



How to Create a Course in Moodle

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How to Create a Course in Moodle

A lesson in Moodle is a complete training session with theory and practice. The theory helps to convey knowledge through lessons containing text, images, and videos; hands-on activities such as quizzes allow you to check how much the student has learned.

Creating a lesson in Moodle will take a new user from 30 minutes to an hour. If you need to make it quicker and easier, you can use the iSpring Suite authoring tool. In this article, we'll demonstrate how to build the same lesson in Moodle and in the iSpring Suite authoring toolkit, so you can decide which tool works best for you.

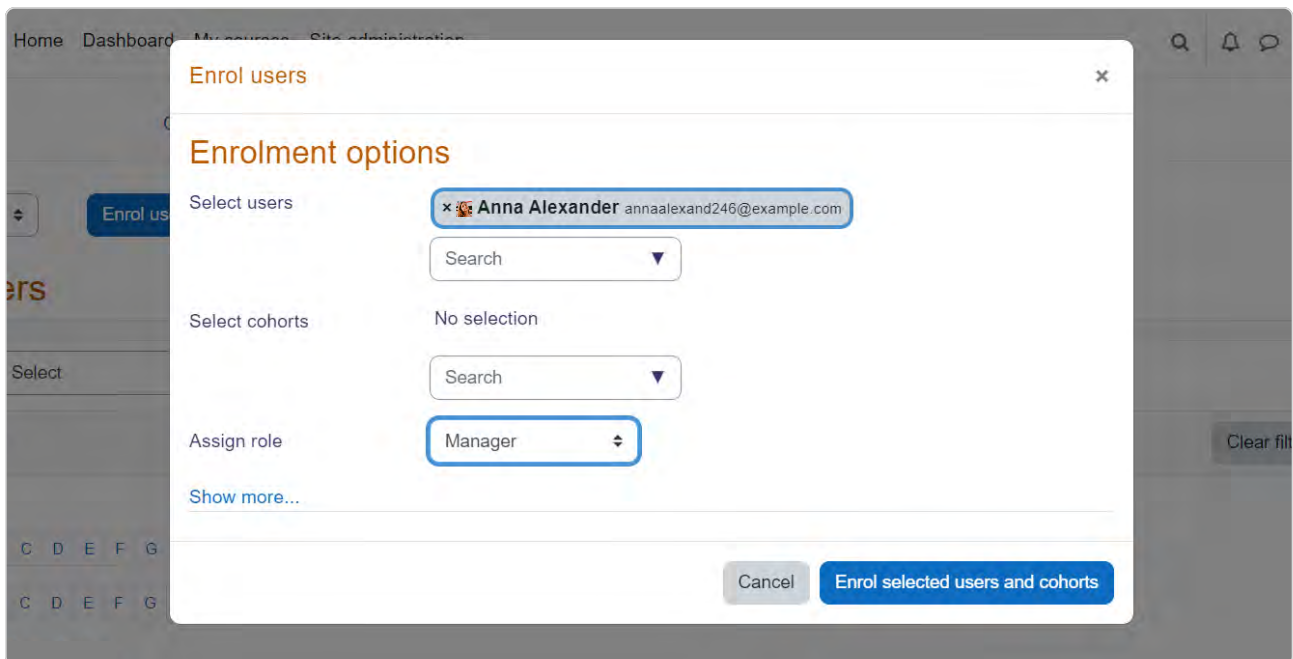
Creating a Lesson in Moodle

As an example, we'll build a course on Planets and a lesson on Solar System.

Step 1: Create a New Course in Moodle

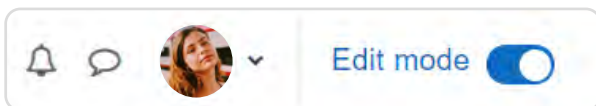
According to the logic of Moodle, you can't create a lesson without creating a course first. To create a new course, go to **Site Administration** → **Courses** → **Add a New Course**. Enter full and short course names ("Planets") and click **Save and Display**.

Now go to **Participants** and enroll yourself in the course; this way, it'll appear in the list of available courses. Click Enrol users, enter your name in the pop-up window, and choose Manager from the dropdown menu. Then click Enrol users.

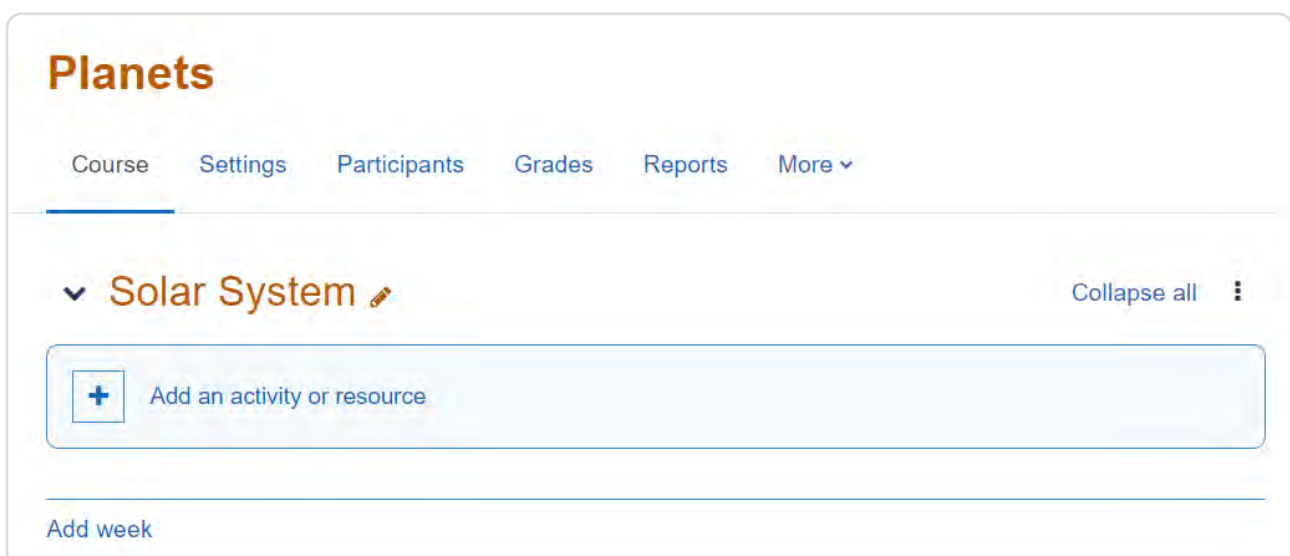


Step 2: Add a Lesson to the Course

Switch on the Edit mode.



