Piclish:
Defined and Described

| Use | Piclish | to | learn | English | through | symbols |

Piclish, short for Picture English, is a symbol system that embraces English grammar and syntax.

Here is an exciting new visual way to get a better grasp of English grammar and vocabulary or learn English for the first time. Language Symbols introduces Piclish, an inclusive system, that may be tailored to meet the specific needs of individuals or groups using it. The Piclish system has been years in development. This innovative system was created out of a desire to have symbols that accurately represent all aspects of the English language, something that is absent from other symbol sets on the market.

Piclish, a combined word for Picture English, is a symbol system based exclusively on the English language. The individual symbols within Piclish (Picture English) are called PicLits which is an abbreviation for Picture Literacy. The system uses the syntax and grammar of written and spoken English. Each part of speech has been color-coded and given specific visual cues for learning vocabulary, parts of speech and grammar. The illustrations on the PicLits visually define the words.

Piclish was envisioned to be used in a variety of applications. These range from basic communication to the teaching of reading, writing and English grammar. The combination of a written word paired with a representational drawing and the visual cues regarding the word's part of speech, conjugation and declension provides increased opportunities for a variety of learning styles and challenges.

The	PicLits'	symbols	have	been	thoughtfully	developed
for	use	by	all	age	groups	and
a	wide	range	of	learning	styles	and
abilities						

The PicLits have been thoughtfully developed for use by all age groups with a wide range of learning styles and abilities. They can be used for single word communications as well as complex sentences and stories.

The Piclish symbols are ideal for use with :

- Visual learners
- English as a second language
- Educational material development
- Young children
- Individuals who have speech and language challenges
- The hearing impaired
- Head injuries and strokes

Piclish Defined and Described

- **Piclish**, an abbreviation of Picture English, is a symbol system based on (American) English language, using the syntax and grammar of both written and spoken language.

- Each part of speech (i.e.,adjectives, adverbs, nouns, verbs, conjunctions, articles, prepositions, pronouns, and interjections) has been grouped and color-coded with specific, visual cues for learning vocabulary, parts of speech and grammar.
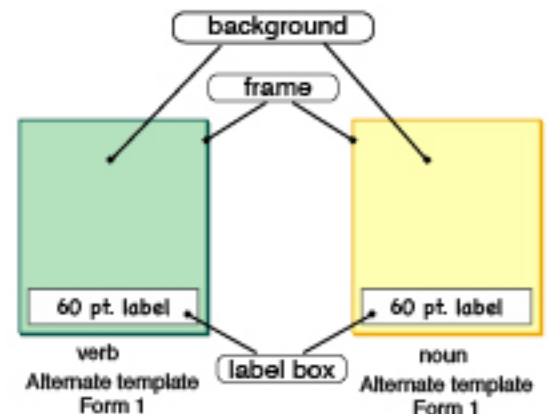

apple

- **PicLits**, an abbreviation of Picture Literacy, are the individual symbols that make up the Piclish symbol set which was created as a communication and language acquisition tool.
    - The basic version of the symbol set is comprised of a drawing on a colored background with a darker colored frame.
        - This form provides a color coded, visual cue for each part of speech at the point of use, thus serving as a tool for teaching and learning English grammar and syntax.

- The **symbol templates** provide visual cues with regard to the part of speech being represented and a descriptor or definition of its function within that part of speech.
    - These visual cues act as a connection or link to the grammar and syntax of the word being used.
    - The templates provide grammar markers, prefixes, suffixes, indicators and elements specific to each part of speech that allow for conjugation of verbs (i.e., verb tenses) or declension of nouns, adjectives and adverbs (e.g., plural form, possessive form or degrees of comparison).
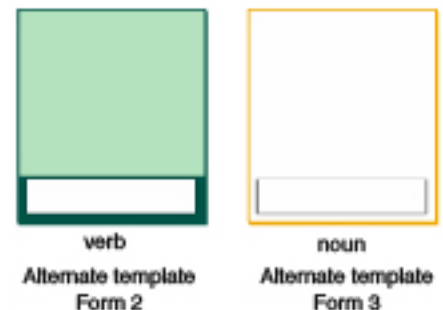

adverb
template form
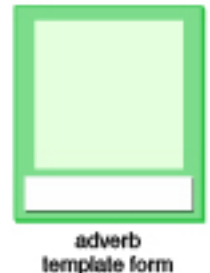
- The form is a rectangle with a designated **background** color and **frame** color. It includes the area for **the drawing** and the **label box** which appears at the bottom of the form. The label box provides a location for the text or written word for the symbol.

    - The frame and background color indicate the part of speech.

background
frame
60 pt. label   60 pt. label
verb   label box   noun
Alternate template   Alternate template
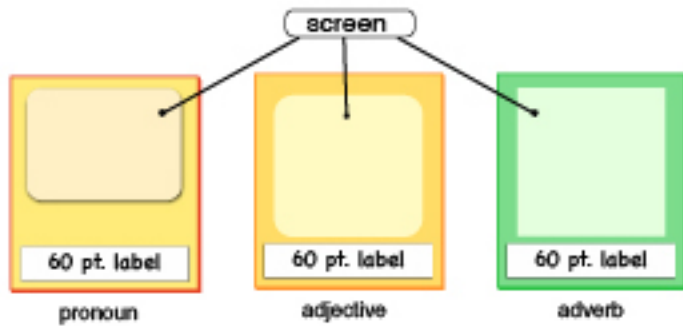Form 1   Form 1

    - Alternate forms are available for each part of speech.
        - The colors established for each part of speech remain the same.
        - The optional forms use white and variations of the form's color layout to create a variety of visual presentations.
Note: The template forms of each part of speech may be used in a basic form (i.e., alternate template Form 3) without the extra elements, using only the form, the symbol drawing and the label. Form 1 was used throughout this document.

    - Refer to page 27, **Appendix A**, for an overview of the forms for each part of speech.

verb
Alternate template
Form 2
noun
Alternate template
Form 3

screen

pronoun — 60 pt. label

adjective — 60 pt. label

adverb — 60 pt. label

- The **screen** is a lighter colored square or rectangle that is inset in the form.
  - It is used to indicate either a pronoun, an adjective or an adverb.

leopard
noun

all
pronoun

the
article

easy
adjective

- Examples:
  - Nouns are one of the primary components of a sentence.
    - They have a simple, single color background with a contrasting frame.
    - The simple drawings integrate the word's definition.
    - Prefixes, grammar markers and indicators further define or describe the symbol word.

  - Pronouns are used in place of nouns.
    - Background is another shade of yellow with a small, beige, inset screen and a red frame.
    - Grammar markers and indicators provide information and cues with regard to case, number, person and declension.

  - Articles point to or indicate a noun
    - Background is a different shade of yellow with a dark yellow frame.
    - Form is smaller than forms of other parts of speech to represent the little word's appearance and role.
    - All the article symbols have an arrow pointing toward the noun that is indicated.

  - Adjectives modify nouns.
    - They have a yellow background with an inset screen and an orange frame.
    - Grammar markers and indicators provide declension and grouping information.

