Educational challenge: Delivering listening comprehension tasks

Listening comprehension formative activities and summative assessments form core components of the teaching and learning sequence in both language and music courses. While traditionally delivered in a dynamic classroom environment, these tasks can be difficult to deliver over video conferencing due to bandwidth and latency issues. However they can be effectively adapted to the online environment using Moodle as autonomous or semi-autonomous activities. Affordances include more opportunities for practice, efficient feedback processes, and streamlined coordination across tutorials.

Solution: Moodle Quiz Listening Comprehension

By embedding audio files in Moodle Quiz, listening comprehension activities can be structured to include multiple choice, short answer and written text answers. By utilising the stimulus of an audio recording, short answer and multiple choice questions move from assessing recall to requiring students to demonstrate understanding. This increases the cognitive challenge for a more rigorous assessment. Text box (Essay) questions allow teachers to assess students’ analytical and evaluative abilities and can be combined with a rubric for clear and efficient feedback inside the platform. Moodle Quiz offers the following features:

Students can…
- Remotely access assessments with clear instructions for a consistent assessment experience.
- Get familiar with question types in advance to avoid confusion during the official assessment.
- Conduct their assessment off or on campus.

Instructors can…
- Assess learning outcomes using automatically or manually marked questions and provide feedback.
- Deploy several versions of the same assessment including randomised questions and/or layouts.
- Give students flexible access rules to suit a variety of student circumstances including special considerations.

FAQ

What if students can’t access the activity or assessment?
- Prepare an extra set of questions and a folder of deidentified audio recordings labelled with the question numbers that can be distributed using email or cloud-based services.

How can I make the task go smoothly?
- Prepare students with a mock exam to let them familiarise themselves with the question types before the actual exam.
- Explain the learning objective behind the activity and provide clear instructions.
- Give students opportunities to understand the assessment criteria and how they will be evaluated: Rubrics, Q&A (Synchronous or asynchronous).

Support

Instructor should be online during an assessment window and inform students beforehand how to get in touch (e.g. Moodle Chat, email, MS Teams chat) if they have issues. During an assessment, any student with technical issues must screenshot error messages, speed tests, screens not loading, power outage maps and/or information from internet provider regarding current issues (all screenshots must show date and time). The student should contact instructor immediately before applying for Special Consideration.

Templates/Guides
1. Moodle Listening Quiz template
2. Create and manage a quiz in Moodle
3. Moodle Quiz – ETS Webinar

Technical Considerations

Do not edit the Moodle Quiz while it is open for students to attempt.

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