

Question Types, Survey Page

Question type	Answer input
integer	Integer (i.e., whole number) input.
decimal	Decimal input.
range	Range input.
text	Free text response.
select_one [options]	Multiple choice question; only one answer can be selected.
select_multiple [options]	Multiple choice question; multiple answers can be selected.
rank [options]	Rank question; order a list.
note	Display a note on the screen, takes no input.
geopoint	Collect a single GPS coordinate .
geotrace	Record a line of two or more GPS coordinates.
geoshape	Record a polygon of multiple GPS coordinates; the last point is the same as the first point.
date	Date input.
time	Time input.
dateTime	Accepts a date and a time input.
image	Take a picture or upload an image file.
audio	Take an audio recording or upload an audio file.
video	Take a video recording or upload a video file.
file	Generic file input (txt, pdf, xls, xlsx, doc, docx, rtf, zip)
barcode	Scan a barcode, requires the barcode scanner app to be installed.
calculate	Perform a calculation; see the Calculation section below.
acknowledge	Acknowledge prompt that sets value to "OK" if selected.
hidden	A field with no associated UI element
xml-external	Adds a reference to an external XML data file

Appearance column

Appearance attribute	Question type	Description
multiline	text	Best if used with web clients, makes the text box multiple lines long.
minimal	select_one, select_multiple	Answer choices appear in a pull-down menu.
quick	select_one	Relevant for mobile clients only, this attribute auto-advances the form to the next question after an answer is selected.
no-calendar	date	For mobile devices only, used to suppress the calendar.
month-year	date	Select a month and year only for the date.
year	date	Select only a year for the date.
horizontal-compact	select_one, select_multiple	For web clients only, this displays the answer choices horizontally.
horizontal	select_one, select_multiple	For web clients only, this displays the answer choices horizontally, but in columns.
likert	select_one	Best if used with web clients, makes the answer choices appear as a Likert scale.
compact	select_one, select_multiple	Displays answer choices side by side with minimal padding and without radio buttons or checkboxes. Particularly useful with image choices.
quickcompact	select_one	Same as previous, but auto-advances to the next question (in mobile clients only).
field-list	groups	Entire group of questions appear on one screen (for mobile clients only).
label	select_one, select_multiple	Displays answer choice labels (and not inputs).
list-nolabel	select_one, select_multiple	Used in conjunction with label attribute above, displays the answer inputs without the labels (make sure to put label and list-nolabel fields inside a group with field-list attribute if using mobile client).
table-list	groups	An easier way to achieve the same appearance as above, apply this attribute to the entire group of questions (might slow down the form a bit).
signature	image	Allows you to trace your signature into your form (mobile clients only).
draw	image	Allows you to sketch a drawing with your finger on the mobile device screen.

Styling prompts

Markdown support in XLSForm allows for increased emphasis through bold and italics, different sized headers, various fonts and colors, and clickable web links in ODK Collect 1.4.9 and Enketo.

- *emphasize* words by wrapping them inside `_` or `*`
- **strongly emphasize** words by wrapping them inside `__` or `**`
- add a link by using `[name of link](url)`
- add various sized headers by prepending `#` (biggest) to `#####` (smallest) to header text
- style text for color or font with span tags (e.g., `orange`, `red and cursive`)
- add a line break where you want it with Ctrl-Enter or Ctrl-Alt-Enter (may be different key combination for some spreadsheet software)
- add your favorite emojis 🤖📋😁!
- use superscript with the `<sup>` tag (e.g. `100 m²` turns into 100 m²)
- use subscript with the `<sub>` tag (e.g. `H₂O` turns into H₂O)
- use the `\` character before `#`, `*`, `_`, and `\` to prevent special styling effects to be triggered by these characters