

ELEMENT 5

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DIFFERENTIATING A TEACHING OBJECTIVE FROM A LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Objective

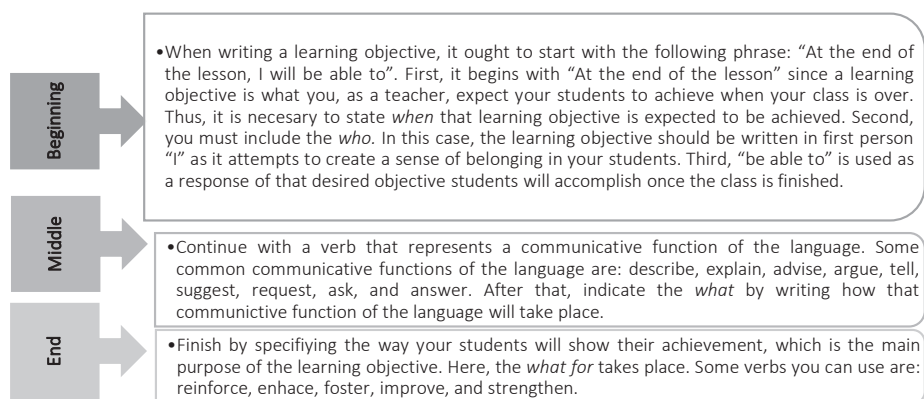
To differentiate teaching from learning objectives.

Type of Objectives

In educational settings, once you have identified students', teachers', and institutional context's needs, as well as the social factors that might influence learning, establishing an objective becomes a fundamental task. The objective provides purpose and direction toward achieving any goal. Throughout our teaching experiences, we have noticed that pre-service teachers struggle when it comes to writing an objective for their lesson plans and constructing their own materials. One of the issues is misunderstanding the differences between a teaching and learning objective. These are two distinct processes that need to be clearly understood, so that pre-service teachers successfully write a clear objective in their future academic tasks. In this manner, it is vital to define these two concepts separately to walk on solid ground and avoid confusion when referring to them in academic settings. Hence, this is our understanding of what a teaching objective and a learning objective are.

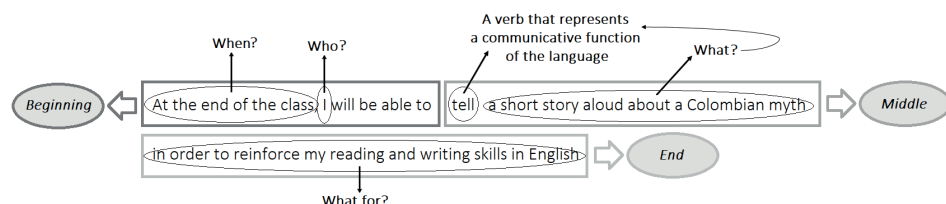
Learning Objective

On the one hand, a learning objective refers to what teachers expect students to learn. In other words, a learning objective is related to a desirable outcome that a teacher has for his or her students to accomplish in the class. When writing a learning objective, bear in mind the following structure:



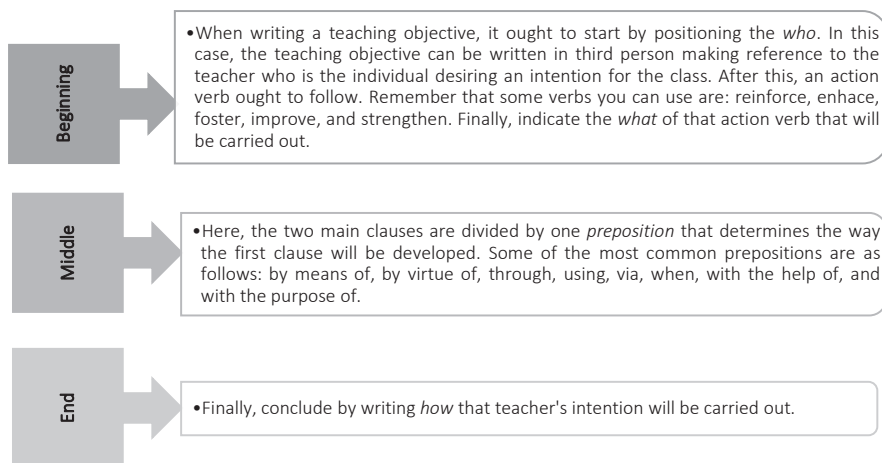
1. Look at the following example of a Learning Objective and its essential parts.

Learning Objective: At the end of the class, I will be able to tell a short story aloud about a Colombian myth in order to reinforce my pronunciation in English.



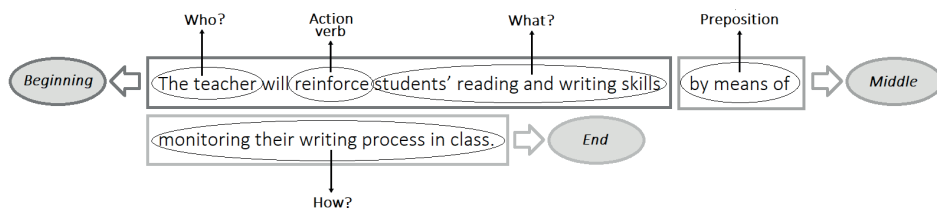
Teaching Objective

On the other hand, teaching refers to the process of constructing knowledge among individuals. Consequently, this reciprocal process of helping each other academically is mediated by teachers who contribute to their students' current and future lives. In this sense, a teaching objective is more closely related to the purpose teachers have towards their intentions regarding a class, as shown in the following structure.



2. Look at the following example of a Teaching Objective and its essential parts:

Teaching Objective: The teacher will reinforce students' reading and writing skills by means of monitoring their writing process in class.



- Please note that a teaching objective is directed toward the main intention that teachers have for their classes.
- Additionally, a teaching objective also follows the same structure as a learning objective; however, the difference is where the clauses are positioned.

3. In your own words, answer the following question: How would you define a teaching objective and a learning objective?

I think I could define a learning objective as ...

I think I could define a teaching objective as ...



4. Read the examples below. Then, find the mistakes in the following objectives and rewrite them correctly. Afterward, classify the objective into a teaching objective (TO) or a learning objective (LO) by crossing out the corresponding item in the chart. Finally, compare your answers with a classmate.

Example:

At the end of the lesson, my students could tell a short letter about what they did in their last vacation.

At the end of the lesson, I **will be able to write a short letter about what I did in my last vacation.**

(TO)

(LO)

- A. I will reinforce students' speaking skill by creating awareness about the importance of caring for the environment.

(TO)

(LO)

- B. My students will be able to understand the three different pronunciations of the ED ending through a short conversation in past tense.

(TO)

(LO)

- C. The teacher will strengthen students' speaking skill by presenting an explanatory video about ED pronunciation.

(TO)

(LO)

- D. At the end of the lesson, they will be able to debate the pros and cons of environmental problems through a mind map they will create about the importance of caring for the environment.

(TO)

(LO)

5. Write a learning objective and a teaching objective based on the following school context:

School Context	Learning Objective	Teaching Objective
•Urban High School. •Seventh graders. •Thirty-three students. •English class. •The skill students are going to practice is speaking. •The topic you are working on this week is: "My plans for my next vacation".	• _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	• _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

6. Now, think about a real school context you are familiar with and write it down in the first chart. For a moment, imagine you work at this institution, and you are about to plan your upcoming English lessons. Thus, select a main topic to work with and the language skills you want to foster. Finally, write your teaching objective and learning objective in the second and third charts, respectively.

Context	
Learning objective	
Teaching objective	