

Teaching Core Vocabulary using Checkers

Why play this game?

The game of Checkers (or Draughts, if you are British) is an easy way to play with children and adults who need practice saying core vocabulary and building short phrases. A traditional board consists of 64 squares, alternating between 32 dark and 32 light squares. Each player places his/her pieces on the 12 dark squares closest to him/her. In total, there are 32 spaces on which discs can move. However, these modified Checker boards have dark squares that are color-coded to coordinate with the parts of speech from the Unity program. For each of the major parts of speech, there is a game board that has target vocabulary. There is also a game board without any target vocabulary.

Playing Instructions

- Align the board so the printed words are right-side-up to the student. The partner will need to read up-side-down. There are NO icon sequences on the boards. For pre-literate students, use the PASS program to create visual support materials, such as cheat sheets or small stickers to add to the board(s). As an alternative, the communication partner can read the word and model the icon sequence on the device/app.
- Play the game as usual. Have the student say the target words when moving his/her disks. Depending on the abilities of the student, encourage him/her to use that word in a phrase or a sentence. You can also encourage use of morphological variations for the nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
- For students who can independently move disks, have the student say the word for the location to which his/she is moving the disk. For students who cannot independently move disks, have the student identify the disk he/she wants moved by saying the target word from that space. Then have him/her say the word for the new location for the disk. Visual support materials (such as stickers) will need to be added to the board in order for the person to be as independent as possible.
- Gail places the paper game boards on a magnetic surface and uses small colored magnets (from Office Depot®) for disks. This helps keep the disks on the board when playing with a child with physical challenges.

Construction Instructions

1. Review each of the game boards and select the one(s) you want to use.
2. Print out the two pages for each game board. Either laminate them before or after you join them together to make an 8 x 8 board. A laminated board allows you to write target words on the board using a dry-erase marker. NOTE: Gail prefers laminating them first, trimming the edges, and then using packing tape to connect them. This allows the board to be folded easily and put away for storage.
3. Using software that allows you to edit a PDF file, you can add your own words and/or icon sequences to the game boards. Gail uses FormulatePro, a free program for editing PDF files. The boards can be saved under new names as PDF files.

