

Tracing Guide Part2: Symbols and Definitions

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This may look slightly mechanical, but remember it is merely a simple way to identify propositions. It is important to study this chart. The “Key Words” given in the fourth column are not exhaustive lists, but just some typical examples. There are other kinds of propositions not listed in this chart, but these are the basic propositions. While the symbols may be new, these are the kinds of statements you make and understand every day of your life.

	NAME	SYMBOL	DEFINITION	KEY WORDS	
	Series	S	Each proposition makes a contribution to whole	and, moreover, furthermore, likewise	Coordinate
	Progression	P	Each proposition is a further step toward a climax	then, and, moreover, furthermore	
	Alternative	A	Each proposition expresses an opposite possibility arising from a situation	but, while, or, on the other hand	
Support by Restatement	Action-Manner	Ac - Mn	Statement of an action and statement which tells more explicitly what is involved in carrying out action	by, in that	Subordinate
	Comparison	Cf	Statement expressing an action and one making that action clearer by showing what it is like	as, just as, even as, as... so, so also, like	
	Negative-Positive	- / +	Two alternative statements, one of the statements is denied by the other statement	but, not... but, though, although	
	Idea-Explanation	Id - Exp	Proposition stating a whole and one or more which sets forth the parts of the whole, or clarifies the meaning of the proposition	that is, for **Often no specific key words**	
	Question-Answer	Q - A	A question and the answer to the question	Question words: what, when, how	
Support by Distinct Statement	Ground	G	Statement and the argument or basis/reason for which it stands (a ground clause always supports). Not the “main point”	because, for, since	
	Inference	∴	A statement that is preceded by its supporting statement (upside down ground clause). Unlike a ground clause, an inference can be a main point	therefore, thus, wherefore, consequently	
	Action-Result	Ac - Res	An action and another action that comes automatically as a result	so that, that, with the result that	
	Action-Purpose	Ac - Pur	An action and another action that is intended as a result	in order that, that, lest, to the end that	
	Conditional	If - Th	Like Action-Result, but the causing action is only possible or potential	if... then, if, except	
	Temporal	T	Proposition and the occasion when it will occur	when, whenever, after, before	
	Locative	L	Relationship between the main proposition and the place where it can be true	where, wherever, etc.	
	Bilateral	BL	A bilateral proposition supports two other propositions, one preceding and one following	*See key words for Ground & Inference*	
Support by Contrary Statement	Concessive	Csv	The relationship between a main clause and a contrary statement	**No specific key words**	
	Situation-Response	Sit - R	A statement of response to a situation or action. Sit-R is most often found in narrative discourses.	although... yet, although, yet, nevertheless, but, however	