Note: These four parts of speech all have yellow backgrounds, visually linking them to nouns (e.g., articles indicate nouns, adjectives modify nouns and pronouns are used in place of nouns). There are significant differences in the overall symbol presentation that provide cues for the symbol's part of speech and its use.

- The **drawing** represents the written word in the label box.

  - Many words have two or more meanings; some words may have more than one symbol in accordance with their different meanings.

cold

cold

orange

orange

fly

fly

drawing
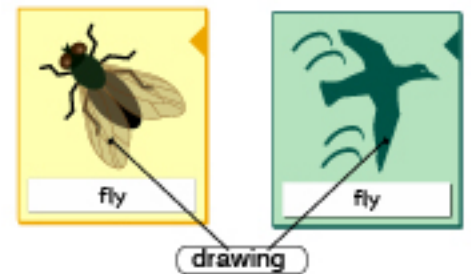
kitten

kitten

- Some words have the same basic definition but may have variations in color or other physical features (e.g., *apples* vary in size and color; *kittens* have a wide variety of physical features).
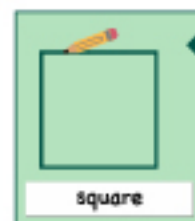
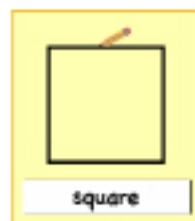 - There may be more than one option for the same word.

- Many words have synonyms.
  - The symbol remains constant in the case of a synonym; the label may be changed in order to use the synonym.

somebody

someone
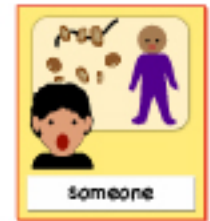
- Since many words in the English language have a place in two or more parts of speech, a primary function, based on meaning and frequency of use, was selected. The most common uses and definitions of these words were used when developing the symbol design. When developing symbols in other parts of speech that have the same spelling and related definition, the core word acts as the base from which the new symbol is developed.
  - The drawing size and color may vary across parts of speech, but the essential elements of the symbol design remain consistent.
  - The form used for the symbol will vary according to the word's use in the sentence or phrase.

| since | since | since | square | square | square |
| preposition | adverb | conjunction | noun | verb | adjective |

  - Refer to page 27, **Appendix A**, for an overview of the templates used for the different parts of speech.

- Some illustrations are used across parts of speech to indicate a generalized or defining concept that is a part of the symbol's meaning. These illustrations may change color in accordance with the part of speech and meaning of the symbol word.

- Time of day and short periods of time are represented by a stylized clock face.

- Time that involves calendar time or measured time is represented by a calendar paired with the clock.

- A question mark indicates a question in the word's definition.

- An exclamation point indicates increased emotion or excitement.

- A stylized *person* is used to represent people.

- Direction or location is indicated by a compass rose.

- Smooth, curved bars represent sound.

- Speaker with curved bars used when the sound source is unspecified.

- A string with beads represents amounts.

- The *object* symbol is resized to represent objects or things in the symbol.

- An oval is used to indicate the targeted group (e.g., auxiliary verbs) or individual (e.g., proper noun, relative or relationship)

- Containers are used as position reference markers.

- An *arrow* is used to indicate a place or point on the symbol.

- Balls are used as position or direction locators.

- Health and wellness is indicated by a simple person figure with facial features and expressions.

- The *not* symbol is resized and used as an illustration meaning negation.

- Words that use the prefix *non-*, have a resized symbol of *no*.

- A timeline is used to indicate a span of time.

- Thought clouds are used to express thoughts and concepts.

- Words that use the prefix *un-*, meaning the reverse action (verb), thing (noun) or modification (adjective) have a reverse arrow in the lower left hand corner of the symbol form.

- A *ruler* indicates distance.

verb reverse arrow

noun reverse arrow

Note: Other illustrations may be added to the symbol set when there is relevance and application across two or more parts of speech.

- **Grammar markers** are the stylized icons that designate a grammatical change to a word that maintains the same meaning as the core word.

  - The grammar markers are located on the right hand edge of the template form.

  - Grammar marker colors, established by the part of speech at point of use, are the color of the form's frame.

  - They are used to designate:

- ambiguous singular noun or pronoun

vegetable
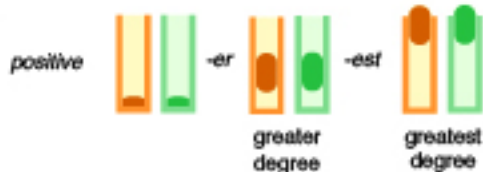
- plural form of noun or pronoun

vegetables

- word spelling is the same for singular or plural of a pronoun

you

- a verb spelling that is the same for both singular and plural subjects; only used with the verb *to be*

are

- slide-bar type grammar markers for degrees of comparison (adjective & adverb);

positive

-er   greater degree

-est   greatest degree

bright

brighter

brightest

- irregular warning markers

become

- irregular word formation or a word change

became

- *ly* or -*y* is added to a root word to form an adverb

angrily

- third person, singular, verb form

becomes

- past participle verb form

become

- collective noun marker

singular   plural

band

bands
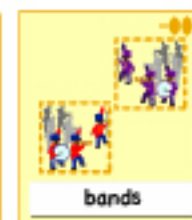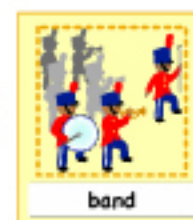
- *ing* added to the root word to form the progressive forms of a verb

barking

- first person singular, present tense, *to be*

am

- possessive case

rooster's

Note: The grammar markers may be included on the symbol for use as grammar and syntax learning cues. Users who prefer a more basic symbol may choose to limit or eliminate the use of grammar markers.

- **Indicators** provide a visual cue that places the symbol word in a grouping or category.
    - Examples:
        - The white screen with the oval center cut out indicates a *proper noun*.

            or

        - The heart indicator in the upper left hand corner of the form designates adjectives from the category *feelings*.

American

proper nouns

surprised

cheerful

adjectives: feelings

- Refer to page 29, **Appendix C**, for an overview of adjective indicators and the categories they represent.

- When an adverb is created from an adjective, the entire symbol, including the indicator, is placed within the screen of the adverb form.
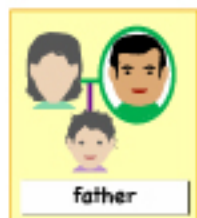
cheerfully

7

Parts of Speech

Nouns

- **Nouns** are words to name a person, place, thing, or idea. They are classified as either common nouns or proper nouns.

    - **Common noun**s are the general nouns and do not begin with a capital letter unless they start a sentence. The Piclit symbol frame is dark yellow with a pale yellow background.
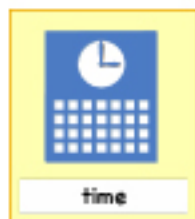
girl

- There are some nouns that have a common theme line such as the groupings of shapes or relatives.
    - These groups of nouns share a common item or style that is present in all the symbols from that grouping.

father   aunt

symbols of relatives include
the family tree framework

circle   diagonal
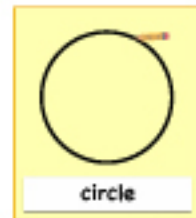
symbols of shapes include
a pencil

- Many nouns share a common element or concept that links them to a group with a shared style or element.
Example: The concept of *time* involves *clock*, *calendar* and nature time cycles.