Verb Game Board

know		wear		feel	
	ran		came		sing
go		get		give	
	take		sleep		think

Verb Game Board

leave		say		run	
	ride		sit		eat
write		make		drink	
	take		tell		think

Verb Game Board

Verb Game Board

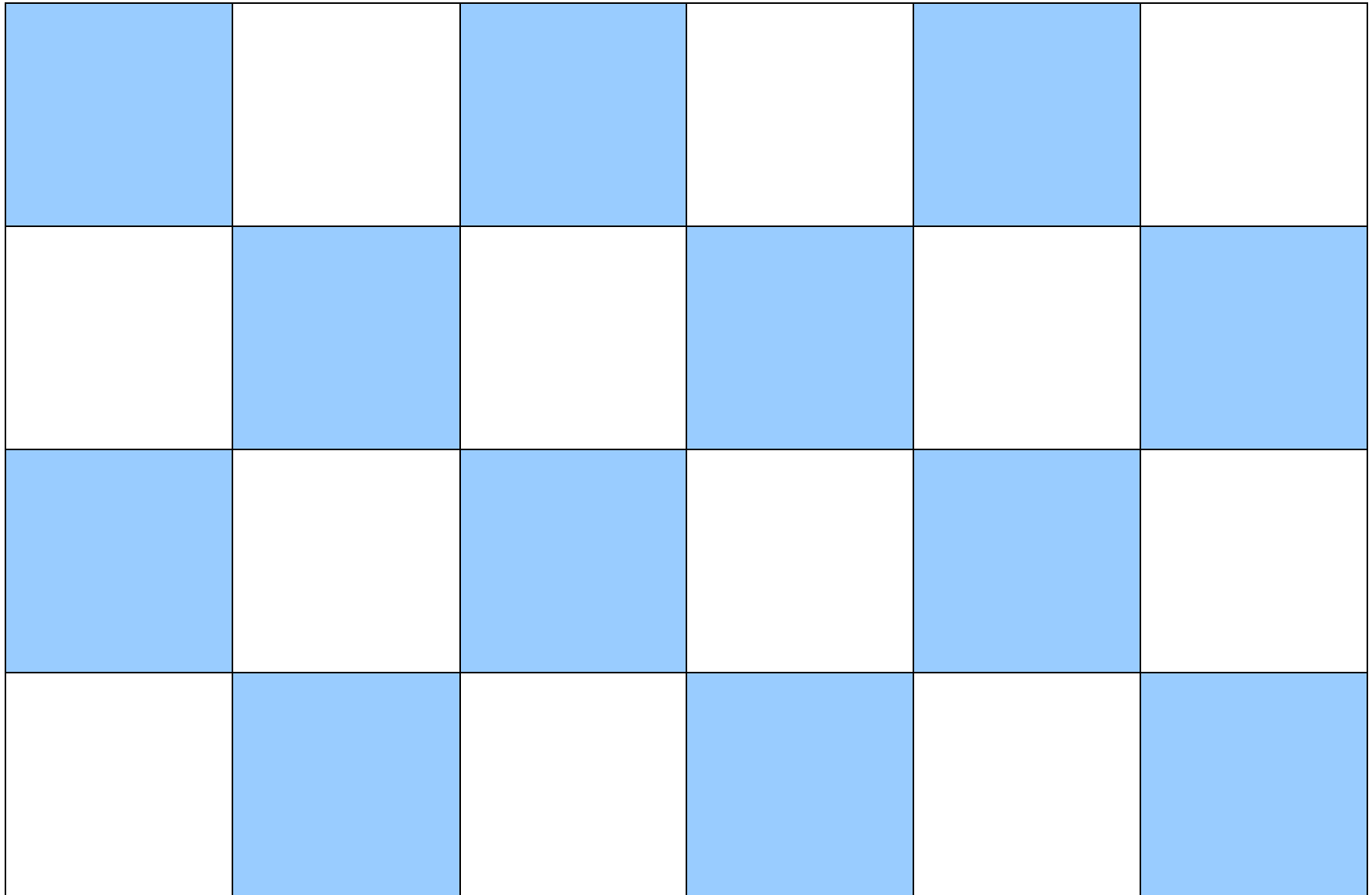
Adjective Game Board

nice		new		funny	
	easy		hard		sad
many		more		fast	
	cold		old		long

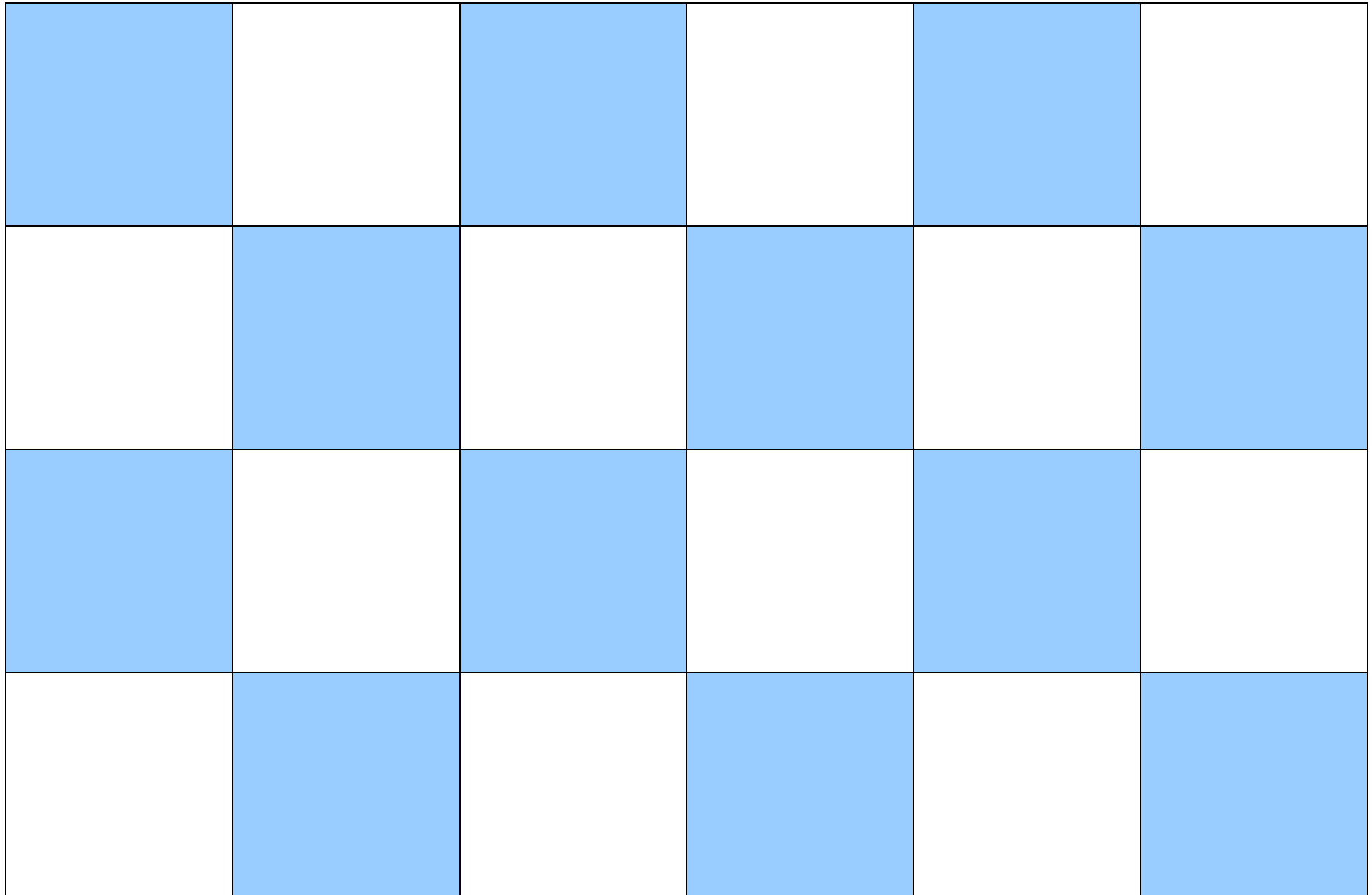
Adjective Game Board

big		little		pretty	
	wet		slow		right
wrong		few		tired	
	hungry		thirsty		hot

Adjective Game Board



Adjective Game Board



Adverb Game Board

yet		then		again	
	now		away		often
forward		backwards		quite	
	still		together		ready

Adverb Game Board

very		just		never	
	much		maybe		once
even		too		as	
	here		there		so

Adverb Game Board

Adverb Game Board

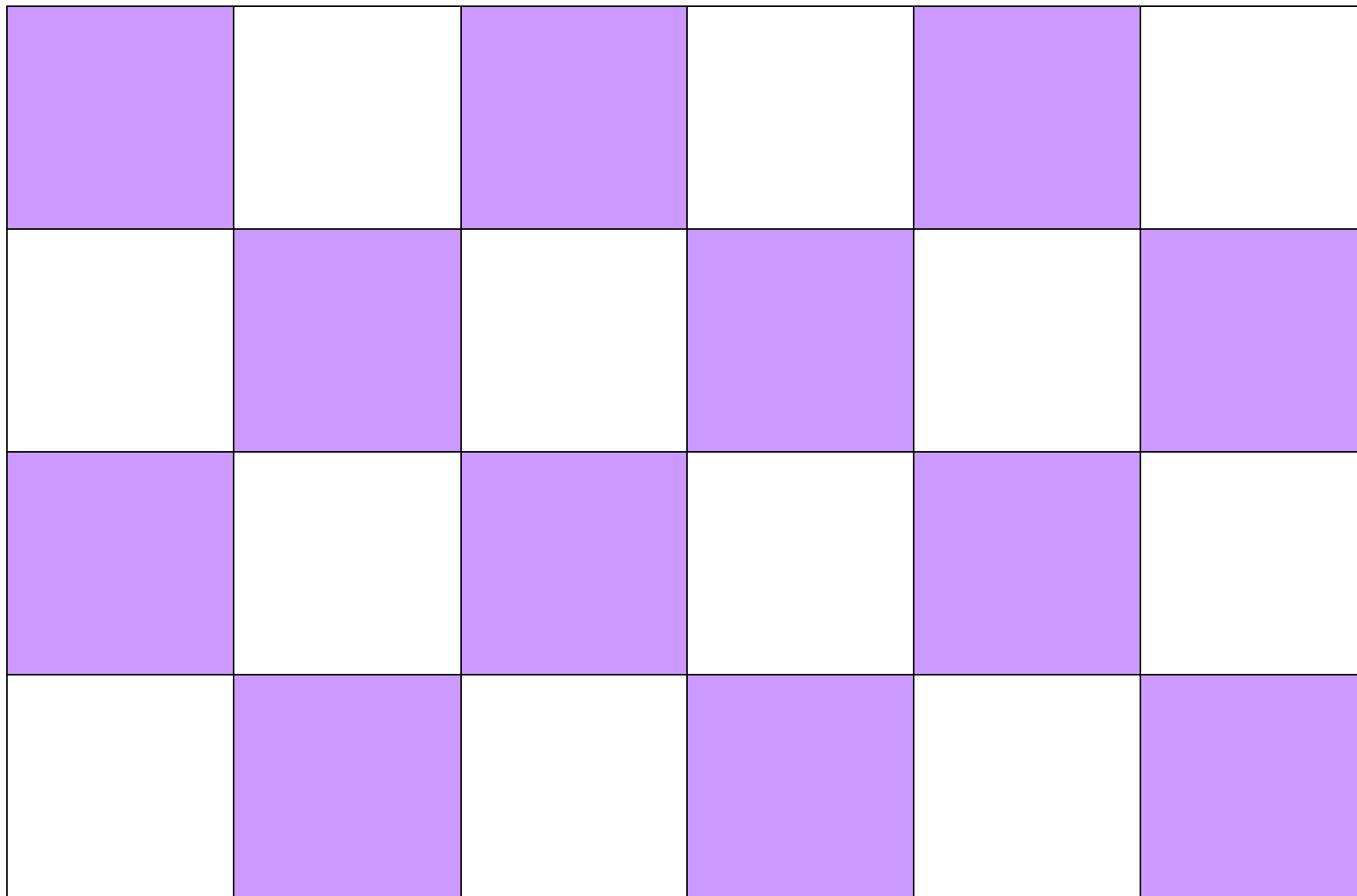
Preposition Game Board

across		beind		into	
	between		around		above
behind		without		through	
	top		middle		bottom

