

Verbalizing the Visual

I want you to think of a shape. It can be any shape you want—a circle, a square, a triangle, an eight-pointed star, or an ameboid glob—but keep it to a single continuous shape. I want you to hold that shape in your mind, or, if you need to, scratch it out on a piece of paper (or, if you are really far gone) on a computer.

Now I want you to think about how you would describe the shape without making reference to any shape. You can use “line,” but not any shape names.

Let’s say you draw a simple square. You might describe a square like this:

Draw four lines the same length that touch, two horizontally and two vertically.

This sounds accurate. If I were drawing the shape as you described it, I might draw a square:



However, following the same directions, I might draw something completely different:

