


Form Styling

Questions can include [Media](#) such as images, sound or video. Additionally, labels, hints, and choices in an [XLSForm](#) can all be styled using [Markdown](#), [HTML fonts and colors](#), and [emoji](#).


 Warning

Collect's mobile forms support both HTML and Markdown styling.

Central's Enketo-powered web forms only support Markdown styling. Styling is not yet supported in web form choice labels.

Media

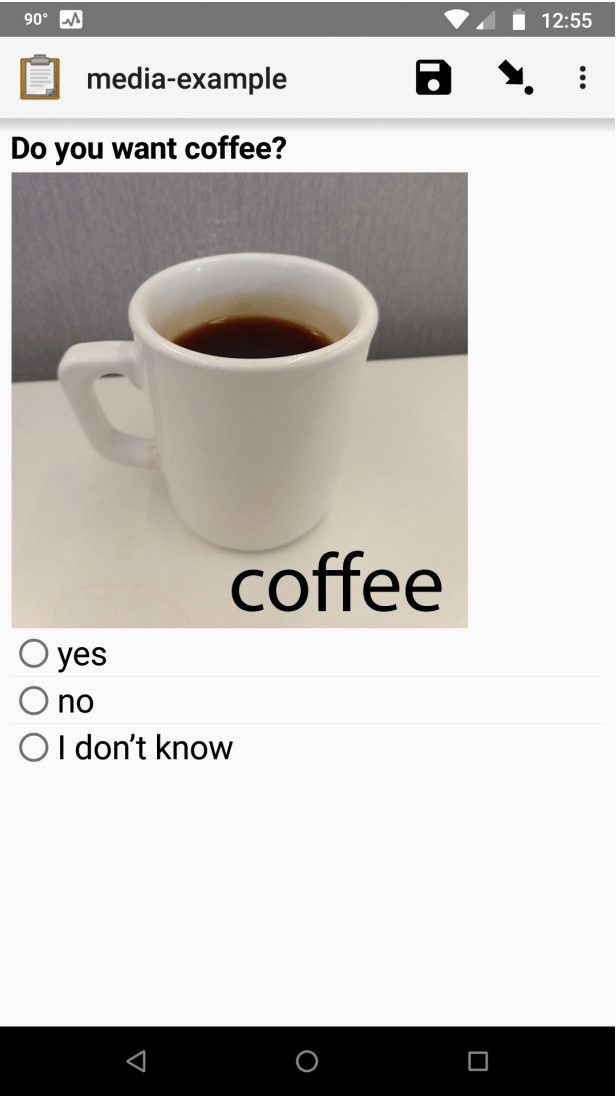
A question label may include an image, an audio file and/or a video using the `image`, `audio` and/or `video` columns. Files referenced should be included [in your form's media folder](#).

 See also

Media can be [translated](#) or [used with select choices](#).

Images

Use the `image` column to specify an image in addition to or instead of a text `label`.



XLSForm

survey			
type	name	label	image
select one yesno	coffee	Do you want coffee?	mug.jpg

choices		
list_name	name	label
yesnodk	y	yes
yesnodk	n	no
yesnodk	dk	I don't know