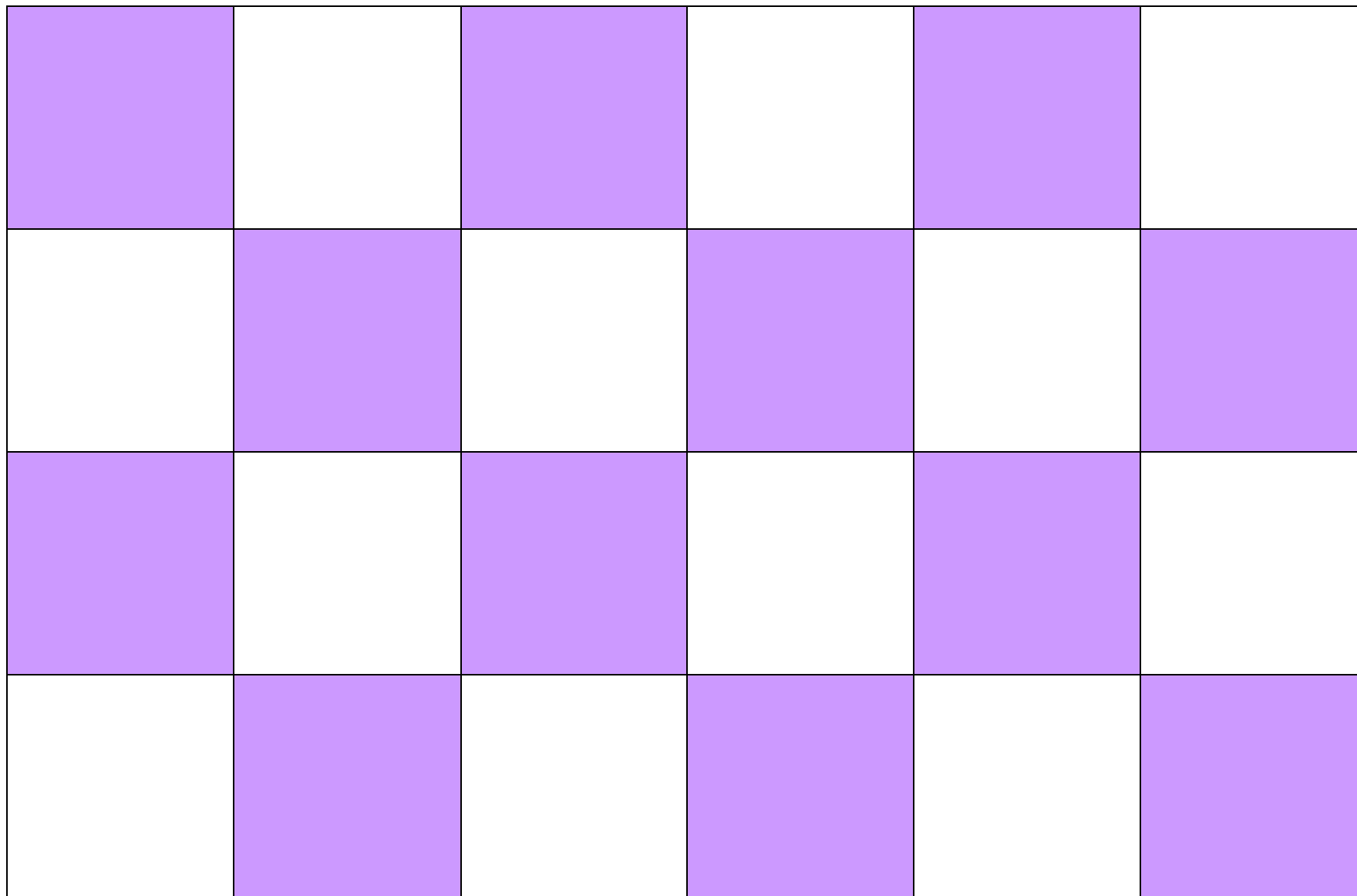
Preposition Game Board

over		under		about	
	for		with		of
down		at		by	
	in		out		up

Preposition Game Board



Preposition Game Board



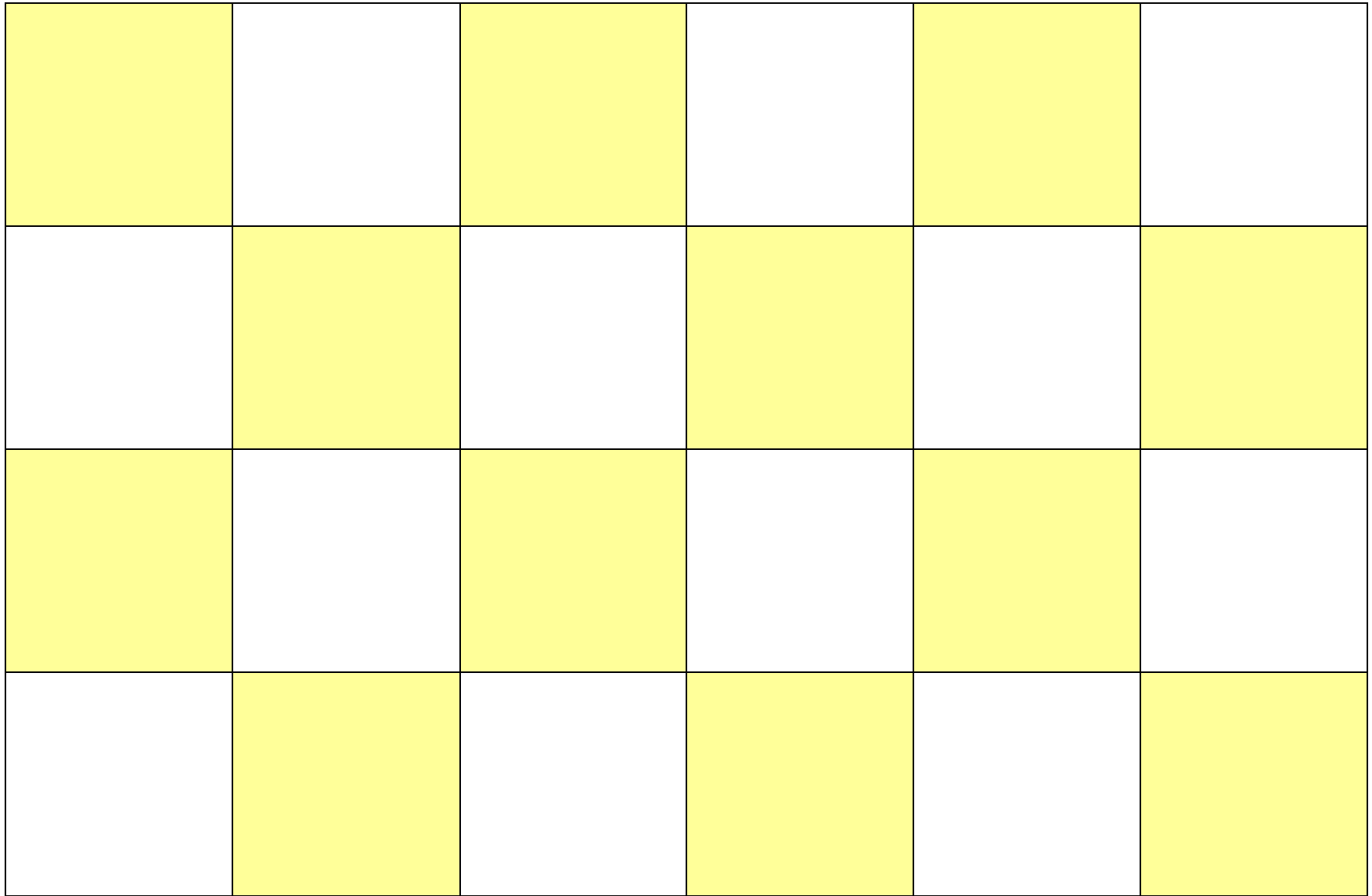
Pronoun Game Board

myself		yourself		its	
	them		their		theirs
