Thanks to a significant improvements in the summer of 2006, Moodle now supports a wide variety of languages through its support of the Unicode standard. Whether you will be posting an occasional word in Russian or conducting an entire course in Japanese, Moodle can support your work. If you are already accustomed to multi-lingual computing, the following pointers on web browsers, fonts, and typing various character sets may look quite familiar.

**Good Font Choices**
Modern operating systems have a variety of nice pre-installed fonts that will work with most languages correctly, including Times New Roman, Arial, Trebuchet, and Tahoma.

If you are using a Windows-based computer, you may also want to install the Arial Unicode MS font. Arial Unicode is the best font for displaying a wide range of languages on computers running Windows.

**Best Web Browser: Firefox**
Regardless of the language you are writing in, Moodle works best with Firefox. For most languages, the default settings of Firefox will work well. If you will be working with Greek or Russian, there are a couple of changes that will make it even better.

**Polytonic Greek**
Macintosh: No changes are necessary
Windows: You will want to change the default font for the Greek font. For best results change the sans-serif font to Arial Unicode MS, and the serif font to Gentium2 or Cardo3.

**Russian (with stress)**
Macintosh: For Cyrillic, change the default sans-serif font to Lucida Grande. Serif font can be Sethu, Thonburi or Times.
Windows: No changes are necessary

**Input Methods**
If you need only the occasional symbol, using the Windows Character Map or the Macintosh Character Palette may be the most efficient way to insert the characters you need.

If you will be typing more than a few characters in a particular language, then you may find it easier to use the keyboard input appropriate for that language. Some information on how to use different keyboard inputs are available at:

http://go.carleton.edu/f

**Getting Help and Troubleshooting**
If you would like help in configuring your computer, learning about input methods, or any other aspect of multilingual computing with Moodle, contact your computing coordinator.

The following is a list of frequently asked questions that relate multilingual computing that you might find of help.

*My symbols are not showing up properly, what do I do?*
If the characters are showing up as blanks or boxes, it is possible that the default browser font does not contain the characters you are using. Try changing your default browser font for that script to a more inclusive font (e.g. Arial Unicode MS or Lucida Grande).

If the characters are displaying as question marks, then your browser does not display Unicode properly. Be sure that you are using Firefox to access Moodle.

*I try to change the keyboard to type, but it only types English. Why?*
The choice of keyboard input is specific to the program you have activated when you select the keyboard. First, ensure that you have your browser window as the active window (it should say Firefox in the upper left corner of your screen). Then, without clicking on anything else, click on the keyboard menu of your computer to change the input.
How do I change the paragraph direction so that Hebrew and Arabic type from right to left?
When the language of the Moodle course is English, you can still type Hebrew and Arabic with the appropriate paragraph direction in any text box that gives you the formatting tools. Click the Right-To-Left (RTL) paragraph icon to change directions.

Labels and items listed on the main page of your course will all be left justified if the course language is English. Areas that do not give you the formatting tools (Chat, Text Pages, etc) will automatically be left justified.

To ensure that Hebrew and Arabic display appropriately in all areas of Moodle, change the language of the course to match the target language (in your Moodle Settings).

My computer (running Windows) doesn’t offer Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hebrew or Arabic as available keyboards for installation. Where do I get these?
In Windows, you have to install the extra files necessary for these languages before they become available choices for input. Go to Start > Settings > Control Panels > Regional and Language Options > Languages and check the boxes for the complex and East Asian scripts. You will need your Windows XP CD-ROM to install these files. Contact your computing coordinator for help.

Can I put more than one language in a single text box?
Absolutely! Since Unicode is the default encoding method, most languages will display properly when mixed in the same text box. The only challenge is that currently you cannot mix paragraph direction in the same box. If you want to mix English and Hebrew, you have to make it all right-justified or left-justified.

My file, named in my target language, won’t upload. What’s wrong?
Moodle cannot upload files that are named in any other script than Roman characters. Rename your files using a romanization of the language you use. Files named with accented letters will upload, but the accents will be removed from the file names.