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EDUCATIONAL WORD GAME MEANS

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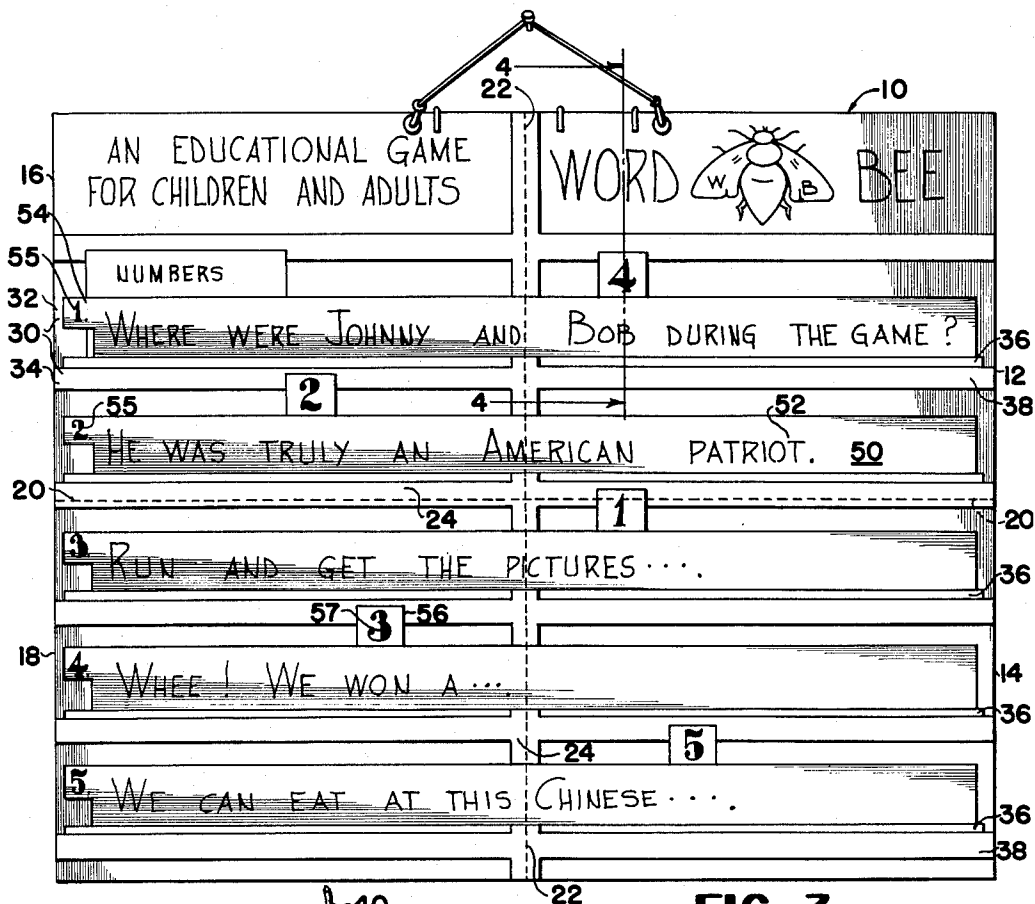