our		us		hers	
	me		him		her

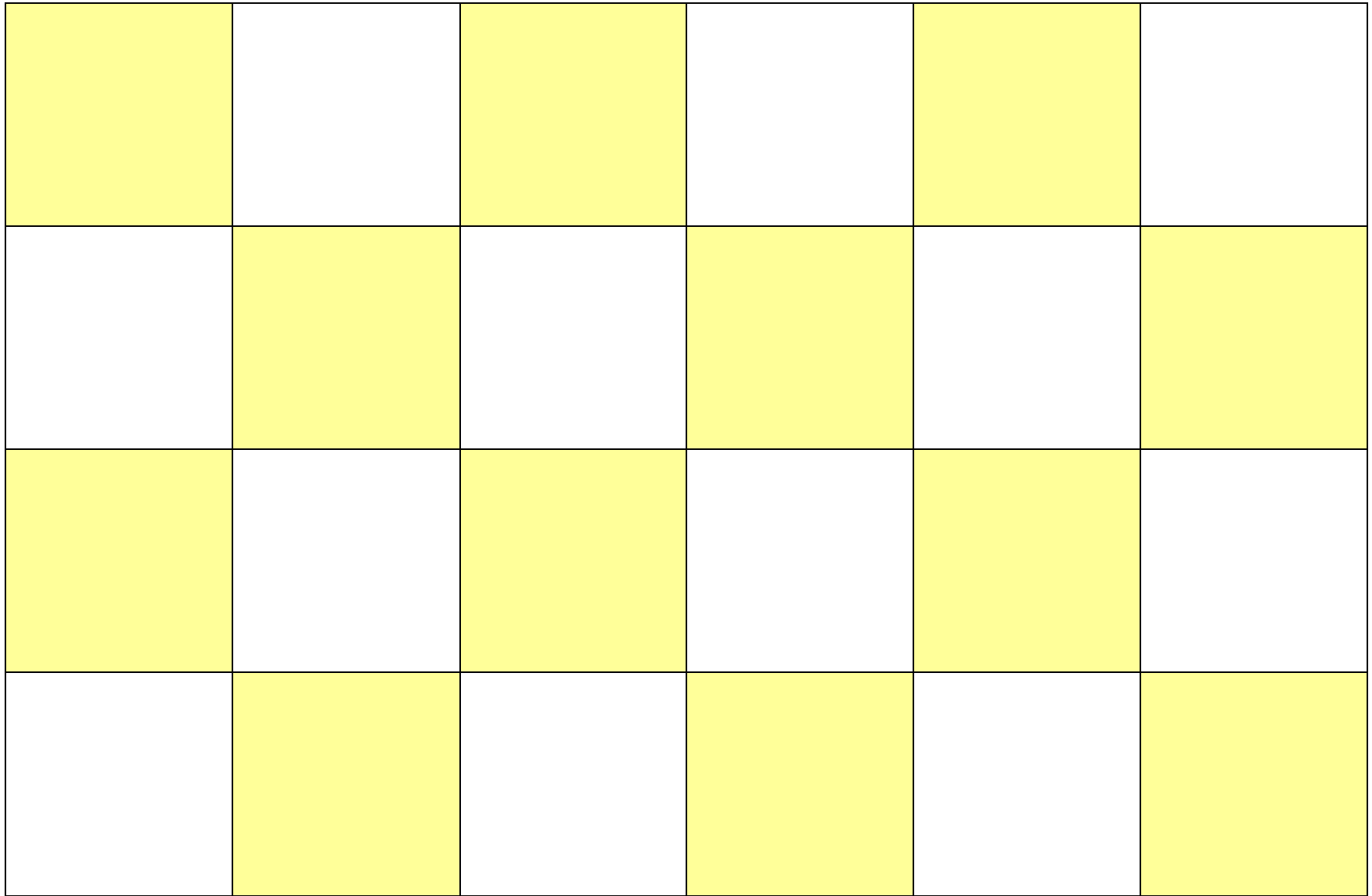
Pronoun Game Board

your		yours		his	
	my		they		mine
she		it		we	
	I		you		he

Pronoun Game Board



Pronoun Game Board



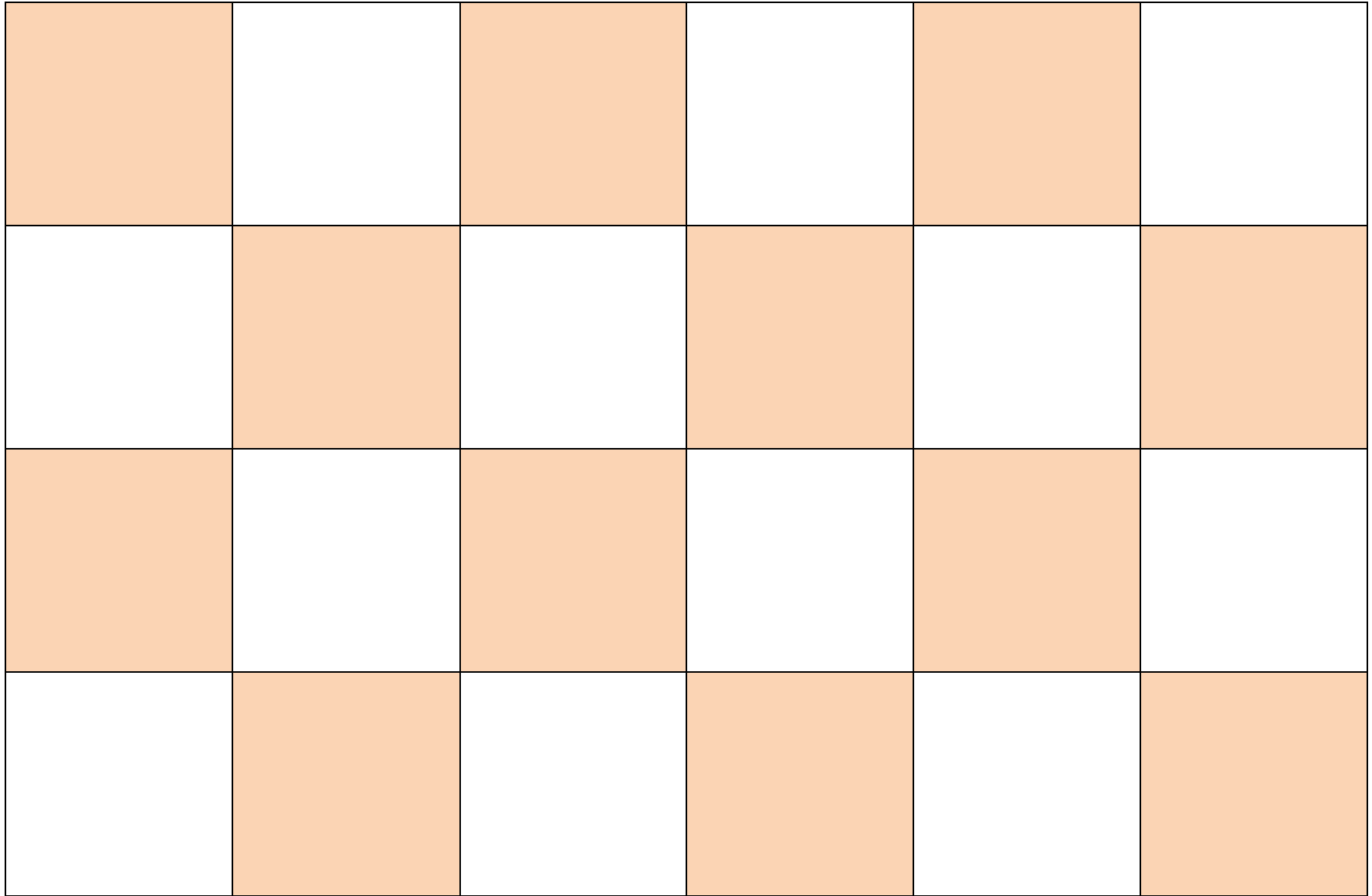
Noun & Determiner Game Board

