

# Diagramming Sentences

## Basic Sentence Parts and Patterns

1. Simple subject and predicate

Samson slept.



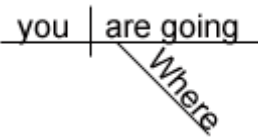
2. Understood subject (for commands, directives)

Sit!

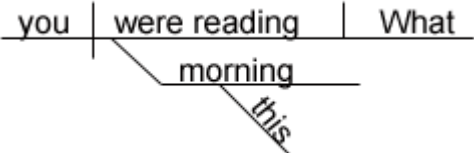


3. Questions

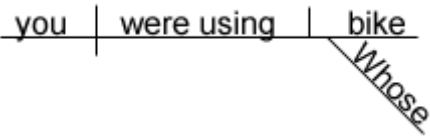
Where are you going?



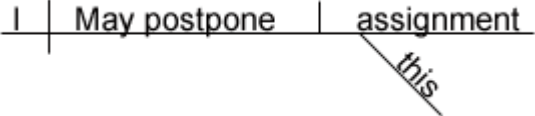
What were you reading this morning?



Whose bike were you using?

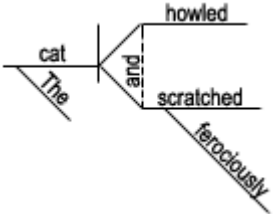


May I postpone this assignment?



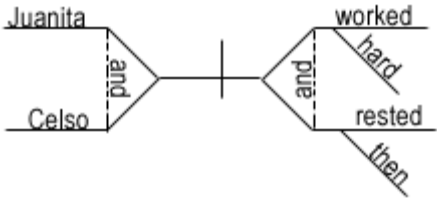
4.  
5. Compound predicate

The cat howled and scratched ferociously.



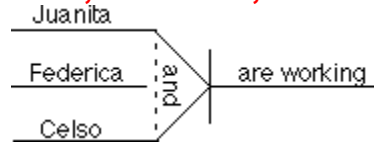
6. Compound subject and compound predicate

Juanita and Celso worked hard and then rested.



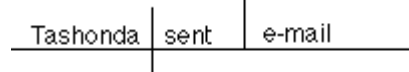
7. Three subjects

**Juanita, Federica, and Celso** are working.



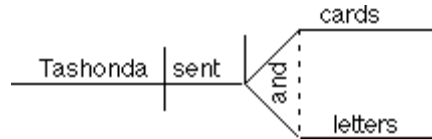
8. Direct object

Tashonda sent **e-mail**.



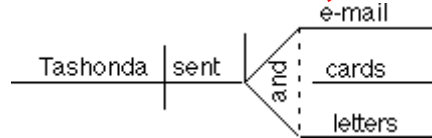
9. Compound direct objects

Tashonda sent **cards and letters**.



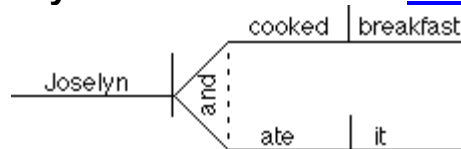
10. Three direct objects

Tashonda sent **e-mail, cards, and letters**.



11. Compound predicate with direct objects

Joselyn **cooked breakfast and ate it**.



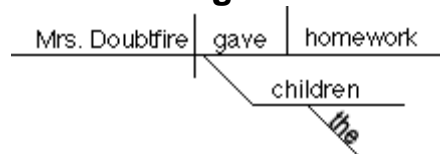
12. Compound predicate with one direct object

Samantha **proofreads and edits her essays**.



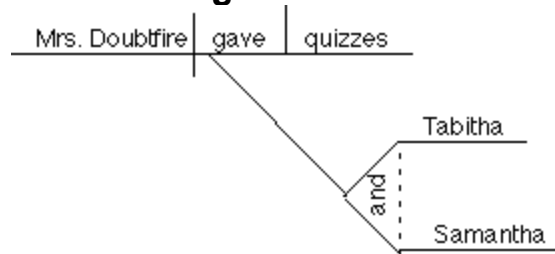
13. Indirect object

Mrs. Doubtfire gave **the children** homework.



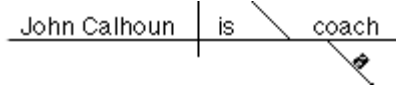
14. Compound indirect objects

Mrs. Doubtfire gave **Tabitha and Samantha** quizzes.