FIG. 3

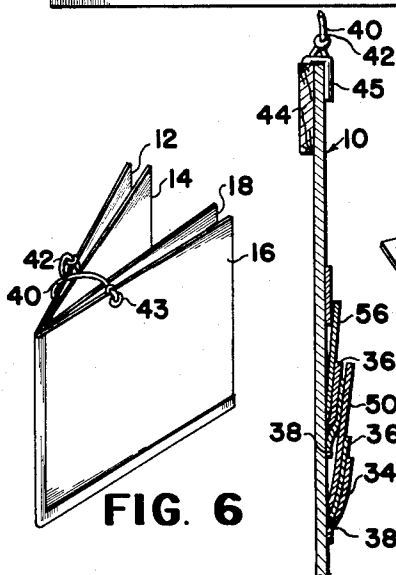


FIG. 4

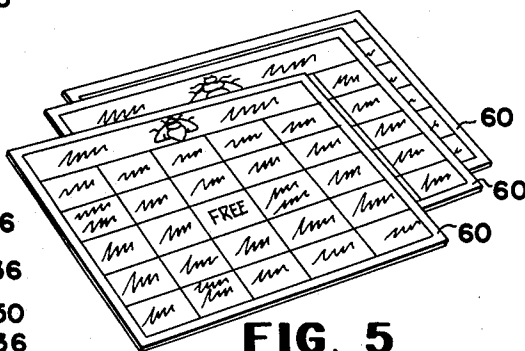


FIG. 5

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EDUCATIONAL WORD GAME MEANS

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The invention relates to game means. In a more specific aspect this invention relates to game apparatus for playing a lotto-type educational game of skill. Still more specifically this invention relates to game apparatus adapted to be played by an arbitrary number of players, and which preferably involves the recognition and identification of the grammatical parts of speech. Further, the invention relates to game apparatus for playing a game wherein a leader presents sentence structure to a number of competing players indicating various words to be associated with the proper parts of speech, whereupon the players make conclusions as to the proper parts of speech and record same on lotto-type playing cards until a winning card is determined by a proper and correct arrangement of recorded parts of speech.

The conventional lotto-type games known to the prior art involved in their playing only the element of chance to determine the winner. These lotto-type games do not, in general, have any constructive value and are played solely for enjoyment. In many instances, the player becomes bored with the game because its playing does not present an intellectual challenge or provide mental stimulation. The nature of the lotto-type games known to the prior art, because the winner is in general selected by mere chance or luck, makes it impossible for one to become proficient and skilled at playing the game. Therefore, the time spent playing these games does not contribute to either the mental or physical prowess of a player. The only reason for playing these type games is for purposes of mere enjoyment and pleasure, which reason may be short lived if the player becomes bored with the game due to its very inherent nature.

The new game apparatus of my invention includes a plurality of sign means having indicia thereon. Most desirably the sign means are elongated flat signs having sentences printed thereon. A plurality of different identifiable articles are also provided. Preferably the identifiable articles are in the form of a series of rectangular flat sign blocks having progressive or numeral indicia printed thereon. Associated with the sign means and identifiable articles is a display means adapted to display them in an arbitrary indicative association. Preferably the display means is a flat relatively large board or master board having pockets or other securing means for affixing or supporting the signs and articles thereon, preferably with the articles disposed above words on the signs, in any desired arbitrary relationship. Means are provided having defining indicia relating to the indicia on the sign means. Preferably this means is a plurality of playing cards having the grammatical parts of speech arranged in columns and rows. Associated with the aforementioned means is a plurality of means corresponding to the identifiable articles and adapted to register on the defining indicia. Desirably this plurality of means is a series of playing blocks having indicia corresponding to the indicia on the identifiable articles. The game apparatus of my invention preferably involves the identification of various words in sentences displayed on the master board and the recordation of same on the playing cards with the playing blocks, the winner selected by the proper and correct arrangement of the playing blocks on the playing cards.

The game apparatus of my invention overcomes the major disadvantages of the lotto-type game apparatus known to the prior art. Using my game apparatus to play a lotto-type game, which I propose to name Word-

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Bee is instructive as well as stimulating. Playing Word-Bee with my game apparatus involves skill, knowledge, ability to make decisions, as well as a small amount of chance. This combination of characteristics make the playing of Word-Bee a very stimulating exercise which is enjoyable as well as being instructive. A player will not become bored playing Word-Bee as is often the case in playing the conventional lotto-type games known to the prior art. Word-Bee played on my game apparatus presents the player with an intellectual challenge which provides for a mental stimulation, and at the same time thoroughly familiarizes the player with the various parts of speech and their proper usage, and also helps build a larger vocabulary. Thus, Word-Bee is adapted to take the unpleasantness, boredom, and strain from teaching and studying grammar. The game Word-Bee can be very profitably utilized in schools and various types of instructive meetings and classes to interject education to the students and participants in most painless form. Students often become so interested and fascinated by the game that they play it during their normal recreation period. In many instances the time ordinarily spent teaching students the parts of speech can be utilized to teach other important courses. Playing the game is a substitute for many hours of instruction on the subject of English and grammar. Further, the inherent nature of my game Word-Bee enables one playing the game to become more skilled thus encouraging further participation in the playing of same, and making it less likely that the player will become bored by it.

It is an object of this invention to provide a new game apparatus.

Another object of this invention is to provide game apparatus for playing a game that involves skill in the playing thereof.

Still another object of this invention is to provide game apparatus for playing a game that has educational value.

