



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.

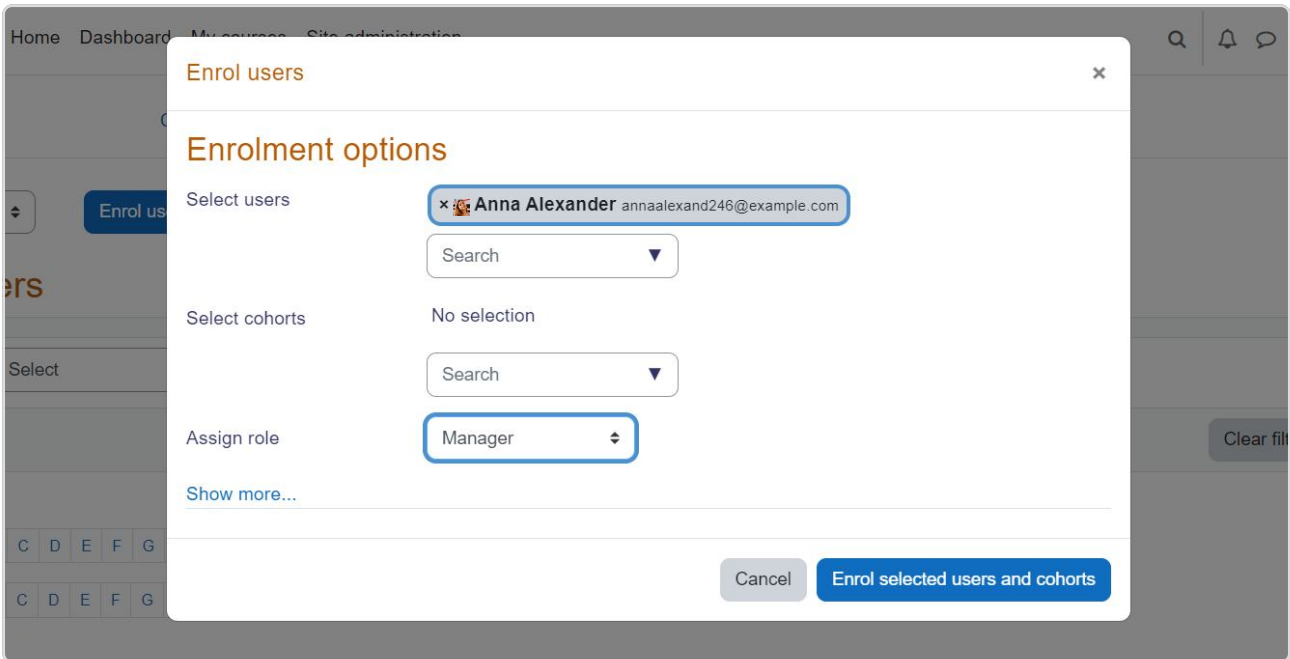
Creating a Lesson in Moodle

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**.

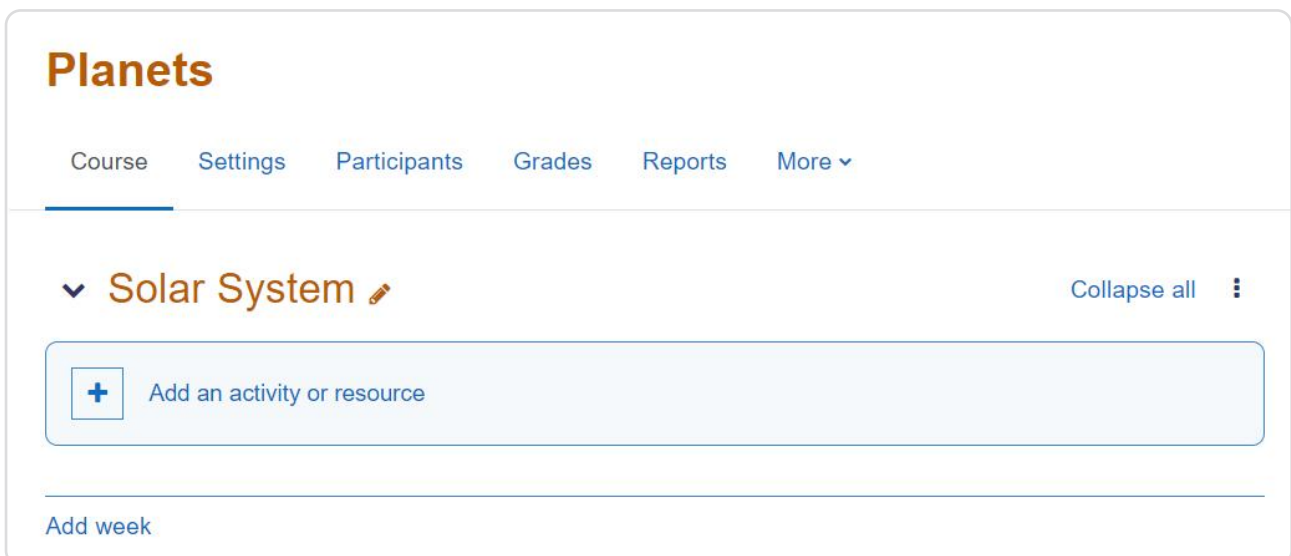


Step 2: Add a Lesson to the Course

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.

The screenshot shows a window titled "Add an activity or resource" with a search bar and two tabs: "All" and "Activities". The "Activities" tab is active, displaying a grid of activity icons. The "Lesson" activity, represented by a blue icon with a circuit-like symbol, is highlighted with a red border. Other activities include Assignment, Book, Chat, Choice, Database, External tool, Feedback, File, Folder, Forum, Glossary, H5P, IMS content package, Page, Quiz, SCORM package, Survey, Text and media area, URL, Wiki, and Workshop. Each activity card includes a star icon and an information icon.

In the new window, we'll need to set up four sections:

- **General:** Enter the name of the lesson and its description.
- **Appearance:** Configure the lesson design. Would you like learners to see a progress bar or demonstrate the lesson as a slideshow?

- **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 creating a question page. At the top, it says "Add a new page / Select a question type". Below that, the title "Planets" is displayed in a large, bold, orange font. Underneath the title, there are two dropdown menus: "Course" and "Activity". The main content area contains a text box with 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 the text box, there is a label "Select a question type" followed by a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is open, showing several options: "Multichoice" (selected), "Essay", "Matching", "Numerical", "Short answer", and "True/false". To the right of the dropdown menu, there are two buttons: "Add a question page" (highlighted in blue) 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 ⓘ

Rich text editor toolbar: Bold (B), Italic (I), Bulleted list, Numbered list, Link, Unlink, Image, Smiley, Document, Copy, Paste, Undo, Redo, H-P.

