

WEEKEND SYMBOL CHALLENGE

What would this sentence need in your language?

Below is a set of unfamiliar visual designs and the meanings already assigned to them. Treat the associations as learned. Your task is to make one meaningful sentence work naturally in a language you know.

LEARNED SYMBOLS



today



child



carry



basket



grandmother



and



return



home



sunset

TARGET MEANING

Today, the children carried the basket to their grandmother and returned home before sunset.

STARTING SYMBOL SENTENCE

These are the available concepts, shown without labels. Rearrange them and propose only what your language needs.



WHAT TO DO

1. Write a natural version of the target sentence in one language or variety you know.
2. Arrange the nine learned symbols in the order that best fits your version.
3. Propose up to four additional symbols or modifiers only where meaning would otherwise be lost or unclear.
4. Design each addition in the same abstract visual style. It must not depict, resemble, or conventionally signal its assigned meaning.
5. For each proposed symbol, state what it should convey and give a one-sentence rationale for both its function and design.
6. Note any grammatical words a child could naturally supply even though no separate symbol represents them.

YOUR RESPONSE

Build your proposed symbol sentence

Language / variety:

Natural translation:

Literal English back-translation:

PROPOSED SYMBOL ORDER

Write the learned meanings in your preferred order, or redraw their symbols in the boxes.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

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11

12

13

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS OR MODIFIERS

What should it convey?	Draw an abstract design	Why is it needed in this language?

GRAMMATICAL WORDS OR INFORMATION THE CHILD MAY SUPPLY WITHOUT A SEPARATE SYMBOL

WEEKEND REAL-WORLD CHECK

Once you have a proposal, try it with a family member, friend, or colleague. First show each new design without its meaning and check that it does not give the meaning away. Then teach the associations, show the sequence, ask what feels natural or confusing, and revise as needed.

OPTIONAL: COMPARE NOTES

If you would find peer feedback useful, you are invited to share your language, proposed additions, and what changed after the quick check in the article comments.