



DIAGRAMMING SENTENCES SKILLS REVIEW

EXERCISE 1—SUBJECTS AND VERBS

1. Ducks quack.

Ducks | quack

The subject of the sentence is “ducks.” The verb “quack” is in the present tense.

2. Mosquitoes are buzzing.

Mosquitoes | are buzzing

The subject of the sentence is “mosquitoes.” The verb “are buzzing” is a progressive form of the present tense.

3. People have been talking.

People | have been talking

The subject of the sentence is “people.” The verb “have been talking” is present-perfect progressive.

4. They will be captured.

They | will be captured

The subject of the sentence is “they,” a personal pronoun. The verb “will be captured” is in the future tense, passive voice.

5. Money had been collected.

Money | had been collected

The subject of the sentence is “money.” “Had been collected” is in the past-perfect tense, passive voice.

EXERCISE 2—MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS

1. You may stay.

You | may stay

The verb consists of the present modal auxiliary verb “may” and the basic present tense form of “stay.”

2. They should be scolded.

They | should be scolded

The verb consists of the present modal auxiliary verb “should” and the basic present passive form of “scold.”

3. She must have been delayed.

She | must have been delayed

The verb consists of the present modal auxiliary verb “must” and the basic present-perfect passive form of “delay.”

4. That could have been done.

That | could have been done

The verb consists of the present subjunctive of the modal auxiliary verb “can” and the basic present-perfect passive form of “do.”

5. They might be coming.

They | might be coming

The verb consists of the present subjunctive form of the modal auxiliary verb “may” and the basic present progressive form of “come.”

EXERCISE 3—CONJUNCTIONS

1. Buses come and go.

Buses | come and go

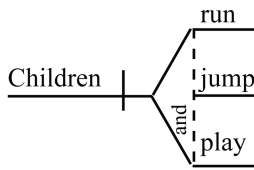
“Come and go” is a compound verb. Since it constitutes the entire predicate, it is also a compound predicate.

2. Deer were running and jumping.

Deer | were running and jumping

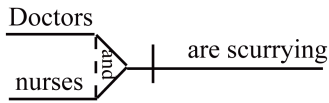
Together with the helping verb “were,” the compound present participle “running and jumping” forms the past progressive.

3. Children run, jump, and play.



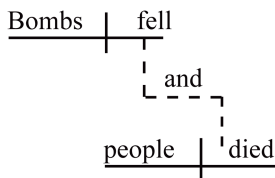
This compound predicate consists of three verbs.

4. Doctors and nurses are scurrying.



“Doctors and nurses” is a compound subject. The coordinating conjunction “and” joins the two nouns. The verb “are scurrying” is a progressive form of the present tense.

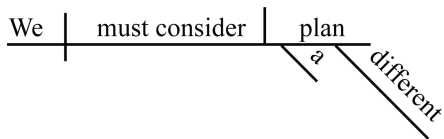
5. Bombs fell and people died.



This is a compound sentence. In other words, it consists of two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction.

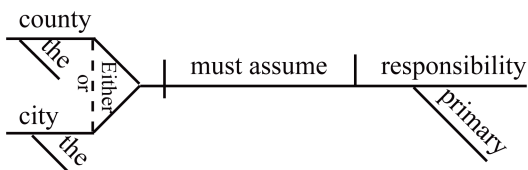
EXERCISE 4—ARTICLES, ATTRIBUTIVE ADJECTIVES, AND DIRECT OBJECTS

1. We must consider a different plan.



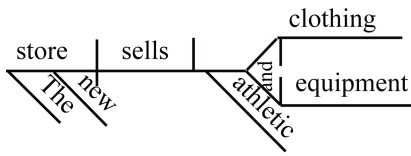
“Plan” is a direct object. “Different” is an attributive adjective.

2. Either the county or the city must assume primary responsibility.



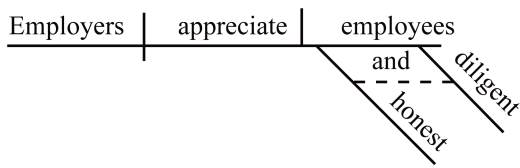
“Responsibility” is a direct object. “Either...or” is called a correlative conjunction.

3. The new store sells athletic clothing and equipment.



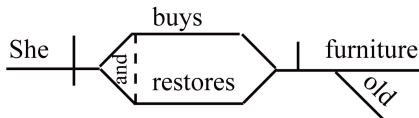
Since athletic modifies both “clothing” and “equipment,” its line is attached to the part of the direct-object line that belongs to both objects.

4. Employers appreciate honest and diligent employees.



“Honest and diligent” is a compound attributive adjective.

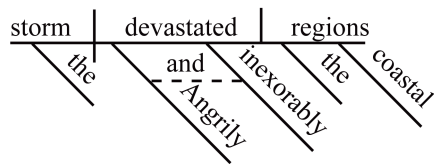
5. She buys and restores old furniture.



The verbs “buys” and “restores” have the same direct object: “furniture.”

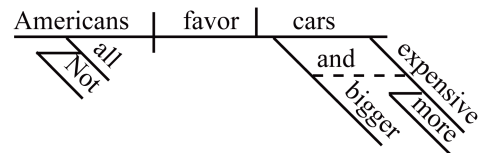
EXERCISE 5—ADVERBS

1. Angrily and inexorably the storm devastated the coastal regions.



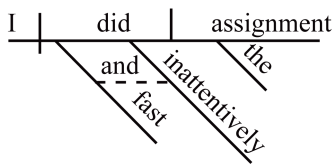
“Angrily and inexorably” is a compound adverb.