Then click +Add an activity or resource. The Moodle toolbar will appear on the screen.

























Click Lesson in the Activities section.

Add an activity or resource ✕

Search

All Activities Resources

 Assignment ☆ ⓘ	 Book ☆ ⓘ	 Chat ☆ ⓘ	 Choice ☆ ⓘ	 Database ☆ ⓘ	 External tool ☆ ⓘ
 Feedback ☆ ⓘ	 File ☆ ⓘ	 Folder ☆ ⓘ	 Forum ☆ ⓘ	 Glossary ☆ ⓘ	 H5P ☆ ⓘ
 IMS content package ☆ ⓘ	 Lesson ☆ ⓘ	 Page ☆ ⓘ	 Quiz ☆ ⓘ	 SCORM package ☆ ⓘ	 Survey ☆ ⓘ
 Text and media area ☆ ⓘ	 URL ☆ ⓘ	 Wiki ☆ ⓘ	 Workshop ☆ ⓘ		

- **Flow Control:** Set up the rules for taking the lesson. For example, it'd be wise to allow learners to view the lesson on fire safety several times, but for an exam session, it's better to give just one attempt.
- **Grade:** Determine the rules of assessment. Will you use points or a scale to evaluate the results? What is the passing grade? For the sample lesson, set four points as the passing grade as there are four test tasks.

Click **Save and display**.

Step 3: Create a Question Page

To add a question, click **Add a question page** in the **Actions** column. In the new window, select a question type and click **Add a question page**.

The screenshot shows a web interface for adding a question page. At the top, it says "Add a new page / Select a question type". The main title is "Planets". Below the title are two dropdown menus: "Course" and "Activity". The main content area contains a text block: "The Solar System consists of the Sun and the astronomical objects gravitationally bound in orbit around it, all of which formed from the collapse of a giant molecular cloud approximately 4.6 billion years ago." Below this text is a "Select a question type" label. A dropdown menu is open, showing options: "Multichoice" (selected), "Essay", "Matching", "Numerical", "Short answer", and "True/false". To the right of the dropdown menu are two buttons: "Add a question page" and "Cancel".

On a new page, do the following general setup for the question:

Page title

Inner planets of the Solar System

Page contents

Select the four inner planets of the Solar System:

[Expand all](#)

▼ **Create a Multichoice question page**

Page title ⓘ Inner planets of the Solar System

Page contents ⓘ

↵ A ▾ B I ☰ ☷ 🔗 🔄

Select the four inner planets of the Solar System:

Options Multiple-answer ?

Answer 1

Mercury

Response

Correct

▼ **Answer 1**

Answer !

Mercury

Response

Correct

Jump ? Next page ▾

Score ? 1

Answer 2	Response
Jupiter	Incorrect

▼ **Answer 2**

Answer !

Jupiter

Response

Incorrect

Jump ? Next page ▾

Score ? 0

Once you've added all answer options, click **Save page**.

Step 4: Create a Content Page

The content page is a building block for creating a lesson in Moodle. It may contain text, pictures, audio or video. Click **Add a content page** to create one, then enter a page title and its contents.





Below, you'll also see a **Content 1 (Content 2, Content 3, and so on)** section. Using these fields, you can set up navigation within a lesson. Each Content is a button that forwards a learner to another slide of the lesson. For instance, you can create buttons for every page of the lesson, so learners will be able to jump from the first page to the last one. If you prefer closed navigation and don't fill in the Content fields, learners will have to study the pages one by one.








[Expand all](#)

▼ **Add a content page**

Page title !

Page contents

↴ A ▾ B I    

The four inner or terrestrial planets have dense, rocky compositions, few or no moons, and no ring systems. They are composed largely from refractory minerals, such as the silicates, which form their crusts and metals such as iron and nickel, which form their cores.

Arrange content buttons horizontally?

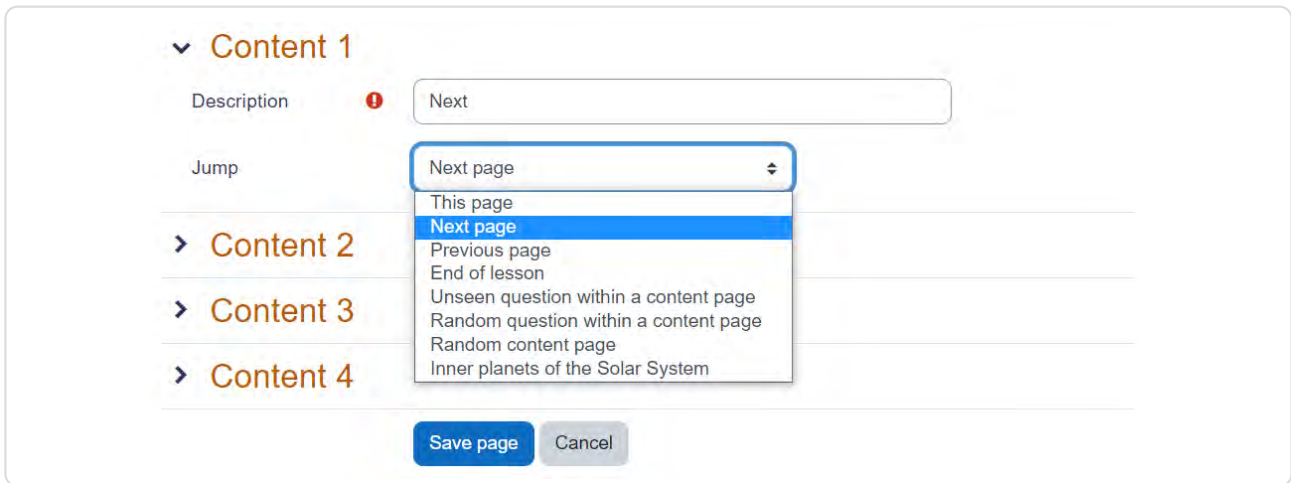
Display in menu?

