

A key to mTAB Icons

The mTAB Icon structure.

Over the years, we have tried to make mTAB more and more user friendly and have introduced many visual aids within our software to make using it more straightforward. One such addition were colored icons that were added to help differentiate between questions and recodes and also between questions that were consistent over time and those that were not.

We will endeavor to explain the coloring scheme below.

Question Icons:

Within mTAB, questions are generally denoted by an icon showing a Question Mark (?). As has been the case for some years now, if more than one database is compare within mTAB, then the color surrounding the ? will change to Yellow if the response table has change from database to database, or Red if this variable is not available in one the selected databases.







If more than 2 databases are selected, it is possible for a question to be in some of them and but not in all. In this case, instead of the icon being red, we add an additional color to indicate whether the response table has changed across the studies that it is in.



As time has gone on, we have incorporated many new data types in to the mTAB software and we have now assigned a prefix or suffix to the icons to help identify each type.

We begin with the main types of questions that you will see in mTAB.

Question Type	Icon
Multi Response	
Value	
Database Index	
Verbatim	

In addition to these, we also have a data type which we refer to as a Group question. These are normally identified in their question text with a **(G#)** symbol at the end, with the # being a number to denote that this is Group # of many in this database.

Question Type	Icon
Group	

Group questions can be simple Table questions, or can also incorporate any of the question types shown above. To represent these, we place the same suffixes on the group icon as below:



User Defined Variables:

One of mTAB’s greatest strengths is the ability for users to make use of variables that are provided in the basic database, but also to go beyond that by re-aggregating variables, creating clusters or even by creating their own user defined questions.

Recodes are still represented as they have always been, by an **R**.



The icon with the Black R indicates that a recode is permanent, whilst the White R indicates that this is a temporary session recode. Since Recodes can be based on any question in the database, they can be formed from any data type. To accommodate this, we have again used the suffixes and prefixes shown above to indicate the question type.

As with questions above, when more than one database is selected, recodes can sometimes apply to some but not all of them and the response tables may differ across studies. Once again we use the split icons to represent this:



In addition to this, all user defined variables can be owned by an individual user (Private) or can be shared among a group of users (Shared). This we indicate by placing a multiple head symbol at the top right of the icon, giving us:

Recode Type	Icon
Standard Table	
Multi Response	
Value	
Group	
Group Multi Response	
Group Value	
Shared Table	
Shared Multi Response	
Shared Value	
Shared Group	
Shared Group Multi Response	
Shared Group Value	

Clusters can now be created within mTAB and these are denoted by the icon below. Once again the icon can be Red, Yellow or Green to show the status of the question and can be Personal or Shared, indicated by the suffix shown above.



Finally, we have User Defined questions, which now have a new icon. The icon can again be Red, Yellow or Green to show the status of the question and can be Personal or Shared, indicated by the suffix shown above. For User Defined Questions and for Clusters, an Orange version of the icon exists, indicating that the database upon which the question/cluster was defined has been updated and the user needs to check the validity of the definition.

