(D) Predicate Etiquette (1/3) [15 Points]

Sentences can be true, false, or, sometimes, truly nonsensical. For sentences of the form, “The [subject] is [predicate]”, we can divide them into “sensible” and “nonsensical” groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sensible</th>
<th>nonsensical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The moon is purple.</td>
<td>The idea is purple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The game is an hour long.</td>
<td>The pig is an hour long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The girl is sorry.</td>
<td>The fear is sorry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1959, philosopher Fred Sommers theorized that the predicates of any language were organized in a binary tree structure, according to which subjects they could be used sensibly with. In 1979, psychologist Frank C. Keil tested Sommers’ tree theory by asking children whether given English sentences made sense or not and diagramming the results. He confirmed Sommers’ theory, producing trees like this one:

(D) Predicate Etiquette (2/3)

Here are some English sentences that use words you may not be familiar with:

The morkle is phlebular. ✓
The humbrid is phlebular. ✓
The morkle is luctious. *
The quexor is luctious. ✓
The pladry is luctious. ✓
The groob is efrimious. *
The vippage is efrimious. ✓
The pladry is frungent. *
The groob is frungent. *
The thalf is luctious. *
The groob is frungent. *
The thalf is stibbly. *
The humbrid is molistic. ✓
The quexor is molistic. *
The thalf is molistic. ✓
The groob is frungent. *
The thalf is frungent. *
The groob is fristious. *

Here is a tree that shows the semantic structure of the words used in these sentences. Note that each number and letter in the tree corresponds to exactly one word.

Tree diagram typeset by Daniel Lovsted.
(D) Predicate Etiquette (3/3)

D1. Fill in the following table. Some of the answers have already been entered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predicate:</th>
<th>brastic</th>
<th>efrimious</th>
<th>frungent</th>
<th>luctious</th>
<th>molistic</th>
<th>phlebular</th>
<th>stibbly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>groob</td>
<td>humbrid</td>
<td>morkle</td>
<td>pladry</td>
<td>quexor</td>
<td>thalf</td>
<td>vippage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D2. Mark each of the following sentences with ✓ or *

A. The humbrid is frungent.  

B. The morkle is stibbly.

C. The pladry is phlebular.

D. The groob is molistic.