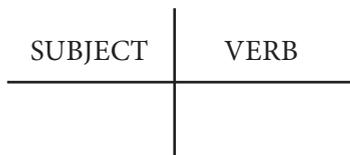


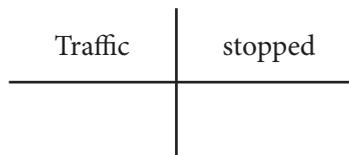
Basic Rules for Diagramming Sentences

The **subject-verb** diagram is the basic starting point for every sentence. Draw a baseline with a vertical line in the center. The subject goes on the left, and the verb goes on the right

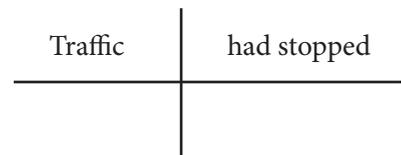


Helping verbs are paired with the action verb on the baseline.

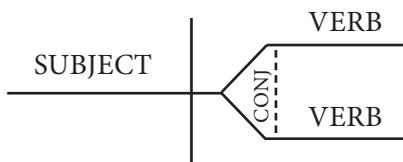
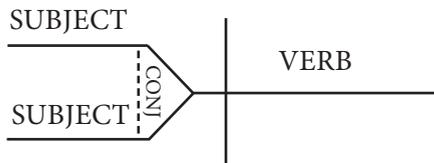
Traffic stopped.



Traffic had stopped.

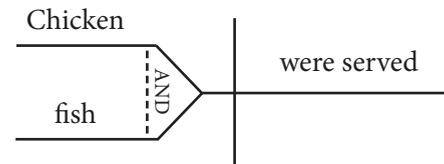


Compound subjects and verbs require an addition to the baseline. Split the compound into single lines and join them with a dashed line for the **conjunction**.



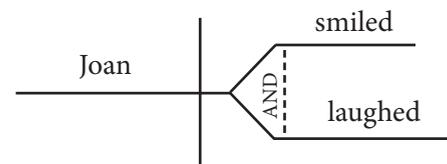
Chicken and fish were served.

Compound subjects



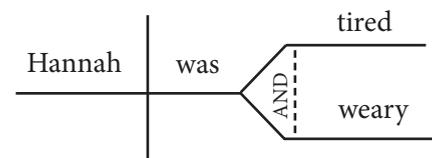
Joan smiled and laughed.

Compound verbs



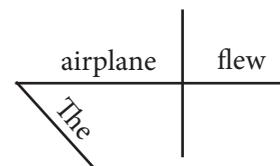
Hannah was tired and weary.

Compound verbs with a helping verb

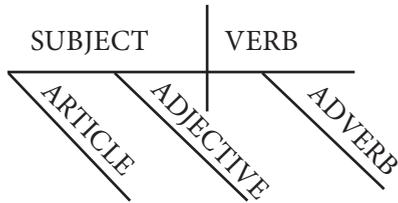


The first word of the sentence remains capitalized in the diagram. Articles (the, a, an) function as adjective when diagramming.

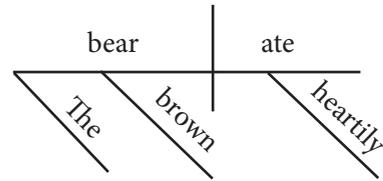
The airplane flew.



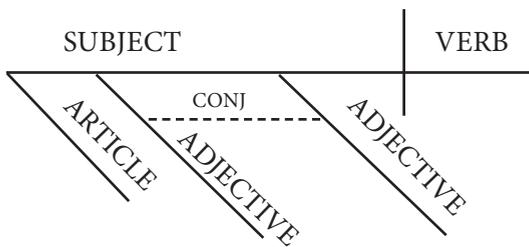
Adjectives and adverbs connect to the words they modify with a slanted line.



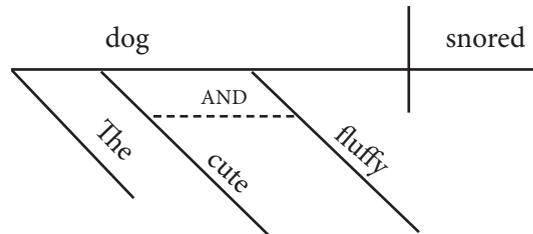
The brown bear ate heartily.



