

The difference between groups and grouping

325 Bowen Zhang Fri, Dec 22, 2023 Groups and Groupings

71333 0

Overview:

This guide details various issues that you have associated with the Groups and Groupings.

What to know:

When you first start editing the module, you may be confused by the similar terms 'Groups' and 'Groupings'.

Table of Contents

[Why use Groups and Groupings?](#)

[What is the difference between Groups and Groupings?](#)

[How to create Groups and Groupings?](#)

[Which activities utilize Groups and Groupings?](#)

Why use Groups and Groupings?

In below context, you may need to create groups:

[Scenario 1]:

you are a teacher and have several classes in that course;
you need to filter activities and grade book so you only see one class at a time.

[Scenario 2]:

you are a teacher sharing with other teachers in a course;
you need to filter activities and gradebook so you don't see the students from your colleagues' classes.

[Scenario 3]:

you want to allocate an activity or topic to a set of users;
you don't want other students to see it.

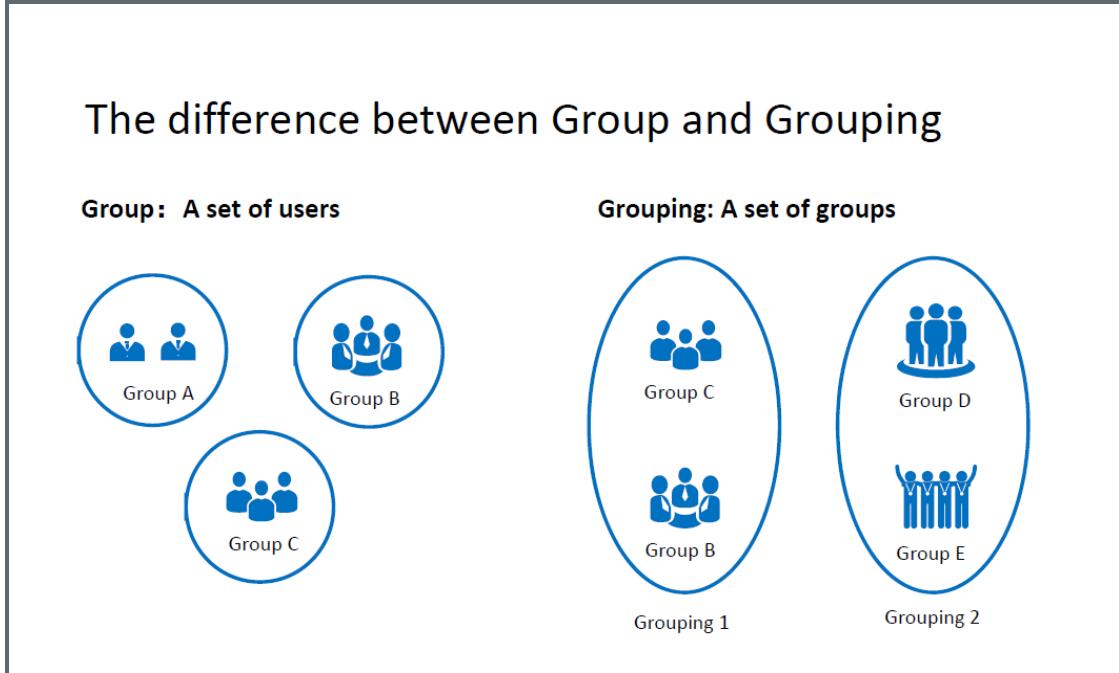
In below scenario, you may need to create groupings:

[Scenario 4]:

you have several groups created within a course;
you want to direct tasks at one or more groups so they can work together on the tasks.

What is the difference between Groups and Groupings?

The difference between Group and Grouping



In general, a group is a set of users and a grouping is a set of groups. You should first create several groups in the course and you have the options to add groups to a grouping. A single grouping can house one group or several groups.

How to create Groups and Groupings?

The screenshot shows the 'Participants' tab in the Moodle 'Chenhui's Test Module' navigation bar. A red box highlights the 'Participants' tab. Below it, a red box highlights the 'Enrolled users' dropdown menu. A red arrow points from the 'Enrol users' button to the 'Enrolled users' dropdown. A red box highlights the 'Groups' section in the dropdown menu. The 'Groups' section is expanded, showing 'Groups' (which is also highlighted with a red box) and 'Groupings'. The 'Enrolments' section is also visible in the dropdown. The main content area shows a table with columns for 'Name', 'Group', 'Last activity', and 'Actions'. The bottom of the page features a navigation bar with letters from D to Z.