2. Not all Americans favor bigger and more expensive cars.



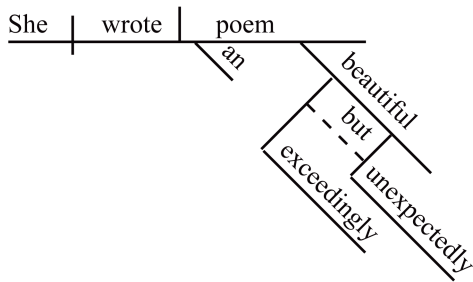
The adverbs “not” and “more” modify the attributive adjectives “all” and “expensive,” respectively. “Bigger and more expensive” is a compound attributive adjective.

3. I did the assignment fast and inattentively.



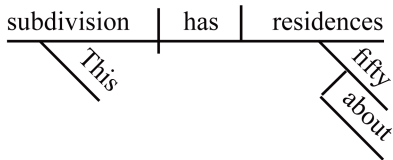
“Fast and inattentively” is a compound adverb.

4. She wrote an exceedingly but unexpectedly beautiful poem.



The compound adverb “exceedingly but unexpectedly” modifies the attributive adjective “beautiful.”

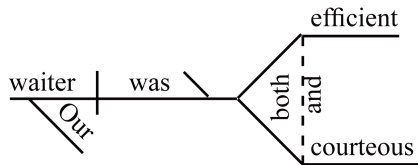
5. This subdivision has about fifty residences.



“This” is called a demonstrative adjective. “About” is an adverb modifying the adjective “fifty.”

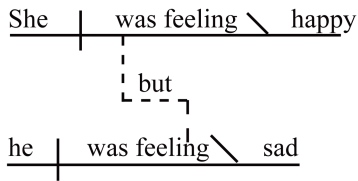
EXERCISE 6—SUBJECTIVE COMPLEMENTS: PREDICATE NOMINATIVES AND PREDICATE ADJECTIVES

1. Our waiter was both efficient and courteous.



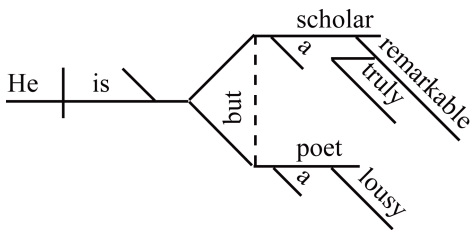
“Our” is a possessive pronoun. “Both” and “and” are correlative coordinating conjunctions.

2. She was feeling happy, but he was feeling sad.



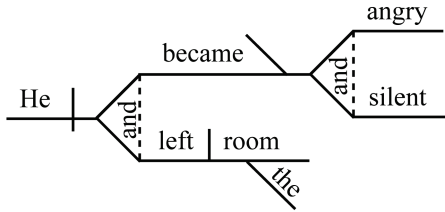
This is a compound sentence whose two main clauses are joined by the coordinating conjunction “but.” “Was feeling” is a linking verb. “Happy” and “sad” are predicate adjectives.

3. He is a truly remarkable scholar but a lousy poet.



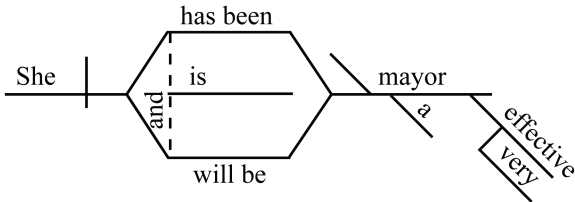
This sentence features a compound predicate nominative.

4. He became angry and silent and left the room.



The first branch of the compound predicate contains a compound predicate adjective (“angry and silent”), the second a direct object (“room”).

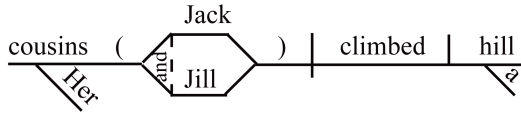
5. She has been, is, and will be a very effective mayor.



The compound, tripartite verb “has been, is, and will be” has “mayor” as its predicate nominative.

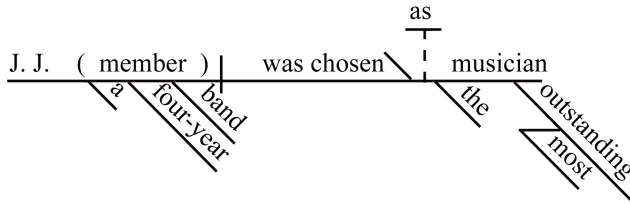
EXERCISE 7—APPOSITIVES

- Her cousins Jack and Jill climbed a hill.



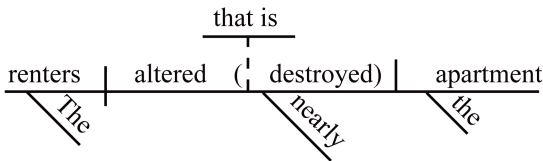
“Jack and Jill” is a compound restrictive appositive. It is in apposition with the subject “cousins.”

- J. J., a four-year band member, was chosen as the most outstanding musician.



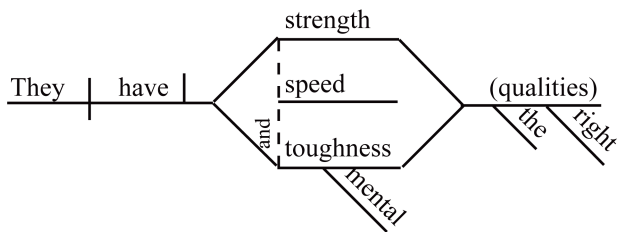
“Member,” a nonrestrictive appositive, is in apposition with the subject “J. J.” The passive verb “was chosen” functions as a linking verb. “Musician” is a predicate nominative, and “as” is an expletive.

- The renters altered, that is, nearly destroyed, the apartment.