For the sample course, we don't need any extra navigation buttons except Next.

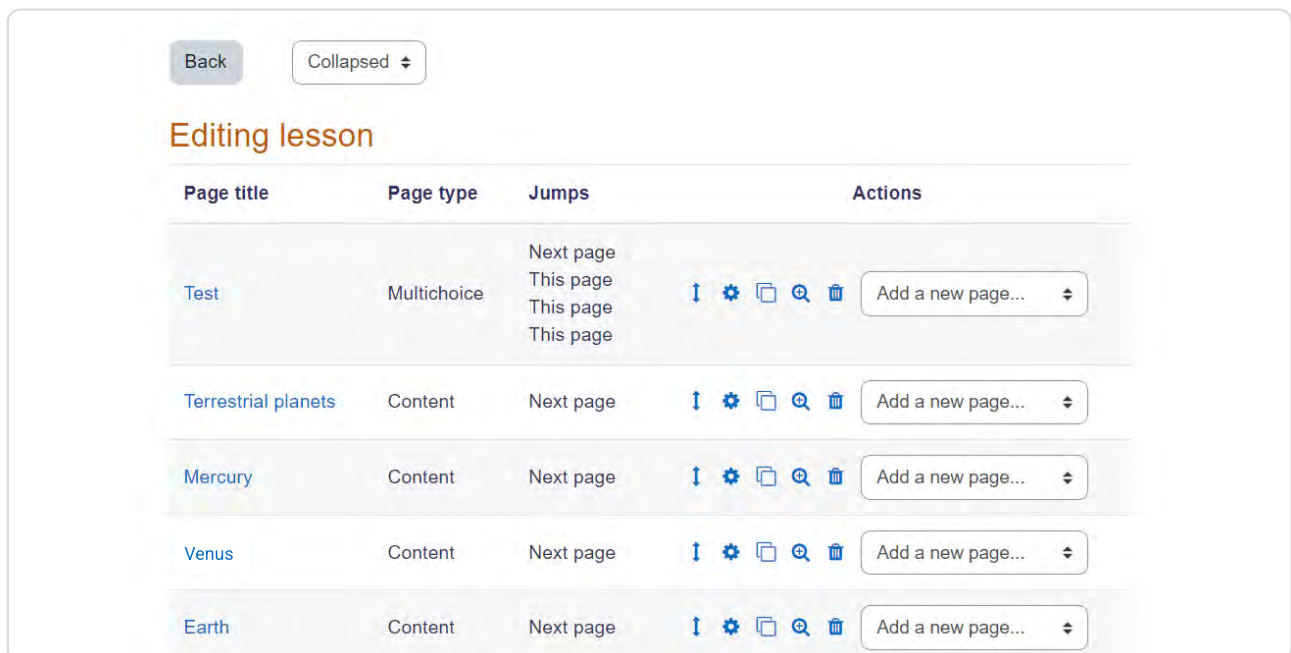
For our sample course, we'll set up closed navigation and create just one button, Next, that leads to the next page.

Step 5: Add More Content and Question Pages

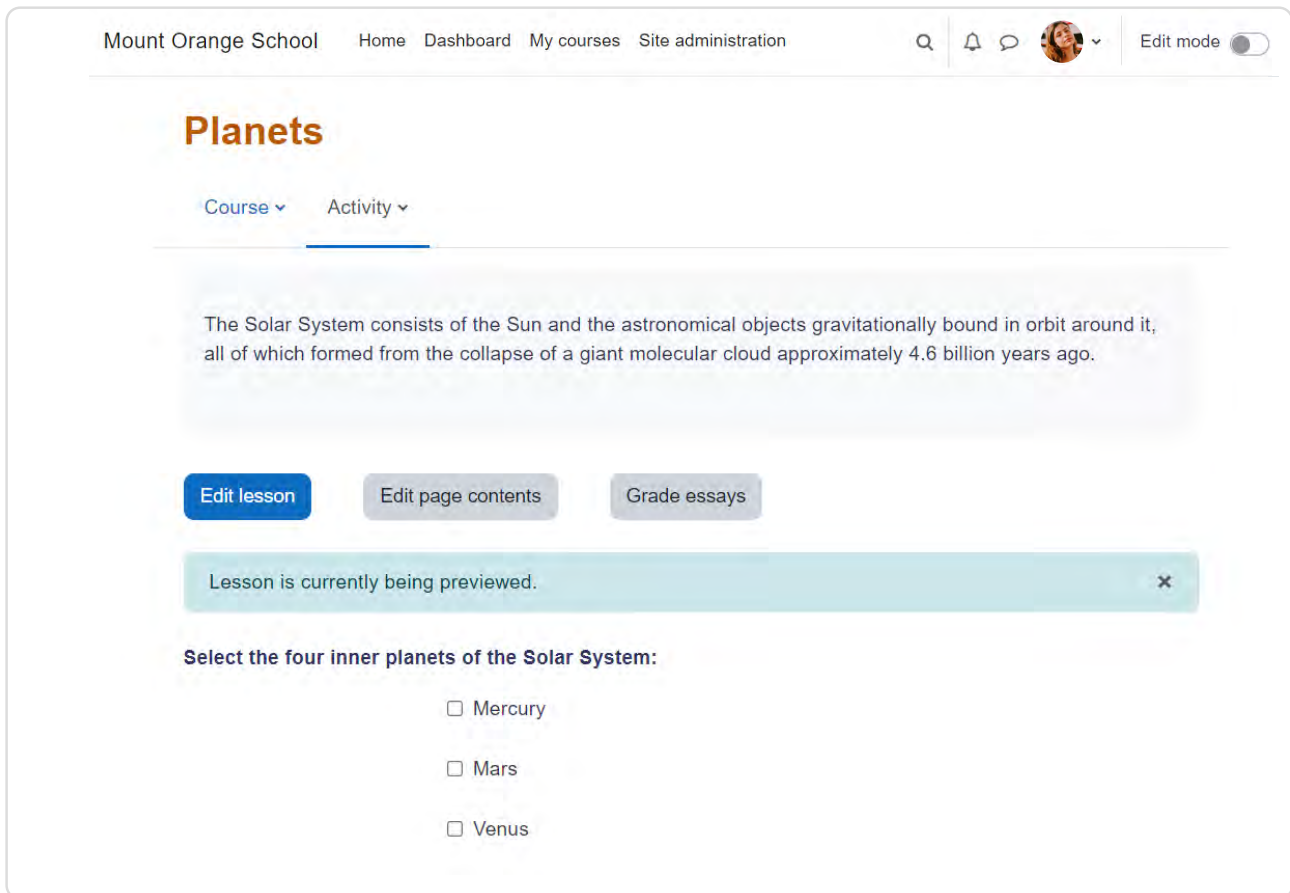
Create the rest of the pages using the lesson source file. Also, don't forget to create the Next button by entering the word Next in the **Content 1** description and choose to jump to **Next page** on each new page you add.



