

# RHS Level 2 Command Words – Cheat Sheet

Command words tell you exactly how the examiner wants you to answer. If you miss them, you lose marks, even when your plant knowledge is sound. This cheat sheet is designed to sit beside you while you practice questions, so you can check what each command word is really asking for before you write.

## Define

- Give the meaning of a term
- Clear and precise
- No examples unless asked

*Marks tip: Vague wording loses marks.*

## Describe

- Give key features or characteristics
- Say what something is like
- No reasons required

*Marks tip: One clear feature usually gains one mark.*

## Explain

- Give reasons
- Show why or how something happens
- Link cause to effect

*Marks tip: Statements without reasons limit marks.*

## State

- Give a brief factual answer
- One word or short phrase

*Marks tip: Do not add explanation.*

## List

- Give several items
- No description or detail

*Marks tip: Bullet points work best.*

## Identify

- Name or recognise something
- Often linked to an image or scenario

*Marks tip: Correct identification only.*

## Name

- Provide the correct term or plant name

*Marks tip: One clear answer is enough.*

## Give

- Provide a fact, feature, or example

*Marks tip: Slightly broader than state, but still brief.*

## Outline

- Give the main points
- Some detail, not full explanation

*Marks tip: Short sentences are ideal.*

## Compare

- Show similarities and differences
- Deal with both items

*Marks tip: Use comparative words such as both, whereas, however.*

## Distinguish between

- Focus on differences only
- Usually between two items

*Marks tip: One difference per mark.*

## Describe how

- Explain a process or sequence
- Step-by-step approach

*Marks tip: Logical order matters.*

## Suggest

- Apply knowledge to a given situation
- More than one answer may be correct

*Marks tip: Answers must be sensible and horticulturally sound.*

**Exam reminder:** Marks are awarded for answering the command word, not for writing everything you know.