

Behavioral Verbs for Writing Objectives in the Cognitive,  
Affective and Psychomotor Domains

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Some Verbs for Use in Stating **Cognitive** Outcomes

<u>Knowledge</u>	<u>Comprehension</u>	<u>Application</u>	<u>Analysis</u>	<u>Synthesis</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
define	discuss	compute	distinguish	diagnose	evaluation
list	describe	demonstrate	analyze	propose	compare
recall	explain	illustrate	differentiate	design	assess
name	identify	operate	compare	manage	justify
recognize	translate	perform	contrast	hypothesize	judge
state	restate	interpret	categorize	summarize	appraise
repeat	express	apply	appraise	plan	rate
record	convert	use	classify	formulate	choose
label	estimate	practice	outline	arrange	decide
		predict		organize	

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Some Verbs for Use in Stating **Affective** Outcomes

<u>Receiving</u>	<u>Responding</u>	<u>Valuing</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Value Complex</u>
sit erect	answer	join	adhere	act
reply	greet	share	integrate	practice
accept	read	complete	organize	discriminate
show	report	follow		influence

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Some Verbs for Use in Stating **Psychomotor** Outcomes

<u>Perception</u>	<u>Set</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Mechanism</u>	<u>Complex</u>	<u>Adaptation</u>	<u>Origination</u>
identify	react	display	display	display	adapt	create
detect	respond	manipulate	manipulate	manipulate	revise	compose
differentiate	start	work	work	work	change	arrange
		perform	write	operate		

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**Avoid the following words** that should not be used as cognitive objectives!

Know	Really know	Understand	Appreciate	Become
Learn	Thinks critically	Approach	Improve	Grow
Increase	Expand horizons	Grasp the significance of		