In the end, you should get the following structure:



The lesson is ready. You can preview it through the admin panel.



The screenshot shows the iSpring Suite admin interface for a lesson titled "Planets". The top navigation bar includes "Mount Orange School", "Home", "Dashboard", "My courses", and "Site administration". There are also search, notification, and user profile icons, along with an "Edit mode" toggle. The main content area features the title "Planets" and two dropdown menus for "Course" and "Activity". A text box contains the following text: "The Solar System consists of the Sun and the astronomical objects gravitationally bound in orbit around it, all of which formed from the collapse of a giant molecular cloud approximately 4.6 billion years ago." Below this text are three buttons: "Edit lesson" (highlighted in blue), "Edit page contents", and "Grade essays". A light blue notification bar states "Lesson is currently being previewed." with a close button. At the bottom, there is a question: "Select the four inner planets of the Solar System:" followed by three checkboxes for "Mercury", "Mars", and "Venus".

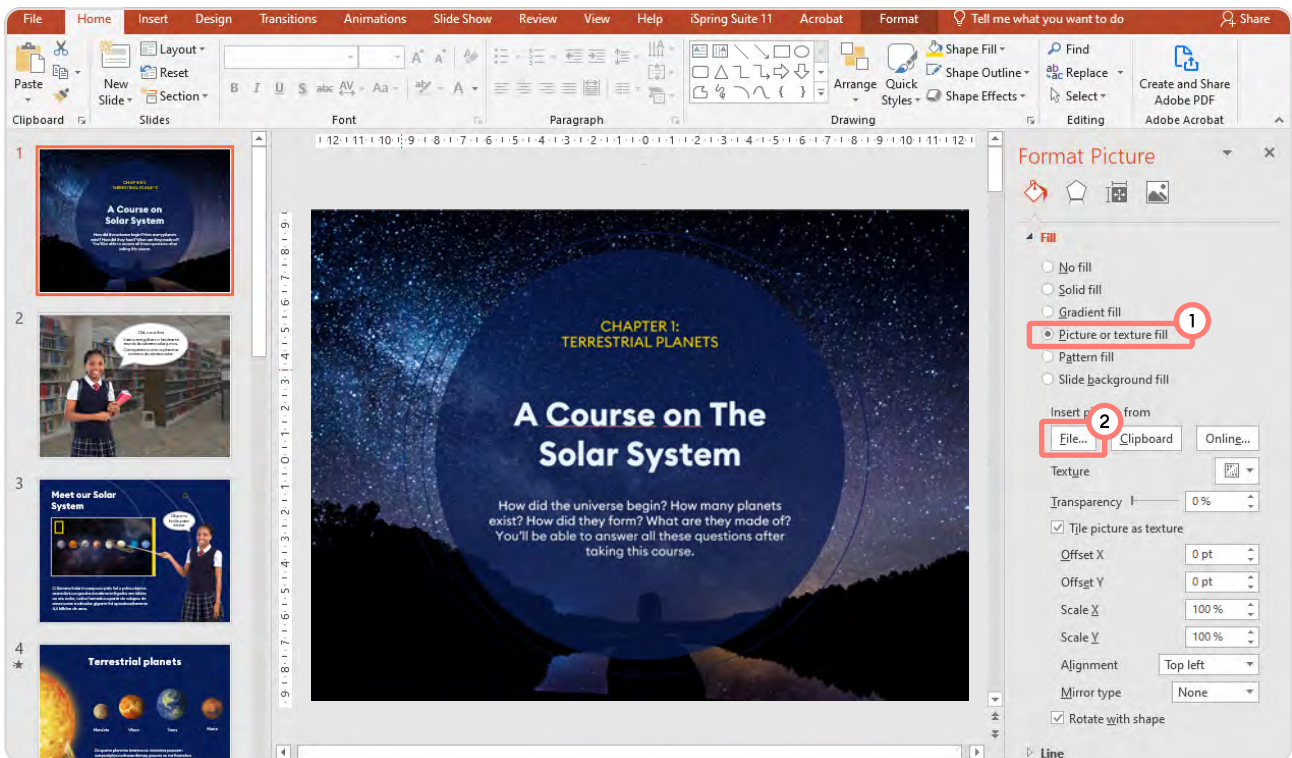
Creating a Lesson in iSpring Suite

The built-in Moodle editor isn't the only tool for creating lessons and courses for Moodle. You can also use the iSpring Suite toolkit, a powerful PowerPoint add-in that allows you to quickly build interactive courses in a familiar environment. To continue, you'll need to sign up for an iSpring Suite free trial.

Step 1: Create Info Slides

Create a new presentation. We don't need to use any additional functions so far; just create enough slides and fill them with information.