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

Jupiter

Response

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?

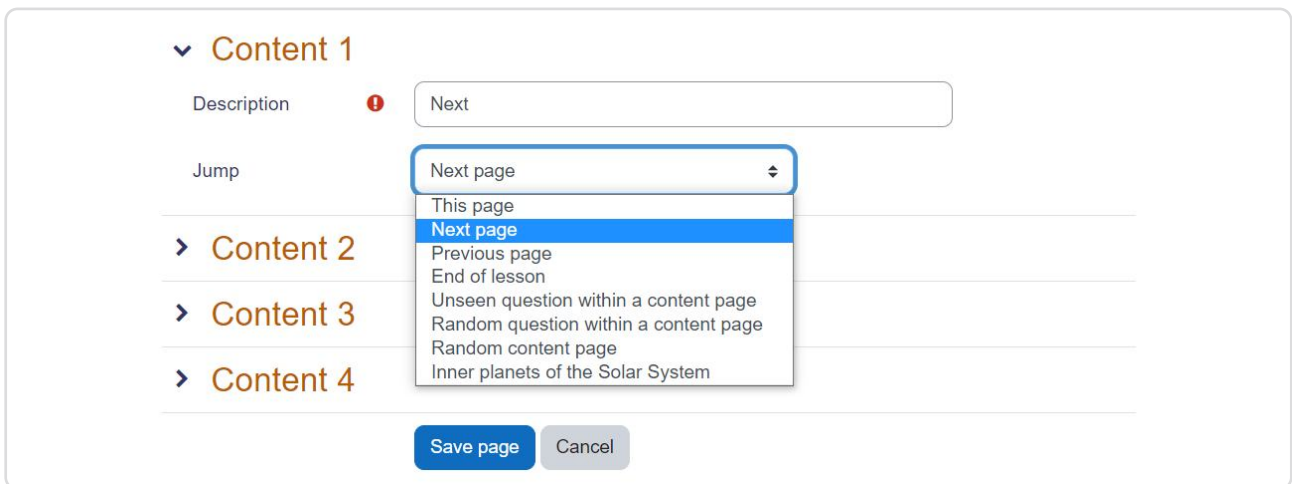
Display in menu?

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

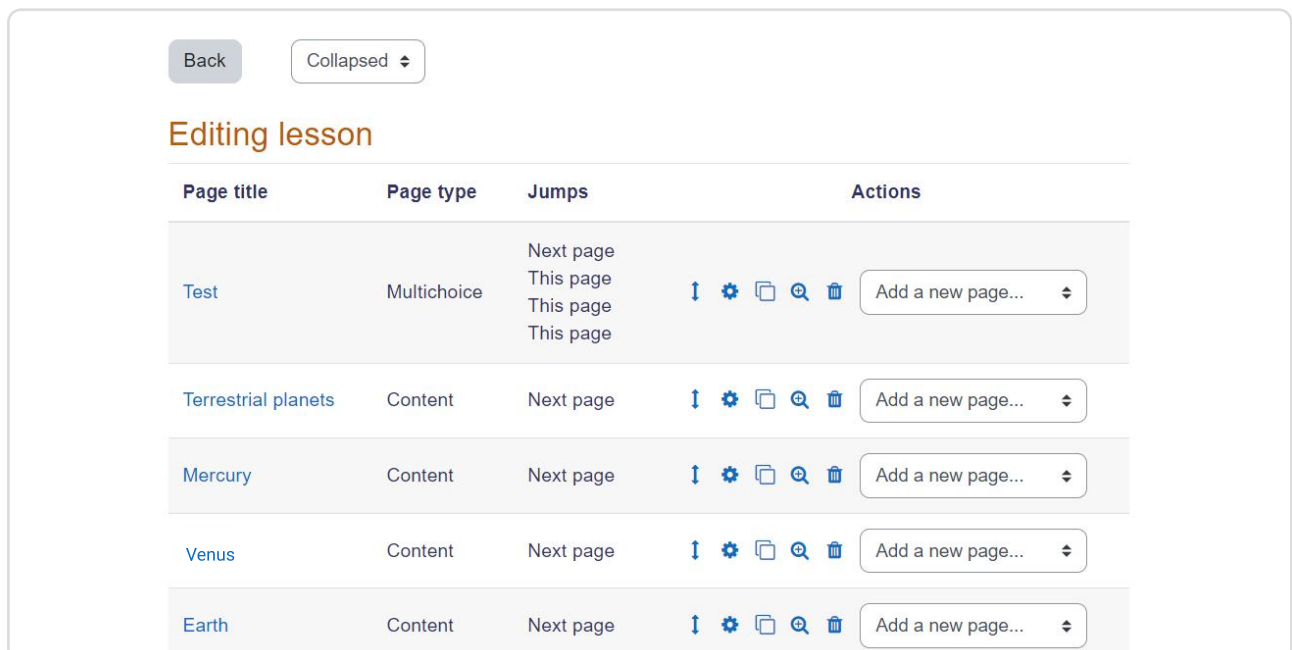
For our sample course, we'll set up closed navigation and create just one button, Next, that leads to the next page.

