

Diagramming Sentences Demystified

I have worked on reviving the art of diagramming because I believe that it helps students easily learn how to correctly construct sentences. This practice is something I first began to use when I was teaching Spanish. It helped my students learn the language much more quickly.



Simple Diagramming - Nouns & Verbs

Write, or have the students write, these sentences using the color-coding. For hands-on practice, use these activity sheets for [simple sentences](#) and [direct objects](#).

Simple Sentences - Subject and verb.	
Someone or something (noun) does something (verb).	
Peter sat.	Grandpa snored.
Fifi meowed.	Grandma laughed.
I read.	Grass grew.
Mom cooked.	Wind blew.
Dad worked.	Snow fell.
Rain fell.	Water froze.
Thunder boomed.	Squirrels chattered.
Babies cried.	Birds flew.

Direct Objects

Someone or something (noun) | does something (verb) | to someone or something else (noun).

Can see movement.

The boy | threw | the ball.

The oven | baked | the cake.

The waitress | took | the order.

I | washed | dishes.

Joseph | passed | the football.

Dad | fixed | the car.

Susana | made | the bed.

The fire | burned | the logs.

Aunt Claudia | cooked | dinner.

The squirrels | hid | the acorns.

The secretary | typed | a letter.

Uncle | painted | the house.

Renee | colored | the picture.

My teacher | taught | a lesson.

Simple Diagramming - Adjectives

Adjectives are words that “fancy up” nouns or “add to the object.” They answer: “What kind?”, “Which one?”, and “How many?”. Adjectives tend to come before the noun.

Write, or have the students write, these sentences using the color-coding. Use these [activity sheets](#) for hands-on practice.

Simple Diagramming - Adjectives

All these adjectives answer the question, “What kind?”

The tall boy | threw | the brown ball.

The friendly waitress | took | the simple order.

The quick secretary | typed | the long letter.

The hot oven | baked | the chocolate cake.

The roaring fire | burned | the large logs.

The tan squirrels | hid | the small acorns.

The favorite teacher | taught | a good lesson.

Simple Diagramming - Adjectives

All these adjectives answer the question, "Which ones?"

Those boys | threw | that ball.

That waitress | took | the first order.

This secretary | typed | those letters.

This oven | baked | that cake.

These fires | burned | those logs.

That squirrel | hid | those acorns.

This teacher | taught | that lesson.

Simple Diagramming - Adjectives

All these adjectives answer the question, "How many?"

Two boys | threw | one ball.

One waitress | took | several orders.

Three secretaries | typed | many letters.

If you provide your students with [blank frames](#) like this one, they can use them to make sentences of their own.



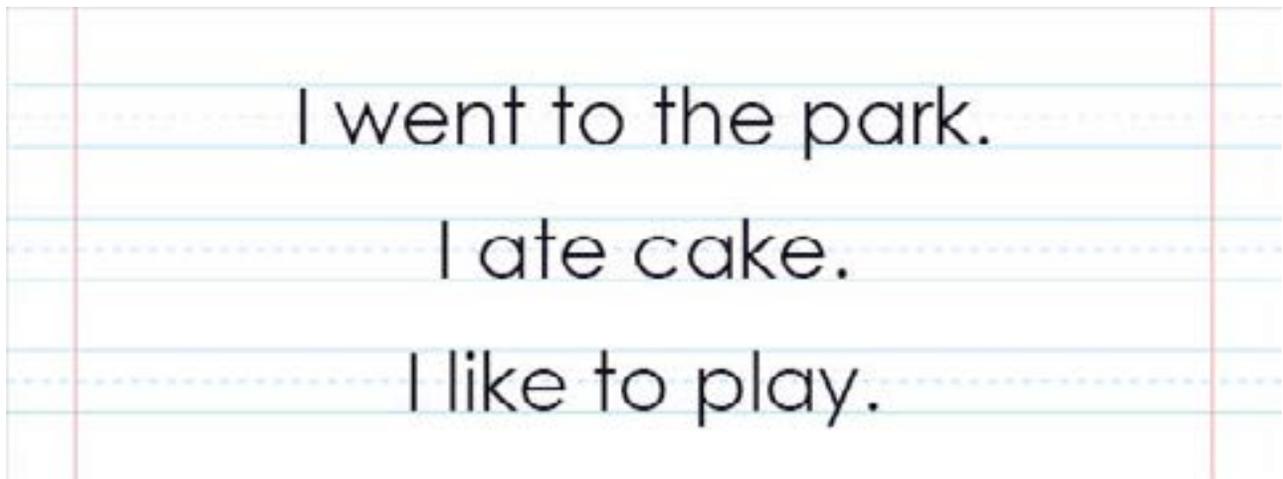
Collecting Words

A practice that facilitates vocabulary acquisition and knowledge of the structure of language is to display words according to their part of speech. In my 1st and 2nd grade classroom, I used the walls as secondary teachers. We acquired one new word a day, used it, made sentences with it, and at the end of the week, put our new words with their neighbors on the walls. You can use these [parts of speech visuals](#) as headings for the wall displays.



Writing with Flair

One of the biggest pitfalls in writing for 1st and 2nd graders is that they tend to just say what they have to say in the most direct way.



Use the [blank diagramming frames](#) to prompt your students to elaborate on their writing and prevent the need for you to remind them about using adjectives.