

Create a Clear Educational Poster

A beginner's guide to one learning goal, useful diagrams, and readable print and screen layouts

Count the Straight Sides

Look at the outline. Then name the shape.



Circle

No straight sides.
A curved line all around.



Triangle

3 straight sides.
3 corners.



Square

4 equal straight sides.
4 square corners.

Try it: Point to a triangle. Count its sides.

Original teaching example / Stock Noble

TEACH ONE THING.

01

Plan

One learning goal.

02

Draw

Diagrams that explain.

03

Check

Print, screen, and meaning.

STOCK NOBLE / CREATIVE PRACTICE

Create a Clear Educational Poster

A beginner's guide to one learning goal, useful diagrams, and readable print and screen layouts

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Stock Noble

First edition, October 2026

About this edition

Ellis Noble is the writing pen name used for this Stock Noble book. The worked poster, diagrams, layout comparisons, and practice activities are original teaching examples. They are not a report of a classroom trial or a claim of measured learning gains. No grade alignment, official endorsement, or accessibility certification is implied.

This is a digital learning edition with selectable text. It is not supplied as a certified tagged or PDF/UA document. The book explains practical access checks, includes a complete text equivalent for its worked poster, and distinguishes those checks from formal conformance testing. The worksheets are printable writing sheets rather than fillable PDF forms.

The poster you will make

You will make Count the Straight Sides, a poster comparing a circle, triangle, and square. One title, three clearly labeled rows, and a short pointing activity turn a broad topic into a small teaching task. You will choose what belongs, build accurate diagrams, arrange readable text, and check an exported file before using it.

The example is designed as a close-view sheet for an individual or small group with educator support. Its type sizes are practice choices to inspect at the actual viewing distance. They are not a promise that a learner can read the page from across a room. You will learn how to change the size, wording, or delivery when the situation calls for it.

The complete book includes a finished US Letter poster page that you can locate through the contents or bookmark. Print only that selected page when you want the

worked example. The layout chapter explains how to adapt the design to A4 instead of stretching one paper size into another. The example does not require a separate download to follow the teaching.

What you need

Use a layout, drawing, presentation, or document app that can set a page size, draw basic shapes, add text, align objects, and export a PDF. A tool you already understand is a useful starting point. The instructions describe functions and visible results rather than a particular app's changing button locations. If a needed control is unfamiliar, consult your app's current help before buying a different tool.

You also need a place to save an editable master, a way to open the exported PDF, and a plan for checking it with the intended learner. A printer is useful for the print check. If one is not available, finish the digital checks and record that a physical proof is still needed before classroom copies are produced. A screen preview cannot establish what the printer and paper will deliver.

You can draw every shape in this project yourself. No particular paid software, stock image, other book, course, newsletter signup, or Stock Noble membership is required. The teaching does not depend on a purchase beyond this book. For a later topic, choose outside resources only when they solve a real content need.

Work in order, then return to the checks

Chapters 1 and 2 help you choose one learning goal and accurate content. Chapters 3 and 4 turn that plan into a readable page with useful diagrams. Chapters 5 and 6 check access, export, printing, and what a learner actually understands. Read the explanation before treating a checklist as a set of rules.

Keep the main example intact while learning the method. After finishing it, use the same decisions for another suitable topic. The simple shapes are a way to practice information design; the book does not claim that three examples teach all of geometry.

Save a new version when you change a major decision. Record the reason, such as making a label easier to connect to its shape or adapting the page for different paper. At the end, you should be able to explain both what your poster teaches and how you checked that its important information survived the file and print process.

THE METHOD / CHAPTER 1

1. Choose one thing to teach

A useful educational poster helps someone notice, compare, or remember something specific. It can show a relationship that is awkward to explain with words alone. It can also become a crowded page that asks the learner to study everything at once. The difference begins with the teaching decision, before you choose a color or open a shape tool.

In this book, you will make a poster called Count the Straight Sides. It compares a circle, a triangle, and a square. The finished page will have one title, three clearly labeled examples, and one short practice question. You will build it from your own simple shapes and text. You do not need to buy artwork, own a particular app, or read another book first.

