

WHAT ARE MATCHING QUESTIONS?

These fixed response checks for learning consist of a column of key words/questions presented on the left side and a column of options/responses placed on the right side. Students match the options associated with a given key word/question. They are effective in measuring who, what, when, and where knowledge, as well as association of facts. They can be created in Canvas as well (see <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10044>).

HOW DO I CREATE EFFECTIVE MATCHING QUESTIONS?

Keep these tips in mind as you construct your matching questions:

- Provide more possible options than questions.
- Use longer phrases as questions and shorter phrases as options.
- Keep questions and options/responses short and homogeneous.
- Avoid verbal cues and specific determiners (e.g., the, a, an).
- Number each question and use alphabetical letters for the options.
- Specify the basis for matching and whether or not responses can be used more than once in the directions.
- Make all questions and all options the same type (e.g., a list of events to be matched with a list of dates).

Remember these tips as you review the following:

Original question: From Column II, select the name or date that is associated with the statement in Column I. Record your choice on the line preceding the question number. Each answer may be used only one time.

Column I

- ___ 1. The year in which the Declaration of Independence was signed.
- ___ 2. The first President of the United States.
- ___ 3. The year in which the Civil War began.
- ___ 4. The baseball player who holds the home run record.
- ___ 5. The inventor of bifocals.

Column II

1. George Washington
2. Benjamin Franklin
3. Barry Bonds
4. 1777
5. 1861

Applying the preceding tips for matching question, you can see that the original question has the following problems:

- Neither the questions nor the options are homogeneous. The former call for answers that are both dates and names; the latter necessarily are a mixture of both.
- There are an equal number of premises and alternatives.
- The introductory statement fails to offer an adequate frame of reference for responding.

Using the guidelines for matching, you could revise as follows:

Better question: Several inventions of historical significance are listed in Column I. For each question, select the name in Column II which is associated with that invention. Record your choice on the line preceding the question number. Remember that an answer may be used only one time.

Column I

- _____ 1. airplane
- _____ 2. steamboat
- _____ 3. automobile
- _____ 4. radio
- _____ 5. iron stoves
- _____ 6. television

Column II

- a. John Baird
- b. Sir Frederick Banting
- c. Henry Ford
- d. Benjamin Franklin
- e. Robert Fulton
- f. Marchese Marconi
- g. Orville Wright