

Using the Feedback Module

This handout may help you when looking at some of the settings that you need to select when using the Feedback module to create and activity. Please email me or try to find time to sit down at a computer in the Gakujikan if you have questions or need some assistance.

Thanks,
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Use a text editor

Moodle is a wonderful platform for delivering educational content and collaborating, but it is not the best way to create that content. Write your list of questions, possible answers, and anything else in your favorite text editor *first*. Then, copy and paste into Moodle. This will save you time and trouble. Really.

Make templates

Even if you don't plan to make another Feedback exercise like the one you are making, make a template. Also, with newer versions of Moodle, use templates to build up repetitive formats quickly.

Figure 1: Template dialog-Moodle 1.7

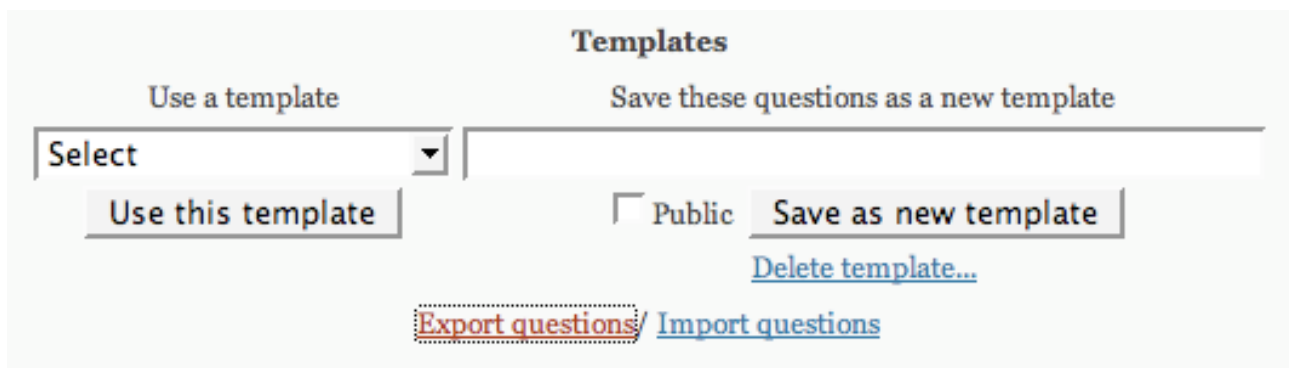
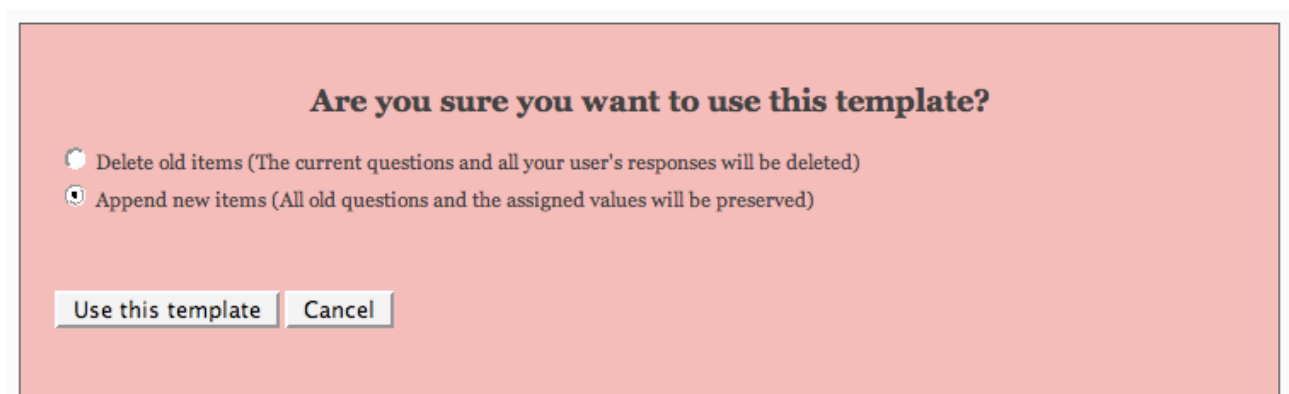


Figure 2: Template dialog-Moodle 1.7



There are a few differences between our current Moodle and what is coming in the future. If you like the Feedback module now--just wait. It will become much more flexible and easier to use after the next site upgrade.

Keep a careful eye on Required questions

It is so easy to forget to click the required question box. That is another good reason to make a template. Focus on the format, not the content. Do only one thing at a time.

Figure 3: Don't forget the checkbox

Basic Vocabulary Noticing/Pre-teaching

Short Text Answer (Required)

Question

Textfield Width

Maximum characters accepted

Position

Think about how much information you need

If you want to associate answers with a given student, you need to make that choice up front by logging names. Worried about inhibiting students? Hide the analysis from them. You can always change what level of information you show students, but you can't backtrack to get names after a Feedback activity is begun.

Table 1: Basic information about the mix of choices and the general results.

	Anonymous	Names Logged
Show Analysis NO	Like a typical university questionnaire. Students get no information.	Less inhibiting, but needs teacher management. Useful specific data.
Show Analysis YES	Not very inhibiting, but only aggregate information. Good for getting a feel for the group.	Possibly inhibiting, but may prompt direct communication.

Japanese and encoding

The Feedback Module is third-party software and is not as mature as core Moodle components. One problem is weak Japanese language support which can lead to trouble with *mojibake*. However, there are some workarounds.

If you need to use Japanese, here are a few suggestions:

- Use a text editor first
- Copy and paste off the webpage
- Try the alternative Open Office – <http://www.openoffice.org> <http://www.neooffice.org>