Start with a learner, not a page size

Before asking what belongs on the poster, ask who will use it and what they already know. A learner who can count three objects may still need help noticing where one straight side ends and another begins. Someone who recognizes the word triangle may not yet recognize a triangle turned in a different direction. These are different starting points.

Write a small, useful description of the intended learner. For our example, we are planning a beginning-reader activity supported by an educator. The learner will look at the sheet nearby, either alone with support or in a small group. We are not assuming that the same type size can be read from the back of a classroom. We are also not assigning the poster to every child of a certain age.

The educator decides whether the words, counting, language, and activity suit the actual learner. A tutor might read the labels aloud. A teacher might let a learner point instead of speak. A trainer making a different subject poster might need larger pictures or a different explanation. Those choices belong in the brief because they affect what a clear page means for this situation.

Do not invent a detailed learner profile to make the planning sound official. A few honest starting conditions are more useful than guesses about attention, ability, or interests. If you do not know whether the learner can read the labels, record that as something to check rather than quietly designing around an assumption.

Turn a topic into an observable goal

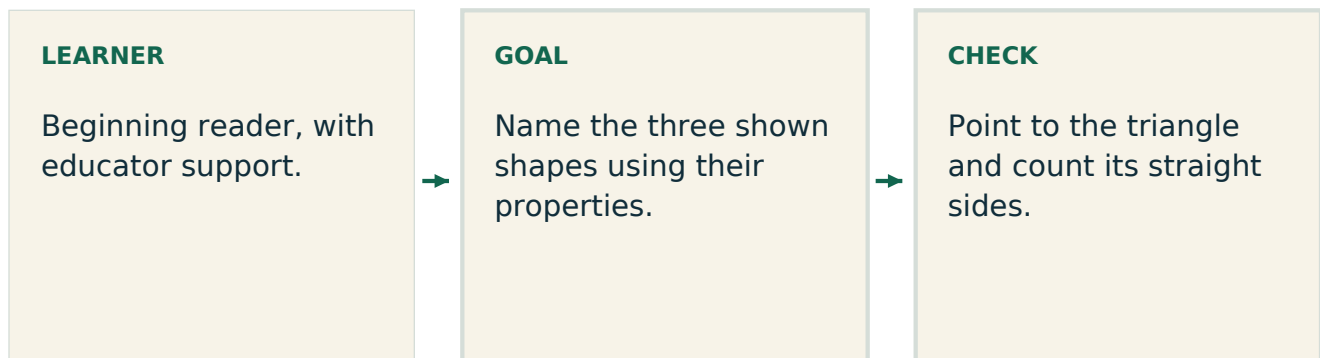
A topic names an area: shapes, plants, weather, or workplace safety. A learning goal describes something the learner should be able to do with the information. It gives you a way to decide what to include and what to check later.

"Teach shapes" is too broad for our page. It could mean naming shapes, drawing them, comparing their properties, finding them in a room, or sorting them into groups. Each task could lead to a different poster. Our goal is narrower: given the three shown examples, the learner identifies the circle, triangle, and square by their outlines and straight-side or corner properties.

The phrase "given the three shown examples" matters. This first sheet does not teach every shape or settle every geometry question. It gives the learner a focused comparison. Later, an educator can introduce new sizes, orientations, and examples to find out whether the learner understands more than the particular pictures on the sheet.

An observable goal names an action you can see or hear. A learner can point to the triangle, name it, or count its straight sides. "Understand geometry" does not tell you what evidence to look for. "Feel inspired" may describe a hope, but it does not help you check the shape comparison.

ONE GOAL / ONE VISIBLE CHECK



A topic tells you what the poster is about. A learning goal tells you what a learner should be able to do with it.

Begin with the learner's starting point, choose one visible learning action, and include only the information that supports it. The shape poster is an original practice project, not a tested classroom intervention.

Choose one small check

Plan a check before writing the whole page. A check is a question or task that lets you observe what the learner does with the information. It is not a promise that the poster will produce a particular learning result.

The printed activity in our example is: "Try it: Point to a triangle. Count its sides." That action connects directly to the triangle picture and its two short lines. It does not ask the learner to remember a long explanation that never appears on the page.

