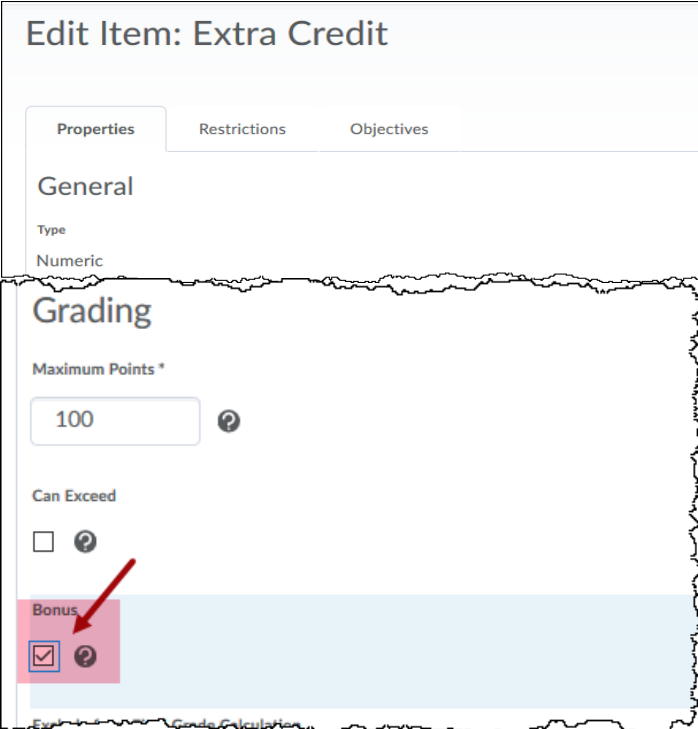


Bonus Grade Items

Fundamentally, a Bonus Grade item only adds to the final calculated grade of a course. It does not count as part of the maximum overall possible course grade. (E.g., bonus grade item = 20 pts.; maximum possible course grade = 500 pts.; earned course points = 415 pts.; final calculated grade = 415 + 20 = 435 pts.; therefore final percentage grade = 435/500 = .87 or 87%)

Any grade item can be set to be a bonus item in the properties of the grade item:



The screenshot shows the 'Edit Item: Extra Credit' interface. It has three tabs: 'Properties', 'Restrictions', and 'Objectives'. The 'Properties' tab is active. Under 'General', the 'Type' is set to 'Numeric'. The 'Grading' section includes a 'Maximum Points' field with the value '100'. Below that is a 'Can Exceed' checkbox which is unchecked. At the bottom of the 'Grading' section, there is a 'Bonus' checkbox which is checked. A red arrow points to this checked checkbox. There are also help icons (question marks) next to the 'Maximum Points' and 'Can Exceed' fields.

Since there are two principal grade systems for the eLearning (D2L) grade book, there are two considerations for using and setting grade items as bonus.

For the “Points” system, any grade item, set to be a bonus item, regardless if it is in a Category or not, will have its value added to the final calculated grade, as noted above.

For the “Weighted” system, a stand-alone grade item (not in a category), that is set to be a bonus item will have its value added to the final calculated grade, as noted above, as well. In order for the bonus point value to add properly, the bonus grade item weight should be set equal to the point value.

However, if a bonus grade item is a part of a category, the “bonus” effect on the category has to do with the bonus grade item’s weight (regardless of the category weight-distribution choice). The higher the bonus grade item’s weight, the larger the effect on the category’s grade.

Note: Because of the complexity of ascertaining the correct weighting for the bonus grade item in order to obtain the specific effect on the category grade, including bonus grade items in categories in the “Weighted” system is not recommended.