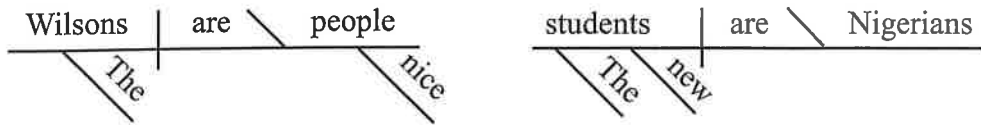


Lesson 4: Attributive Adjectives

An adjective is a word that modifies (changes) a noun or pronoun by describing or limiting it. We have already seen (and learned to diagram) a special group of adjectives called articles (*a*, *an*, and *the*). Adjectives are words like *beautiful*, *nice*, *strange*, *wonderful*, *pleasant*, *important*, and *attentive*. **Attributive adjectives are adjectives that come right before nouns. They are diagrammed just like articles**, that is, on diagonal lines below the nouns they modify. Here are diagrams of the sentences *The Wilsons are nice people* and *The new students are Nigerians*.



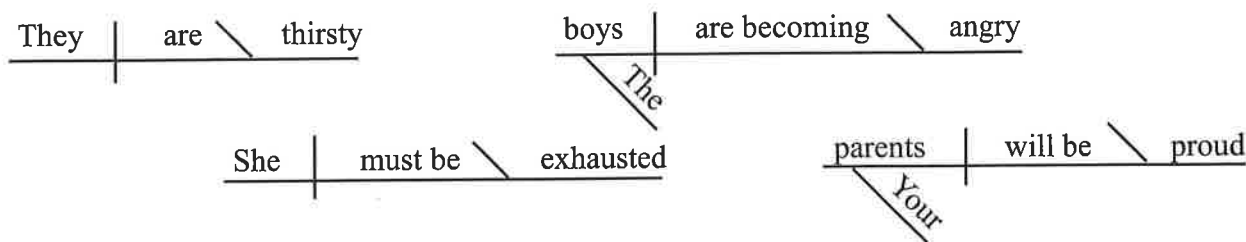
When you diagram two or more modifiers of the same noun, **start on the left and put the modifiers in the order in which they appear in the sentence.**

Now it's your turn to diagram attributive adjectives.

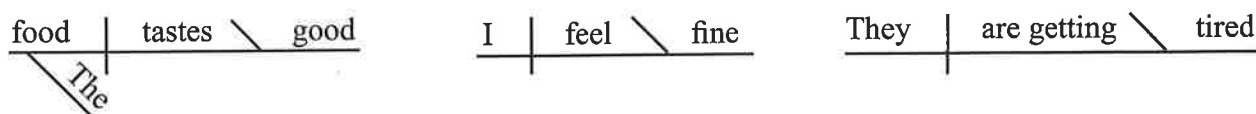
1. Kelly was a strong swimmer.
2. The Yankees should be the best team.
3. The big game has begun.
4. *Smithsonian* is an interesting magazine.
5. Pikes Peak is a famous mountain.
6. The same orchestra will be performing.
7. Kristen was the best jumper.
8. A tiny seed can become a huge tree.
9. The famous museum had been a palace.
10. The unhappy child became a successful adult.

Lesson 5: Predicate Adjectives

You already know how to diagram an adjective that comes before the noun it modifies; such an adjective is called an attributive adjective. **An adjective that follows a linking verb like *be* or *become* and modifies the subject of the sentence is called a predicate adjective.** The predicate adjectives in the following sentences are underlined: *They are thirsty.* *The boys are becoming angry.* *She must be exhausted.* *Your parents will be proud.* Like a predicate nominative, a predicate adjective is preceded in a sentence diagram by a backslash.



Besides *be* and *become*, verbs like *feel*, *taste*, *smell*, *look*, *sound* and *get* (when it means *become*) can also be followed by predicate adjectives. Here are examples: *The food tastes good.* *I feel fine.* *They are getting tired.*

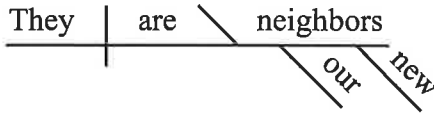


Now it's your turn to diagram predicate adjectives.

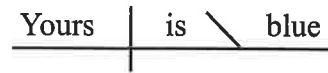
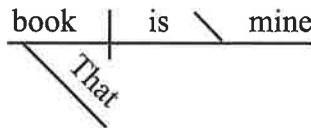
1. The flowers smell wonderful.
2. The wicked witch was ugly.
3. You should have been polite.
4. The cowardly lion became brave.
5. The children have been quiet.
6. They are becoming impatient.
7. The garden looks great.
8. Two teachers got sick.
9. We will be hungry.

Lesson 6: Possessive Pronouns

The possessive pronouns *my, your, his, her, its, our, and their* also modify nouns and are sometimes called **pronominal adjectives**. They are diagrammed exactly like other adjectives. The sentence *They are our new neighbors* is diagrammed like this:



There is another set of possessive pronouns: *mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, and theirs*. These possessives are always used separately from (never next to) the nouns they modify. They often appear in the predicate, as in the sentence *That book is mine*; however, they can also be subjects as in the sentence *Yours is blue*. Here are the diagrams of these sentences:



Now it's your turn to diagram possessive pronouns.

1. Their new car is a Chrysler.

6. My grandfather was kind.

2. Ours is a Nissan.

7. Our first president had been a successful general.

3. Your cousin has become famous.

8. The gray jacket is mine.

4. His brother has been his best friend.

9. Her other suitcase is blue.

5. The red crayons are yours.

10. The larger trophy will be ours.

Review II: Lessons 4 - 6

1. You must have been a beautiful baby.

7. Theirs is the big yellow house.

2. The green glass is mine.

8. Mary Cassat was an American painter.

3. Yours looks empty.

9. Their favorite game is Trivial Pursuit.

4. A Russian baby will become his new sister.

10. Your home may become your castle.

5. Washington was a strong, intelligent man.

11. This game is getting boring.

6. The evil Grinch became kind.

12. The last paper must be mine.