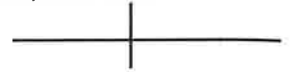
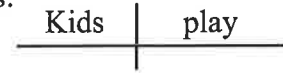


Lesson 1: Subjects and Verbs

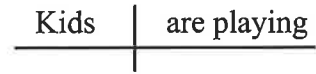
The easiest sentence diagrams have only **two lines**, a **horizontal line** and a **vertical line**, like this:



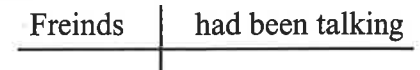
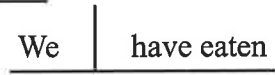
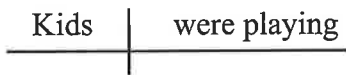
The subject goes on the left of the vertical line, the verb on the right. To diagram a sentence like *Kids play*, we place the subject *kids* on the left and the verb *play* on the right, like this:



Most verbs have quite a few forms. Some of the forms of the verb *play* are *are playing*, *do play*, *played*, *were playing*, *did play*, *will play*, *will be playing*, *have played*, *have been playing*, *had played*, and *had been playing*. A diagram of the sentence *Kids are playing* also has **only two lines**:

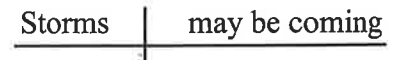


In fact, if you use any of these forms of the verb *play* with a noun or pronoun subject, you need **only two lines** to diagram the sentence. This is true for all sentences that consist of only a subject and a verb.



The verb forms *are playing*, *do play*, *were playing*, *did play*, *will play*, *will be playing*, *have played*, *have been playing*, *had played*, and *had been playing* include the **helping verbs** *are*, *do*, *were*, *will*, *will be*, *have*, *have been*, *had*, and *had been*. These helping verbs are sometimes called auxiliary verbs.

There is a special group of helping verbs called **modal auxiliary verbs**. These verbs are *can*, *could*, *may*, *might*, *must*, *should*, and *would*. Verb forms like *can play*, *may be playing*, and *must have played* occupy only one position in a sentence diagram. For example, *Storms may be coming* is diagrammed like this:



Now it's your turn to diagram some sentences.

1. Ducks waddle.

7. Birds were singing.

2. Rain is falling.

8. I will wait.

3. Someone called.

9. Katie had been running.

4. We will be listening.

10. Alan should be sleeping.

5. Isabel has been working.

11. You can go.

6. Brian must have walked.

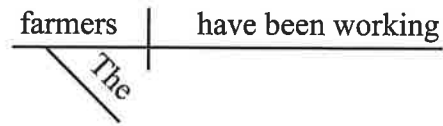
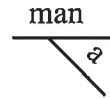
12. She may be worrying.

Lesson 2: Definite and Indefinite Articles

The is called a definite article. **A** and **an** are called indefinite articles. Articles come before nouns, which they are said to modify. *Modify* means to change in some way. *The man* is different from *man*, and *a man* is different from *man*; moreover, *the man* and *a man* are different from each other.

To diagram an article, place it on a diagonal line under the noun it modifies, like this:

A diagram of the sentence *The farmers have been working* looks like this:

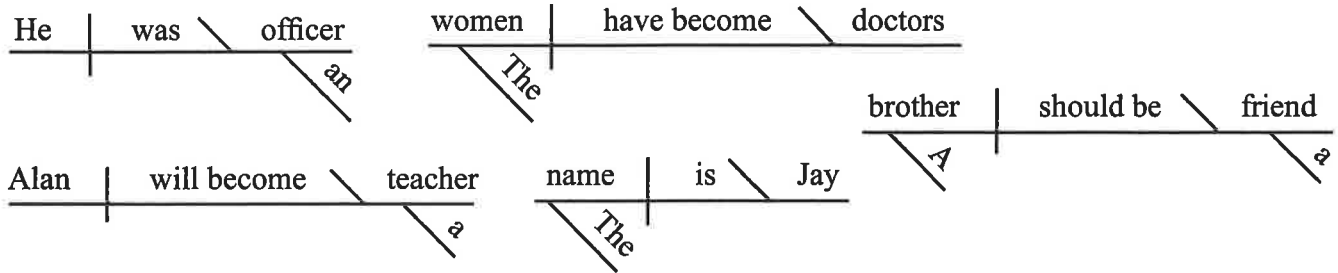


Now it's your turn to diagram definite and indefinite articles.

1. The antelope is running.
2. The parents must stay.
3. A breeze is stirring.
4. The children were crawling.
5. A letter arrived.
6. An octopus was approaching.
7. The cats had been sleeping.
8. The students should have studied.
9. A coyote must have been howling.
10. A storm could be approaching.
11. The wind had been blowing
12. The choir will be singing.

Lesson 3: Predicate Nominatives

A noun or pronoun that comes after a form of the verb *be* or *become* and repeats, identifies, or describes the subject is called a predicate nominative. In the following sentences, the predicate nominatives are underlined: *He was an officer. The women have become doctors. Anna will become a teacher. The name is Jay. A brother should be a friend.* In a sentence diagram, a predicate nominative appears after a backslash. Here are diagrams of the previous sentences:



Now it's your turn to diagram predicate nominatives.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. We are neighbors.</p> <p>2. The girls are becoming friends.</p> <p>3. Rembrandt was an artist.</p> <p>4. I could be a lifeguard.</p> <p>5. The book has become a movie.</p> <p>6. The friends had been enemies.</p> | <p>7. The teacher may be a coach.</p> <p>8. We can be friends.</p> <p>9. You could become a doctor.</p> <p>10. The teacher had been an engineer.</p> <p>11. Tiffany was a musician.</p> |
|---|---|

Review I: Lessons 1 - 3

1. You should eat.

7. The baby was sleeping.

2. A girl has won.

8. Mr. Kirby is a scientist.

3. The fish were guppies.

9. Children become adults.

4. The moth is flying.

10. Jacob is frowning.

5. The sun is a star.

11. The raccoons will run.

6. Anna has been thinking.

12. Okinawa is an island.