Before we get started, it is important to understand the relationship between assessment questions and learning objectives.

Each learning objective in an adaptive course needs some form of assessment to gauge whether learners have mastered content.

Reviewing Learning Objectives and Assessments

Learning Objective

- Detailed and concrete descriptions of what the learner will do
- Learners should easily understand the objective

Assessment

- Designed to assess learner understanding of the content
- Should be concrete and specific

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A good LO will be concrete and actionable. When you write the assessment question, you want to make sure that your probe is actually testing the LO that has been written.

If you find that your assessment does not assess the current LO, you either need to adjust your probe, or adjust your LO.

Aligning Assessments and Learning Objectives

Learning objective

Assessment

An assessment question is aligned with a learning objective (LO) if it tests whether or not the learner has actually mastered the LO.

Pay careful attention to the **action verb** in the learning objective. The action requested of learners

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For the well-aligned example, Notice that the learner must not only know what makes a password strong, s/he must apply that knowledge to the provided examples and sort them according to how strong they are.

If the student can successfully complete this task, they have demonstrated mastery of the learning objective.

Example of Strong LO/Assessment Alignment

Learning Objective: Evaluate the strength of a password

Rank the following passwords from least secure (at the bottom) to most secure (at the top).

ReadyS3tGo!

car

mango23

987654

While this is a valid probe, and it is certainly related to the learning objective, it is not actually *aligned*. Correctly completing this assessment question indicates a knowledge of the elements of a strong password, but not necessarily the application of that knowledge.

If I wanted to use this assessment, I might rewrite the LO to say "Identify the components of a strong password" so that my probe was testing what the LO actually indicates.

Example of Poor LO/Assessment Alignment

Learning Objective: Evaluate the strength of a password

Which of the following are elements of a strong password?

Upper & lower case letters

Numbers & symbols

Names & dates with personal significance

Usernames