    - Nouns that include *time* in their definitions have one or more of the core word *time* elements integrated into the drawing.

time

week   morning   infinity   noon   year

picnic basket   peanut butter sandwich
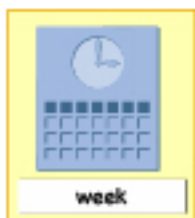
- Noun symbols representing multi-word labels are common noun combinations that combine an attributive noun(s) plus another noun. These may be represented by a single symbol.

- Some noun groupings that are more complex or involve multiple parts within the symbol drawing are accomplished by stringing together two or more symbols.
Example: Numbers larger than 9999 require three symbols to complete the phrase as the number of beads and lines required for one symbol would be more difficult to discern.

    Note: A more detailed explanation of the bead use, color and placement is found in the **Drawing Guide**.
    See page 32, appendix F, for an overview of numbers.

nine million   and   928
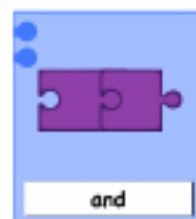
Noun Plurals

- The plural form of common nouns is designated by the double bead grammar marker which appears in the upper right hand corner of the form.

- **Plural common nouns** are represented by two or more of the drawn items within the PicLit's form.

  - Generic items may be represented by a variety of the same class or group of items.

  - Specific types of items are represented by two or more of the same item.

  - Symbols with increased detail or complexity are represented by two of the same item.

  - Plural numbers, which have a complex abacus grid and bead(s), are represented by one drawing with the double bead grammar marker.

- **Irregular plurals** are designated by the irregular word change grammar marker.
  - The singular form of the word has a single triangle grammar marker on the right side of the form that acts as a warning that the word undergoes an irregular spelling change during declension.
    - The single bead is applied to those singular words that are ambiguous with regard to number
      - Example: There are many types of candy or vegetables; the singular form represents a variety of items.
  - The irregular plural forms of these words have a three point jagged-edge grammar marker along the right hand border of the form.

- Some plural items may typically be represented as a group or bunch. These items may be found in both a singular form and grouped in their natural configuration for the plural form.

- Plurals of relatives and relationships are drawn with the focus on the people named in the label.
  - The others, used to establish what the relationship is, are faded into the background.
  - The double bead grammar marker designates the plural.

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- Some relative plurals require more than one plural form because of differences in the definitions.
    - Example:
   - the man had two different wives
            vs
        - the wives of the men

wives

wives

- Collective nouns tend to be more ambiguous.
    - They are singular in number but represent a group or collection of items.
        - The link-line around the drawing indicates the items inside the lines belong to a group.
        - The jagged edge grammar marker is used to help clarify the irregular plural form of the word.
        - The single bead grammar marker is placed in the upper right hand corner of the form.
        - The double bead grammar marker for plural forms is placed in the upper right hand corner of the form.

team

teams

navy

armies
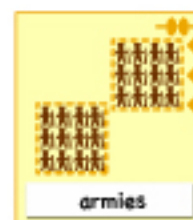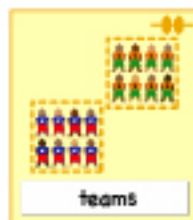
- Some nouns have the same spelling whether they are singular or plural.
    - The plural form of these nouns has the irregular grammar marker and the plural grammar marker.
    - There may be more than one irregular plural symbol for some of these words due to differences in their definitions.
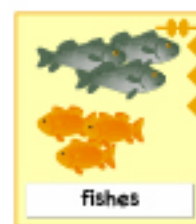
deer

deer

fish

My fish is small.

fish

The fish were swimming.

fishes

There are many species of fishes.

- There are some nouns that are only used in plural form and always use the third person plural form of the verb.
    - The jagged-edge grammar marker is used to designate an irregular.
    - The double bead grammar marker indicates the plural.

    - If there is more than one of the paired or grouped item, the number is indicated by other words in the sentence.

pants

My pants are new.

pants

Their pants were dirty.

Proper Nouns

Proper nouns refer to specific people, places or things and always start with a capital letter.

The proper noun form is the noun form with an inset, white screen.
- The center of the screen has an oval cut out that contains the drawing for the proper noun.
- Characteristic indicators may be placed in the left corner(s) of the white screen.
- Iconic illustrations are selected to provide information about the person, place or thing being named. Icons selected may be a person's favorite item, a seasonal or time indicator, or a cue for geographic type or location. These will vary greatly among the proper nouns depending on the individual, item or place represented by the symbol.

Dan

Dr.   Mt. Rainier   Maine   Canada   Humphrey, NE   October

Possessive Noun Forms

- The possessive form of common nouns is represented by a grammar marker, a simple drawing of a hand holding a ball. This grammar marker appears in the lower, right corner of the form.

ball — singular
balls — plural
ball's — singular possessive
balls' — plural possessive

- The irregular, plural, possessive noun symbols have the possessive, plural and irregular grammar markers on the right hand side of the their forms.

mice's   enemies'   boxes'

- Possessive proper nouns are also indicated by the possessive grammar marker in the lower right corner of the form.

- The plural form of possessive proper nouns is indicated by the plural grammar marker used to indicate plural nouns.
This type of application provides flexibility and individualization to the user.

Thursday's   Dans'
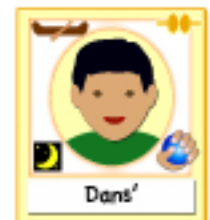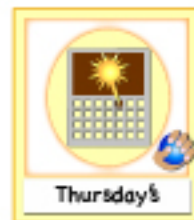
Verbs

- **Verbs** are used to express action or existence, to indicate a condition or state of being.
  - Piclit verb symbols are divided into two categories: (1) **action** and **linking** verbs and (2) **auxiliary** verbs.

- The PicLits verb forms have a dark green frame, dark green figure(s) or object(s) in the drawing on a light green background.
  - The color green was selected because of the symbolic association with the action "go" associated with traffic lights.
  - When the context requires other symbols or parts of symbols for clarification, core word colors are used.
    Example: ear in *hear* (verb)

- Action verbs express action.
- Linking verbs connect the subject of the sentence to a word(s) in the predicate.
  - They imply a state of being or condition for the subject.
  - Many of the linking verbs may also be action verbs.
    - Example: look
      - The primary function is as an action verb.
      - The linking verb of the same spelling has the same symbol.

- Verb phrases have more than one verb, pairing a main verb with an **auxiliary verb**(s).
  - Auxiliary verbs precede the main verb and provide the indicator for the tense of the phrase.
  - The auxiliary verbs are: be, can, do, have, may, must, shall and will.
    - An oval around the agent is used to indicate an auxiliary verb.

