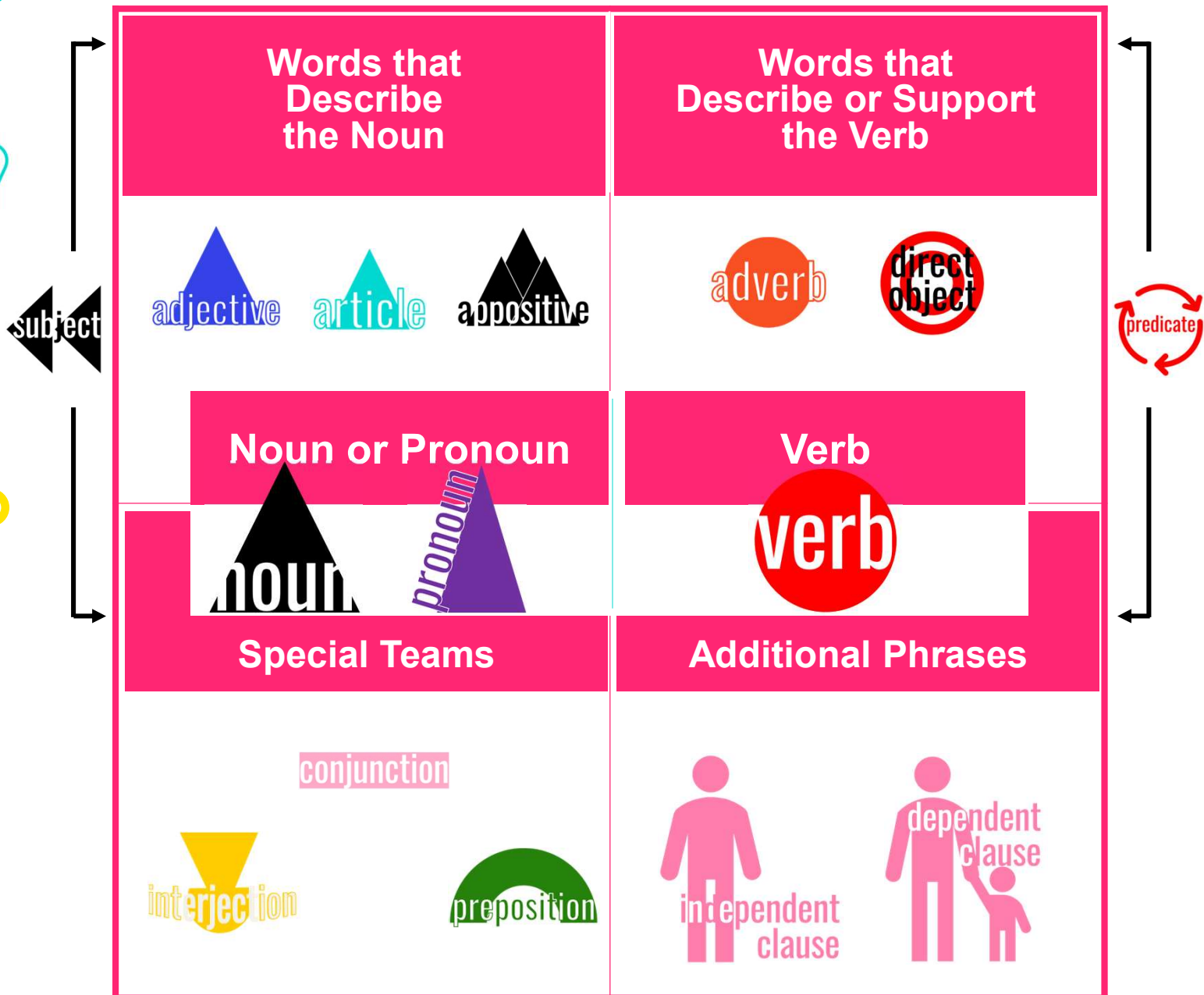


Four-Square Sentence













The positions words play in sentences

If a sentence was a sport, the four-square would be its field! The four-square makes several things visible:

- The positions that words can play in a sentence.
- The relationship between the parts-of-speech and their function in a sentence.
- The relationships between all parts-of-speech... and a few additional positions (appositive, direct object, dependent/independent clauses, subject, and predicate).