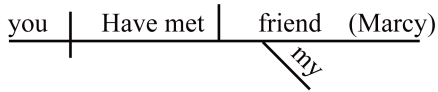
The verb phrase “nearly destroyed” is in apposition with the main verb “altered.” “That is” is an expletive. Other such function words and phrases, which are sometimes called appositive conjunctions because they are not entirely devoid of meaning, are “especially,” “for example,” “in other words,” and “or.”

- They have strength, speed, and mental toughness—the right qualities.



“Qualities” is in apposition with the compound direct object “strength, speed, and mental toughness.”

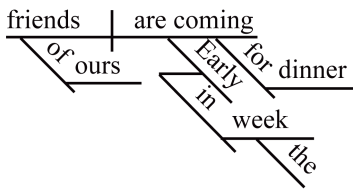
5. Have you met my friend Marcy?



“Marcy” is a restrictive appositive. It is in apposition with the direct object “friend.”

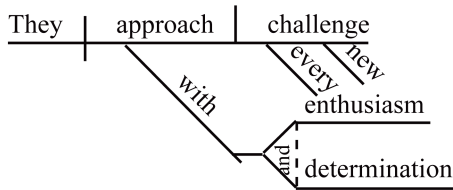
EXERCISE 8—PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

1. Early in the week, friends of ours are coming for dinner.



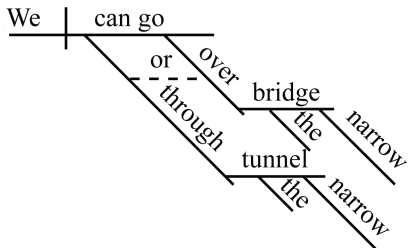
“In the week” and “for dinner” are adverbial prepositional phrases. The former modifies the adverb “early,” and the latter modifies the verb “are coming.” “Ours” is an absolute possessive.

2. They approach every new challenge with enthusiasm and determination.



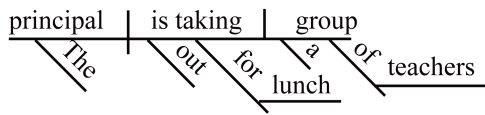
“With enthusiasm and determination” is a prepositional phrase containing a compound object.

3. We can go through the narrow tunnel or over the narrow bridge.



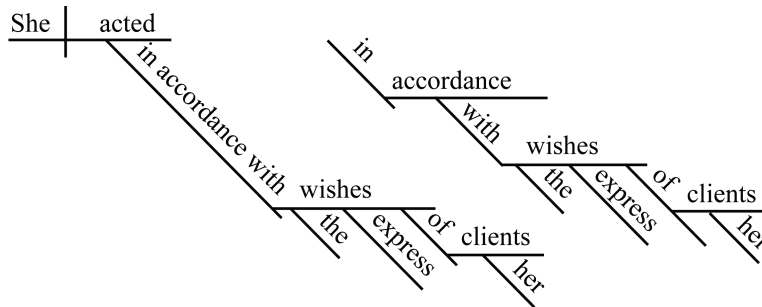
“Through the narrow tunnel or over the narrow bridge” is a compound prepositional phrase.

4. The principal is taking a group of teachers out for lunch.



“Out for” is not a phrasal preposition. “Out” is an adverb in this sentence.

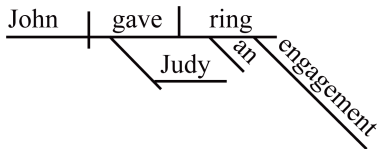
5. She acted in accordance with the express wishes of her clients.



“In accordance with” can be considered a phrasal preposition; however, it can also be diagrammed as a prepositional phrase.

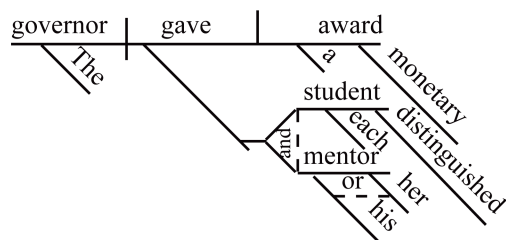
EXERCISE 9—INDIRECT OBJECTS AND OBJECTIVE COMPLEMENTS

1. John gave Judy an engagement ring.



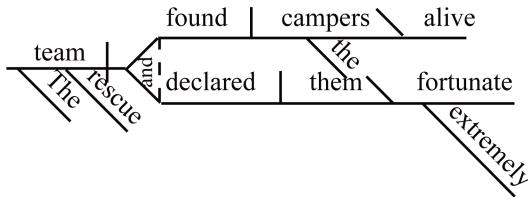
“Judy” (the person to whom something was given) is an indirect object. “Engagement” is a noun used as an adjective.

2. The governor gave each distinguished student and his or her mentor a monetary award.



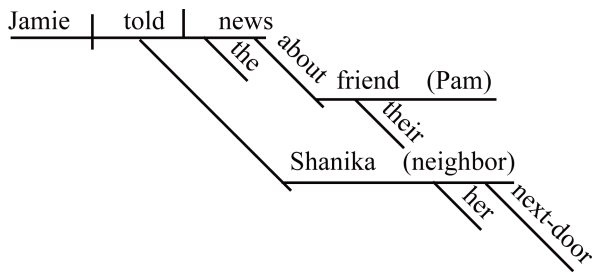
“Student” and “mentor” constitute a compound indirect object.

