Importing "GIFT" format files

Basics

GIFT is the most comprehensive import format available for importing Moodle quiz questions from a text file. The text encoding of your text file must be utf-8 (unless you only use ascii characters). Each individual question in the GIFT file must not contain any blank lines. Each question is delimited by at least one blank line. If you need to represent a blank line in your question you can use the entity **n**.

Line Comments	
Comments that will not be imported into Moodle can be included in the text file. This can be used to provide headers or more information about questions. All lines that start with a double backslash (not counting tabs or spaces) will be ignored by the filter.	`// Subheading: Numerical questions below` `What's 2 plus 2? {#4}`
Question Names	

A question name can be specified by placing it first and enclosing it within double colons (**::**). If no question name is specified, the entire question will be used as the name by default.	`::Kanji Origins::Japanese characters originally`
	`came from what country? {=China}`
	
	`::Thanksgiving Date::The American holiday of`
	`Thanksgiving is`
	`celebrated on the {~second ~third =fourth} Thursday of`
	`November.`

Feedback	

Feedback can be included for each answer by following the answer with a number sign (**#** also known as a hash mark) and the feedback.	`What's the answer to this multiple-choice question? {`
	`    ~wrong answer#feedback comment on the wrong answer`
	`    ~another wrong answer#feedback comment on this`
	`wrong answer`
	`    =right answer#Very good!`
	`}`
	
	`Who's buried in Grant's tomb? {`
	`    =no one#excellent answer!`
	`    =nobody#excellent answer!`
	`}`
	
	`Grant is buried in Grant's tomb.{FALSE#Wrong, No one is`
	`buried in Grant's tomb.#Right, well done.}`

Specifying Categories

It is possible to change the category into which the questions are added within the GIFT file. You can change the category as many times as you wish within the file. All questions after the modifier up to the next modifier or the end of the file will be added to the specified category. Up to the first category modifier the category specified on the import screen will be used. Note that for this to work the **from file:** box must be ticked on the import screen.

To include a category modifier include a line like this (with a blank line before and after):

```
$CATEGORY: tom/dick/harry
```

or simply

```
$CATEGORY: mycategory
```

...the first example specifies a path of nested categories. In this cae the questions will go into *harry*. The categories are created if they do not exist.

Special Characters ~ = # { } :

These symbols ~ **= # { } :** control the operation of this filter and cannot be used as normal text within questions. Since these symbols have a special role in determining the operation of this filter, they are called "control characters." But sometimes you may want to use one of these characters, for example to show a mathematical formula in a question. The way to get around this problem is "escaping" the control characters. This means simply putting a backslash (\) before a control character so the filter will know that you want to use it as a literal character instead of as a control character.

```
Which answer equals 5? {
    ~ \= 2 + 2
    = \= 2 + 3
    ~ \= 2 + 4
}

::GIFT Control Characters::
Which of the following is NOT a control character for
the GIFT import format? {
    ~ \~      # \~ is a control character.
    ~ \=      # \= is a control character.
    ~ \#      # \# is a control character.
    ~ \{      # \{ is a control character.
    ~ \}      # \} is a control character.
    = \       # Correct! \ (backslash) is not a control
character. BUT,
             it is used to escape the control
characters.
}
```

Text Formatting

The question text (only) may have an optional text format specified. Currently the available formats are **moodle** (Moodle Auto-Format), **html** (HTML format), **plain** (Plain text format) and **markdown** (Markdown format). The format is specified in square brackets immediately before the question text. More information on text formats in Moodle.

```
[markdown]The *American holiday of Thanksgiving* is
celebrated on the {
    ~second
    ~third
    =fourth
} Thursday of November.
```

Description	
A description "question" has no answer part at all	`The next set of questions will concern arithmetic`
Multiple Choice	

For multiple choice questions, wrong answers are prefixed with a tilde (~) and the correct answer is prefixed with an equal sign (=). If the answers come before the closing punctuation mark, a fill-in-the-blank line will be inserted for the "missing word" format. All question types can be written in the Missing Word format.
 	
For clarity, the answers can be written on separate lines and even indented. For Multiple Choice questions, feedback is displayed only for the answer the student selected.
 	