Yet another object of this invention is to provide a game apparatus for playing a game that presents the player with an intellectual challenge and mental stimulation in the playing thereof.

Another object of this invention is to provide a game apparatus for aiding the teaching of the grammatical parts of speech.

Another object of this invention is to provide game apparatus for playing a game that is enjoyable to play, involves the element of skill, and will appeal to persons of all ages having the capability of playing same.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the disclosure set forth herein.

Drawings of preferred specific embodiments of the invention accompany and are a part hereof, and such are to be understood not to unduly limit the scope of my invention. In the drawings,

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary perspective drawing of the master board of the game apparatus combination of my invention showing sentence structure signs and indicia sign blocks supported on same.

FIG. 2 is a perspective drawing of a specific embodiment of a playing card of my invention having positioned thereon playing blocks having numeral indicia printed thereon.

FIG. 3 is a front elevational view of a specific embodiment of a master board of my new game apparatus combination with sign strips having sentence indicia and sign blocks having numeral indicia located and secured thereon.

FIG. 4 is a fragmentary side elevational view in cross section of the master board taken on line 4—4 of FIG. 3 illustrating the structure of same.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view showing a plurality of playing cards of my invention.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a specific embodiment of the master board of my invention illustrating it in a folded inoperative position.

Following is a discussion and description of the new game apparatus combination of my invention made with reference to the drawings, wherein the reference numerals are used to indicate the same or similar parts of the structure. The discussion and description are of preferred specific embodiments of the new game apparatus combination of my invention, and it is to be understood that such is not to unduly limit the scope of my invention.

Referring now to the drawings FIGS. 1-6, and in particular to FIG. 3, the foldable master board 10 is a preferred specific embodiment of the display means, structure of my invention. Master board 10 is made up of four rectangular rigid relatively thin panels 12, 14, 16 and 18, respectively, arranged to form a large composite rectangular panel with a horizontal joint 20, and a vertical joint 22. The panels 12, 14, 16 and 18, of the master board can be made of any suitable material. Examples of materials that can be used to form the panels are, cardboard, plastic sheet, plywood, fabric, etc. The preferred material for the master board of my invention is a relatively thin high quality cardboard sheet material. The master board can be of any suitable size, shape and proportion. It is preferably rectangular or square in shape. The size of the master board will depend on the intended usage of the game. In general, the larger the board the easier it will be for the players to view it. If the board is to be used and viewed by a large number of players, it is desirable to have a large sized master board. If the game is to be played by only a relatively few people, the master board need not be as large. In general, the overall size of the board can vary having a length in the range of from 1 to 8 feet, and a height in the range of 1 to 7 feet. The most preferred size for the master board of my invention is two feet four inches in length and one foot ten inches in height. If desired the master board can be formed of one single panel or of any number of panels arranged to form a composite panel, or possibly be an integral part of a wall partition etc. In the preferred specific embodiment herein illustrated, a hinge means is provided on joints 20 and 22. Preferably this hinge means consists of a flexible elongated thin material 24 hingedly joining the panels at the horizontal and vertical joints thereof. The hinge means 24 is adhered at its opposite sides to adjacent panel edges.

Five sets of horizontally disposed pocket means 30 are arranged on one side of the master board 10 in parallel relation. Each set of pocket means 30 has an upper pocket 32 and a lower pocket 34. Both upper and lower pockets 32 and 34 are similar in structure each having a flat relatively rigid strip 36, which is slightly shorter than the panels, adhered to the panel with a flexible tape 38 adhered in part to the board or panel along the bottom and side edges. The tape 38 is adhered to strip 36 along the front bottom edge portion with the tape extending over the ends and the bottom. The extended portions of the tape are adhered to the board 10. The strips 36 can be of any suitable size which size would be determined largely by the size of the master board. If the board is constructed to fold, as in the preferred specific embodiment, the length of the strips 36 can be made to extend the width of the panel having a break at the joint to enable the board to be folded. In the preferred specific embodiment the strips 36 preferably have a width of one-half inch and a length of thirteen and three-eighths inches. The strips 36 can be made of any suitable material. Examples of the materials that can be used are plywood, sheet plastic, wood, cardboard, fiberboard, and the like. The preferred material is a

high quality grade of cardboard. The flexible tapes 38 used to secure the strips 36 to the master board to form pockets thereon can be of any suitable tape of material such as adhesive tape, friction tape, fabric provided with an adherent material and, the like. However, the pocket means can have any suitable type of structure. Further, any other suitable means can be used to secure or support sign strips and sign blocks, on the board in lieu of pockets such as clips, magnetic means, etc.