3. The rescue team found the campers alive and declared them extremely fortunate.



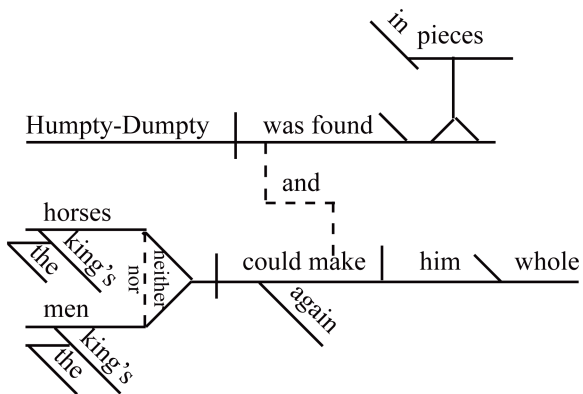
“Alive” cannot be recognized as an objective complement by asking “what”? Like all objective complements, it completes the action of the verb with respect to the direct object.

4. Jamie told Shanika, her next-door neighbor, the news about their friend Pam.



“Neighbor” is in apposition with “Shanika,” an indirect object, while “Pam” is in apposition with “friend,” the object of the preposition “about.”

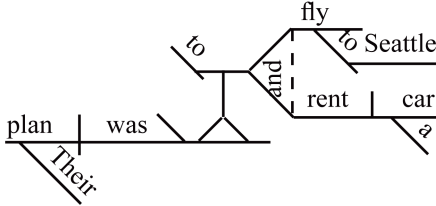
5. Humpty-Dumpty was found in pieces, and neither the king’s horses nor the king’s men could make him whole again.



The passive verb “was found” functions here as a linking verb, and the prepositional phrase “in pieces” serves as a predicate adjective. If the first main clause were active (“they found him in pieces”), “in pieces” would be an objective complement, like “alive” in sentence 3 of this exercise.

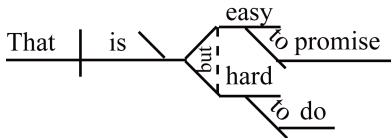
EXERCISE 10—INFINITIVES

1. Their plan was to fly to Seattle and rent a car.



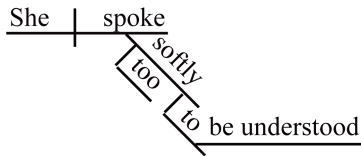
The compound infinitive phrase “to fly to Seattle and rent a car” serves as a predicate nominative.

2. That is easy to promise but hard to do.



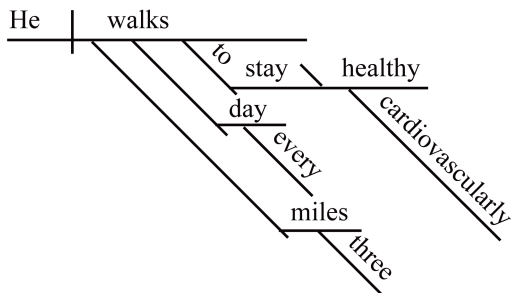
The infinitives “to promise” and “to do” function here as adverbial modifiers. They modify the predicate adjectives “easy” and “hard,” respectively.

3. She spoke too softly to be understood.



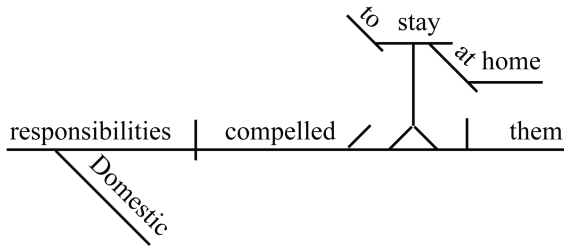
The present passive infinitive “to be understood” modifies the adverb “softly.”

4. He walks three miles every day to stay cardiovascularly healthy.



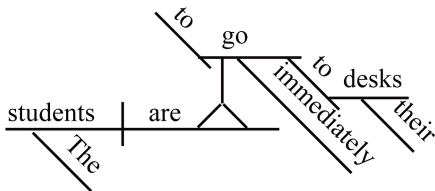
The infinitive phrase “to stay cardiovascularly healthy” functions as a modifier of the verb “walks”; it tells why he walks. “Miles” and “day” are adverbial objectives.

5. Domestic responsibilities compelled them to stay at home.



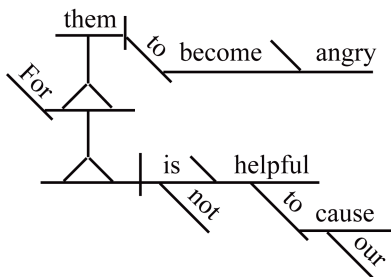
The infinitive phrase “to stay at home” functions here as an objective complement.

6. The students are to go immediately to their desks.



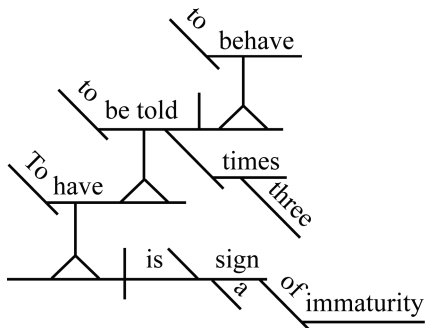
“To go” is a complementary infinitive. A verb and its complementary infinitive are, taken together, often equivalent to a verb phrase using a modal auxiliary verb or to a future-tense verb form. In this case, “are to go” can be expressed as “must go.”

7. For them to become angry is not helpful to our cause.



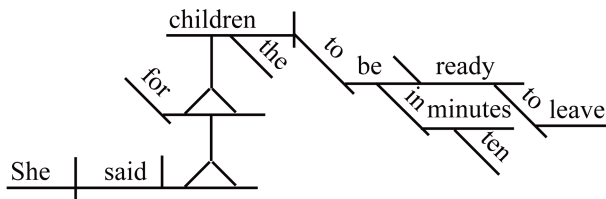
The word “for” as used in this sentence can be called an expletive. It has no meaning but only the function of introducing an infinitive phrase and its objective-case subject. If the sentence were expressed as “It is not helpful to our cause for them to become angry,” the “for” phrase would be in apposition with the subject “it.”