Step 5: Add More Content and Question Pages

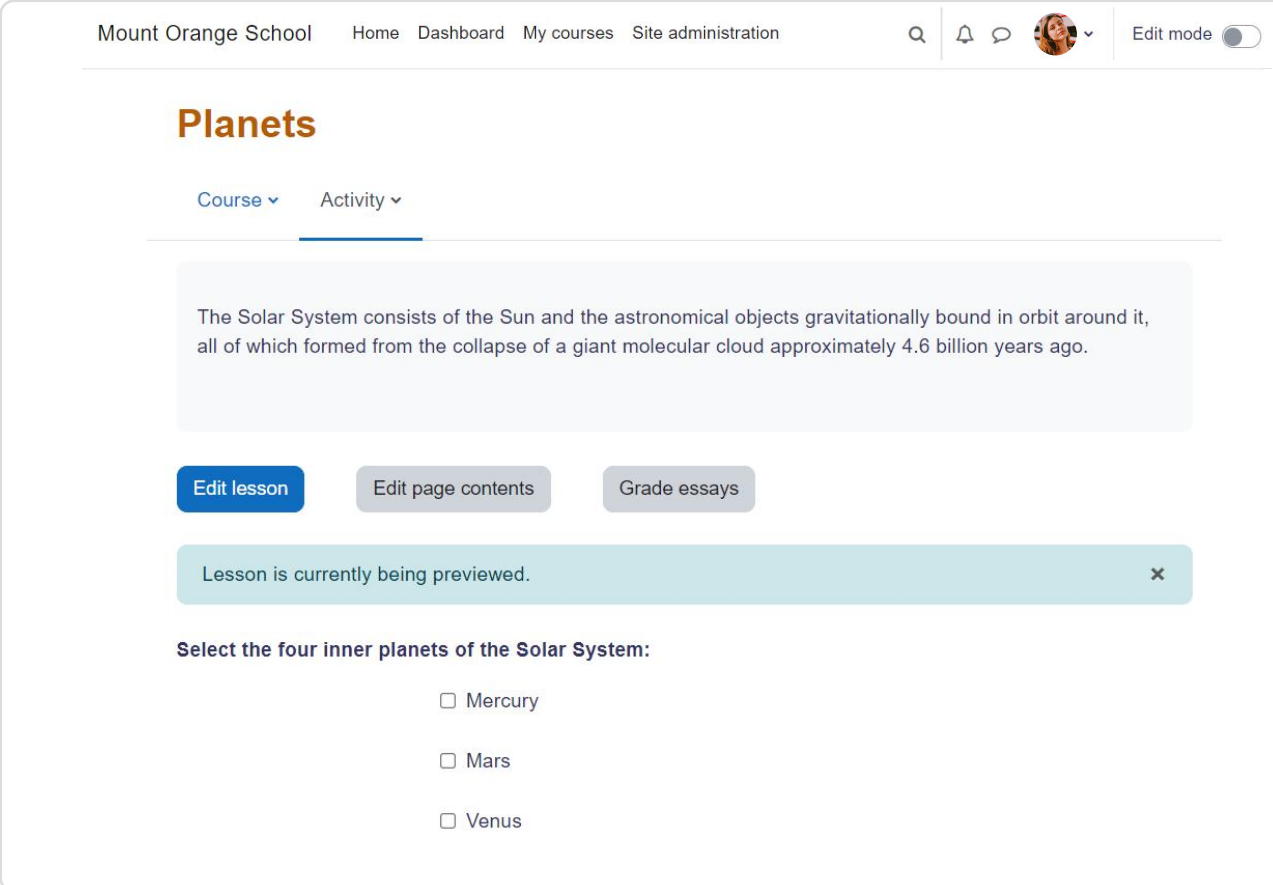
Create the rest of the pages using the lesson source file. Also, don't forget to create the Next button by entering the word Next in the **Content 1** description and choose to jump to **Next page** on each new page you add.



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, and an "Edit mode" toggle. The main content area features the lesson title "Planets" and two dropdown menus for "Course" and "Activity". Below this is a text box containing 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." Underneath the text box are three buttons: "Edit lesson" (highlighted in blue), "Edit page contents", and "Grade essays". A light blue notification bar at the bottom of the content area states "Lesson is currently being previewed." with a close button. Below the notification is a quiz 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

If the built-in Moodle editor isn't enough to create lessons and courses you need, you can use [iSpring Suite](#). This comprehensive authoring tool allows you to create literally any type of eLearning content, including slide courses, training videos, smart screencasts, scenario-based simulations, 14 types of interactive quizzes, and cheat-proof assessments.

The best part is that it works directly in the familiar PowerPoint interface, so the learning curve is minimal. Its incredible ease of use and [smooth integration with Moodle™](#) software via the iSpring plugin make this

authoring tool ideal for educational institutions, academics, and teachers worldwide:

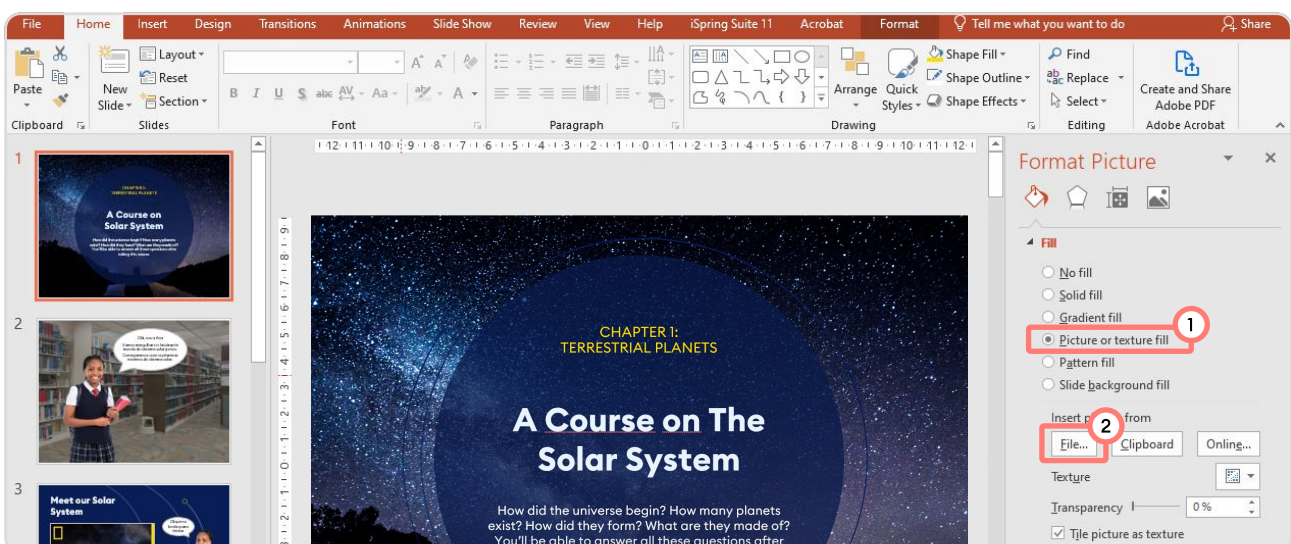


To start creating a course with iSpring Suite, first [sign up for a free 14-day trial](#).

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.