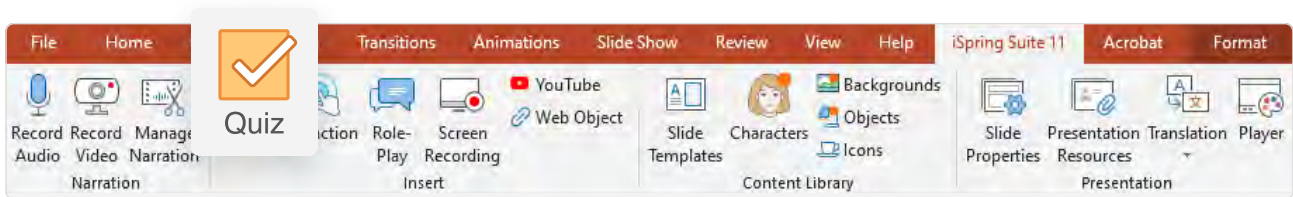
You can set custom backgrounds for slides to make them more informative and attractive. Go to the **Design** tab and click **Format Background**. Choose **Picture or texture fill** in the right pane and then select an image you'd like to use from your computer. For the cover page of the Solar System lesson, we used a photo with stars.



With iSpring Suite, you can use the familiar PowerPoint interface to create info slides.

Step 2: Add Quiz Questions

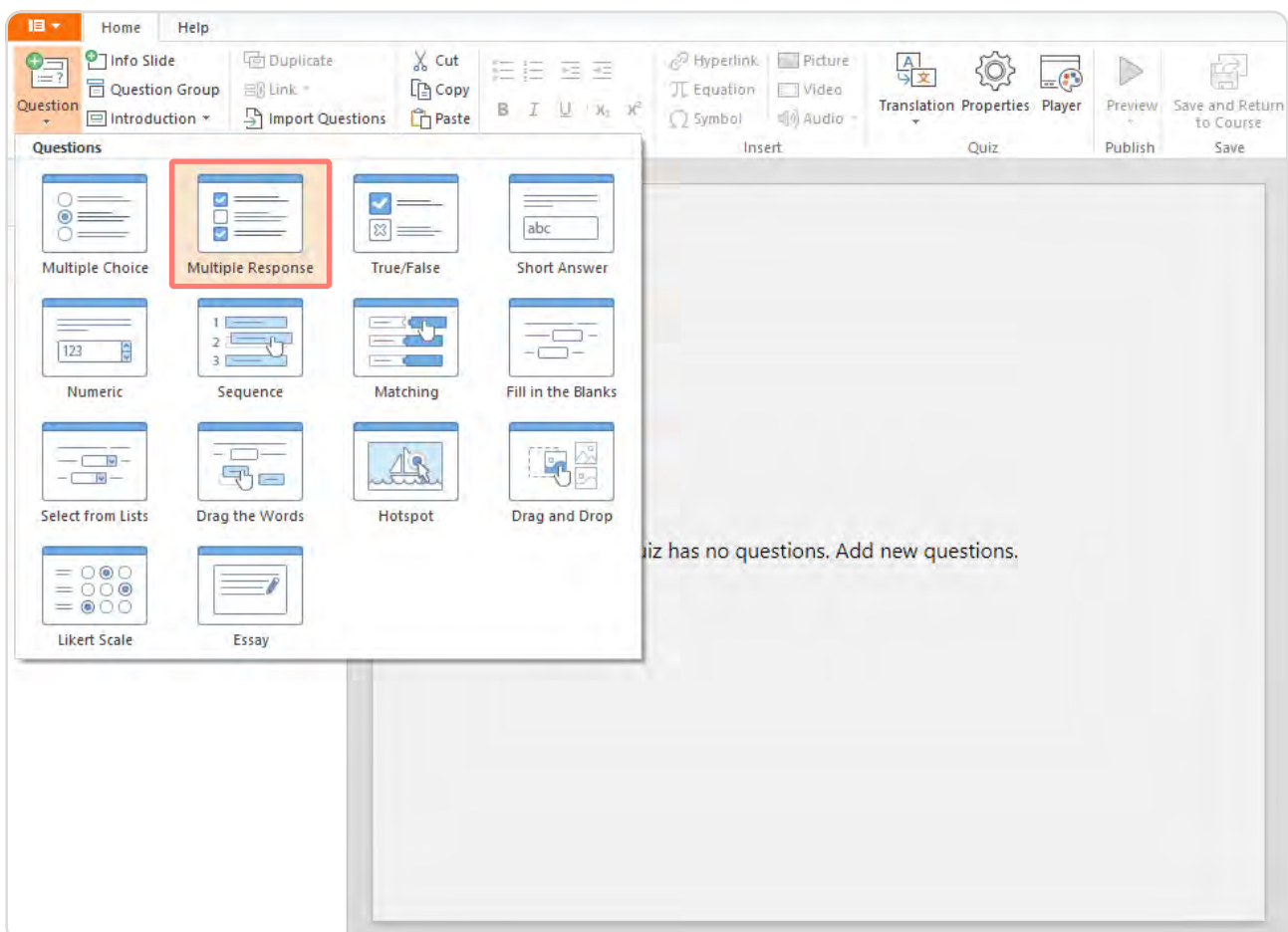
In the sample lesson, there are four test questions. While you can create six basic question types with the built-in Moodle editor, there are 14 types of tasks in iSpring Suite. Go to the iSpring Suite tab and click the **Quiz** icon to launch the QuizMaker tool.



You can create 14 types of questions: Sequence, Matching, Drag & Drop, and more.