An educator can add a spoken follow-up, such as asking how the learner knew which shape to choose. Listen to the explanation before supplying an answer. If the learner says, "It is the blue one," that suggests checking whether color has become the clue. Our three main shapes will therefore use the same navy color, with their names and outlines doing the identification work.

Keep this check small enough to interpret. Asking the learner to name a shape, explain every property, draw three versions, and solve a new puzzle at once would make it harder to see where a problem began. A simple response can tell you which next question to ask. It cannot establish that the learner now understands the whole topic.

Decide what the poster can do

A poster can keep a useful comparison in view while someone talks, points, or practices. It does not have to carry a complete spoken lesson in tiny print. Our page will show three examples and the information needed for their comparison. The educator can demonstrate counting, invite a response, and help with unfamiliar words.

This distinction protects the page from growing without a reason. We will not add a history of geometry, a long list of other shapes, or several unrelated activities. Those subjects may be worthwhile. They simply do not belong to this particular goal. Leaving them out is a choice about scope, not a statement that they are unimportant.

The same planning works beyond shapes. A poster about one plant part could connect its name to its visible location. A poster about a process could show the order of three actions. Before adapting this method, verify the subject facts and ask what the learner should actually do. An attractive arrangement cannot make an inaccurate explanation useful.

Gather what you need

For the first planning stage, use paper or a notes document, a way to check subject facts, and a layout or drawing editor that can place text and basic shapes. The editor should let you set a page size, move objects, change type size, and export a viewing or printing file. Later chapters explain the function to look for rather than assuming one set of button names.

You can sketch the plan by hand before using the editor. A rough rectangle for the page and three rough rows are enough. Do not spend this stage making polished illustrations. The important question is whether the content and order fit the teaching goal.

Our main print canvas will be US Letter in portrait orientation, 8.5 x 11 inches. Chapter 3 gives a worked layout and explains the A4 alternative. You can follow the example, then adapt it to your own paper and use. Keep the editable master so changing a label later does not mean starting again.

An actual print check will be useful before classroom use. If you cannot print during the first session, keep a note that the print review remains unfinished. Looking at a page on a bright screen is a different check from holding the printed sheet at the planned distance.

Write the teaching brief

A brief is a short record of the decisions that guide the work. It should be easy to read while you are editing. Our completed example looks like this:

Decision	Count the Straight Sides brief
Learner and setting	A beginning-reader activity supported by an educator, using a nearby individual or small-group sheet.
Starting knowledge to check	Whether the learner can follow the words, point to a picture, and count the straight sides being discussed.
Learning goal	Identify the three shown shapes using their outlines and straight-side or corner properties.
Required examples	One circle, one triangle, and one square, all drawn in the same navy color.

Decision	Count the Straight Sides brief
Required words	A title, a short subtitle, each shape name, and two short information lines for each example.
Practice check	Point to a triangle and count its sides.
Main form	One portrait sheet, with three horizontal rows and enough room for clear labels.
Limits	No extra shape families, no required purchased art, and no claim of a complete geometry lesson.

The brief does not choose every spacing value. It chooses the purpose those later values must serve. When you wonder whether to add another picture, return to the goal. Does the picture help this comparison, or has it introduced another lesson?

Practice: make your first teaching decision

Use the worked example for your first complete poster, or choose a similarly small subject you can verify. Write your decisions before decorating the page.

1. Describe the learner's starting point and the actual viewing situation.
2. Write one action the learner should be able to perform after using the page.
3. Name the pictures and words needed for that action.
4. Write one short check that relates directly to the goal.
5. List the important assumptions you still need to check.
6. Move unrelated facts and activities into a separate future-ideas note.

Your brief is ready when the goal, examples, and check point in the same direction. You can explain what the page includes, why it includes it, and where its teaching stops. Next, you will choose and verify the exact content that deserves a place on that page.

END OF PUBLIC SAMPLE

Continue from goal to finished poster

This excerpt includes the complete opening chapter. The full book continues through verified content, a measured layout, diagrams and labels, access checks, export, printing, and a practical learner review.

The complete book includes original diagrams, a finished Letter-size poster page, reusable worksheets, a glossary, references, and a quick guide. Use your own shapes and text. No Stock Noble membership or purchased stock asset is required.

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