

Mistakes to avoid when building a Moodle Course

1. Under-estimating what's involved

Building a course takes time.
Mastering Moodle takes time.

Plan and structure your units.

Ensure what you put on the course achieves or compliments the learning outcome.

A large course can take months to build.

2. Replicating existing teaching

Don't try to replicate your traditional teaching online.

Re-think your course and your resources.

Unlike preparing traditional resources, students can actually be co-creators of online content (Forums, Wikis, Glossaries).

3. Not designing for your learner

Not all users are IT experts.

Define the skills and experience of your learner.

Think about the learner journey.
Does the learner know what to do?
Does the course flow logically?

Don't build in solitude.
Test the course on your peers.

Ask for feedback.

4. Poor Structure, Navigation & Layout

Don't rely entirely on the breadcrumb to guide the learner. Build your own links to aid navigation throughout the entire course.

Stop worrying about scrolling! Websites are designed to scroll. Scrolling means content.

Finish writing the course first and then find the right layout that fits your content.

Try not waste valuable screen space on big banners and carousels. Be confident and allow your resources to take centre stage.

Contextualise resources with labels and descriptions (tell the student what you expect them to do).

Try avoid using blocks for decoration.

If the page looks dull then focus on the presentation of the resources, use media in labels and descriptions.

5. Ineffective use of assessment

Good feedback is essential. You can't tell a learner they are wrong without explaining why.

Avoid simply using multiple choice questions because they're the easiest to setup. If you want better engagement, take a look at other question types like drag and drop.

6. Poor resource presentation

Your theme isn't the only way to make your course look pretty.

Use description fields to add context, images and video.



Make better use of the ATTO Text Editor. Format your content so it looks more visual.

7. Collecting meaningless data

Repository based courses don't produce useful logs. They don't show who's progressing, who's failing and who is actually learning.



When building your course, think about what story the data will tell you when a student completes it.