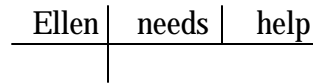
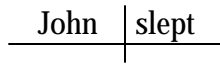


Tips for Teaching Grammar

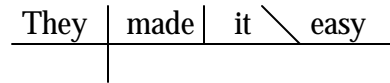
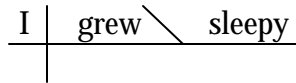
Diagramming Sentences

In the late nineteenth century, Alonzo Reed and Brainerd Kellogg developed a method for diagramming sentences in the belief that students would understand sentence structure better if they could picture it. Many students do indeed find the diagrams helpful in seeing the relationships among sentence elements.

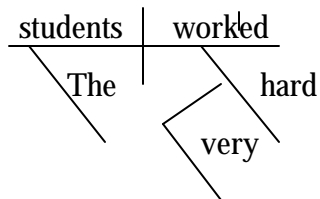
1. The main line of the diagram shows the head noun of the subject divided from the predicate by a vertical line running through the horizontal. After the verb, a shorter vertical line divides the verb from the head noun of the direct object.



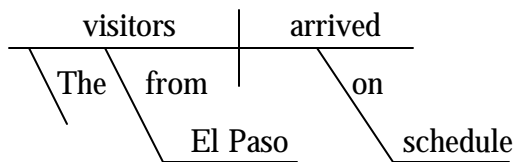
2. A diagonal line, leaning towards the noun it refers to, precedes the subject or object complement.



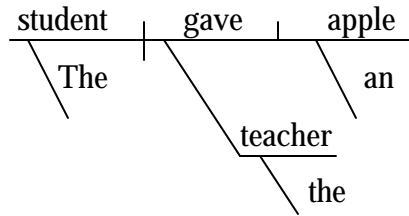
3. Modifiers appear on diagonal lines below the appropriate words on the main line. Qualifiers are placed on diagonal lines attached to the modifiers.



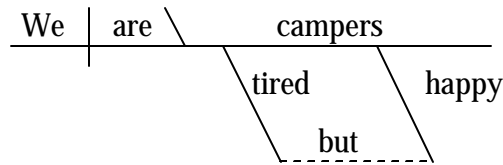
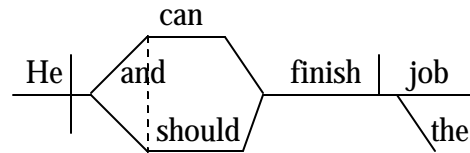
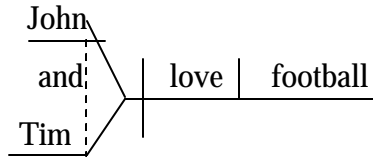
4. A preposition is placed on a diagonal line beneath the word it modifies. The object of the preposition appears on a horizontal line attached to the line of the preposition.



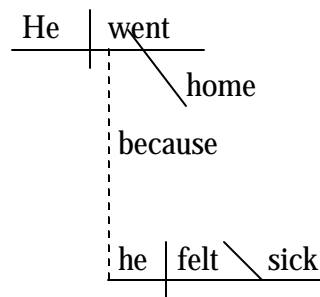
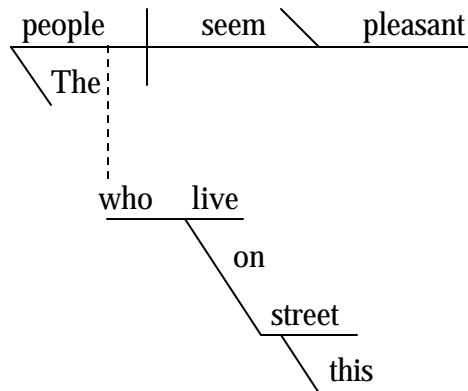
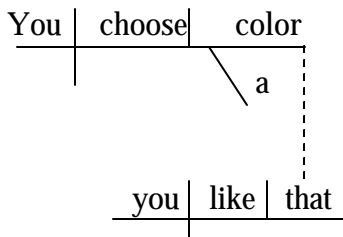
5. An indirect object is set up like a prepositional phrase because its meaning can be expressed by the prepositions *to* or *for*, although the preposition is not written in unless it appears in the sentence. The indirect object is placed below the verb.



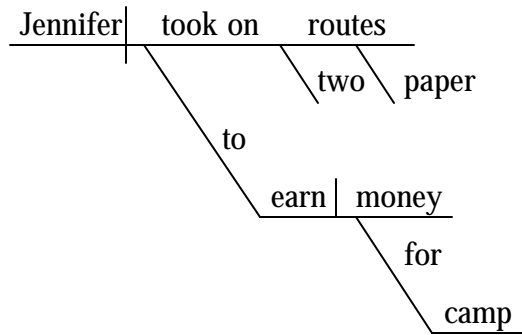
6. Conjunctions appear as dotted lines connecting parallel elements.



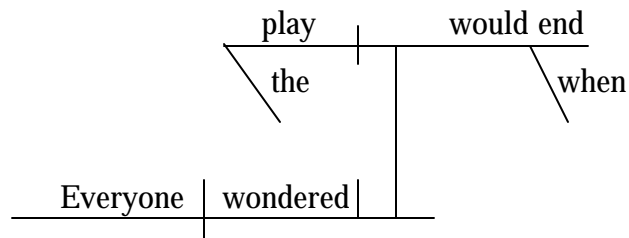
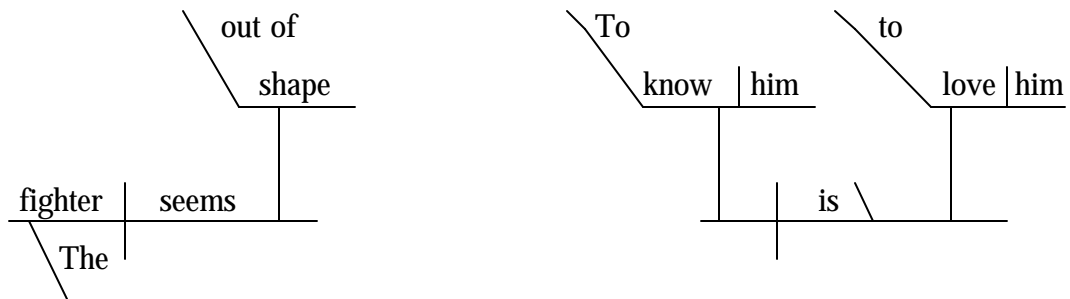
7. Dotted lines also connect clauses to the main sentence elements that they modify. A relative pronoun is placed in its appropriate slot in the relative (adjective) clause. Subordinate conjunctions are written on the dotted lines.



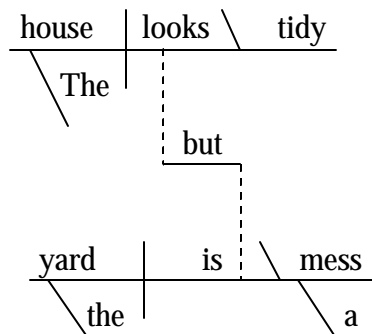
8. An infinitive phrase--with *to* followed by a verb with its modifiers and complements--looks similar to a prepositional phrase.



9. Phrases and clauses that occupy the subject or complement slot are written on pedestals above the main clause.



10. The two clauses of a compound sentence are connected with a dotted line from verb to verb, with the conjunction on a solid line between the two.



— Brock Haussamen, based on *Understanding English Grammar*, 6th
edition, by Martha Kolln and Robert Funk