8. To have to be told three times to behave is a sign of immaturity.



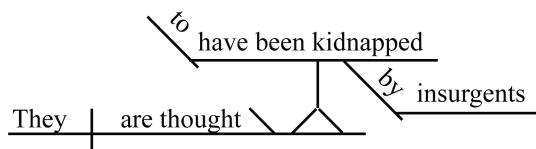
The infinitive phrase “to have to be told three times to behave” is the subject of the sentence, the infinitive phrase “to be told three times to behave” has a complementary function, and the infinitive “to behave” is a direct object.

9. She said for the children to be ready to leave in ten minutes.



The infinitive phrase introduced by the expletive “for” is the direct object of “said.” “Children” is the subject of the infinitive “to be.”

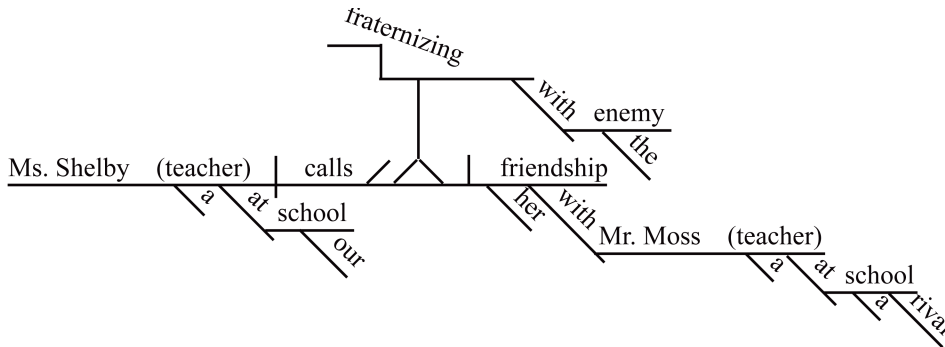
10. They are thought to have been kidnapped by insurgents.



The present-perfect passive infinitive “to have been kidnapped,” along with its modifying prepositional phrase, functions here as a predicate adjective. The passive verb “are thought” acts as a linking verb.

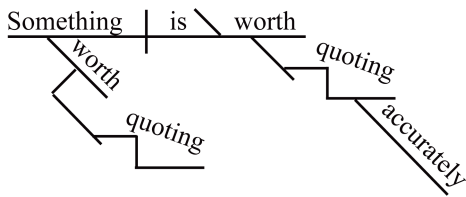
EXERCISE 11—GERUNDS

- Ms. Shelby, a teacher at our school, calls her friendship with Mr. Moss, a teacher at a rival school, “fraternizing with the enemy.”



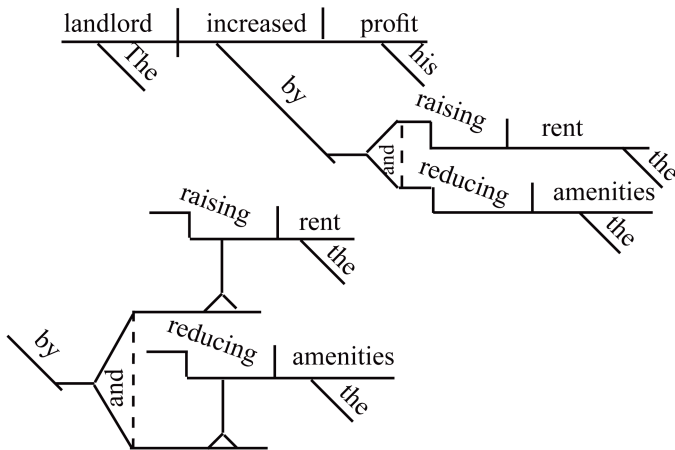
The gerund phrase “fraternizing with the enemy” is an objective complement, which is diagrammed here in the traditional manner.

- Something worth quoting is worth quoting accurately.



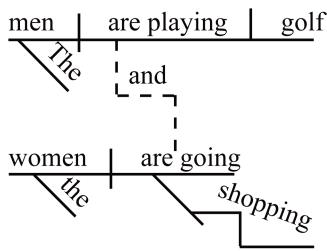
Each “quoting” is an adverbial objective. The first modifies an attributive adjective, the second a predicate adjective.

- The landlord increased his profit by raising the rent and reducing the amenities.



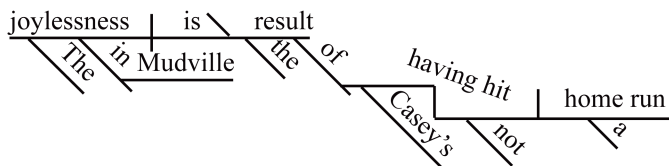
The compound gerund phrase “raising the rent and reducing the amenities” is the object of the preposition “by.” The second diagram above is another way of diagramming the compound gerund phrase.

4. The men are playing golf and the women are going shopping.



“Shopping” is a gerund used as an adverbial objective. It tells where the women are going. “Playing” and “going” are participial components of progressive verb forms.

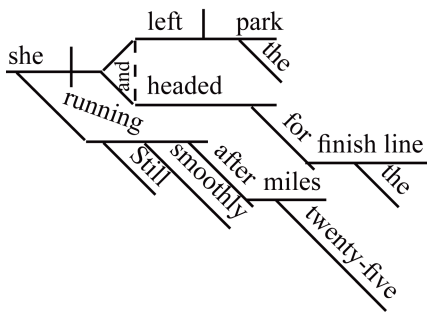
5. The joylessness in Mudville is the result of Casey’s not having hit a home run.



The gerund phrase “Casey’s not having hit a home run” contains the adjectival modifier “Casey’s” and the adverbial modifier “not.” “Having hit” is a present-perfect active gerund.