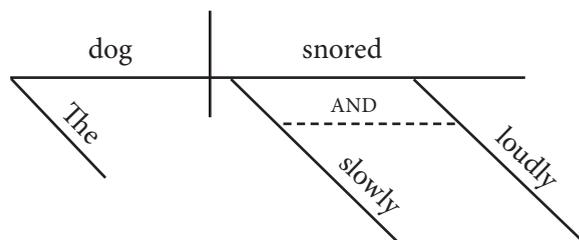
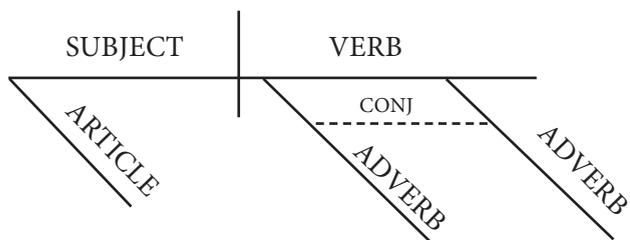
Compound adjectives and adverbs connect to each other with a horizontal dashed line for the conjunction.



The cute and fluffy dog snored.

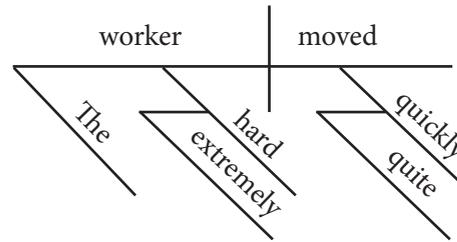
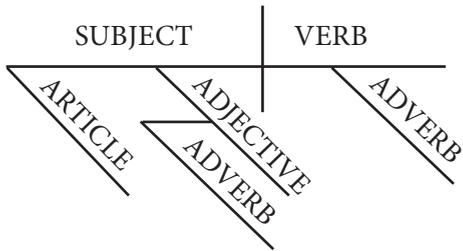


The dog snored slowly and loudly.



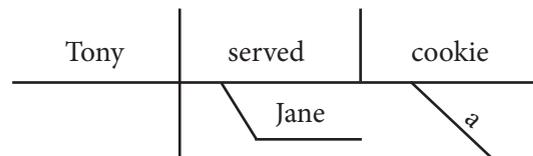
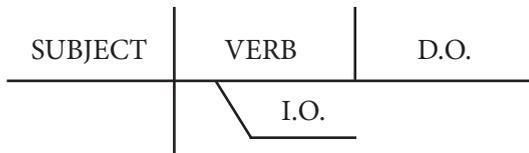
Adverbs that modify other adjectives and adverbs require an addition on the slanted line.

The extremely hard worker moved quite quickly.



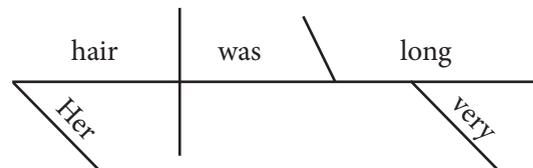
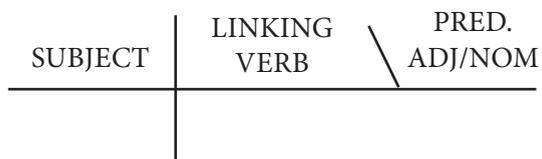
Direct objects are separated from action verbs by a *vertical line* that does not pass through the baseline.
Indirect objects require an additional line underneath the verb it follows.

Toby served Jane a cookie.

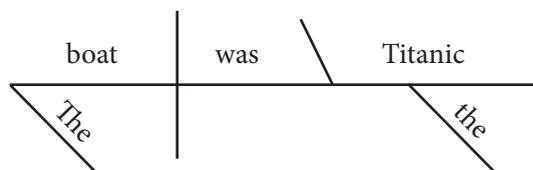


Predicate adjectives and predicate nominatives are separated from linking verbs by a *slanted line* that does not pass through the baseline.

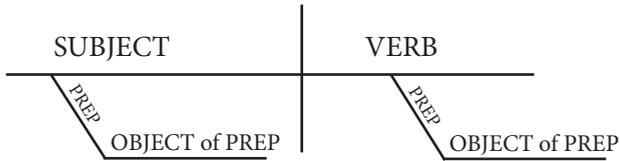
Her hair was very long.



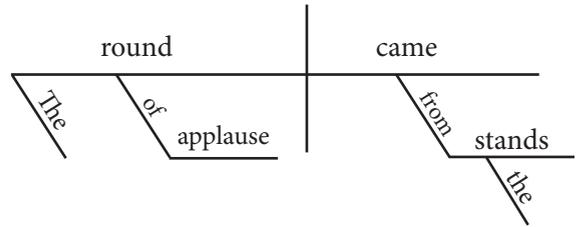
The boat was the Titanic.



Prepositions connect to the word it modifies on a slanted line with the object of the preposition attached with a horizontal line.

