

## 19


**1.0 Written and Oral  
English Language  
Conventions**

Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

# Sentence Diagramming

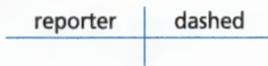
## The Sentence Diagram

A *sentence diagram* is a picture of how the parts of a sentence fit together. It shows how the words in the sentence are related.

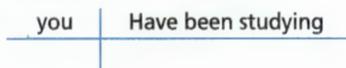
### Subjects and Verbs

To diagram a sentence, first find the simple subject and the verb (simple predicate), and write them on a horizontal line. Then, separate them with a vertical line.

**EXAMPLES** The reporter dashed to the fire.



Have you been studying?



Notice that a diagram shows the capitalization but not the punctuation of a sentence.

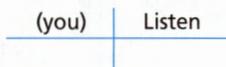
**Reference Note**

For information on **subjects and verbs**, see Chapter 1.

## Understood Subjects

To diagram an imperative sentence, place the understood subject *you* in parentheses on the horizontal line.

**EXAMPLE** Listen to the beautiful music.



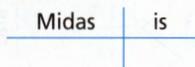
### Reference Note

For information on **understood subjects**, see page 19.

## Exercise 1 Diagramming Simple Subjects and Verbs

Diagram only the simple subjects and the verbs in the following sentences.

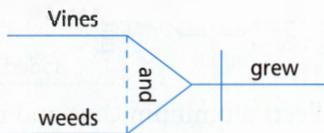
**EXAMPLE** 1. Midas is a character in Greek mythology.



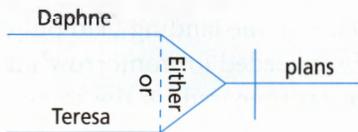
1. Midas ruled the kingdom of Phrygia.
2. One of the gods gave Midas the power to turn anything into gold.
3. Soon this gift became a curse.
4. Do you know why?
5. Read the story of King Midas in a mythology book.

## Compound Subjects

**EXAMPLES** **Vines** and **weeds** grew over the old well.



Either **Daphne** or **Teresa** plans to report on Thailand.



### Reference Note

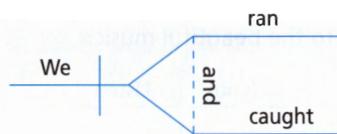
For information on **compound subjects**, see page 15.

**Reference Note**

For information on **compound verbs**, see page 16.

**Compound Verbs**

**EXAMPLE** We **ran** to the corner and barely **caught** the bus.

**Compound Subjects and Compound Verbs**

**EXAMPLE** **Ken** and **LaDonna** **dived** into the water and **swam** across the pool.

**Exercise 2** **Diagramming Compound Subjects and Compound Verbs**

Diagram the subjects and the verbs in the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** 1. Nikki and Chris chopped the cilantro and added it to the salsa.



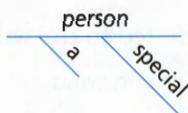
- Mr. Carrington collects aluminum cans and returns them for recycling.
- The students and the faculty combined their efforts and defeated the proposal.
- The plane circled above the landing field but did not descend.
- Pencil and paper are needed for tomorrow's math assignment.
- Angela and her costar prepared for the scene.

## Adjectives and Adverbs

Both adjectives and adverbs are written on slanted lines below the words they modify.

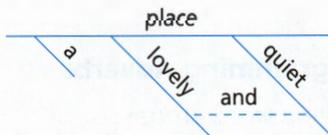
### Adjectives

EXAMPLES **bright** star    **a special** person    **her favorite** class



Two or more adjectives joined by a connecting word are diagrammed this way:

EXAMPLE **a lovely and quiet** place



### Exercise 3 Diagramming Adjectives

Diagram the following word groups.

EXAMPLE 1. that old clock



1. mighty warrior
2. long, exciting movie
3. my final offer
4. short and funny story
5. the slow but persistent turtle

#### Reference Note

For information on **adjectives** and **adverbs**, see page 38 and page 61.

