Sentence Basics

- The subject of the sentence is the person or thing is performing the action of the sentence or is being described by the sentence. The subject must be a noun or pronoun.
- The verb of the sentence will either convey the action of the sentence or it will connect the subject with its description.
The Sentence Baseline

- The subject is placed on the left of the dividing line.
- The verb is placed to the right of the dividing line.

Ex. Babies cry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>VERB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Babies</td>
<td>cry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When a sentence has a compound subject and/or verb, the sentence baseline is split in two – resembling a meat fork.
Example

The little boy and girl laughed and giggled jubilantly.
Adjective Modifiers

- **Adjectives** modify nouns and pronouns in a sentence.
- The articles – a, an, & the – are considered special adjectives.
- Adjectives add detail to the sentence by answering the questions “which one?, what kind?, and how many?”. 
Diagramming Adjective Modifiers

Adjective modifiers are “dropped” below the sentence baseline on a slanted line angled to the right. This diagonal line is positioned below the noun that is being described.

Ex. Tiny babies cry.
Adverb Modifiers

- **Adverbs** can modify three different parts of speech. They can modify . . .
  - Verbs
  - Adjectives
  - Other adverbs
- They add detail to the sentence by answering the questions “where?, when?, how?, why?, and to what extent?”. 
Diagramming Adverb Modifying Verbs

Adverb modifying verbs are “dropped” below the sentence baseline on a slanted line angled to the right. This diagonal line is positioned below the verb that is being described.

Ex. Tiny babies cry often.
Adverbs modifying adjectives are “dropped” below the adjective on a line that resembles a “backwards 7”.

Ex. Really tiny tiny babies cry.
Adverbs modifying other adverbs are “dropped” below the adverb on a line that resembles a “backwards 7”.

Example: Tiny babies cry very often.
Prepositional Phrases

- Prepositional phrases add detail to the sentence by showing relationships between words in the sentence.
- A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun or pronoun that is called the object of the preposition.
- Prepositional phrases can act as either adjectives or adverbs.
Diagramming Prepositional Phrases Acting as Adjectives

- Prepositional phrases acting as adjectives, modifying nouns or pronouns, are “dropped” below the sentence baseline beneath the word they modify. They are placed on a bracket that looks like a “lazy L”.

```
subject          verb

PREPOSITION

OBJ. OF PREP.
```
The kitten in the window slept peacefully.
Diagramming Prepositional Phrases Working as Adverbs

- Prepositional phrases acting as adverbs, modifying verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs, are “dropped” below the sentence baseline beneath the word they modify. They are placed on a bracket that looks like a “lazy L”.

```
subject       verb

  PREPOSITION

  OBJ. OF PREP
```
Example

Ex. I was awakened suddenly in the night.
Complements

- Complements complete the idea begun by the subject and the verb.
- Complements can follow both action and linking verbs.
- Complements can be . . .
  - Nouns
  - Pronouns
  - Adjectives
Direct Objects

- Direct Objects follow transitive verbs – verbs that transfer action to an object.
- Direct Objects must be either nouns or pronouns.
- Direct Objects can NEVER be located inside of a prepositional phrase.
- Direct Objects answer this question . . .

\[ S + V + \textit{who? or what?} = \textit{DO} \]
Diagramming Direct Objects

- The DO is added to the sentence baseline.
- The DO is separated from the action verb by a line that is perpendicular to the baseline.

| Subject | Action Verb | DO |
Alicia walks her dog every morning.
Indirect Objects

- Indirect Objects also follow transitive verbs.
- They are ALWAYS located between the verb and the Direct Object.
- They will NEVER be found inside a prepositional phrase.
- They answer the question . . .
  S + V+ DO + to whom? or for whom? = IO
Diagramming Indirect Objects

- Indirect Objects are dropped below the sentence baseline.
- The are placed on a “Lazy L” directly beneath the verb.
Example

Mrs. Henderson gave the class a huge assignment.
Subject Complements

- Subject complements follow a linking verb.
- If the complement is a Predicate Adjective, it describes the subject.
- If the complement is a Predicate Nominative (Noun or Pronoun), it clarifies who or what the subject is.
- Subject Complements will NEVER be located inside a Prepositional Phrase.
- The Subject Complement Questions is . . .

\[ S + \text{form of is} + \text{what?} = \text{Subject Complement} \]
Like the Direct Object, Subject Complements are also placed on the sentence baseline after the verb.