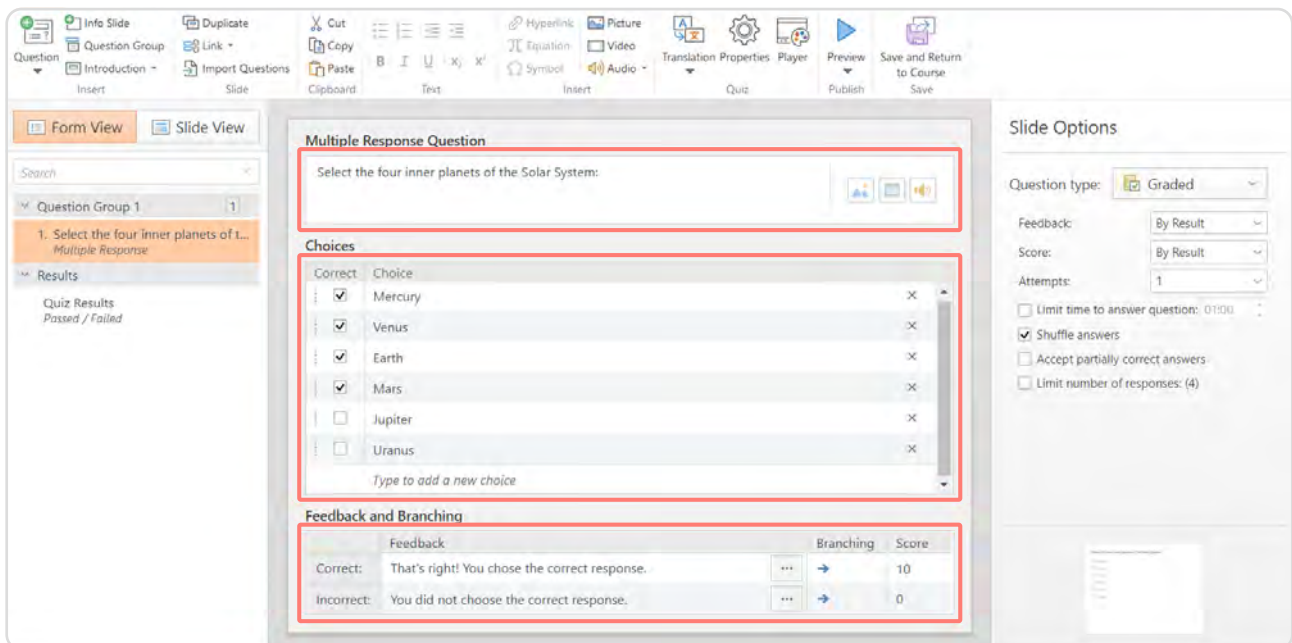
In the new window, choose **Graded Quiz**.

The first test question in the lesson is a Multiple Choice. Click **Question** in the upper left corner of the ribbon and choose the necessary question type. If you pay attention to the preview icons in the drop-down list, you'll get an idea of how each question will look on the slide.



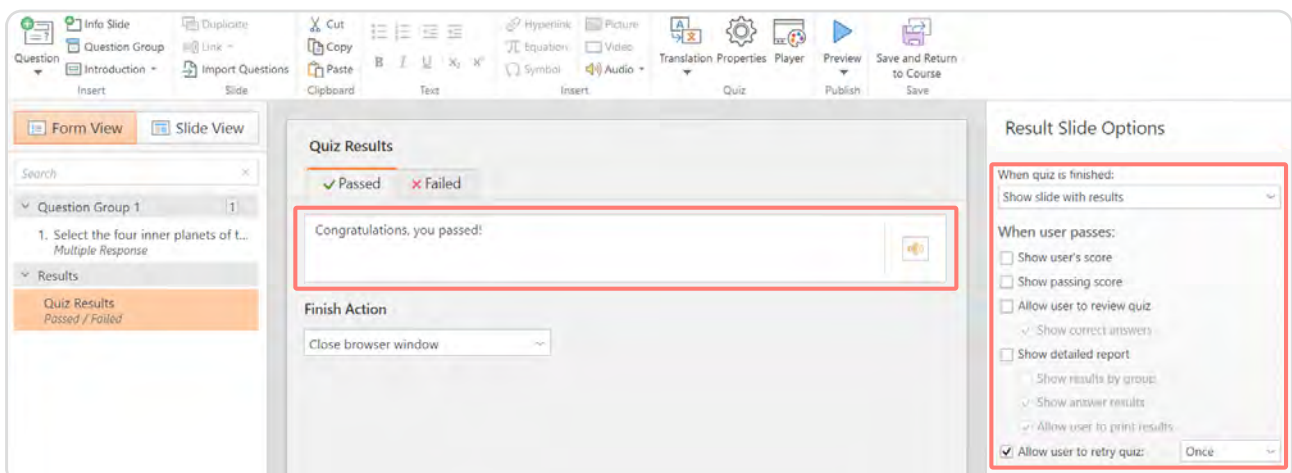
Place the cursor on the question type to see the preview.

iSpring QuizMaker has an interface that is similar to Microsoft Word, so it's easy to work with text. Fill in the **Question**, **Choices**, and **Feedback** fields. Then go to the **Quiz Results** section in the left pane.



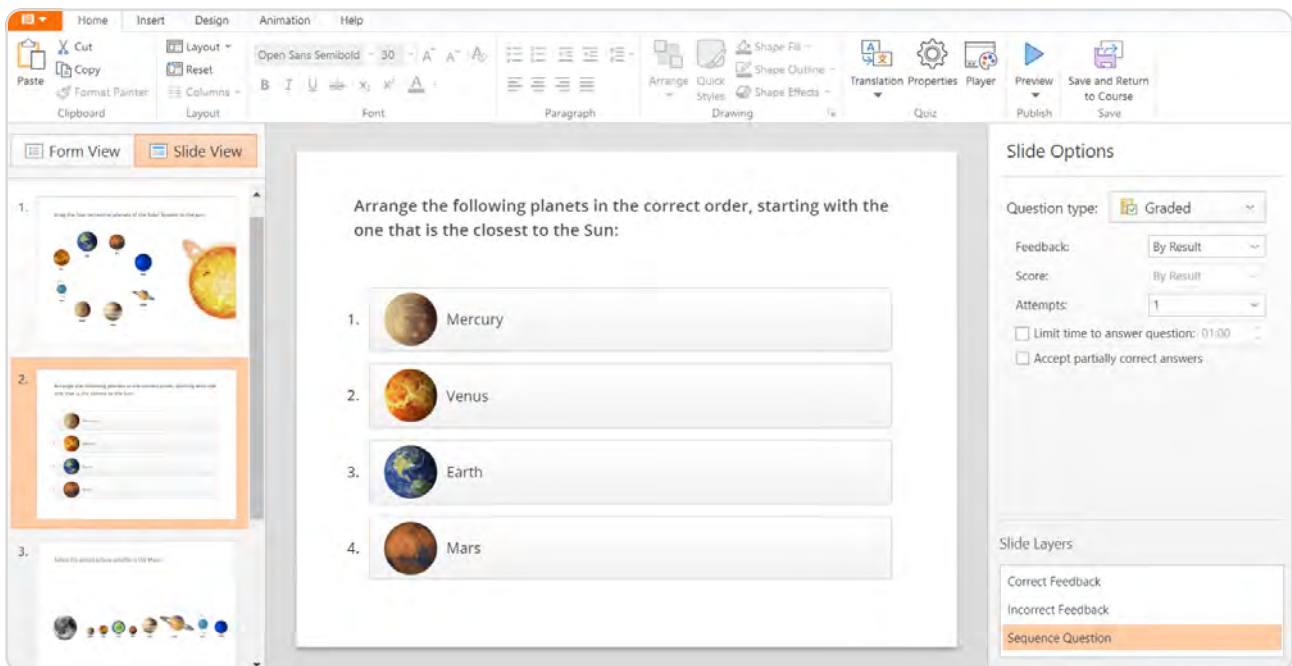
You can also customize the question slide design using Slide View.

