

Verb Choice

Published 11/9/2020 by [Anh Lam](#)

The choice of verb will determine the quality of a Learning Outcome. Avoid using verbs that are passive, internal, or otherwise unobservable (Potter & Kustra, 2012), known as the “sinister sixteen”:

Understand

Appreciate

Comprehend

Grasp

Know

See

Accept

Have a knowledge of

Be aware of

Be conscious of

Learn

Perceive

Value

Get

Apprehend

Be familiar with

Bloom’s Taxonomy is often used as a resource to select suitable verbs. See the next section for more information.

Examples of more suitable verbs to use are indicated in the table below, adapted from table 5.1 from Anderson and Krathwohl (2001).

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Recognize	Interpret	Convert	Differentiate	Check	Generate
Recall	Illustrate	Implement	Organize	Critique	Plan

Identify	Classify	Demonstrate	Attribute	Assess	Produce
Define	Summarize	Discuss	Select	Argue	Assemble
List	Represent	Employ	Appraise	Judge	Prepare
Label	Compare	Relate	Compare	Convince	Propose
Arrange	Explain	Experiment	Distinguish	Conclude	Design

tags : bloom's-taxonomy, learning-outcomes, learning-outcomes-at-seneca, teaching-and-learning, teaching-and-learning-centre