[Creating a Group]

Select the 'Participants' tab on the navigation;
Click 'Enrolled users' to unfold the drop-down list;
Select 'Groups';
Click 'Create group' button
Adding a group name, optional description and save changes;

Chenhui's Test Module

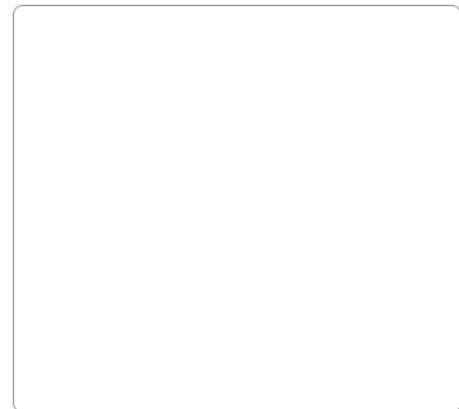
Course Settings Participants Grades Reports More ▾

Groups

Chenhui's Test Module Groups

Groups

Members of:



Edit group settings

Add/remove users

Delete selected group

Create group

Auto-create groups

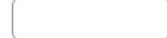
General

Group name

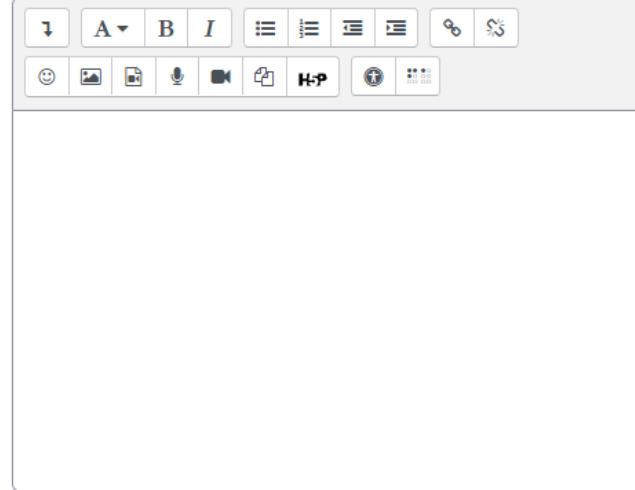


Group 1

Group ID number



Group description



Enrolment key



Click to enter text



Group messaging

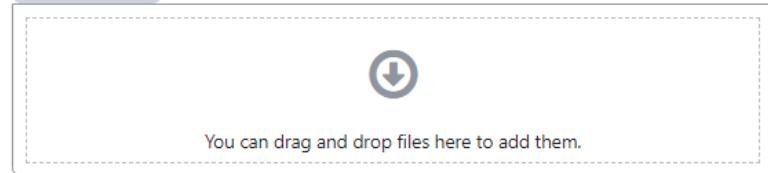


No

New picture



Choose a file...



You can drag and drop files here to add them.

Save changes

Cancel

?

Select the group to which you want to add members, and click 'Add/Remove users' to choose the members.

You may also be interested in these user guides on ' [How to create groups automatically](#)'.