Irregular Verbs

- Verbs that undergo word changes during conjugation have the irregular grammar marker that appears along the right side of the form.

  - The single triangle used on the core word serves as a warning for a word change during conjugation.

  - The three triangle irregular grammar marker appears on the word forms that have undergone a word change.

  - The core word or the infinitive form of the verb has a single triangle on the upper right border of the frame. This serves as a visual cue that the inflected form(s) of the word undergoes spelling changes or that the verb does not follow the usual grammar rule(s).

  - All the auxiliary verbs are irregular, as shown above.

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- When the user chooses to conjugate verbs in Piclish, several types of symbol changes occur.

  - The **past tense** symbols of the Piclit verbs appear as a figure(s) or object(s) in outline form.
    - The overall symbol content remains the same.

- There are three types of grammar markers that provide a cue for the specific type of word change. The verb grammar markers provide additional visual or learning cues, but may be eliminated to create a more basic symbol. They are located in the lower right hand corner of the form.
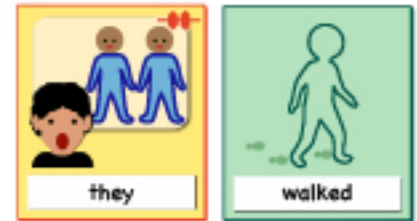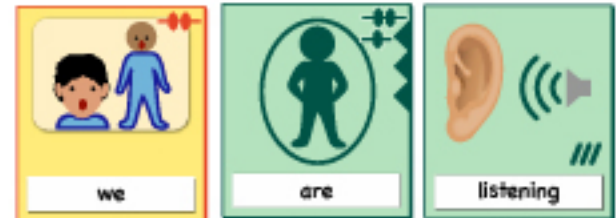
  - The dark green grammar markers indicate:

    (1) the third person singular, when frequently an -*s* is added to the root word,

    (2) the use of –*ing* for an ongoing action or condition of the progressive form,

    and

    (3) the past participle form of the verb when there is a word change.

    Note: Many past participle forms use the same symbol drawing as the past tense. Example: the past participle grammar marker is added to the past tense form of *go > went* to form *gone*

- The verb "*to be*" is the most commonly used linking verb and the most irregular of the English verbs.

 - There is an additional grammar marker used to designate the first person, singular, present tense: *am*.
    - This is the only time that this grammar marker is used in Piclish.
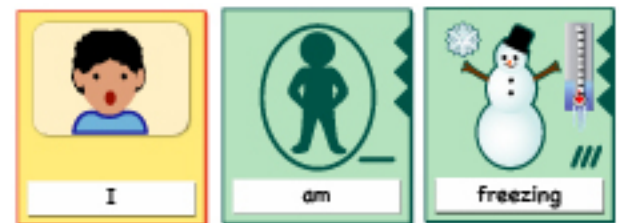
  - A combined singular and plural grammar marker is used to indicate that the same spelling of the verb form may be used with either a singular or plural subject(s).
    - This is the only time this grammar marker is used on a PicLit verb.

13
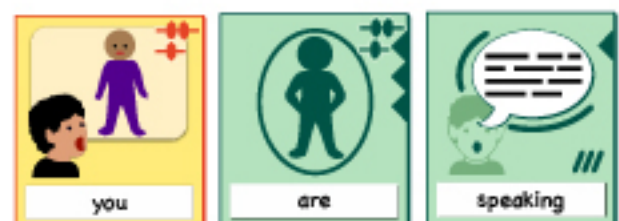
Sample sentences using action, linking and auxiliary verbs:

she	dances	cheerfully
pronoun	action verb present tense; irregular	adverb

the	team	works	together
article	noun	action verb present tense; regular; 3rd person singular	adverb

I	feel	better
pronoun	linking verb present tense; irregular	adverb

he	had	become	sick
pronoun	auxiliary verb past tense; irregular	primary verb	adjective
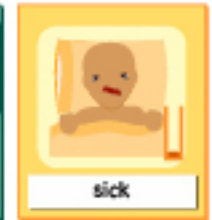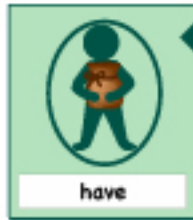
we	have	grown	angry
pronoun	auxiliary verb present tense; irregular	linking verb past participle; irregular	adjective

they	ran	singly
pronoun	action verb past tense; irregular	adverb
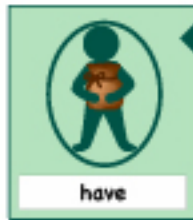
I	have	been	doing	things
pronoun	auxiliary verb present tense; irregular	auxiliary verb past tense; irregular; 3rd person singular	primary verb progressive; irregular	noun

you	are	tired
pronoun	linking verb present tense; irregular; singular or plural	adjective

- Refer to page 28, **Appendix B**, for an overview of regular, irregular and auxiliary verb conjugation.

Pronouns

- **Pronouns** are used in place of a noun to refer to a person or thing.
    - The background of the form is yellow, providing a visual cue that links nouns, pronouns, articles and adjectives.
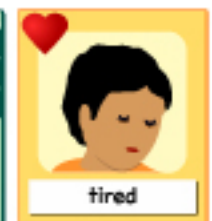   - The pronoun frame is red.
    - There is a small, inset screen centered in the upper part of the form.

label

- The color of the clothing on the figures and the objects indicates the type of pronoun:

    - nominative = blue
    - objective = red
    - possessive = brown
    - unspecified = purple

I

them

yours

it

- Other visual cues provided within the symbol include the speaker, who has a rounded, open mouth:

- For first person, singular or plural, the speaker appears within the screen.

we

- For second person, singular or plural, the speaker is in profile, facing the figure(s) in the screen.

you
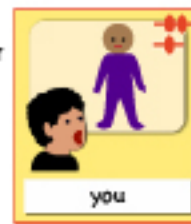
- For third person, singular and plural, the speaker is facing front and outside the screen in the lower left corner of the form.

them

- The double beads indicate the plural form of the pronoun.

those

- The single bead paired with the double bead indicates that the pronoun may be used as singular or plural.

yours
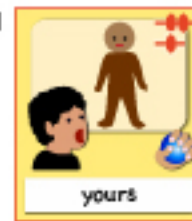
- Pronouns without a bead marker are singular.

he

- Possessive pronouns are designated by the possessive grammar marker.

hers

- Pronouns that contain a possessive root word, such as *our* in the reflexive pronoun *ourselves*, include the possessive marker placed in the lower right hand corner of the screen.

our + selves → ourselves

itself

oneself

myself
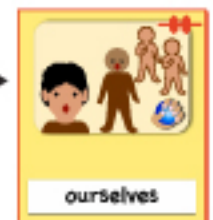
- The reflexive pronouns and *oneself* (indefinite pronoun), have a small person figure who is pointing at *self*.

Pronouns are divided into eight different types.

- **Personal pronouns** indicate the specific person or group speaking, spoken to, or spoken of. They are in both the nominative and objective case.

