

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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What is A Learning Objective?

A learning objective is a statement that describes what **students** should know or be able to do or feel, **at the end** of the course (educational activity) that they couldn't do before.

Learning objectives should be

brief,
clear,
specific

statements of what learners will be able to do at the end of a lesson as a result of the activities, teaching and learning that has taken place.

They are sometimes called learning outcomes.

The Learning objective

or objectives that you use can be based on three areas of learning:

Knowledge

Skills

attitudes.

What is the difference between an aim and a learning objective?

- A lesson aim is a very general statement of what the overall goal is in a lesson – the intention behind the teaching.
- The lesson objective/objectives are the measurable stages that a learner will go through and need to achieve in order to achieve the overall goal.
- Aims are like strategy, objective are like tactics

- A learning objective must not include the phrases 'to know' or 'to understand' but instead active verbs such as 'state', 'explain', 'outline', 'list' or 'describe'.
- Avoid using verbs that are difficult to measure objectively.

- The following verbs are difficult to assess and measure and therefore should be used with caution:

- Know
- comprehend
- understand
- appreciate
- familiarize
- study
- be aware

- Learn
- learn
- realize
- become acquainted with
- gain knowledge of
- cover

- Know and understand do not specify any overt 'doing' and although knowing and understanding underpin learning, objectives are always written using active doing verbs.

They are statements of what you want your learners to do and should

- Be stated clearly
- define or describe an action
- Are measurable, in terms of time, space, amount, and/or frequency.
- Be differentiated

Measurable action verbs

- Explain
- Demonstrate
- Analyze
- Formulate
- Discuss
- Compare
- Differentiate
-
- Describe
- Name
- Assess
- Evaluate
- Identify
- Design
- Define
- List

- How can I differentiate my learning objectives and make them more demanding and make sure that they are challenging?

You can make your learning objectives difficult, demanding or challenging by changing the active verb that you use to a more complex, involve higher order thinking; or you can add specific conditions or limits.

- Learning outcomes should use specific language, and should clearly indicate expectations for student performance.

Vague outcome

- By the end of this course, students will have added to their understanding of the complete research process.
- By the end of this course, students will have a deeper appreciation of literature and literary movements in general.