



Cambridge
PROGRESSION

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**OCR Cambridge Award/
Certificate in Maths**

Progression
towards Proficiency

**COMMAND
VERBS (MATHS)**

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OCR 

COMMAND VERBS

We recognise that as a practitioner you will have a lot of teaching experience, however, you may find it useful to share these command verb meanings and examples with your learners.

The purpose of this guide is to give a definition of the command verbs used in the Cambridge Progression qualifications.

For the most frequently used command verbs, we have given you examples of how these verbs could be used about a chair.

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Command verb	Meaning	Examples A chair
Add	Find the total	
Apply	Put into operation or use. Use relevant skills/knowledge/ understanding appropriate to context	
Approximate	Round, give an rough answer to, or estimate	
Arrange	Put in order	
Calculate	Generate a numerical answer, with workings shown	Four chairs would be suitable for the size of table we have. The table is 130cm wide and a chair is 45cm wide, therefore 2 chairs can be fitted on each side of the table ($2 \times 45 = 90\text{cm}$, allowing $130 - 90 = 40\text{cm}$ space between the chairs).
Check	Test for accuracy and correctness	

Command verb	Meaning	Examples A chair
Compare	Identify similarities and differences	<p>This chair has four legs, a seat and a back rest. The other chair I am considering has three legs, a seat and a back rest. Both are made from wood however the type of wood is different. This has made a considerable difference to the weight of the chair and I would have to bear this in mind for things like ease of positioning and cleaning. The three legged chair looks very contemporary whilst the four legged chair is more traditional. Both are fit for purpose and would suit the size and style of table.</p> <p>The biggest difference between the chairs is cost. The three legged chair costs considerably more than the four legged chair and bearing in mind I would need four chairs, cost could be a deciding factor.</p>
Complete	Insert the information required	
Construct	Draw accurately or to build	
Convert	Change between (usually between units of measurement)	
Count	To say numbers one after the other in order, or to calculate the number of people or items in a group	
Decrease	Reduce in size or number	
Describe	Give an account, including all the relevant characteristics, qualities, or events	A chair may comprise of a seat, a back rest and is supported by legs. The legs are positioned so as to balance the chair. There are many different styles of chair.
Differentiate	Find the difference between or compare	
Distinguish (between)	Find the difference between or compare	
Divide	Inverse of multiply	
Draw	Construct or sketch	
Estimate	Assign an approximate value	
Express	Write down	
Extract	Draw out	
Find	Look for and identify	
Identify	Recognise, list, name or otherwise characterise and select/write down	The object in the middle with four legs, a seat and a back is a chair.
Interpret	Interpret a graph or a table, read and explain.	
Label	Add specific names or details to a diagram/graph/map as featured in the question	
List	Provide a number of items with no elaboration	
Match	Group according to a criteria	

Command verb	Meaning	Examples A chair
Measure	Establish a value in length, weight or capacity using a suitable measuring instrument	
Multiply	Proportion or multiple (often thought of as repeated addition)	
Order	List according to a criteria, in increasing or decreasing size	
Perform	Present, enact	
Place	Put/position	
Present	Produce an exposition/resumé for an audience, eg at the conclusion of the project to demonstrate what has been done and the outcome	
Read	Identify information	
Record	Write down	
Round	Approximate to a given level of accuracy	
Select	Carefully choose as being the most suitable for a task or purpose	
Simplify	Write as simply as possible	
Solve	Find the value(s) which make an equation correct	
Sort	Group or put in order	
State	Express in precise terms, express in unequivocal terms	
Subtract	Take away/find difference between	
Systematically Tabulate	List in order	
Translate	To move according to an instruction while preserving shape and size	
Use	Apply the information provided or apply prior learning. To put into service or action. Employ for a given purpose	A chair has many uses and different chairs could have specific uses.
Write	Use symbols to express	

HOW TO GET STARTED

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