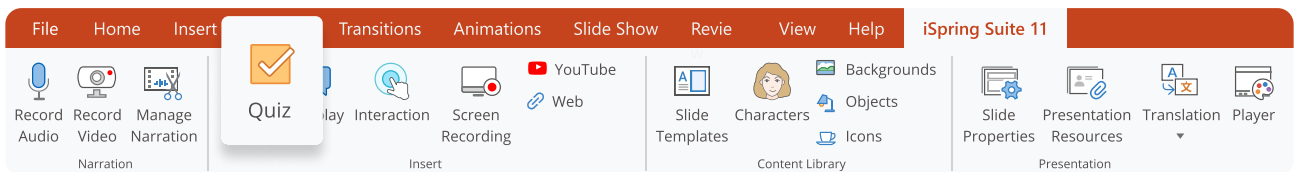
You can set custom backgrounds for slides to make them more informative and attractive. Go to the **Design** tab and click **Format Background**. Choose **Picture or texture fill** in the right pane and then select an image you'd like to use from your computer. For the cover page of the Solar System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

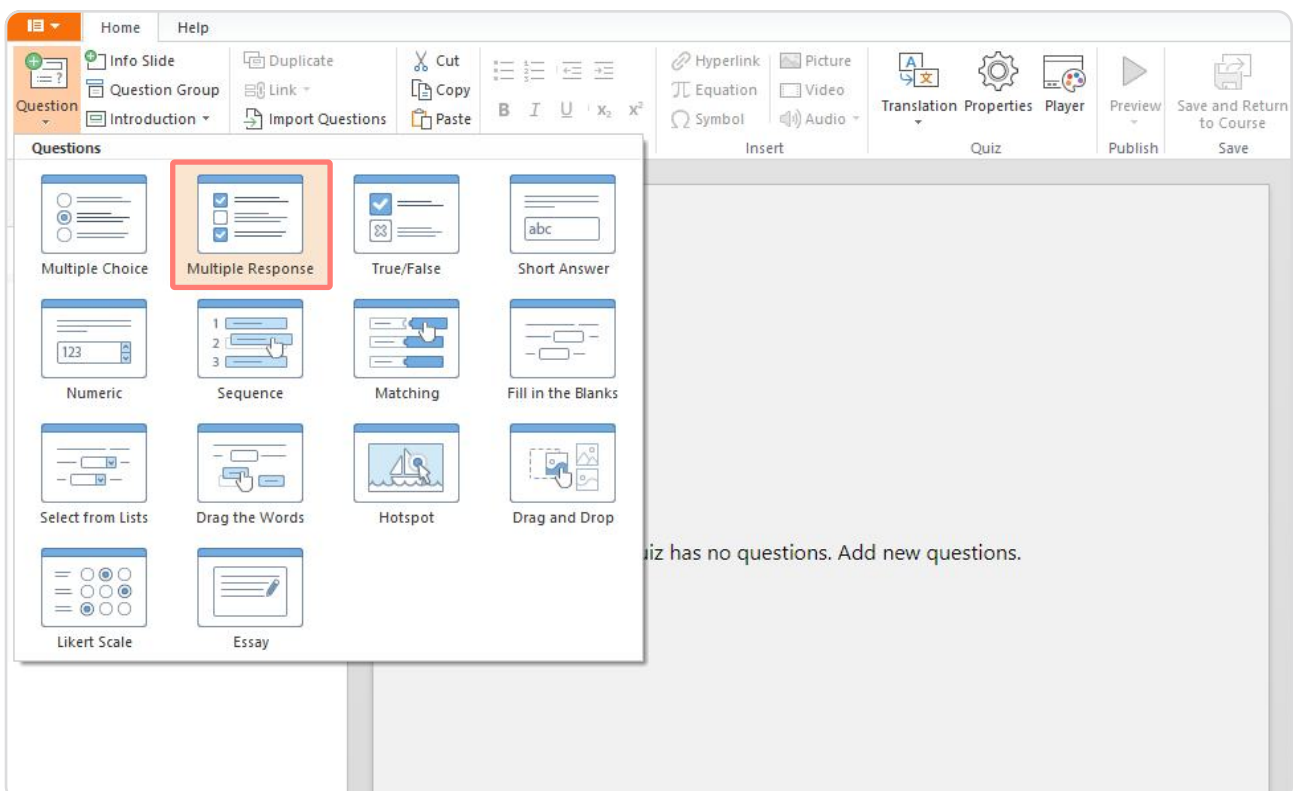
In the sample lesson, there are four test questions. While you can create six basic question types with the built-in Moodle editor, there are 14 types of tasks in iSpring Suite. Go to the iSpring Suite tab and click the **Quiz** icon to launch the QuizMaker tool.



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

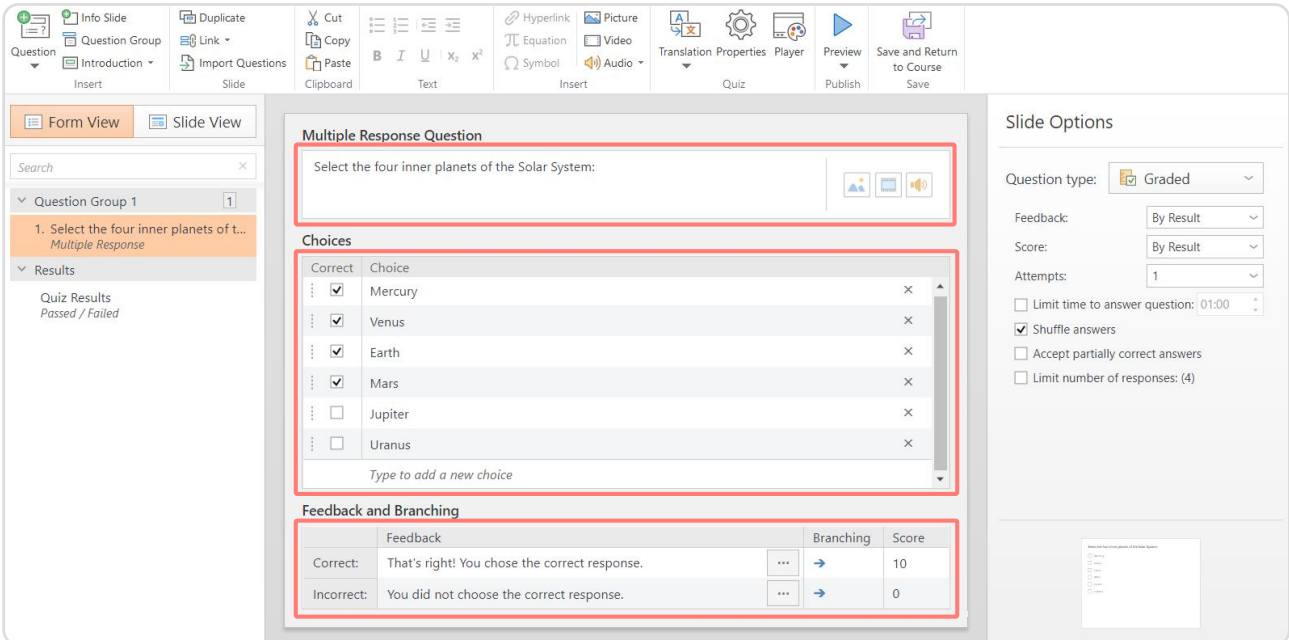
In the new window, choose **Graded Quiz**.

