

CREATING LANGUAGE OBJECTIVES



Below are six strategies (Short et al., 2012) you can use when creating language objectives. Read the strategies and specific questions to consider. Then, answer the question on the next page.

	Strategy	Specific Question to Ask Yourself
1	Consider what key vocabulary, concept words, and other academic words students need to know in order to talk, read, and write about the topic of the lesson.	Will students use discipline-specific terms (e.g., ecosystem, photosynthesis) and academic language used in multiple disciplines (e.g., distribution, process) in class? Practice identifying and using these terms in original sentences would be appropriate language objectives.
2	Consider the language functions related to the topic of the lesson	Will the students describe, explain, compare, or chart information? These functional uses of language can be language objectives for lessons. (See the Ohio English Language Proficiency standards for examples of these functions for all English proficiency levels, grade-level clusters, and disciplines.)
3	Think about the language skills necessary for students to accomplish the lesson's activities.	Will the students be reading a textbook passage to identify life stages of a frog? Finding specific information while reading might be the language objective here.
4	Identify grammar or language structures common to the content area.	Many history classes compare and contrast styles of governance. Using comparative phrases or a Venn Diagram might be a language objective.
5	Consider the tasks that the students will complete and the language that will be embedded in those assignments.	If students are working on a scientific investigation together, will they need to explain the steps of the procedure to one another? The language objective might focus on how to explain procedures aloud.
6	Explore language learning strategies that lend themselves to the topic of the lesson.	If the class is starting a new unit, previewing a new textbook chapter as a pre-reading activity might be an appropriate language objective.

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Using what you know about creating strong learning objectives (e.g., they are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound), create a language objective for a task you use in your classroom. Some commonly used verbs for language objectives include *record*, *write*, *define*, *use*, *read*, *create*, *report*, *describe*, and *explain*.