Chenhui's Test Module

Course Settings **Participants** Grades Reports More ▾

Enrolled users Enrol users

Enrolments
Enrolled users
Enrolment methods

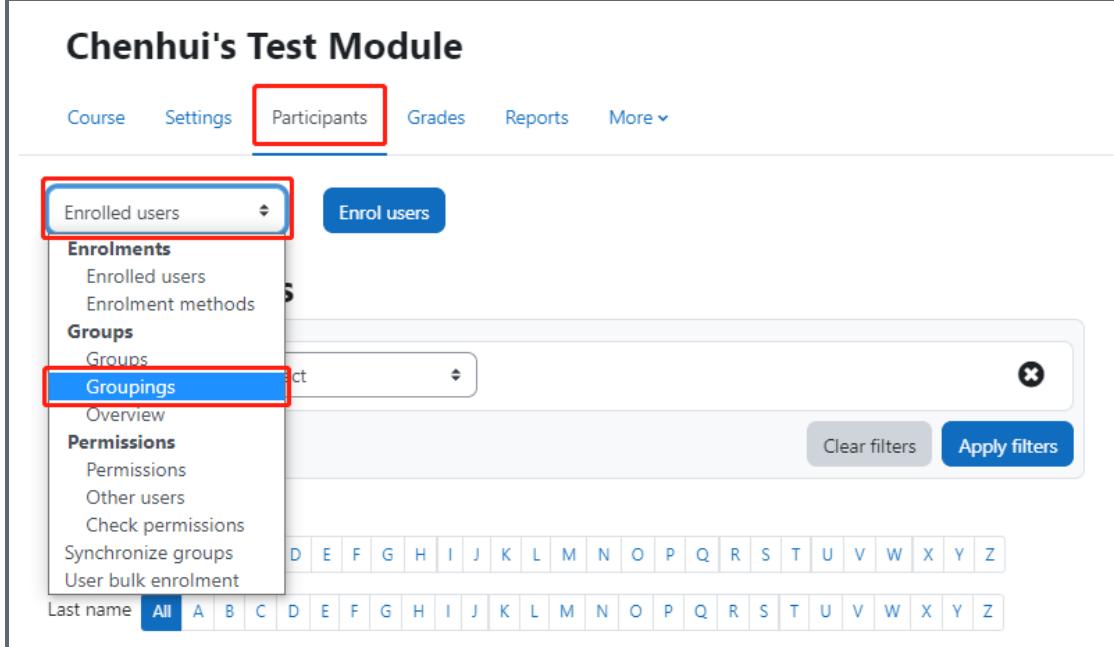
Groups
Groups
Groupings

Permissions
Permissions
Other users
Check permissions
Synchronize groups
User bulk enrolment

Overview

Clear filters Apply filters

Last name All A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



[Adding groups to a Grouping]

Select the 'Participants' tab on the navigation;
Click 'Enrolled users' to unfold the drop-down list;
Select 'Groupings';
Create a new grouping by clicking on 'create grouping' button;
Adding a group name, optional description and save changes;

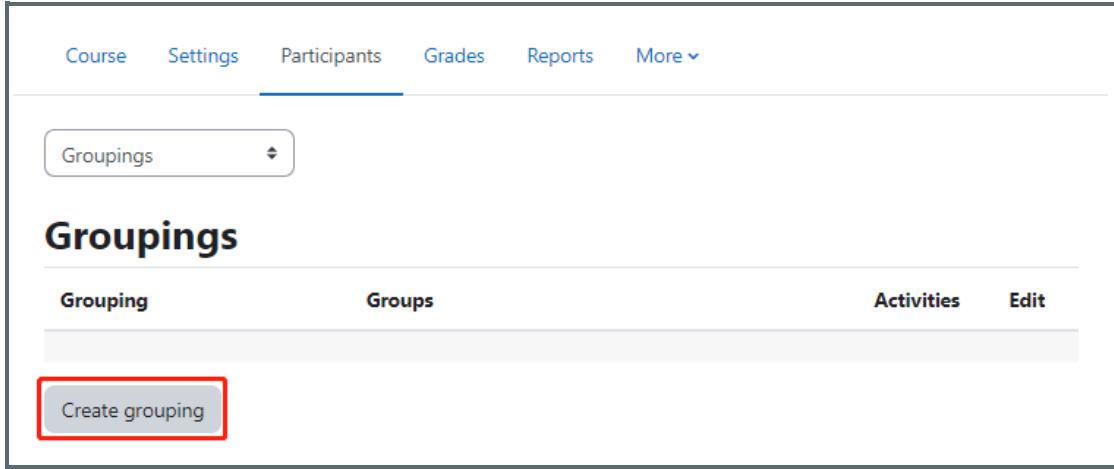
Course Settings Participants Grades Reports More ▾

Groupings

Groupings

Grouping	Groups	Activities	Edit

Create grouping



Create grouping

General

Grouping name !

Grouping 1

Grouping ID number ?

Grouping description

Text area for grouping description with rich text editor toolbar.

Save changes

Cancel

Chenhui's Test Module

Course Settings Participants Grades Reports More ▼

Groupings ▼

Groupings

Grouping	Groups	Activities	Edit
Grouping 1	None	0	Edit

Create grouping

Show groups in grouping

Click the 'Show groups in grouping' people icon in the edit column;

Add/remove groups: Grouping 1

Existing members: 0

Potential members: 2

Group 1

Group 2

Add

Remove

Back to groupings

Select the groups you want to add to the grouping by clicking 'Add' to add the groups from 'Potential members' to 'Existing members'

Then click 'Back to groupings' to save the changes.

If you'd like to explore the function in detail, please refer to [Create groups and grouping](#).

Which activities utilize Groups and Groupings?

Both groups and groupings can be used in two levels:

Course level: if the group mode is defined at the course level then all activities will by default be set at group mode within that course.

Activity level: all activities support the use of group mode apart from 'Glossary'. Group mode is most frequently used in activities like 'Assignment', 'Coursework' and 'Peer-assessment'.

Next steps:

Now that you have a basic understanding of how to use Groups and Groupings from the perspective of a teacher. Students are also enabled to choose the groups. Please find more details in [How to let your students choose their own groups](#).