book		money		job	
	family		animal		medicine
idea		way		home	
	time		fun		toy

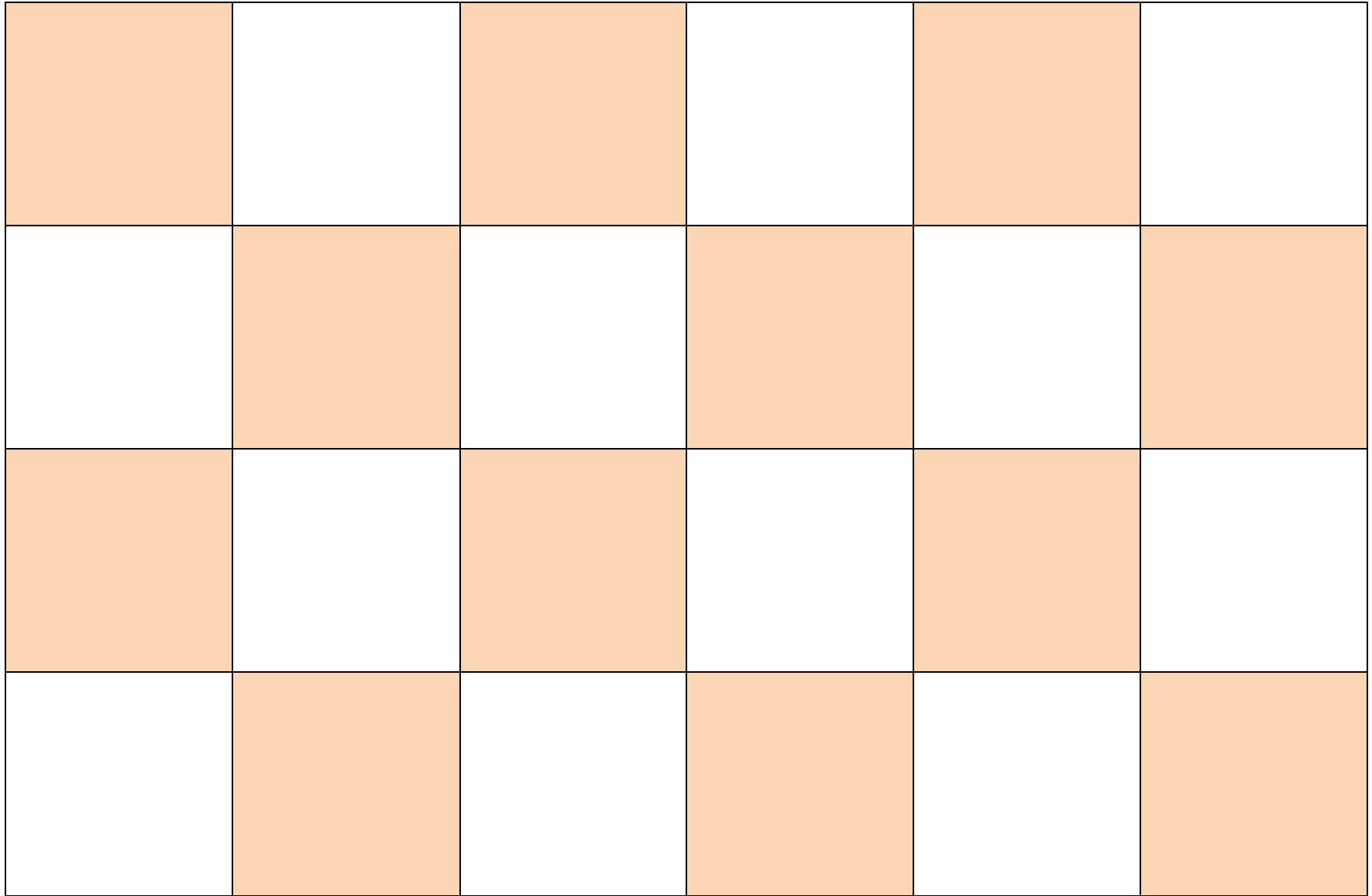
Noun & Determiner Game Board

every		thing		lot	
	some		none		each
these		any		enough	
	that		this		those

Noun & Determiner Game Board



Noun & Determiner Game Board



