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## Selecting Action Words

It can be challenging to find the active word most suitable for the Objective Statement. Here are two clear steps to make this process easier.

- (1) **Select an Action Word that implies a clear and finite outcome.**
- (2) **Select an Action Word that relates to a basic need.**

### Additional Weak vs. Strong Choices

#### Weak

To exonerate

To mock

To yell

To crave

#### Strong

To free

To improve

To intimidate

To acquire

The first step, **select an Action Word that implies a clear and finite outcome**, refers to using words that point the action toward something that can be completed. For example the words: *acquire*, *seduce*, *guard*, *possess*, *solve*, *create*, *master*, and *liberate* all imply a victory within the very word choice. Won't you know when you have successfully guarded, acquired, possessed, mastered, or created something? The outcome of *seduction* is obvious, and when one liberates or solves something, there is a clearly implied ending to the action. However, other word choices may not imply a clear ending or they may indicate infinite actions, such as *tantalize*, *bluff*, *grope*, *joke*, *mock*, *nurture*, *needle*, and *try*. How do you know if you have gained something specific from a given situation by bluffing, joking, mocking, or nurturing? When wording an objective, your strongest choice for an Action Word is one that helps you see the potential for an ending to the action—a victory.

The second step in selecting an Action Word for your objective is to **(2) select an Action Word that relates to a basic need**. Since you already rooted your objective in a basic human need, keep going with this clear analytical process by matching a word that complements the need. If your basic need is the Body need sex, then a strong word match for this action is *to seduce*. However if your need is the Ego need recognition, then actions like *to prevail*, *to claim*, *to convince*, and *to exploit* would make excellent choices.

## **Types of Words to Avoid**

Steer clear of words that are highly intellectual, emotional, or existential. Keep your word choices simple and easy to understand. If the word is too

intellectual like, *to ruminare*, *to exonerate*, *to cogitate*, and so on, you could end up caught in a net of semantic deciphering, rather than simply applying a strong action. Don't try to apply emotional content to the objective with such actions as *to yell*, *to joke*, *to envy*, etc. This will limit your objective to one emotional tone or delivery. Later on in the script analysis, you will apply plenty of emotionally colorful words, or Emotion Tactics, that will guide your delivery. However, they do not belong in the overall objective. As noted previously, the use of *to be* is not advisable, as it comes across more existential in your interpretation, prompting the actor to internalize the objective inside his head. Other such existential words to avoid are *to wish*, *to want*, *to dream*, *to crave*, etc. None of these words prompt outward action, and instead merely focus on a need or desire without a clear way of getting it.

## Action Words and Basic Needs

The following are eight basic human needs matched with Action Words that imply clear outcomes. Many of the words can be easily interchanged from one need to the next, so there is some repetition from list to list. The categorizing is meant as a general guide to help simplify the Action Word selection process. Do not consider these lists as ironclad boundaries or rules, but as supportive groupings. Refer to these words as a beginning guide for creating your Objective Statements.

### **Body Needs**

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To climax	To rejuvenate
To comfort	To repair
To cool	To satiate
To dry	To satisfy
To find	To seduce
To get	To take
To heal	To warm
To quench	

## **Security Needs**

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To avenge

To break

To capture

To cast off

To confront

To conquer

To escape

To establish

To guard

To hold

*The book continues to provide more samples and their application to objectives...*