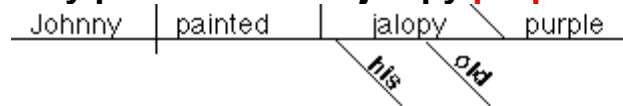
15. Predicate noun

John Calhoun is a **coach**.

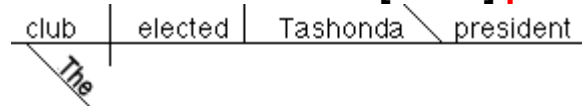


16. Objective complement

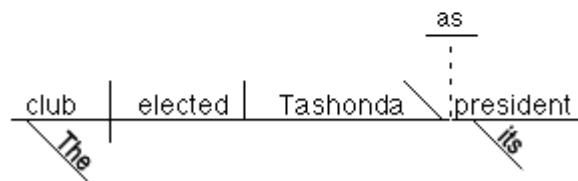
Johnny painted his old jalopy **purple**.



The club elected Tashonda [as its] **president**.



**OR**



17. Reflexive Pronouns

[as direct object] José cut **himself**.

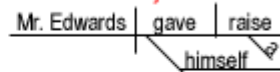
[as indirect object] Mr. Edwards gave **himself** a raise.

[as object of a preposition] She cared only for **herself**.

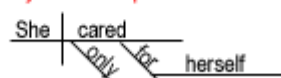
Direct Object



Indirect Object



Object of a Preposition



18. **Intensive Pronoun**  
 I **myself** prefer basketball.  
 [or] I prefer basketball **myself**.

I (myself) | prefer | basketball

19. **Appositive**  
 John Calhoun, **the coach**, yelled at the referees.

John Calhoun (coach) | yelled  
 the at referees  
 the

20. **Direct address**  
**Heitor**, address the class now.

Heitor  
 (you) | address | class  
 now the

21. **Interjection**  
**Man**, that hurt!

Man  
 that | hurt

22. **Adjective**  
**Athletic** moves excite the crowd.

moves | excite | crowd  
 Athletic the

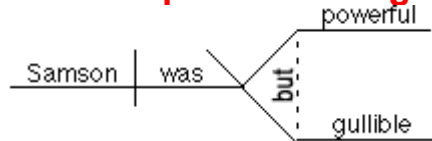
23. **Compound adjectives**  
**The little old lady** hit **the tall and distinguished** gentleman.

lady | hit | gentleman  
 The little old the and distinguished  
 tall

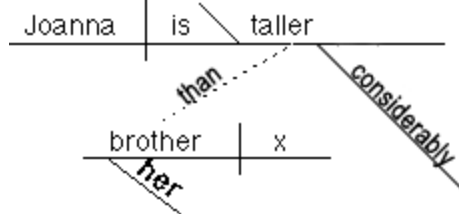
24. **Predicate adjective**  
 Samson was **powerful**.

Samson | was | powerful

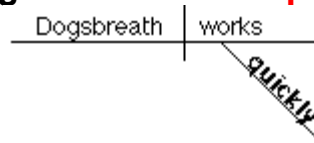
25. **Compound predicate adjectives**  
Samson was **powerful but gullible**.



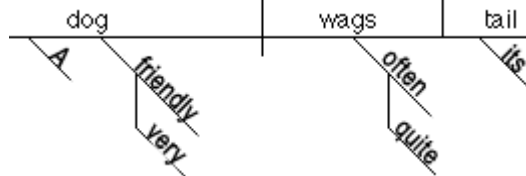
26. **Comparative adjective**  
Joanna is considerably **taller** than her brother [is].



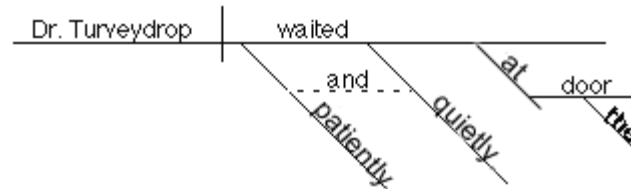
27. **Adverb**  
Dogsbreath works **quickly**.



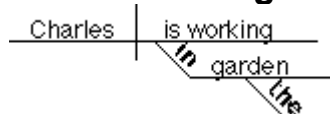
28. **Adverbs modifying other adverbs**  
A **very** friendly dog wags its tail **quite** often.

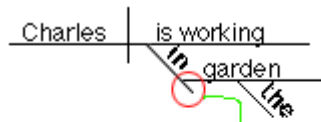


29. **Compound adverbs**  
Dr. Turveydrop waited **patiently and quietly** at the door.



30. **Prepositional phrase**  
Charles is working **in the garden**.