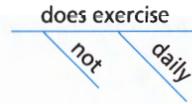
#### HELP



Possessive nouns and pronouns are diagrammed in the same way adjectives are.

**Reference Note**

For information on **adverbs**, see page 61.

**Adverbs****EXAMPLES** studies **hard**does **not** exercise **daily**

When an adverb modifies an adjective or another adverb, it is placed on a line connected to the word it modifies.

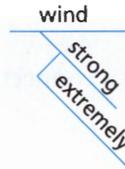
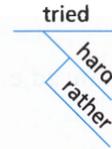
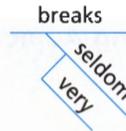
**EXAMPLES** **extremely** strong windtried **rather** hard**Exercise 4 Diagramming Adverbs**

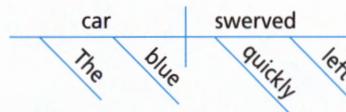
Diagram the following word groups.

**EXAMPLE** 1. very seldom breaks

1. answered quickly
2. listened quite intently
3. dangerously sharp curve
4. may possibly happen
5. never plans very carefully

**Review A Diagramming Sentences That Contain Adjectives and Adverbs**

Diagram the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** 1. The blue car quickly swerved left.

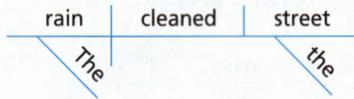
1. Our turn finally came.
2. We are definitely leaving tomorrow.
3. The anxious motorist drove too fast.
4. The shutters rattled quite noisily.
5. The new car had not been damaged badly.

## Objects

### Direct Objects

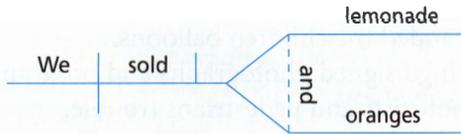
A direct object is diagrammed on the horizontal line with the subject and verb. A vertical line separates the direct object from the verb. Notice that this vertical line does not cross the horizontal line.

**EXAMPLE** The rain cleaned the **street**.



### Compound Direct Objects

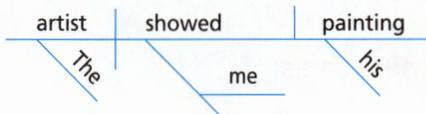
**EXAMPLE** We sold **lemonade** and **oranges**.



### Indirect Objects

To diagram an indirect object, write it on a short horizontal line below the verb. Connect the indirect object to the verb by a slanted line.

**EXAMPLE** The artist showed **me** his painting.



#### Reference Note

For information on **objects**, see page 81.

#### Reference Note

For information on **direct objects**, see page 81.

#### Reference Note

For information on **compound direct objects**, see page 82.

#### Reference Note

For information on **indirect objects**, see page 83.

**Reference Note**

For information on **compound indirect objects**, see page 83.

**HELP**

Some sentences in Exercise 5 do not contain an indirect object.

**Reference Note**

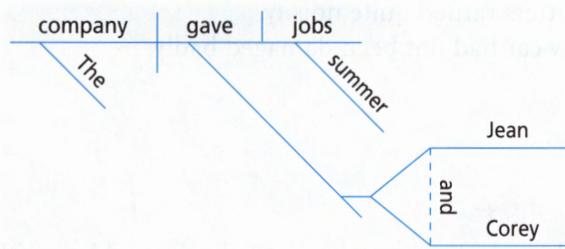
For information on **subject complements**, see page 85.

**Reference Note**

For information on **predicate nominatives**, see page 85.

## Compound Indirect Objects

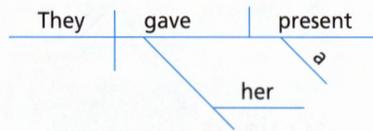
**EXAMPLE** The company gave **Jean** and **Corey** summer jobs.



