

Guidance for Learners:

Accessibility Features within EMD's Moodle Platform

EMD's online learning platform is designed to be accessible to all learners, and there are a number of simple adjustments you can make to suit your individual needs, most of which require no technical knowledge and no need to ask for help.

Whether you find it easier to read larger text, prefer a higher contrast display, or use a screen reader or text-to-speech tool, this guide explains what's available to you and how to get started. You don't need to have a formally identified need to use any of these features - if something makes your learning experience easier, you're welcome to use it.

Things you can do within your Moodle profile/preferences:

You can go into your profile preferences and adjust the text editor, notification settings, and sometimes the language.

These are small but can help if you have any difficulty with complex interfaces.

Built-in browser compatibility that works well with Moodle

Moodle's Boost theme is designed to respect browser-level and OS-level accessibility settings, so you don't need to do anything inside Moodle itself. You can set your preferences on your own device:

- **Text zoom** - Use Ctrl/Cmd + or browser zoom. This works cleanly without breaking the layout.
- **High contrast mode**: Windows High Contrast or macOS display settings are compatible with EMD's Moodle theme.
- **Keyboard-only navigation**: the whole platform is navigable by Tab/Enter/arrow keys. This might be useful if you have any motor difficulties.
- **Screen readers**: If you use NVDA, JAWS, and VoiceOver, these all work without any setup in Moodle.
- **OS text-to-speech**: Windows Narrator, Apple's Speak Screen, and free tools like Natural Reader can read a lot of the text content aloud.

Within the course itself

- You can collapse and expand course sections, which can help to reduce visual clutter
- In activity pages, content can also be zoomed in on
- Video content often includes subtitles/captions (look to set these to 'on' if they are not displaying at first)
- Your dashboard can be personalised, so you can remove or rearrange blocks to simplify the view

What Moodle doesn't have built in (worth knowing)

There's no built-in toolbar for things like font colour overlay (useful for dyslexia), font switching to dyslexia-friendly fonts like OpenDyslexic, or text-to-speech within the platform itself.

For those, you can use a browser extension (like free Helperbird or Read Aloud, or OS-level tools) both of which work fine alongside Moodle.

Additional Information

If you have tried the adjustments in this guide and feel you need additional support, or if you think you may need more formal arrangements put in place, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We're here to help you find the right solution, and no concern is too small to raise.

You can contact your tutor or any member of the EMD team by email at info@emduk.com or by phone on 01274 945595.

For information about the wider support and reasonable adjustments EMD can put in place, please refer to our Candidate Access Policy, which sets out your entitlements and how to request additional provision.