Fast-Forward Prevention Explained

Core Concepts · https://www.mooplugins.com/docs/video-lesson-activity/core-concepts/fast-forward-prevention-explained/

This article explains how **video seeking behavior** works in the Video Lesson Activity, including **per-activity controls**, **global admin overrides**, and how seeking interacts with **watch percentage and completion rules**.

What is seeking behavior?

Seeking behavior controls whether **students** can move forward or backward in a video using the timeline (scrubbing).

By default, most video players allow free seeking.
The Video Lesson Activity allows you to **restrict or control this behavior** to ensure videos are watched in the intended sequence.

Where seeking behavior is configured

Seeking behavior can be controlled at **two levels**:

- **Per activity** (set by teachers when creating a Video Lesson)
- **Globally** (set by administrators in site settings)

Global settings can **override activity-level settings**, depending on configuration.

Seeking behavior options (per activity)

These options are available when editing a **Video Lesson activity**.

Allow seeking

Behavior:

- Students can freely skip forward and backward
- Timeline scrubbing is fully enabled

Use this when:

- The video is optional or reference-based
- Students are revisiting known material
- Skipping content is acceptable

Disable seeking

Behavior:

- All seeking is disabled
- Students must watch the video linearly
- Forward and backward scrubbing are blocked

Use this when:

- The video contains mandatory content
- Sequential viewing is required
- The lesson is compliance- or certification-oriented

Disable seeking forward, allow rewind

Behavior:

- Students cannot skip ahead
- Students can rewind and rewatch earlier parts
- Forward scrubbing is blocked

Use this when:

- You want to prevent skipping
- Students may need to review previous sections
- The video builds progressively

Global override: Enforce seeking behavior site-wide

Administrators can **override activity-level seeking behavior** using the global setting:

[Seeking behavior sitewide admin setting]

Available options:

- Do not override (use activity setting)
- Allow seek
- Disable seek
- Disable seeking forward, allow rewind

How this works

- If set to **Do not override**, each activity uses its own setting
- Any other option **forces the selected behavior on all Video Lesson activities**
- Teachers cannot override this at the activity level

This is useful when a site needs **consistent enforcement** across all courses.

Automatic seek disabling based on completion percentage

The plugin includes a **smart enforcement mechanism** tied to video completion.

Completion threshold to force disable seek

When this global setting is configured:

- If a Video Lesson’s **required watch percentage** meets or exceeds the threshold
- Seeking is **automatically disabled**, even if allowed in the activity

Example:

- Global threshold: **70%**
- Activity requires **85% watch**
- Result: Seeking is automatically disabled for that activity

To disable this behavior entirely, set the threshold to **0%**.

This ensures students cannot skip ahead when high completion accuracy is required.

How seeking behavior affects watch percentage

Seeking behavior directly impacts how **watch percentage** is accumulated:

- Skipping forward does **not** increase watch percentage
- Rewatching previously viewed sections does not inflate progress
- Watch percentage increases only through **actual playback**

Disabling forward seeking ensures students cannot bypass required content to reach completion.

Disable playback speed control (global override)

Administrators can enable a global option to:

[Admin sitewide disable playback speed]

When enabled:

- Playback speed options (1.25×, 1.5×, etc.) are removed
- This applies **site-wide**, regardless of activity settings

Recommended for:

- Compliance or regulatory training
- Timed instructional content
- Scenarios where pacing matters

Disable Picture-in-Picture (PiP) mode (global override)

Administrators can also disable Picture-in-Picture globally.

When enabled:

- Students cannot pop the video into a floating window
- Videos must be watched within the activity page

This helps:

- Reduce distractions
- Keep students focused on the activity
- Maintain context for structured lessons

Role-based enforcement (students only)

By default:

- Video progress and enforcement apply **only to the Student role**
- Teachers, managers, and admins are excluded

This prevents:

- Accidental completion during testing
- Progress pollution by non-student roles

Recommended configurations

Compliance / certification training

- Global seek override: **Disable seek**
- Completion threshold to force disable seek: **70% or higher**
- Disable playback speed control: **Enabled**
- Disable Picture-in-Picture: **Enabled**
- Completion rule: **Require watch percentage**

Structured learning (guided but flexible)

- Global seek override: **Do not override**
- Activity seek setting: **Disable seeking forward, allow rewind**
- Completion threshold enforcement: Optional

Optional or reference videos

- Global seek override: **Do not override**
- Activity seek setting: **Allow seeking**
- Completion enforcement: Optional

Important notes

- Global settings apply to **new activities by default**

- Some global options **force behavior site-wide**
- External video sources may have provider-level limitations
- Enforcement happens at the **video player level**, not Moodle core

Summary

Video seeking behavior in the Video Lesson Activity is controlled through a **combination of activity settings, global admin rules, and completion logic**.

This layered approach allows you to:

- Give teachers flexibility where appropriate
- Enforce consistency where required
- Ensure students watch videos as intended