

Pacing_yourself_plus_the_difference_between_Due_and_Incentive_Dates

To **pace** yourself = “to establish a moderate or steady pace for (oneself)” – from Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary

Stacking of similar sounding items can help people compare:

- **Due** date = the **last** day you can do a quiz for **points** (Blackboard automatically closes the quiz at 11:59 PM on that date.)
- **Incentive** date = the date when I record 1 point of extra credit if you completed a quiz with 80% or more of the questions right

Incentive dates are always:

- **earlier** than the due date
- **spread out** so you can **pace** yourself but completed by the due date

Guys, this is common sense. When I had a bunch of stuff to do by a due date, especially on a tight schedule, I’d look at the calendar and spread the work out just the way I did with your incentive dates. I don’t assume something will be easy until I try it. I set a **pace** early and I follow it. If things are going slower than I hoped, I know I am likely to fail before I actually do fail so I can speed up my pace.

Why the extra credit for keeping up with the Learning Quizzes in a Unit at a regular pace?

- Research says learning is more successful that way.
- I’d rather reward you for pacing yourself than watch some of you fail.

FYI: If you want to wait until the end of Unit 1 to do these quizzes, that is your business. You just will not get the extra credit.

Just to say the obvious, my putting:

- A 0 for a grade that is **extra credit** does **not** hurt your points
- A 1 for a grade to help you remember to pace yourself may help your future—and I want to help your future.

Tip: I had some students not understand the math issues in the bullets above. If you do not understand this, I am glad to help you.