Bigger images for panning and zooming

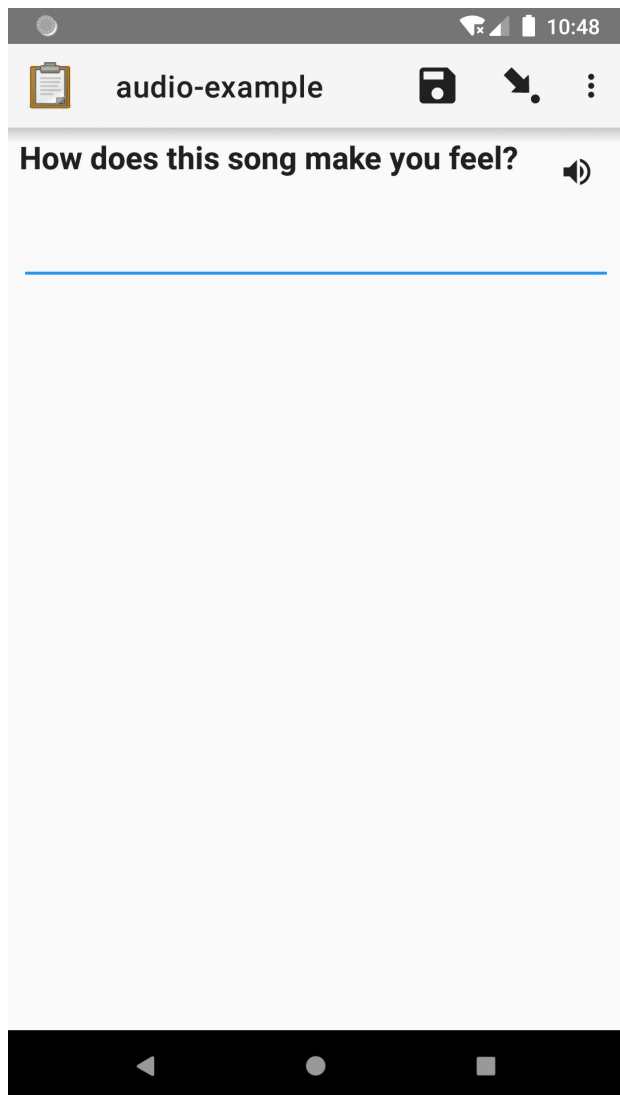
If your image is large or you would like to provide an alternative image with more detail, you can specify a filename in the `big-image` column. The image from the `image` column will be displayed inline with the question and tapping on it will show the image from the `big-image` column in a full-screen view that allows panning and zooming.

XLSForm example using `big-image`

survey				
type	name	label	image	big-image
note	instructions	Go to the spot marked by an X. Tap the map to make it bigger.	map-small.jpg	map-big.jpg

Audio

Adding audio to a question adds a play/stop button that controls the audio clip.

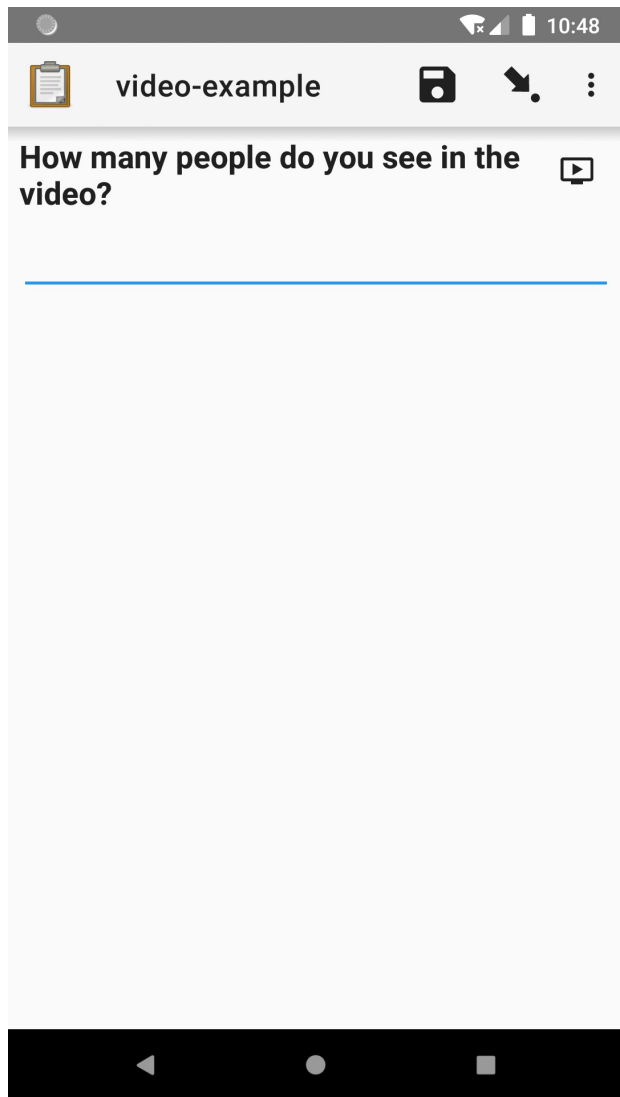


XLSForm

survey			
type	name	label	audio
text	feel	How does this song make you feel?	amazing.mp3

Video

Adding video to a question adds a button that will play the video clip full screen when clicked.



XLSForm

survey			
type	name	label	video
integer	people	How many people do you see in the video?	people.mp4

Autoplaying Media

Audio and video on questions can also be played automatically when a question is viewed by adding an `autoplay` column specifying either `audio` or `video`.

