

Objectives Written According to Mager's Format

Mager's behavioral objectives have three parts:

1. An observable behavior
2. The conditions under which the behavior will occur
3. Criteria for acceptable performance

Examples of objectives written according to Mager's format are listed in the following Table

Objective	Condition	Performance	Criteria
Given a list of sentences, the student will identify the adjective in each	given a list of sentences	identify	each
Given 10 problems involving subtraction with regrouping, the student will correctly solve 7.	given 10 problems	solve	7 of 10
Given a ruler and compass, the student will construct the bisector of an angle to within 1 ⁰	given a ruler and compass	construct	within 1 ⁰

Gronlund's Objectives

Gronlund's objectives, in contrast with Mager's, don't include conditions and criteria. These two components "are especially useful for programmed instruction and for mastery testing in simple training programs. When used for regular classroom instruction, however, they result in long cumbersome lists that restrict the freedom of the teacher" (Gronlund, 1995, p. 10). Experience supports Gronlund's position. Teachers rarely specify conditions and criteria in their objectives, although thinking about them can help teachers design effective assessments. Mager's work is significant because of its historical impact, but most curriculum materials now use Gronlund's approach or a modification of it.

Examples written according to Gronlund's format are illustrated in the following table.

General Objective	Specific learning outcome
Understands concepts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Writes definitions of concepts 1. Identifies examples of concepts 2. Generates examples of concepts 3. Identifies coordinate concepts
Solves problems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifies information relevant to the problem 2. Describes problem qualitatively 3. Translates qualitative description into numerical symbols 4. Estimates answer 5. Generates solution to problem