

Using Response on the Mac

Ways of asking Response questions on the Mac

Options that are available to you:

- Use the PowerPoint 2011 add-in (see below)
- Run your presentation and use the Response internal question editor to present your questions, you just switch (CMD + Tab) to Response, when you want to ask a question.
- Use the Workspace software (available free of charge) which allows you to present and embed questions. You can either develop new slides or you can import PowerPoint presentations into Workspace (although they might need some editing) and create interactive questions.

Using the Response Toolbar with PowerPoint 2011 on the Mac

With the introduction of Microsoft Office 2011 on the Mac, Microsoft has reinstated support for add-ins. There was support in PowerPoint 2004, then there was no support, now support has been reinstated. eInstruction has updated their add-in so that it can be used to automate questions with Response. Within the constraints put on the add-in by the Mac and Office, this is working, however there are known issues, which are covered below.

We have tested Response 6.71 on a new install of Snow Leopard (OS/X 10.6) with a new install of Office 2011 (neither updated at all), and with Lion and Office (both updated). Fundamentally, the system works on both.

When you plug in the black PRS-RF receiver, you will get a notice about a new network device. Simply cancel that notification. (The newer, grey, CPS Pulse receiver does not trigger this notice).

To enable the add-in in PowerPoint, use the Tools menu Add-ins item, and locate the Applications -> eInstruction -> Response folder where you will find the PRS-Add-in which you can select, and then click OK in the add-ins dialog. The Response toolbar will appear, though as it is not written for the ribbon you will have to move it to a suitable location. On the right above the ribbon seems reasonable. You can then set up or edit questions in the usual way.

When you start the presentation, you will be prompted to ask if you want to activate Response. This will start a class (if not already started) and then show the Response bar, and if no question is on the current slide, it will minimize the Response Bar. (It is slightly faster to have already launched Response, before starting your PowerPoint slide show).

You then use PowerPoint as usual, and when you come to a question slide, the Response bar will automatically resize/ open so that you can start the question. The constraints of the Office & Mac kick-in just here in that clicking on the Response bar causes the focus to change away from PowerPoint, and that will cause PowerPoint to hide its slideshow window. However, the Response bar will automatically re-focus PowerPoint after starting, and the slide window will re-appear. It isn't elegant, but it is how both PowerPoint and Keynote work (if anyone knows of a setting to stop PowerPoint or Keynote hiding its slide presentation on change of focus, please let us know). Likewise

when the question ends, the graph will hide the slide. But as soon as you click on PowerPoint again, the slide show reappears and you carry on as normal.

There is an issue affecting some people that we have been made aware of, eInstruction support say: "We are working at resolving a specific issue when using our Response for PowerPoint Plug-in when used with Office 11. In certain instances when using OSX 10.6.8 or 10.7, the PowerPoint plug-in loads before the underlying document. Due to changes made in Office 11, this can cause the document not to load as it waits on the plug-in to terminate. We have a potential fix currently under testing and will contact you once this fix has passed our internal quality control testing."

In summary, the PowerPoint add-in does work though it is constrained by the behaviour of Office in the hiding of the slide show window.

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