Bloom's Taxonomy and Learning Objectives

Bloom's Taxonomy is a classification of the different objectives that educators set for its students. It divides the objectives into 3 levels of learning: Cognitive, Affective and Psychomotor. These levels are further divided into 6 categories: Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Evaluation and Synthesis.

One of the goals of Bloom's Taxonomy is to encourage educators to incorporate all 3 levels into their courses, creating a more holistic form of education. Bloom's uses verbs rather than nouns to describe the objectives and the verbs are intended to be feasible and measurable. Depending on the verb the educator must identify the best learning strategy to aid the student in reaching the objective.

Example

You are a student that is enrolled in a French Cooking course. Your goal for the course is to learn to cook French meals. Let's look a few possible learning objectives. Upon completion of this French Cooking Course you will be able to:

- Describe a French recipe
- Write a French recipe

As a learner, do you think this course will ensure you reach your goal? Probably not. Why not? Because the course is offering cognitive (Level 1) understanding but the learning objectives don't include application (Level 2). So what if we add:

- Prepare a French recipe

How about now? We are getting closer. You definitely want to prepare a French recipe in the course, but we are still missing a vital component of a course like this:

- Create a French recipe of your own
- Evaluate the 3 key qualities found in French cuisine

Now this is a course that can help you reach your goal. Upon completion you should be able to understand how to cook French cuisine (cognitive), be prepared to cook French cuisine (affective) and have the tools to assess the quality of the food you prepare (psychomotor).

The 6 Categories of Bloom's Taxonomy

Knowledge	Comprehension	Application
Memory of learned materials.	Demonstrate understanding of facts and ideas.	Using acquired knowledge to solve problems in new situations.

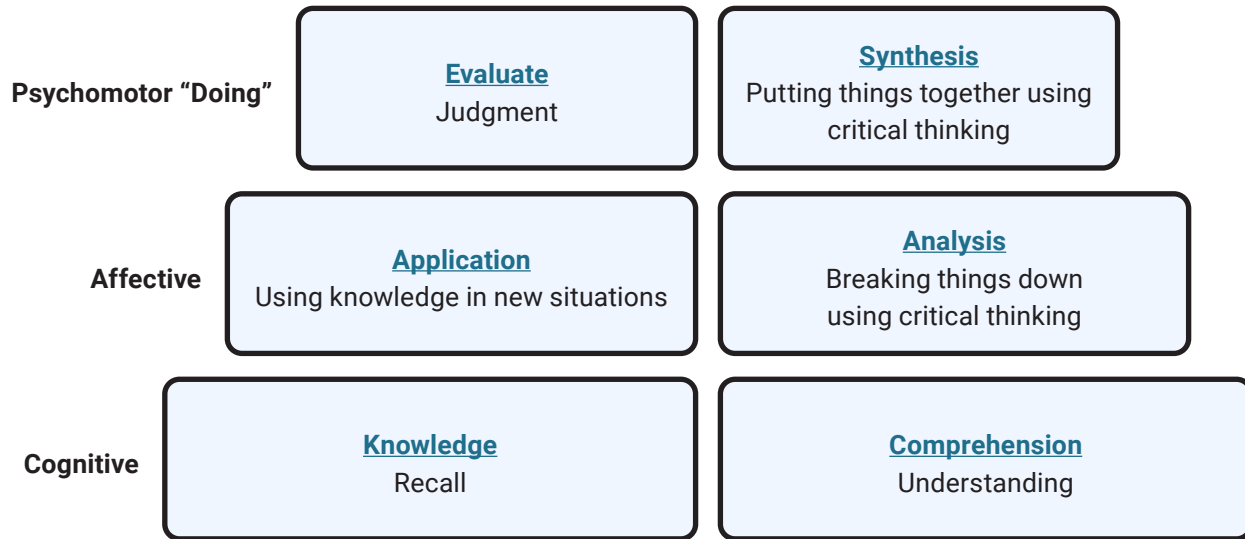| Analysis	Evaluation	Synthesis
Examine and breaking information into parts by identifying motives and causes.	Present and defend opinions by making judgments.	Compile the information in new ways or proposing alternative solutions.

Bloom's Taxonomy Classification of Learning Objectives

Psychomotor "Doing"	**Evaluate** Judgment	**Synthesis** Putting things together using critical thinking
Affective	**Application** Using knowledge in new situations	**Analysis** Breaking things down using critical thinking
Cognitive	**Knowledge** Recall	**Comprehension** Understanding

Cognitive learning is an important foundation. For higher levels of performance, the learning objectives should incorporate all 3 levels.

Bloom's Taxonomy Verbs

Using verbs aligned with Bloom's Taxonomy insures that the student's thinking progresses to the higher levels.

Knowledge	Comprehend	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Synthesize
• Count	• Classify	• Act	• Break down	• Assess	• Adapt
• Define	• Explain	• Choose	• Classify	• Compare & Contrast	• Construct
• Describe	• Interpret	• Demonstrate	• Differentiate	• Interpret	• Design
• Identify	• Summarize	• Develop	• Correlate	• Predict	• Facilitate
• Recall	• Understand	• Implement	• Diagram	• Support	• Modify
• Select	• Illustrate	• Utilize	• Prioritize		• Revise