

We've all read forum posts that we'd like to acknowledge with two big thumbs up—Moodle's updated forum activity makes that possible (with words or stars!). Here's an example of ratings set up in a forum where all participants can choose a rating. Note that the rating "scale" has been customized for this particular forum. You can create a scale for a specific forum and/or create a scale that you deploy in multiple forums. Because scales are part of your profile, you can reuse a scale across multiple courses as many times as you like.

**Note:** *There are gradebook implications associated with these ratings, so be sure to read the related section on page 3.*

So how do we achieve this effect? It's a three-step process: create your scale, set a forum up for ratings, then set permissions for students to rate posts. These instructions will take things one step further and describe how to ensure that these ratings do not affect student grades (unless you want them to do so!).

### Step 1: Create a scale

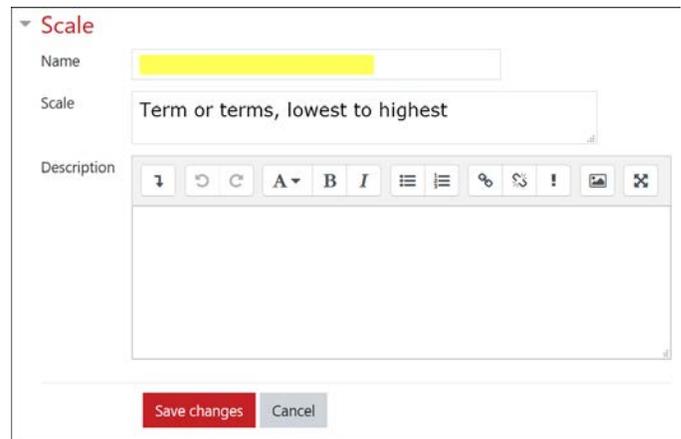
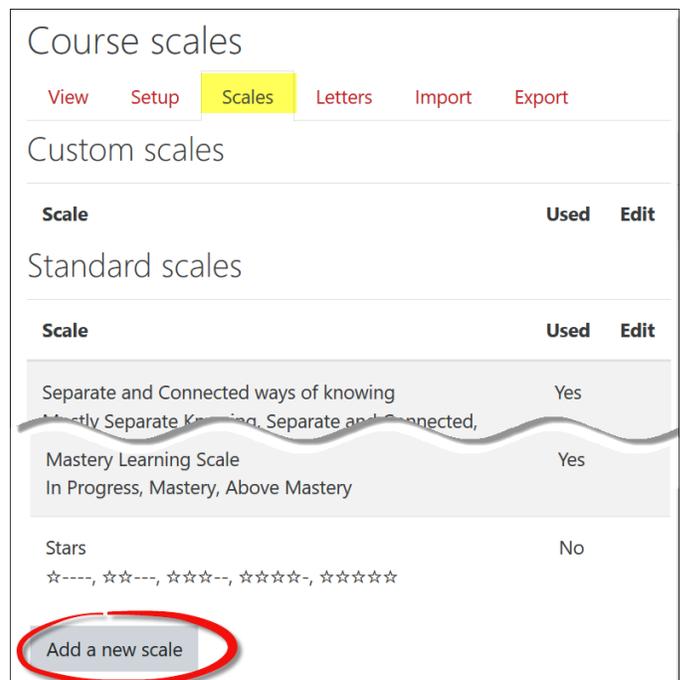
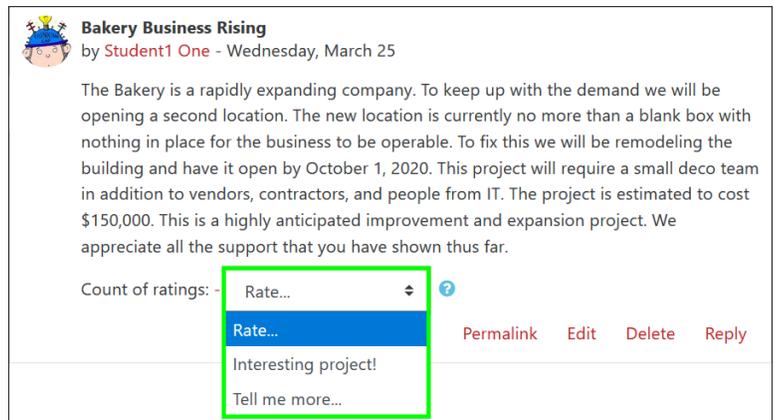
Begin by creating your scale. (To use an existing scale, jump to Step 2.)

