

Script for Diagramming Simple Sentences

- Tell the class that they are going to learn how to make a diagram of a sentence. Explain that first they need to recall the two main parts of a sentence, the subject [show black triangle] and predicate [show red circle]. Tell the class that the subject is the answer to the question "Who or what?" [show black arrow] and the predicate is the answer to the question "What about it?" [show black arrow]
 - Note, the black triangle actually represents a noun (not always the subject), but for the sake of the first lesson, the noun will always be the subject. Once students are given more complex sentences, you can better-explain the nuances of what can be a subject in a sentence.
 - Walk through the following example sentences with the students. You will have printed these sentences onto cardstock and cut them up, word for word. As you walk through the sentences, you will deliberately group the subject and its corresponding word, then predicate with its corresponding word, and use the arrows to further indicate and distinguish those parts of speech.
 - Grass grows.
 - Dogs play.
- Tell students that when diagramming sentences, the horizontal line under the subject and predicate is called the baseline. [Show them what a baseline looks like on the whiteboard]. The subject is written on the left side of the baseline, and the predicate is on the right side of the baseline [Insert subject and predicate onto diagram] A vertical dividing line that crosses the baseline is drawn between the subject and verb. Punctuation is not used in a sentence diagram [place the corresponding black triangle and red circle on the whiteboard so the students can see how the materials line up with the diagram].
 - Walk through the following examples with the students using the basic diagramming technique and the Montessori symbols.
 - Babies scream.
 - Kids draw.