A hanger means 40 for the master board is provided to support same in a vertical unfolded operative position. Any suitable type of hanger means can be provided. I have found that a hanger means 40 consisting of a cord 42 anchored to the board by spaced eyelets 43 works very well. A means to maintain the board in unfolded relationship can be provided. This means preferably consists of an elongated board strip 44 having a plurality of hook means 45 spaced along the board and adapted to clip over the top edge of board 10.

Sign means consisting of a plurality of relatively rigid elongated flat sign strips 50 having indicia 52 arranged in sentences printed thereon are provided for use in combination with the master board 10. Sign strips 50 are preferably of a length slightly shorter than the unfolded width of the master board and are adapted to be disposed in the pockets 34 with a major portion of the sign strips with the indicia 52 protruding out the pocket in viewable position. In use the strips 50 are ordinarily placed in the lower pocket 34 of pocket means 30. The sign strips 50 can be made of any suitable type of material. Examples of suitable materials are plywood, plastic sheet material, wood strips, cardboard material, and the like. The preferred material for the strips is a high quality of relatively thin cardboard material. The sign strips 50 can be of any suitable size which size is dictated largely by the size of the master board. Most desirably the sign strips 50 are approximately two inches in width and approximately two feet and two inches in length. Since the sign strips are adapted to be placed in the pockets 34, which pockets cover the lower portion of the sign strip, the printed indicia 52 should be positioned above the bottom edge at least two width of strip 36 in order that it will not cover the indicia. If desired, a small tab 54 can be attached on the upper left hand corner of the sign strip, with an identifying numerical indicia 55. The indicia 52 on the sign strips 50 is preferably arranged to spell out a sentence. The sentences are different on each of the sign strips. A plurality of different identifiable articles comprising a series of small flat rectangular sign blocks 56 having numerical indicia 57 printed thereon and adapted to be disposed in the upper pockets 32 are provided. The portions of the sign blocks 56 having indicia protrude above and out of the upper pocket 32, thereby adapting same to be viewed by the players. Since the signal blocks 56 in practice are inserted in pockets 32, the indicia 56 is preferably spaced from the bottom at least the distance of strip 36 in order that the indicia will not be covered by same when positioned in the pocket. The sign blocks 56 can be made of any suitable material. Preferably the material of the sign blocks is the same as the material in the sign strips 50. The sign blocks 56 can be of any suitable size. Preferably the sign blocks are one and one-half inches in width and two inches in height with numeral indicia 57 positioned five-eighths of an inch from the bottom thereof. The series of indicia on the sign blocks can be of any suitable length. I have found that numeral indicia from 1 to 15 is quite appropriate. Other forms of progressive indicia can be used instead of numerals, as for example the alphabet. Another form of the identifiable articles used in my game apparatus could be a series of distinctive colored blocks.

A plurality of playing cards 60 having ruled markings 61 forming rectangular printed blocks with indicia 62 printed therein are provided. The cards 60 can be formed

with ruled markings 61 to form any suitable number and arrangement of squares. I have found that 25 rectangular squares arranged in five columns and five rows works very well. The indicia 62 printed in the squares are arranged to spell out the grammatical parts of speech within the squares. The parts of speech are randomly arranged on the card in no particular arrangement. The blocks can be marked off with other means than rulings 61 if desired. This could possibly be done by varying the colors of the various portions or indicia throughout the card.

A plurality of means corresponding to the sign blocks comprising series of small flat rectangular playing blocks 65 are provided for each playing card 60. The playing blocks 65 are preferably of a size slightly smaller than the ruled blocks on the playing card. The blocks can be of any suitable shape as for example, square, rectangular, round, etc. Further, the playing blocks have numerical indicia 66 printed thereon, the indicia corresponding to the indicia of the series of sign blocks 56, namely indicia 57 printed thereon. Preferably the indicia series of the playing blocks are numerals from 1 to 15. However, other progressive indicia such as the figures of the alphabet distinctive means can be used if desired. The playing blocks 65 can be made of any suitable type of material such as cardboard, wood, plastic, ceramic, etc. The preferred material for the playing blocks is a high quality cardboard material. The playing cards 60 can be of any suitable size and shape. We have found that a playing card having a width of eight inches and a height of six or seven inches works very well. The playing blocks 65 can be of any suitable size that is adapted to indicate a single ruled square on the playing card 60. We have found that a playing block one inch in width and three quarters of an inch in height is quite appropriate.