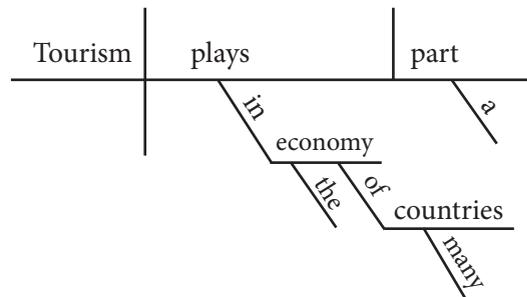


The round of applause came from the stands.



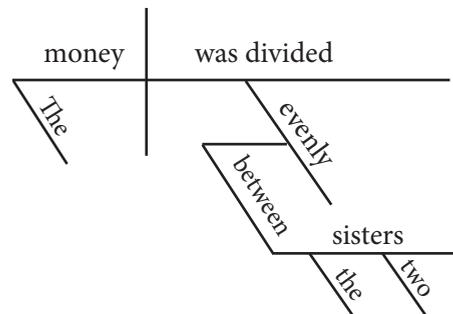
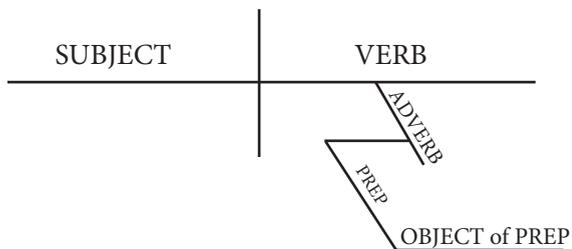
Sometimes a phrase modifies the object of the preposition of another phrase.

Tourism plays a part in the economy of many countries.

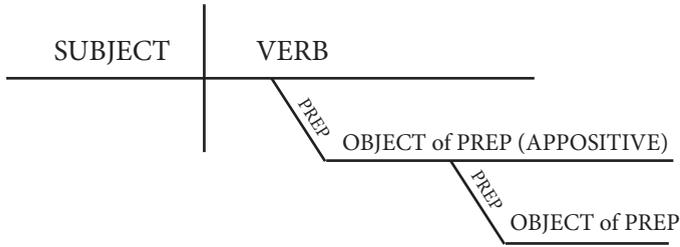


Adverb phrases that modify an adjective or adverb need an additional line to provide room for more diagramming the phrase.

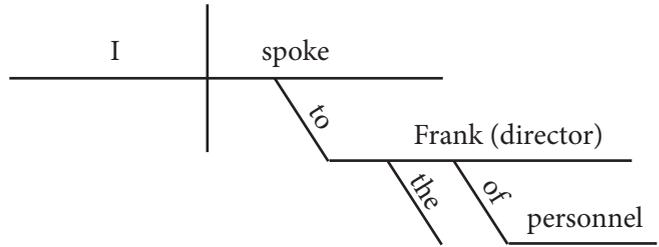
The money was divided evenly between the two sisters.



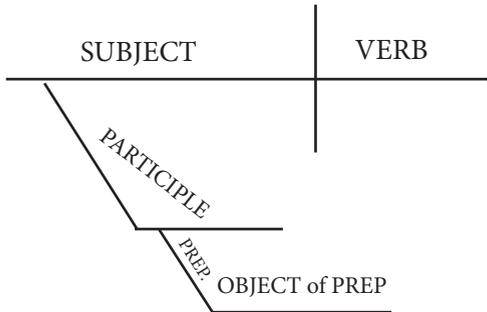
An **appositive** is diagrammed in parentheses next to the word it identifies or explains. Words that modify an appositive are placed underneath it.



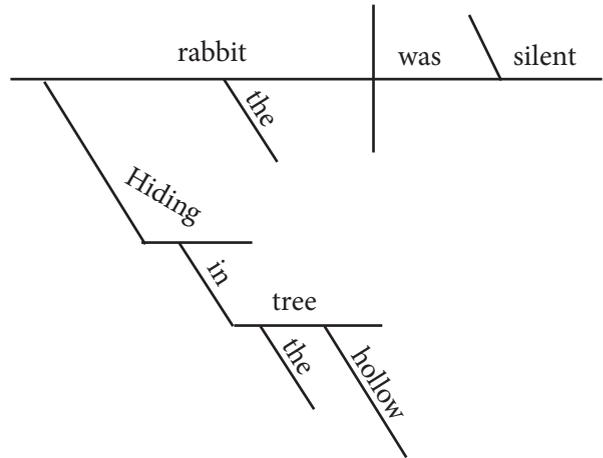
I spoke to Frank, the director of personnel.



