

CANVAS: How to check for broken links

Canvas User Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-12770-4152476605>

Canvas provides a tool for checking for broken links. This is a very important thing to check when you import content from a previous course, or if your course includes many links to external websites.

You can run, and re-run, the link validator as often as you wish. It will generate a report of:

- Broken links within the course
 - Refers to missing (non-existent) or unpublished images, assignments, files, or pages
- Nonworking external links
 - URLs that no longer exist
 - Unresponsive external links: this may be a temporary issue but it bears investigation - the site may still be accessible by students.

The link validator cannot check the validity of mail-to addresses though.

To run the validator:

Click Settings > on the right side bar
click “Validate Links in Content” >
click the blue “Start Link Validation”
button.

When the validation run in
complete, a list of problems is
displayed.

1 = content item

2 = broken item is identified as image
or link

3 = non existent content means the
object is invalid and should be
replaced

4 = unreachable means the object
could not be displayed



Correcting Problems:

Click the name of the content item [1] in the error report and update your content (fix the problem).
Repeat until all problems are fixed. Return to the Link Validator page and click the **Restart Link Validation** button to generate a new report.