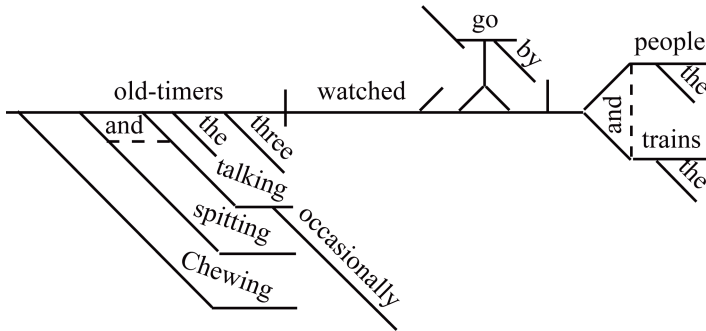
EXERCISE 12—PARTICIPLES

1. Still running smoothly after twenty-five miles, she left the park and headed for the finish line.



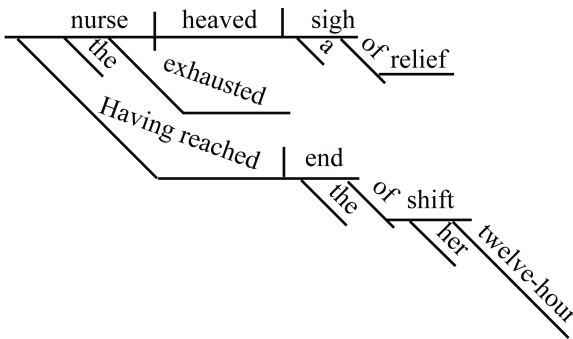
“Running” is a present participle. It introduces a participial phrase that modifies the subject of the sentence, “she.” The sentence has a compound predicate.

2. Chewing, spitting, and occasionally talking, the three old-timers watched the people and the trains go by.



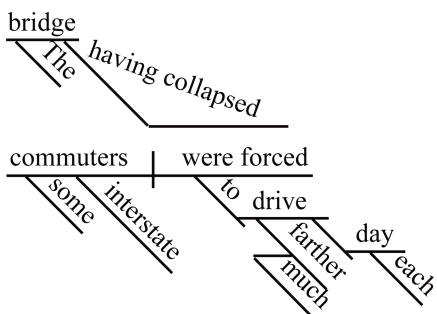
A compound participial phrase featuring three present participles modifies the subject of the sentence, “old-timers.” “Go by” is a “to-less” infinitive phrase used as an objective complement. It is diagrammed here in the traditional way.

3. Having reached the end of her twelve-hour shift, the exhausted nurse heaved a sigh of relief.



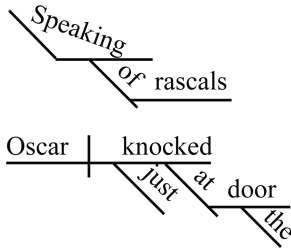
The present-perfect active participle “having reached” introduces a participial phrase that modifies the subject of the sentence, “nurse.” “Exhausted” is a past participle.

4. The bridge having collapsed, some interstate commuters were forced to drive much farther each day.



“The bridge having collapsed” is a nominative absolute. “Having collapsed” is a present-perfect participle.

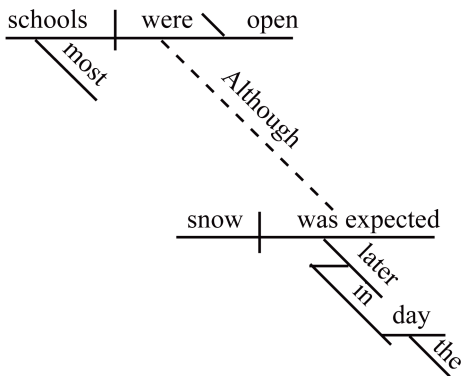
5. Speaking of rascals, Oscar just knocked at the door.



“Speaking of rascals” is an independent participial phrase.

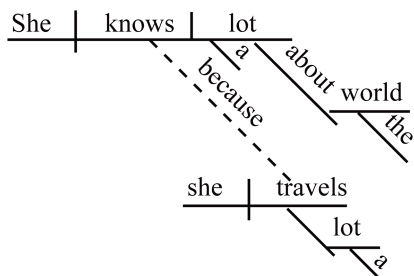
EXERCISE 13—ADVERB CLAUSES

1. Although snow was expected later in the day, most schools were open.



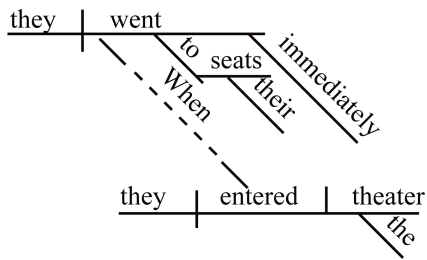
“Although” is a subordinating conjunction; such conjunctions introduce subordinate clauses. No matter where it may appear in a sentence, a subordinate clause is always diagrammed below the main clause.

2. She knows a lot about the world because she travels a lot.



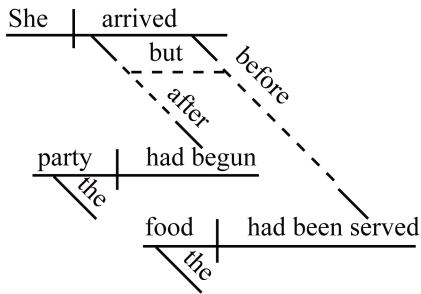
The subordinate clause “because she travels a lot” is introduced by the subordinating conjunction “because.” The second “lot” is an adverbial objective.

