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

Objectives are precise, measurable results that the learner is expected to accomplish

Cognitive verbs

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

Affective verbs

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

Psychomotor verbs

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

Words to AVOID

know	really know	approach	think critically	grasp the significance of
learn	understand	appreciate	expand horizons	expand understanding

Examples

After attending this activity, the participant will demonstrate the ability to:

- Recognize four common causes of shoulder pain
- Compare and contrast several management strategies for patients with chronic shoulder pain
- Describe the current clinical practice for the treatment of metastatic brain tumors in adults
- Evaluate the process of translating laboratory research into clinical trials for patients with malignant gliomas
- Outline current advances in molecular biology, immune therapy, stem cell therapeutics, and drug delivery systems for brain tumors
- Identify challenges caregivers face in caring for patients with brain tumors
- Recognize quality of life issues for patients with brain tumors and the effectiveness of measurement tools.