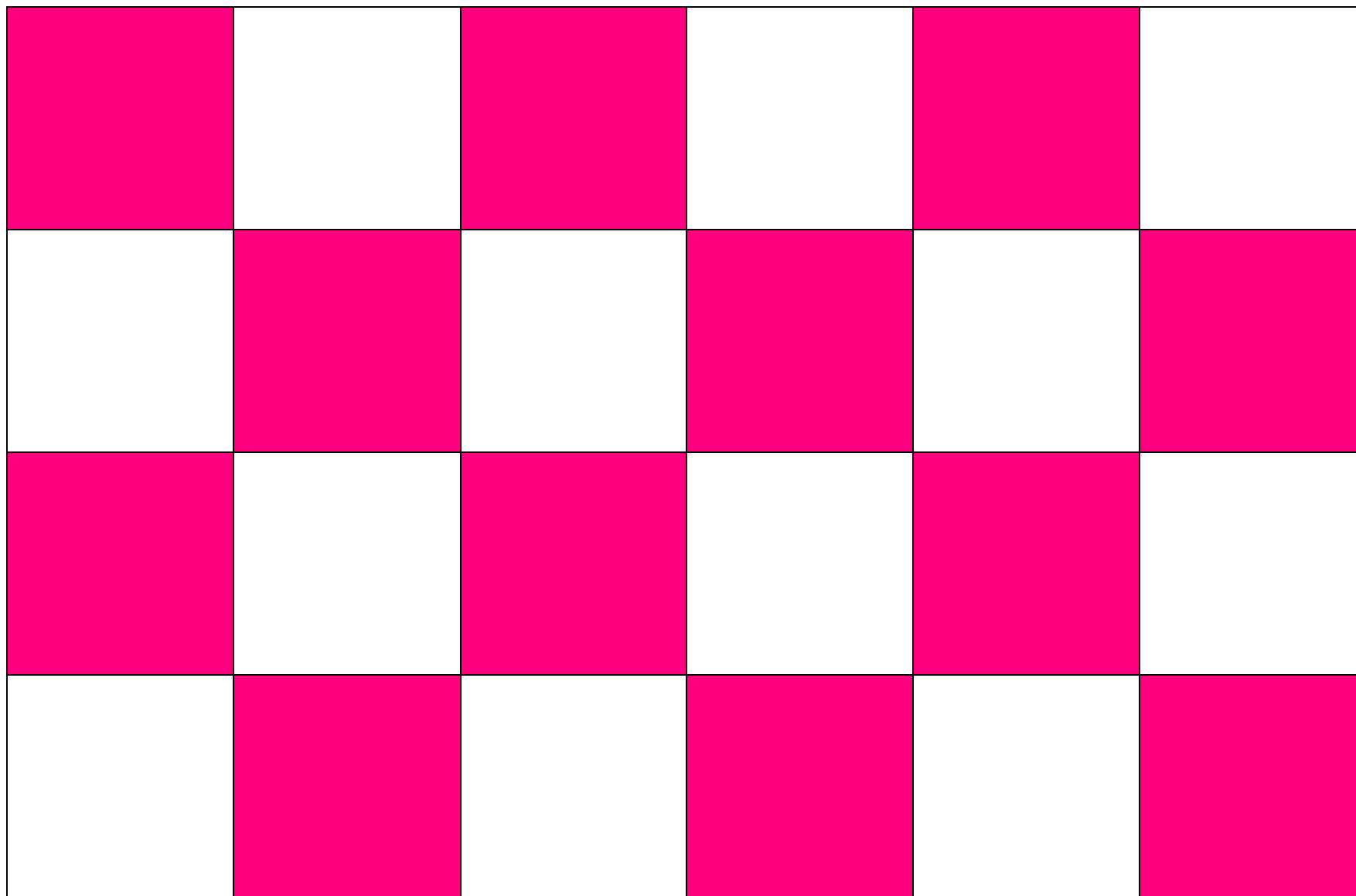
Interrogative (Question Words) Game Board

whoever		whatever		whenever	
	wherever		how about		however
how much		how many		how often	
	where		why		how

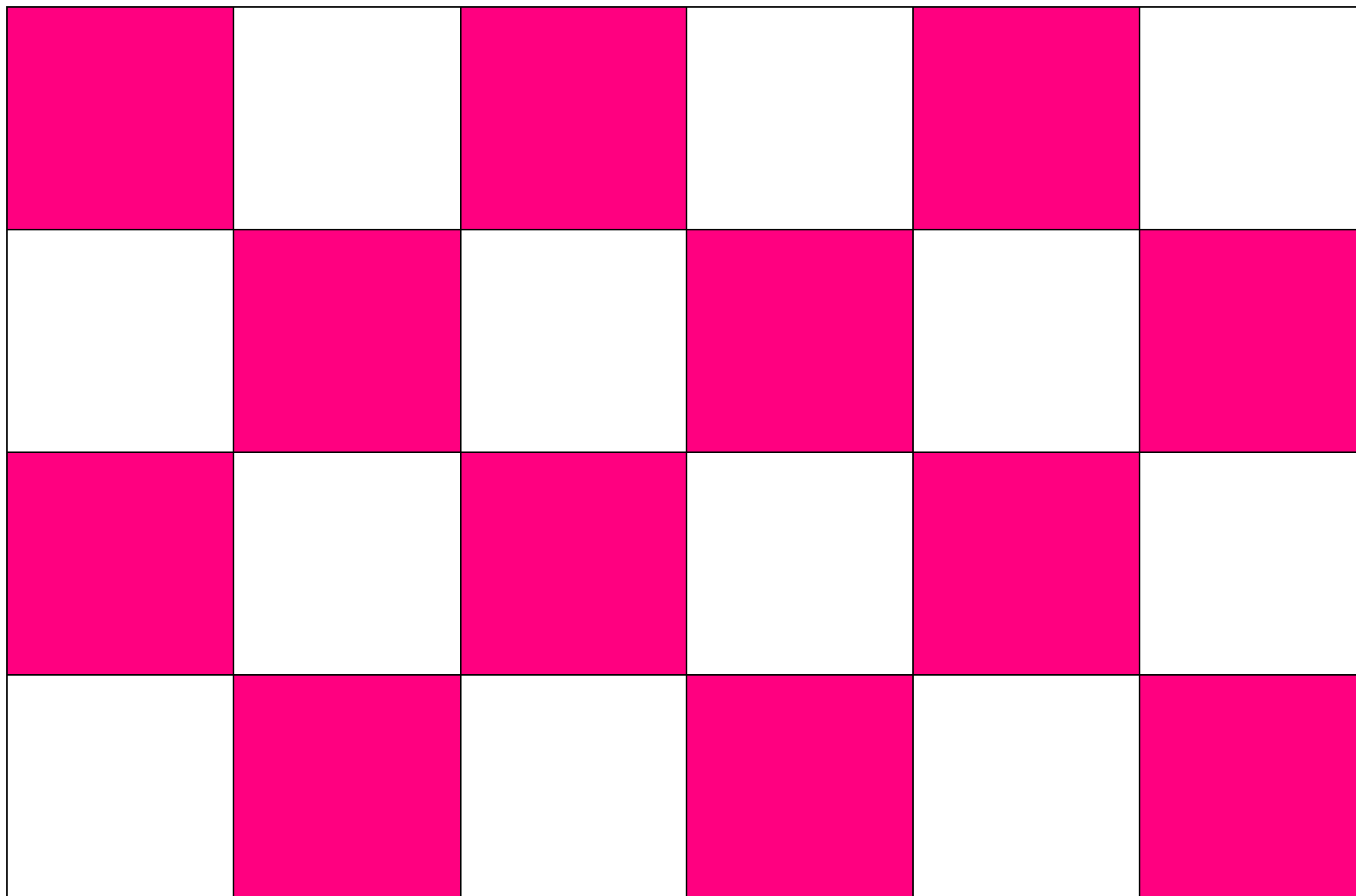
Interrogative (Question Words) Game Board