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.



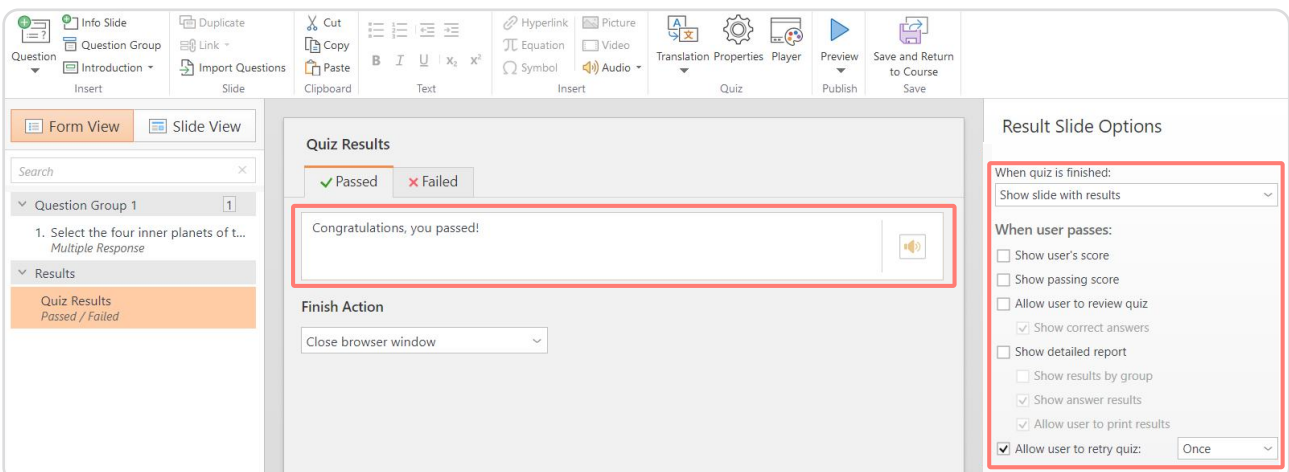
Place the cursor on the question type to see the preview.

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.



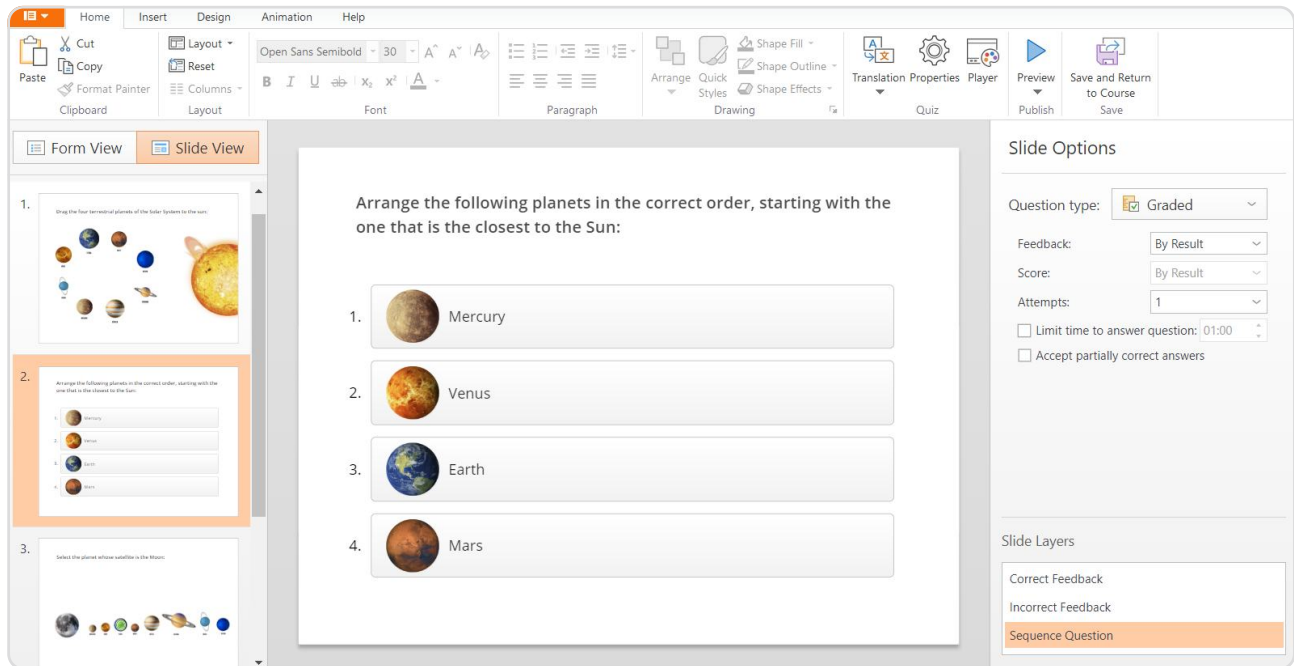
You can also customize the question slide design using Slide View.

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.