A key can be provided which lists the various sentences contained on the sign strips and gives the correct part of speech for each word of the sentences. This key is important to settle arguments which may arise between the players as to what is the correct part of speech. It is also important when the players and leader are not completely certain of the correct answers in checking a potential winner.

My game of Word-Bee can be played by any number of players plus a leader. Preferably the game is played by 2 to 10 players plus a leader. Each player is given a Word-Bee card 60, marked with the parts of speech and a set of 15 numbered playing blocks 65. The leader selects five sentence sign strips 50, places them in the pockets of the master board 10 so that they are visible to all the players. The leader chooses the words (one at a time) at random from among the five sentences displayed, reads the words aloud, and marks them by placing a numbered sign block 56 above each word. The sign blocks should be used in numerical order. As the leader picks each word the players must determine what part of speech the word is and cover that part of speech on his playing card with a playing block. These playing blocks also must be used in numerical order. If a player is unable to determine the part of speech of a particular word, or does not have that part of speech on his card, he must lay the playing block aside. When a player has completed a diagonal, horizontal, or vertical row on his playing card including the free center, he calls out Word-Bee. The leader must privately check the winner's playing card against the sentence key which lists the correct part of speech of each word on the sign strips. The numbers on the player's card must match the numbers on the master board, and each word on the sign strip must be properly identified by the correct part of speech. If the leader while checking a winning card detects a mistake in identification of one or more words, the misplaced playing blocks are removed and the player takes his place as leader. The game then continues until someone completes a correct Word-Bee combination on his playing

card. In case two or more persons get a Word-Bee at the same time, the winner will be the first to call out. Since this game is designed primarily for upper elementary grades, it does not attempt to cover all subdivisions in the study of the parts of speech, but only those most commonly encountered in these grades. However, the game can be played by children as well as adults beyond the elementary grades and provides a stimulating challenging and enjoyable form of recreation.

While I have described and illustrated preferred embodiments of my invention, it is understood that the game apparatus combination of my invention disclosed can be made in other forms than herein described or suggested without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I claim:

1. A game apparatus combination for playing an educational lotto-type game of skill comprising, in combination, a foldable master board comprised of four rectangular rigid relatively thin panels, arranged to form a large composite rectangular panel with a horizontal joint and a vertical joint, hinge means hingedly joining said panels at the horizontal and vertical joints thereof, said hinge means comprised of flexible elongated thin material adhered at its opposite edges to adjacent panel edges, five sets of horizontally disposed pocket means arranged on one side of said master board in parallel relation, each of said sets of pocket means comprised of upper and lower pockets, elongated flat relatively rigid strips slightly shorter than said panels and flexible tapes adhered in part on said strips and in part to said board to secure said strips to said board along the bottom and side edges thereof forming said upper and lower pockets, a hanger means for said master board to support same in a vertical unfolded operative position, a means to maintain the board in unfolded position, a plurality of relatively rigid, elongated flat sign strips having indicia arranged in sentences printed thereon, said sign strips of a length slightly shorter than the unfolded width of said master board and adapted to be disposed in the lower pockets of said sets of pocket means with a major portion of said sign strips with the indicia protruding above and out of said lower pocket, a series of small flat rectangular sign blocks having numeral indicia printed thereon and adapted to be disposed in said upper pocket of said pocket means with the portion of said sign block having indicia protruding above and out of said upper pocket, a plurality of playing cards, ruled markings on each of said cards forming twenty-five rectangular printed squares with indicia printed therein arranged to set out grammatical parts of speech, a series of small flat rectangular playing blocks for each playing card of a size slightly smaller than the printed squares on said playing cards and having numeral indicia corresponding to the indicia on said series of sign blocks, the sign strips and sign blocks adapted to be randomly selected and arranged on said master board in the pocket means thereof to convey a signal to be interpreted and utilized to draw conclusions as to the parts of speech of various indicated words, which conclusions are recorded on said playing cards by a proper selection and placement of said playing blocks requiring skill, and the random selection continuing until a winning playing card is determined by a proper and correct arrangement of said playing blocks.