3. When they entered the theater, they went to their seats immediately.



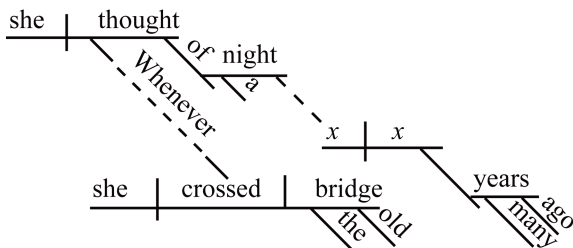
“When” is equivalent to two prepositional phrases: “at the time” and “at which,” the second of which includes a relative pronoun. That “when” modifies both “went” and “entered” is shown in the diagram by the solid ends of the line upon which “when” rests.

4. She arrived after the party had begun but before the food had been served.



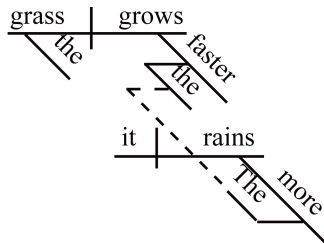
The coordinating conjunction “but” connects two adverb clauses, each introduced by a relative adverb.

5. Whenever she crossed the old bridge, she thought of a night many years ago.



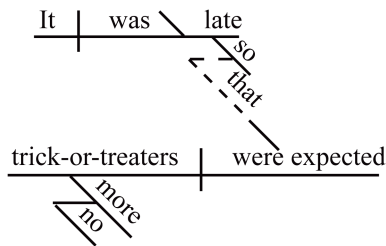
“Whenever” (*at any time at which*) is an indefinite relative adverb. The left-hand *x* represents the unexpressed relative pronoun “that,” and the right-hand *x* represents the unexpressed verb “was.” “Years” is an adverbial objective.

6. The more it rains, the faster the grass grows.



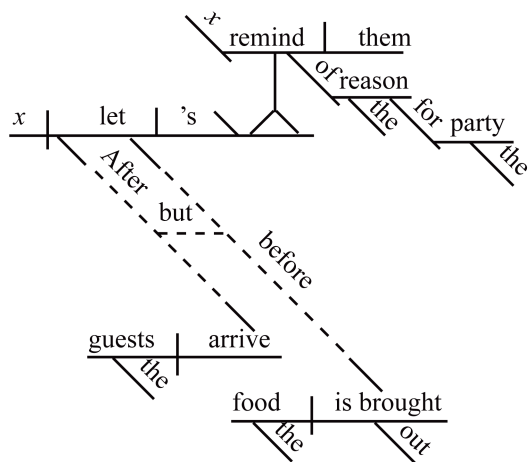
This sentence features the correlatives “the...the.” Think: *the grass grows faster according to the extent to which it rains more.* “The” modifying “faster” is an ordinary adverb; “the” modifying “more” is a relative adverb.

7. It was so late that no more trick-or-treaters were expected.



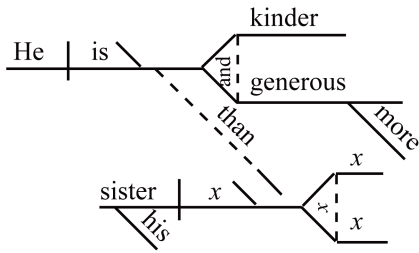
Think: it was late to a degree in which no more trick-or-treaters were expected.

8. After the guests arrive, but before the food is brought out, let’s remind them of the reason for the party.



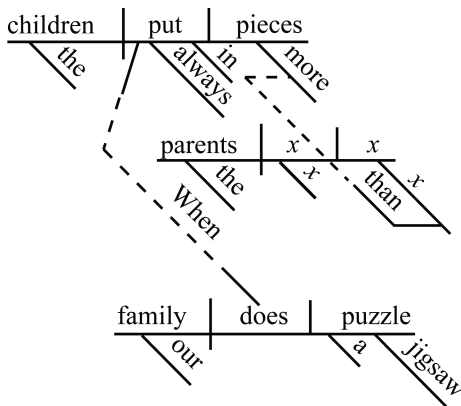
This complex sentence features two adverb clauses. The main clause is “let’s remind them of the reason for the party.”

9. He is kinder and more generous than his sister.



This comparative sentence contains a compound comparative adjective. The relative adverb is “than.”

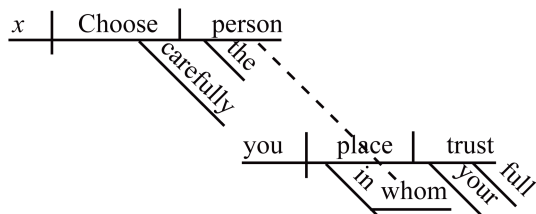
10. When our family does a jigsaw puzzle, the children always put in more pieces than the parents.



This sentence has two subordinate clauses: the first is introduced by “when,” a relative adverb of time; the second is introduced by “than,” a relative adverb of comparison. As for the four instances of *x*, they stand for “put in many pieces.”

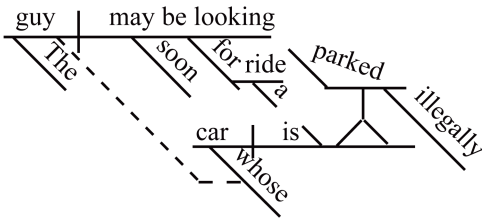
EXERCISE 14—ADJECTIVE CLAUSES

1. Choose carefully the person in whom you place your full trust.



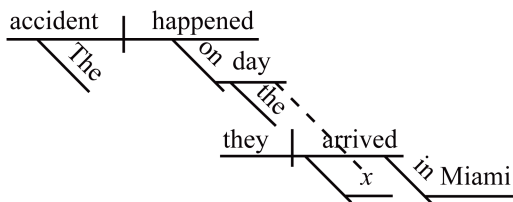
The relative pronoun “whom” is the object of the preposition “in.” Its antecedent is “person.”

