

Handout

Moodle Form Elements

The standard Moodle elements can be found in the following table. Parameter items in the table refer to:

- `$elementName` – the name for the element in the form
- `$elementLabel` – the label text for the element
- `$value/$values` – the element's value(s)
- `$attributes` – the HTML attributes for the element
- `$text` – the element's text
- `$options` – any options the element requires

<i>Element</i>	<i>Notes</i>
advcheckbox	Checkbox with default behaviour modified for Moodle, so that it will return '0' if not checked and '1' if checked Parameters – <code>\$elementName</code> , <code>\$elementLabel</code> , <code>\$text</code> , <code>\$attributes</code> , <code>\$values</code>
autocomplete	A select box that allows you to start typing to narrow the list of options or search for results Parameters – <code>\$elementName</code> , <code>\$elementLabel</code> , <code>\$options</code> , <code>\$attributes</code>
button	See helpful method <code>add_action_buttons()</code> Parameters – <code>\$elementName</code> , <code>\$value</code> , <code>\$attributes</code>
cancel	See helpful method <code>add_action_buttons()</code> Parameters – <code>\$elementName</code> , <code>\$value</code> , <code>\$attributes</code>
checkbox	Parameters – <code>\$elementName</code> , <code>\$elementLabel</code> , <code>\$text</code> , <code>\$attributes</code>
cohort	Form field type for choosing a cohort; allows auto-complete AJAX searching for cohort Parameters – <code>\$elementname</code> , <code>\$elementlabel</code> , <code>\$options</code>
course	Form field type for choosing a course; allows auto-complete AJAX searching for courses and can restrict by enrolment, permissions, viewhidden, etc.

	<p>Parameters – \$elementname, \$elementlabel, \$attributes</p>
date_selector	<p>Class for a group of elements used to input a date</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
date_time_selector	<p>Class for a group of elements used to input a date and time</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
defaultcustom	<p>Creates an element with a drop-down Default/Custom and an input for the value supports text or date_selector</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementname, \$elementlabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
duration	<p>Class for a length of time; the values returned to PHP represent the duration in seconds (an integer rounded to the nearest second)</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
editor	<p>Specialised text area; it adds the preferred editor form element for the selected format</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes, \$options</p>
filemanager	<p>Specialised file elements (see the next section)</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes,</p>
filepicker	<p>\$options</p>
filetypes	<p>File types and file type groups selection form element</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementname, \$elementlabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
float	<p>Customised text element when working with float numbers, which take care of the fact that different languages use different symbols as the decimal separator; submitted float numbers will be automatically translated from the localised format into the computer format</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes</p>
grading	<p>Class for a grading element; this is a wrapper for advanced grading plugins. When adding the 'grading' element to the form, the developer must pass an object of class gradingform_instance as \$attributes['gradinginstance']</p>

	Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes
group	Class for a form element group (see addGroup () method) Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$elements, \$separator, \$appendName
hidden	Parameters – \$elementName, \$value, \$attributes
html	Add arbitrary HTML – usually to add the start and end of a HTML div Parameters – \$elementName, \$value
htmleditor	Specialised text area that handles HTML input Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes
listing	Class for a listing form element, which is a simple customisable ‘select’ without the input type=select Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes, \$options
modgrade	Specialised custom class for a drop-down element to select the grade for an activity – used in configuration update form Parameters – \$elementname, \$elementlabel, \$options, \$attributes
modvisible	Specialised custom drop-down form element to select visibility in an activity configuration update form Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes, \$options
password	Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes
passwordunmask	A password element with an option to show the password in plain text Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes
questioncategory	Specialised custom class for a drop-down element to select a question category Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes
radio	Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$text, \$value, \$attributes

recaptcha	<p>Class for a recaptcha type element</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes</p>
searchableselector	<p>Extension of the autocomplete element</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementname, \$elementlabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
select	<p>Call the select's setMultiple() method for a multi-select. Setting the value of the selects requires the use of the element's setSelected() method</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
selectgroups	<p>A 'select' element to create all options grouped in optgroups</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$optgrps, \$attributes, \$showchoose</p>
selectwithlink	<p>Specialised custom class for a 'select' type element with options containing links</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes, \$linkdata</p>
selectyesno	<p>Specialised custom class for a simple yes/no drop-down element</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes, \$options</p>
static	<p>Display a static text</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$text</p>
submit	<p>See helpful method add_action_buttons().</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$value, \$attributes, \$primary, \$options</p>
tags	<p>Specialised custom class for editing tags, either standard or not</p> <p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$options, \$attributes</p>
text	<p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes</p>
textarea	<p>Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes</p>

url	Specialised custom class for a URL type element Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementLabel, \$attributes, \$options
warning	Class for static warning type element Parameters – \$elementName, \$elementClass, \$text
header	A pseudo-element used for adding headers to form and grouping elements into collapsible field sets – theme dependant Parameters – \$elementName, \$text

The header element is used for grouping the form elements into collapsible field sets, with the text as the legend. This is dependent on the theme in use. By default, Moodle collapses all field sets without a required element. To force a field set to be expanded, use `$mform->setExpanded($elementname, true)` and, in reverse, pass false as the second argument.

A field set is automatically closed if you open a new one. However, if the following elements are not to be enclosed by a visible field set, you can use the `$mform->closeHeaderBefore()` method, passing in the first element name of the following elements.

For more information regarding the Form API, please see the Moodle documentation's 'Form API' page (https://docs.moodle.org/dev/Form_API).