the course forums, learners can discuss topics, share ideas and even feedback on each other's work. The chat module in Moodle allows a scheduled online messaging interaction – ideal for guest speakers or "live" discussion accessed from different locations at the same time.)

4) Dashboard

(Learners can customise their own homepage within the site to tailor information and links to their individual needs.

5) Testing themselves

(The Quiz activity can give immediate feedback to the learners related to their answers so learners can regularly test themselves building their knowledge and confidence throughout their learning journey.)

Quiz question example in Moodle

- 1) Accessing learning materials 24/7 – Learning resources are available to the learners whenever they want them.
- 2) Self-reflection – Moodle courses provide a personal space for learners to reflect on their learning journey which could include recording feedback and/or setting targets for the future.
- 3) Gamification – Moodle's Badges allow learners to be digitally rewarded for their achievements throughout their learning journey. Learners can stretch and challenge themselves to earn all the badges available to them in a course.