



Shape Coding

Shape Coding was developed by Susan Ebbels, a Speech Pathologist from the United Kingdom, and her colleagues who used the system to teach spoken and written grammar to school-aged students with Language Disorder. It focuses on “showing” the structure of a sentence, which helps students to link the sentence structure (syntax) with its meaning (semantics). The tool is designed to gradually be reduced as students begin to understand and use appropriate grammatical structures.

Keywords: *Shape Coding, language disorder, grammar, school-aged child, intervention*

How does it work?

Shape Coding uses colours, shapes and arrows to “code” phrases, parts of speech, words and word endings.

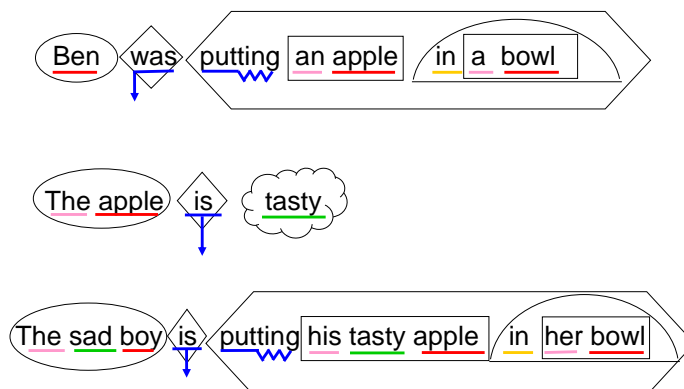
The coding system uses:

- Colours = parts of speech
- Shapes = phrases
- Arrows = verb tense

The components of Shape Coding are introduced gradually and taught explicitly. It helps students develop greater understanding of vocabulary, extend sentences, and assist with correcting their work.

Example of Shape Coding:

Shape Coding sentences





Who can it help?

Shape Coding can support students who have:

- Language Disorders
- Severe language difficulties
- Difficulty understanding and using English grammar
- A preference for visual supports/visual learning

Visit the *Shape Coding by Susan Ebbels* website for more information. It contains additional information, videos and resources on Shape Coding.
Website: <http://www.moorhouseschool.co.uk/shape-coding>

Want to learn more?

To learn more about Language Disorder and how to support children and young people for whom language is their primary disorder, please **contact us**. Language Disorder Australia provides holistic, innovative and effective therapy, education and support services and has a transdisciplinary team of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, educators, psychologists and physiotherapists.

Contact: 1300 881 763 or hello@languagedisorder.org.au

Website: languagedisorder.org.au

References

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Authors

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