who		what		when	
	which		whose		whom
how		why		where	
	who		what		when

Interrogative (Question Words) Game Board



Interrogative (Question Words) Game Board



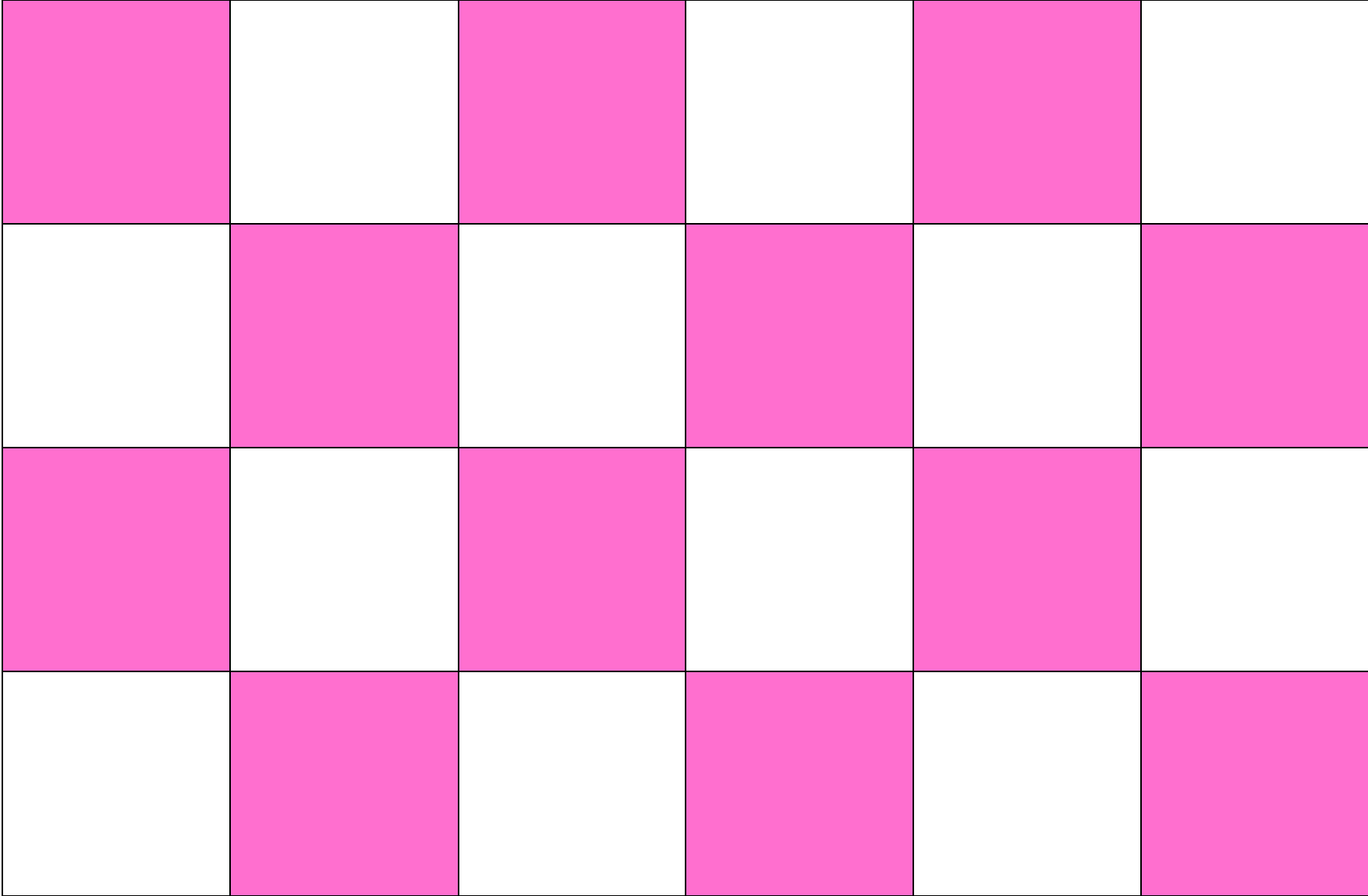
Interjections Game Board

boo		congratulations		of course	
	awesome		let's		happy birthday
hey		yikes		yuk	
	oops		okay		yum