### Exercise 5 Diagramming Sentences That Contain Direct Objects and Indirect Objects

Diagram the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** 1. They gave her a present.



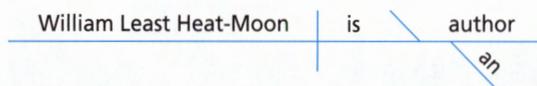
- The judges awarded the prizes.
- Cara's sister taught her the rules.
- The cashier handed the children balloons.
- Plácido Domingo signed photographs and programs.
- Snow gives motorists and pedestrians trouble.

## Subject Complements

A subject complement is placed on the horizontal line with the simple subject and the verb. The subject complement comes after the verb and is separated from it by a line slanting toward the subject. This slanted line shows that the complement refers to the subject.

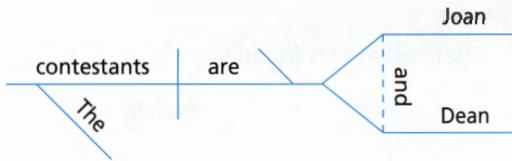
## Predicate Nominatives

**EXAMPLE** William Least Heat-Moon is an **author**.



## Compound Predicate Nominatives

**EXAMPLE** The contestants are **Joan** and **Dean**.

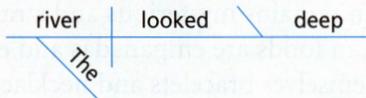


### Reference Note

For information on **compound predicate nominatives**, see page 86.

## Predicate Adjectives

**EXAMPLE** The river looked **deep**.

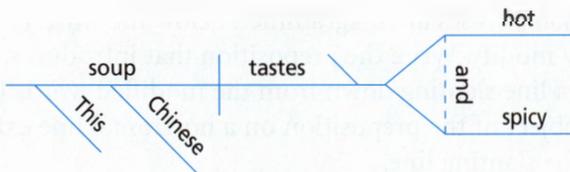


### Reference Note

For information on **predicate adjectives**, see page 87.

## Compound Predicate Adjectives

**EXAMPLE** This Chinese soup tastes **hot** and **spicy**.



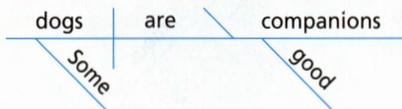
### Reference Note

For information on **compound predicate adjectives**, see page 87.

## Exercise 6 Diagramming Sentences That Contain Subject Complements

Diagram the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** 1. Some dogs are good companions.



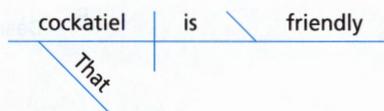
1. My shoes looked dusty.
2. Sir Francis Drake was a brave explorer.
3. The air grew cold and damp.
4. The chimpanzees seemed tired but happy.
5. My favorite months are September and May.

## Review B

## Diagramming Sentences That Contain Complements

Diagram the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** 1. That cockatiel is friendly.



1. Her mother was an airplane mechanic.
2. Don and Maria rehearsed their parts.
3. The legend's origin remains mysterious and strange.
4. My favorite Mexican foods are empanadas and enchiladas.
5. The girls made themselves bracelets and necklaces.

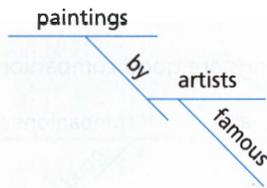
## Phrases

## Prepositional Phrases

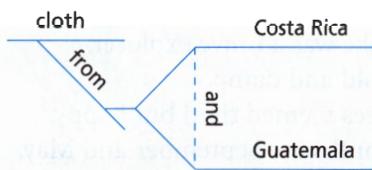
Prepositional phrases are diagrammed below the word or word group they modify. Write the preposition that introduces the phrase on a line slanting down from the modified word. Then, write the object of the preposition on a horizontal line extending from the slanting line.