In the **Quiz Results**, enter custom feedback for learners who pass or fail and un-check all the boxes, save for **Allow user to retry quiz** (for the Failed tab), in the **Result Slide Options** to the right. In our sample, we don't need to show the user's score or set a passing score, so we'll leave only one button, Retry, on the Results slide. You can experiment with different configurations and click **Preview** on the ribbon to see what it'll look like.



Let's add three more questions. To make the lesson more interactive, let's use some question types that aren't present in the Moodle editor.

Sequence question. You can ask learners to choose not only one response, but organize options – in our case, planets – in the correct order.



The screenshot displays the ispring software interface. The main window shows a slide with the following text: "Arrange the following planets in the correct order, starting with the one that is the closest to the Sun:". Below this text are four input fields, each containing a planet name and a small image of the planet: 1. Mercury, 2. Venus, 3. Earth, 4. Mars. The interface includes a ribbon with tabs for Home, Insert, Design, Animation, and Help. The Design tab is active, showing options for Font, Paragraph, Drawing, and Quiz. The Quiz tab is also visible, showing options for Question type, Feedback, Score, Attempts, Limit time to answer question, and Accept partially correct answers. The Slide Options panel on the right shows the question type set to "Graded" and the sequence question type selected in the Slide Layers panel.

Sequences are more fun than multiple choice questions.

Drag and Drop question. For example, you need to check how well students know which planets are terrestrial. The drag and drop feature turns an ordinary question into a game, where the learners can pick up different planets and drag them to the Sun.

Question List

Drag the four terrestrial planets of the Solar System to the sun:

Venus

Mars

Earth

Neptune

Uranus

Saturn

Mercury

Jupiter

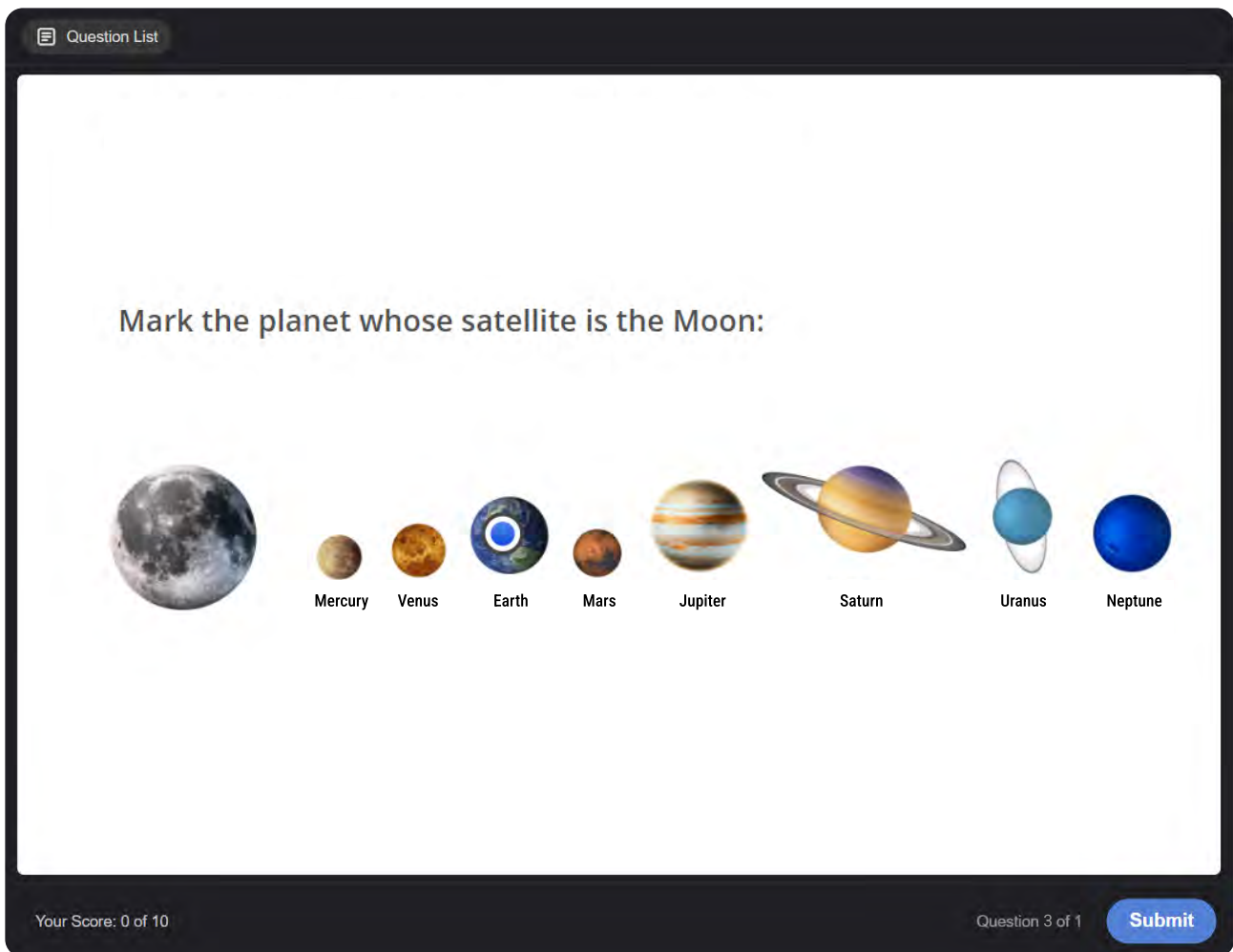
Your Score: 0 of 10

Question 1 of 1

Submit

Answering drag-and-drop questions is more fun than answering theoretical questions.