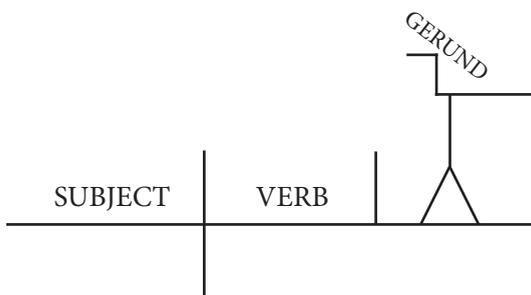
An **participial phrase** is diagrammed underneath the word it modifies. Participles are written in a *curve*.



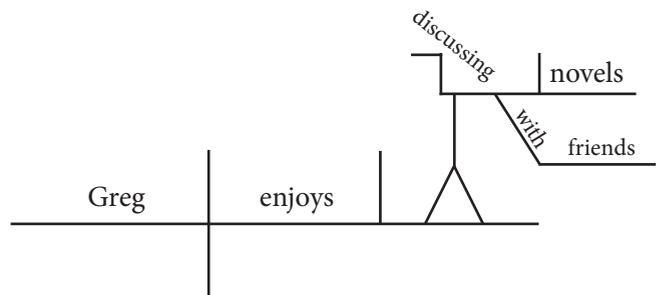
Hiding in the hollow tree, the rabbit was silent.



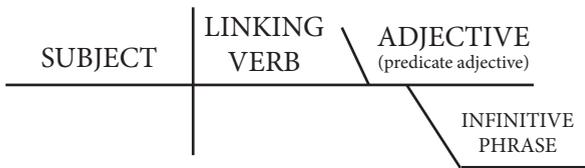
Since it functions as a noun, a **gerund** can be diagrammed in several ways and often has other elements attached to it. Use a pedestal to separate gerund phrases from the baseline.



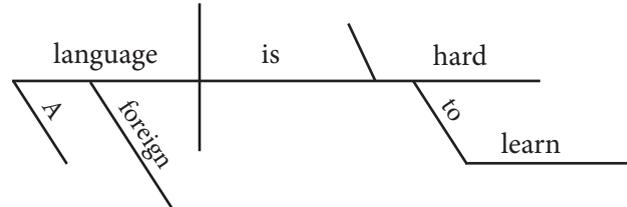
Greg enjoys discussing novels with friends.



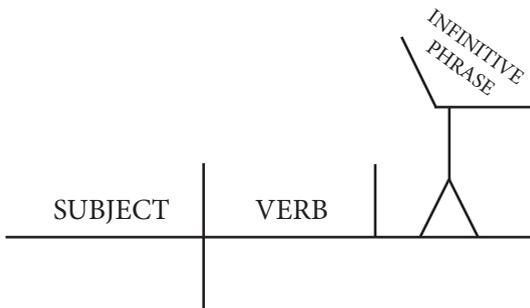
Infinitives used as adjectives or adverbs are diagrammed like a prepositional phrase.



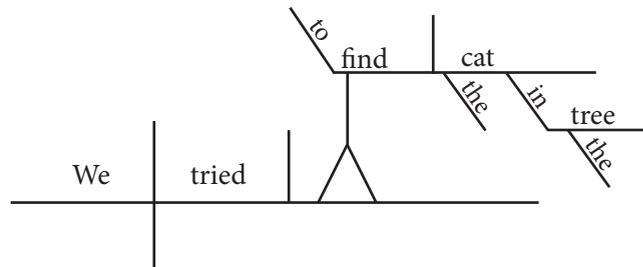
A foreign language is hard to learn.



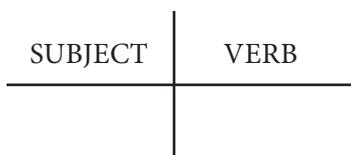
Infinitives used as nouns are also diagrammed like a prepositional phrase, but it requires separation from the baseline. Use a pedestal to separate infinitive phrases that function as nouns.



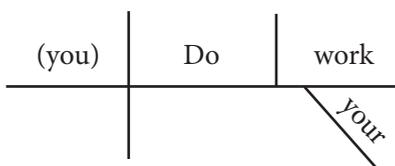
We tried to find the cat in the tree.



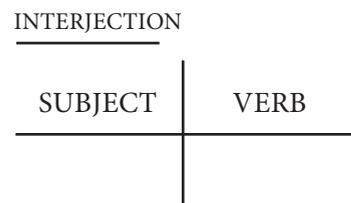
Imperative sentences (commands) have an implied *you* that comes before the verb. Place it in parentheses where the subject normally goes. Be sure to capitalize the word that begins the sentence.



Do your work.



Interjections are diagrammed on their own floating lines above the accompanying sentence that follows them.



Stop! I need water.