## Adjective Phrases

**EXAMPLES** paintings **by famous artists**



cloth **from Costa Rica and Guatemala**



## Reference Note

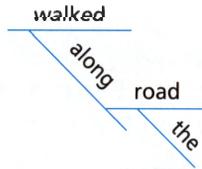
For information on **phrases**, see Chapter 5.  
For information on **prepositional phrases**, see page 96.

## Reference Note

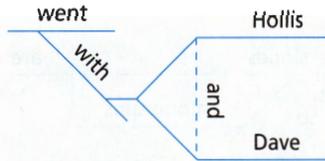
For information on **adjective phrases**, see page 97.

## Adverb Phrases

**EXAMPLES** walked **along the road**

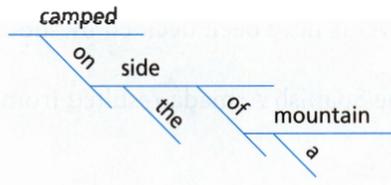


went **with Hollis and Dave**



When a prepositional phrase modifies the object of another prepositional phrase, the diagram looks like this:

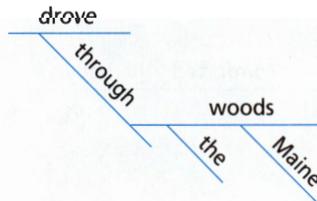
**EXAMPLE** camped on the side **of a mountain**



### Exercise 7 Diagramming Prepositional Phrases

Diagram the following word groups.

**EXAMPLE** 1. drove through the Maine woods



1. invited to the celebrations
2. a glimpse of the famous ruler

### Reference Note

For information on **adverb phrases**, see page 99.

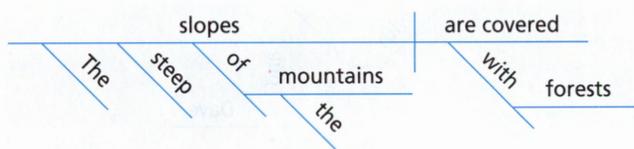
3. one of the people in the room
4. drove to a village near Paris
5. wrote about the Vietnamese and their history

### Review C

## Diagramming Sentences That Contain Prepositional Phrases

Diagram the following sentences.

- EXAMPLE** 1. The steep slopes of the mountains are covered with forests.



1. The number of whales decreases annually.
2. Hundreds of animal species are being protected by concerned citizens.
3. Citrus fruits are grown in California and Florida.
4. Many historic events have been decided by sudden changes in the weather.
5. The defeat of the Spanish Armada resulted from a violent ocean storm.

### Reference Note

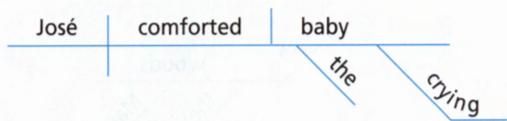
For information on **verbals** and **verbal phrases**, see page 101.

## Verbals and Verbal Phrases

### Participles and Participial Phrases

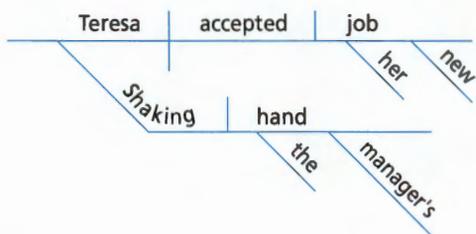
Participles are diagrammed differently from other adjectives.

- EXAMPLE** José comforted the **crying** baby.



Participial phrases are diagrammed as follows:

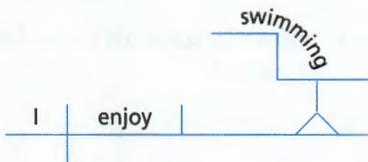
**EXAMPLE** **Shaking the manager's hand**, Teresa accepted her new job.