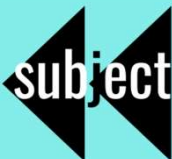



Grammar Symbols - The Nine Parts of Speech

	Definition 	Symbol 	Symbol Significance 
noun	Names a person, place, or thing		This symbol has three sides, like the three types of words it describes. Its color is like "carbon," the most common element in matter.
adjective	Describes a noun		This word depends on the noun, so its symbol is the same shape, but smaller. The smaller size illustrates its dependency on the noun.
article	Identifies a noun as being specific or unspecific: a, an, the		This word depends on the noun, so its symbol is the same shape; it is the smallest pyramid because only 3 words in English can be this part of speech.
pronoun	Substitutes a noun: I, he, she, you, it, we, they, them, etc.		This word replaces the noun and article in a sentence, so its symbol is a taller version of the noun. It is the narrowest pyramid because most of these words are short.
verb	Names an action		If you set this symbol down, it will roll. It has action, like the word it describes. It is the color of our blood, to suggest energy.
adverb	Describes a verb		This word depends on the verb, so it is the same shape, but smaller to illustrate its dependency on the verb.
preposition	Shows relationships between other words in a sentence.		This symbol is shaped like a bridge because this word acts like a bridge in a sentence; it explains how two other words are related to each other.
conjunction	Links other words, phrases, or clauses together		This symbol is the silhouette of a link in a chain because this word connects two other words, phrases, or clauses together.
interjection	Expression of strong emotion or feeling, often followed by an exclamation point.		This symbol is a combination of the symbols for nouns and verbs and resembles the punctuation that most often follows it, the exclamation point.

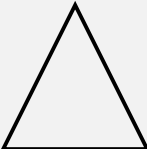
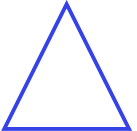


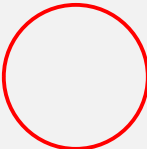




Grammar Symbols - Additional Grammar Terms

Dr. Montessori created symbols for the nine parts of speech. However, some parts of speech can serve more than one role in a sentence. On this page, we are highlighting some of them and have created our own symbols to support them.. These symbols were designed to support the Four-Square Sentence Diagram.

	Definition 	Symbol 	Symbol Significance 
appositive	A noun or noun phrase that provides more information about another noun.		This symbol includes a series of “noun symbols” because it is more than one noun.
direct object	A noun or pronoun that receives the action of a verb in a sentence		This symbol is a target because it supports the verb and is the same shape as the verb. Also, both a target and direct object “receive” an action.
independent clause	A group of words within a sentence that could stand alone as its own sentence.		This symbol is a lone person, “independent” person, symbolizing the phrase that can “stand alone.”
dependent clause	A group of words w/in a sentence containing a subject and verb but does not express a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence.		This symbol of a parent and child symbolizes that the dependent clause is dependent on the “adult sentence.”
subject	The primary person, place, thing, or idea that is doing or being something in the sentence.		This symbol features two black triangles, representing the noun and its supporting words; it points left to indicate they include the upper and middle LEFT of the 4-square.
predicate	the part of a sentence or clause that tells what the subject is doing or being. It includes the verb and any objects or modifiers		This symbol is a circle, representing the action of the verb; it includes multiple arrows to represent the verb and its supporting words.







Grammar Symbols - The Nine Parts of Speech

We may learn grammar in “grammar school” (elementary), but most adults remain confused on some parts of speech. The Montessori Grammar Symbols help to make these invisible concepts, visible.

PART OF SPEECH	DEFINITION	SYMBOL	SIGNIFICANCE OF SYMBOL
noun	Names a person, place, or thing	color: black 	This symbol has three sides, like the three types of words it describes. Its color is like “carbon,” the most common element in matter.
adjective	Describes a noun	color: blue 	This word depends on the noun, so its symbol is the same shape, but smaller. The smaller size illustrates its dependency on the noun.
article	Identifies a noun as being specific or unspecific: a, an, the	color: light blue 	This word depends on the noun, so its symbol is the same shape, but it is the smallest pyramid because only 3 words in English can be this part of speech.
pronoun	Substitutes a noun: I, he, she, you, it, we, they, them, etc.	color: purple 	This word replaces the noun and article in a sentence, so its symbol is a taller version of the noun. It is the narrowest pyramid because most of these words are short.
verb	Names an action	color: red 	If you set this symbol down, it will roll. It has action, like the word it describes. It is the color of our blood, to suggest energy.
adverb	Describes a verb	color: orange 	This word depends on the verb, so it is the same shape, but smaller to illustrate its dependency on the verb.
preposition	Shows relationships between other words in a sentence.	color: green 	This symbol is shaped like a bridge because this word acts like a bridge in a sentence; it explains how two other words are related to each other.
conjunction	Links other words, phrases, or clauses together	color: pink 	This symbol is the silhouette of a link in a chain because this word connects two other words, phrases, or clauses together.
interjection	Expression of strong emotion or feeling, often followed by an exclamation point.	color: gold 	This symbol is a combination of the symbols for nouns and verbs and resembles the punctuation that most often follows it, the exclamation point.

Grammar Symbols - Additional Grammar Terms

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