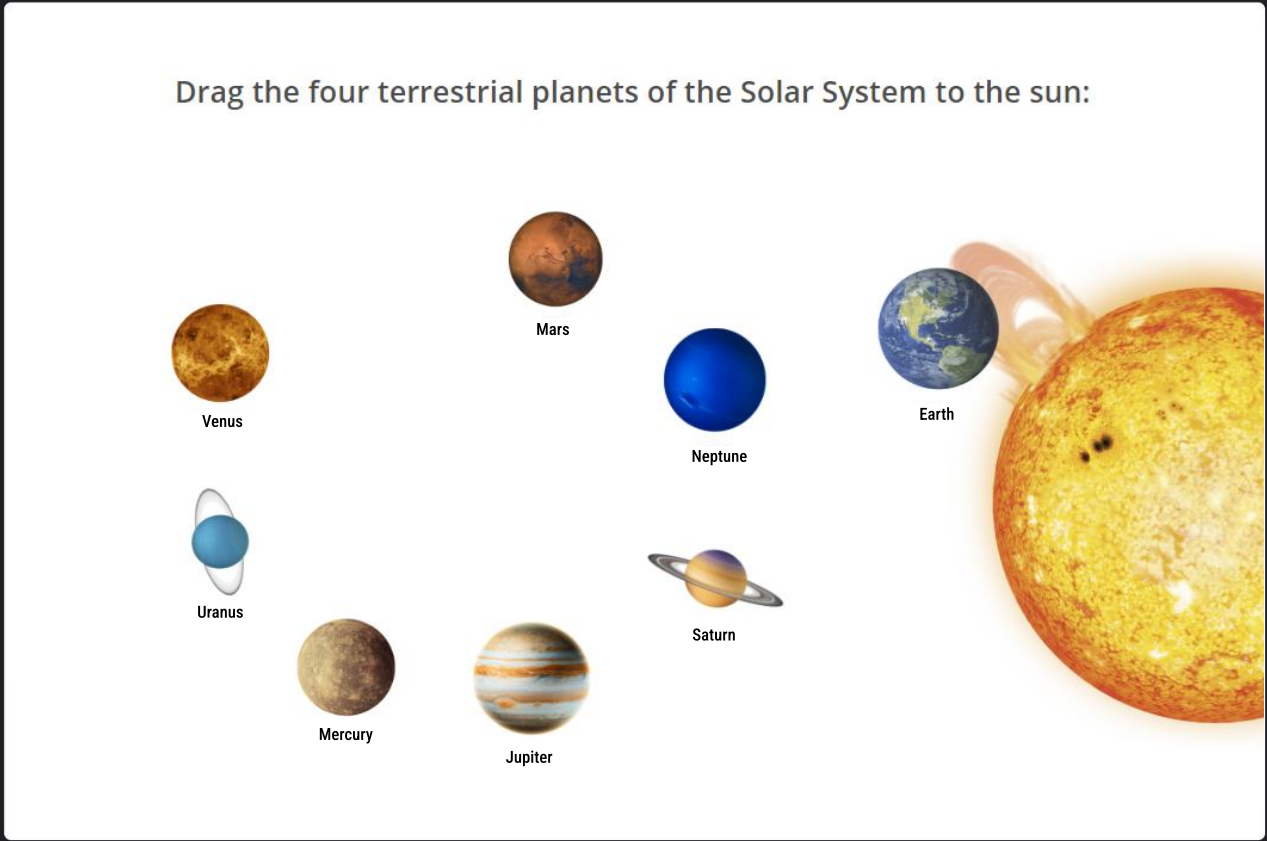
The screenshot displays the ispring software interface. The top menu bar includes Home, Insert, Design, Animation, and Help. The ribbon contains various tool groups: Clipboard (Paste, Cut, Copy, Format Painter), Layout (Layout, Reset, Columns), Font (Open Sans Semibold, 30, A+, A-), Paragraph (B, I, U, X2, X3, A), Drawing (Arrange, Quick Styles, Shape Fill, Shape Outline, Shape Effects), Quiz (Translation Properties, Player), and Publish (Preview, Save and Return to Course, Save). The main workspace is divided into three sections. On the left, a 'Form View' pane shows a list of three questions. The second question is highlighted, showing a sequence question about planet order. The main workspace displays the question text: 'Arrange the following planets in the correct order, starting with the one that is the closest to the Sun:'. Below the text are four input fields, each containing a planet image and name: 1. Mercury, 2. Venus, 3. Earth, and 4. Mars. On the right, the 'Slide Options' pane shows 'Question type: Graded', 'Feedback: By Result', 'Score: By Result', 'Attempts: 1', and checkboxes for 'Limit time to answer question: 01:00' and 'Accept partially correct answers'. The 'Slide Layers' pane shows 'Correct Feedback', 'Incorrect Feedback', and 'Sequence Question'.

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](#)

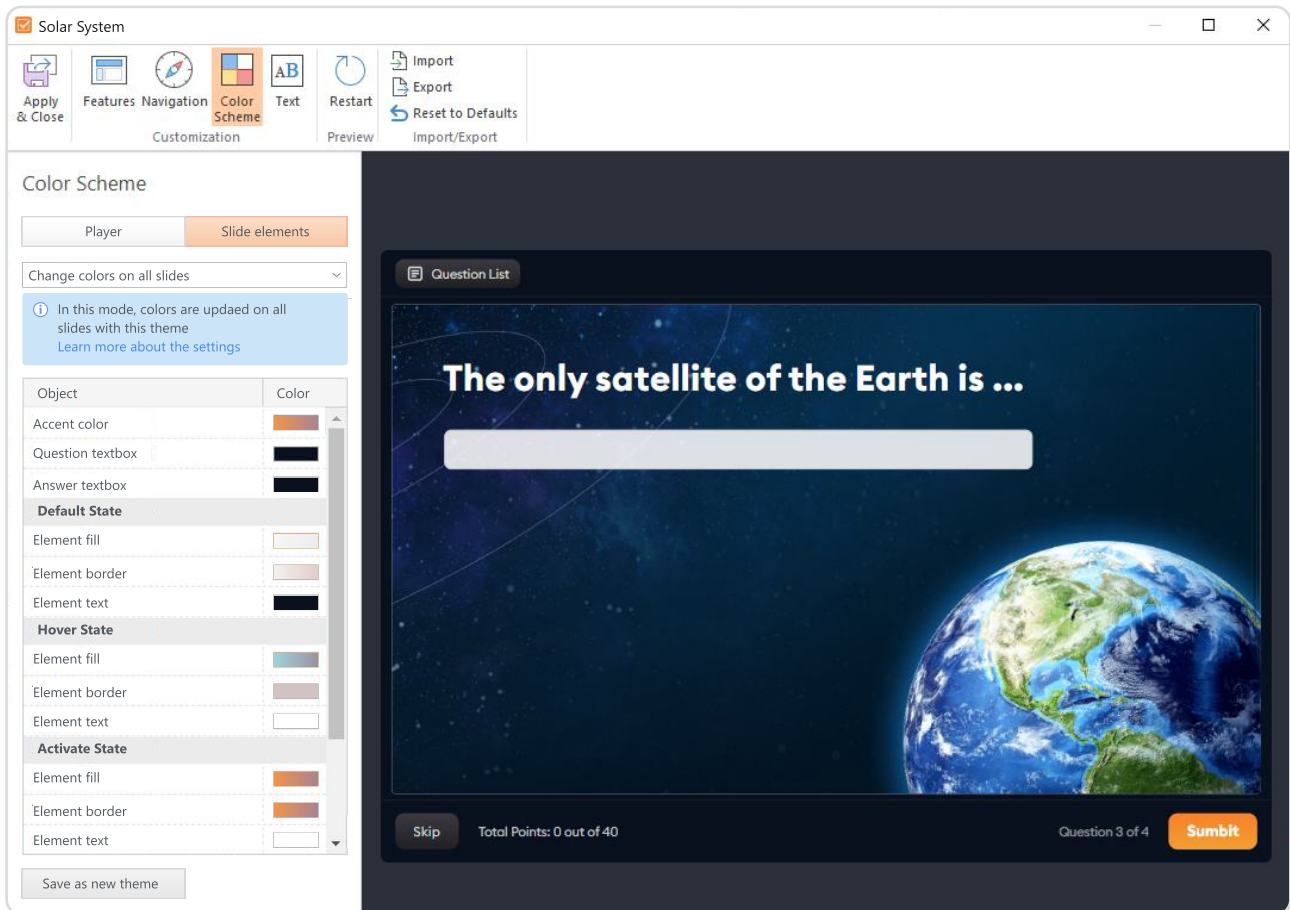
Show, not tell.

