



## Using Action Verbs

Welcome to Digimar videos!

In this video, we will demonstrate the use of specific verbs, so called action verbs in VHF communication. After watching this video, you will understand the importance of using action verbs in VHF communication to ensure clarity and avoid misunderstandings.

This video uses examples from real-life scenarios. They may have been kept in their authentic form to support learning, even when they include mistakes or deviate from maritime communication standards.

### What are action verbs?

VTS operators often require ships to do activities. So, for example, they tell ships to *anchor* or to *berth*, advise them to *reduce* speed, ask them to *report*, or *switch* to another channel.

In doing so, they use the so-called action verbs, verbs that express something that a person can do rather than expressing a state.

Why is it important to use action verbs? Well, these verbs make the statements more concise and clearer to the listener. Thus, your statements are more direct and easier to understand.

### Action verbs – requesting

Very often, VTS operators need to get information from ships. Take a look at the following example and try to identify the action verbs used by VTS operators.

VESSEL	VTS
My cargo on board is MTBE.	MTBE. Request. <b>Give</b> me quantity of cargo.

The action verb used here is give.

Let's listen to another example.

VESSEL	VTS
Good evening, sir. We have the order to proceed for the next port. Can I heave up my anchor?	Yes, you have the permission. Once your anchor is up, <b>report</b> to us back the time and that's it.

The action verb used here is report.

Try to identify action verbs in this conversation.



VESSEL	VTS
ETA to Greyhaven Pilot is zero five zero zero. Over.	Vessel, thank you for your call. Request. <b>Contact</b> Greyhaven Traffic one, one and a half hour before arrival for berthing prospects, channel zero-nine. <b>Stand by</b> on one four one six. Have a good watch. VTS Station out.

The action verbs used here are contact and keep watch.

Here are some more examples.

VESSEL	VTS
	Good morning, Captain. Request. <b>Report</b> your last port and next port.
Yes, good day, sir. We are starting bunkers one three zero zero local time. Before starting, we will inform you.	Okay, <b>report</b> when you start.

The encircled verbs are the action verbs with which the VTS operators require some action to be taken by the ship’s crew.

### Action verbs – use of other channels

Communication sometimes has to take place on another channel. Listen to these examples:

Good morning, MV Sunrise. **Switch** to channel zero eight.

Thank you for your call. **Switch** to channel one one zero one six. **Monitor** one zero one six.

You're leaving our sector, so **switch** to channel one zero one zero for VTS Station.

Here the action verb “switch” is used to indicate the working channel, while the verb “monitor” is used to ask the ship to remain on the indicated channel.

### Action verbs – other

Action verbs can express a variety of activities. So, their use depends on the context of the situation. Here are some more examples of VTS operators using action verbs and thus avoiding ambiguity or misunderstandings. Try to identify the action verbs in the following excerpts.

Okay, received. **Proceed** to your destination. Out.



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Sunrise, Digimar VTS. **Do not proceed** east from pilot station Bravo. **Wait** for pilot west from station Bravo.

**Cross** the anchorage area, **enter** the separation zone.

**Proceed** to drop anchor on Charlie Anchorage and **call** me back when you drop your anchor.

OK, Captain, *stop* trials, **disembark** other persons and **wait** for authorities. Over.

Action verbs are those encircled in the statements.

In the VTS Voice Communications and Phraseology published by the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities you will find more suggestions on how to efficiently use different verbs on pages 26–29.

We hope that this video has been useful and that it will help you to successfully complete the chatbot exercises available at: <https://digimar.si/category/digital-tools/chatbots/>.

Thank you for watching and stay tuned for more Digimar videos on effective maritime communication.