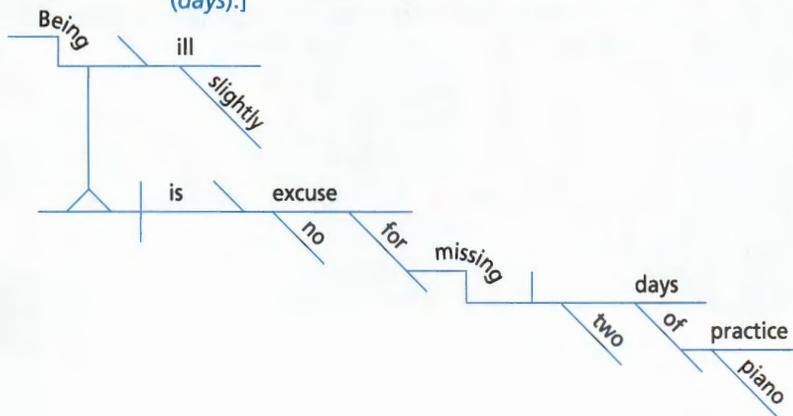
Notice that the participle has a direct object (*hand*), which is diagrammed in the same way that the direct object of a main verb is.

## Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

**EXAMPLES** I enjoy **swimming**. [gerund used as direct object]



**Being slightly ill** is no excuse for **missing two days of piano practice**. [Gerund phrases used as subject and as object of preposition. The first gerund has a subject complement (*ill*); the second gerund has a direct object (*days*).]



### Reference Note

For information on **participles** and **participial phrases**, see pages 101 and 102.

### Reference Note

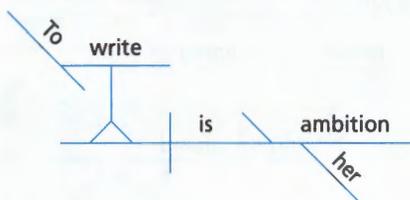
For information on **gerunds** and **gerund phrases**, see pages 105 and 106.

**Reference Note**

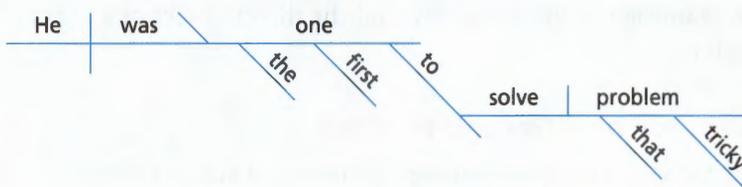
For information on **infinitives** and **infinitive phrases**, see pages 108 and 109.

**Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases**

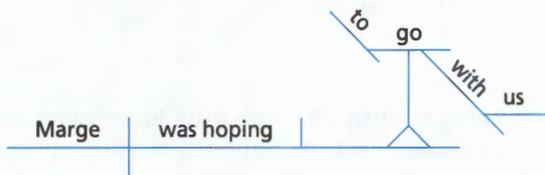
**EXAMPLES** **To write** is her ambition. [infinitive used as subject]



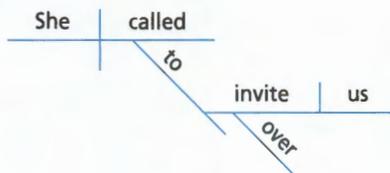
He was the first one **to solve that tricky problem**.  
[infinitive phrase used as adjective]



Marge was hoping **to go with us**. [infinitive phrase used as direct object]



She called **to invite us over**. [infinitive phrase used as adverb]

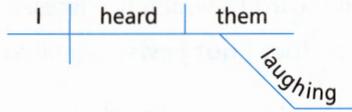


## Exercise 8

**Diagramming Sentences That Contain Verbals and Verbal Phrases**

Diagram the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** 1. I heard them **laughing**.

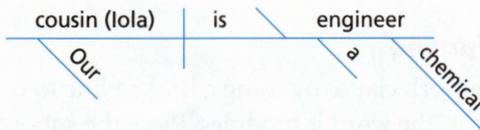


1. Taking that shortcut will cut several minutes off the trip.
2. I want to watch television tonight.
3. That is my cat licking its paws.
4. Checking the time, Wynetta rushed to the gym.
5. Did he go to the store to buy oranges?