- All nominative case personal pronouns have figures dressed in blue or a blue object within the screen.

we

nominative

- The objective case personal pronouns have figures with red clothing and red objects within the screen.

us

objective

my

yours

- **Possessive pronouns** show ownership.
  - Some possessive pronouns act like adjectives and modify nouns (e.g., my cat, our house, etc.).
  - All of the possessive pronoun symbols have the possessive case grammar marker.
  - The possessive pronoun symbols have brown clothing or objects within the screen.

- **Reciprocal pronouns** are pronoun phrases that stand for a person speaking, spoken of, or spoken to but cannot be the subject of a sentence.
  - The phrase stands for the members of a group.
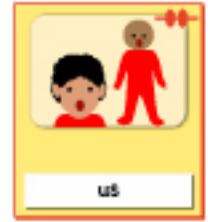 - Any action of a member of the group represented by the pronoun affects all the members of the group.

each

other

one

another

Each other and *one another* are the only two reciprocal pronouns in the English language.

- **Reflexive pronouns** are formed by adding either -*self* or –*selves* to a possessive pronoun.
  - The objective case forms of *him* and *them* are the two exceptions, based on the awkwardness of "hisself" and "theirselves".
  - They cannot be the subject of a sentence and often refer or reflect back to the subject.
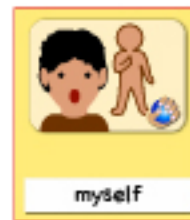
myself

himself

themselves

this

these

- **Demonstrative pronouns** are "determiners" that point toward the nouns that they replace (e.g., *this, that, these,* and *those*).
  - All of the demonstrative pronoun symbols have a front facing speaker in the lower left hand corner of the screen with a purple indication arrow.

where

when

- **Relative pronouns** perform two functions at one time:
  - taking the place of nouns and
  - connecting the replaced noun with a subordinating clause.
- All of the relative pronoun symbols have a front facing speaker.

what

- **Interrogative pronouns** ask questions and also act as "determiners," words that determine the reference of a noun phrase.
    - Three of these pronouns (i.e., *when*, *which*, and w*hat*) maintain a constant form across person, number and gender.
    - *Who* changes form with case (e.g., *who*, *whom*, *whose*).

when	which	what
who	whom	whose

- **Indefinite pronouns** do not point to any specific person, place, animal, or thing.
    - They stand for a group or an individual in a general or indefinite manner.
        - The indefinite pronoun symbols have purple clothing or objects with amount words represented in brown.

some	nobody

- A complete set of Pronouns has been created.

Articles

- **Articles** are the "little words" that indicate nouns.
    - They are always linked to nouns and do not stand alone.
        - PicLit articles are on a yellow form, providing a visual link or connection to the yellow form used for nouns.
            - The form is a smaller size as a reference to articles as "little words".
        - The center of the article's form has a dark yellow magnifying glass to indicate that the article is focused on the noun.
        - The arrows and letters in the symbols are purple.
    - There are three articles in the English language, and they have all been created for this symbol set.

a	badge	an	occupation	the	blender
article	noun	article	noun	article	noun

Prepositions

- Prepositions are words that show the relationship between two words or phrases in a sentence.

    - PicLits preposition forms have a dark teal frame and a background in a lighter shade of teal.

    - All the preposition symbols use containers that indicate a stationary point.
        - rounded or squared
        - shaded in yellow

    - A dark red ball(s) is used to indicate the position or direction of the symbol word depicted.

    - The symbol may also include other illustrations or parts of illustrations to clarify the word's meaning.
        Examples: the stylized clock representing *time*
            - beads on a string to represent *amount*
            - simple stylized figures to represent *people*
            - a series of faded balls to indicate direction, a former position(s) or relationship
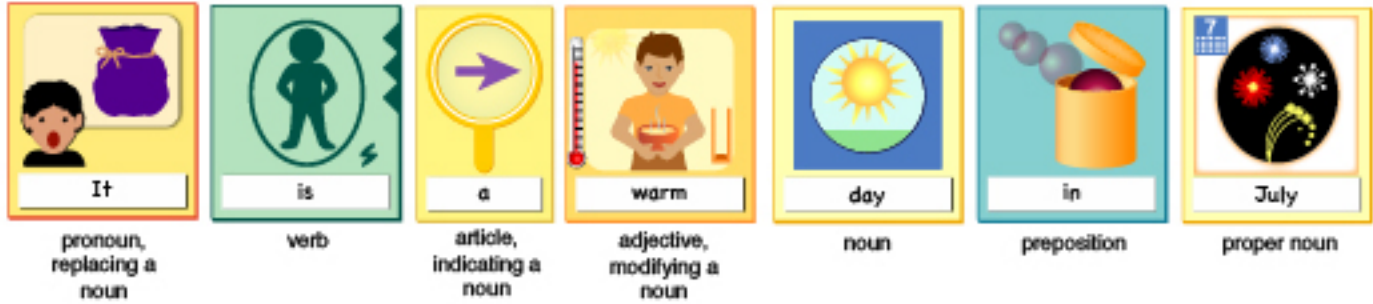
Note: the *time* symbol clock has been faded to 60% as a means of stating that time is a part of the definition but it does not have an exclusive or dominant role in the symbol word's meaning.

above

after

among

for

except

like

since
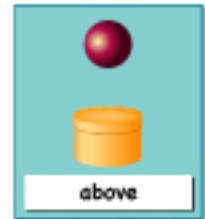
Adjectives & Adverbs

- **Adjectives** modify nouns or pronouns.

    - The PicLit adjective frame is a deep shade of yellow with a lighter yellow background and an inset, pale yellow screen.

        - The shades of yellow used in PicLits symbols for nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles provide a visual cue linking the four parts of speech to each other.

|						
It	is	a	warm	day	in	July
pronoun, replacing a noun	verb	article, indicating a noun	adjective, modifying a noun	noun	preposition	proper noun

- Some adjectives belong to a class or group, established by similar qualities or defining concepts (e.g., colors, size, feelings etc.).

    - These adjectives are designated by a variety of **indicators**.

        - The indicators are simple illustrations that are placed across the top and along the left hand border of the form.

    - Additional indicators may be added to the symbol set as additional groups or classifications are added to PicLits.

- Refer to page 30, **Appendix D**, for an overview of adjective indicators.

colors indicator

maroon

size indicator

tall
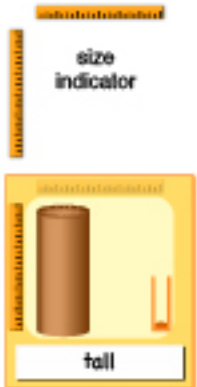
- **Adverbs** modify verbs, adjectives and other adverbs.

    - These modifiers indicate how, when, where, why or how often an action happens.
    - They are frequently formed from adjectives or nouns.
    - The PicLit adverb frame is a deep shade of green with a bright green background and an inset, pale green screen.
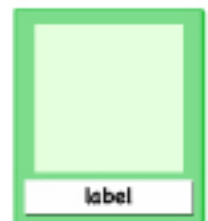
        - The shades of green used for PicLit's verbs and adverbs provide a visual cue that link the two parts of speech to each other.