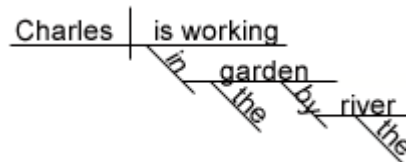




Note that some authorities on diagramming (including Kolln) use a "tail" on the diagonal line on which you write the preposition.

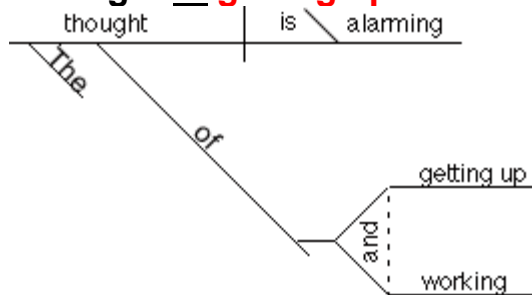
31. **Prepositional phrase modifying another prepositional phrase**

Charles is working **in the garden by the river.**



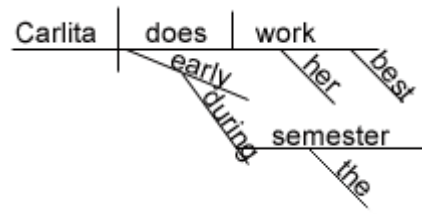
32. **Preposition with compound objects**

The thought **of getting up and working** is alarming.



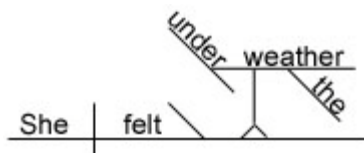
33. **Prepositional phrase modifying an adverb**

Tashonda does her best work **early during the semester.**



34. **Prepositional phrase as subjective complement**

She felt **under the weather.**

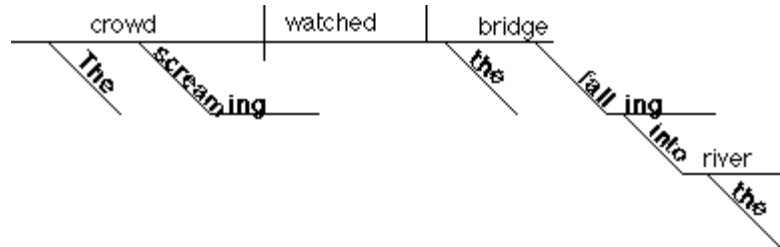


35. **Participle**

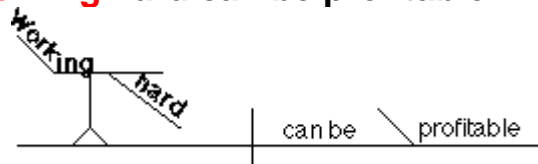
The **crumbling** bridge must be repaired.



36. **Participial phrase**  
 The screaming crowd watched the bridge **falling into the river.**



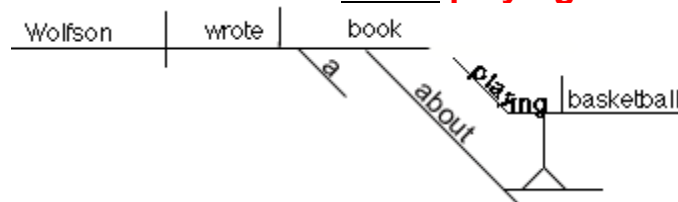
37. **Gerund**  
**Working** hard can be profitable.



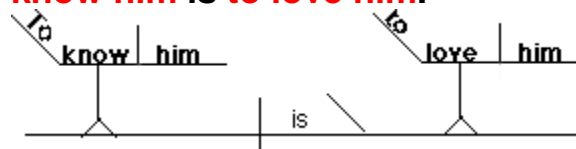
38. **Gerund phrase acting as object**  
 Terminata hates **eating broccoli.**



39. **Gerund phrase as object of a preposition**  
 Wolfson wrote a book **about playing basketball.**



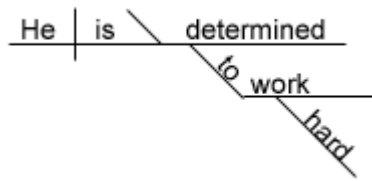
40. **Infinitive as noun (subject & predicate)**  
**To know him is to love him.**



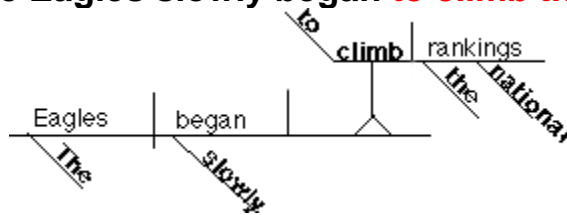
41. **Infinitive acting as adjective**  
 His decision **to leave early** was unfortunate.



