

Categories of common cognitive verbs

Australian Curriculum Version 9.0: Prep to Year 10

The table below shows common cognitive verbs across the Australian Curriculum learning areas. The cognitive verbs are categorised using Marzano and Kendall's (2007) four elements of the cognitive system: retrieval, comprehension, analysis and knowledge utilisation.

	Retrieval	Comprehension	Analysis	Knowledge utilisation
Category description	'Activation and transfer of knowledge from permanent memory to working memory' (p. 37)	Storage of 'the critical features of information in permanent memory' (p. 40)	'Generation of new information not already possessed by the individual' (p. 44)	Use of knowledge processes 'to accomplish a specific task' (p. 51)
Related processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognising recalling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> integrating symbolising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> matching classifying analysing errors generalising specifying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> decision-making problem-solving experimenting investigating
Examples of common cognitive verbs	demonstrate identify recognise select use	communicate comprehend describe explain model represent understand	analyse apply classify compare connect consider examine generalise identify infer interpret reflect on	create conduct decide determine develop discuss elaborate evaluate investigate justify predict propose solve synthesise

Note: Learning area and subject-specific terminology has not been included.

Senior syllabuses also draw upon the four processes presented in table above. *Categories of cognitive verbs* — a senior syllabus implementation resource — uses an adapted model combining Retrieval & Comprehension.

Reference

Marzano, R & Kendall, J 2007, *The New Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*, Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, CA, pp. 35–51.

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