Percentage answer weights can be included by following the tilde with the desired percent enclosed within percent signs (e.g., **%50%**).
	`Who's buried in Grant's tomb?{~Grant ~Jefferson =no one}`
	
	`Grant is {~buried =entombed ~living} in Grant's tomb.`
	
	`Japanese characters originally came from what country? {`
	`    ~India#Sorry.`
	`    =China#Correct!`
	`    ~Korea#Try again.`
	`    ~Egypt#That's not it.`
	`}`
	
	`::Jesus' hometown::Jesus Christ was from {`
	`    ~Jerusalem#This was an important city, but is wrong.`
	`    ~%25%Bethlehem#He was born here, but not raised`
	`here.`
	`    ~%50%Galilee#You need to be more specific.`
	`    =Nazareth#Yes! That's right!`
	`}.`

Short Answer	

Answers in Short Answer question-type are all prefixed by an equal sign (=), indicating that they are all correct answers. The answers must not contain a (~). If there is only one correct Short Answer, it may be written without the equal sign prefix, as long as it cannot be confused as True-False. For short answer, feedback is shown only when students input the corresponding correct answer.
 	
Percentage answer weights can be included by following the tilde (for Multiple Choice) or equal sign (for Short Answer) with the desired percent enclosed within percent signs (e.g., %50%).
	`Who's buried in Grant's tomb?{=no one =nobody}`
	
	`Two plus two equals {=four =4}.`
	
	`Who's buried in Grant's tomb? {`
	`    =no one#excellent answer!`
	`    =nobody#excellent answer!`
	`}`
	
	`::Jesus' hometown:: Jesus Christ was from {`
	`    =Nazareth#Yes! That's right!`
	`    =%75%Nazereth#Right, but misspelled.`
	`    =%25%Bethlehem#He was born here, but not raised`
	`here.`
	`}`

Case Sensitivity	
Short Answer questions can be made case sensitive by changing "0" to "1" in the following line.	`$question->usecase = 0; // Ignore case`

True-False	
| In this question-type the answer indicates whether the statement is true or false. The answer should be written as **{TRUE}** or **{FALSE}**, or abbreviated to **{T}** or **{F}**.  For true-false questions, there can be one or two feedback strings. The first is shown if the student gives the wrong answer. The second if the student gives the right answer. | ```
Grant is buried in Grant's tomb.{F}
```<br><br>```
The sun rises in the east.{TRUE}
```<br><br>```
Grant is buried in Grant's tomb. {
  FALSE #Wrong, No one is buried in Grant's tomb.
        #Right, well done.
}
``` |
| ***Matching*** | |
| Matching pairs begin with an equal sign (**=**) and are separated by this symbol "**->**". There must be at least *three* matching pairs. | ```
Match the following countries with their corresponding
capitals. {
    =Canada -> Ottawa
    =Italy  -> Rome
    =Japan  -> Tokyo
    =India  -> New Delhi
}
``` |
| ***Essay*** | |
| An essay question is simply a question with an empty answer field. Nothing is permitted between the curly braces at all. | ```
Write a short biography of Ulysses S. Grant {}
``` |
| ***Numerical*** | |
| The answer section for Numerical questions must start with a number sign (**#**). Numerical answers can include an error margin, which is written following the correct answer, separated by a colon. So for example, if the correct answer is anything between 1.5 and 2.5, then it would be written as follows {#2:0.5}. This indicates that 2 with an error margin of 0.5 is correct (i.e., the span from 1.5 to 2.5). If no error margin is specified, it will be assumed to be zero. | ```
When was Ulysses S. Grant born? {#1822}
```<br><br>```
What is the value of pi (to 3 decimal places)?
{#3.1415:0.0005}.
``` |
| Optionally, numerical answers can be written as a span in the following format {#*MinimumValue..MaximumValue*}. | ```
What is the value of pi (to 3 decimal places)?
{#3.141..3.142}.
``` |
| Moodle's browser interface does not support multiple numerical answers, but Moodle's code can and so does GIFT. This can be used to specify numerical multiple spans, and can be particularly usefully when combined with percentage weight grades. If multiple answers are used, they must be separated by an equal sign, like short answer questions. | ```
When was Ulysses S. Grant born? {#
    =1822:0
    =%50%1822:2
}
``` |

Multiple Answers

The Multiple Answers option is used for multiple choice questions when two or more answers must be selected in order to obtain full credit. The multiple answers option is enabled by assigning partial answer weight to multiple answers, while allowing no single answer to receive full credit.

```
What two people are entombed in Grant's tomb? {
    ~No one
    ~%50%Grant
    ~%50%Grant's wife
    ~Grant's father
}
```

Note that there is no equal sign (=) in any answer and the answers should total no more than 100%, otherwise Moodle will return an error. To avoid the problem of students automatically getting 100% by simply checking all of the answers, it is best to include negative answer weights for wrong answers.

```
What two people are entombed in Grant's tomb? {
    ~%-50%No one
    ~%50%Grant
    ~%50%Grant's wife
    ~%-50%Grant's father
}
```