    - If the adjective has an indicator, it will appear in the screen of the adverb form.

label

she	ran	cheerfully
pronoun	verb	adverb, modifying a verb

- Many adverbs are formed from adjectives by adding -*ly*.

danger
noun
(core word)

dangerous
adjective

dangerously
adverb

happy
adjective with
descriptor strip
(core word)

cheerfully
adverb with
imbedded
descriptor strip

happiness
noun

- Those adjectives that end in -*y*, change the -*y* to an -*i* before adding the —*ly*
  - The grammar markers for the irregular word formation are placed on the right side of the form.
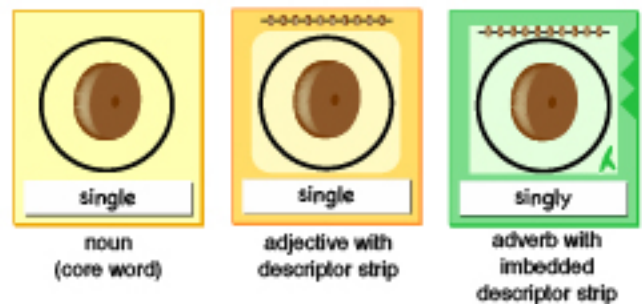
Note: Spelling changes that occur in the core word due to a meaning change do not carry over the irregular marker to the adjective form.


twenty
noun
(core word)

twenty
adjective

twentieth
adjective

- When the adverb's root word ends in -*e*, the -*e* is dropped before adding the -*ly*.
  - The grammar marker appears in the lower right corner of the adverb screen.
  - The grammar marker for an irregular word formation is placed on the right side of the form.

Note: The spelling change only occurs in the adverb form.

single
noun
(core word)

single
adjective with
descriptor strip

singly
adverb with
imbedded
descriptor strip

Three Degrees of Comparison

- The modifying role of both adjectives and adverbs is expressed through the **degrees of comparison**.

- The degree of a quality that one object has in comparison to another results in changes to the form of the adjective or adverb, according to which of the three levels of comparison is being used.

- The **positive degree** is the most basic form and indicates a lack of comparison.
  - Those adjectives and adverbs that are a positive degree of comparison and involve a total word change across degrees of comparison display the positive degree grammar marker.
    - The positive degree grammar marker is a simple slide-bar indicating the baseline of increasing values.

soft
positive degree
adjective with
descriptor strip

fast
positive degree
adverb

softer — faster
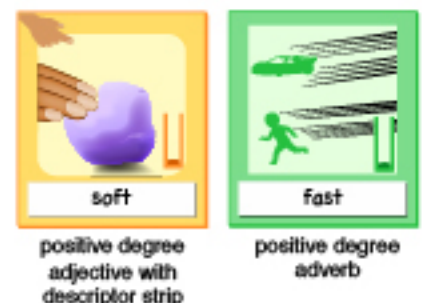
regular

- The **comparative degree** compares one object to another with one object having a greater or lesser degree of the quality of comparison.
  - Comparative degree adjectives and adverbs have the slide-bar type grammar marker at the mid point.

worse — less

irregular

more — like

adverb modifying adjective

- Some comparative adjectives and adverbs mark degrees of comparison with the suffix "-er" while others require a word change or the addition of a comparative adverb.

- The Piclish comparative degree adjectives and adverbs have a grammar marker for the comparative degree suffix. Those comparative degree adjectives and adverbs that undergo a word change also have an irregular grammar marker.

less — loudly

adverb modifying adverb

- The **superlative degree** is the highest degree of comparison of the adjective or adverb, holding the greatest or least degree of the compared quality.


softest — fastest

regular

most — best

irregular

- Superlative degree adjectives and adverbs designate an increase in the quality of comparison and have a slide-bar grammar marker at the top point.

- Some superlative adjectives and adverbs mark degrees of comparison with the suffix "-est" while others require a word change or the addition of a superlative adverb.

least — like
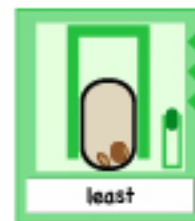
adverb modifying adjective

- Some superlative adjectives and adverbs mark degrees of comparison with a suffix, while others require a word change or addition of an adverb. The Piclish superlative degree adjectives and adverbs have a grammar marker for the superlative degree suffix and may have the irregular grammar marker to designate a word change.

least — dangerous

adverb modifying adjective

most — cheerfully

adverb modifying adverb

ran — fastest
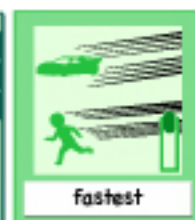
verb modified by adverb

- Some adjectives and adverbs are "beyond comparison" or "absolute", as the qualities they express exist in only one degree.

- These beyond comparison adjectives and adverbs should not be modified by more/most or less/least.

full	empty	circular	once	when	no

Conjunctions:

- **Conjunctions** connect words, phrases, clauses, or sentences.
    - The PicLits forms have a pale blue background with a darker blue frame.
    - The symbols are made of single or combined puzzle pieces, providing a visual cue that the symbol word is connecting the parts of a sentence.

yet	also	once	when	whether	so

- The illustrations serve as a link to the other part(s) of speech as well as the word's definition(s) in other parts of speech.

    - Example: *where* (conjunction) has the light green used in adverbs and the compass rose used in both the adverb and pronoun versions of *where*.

| where	where	where
adverb	pronoun	conjunction

- There are three types of conjunctions.

    - **Coordinate conjunctions** link two parts of a sentence that are of equal importance.
        - They are made up of one to three puzzle pieces.
            - The puzzle pieces are simple and are either purple or lavender.
            - There is only one connection tab and one hole per puzzle piece.
            - The conjunction *nor* is the only coordinate conjunction with a simple illustration imbedded in the drawing.
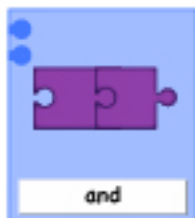
    - Four of the coordinating conjunctions (i.e., *and*, *but*, *or* and *nor*) also serve as correlative conjunctions.
        - Their forms include the puzzle tabs and cut outs used on correlative conjunctions.

and

but

or

nor

- **Subordinate conjunctions** connect elements of differing importance.
    - There is a faded group of puzzle pieces providing a background for a single puzzle piece with multiple connection tabs and holes.

    - Simple illustrations and symbol parts from the core word symbol may be incorporated into the symbol.

before
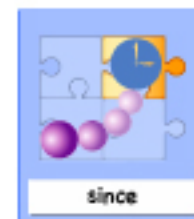
since

- **Correlative conjunctions** are always linked in pairs to join two parts of a sentence.
    - These symbols have either puzzle tabs or cut outs along the side of the form facing the word with which it is paired.
        - The puzzle tab strips and cut outs are the same blue as the symbol frame.
    - The illustrations may be all or a part of the core word symbol.

neither

nor

- Refer to page 31, **Appendix E**, for a general overview of the complete symbol set of conjunctions.