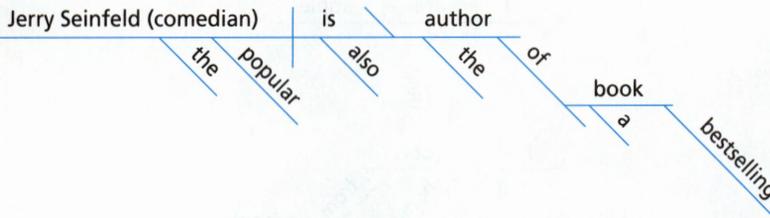
## Appositives and Appositive Phrases

To diagram an appositive or an appositive phrase, write the appositive in parentheses after the word it identifies.

**EXAMPLES** Our cousin **Iola** is a chemical engineer.



Jerry Seinfeld, **the popular comedian**, is also the author of a bestselling book.



### Reference Note

For information on **appositives** and **appositive phrases**, see page 112.

**Reference Note**

For information on **adjective clauses**, see page 124.

**HELP**

The relative pronouns are *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*, and *that*.

**Reference Note**

For information on **relative pronouns**, see page 124.

**Reference Note**

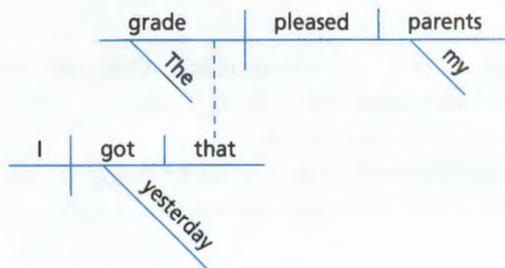
For information on **adverb clauses**, see page 127.

## Subordinate Clauses

### Adjective Clauses

Diagram an adjective clause by connecting it with a broken line to the word it modifies. Draw the broken line between the relative pronoun and the word to which it relates.

**EXAMPLE** The grade **that I got yesterday** pleased my parents.

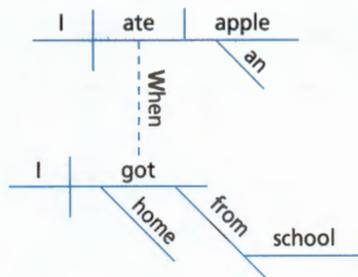


**NOTE** A relative pronoun relates an adjective clause to the word the clause modifies. The relative pronouns are *that*, *which*, *who*, *whom*, and *whose*.

### Adverb Clauses

Diagram an adverb clause by using a broken line to connect the adverb clause to the word it modifies. Place the subordinating conjunction that introduces the adverb clause on the broken line.

**EXAMPLE** **When I got home from school**, I ate an apple.

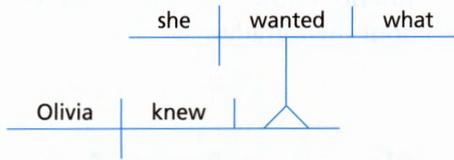


**NOTE** An adverb clause is introduced by a subordinating conjunction. Some common subordinating conjunctions include *because*, *before*, *since*, *though*, and *whether*.

## Noun Clauses

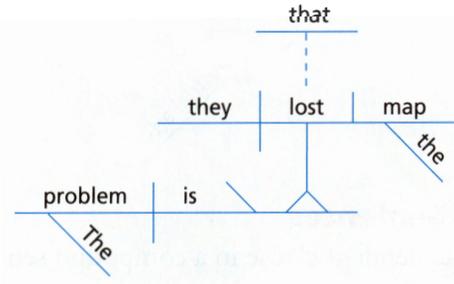
Diagram a noun clause by connecting it to the independent clause with a solid line.

**EXAMPLE** Olivia knew **what she wanted**. [The noun clause is the direct object of the independent clause. The word *what* is the direct object in the noun clause.]