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.

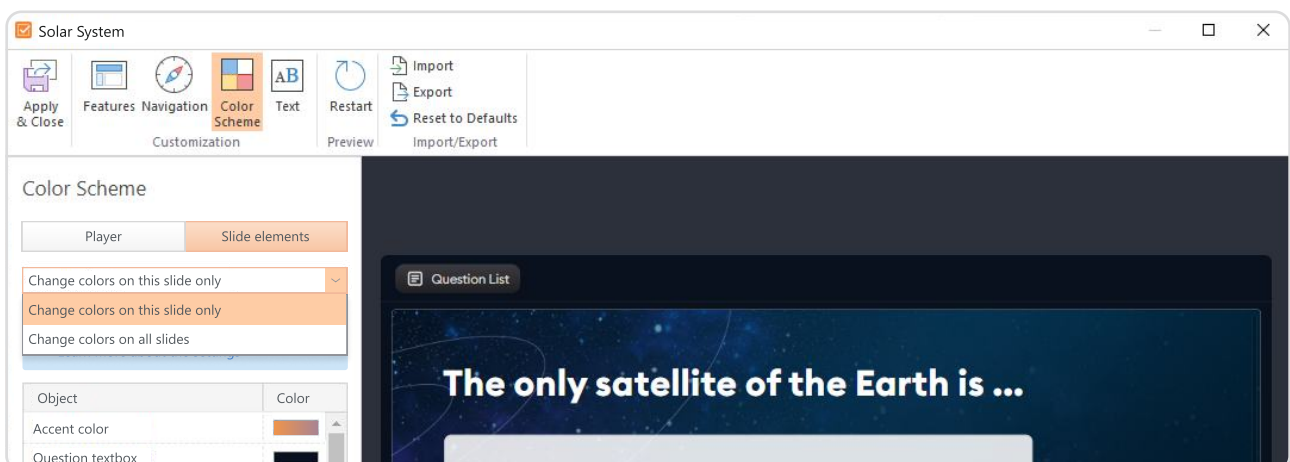
Step 3: Polish your quiz design

Once your quiz is almost ready, you can customize its look and feel to match the rest of your course or your brand identity. Use the pre-designed themes with trendy colors and graphics to make quizzes eye-catching and tweak every detail – from slide backgrounds to checkbox colors.

1. Go to the **Color Scheme** on the top panel. In the **Slide Elements** tab, you can select the color and transparency of slide elements, including element borders, controls, and markers. Choose the colors for the default, hover, and active states.

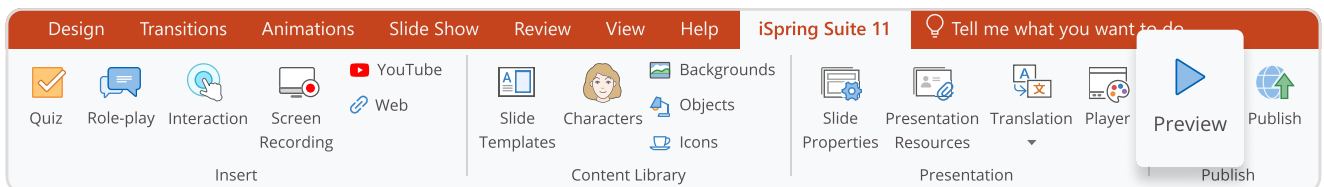


2. Next, choose whether to apply the color settings to all slides or this particular slide only.



Step 4: Publish to Moodle™

When the lesson is ready, you can see what it looks like on different devices in the **Preview** mode:

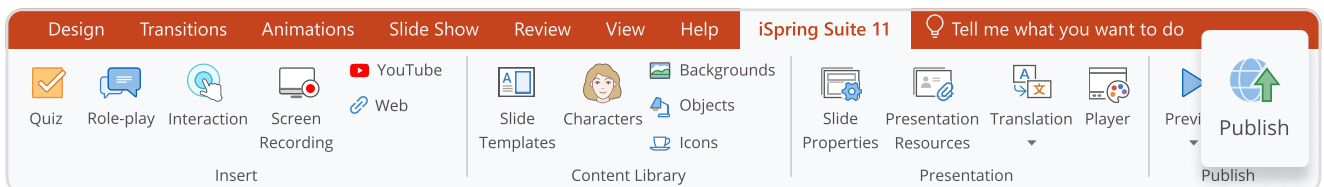


If you're satisfied with the result, it's time to publish your course to Moodle™. As mentioned earlier, iSpring Suite smoothly integrates with the LMS via the iSpring Module plugin. It allows course developers to publish courses directly to Moodle™ software and access comprehensive visual LMS reports on iSpring quizzes and role-play simulations.