Interjections

- **Interjections** are words of greeting, strong or sudden emotion, or feeling.
    - The Piclit symbol form is two shades of fuchsia with a partial profile or frontal view of a person showing a variety of facial expressions.
    - A speech bubble with an exclamation mark, other keyboard characters or drawings are used to indicate the emotion.

ah	damn	hello	goodbye	oh no	ouch

- Words or phrases with similar meaning (synonyms) may be substituted in the label as they are needed.

Punctuation, Letters & Numbers

- **Punctuation** is a system of stroke-like symbols used in written language as a means of clarifying or adding emphasis, intonation, or pause to a sentence.
    - Each of the noun form punctuation marks appear on a key board button which is centered on a noun form with the written word or name for the symbol in the label box.
        - The noun forms of the punctuation symbols have the standard text label.

,	.	?	%	#	<
comma	period	question mark	percent sign	number sign	less-than sign

- When used as punctuation in a sentence, the punctuation marks on the narrower pale gray form may be substituted for the noun punctuation forms and placed in the appropriate spaces.

,	.	?	%	#	<
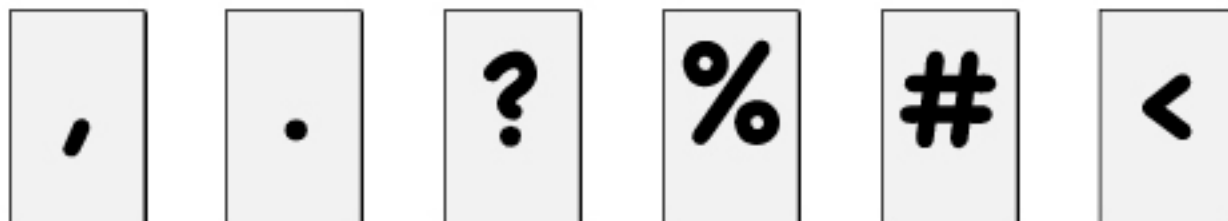
- **Letters and Numbers**, when used as symbols, appear individually on noun forms.
    - Letters are available in both upper and lower case.
    - The numbers 0 through 9 are available on noun forms.

A	a	R	r	W	w
A	a	R	r	W	w

0	1	4	5	7	9
0	1	4	5	7	9

- When used for spelling or math, the letters or numbers on the narrower pale gray form may be used.

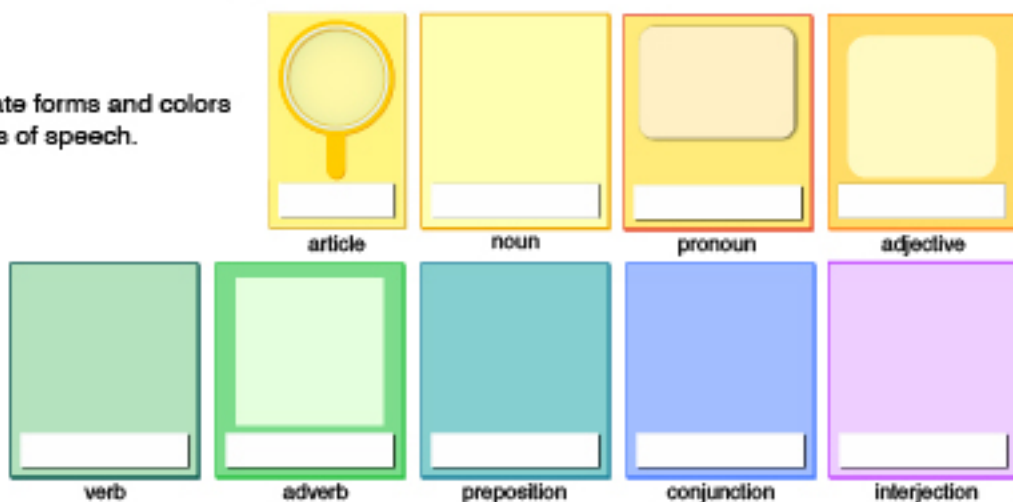| B	b	2	8

delete
delete

- Command keys from the keyboard are also available.
    - These are found on the noun form only.

Piclish:
Appendices

Appendix A

Form 1

- Standard PicLit template forms and colors
for the nine parts of speech.

article   noun   pronoun   adjective

verb   adverb   preposition   conjunction   interjection

Alternate
template
Form 2

article

noun   pronoun

adjective   verb

adverb   preposition

conjunction   interjection

Alternate
template
Form 3

article

noun   pronoun

adjective   verb

adverb   preposition

conjunction   interjection

Alternate
template
Form 4

article

noun   pronoun

adjective   verb

adverb   preposition

conjunction   interjection

Appendix B

Inflected forms of regular, irregular and auxiliary verbs:

Regular

walk	walks	walked	walking
root verb	3rd person singular	past tense	progressive

Irregular

eat	eats	ate	eaten	eating
root verb	3rd person singular	past tense	past participle	progressive

Auxiliary

be	am	are	is
root verb	1st person singular	2nd person singular & plural, 3rd person plural	3rd person singular

was	were	been	being
1st & 3rd person, singular, past tense	2nd person, singular and plural past tense (all plurals)	perfect tense	progressive

Appendix C

Sample action indicators for verbs:

directional movement

movement plus sound

rotational movement

modified directional movement

repeated rapid movement

conceptual action

sound

speed lines

Appendix D

An Overview of Adjectives

- Many of the PicLits adjectives have been grouped and marked by an indicator at the top and/or left hand side of the form, providing a visual cue of that adjective's category or grouping.

Generic

Spatial

Numbers	Quantity	Feelings	Color	Tactile	Multi-sensory	Visual

Temperature	Time	Size	Auditory	Smell	Conceptual	Taste

Indicator Components

auditory

numbers

tactile

colors

quantity amount

taste

feelings

size

temperature

smell

conceptual

time

multi sensory

spatial

visual

30

Appendix E

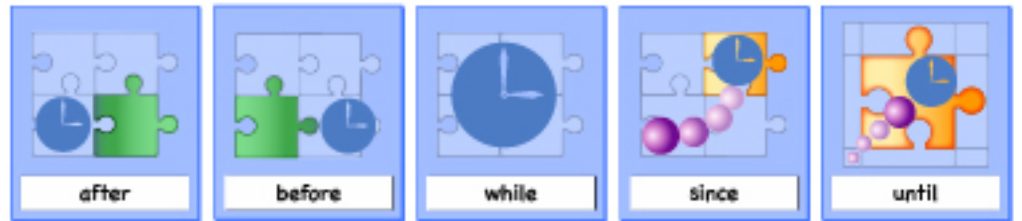## A Representative Overview of Conjunction PicLits