When the introductory word of the noun clause does not have a specific function in the noun clause, the sentence is diagrammed in this way:

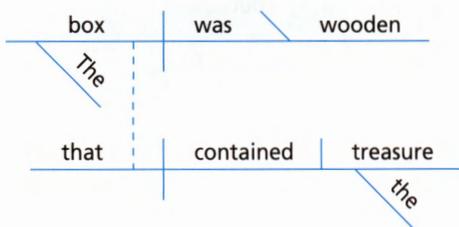
**EXAMPLE** The problem is **that they lost the map**. [The noun clause is the predicate nominative of the independent clause. The word *that* has no function in the noun clause.]



### Exercise 9 Diagramming Sentences That Contain Subordinate Clauses

Diagram the sentences on the following page.

**EXAMPLE** 1. The box that contained the treasure was wooden.



#### Reference Note

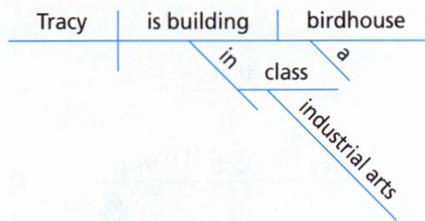
For information on **noun clauses**, see page 130.

1. The test that we took on Friday was hard.
2. If I had not studied on Thursday night, I could not have answered half of the questions.
3. Our teacher announced what would be on the test.
4. Several friends of mine were not paying attention when the teacher gave the assignment.
5. Some of them did not know what they should study and are worried now about their grades.

## Sentences Classified According to Structure

### Simple Sentences

**EXAMPLE** Tracy is building a birdhouse in industrial arts class [one independent clause]



**Reference Note**

For information on **simple sentences**, see page 140.

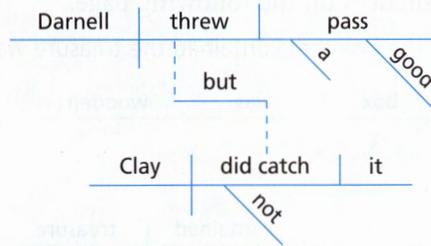
**Reference Note**

For information on **compound sentences**, see page 142.

### Compound Sentences

The second independent clause in a compound sentence is diagrammed below the first and is joined to it by a coordinating conjunction.

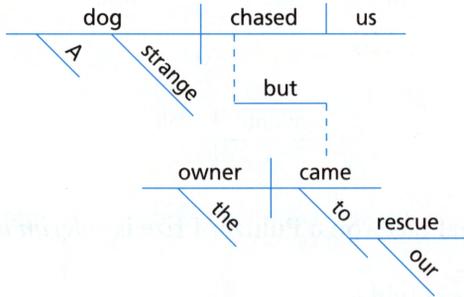
**EXAMPLE** Darnell threw a good pass, but Clay did not catch it. [two independent clauses]



## Exercise 10 Diagramming Compound Sentences

Diagram the following compound sentences.

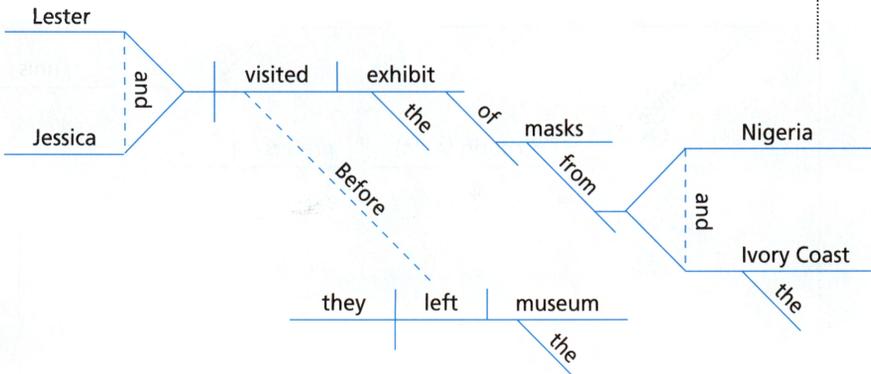
- EXAMPLE** 1. A strange dog chased us, but the owner came to our rescue.