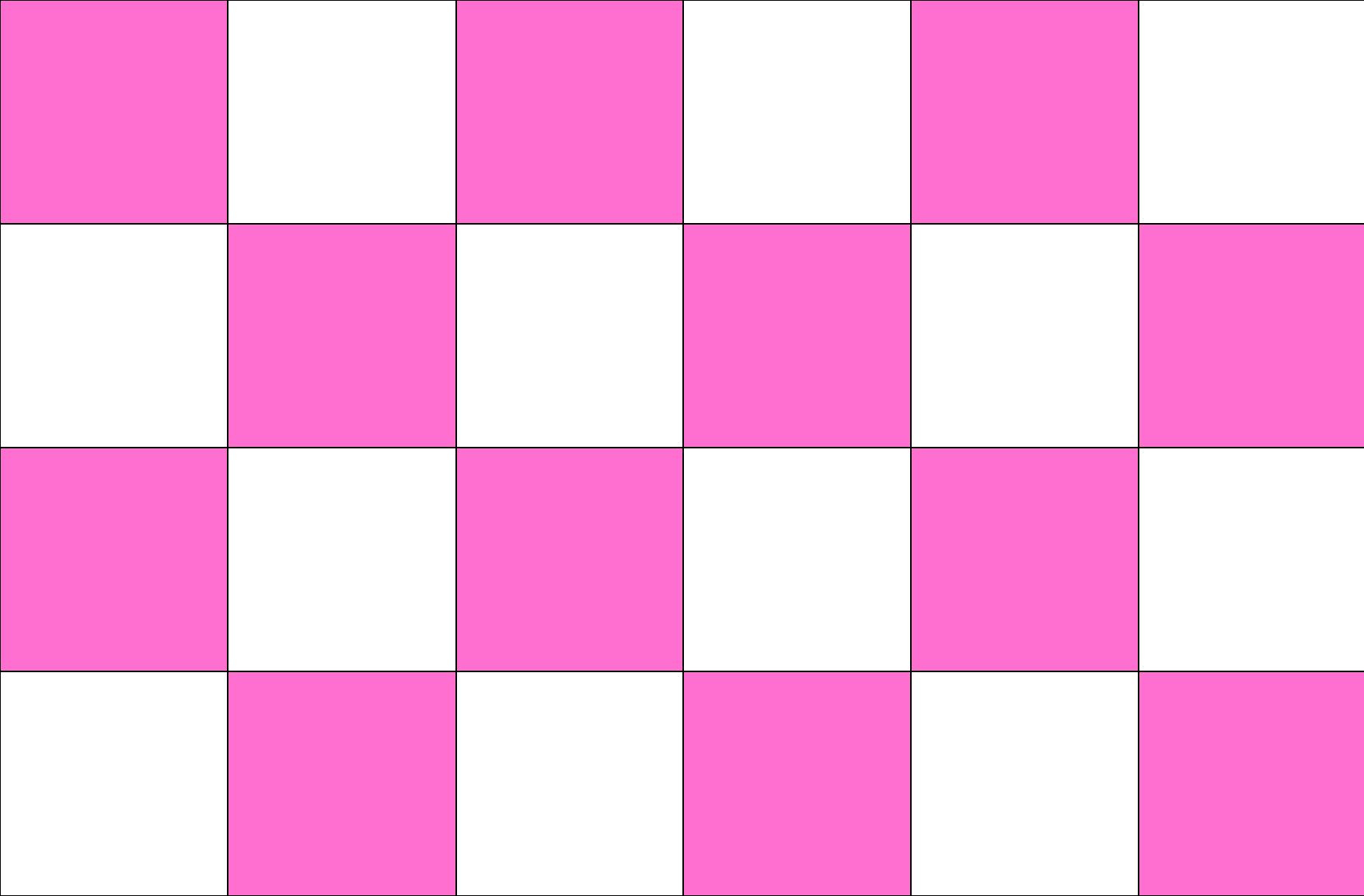
Interjections Game Board

ha ha ha		ouch		good luck	
	excuse me		fine		hi
please		good bye		sorry	
	well		thank you		hello

Interjections Game Board



Interjections Game Board



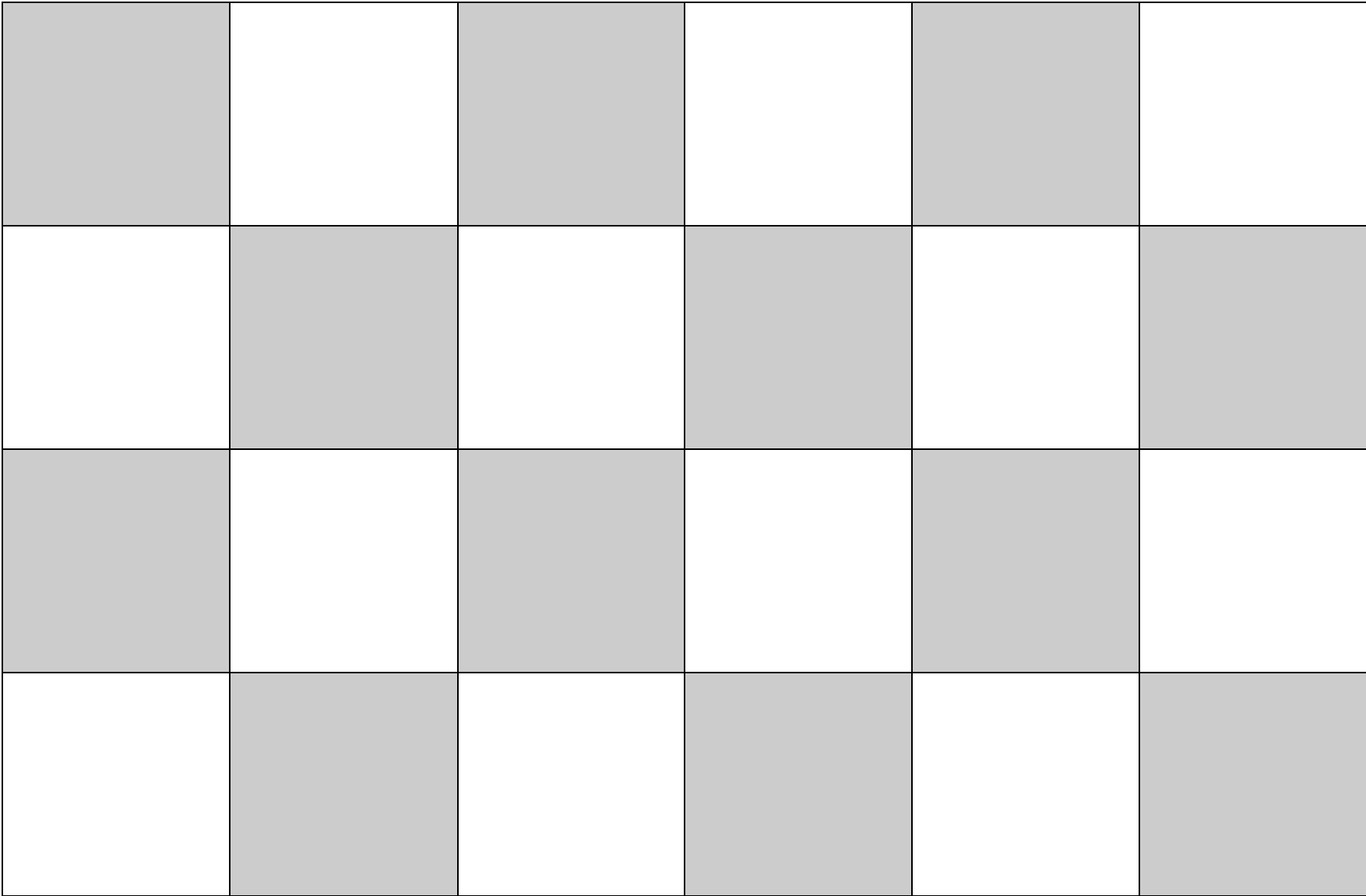
Conjunctions Game Board

than		unless		both	
	while		rather		therefore
since		and		whether	
	or		because		as

Conjunctions Game Board

until		either		if	
	and		but		because
if		or		until	
	and		but		because

Conjunctions Game Board



Conjunctions Game Board