XLSForm

survey				
type	name	label	audio	autoplay
text	feel	How does this song make you feel?	amazing.mp3	audio

Some considerations for autoplaying:

- Audio/video included in select choices will be autoplayed after the question's media in display order
- If using a *field-list* appearance for a group no media will be autoplayed
- Appearances for selects that hide buttons will disable autoplay for media

Markdown

[XLSForm](#) supports limited use of [Markdown](#).

Headers

Labels and hints can be styled with one of six header levels.

```
# Header H1

## Header H2

### Header H3

#### Header H4

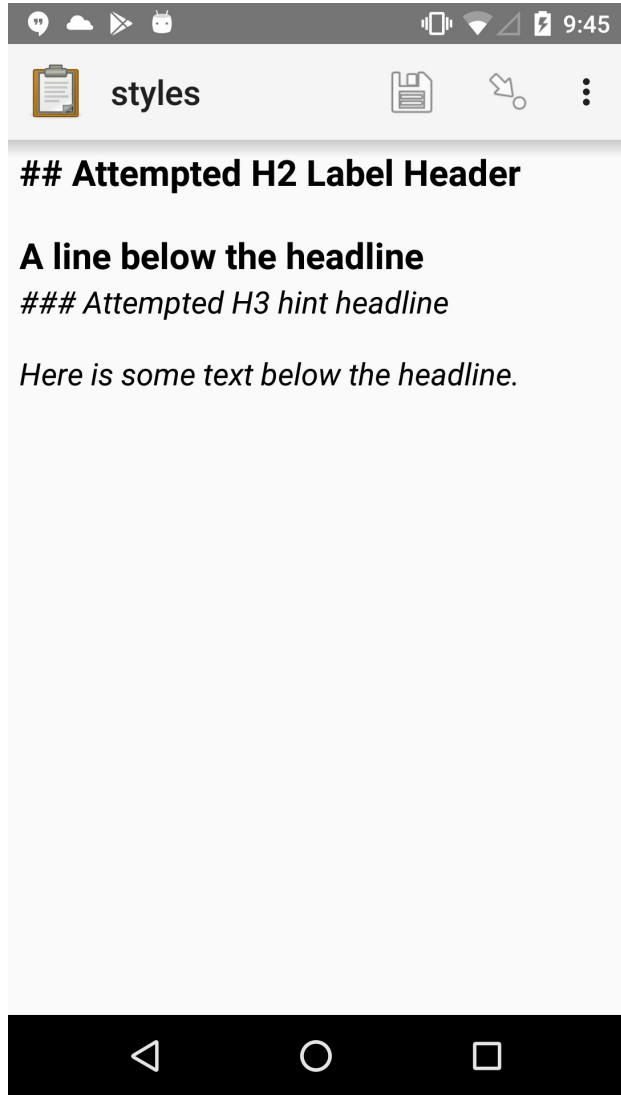
##### Header H5

##### Header H6
```

A comparison of headline sizes. This exact effect [cannot be produced using Markdown](#).



If a Markdown header is used, the label or hint can only be one line of text. Line breaks in the XLSForm cell will break the header styling.



XLSForm

survey			
type	name	label	hint
note	broken_header	## Attempted H2 Label Header	### Attempted H3 hint headline,
		A line below the headline	Here is some text below the headline.

Emphasis

Collect's Markdown support also includes **bold** and *italic* styling.