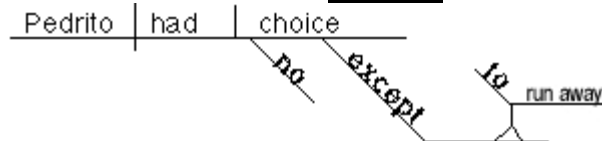
42. Infinitive acting as adverb  
He is determined **to work hard**.



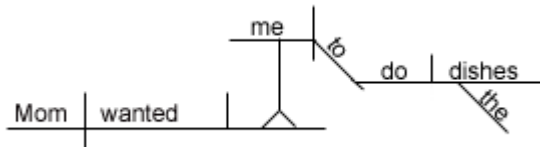
43. Infinitive as direct object  
The Eagles slowly began **to climb the national rankings**.



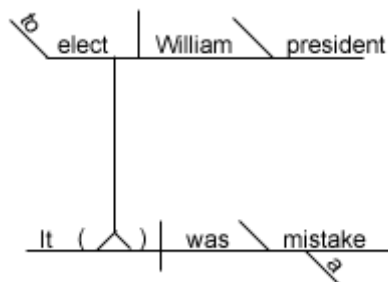
44. Infinitive phrase as object of preposition  
Pedrito had no choice **except to run away**.



45. Infinitive phrase as objective complement  
Mom wanted me **to do the dishes**.



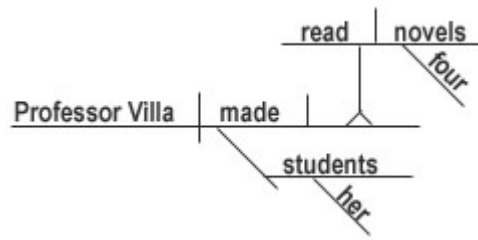
46. Infinitive phrase as appositive  
It was a mistake **to elect William president**.





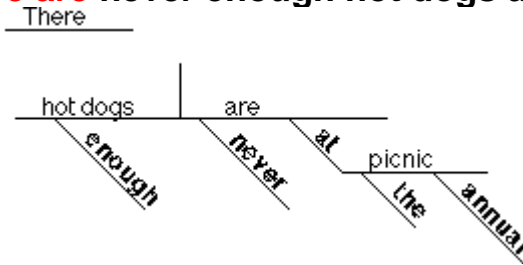
47. **Causative Verb**

Professor Villa made her students **read** four novels.

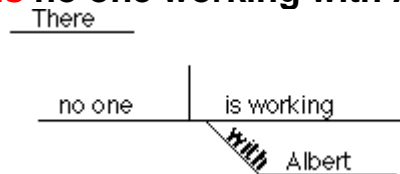


48. **Expletive Construction**

**There are** never enough hot dogs at the annual picnic.

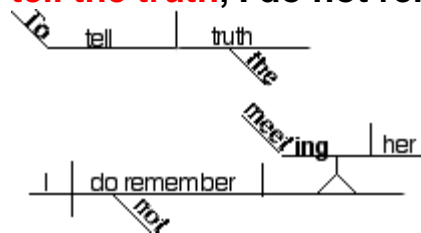


**There is** no one working with Albert.



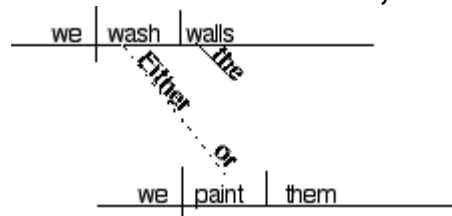
49. **Absolute Construction**

**To tell the truth,** I do not remember meeting her.



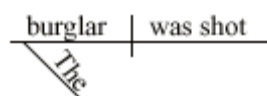
50. **Correlative Conjunction**

**Either** we wash the walls, **or** we paint them.

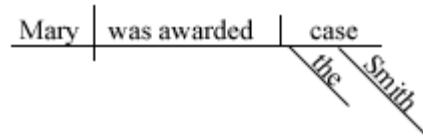


51. **Passive Verbs**

The burglar **was shot**.



Mary **was awarded** the Smith Case.



Turveydrop **was named** chairman while he was out of the room.

