

Managing Question and Answer Choices 2.0

A key concept in understanding answer choices in AIM Template Builder is the difference between *pre-coordinated* and *post-coordinated terms*.



Understanding Pre- and Post-Coordinated Terms

A *pre-coordinated term* has a single code associated with it. A term may consist of one or more words. A well-defined collection of words represents a concept or thing. For example, RadLex assigns the code RID1276 to the term *left upper lobe bronchus*.

A *post-coordinated term* has two or more codes that represent a collection of concatenated words. It concatenates preexisting terms to create a new concept. The concept is represented by a collection of concatenated codes ordered by when a word appears in the term. For example, *left* and *lung* are preexisting terms. Concatenated, they become *left lung*, to which the National Cancer Thesaurus assigns it two codes, C25229 and C12468.