Coordinate Conjunctions

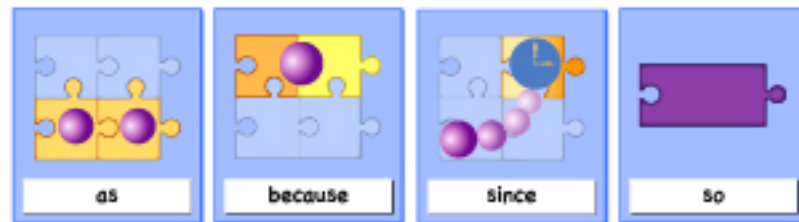| and | but | for | nor | or | so | yet |

Subordinate Conjunctions

Time
- implies a sense of time; each symbol has a clock face

| after | before | while | since | until |

Cause & Effect
- provides a comparison or reason

| as | because | since | so |

Condition
- symbols use one or more puzzle pieces to state the relationship of the condition

| even if | if | only if | unless | whether or not |

Opposition
- states opposition or possibility; symbols use one or more puzzle pieces to state relationship

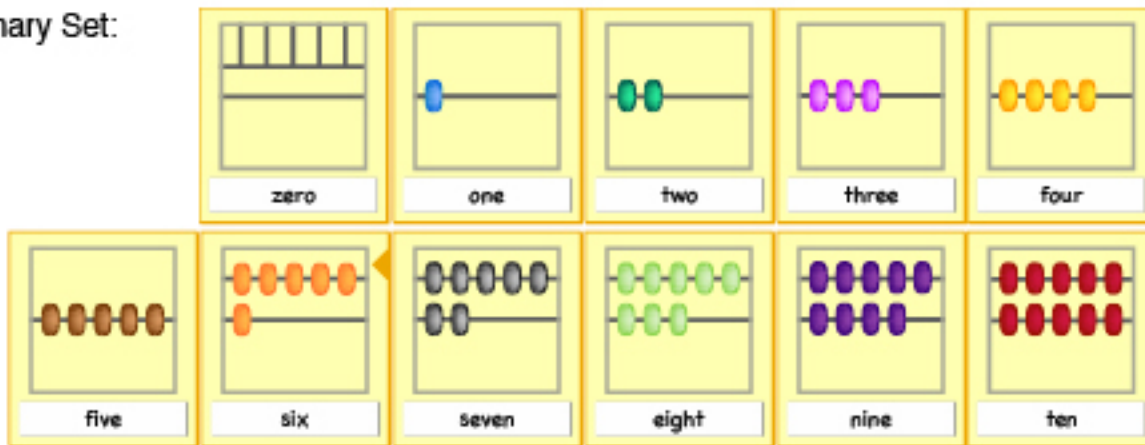| although | even though | though | whereas | while |

Commonly used Correlative Conjunctions

| both | and | but | also | either | or |

Appendix F

An overview of Numbers:

Primary Set:

zero	one	two	three	four
five	six	seven	eight	nine
				ten

Secondary Set:

zero	one	two	three	four
five	six	seven	eight	nine
				ten

fifteen	thirty	46	100	hundred	928
1000	thousand	4,928	nine thousand	million	billion
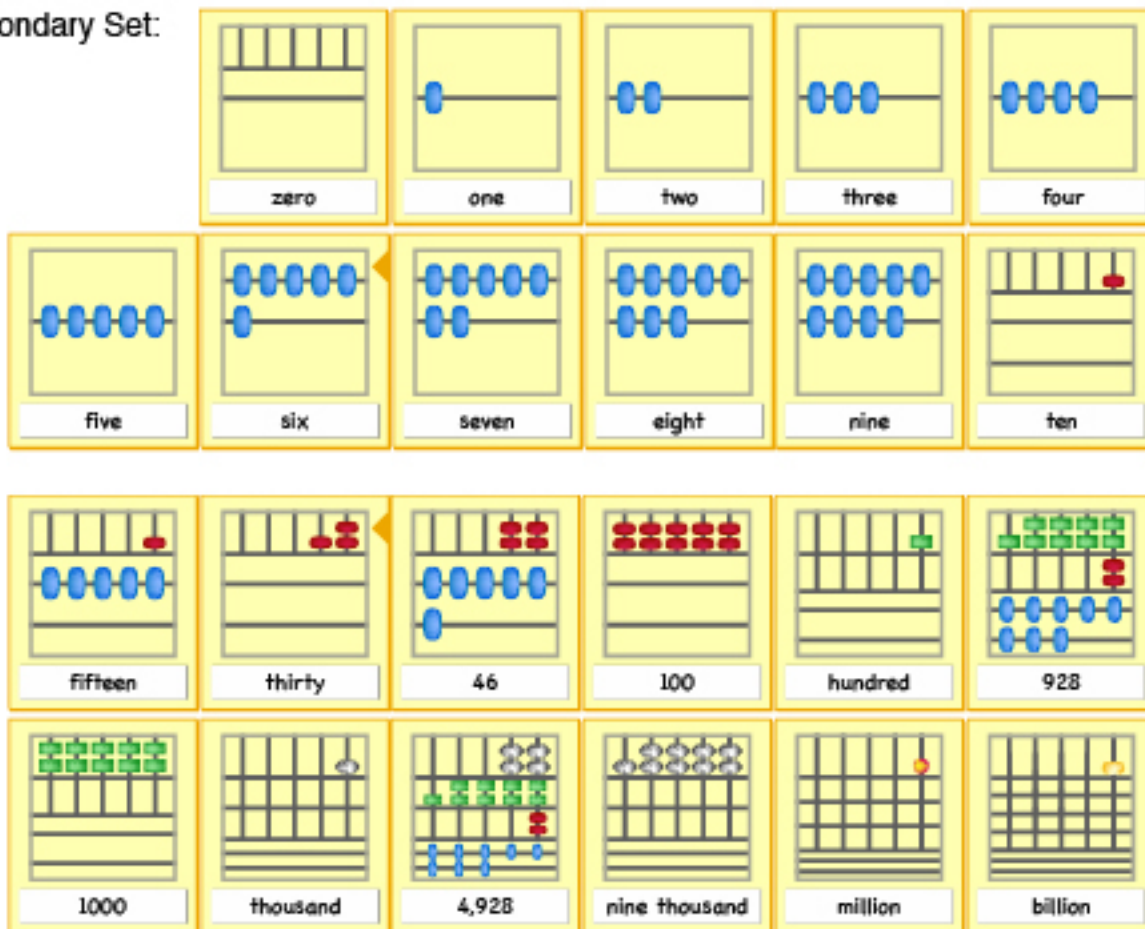
Piclish copyrighted 2012 Tease the Easel

Piclish was conceived, created and designed by Melissa Bastien, Faith Carlson, and Deborah Dutton.

For more information see:
languagesymbols.com

or contact us at:
Language Symbols,
P.O. Box 682, Unity, ME 04988

Attention Authors and Developers

Contact us if you are interested in licensing Piclish and the PicLit symbols for use on electronic devices, paper products, software, e-books, educational materials, etc. There is a comprehensive drawing guide available that details how to develop new symbols to expand the Piclish symbol library.

The symbols were created in Adobe Illustrator and are Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG). They can also be reformatted to bitmap.