Grading of Multiple Answer Quiz Questions in Canvas

When Canvas automatically grades Multiple Answer questions created in the Quizzes area, both students and instructors may find the resulting score confusing. Because Canvas grades these questions in a way that is non-intuitive to many, the following explains how Canvas is grading these questions along with some alternatives to using Multiple Answer questions.

Consider the following Multiple Answer question that was created in the Quizzes area. The question was created to be 4 points and the student correctly picked two of the three words that started with D, but also incorrectly chose a word that does not start with D. The student was given a score of 1.33/4.

**How is Canvas scoring this question?** The total number of points assigned to the question (4 in this example) are divided among the number of correct responses (3 in this example). This gives $\frac{4}{3} = 1.33$ points awarded for each correct choice that is selected. Canvas will then deduct 1.33 points for each incorrect choice that is selected. Here the student gets $+1.33$ points for correctly selecting Dog, $-1.33$ points for incorrectly selecting Cat, and $+1.33$ points for correctly selecting Duck. This gives a total of 1.33/4 points.

Another student response is given below for the same question. Here the student gets $-1.33$ points for incorrectly selected Cat and $+1.33$ points for correctly selecting Dolphin, resulting in a total of 0/4. Note that in situations where a problem may have multiple incorrect statements, Canvas is set so that students will not score below a 0.
For Multiple Answer questions created in Quizzes.Next (via the +Quiz/Test button in Assignments), questions are graded as “all or nothing”. If a problem is worth 4 points, the students must get ALL the correct selections to get all 4 points. Otherwise students will score a 0 as shown below.

If an instructor would rather have a question such as the one exhibited here award 1 point for each correct response (i.e., 1 point for each D word that is selected and 1 point for Cat not being selected), then it is recommended the question be done as either Matching or Multiple Dropdown as shown in the two illustrations below.