Hotspot question. In hotspot questions, students should mark an object or objects, which is much more engaging than answering standard questions.



Question List

Mark the planet whose satellite is the Moon:

Mercury Venus Earth Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune

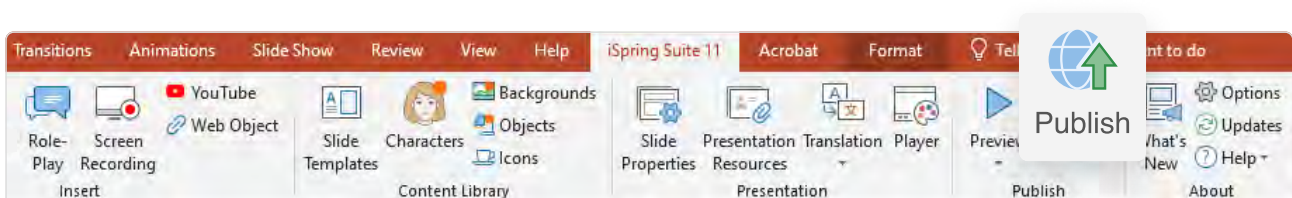
Your Score: 0 of 10 Question 3 of 1 **Submit**

Show, not tell.

When creating questions, you can also check how they look in the **Slide View** and customize the fonts and size of text and objects, and insert images.

Step 3: Publish to Moodle

When the lesson is ready, you can see what the content looks like on different devices in the Preview mode and click **Publish** on the ribbon.



Transitions Animations Slide Show Review View Help iSpring Suite 11 Acrobat Format Tell Publish

Role-Play Recording Web Object Slide Templates Characters Content Library Backgrounds Objects Icons Slide Properties Presentation Resources Translation Player Preview Publish What's New Help

In the pop-up menu, select the **LMS** tab. Using this setting, you can prepare a lecture or test for a learning management system such as Moodle.

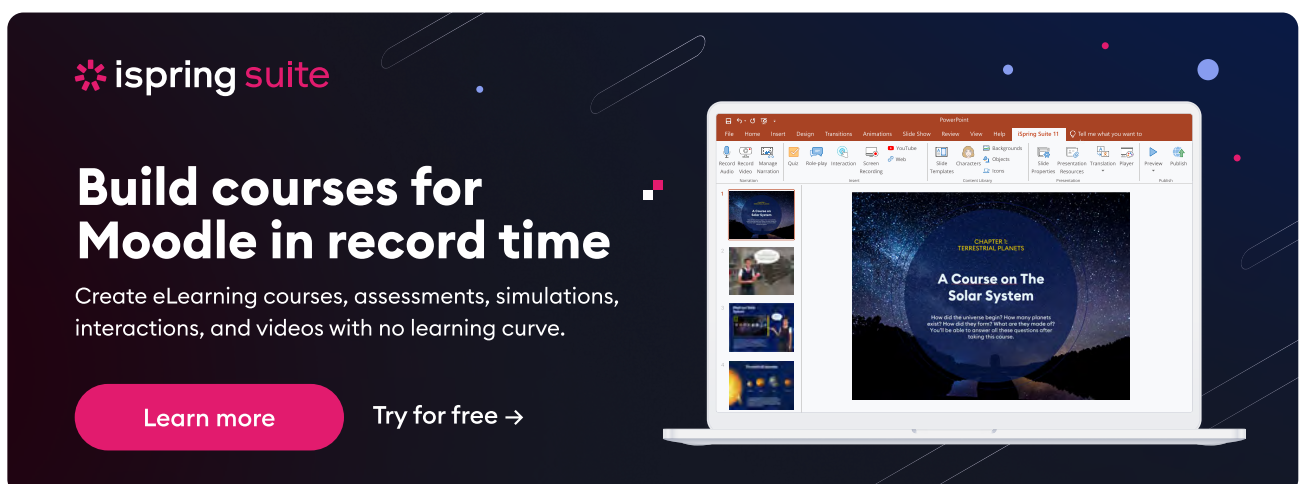
Select a folder on your desktop where iSpring Suite will save the lesson. Choose **SCORM 1.2**, the format Moodle recognizes, under LMS Profile. Then click **Publish**, and the archive with the quiz will appear in the specified folder.

To Sum Up

The benefit of the Moodle editor is that it's free and you can build content right on the platform. The main disadvantage is its complex interface. Every content item – a course, a lesson, or a quiz – consists of individual pages; each page must be individually set up. In short, many steps must be taken to prepare a lesson that will catch the learner's attention.

iSpring Suite, on the other hand, has an intuitive interface that allows you to quickly build professional-looking lessons for Moodle without the need to create numerous pages and master the interface.

With iSpring Suite, you'll be able to convert PowerPoint presentations into online courses, create interactive simulations, edit video, and much more.



The advertisement banner features a dark blue background with a starry space theme. On the left, the iSpring Suite logo is displayed in white and pink. Below it, the headline 'Build courses for Moodle in record time' is written in large white font. Underneath the headline, a sub-headline reads 'Create eLearning courses, assessments, simulations, interactions, and videos with no learning curve.' Two buttons are positioned at the bottom left: a pink 'Learn more' button and a white 'Try for free →' button. On the right side of the banner, a laptop is shown displaying the iSpring Suite software interface. The interface includes a menu bar with options like 'Home', 'Insert', 'Design', 'Functions', 'Annotations', 'Slide Show', 'Review', 'View', and 'Help'. The main workspace shows a slide titled 'CHAPTER 1: TERRESTRIAL PLANETS' with the subtitle 'A Course on The Solar System'. The slide content includes a question: 'How did the universe begin? How many planets would have the same basic 'stuff' and the structure? You'll be able to answer all these questions after watching the course.'

Have any questions about the tool? Drop us a line at sales@ispring.com

Welcome to the iSpring Community!

Feel free to join and become a valuable part of a community of instructional designers and eLearning professionals who are taking training to the next level with iSpring.

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