2. The guy whose car is parked illegally may soon be looking for a ride.



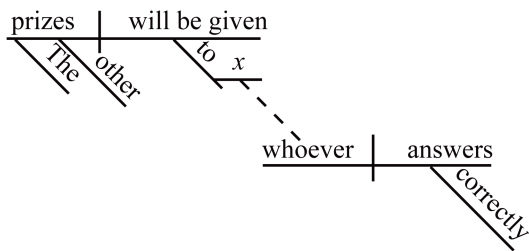
The relative pronoun “whose,” a possessive modifier of the noun “car,” has “guy” as its antecedent.

3. The accident happened on the day they arrived in Miami.



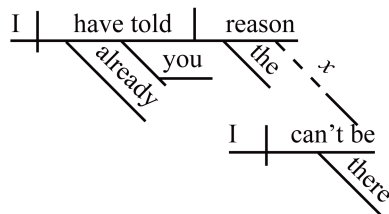
The relative pronoun “that,” an adverbial objective, is unexpressed.

4. The other prizes will be given to whoever answers correctly.



“Whoever” is the subject of the relative clause “whoever answers correctly.” Its antecedent is the unexpressed object of the preposition “to.”

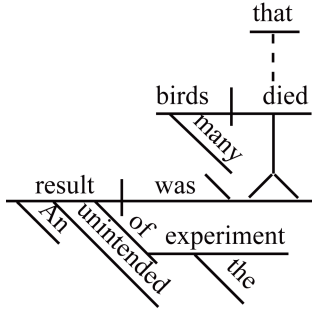
5. I have already told you the reason I can’t be there.



The noun “reason” is modified by “[why] I can’t be there,” an adjective clause introduced by the unexpressed relative adverb “why.”

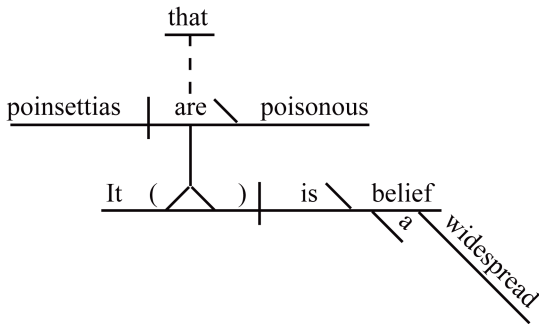
EXERCISE 15—NOUN CLAUSES

1. An unintended result of the experiment was that many birds died.



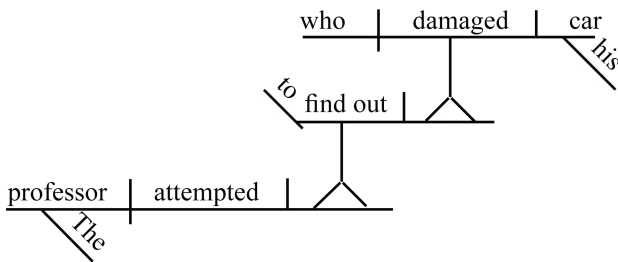
The expletive “that” introduces a noun clause (“that many birds died”); the noun clause functions as a predicate nominative.

2. It is a widespread belief that poinsettias are poisonous.



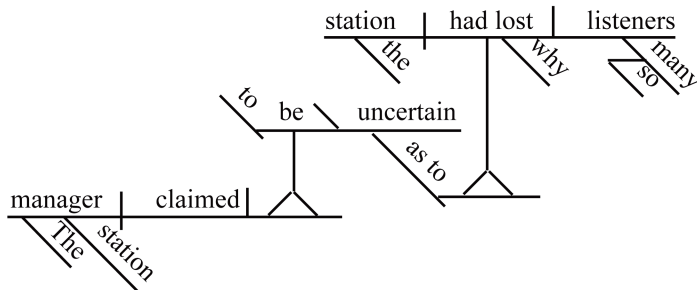
The noun clause “that poinsettias are poisonous” functions as an appositive. It is in apposition with the subject of the sentence, “it.” “That” is an expletive.

3. The professor attempted to find out who damaged his car.



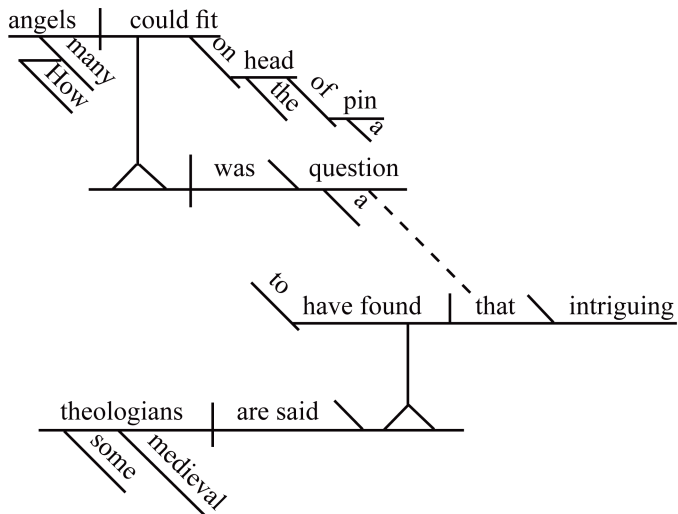
The interrogative pronoun “who” introduces a noun clause that functions as the direct object of the phrasal verb “find out.”

4. The station manager claimed to be uncertain as to why the station had lost so many listeners.



The noun clause introduced by the adverb “why” acts as the object of the phrasal preposition “as to.”

5. How many angels could fit on the head of a pin was a question that some medieval theologians are said to have found intriguing.



The noun clause introduced by the interrogative adverb “how” is the subject of the sentence. “That” is a relative pronoun. The passive verb “are said” functions as a linking verb, the infinitive phrase as a predicate adjective.