

Bloom's Taxonomy Action Verbs

Benjamin Bloom created a taxonomy of measurable verbs to help us describe and classify observable knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviors and abilities. The theory is based upon the idea that there are levels of observable actions that indicate something is happening in the brain (cognitive activity.) By creating learning objectives using measurable verbs, you indicate explicitly what the student must do in order to demonstrate learning.

Definitions	Knowledge	Comprehension	Application	Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
Bloom's Definition	Remember previously learned information.	Demonstrate an understanding of the facts.	Apply knowledge to actual situations.	Break down objects or ideas into simpler parts and find evidence to support generalizations.	Compile component ideas into a new whole or propose alternative solutions.	Make and defend judgments based on internal evidence or external criteria.
Verbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange • Define • Describe • Duplicate • Identify • Label • List • Match • Memorize • Name • Order • Outline • Recognize • Relate • Recall • Repeat • Reproduce • Select • State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classify • Convert • Defend • Describe • Discuss • Distinguish • Estimate • Explain • Express • Extend • Generalized • Give example(s) • Identify • Indicate • Infer • Locate • Paraphrase • Predict • Recognize • Rewrite • Review • Select • Summarize • Translate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply • Change • Choose • Compute • Demonstrate • Discover • Dramatize • Employ • Illustrate • Interpret • Manipulate • Modify • Operate • Practice • Predict • Prepare • Produce • Relate • Schedule • Show • Sketch • Solve • Use • Write 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze • Appraise • Breakdown • Calculate • Categorize • Compare • Contrast • Criticize • Diagram • Differentiate • Discriminate • Distinguish • Examine • Experiment • Identify • Illustrate • Infer • Model • Outline • Point out • Question • Relate • Select • Separate • Subdivide • Test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange • Assemble • Categorize • Collect • Combine • Comply • Compose • Construct • Create • Design • Develop • Devise • Explain • Formulate • Generate • Plan • Prepare • Rearrange • Reconstruct • Relate • Reorganize • Revise • Rewrite • Set up • Summarize • Synthesize • Tell • Write 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appraise • Argue • Assess • Attach • Choose • Compare • Conclude • Contrast • Defend • Describe • Discriminate • Estimate • Evaluate • Explain • Judge • Justify • Interpret • Relate • Predict • Rate • Select • Summarize • Support • Value

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Watch Out for Verbs that are not Measurable

In order for an objective to give maximum structure to instruction, it should be free of vague or ambiguous words or phrases. The following lists notoriously ambiguous words or phrases which should be avoided so that the intended outcome is concise and explicit.

WORDS TO AVOID	PHRASES TO AVOID
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Believe</i>• <i>Hear</i>• <i>Realize</i>• <i>Capacity</i>• <i>Intelligence</i>• <i>Recognize</i>• <i>Comprehend</i>• <i>Know</i>• <i>See</i>• <i>Conceptualize</i>• <i>Listen</i>• <i>Self-Actualize</i>• <i>Memorize</i>• <i>Think</i>• <i>Experience</i>• <i>Perceive</i>• <i>Understand</i>• <i>Feel</i>	Evidence a (n): To Become: To Reduce: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Appreciation for</i>• <i>Acquainted with</i>• <i>Adjusted to</i>• <i>Awareness of</i>• <i>Capable of</i>• <i>Comprehension of</i>• <i>Cognizant of</i>• <i>Enjoyment of</i>• <i>Conscious of</i>• <i>Familiar with</i>• <i>Interest in</i>• <i>Interested in</i>• <i>Knowledge of</i>• <i>Knowledgeable about</i>• <i>Understanding of</i>