



New Features in Mastering - Summer 2009

What's New in this Release?

The theme of our June 2009 release is *Ease-of-Use*. Dozens of usability enhancements make Mastering easier to learn and use. Highlights include: cleaner, simpler navigation controls; plain English error/confirmation messages and button/menu labels; improved content readability; redesigned assignment overview page; and more. In addition to our ease-of-use enhancements, Mastering offers the following **new features**:

Timed Quizzing

Set a time limit for assignments, withhold correct answer confirmation, and prevent students from accessing hints and feedback.

Assignment Wizard with Assignment Categories and Default Settings

Create an assignment in minutes using the 4-step Assignment Wizard. Create categories of assignments and specify different default grading and presentation settings for each category. For example, allow students to print pre-labs but not post-labs, or give students five answer attempts on homework but only one for quizzes. Set the defaults once and use them throughout the term, or customize settings for each assignment.

Simple Editing/Authoring Tool

A new editing tool works cross-platform, supports the most common browsers, and allows instructors to edit text, images, equations, and certain answer types (multiple-choice, multiple-select, and essay). The new editor also enables customizing publisher content by changing the wording to match the terminology used in class, removing parts of questions, and adding additional questions, hints, and wrong answer feedback. The advanced editor remains available for editing and authoring more complex items.

Content Import Utility

Import instructor-created questions written in a word processor. The import utility supports multiple-choice, multiple-select, and essay answer types, as well as formatted text, images, and equations. Once imported, each question becomes an individual Mastering item, and the system will collect usage statistics—duration, difficulty, and color bar data—for these items.

Gradebook Export for Course Management Systems

Export Mastering grades in any of the following gradebook formats: BlackBoard 6.x/7.x, BlackBoard 8.x, BlackBoard Vista 3/4/8, BlackBoard CE 6 (WebCT), Angel 7.x. The exported files can be uploaded directly into the appropriate course management system without further manipulation.

Partial Credit for students who run out of attempts

Students who exhaust their allowed number of attempts on multiple-select, labeling, vocabulary-matching, sorting, or ranking items without obtaining the correct answer, but having submitted a partially-correct answer (e.g. 3 of 5 items correctly sorted), will receive partial credit in proportion to how close they came to the correct answer in their final attempt.

Flexible point values for assigned items

Specify any desired point value from 0 to 100—including fractional values, like 1.25—for assigned items.

Section/Concept-level Item Library organization and improved access to instructor-created items

Section/Concept-level Item Library organization is available for select texts. Additionally, instructors can place instructor-created items in the appropriate chapter (and section/concept, where available) in the item library so they are displayed with the publisher-provided content. There is a new icon to identify customized items.

For more information about these features, visit [online support](#) or contact your local [Pearson representative](#).

