

Objectives in Acting

Objectives are WANTS of a character. The Obstacle is what stops the character from getting what they want.

WANTS are:

- what create drama
- what give life to the character
- what the waking individual is never without
- perpetual
- what cause action
- what creates CONFLICT

Wants are the very energy of human life and is the aspect to character the actor must give their utmost attention. The actor discovers the wants. Everything else is a condition – in response to the want.

The wants are the “golden key” to understanding character.

To “act” is a verb (an action). The wants must be seen as verbs (actions). For example, if Sally wants a new car (a noun, not a verb) the actor considers how to approach this as an action. Perhaps Sally *wants to impress* her friend, or Sally *wants to convince* her father of her success. This understanding of character provides the actor with a direction and gives meaning to the behavior.

Obstacles may be physical, emotional, intellectual, or spiritual.

State the objective as:

“I want to _____ (verb)”

Change nouns into verbs:

I want a *motorboat*.

Change to ---- I want to EARN enough for a motorboat.

I want a *wife*.

Change to ---- I want to WIN Gloria’s heart.

I want *peace*.

Change to ----- I want to ELIMINATE distraction in my life.

I want *attention*.

Change to ----- I want to FASCINATE everyone.

I want *order*.

Change to ---- I want to ORGANIZE this mess.

Or change adjectives into verbs:

I am *angry* with her.

Change to ---- I want to DESTROY her.

I am *nervous*.

Change to --- I want to FOCUS my attention.

I am *frustrated*.

Change to --- I want to FIND a way out.

I am in *love*.

Change to ---- I want to TAKE CARE of her forever.

I am being *charming*.

Change to --- I want to DAZZLE the guests.

I am *confused*.

Change to --- I want to FIGURE OUT a solution.

I am *giddy*.

Change to --- I want to CONTAIN my rapture.

I am *drunk*.

Change to --- I want to PRESERVE business as usual.

I am *arrogant*.

Change to --- I want to BELITTLE him.

Common Verbs for Acting

I want to CONVINCE

I want to ENCOURAGE

I want to PREPARE

I want to ENLIGHTEN

I want to ANNIHILATE

I want to GET EVEN

I want to OVERWHELM

I want to REASSURE

I want to BOMBARD

I want to SUPPRESS

I want to BELITTLE

I want to LAMBAST

I want to HELP

I want to SEDUCE

I want to IGNITE

I want to BUILD

I want to HURT

I want to AWAKEN

I want to MOCK

I want to CRUSH

I want to INSPIRE

I want to DESTROY

I want to INCITE

I want to TEASE