italic

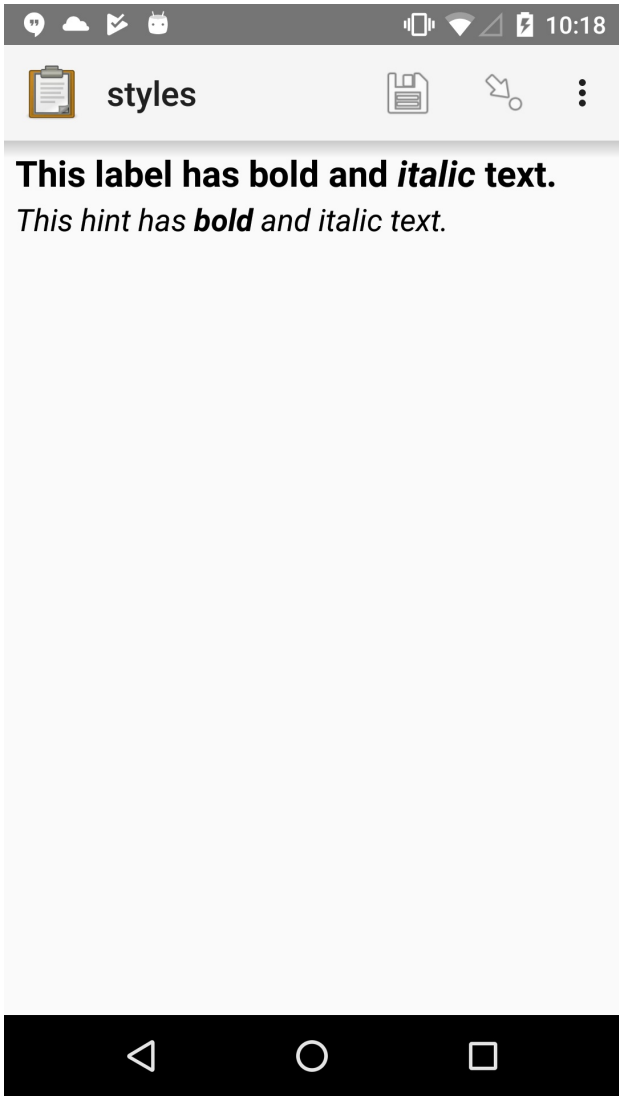
italic

__bold__

****bold****

Note

The label of a form widget is already bold, so bolding text within the label has no effect. Similarly, the hint text of a form widget is already in italics, so italicizing text within the hint has no effect.



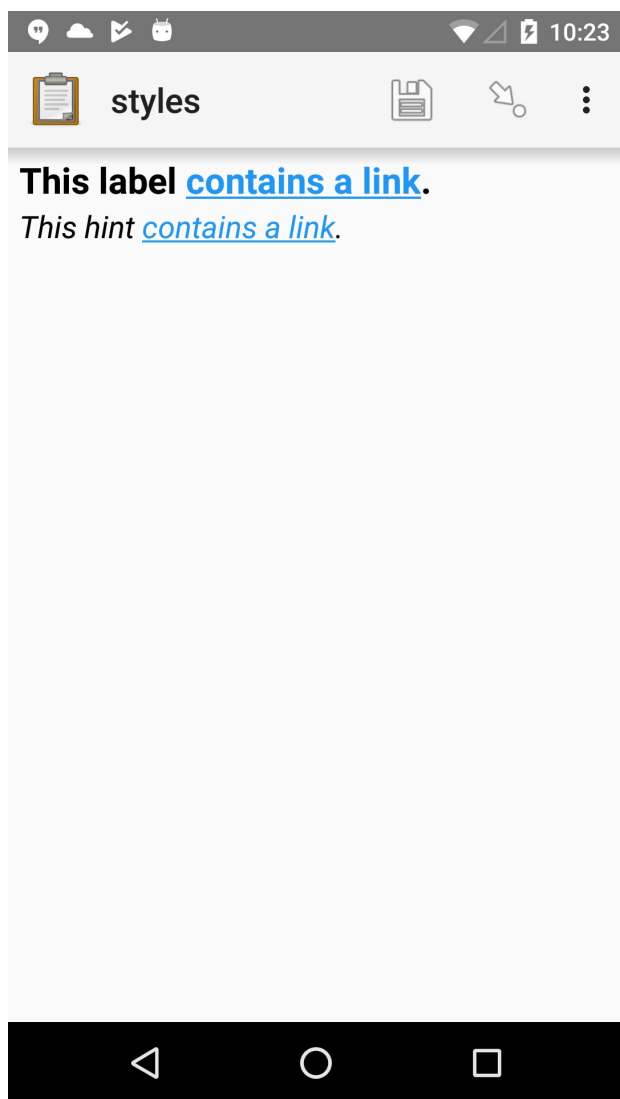
XLSForm

type	name	hint	label
note	emphasis	This label has bold and <i>italic</i> text.	This hint has bold and <i>italic</i> text.

Hyperlinks

Collect's Markdown support include hyperlinks, which will open in the device's default browser.

```
[Link anchor text](link.url)
```



XLSForm

survey			
type	name	label	hint
note	hyperlink	This label [contains a link](http://example.com).	This hint [contains a link](http://example.com).

Escaping Markdown

If you want to include literal asterisks or underscores, escape them with a back-slash (`\`). If you want to include a literal back-slash, you'll need to escape that too.