1. I want a motorboat, but Jan prefers a sailboat.
2. The bus stopped at the restaurant, and all of the passengers went inside.
3. Our club is very small, but it is growing.
4. Shall we meet you at the station, or will you take a taxi?
5. In Arizona the temperature is often high, but the humidity always remains low.

## Complex Sentences

- EXAMPLE** Before they left the museum, Lester and Jessica visited the exhibit of masks from Nigeria and the Ivory Coast. [one subordinate clause and one independent clause]



### Reference Note

For information about **coordinating conjunctions**, see page 69.

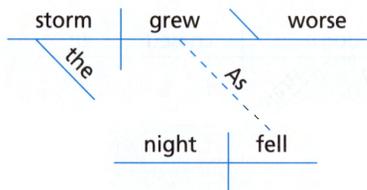
### Reference Note

For information on **complex sentences**, see page 145.

**Exercise 11** Diagramming Complex Sentences

Diagram the following complex sentences.

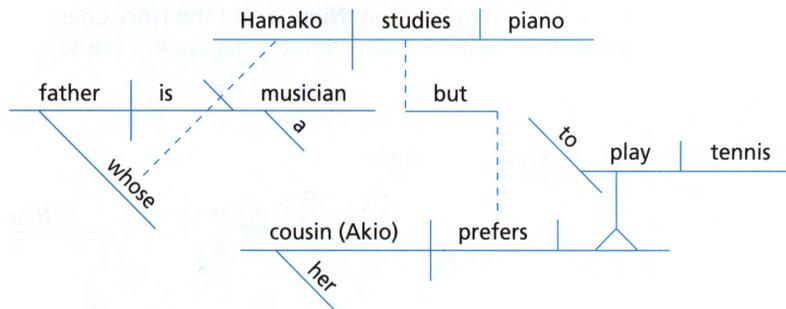
**EXAMPLE** 1. As night fell, the storm grew worse.



1. One book that has won a Pulitzer Prize is *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*.
2. Go whenever you like.
3. The satellite will be launched if the weather remains good.
4. The knight in black armor fought whoever would challenge him.
5. Alexander the Great, who conquered most of the known world, died at the age of thirty-three.

**Compound-Complex Sentences**

**EXAMPLE** Hamako, whose father is a musician, studies piano, but her cousin Akio prefers to play tennis. [two independent clauses and one subordinate clause]

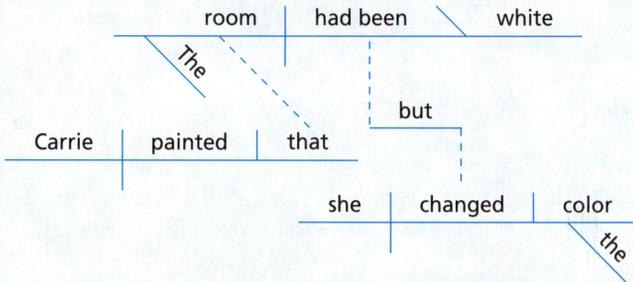
**Reference Note**

For information on **compound-complex sentences**, see page 147.

## Review D Diagramming Sentences

Diagram the following sentences.

- EXAMPLE** 1. The room that Carrie painted had been white, but she changed the color.



1. Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo were two important Mexican artists of the twentieth century.
2. Mom wanted to fly to Utah, but Dad and I wanted to drive there.
3. Our new neighbors, the Chens, come from Taiwan, which is an island off the coast of China.
4. For my report, I wrote about Katherine Anne Porter and Eudora Welty.
5. When I returned to the store, the purple shirt had been sold, so I bought the blue one.