

Verbs OF THE PSYCHOMOTOR DOMAIN

A companion resource to the book **Design to Engage** by Beth Cougler Blom.

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The researchers who generated classifications for the cognitive and affective learning domains in the 1950s mentioned the psychomotor domain but did not produce a classification for one. A number of different psychomotor domain classifications emerged later from researchers such as Simpson (1971) and Harrow (1972).

This chart features Simpson's classification and potential verbs gleaned from both Simpson's and Harrow's work. These verbs are only a selection and by no means a complete representation of all the possible verbs in the psychomotor domain. Use the descriptions within the classification to guide you in choosing verbs related to your subject matter.

	PERCEPTION	SET	GUIDED RESPONSE	MECHANISM	COMPLEX OVERT RESPONSE
SUBCATEGORIES	Sensory stimulation <i>Learner is aware of a stimulus' impact on their senses (auditory, visual, tactile, taste, smell, kinesthetic)</i>	Mental set <i>Learner is mentally ready to perform action</i>	Imitation <i>Learner imitates another person performing action</i>	Mechanism <i>Actions have become habitual for learner</i> <i>Learner has confidence and a degree of skill in performing action</i>	Resolution of uncertainty <i>Learner performs act without hesitation and proceeds with confidence</i>
	Cue selection <i>Learner decides what cues to respond to</i>	Physical set <i>Learner is physically ready to perform action</i>	Trial and error <i>Learner tries various actions until the proper action is selected</i>		Automatic performance <i>Learner has a great deal of ease and muscle control</i>
	Translation <i>Learner determines the meaning of cues in preparation for action</i>	Emotional set <i>Learner has the attitudes in place to perform action</i>			

**POTENTIAL
VERBS ACROSS
THE DOMAIN**

Adjust, bend, catch, clean, climb, cut, dance, feel, grasp, grip, handle, hear, hop, imitate, jump, lift, manipulate, mix, move, perform, pose, position, pull, push, roll, run, see, sense, slide, smell, stand, stoop, stretch, sway, swim, swing, taste, touch, try, twist, walk, wrestle

Harrow, Anita J. 1972. *A Taxonomy of the Psychomotor Domain: A Guide for Developing Behavioral Objectives*. Longman Inc., New York.

Simpson, Elizabeth. Educational Objectives in the Psychomotor Domain. In Kapfer, Miriam B., *Behavioral Objectives in Curriculum Development: Selected readings and bibliography*. Educational Technology Publications, 1971.

