

# AGO: Aims, Goals, Objectives

In some situations, it is more appropriate to speak of aims, in other circumstances or goals, and in yet others of objectives. The main point of the lesson is to introduce and emphasise the idea of purpose. No attempt should be made to bring out the philosophical differences between these since this usually confuses students.





This notion of purpose broadens the perception of a situation. The AGO is a device to get students to focus directly and deliberately on the intention behind actions. What is the actor aiming for? What is trying to be achieved? What does the actor want to bring about? What are the actor's objectives? What are the actor's goals?

Being able to define objectives helps the student's thinking in such areas as decision, planning, and action of any kind which has a purpose.

It is enough for the teacher to say that in some cases the word aim is more appropriate and in other cases goals or objectives. If pressed, teachers can make the distinction as follows:

- aim is the general direction
- goal is an ultimate destination
- objective is a recognisable point of achievement along the way

Teachers are strongly advised to concentrate on the general idea of "purpose" and not to make the distinction without a sense of purpose, all actions are either reactions to a situation or matters of habit or imitation. The intention of the lesson is to focus attention directly on purpose as distinct from reaction.

  **AGO = Aims, Goals, Objectives:**  

You can do something out of habit, because everyone else is doing it, or as a reaction to a situation. These are all 'because' reasons. But there are times when you do something 'in order to' achieve some purpose of objective. It can help your thinking if you know exactly what you are trying to achieve. It can also help you to understand other people's thinking if you can see their objectives.