2. A game apparatus combination for playing an educational lotto-type game of skill comprising, in combination, a master board comprised of four rectangular rigid relatively thin panels arranged to form a large composite rectangular panel, hinge means hingedly joining said panels, five sets of horizontally disposed pocket means arranged on one side of said master board in parallel relation, each of said sets of pocket means comprised of upper and lower horizontally extending pockets extending across the width of the master board, a hanger means for said master board to support same in a vertical unfolded operative position, a plurality of relatively rigid elongated flat sign strips having indicia arranged

in sentences printed thereon and adapted to be disposed in the lower pockets of said set of pocket means with the indicia protruding above and out of said lower pocket, a series of small flat rectangular sign blocks having numeral indicia printed thereon adapted to be disposed in said upper pocket of said pocket means with a portion of said sign block having indicia protruding out of said upper pocket, a plurality of playing cards, ruled markings on said playing cards forming 25 printed squares on each card with indicia printed thereon arranged to present grammatical parts of speech, a series of small flat rectangular playing blocks for each playing card of a size smaller than the ruled squares on said playing cards and having numeral indicia corresponding to the indicia of said series of sign blocks, the sign strips and sign blocks adapted to be randomly selected and arranged on said master board in the pockets thereof to convey a signal to be interpreted and utilized to draw conclusions, which conclusions are recorded on said playing cards by a proper selection and placement of said playing blocks requiring skill, and a winning playing card determined by a proper and correct arrangement of said playing blocks.

3. A game apparatus comprising, in combination, a master board, five sets of horizontally disposed pocket means arranged on said master board in parallel relation, each of said sets of pocket means comprised of upper and lower horizontal pockets, a plurality of sign strips having indicia thereon arranged in sentences, said sign strips adapted to be placed in said lower pockets, a series of sign blocks having numeral indicia thereon adapted to be disposed randomly in said upper pocket in indicative relation to the word indicia on said sign strips, a plurality of playing cards, indicia on said playing cards arranged to present grammatical parts of speech and positioned in columns and rows, a series of playing blocks for each card having indicia printed thereon corresponding to the numeral indicia of said series of sign blocks, the sign strips and sign blocks adapted to be selected and arranged on said master board in the respective pockets to thereby convey a signal to be interpreted and utilized to draw conclusions which conclusions are recorded on playing cards by a proper selection and placement of said playing blocks, and a winning playing card determined by a proper and correct arrangement of said playing blocks.

4. A game apparatus comprising, in combination, a display board, a plurality of signs having word indicia thereon, a series of sign blocks having numeral indicia thereon, means to releasably secure said signs and said series of sign blocks on said display board in close position whereby said sign blocks indicate individual word

indicia on said signs, a plurality of playing cards, indicia on said playing cards setting forth grammatical parts of speech arranged in columns and rows, a series of playing blocks for each playing card having numeral indicia thereon corresponding to the numeral indicia of said sign blocks, the signs and sign blocks adapted to be selected and arranged on said display board with the sign blocks indicating word indicia on said signs to thereby convey a signal to be interpreted and utilized to draw conclusions as to the proper grammatical part of speech of each indicated word indicia, which conclusions are recorded on playing cards by a proper selection and placement of said playing blocks, and a winning playing card determined by a proper and correct arrangement of said playing blocks.

5. A game apparatus comprising, in combination, a display board, a plurality of elongated signs having word indicia thereon, a series of sign blocks having progressive indicia thereon, means to releasably secure said signs on said display board, means to releasably secure said sign blocks adjacent said elongated signs with said sign blocks positioned to indicate word indicia on said signs, playing cards having identifying indicia arranged in columns and rows, and a series of playing blocks for each playing card having progressive indicia thereon corresponding to said progressive indicia on said series of sign blocks, said signs and said sign blocks constructed and adapted to be selected and arranged on said display board with said sign blocks indicating word indicia on said signs to thereby convey a signal to be interpreted and utilized to draw conclusions, which conclusions are recorded on playing cards by a proper selection and placement of said playing blocks, and a winning playing card determined by a predetermined arrangement of said playing blocks thereon.

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