XLSForm

type	name	label	hint
note	escape_md	\# This headline is normal sized	An asterisk: * and an underscore: _ and one slash: \\

Inline HTML

Many Markdown implementations support inline HTML, but Collect only supports a small subset of HTML elements. Support of HTML is further limited because:

- Your exact Android device, operating system version, and other device-related factors will affect what HTML can be rendered, and how it is rendered.
- HTML is not supported by other form rendering tools in the XForms ecosystem. For example, HTML elements that work in Collect's mobile forms will not work in Central's Enketo-powered web forms.

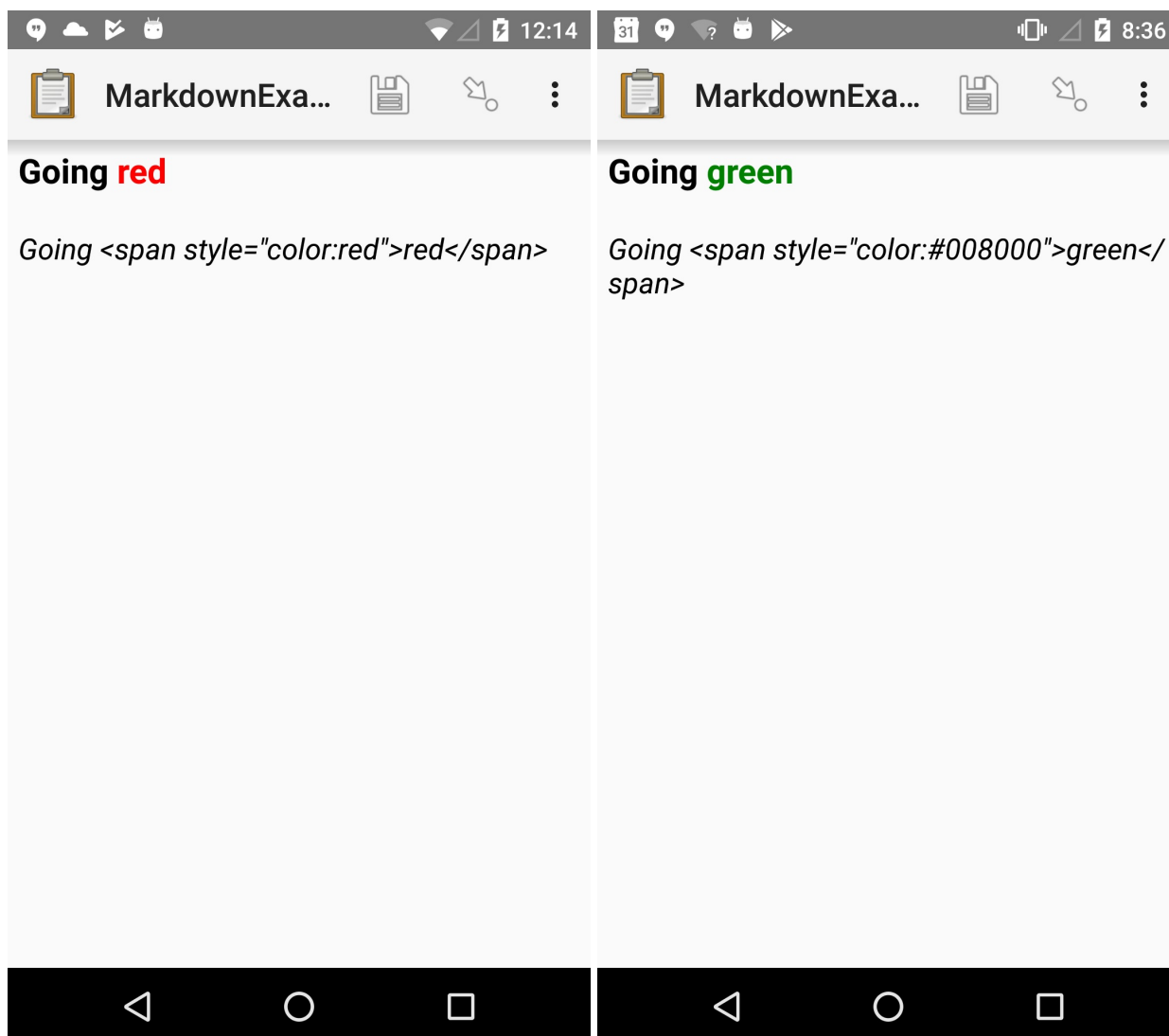
For these reasons, we do not recommend using HTML in forms (except the `` element [noted below](#)).

