Video Upload File Size Limits in Moodle

Core Concepts · https://www.mooplugins.com/docs/video-lesson-activity/core-concepts/video-upload-file-size-limits-in-moodle/

This article explains why large video uploads may fail in Moodle and how **file size limits are enforced at multiple levels**, beyond the Video Lesson Activity itself.

Understanding these limits is important when uploading large video files to the Video Library.

Video uploads failures

The Video Lesson Activity supports large video files. However, Moodle does not control file size limits on its own.

Video uploads are affected by a **stack of limits**, including:

- Moodle configuration
- PHP settings
- Web server configuration

If any one of these layers has a lower limit, uploads may fail.

Moodle-level file size limits

At the Moodle level, file uploads are controlled by:

- Site-level maximum upload size
- Course-level upload limits
- Activity-level file size limits

Even if the Video Lesson Activity allows large uploads, Moodle may block files before they reach the plugin.

Administrators should ensure Moodle’s upload limits are set high enough to support video files.

PHP upload limits

PHP enforces its own upload constraints, independent of Moodle.

Common PHP limits include:

- Maximum upload file size
- Maximum POST request size
- Maximum execution time
- Memory limits during upload

If PHP limits are lower than Moodle’s settings, uploads will fail silently or return generic errors.

Web server limitations

The web server handling requests may impose additional restrictions.

Depending on the server setup, limits may exist at:

- Request body size level
- Timeout level
- Reverse proxy or load balancer level

These limits are commonly enforced by:

- Nginx
- Apache
- Load balancers or CDN layers

Large video uploads are especially sensitive to request size and timeout settings.

Why this affects video more than other files

Video files are typically:

- Much larger than documents or images
- Uploaded over longer durations
- More sensitive to timeouts and memory usage

As a result, video uploads are often the **first place where hidden limits surface**.

Video Lesson Activity and upload size

The Video Lesson Activity does not artificially restrict video size.

If an upload fails:

- It is almost always due to Moodle, server, or PHP limits
- Not a limitation of the plugin itself

This distinction is important when troubleshooting upload issues.