

Apply

Primary cognitive verb toolkit

What is applying?

To apply is to use knowledge and understanding in a situation, whether familiar or unfamiliar. When applying knowledge and understanding, it often helps to recall previous experiences in which a method, theory or formula was useful. For example, a student who has learnt how to find the perimeter of a shape in theory could apply this knowledge to calculate the materials needed to install a fence.

This term is described in the notes section of the standard elaborations:

Term	Description
apply	use or employ in a particular situation

Cognitive verb use in the Australian Curriculum

The cognitive verb apply appears in various learning area achievement standards and content descriptions in the Australian Curriculum. The table below shows the use of apply across the whole Australian Curriculum.

Apply in the Australian Curriculum achievement standards (AS) and content descriptions (CD)																
Year level	English	Health and Physical Education	HASS	History	Geography	Civics and Citizenship	Economics and Business	Mathematics	Science	Design and Technologies	Digital Technologies	Dance	Drama	Media Arts	Music	Visual Arts
Prep																
Year 1		AS														
Year 2		AS														
Year 3	CD	AS CD						CD			CD					
Year 4		AS CD						CD	AS		CD					
Year 5	CD	AS CD					AS	CD	CD	CD	CD					CD
Year 6	CD	AS CD					AS	CD	CD	CD	CD					CD

Cognitive process

The cognitive verb apply is part of the analysis category of cognitive process.

Cognitive skills to help apply are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• determine• identify• use.	Cognitive skills that follow apply are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• appraise• evaluate• justify.
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Learning area/subject examples include, but are not limited to:

Year level	Learning area	Achievement standard	Content description
Year 1	Health and Physical Education	Students select and apply strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe and are able to ask for help with tasks or problems.	
Year 3	English		Understand how to apply knowledge of letter-sound relationships, syllables and blending and segmenting to fluently read and write multisyllabic words with more complex letter patterns (ACELA1826)
Year 4	Mathematics		Apply place value to partition, rearrange and regroup numbers to at least tens of thousands to assist calculations and solve problems (ACMNA073)
Year 5	Science		Identify, plan and apply the elements of scientific investigations to answer and solve problems using equipment and materials safely and identifying potential risks (AC SIS086)
Year 6	Digital Technologies		Plan, create and communicate ideas and information, including collaboratively online, applying agreed ethical, social and technical protocols (ACTDIP022)

More information

This factsheet is part of a suite of resources to support teachers in the explicit teaching and assessment of students' thinking. The suite of resources includes cognitive verb overviews, cognitive verb year-level overviews and categories of common cognitive verbs. The cognitive verbs are categorised using Marzano and Kendall's (2007) four levels of cognitive process: retrieval, comprehension, analysis and knowledge utilisation.

The suite of resources can be found here: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/aciq/frequently-used-resources/cognitive-verbs.

Reference: Marzano, R & Kendall, J 2007, *The New Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*, Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, CA.