The Subject complement is separated from the verb by a slanted line angled back toward the subject.
Mrs. Henderson’s classes are very excited about sentence diagramming.
Diagramming Complex Sentences

- A clause is a group of words that contain a subject and a verb.
- Complex sentences contain more than one clause.
  - 1 Independent (main clause)
  - 1 Dependent
- So, we need to add a lower baseline for the dependent clause.
A clause is a group of words that contain a subject and a verb.

Complex sentences contain more than one clause.
  - 1 Independent (main clause)
  - 1 Dependent

So, we need to add a lower baseline for the dependent clause.
**Adjective Clauses**

- An adjective clause modifies the noun right before it in the sentence.
- It begins with a relative pronoun (who, whose, whom, whoever, which, and that; or where or when.)
Diagramming Adjective Clauses

Use a dotted line to connect the Relative Pronoun to the noun which the clause modifies in the main clause.
My mom, who loves baking, sent chocolate chip cookies for my birthday.
Adverb Clauses

- An adverb clause most commonly modifies the action in the main clause.
- It can also modify the predicate word following a linking verb.
- It answers the questions *where? when? how? why? and under what conditions?*
- It begins with a subordinating conjunction.
Diagramming Adverb Clauses

Use a dotted line to connect verb of adverb clause to the action verb in main clause. The Subordinating Conjunction is written on that line.
Diagramming Adverb Clauses

Use a dotted line to connect verb of adverb clause to the predicate word following the linking verb in the main clause. The Subordinating Conjunction is written on that line.
After she finished her homework, Kelly practiced her song for the recital.
Example

Kelly feels nervous when she performs for an audience.
Diagramming Verbals

Verbals are forms of a verb that act like nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

- Participles act as adjectives that modify a noun.
- Gerunds act as nouns and can be a subject, object of a preposition, direct object, indirect object, or a predicate nominative.
- Infinitives act as either nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.
More About Participles

- Participles are forms of a verb acting as an adjective.
- They may end with an –ing, -ed, -d, -t, or –n and DO NOT have a helping verb.
- Be aware that past and present participiple forms of a verb can also be a part of the main verb. Be sure the word is not showing what the subject is doing.
Participle or Main Verb

Running down the street, the child rushed to get home. (participle describing child)

The child was running down the street in a quite a hurry. (main verb showing what the child is doing).
Participial Phrase

Because a participle is a form of a verb (even though it acts as an adjective) it can have all of the same attachments that a verb can have . . .

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Adverbs
- Adverb Phrases
Diagramming Participial Phrases

The Participial Phrase drops below the noun it modifies on a “Lazy L” bracket (Think along the lines of a prepositional phrase or direct object. The Participle is written across the bend.

Subject | verb

\[\text{Participle}\]
Running down the street, the child rushed home.
More About Gerunds

- Gerunds are forms of a verb acting as a noun.
- They ALWAYS end with an –ing and NEVER have a helping verb!
- A gerund can do anything a noun do in a sentence (S, OP, DO, IO, PN).
Gerund or Main Verb

- Carol likes reading about foreign countries. (Gerund – direct object)
- Carol was reading an article about Egypt this morning. (Main verb – showing what Carol was doing)
Gerund Phrase

Because a Gerund is a form of a verb (even though it acts as an noun) it can have all of the same attachments that a verb can have . . .

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Adverbs
- Adverb Phrases

Because it acts as noun, it could also be modified by adjectives.
Diagramming Gerunds

- Gerunds plug into the diagram in the same place a regular noun would.
- Gerunds are placed on top of a pedestal.
Example

Carol likes reading about foreign countries.