1. Click on **Grades** to access your gradebook, then click on the **Scales** tab.
2. Scroll down and click on **Add a new scale**.

3. Enter a name for your scale, then enter the term or terms that you want to display for rating.
  - Separate each term with a comma and space as shown in the example.
  - Terms are reversed when displayed: the last term in the list will be the first term that appears in the rating box.

Sample scales:

- Please tell us more, Interesting, Insightful, Highly perceptive
- I strongly disagree, I disagree, I agree, I strongly agree
- This is a bit like me, This is a lot like me, This is just like me



# Student Ratings in Forums

- Review your scale carefully – once you save it, you can't edit it!
- Save changes.**

## Step 2: Set up ratings

- Create a forum. If you intend to grade student posts using *Whole forum grading*, go ahead and set that up. Those grades will be recorded separately from rating scores.
- Open the **Ratings** option area and select **Count of ratings** from the **Aggregate type** field.
- In the **Type** field, select **Scale** from the rating type.
- Locate your scale from the list and select it.
- Save changes.**

**Ratings**

Roles with permission to rate: Manager, Teacher, Non-editing teacher, Teaching Assistant-Full, Badge Manager, Client Admin

Aggregate type: No ratings

Aggregate type: Count of ratings

Type: Scale

Scale: Competency scale: Foundational Strands

Competency scale: Foundational Strands

Default competence scale

Mastery Learning Scale

Satisfactory

Separate and Connected ways of knowing

Stars

Project Forum Rating

## Step 3: Extend Student Permissions

- Open the forum and click on the admin gear, then select **Permissions**.

Week 1 Discussion

What's Your... Please describe this class as president of stakeholder...

sure to include:

- Brief overview of project purpose
- Quick description of project benefits

Settings menu:

- Edit settings
- Locally assigned roles
- Permissions
- Check permissions
- Filters
- Competency breakdown
- Logs
- Backup

# Student Ratings in Forums

- In the **Filter** field, type in **rate posts** to bring up the rating rights for students.
- Click on the **plus sign** beneath the list of roles with permission to rate posts.
- In the **Allow role** dialogue box, click on **Student**.
- Click on the link labeled **Back to forum** to return to the forum.

## Student Ratings in the Gradebook

These ratings do create scores in the gradebook, depending on the aggregation method you use. To ensure that the resulting scores don't affect student grades:

- Click on **Grades**, then click on the **Setup** tab.
- Scroll down and click on **Add category**.
- Name it **Ungraded items** and set the **Maximum grade** to zero.
- Save changes**.
- Locate the **Rating grade for [forum name]** grade item and check the box in the right to select it.
- Scroll down and use the pull-down menu in the **Move selected items to** field to select **Ungraded Items**. The forum rating grade item will be moved into that category and will not be included in anyone's total score. You may hide the category if you wish.

**Note:** Hiding the grade item associated with student rating will **NOT** exclude it from student grade calculations, as hidden grades are included in course totals by default.

## Special considerations

Also good to know:

- Students cannot rate their own posts or see the ratings others have received.
- Users click on the link—the number 1 in this example—to see the ratings given.
- Once a scale has been assigned to an activity, it is no longer possible to delete it. You can only edit the scale name and description.
- Once you have created a scale, it will remain attached to your profile and can be used again in the same or other courses.