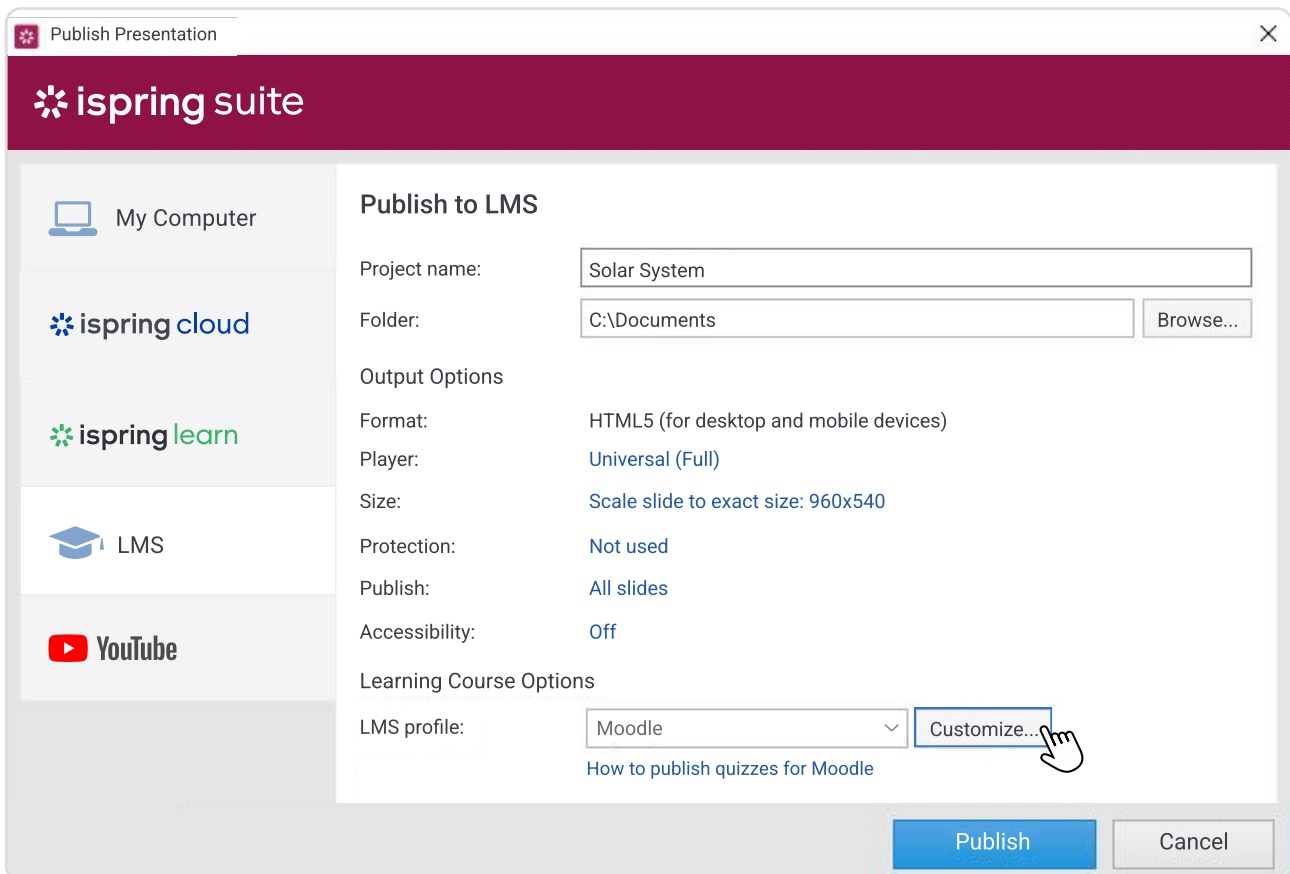
Before uploading a course to Moodle, first you need to install the iSpring Module plugin. Check a brief instruction on how to do it quickly:

[How to install the iSpring Module plugin for Moodle™ →](#)

1. Once you've installed the plugin, click on **Publish** on the iSpring Suite toolbar:



2. In the LMS tab, select **LMS profile** → **Moodle**. Then, customize the progress and completion of the course: the number of attempts available, maximum score, and passing score.




3. Click on **Publish**. You'll see a .zip file that you can upload to Moodle™.

With the iSpring Module plugin for Moodle™ software, you can access detailed visual LMS reports on quizzes and role-plays as soon as a student completes the course, ensuring all attempts are effectively tracked.

Gather, filter, and analyze data such as time spent on training, scores, completion rates, and more – while keeping your statistics intact, even when reloading content.

Lindsay Walter



PASSED

Awarded score 100 (100%)	Completion date 80 (80%)
Time spent 07:31:29	Completion date Apr 24, 2024

1. Select inner planets of the Solar system

Multichoice | Points: 10

Correct answer	User answer	Answer Choices
✓	☞	Mercury
		Jupiter

Correct · Awarded: 10 points

Course details

Content	Type	Passing score				
Dialog 1	Role-play	27	Completed	View		
Dialog 2	Role-play	26	Completed	View		
Solar System	Quiz	8	10	Passed	View	

To Sum Up

The benefit of the **Moodle™** editor is that it's free and you can build content right on the platform. It's comprehensive, but one potential drawback for some users might be 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 a learner's attention.

iSpring Suite, on the other hand, has a highly-intuitive interface that allows you to quickly build professional-looking lessons for **Moodle™** without the need to create numerous pages or spend hours learning how it works.

This plugin makes reviewing student performance faster and easier. Clear, organized reports allow you to accurately evaluate learner progress, including their achievements and areas where they struggle. This helps you identify specific knowledge gaps and address them more effectively, ensuring that learning materials are continuously improved.



The best authoring tool for Moodle™

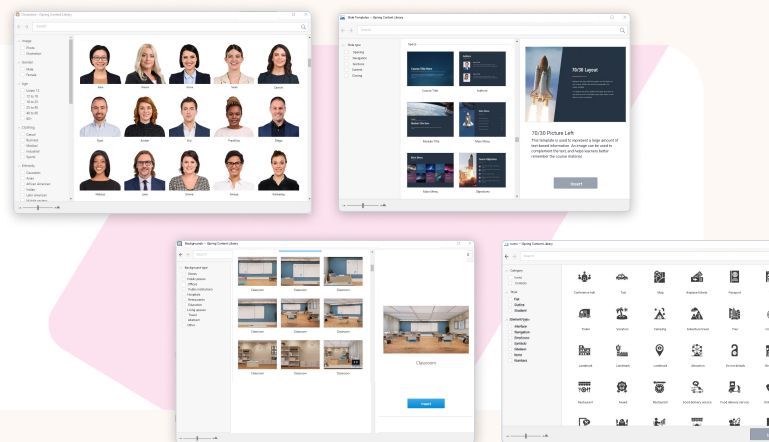
Create online teaching materials in no time, smoothly upload them to Moodle™, and track your learners' progress with easy-to-read reports. [Learn more →](#)

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