Fonts and colors

To add custom styling to hint, label, and choice labels, use [the style attribute](#) on a `span` tag. The `style` attribute accepts CSS-like key-value pairs for setting `color` and `font-family`.

- For `color`, try one of the [named HTML color values](#) or use a [hex color](#).
- For `font-family`, it is best to use [generic font categories](#) rather than specific fonts:
 - serif
 - sans-serif
 - monospace
 - cursive
 - fantasy

This will ensure support across most devices. You can also use specific font choices, but you should test these on the actual devices being used.





Cursive text

`Cursive text`

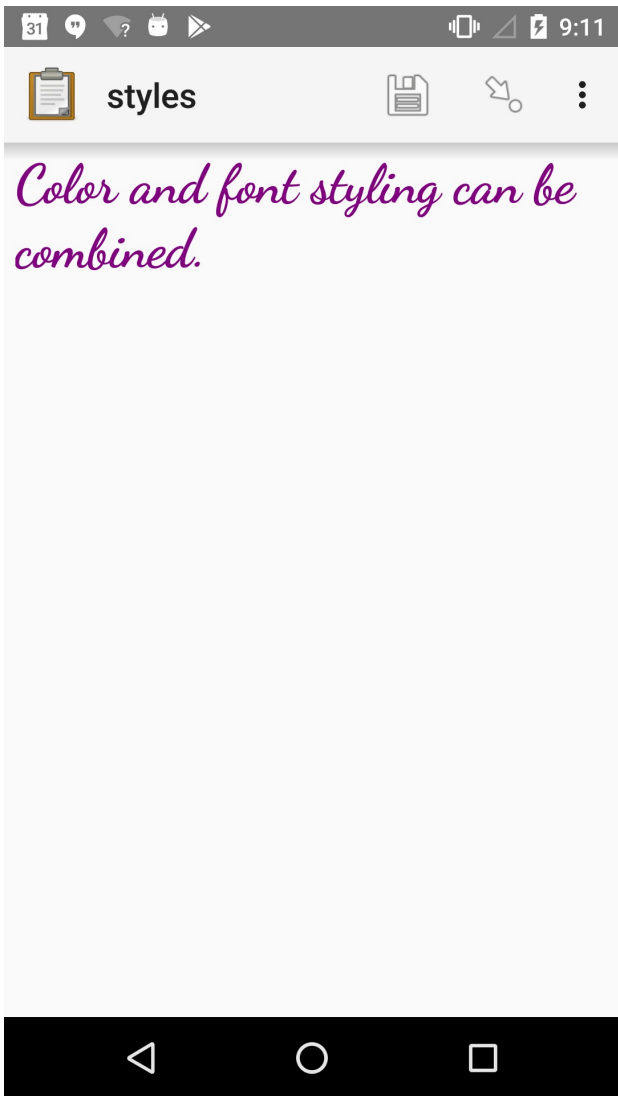


Formatting works on labels for Choices also.

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**





XLSForm

type	name	label
note	red	Going red
note	green	Going green
note	cursive	Cursive text
select_one yn	colored_choices	Formatting works on labels for Choices also.
note	combo	# Color and font styling can be combined.

choices		
list_name	name	label
yn	yes	Yes
yn	no	No

Text alignment

To add alignment to hint, label, and choice labels, use [the style attribute](#) on a `p` or `div` tag.

3:44

textAlignment

Centered label

Centered hint

☐

a

☐

b

☐

c

NEXT >

survey			
type	name	label	hint
select_one options	select_question	<p style="text-align:center">Centered label</p>	<p style="text-align:center">Centered hint</p>

choices		
list_name	name	label
options	a	<p style="text-align:center">a</p>
options	a	<p style="text-align:center">b</p>
options	c	<p style="text-align:center">c</p>

Note

The style will be applied to the list of selected choices and that this might have unexpected results especially if used with a select_multiple question.

Emoji

Emoji can be used in form labels, hints, and answer choices.

[illegible]

XLSForm

survey		
type	name	label
select_one	pain_level	What is your current pain level?

choices		
list_name	name	label
pain	1	
pain	2	😐
pain	3	
pain	4	😞
pain	5	😫
pain	6	😩
pain	7	😓

See also

- [Styling prompts in XLSForm](#)
- [Sample XLSForm with Style](#)