

Superstar Squares

Objective

To identify phrases and the words they modify

Players

11 or more

Materials

Large 9-square grid, pencil and paper for each player

Tina	Michael	Jancey
Melinda	Jose	Blake
Marcus	Tracy	Collin

Before playing

- Choose a reader and judge.
- For each of the following types of phrases write three different sentences: adjective prepositional phrase, adverb prepositional phrase, participial phrase, gerund phrase, and infinitive phrase (fifteen sentences in all). In each sentence, underline the phrase, write what type of phrase it is, and identify the word the phrase modifies (or, for gerund phrases and some infinitive phrases, tell how the phrase used in the sentence). Use sentences in your English book on pages 346–377 as models. Give the completed sentences to the reader.
- Draw a large nine-square grid on a chalkboard or on chart paper.
- Choose nine students to be “stars,” and have each one choose a celebrity name. Divide the remaining players into two teams.
- Write each star’s name in a box on the grid as shown in sample above.

How to play

1. One team will be X’s, and the other will be O’s. The reader begins by asking the X team to choose a star. The reader then reads a sentence to the star the X team chose.

agree, and the star was correct, the reader puts an *X* over that star’s name on the grid, and the X’s have another turn. If they agree, and the star was wrong, it is the O team’s turn to play. If the X team disagrees, and the star was right, it is also the O team’s turn. If the X team disagrees, and the star was wrong, they must provide the correct answer. If their answer is incorrect the O team has a turn.
2. The star identifies the phrase in the sentence, tells what kind of phrase it is and which word it modifies (or in the case of gerund and infinitive phrases, how it is used in the sentence). The star may choose to give a correct or an incorrect answer.
3. The reader asks the X team if they agree or disagree with the star’s answer. If they
 4. The first team to have three letters in a row—horizontally, vertically, or diagonally—wins the game.