



Verbs in Lesson Planning

Content and language outcomes for ELLs at different language proficiency levels will differ according to the students' proficiency levels. It is important to modify tasks and define student grouping configurations in ways that support the growth of all learners.

One method of ensuring that objectives are measurable and learner-friendly is to use appropriate action verbs. Language objectives should provide students with practice in the four language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

From the following tables below, select verbs for the outcomes column that is left blank. Explain how your choices support the outcomes.

Mathematics

Verbs that describe mathematics outcomes	Verbs that describe language outcomes
Solve	
Compute	
Rank	
Identify	
Graph	
Measure	

Science

Verbs that describe science outcomes	Verbs that describe language outcomes
Apply	
Hypothesize	
Create	
Design	
Categorize	
Select	



Social Studies

Verbs that describe social studies outcomes	Verbs that describe language outcomes
	Retell
	Summarize
	Record
	Read
	Orally explain
	Describe

Using Symbols

Some lessons are suited to the use of symbols in place of words to indicate the meaning of the actions that verbs are intended to convey. Think of a content area you teach, or plan to teach, and make a list of at least five pictures of symbols you would use in a sheltered instruction classroom in place of action verbs.

Example:  = discuss

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____