

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of the words 'The Book of Grammar' in a small, light brown font. The spiral binding is on the left side, with the metal wire visible. The text is centered on the cover.

The Book of Grammar
Lesson Four

Sophomore Honors English
Mr. McBride

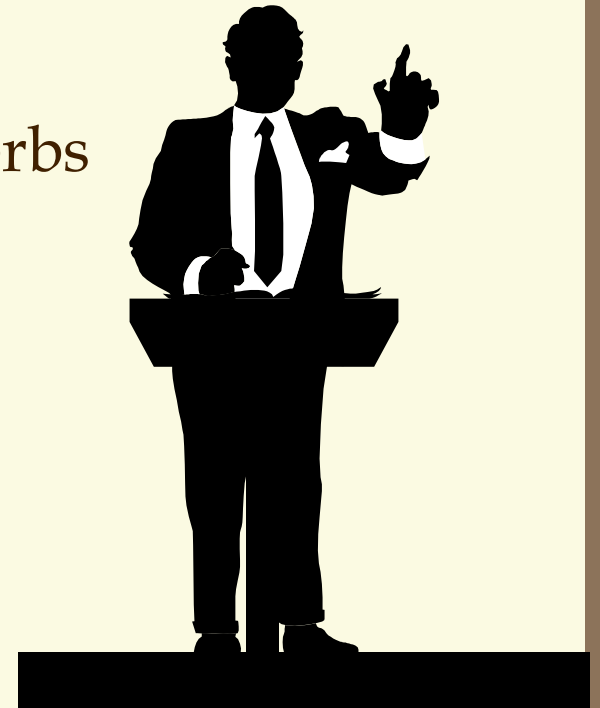
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What you should know by the end of Lesson Four

- How to diagram the following parts of a simple sentence:
 - Subject
 - Verb
 - Modifiers – adjectives and adverbs
 - Direct object
 - Prepositional phrase
 - indirect object
 - predicate noun
 - appositive



What and Why

Diagramming sentences provides a way of graphically representing the structure of a sentence. By placing the various parts of a sentence in relation to the basic subject-verb relationship, we can see how the parts fit together and how the meaning of a sentence branches out, just as the branches of a plant radiate from the stem in space and time. Most students who work at diagramming sentences derive a clearer understanding of how sentences work — as well as satisfaction in the pictorial rendering of sentence structure. This presentation touches upon only the basics of diagramming.

Diagramming the Subject and the Verb

We begin with the representation of a very simple sentence:

Glaciers melt.



We will place the subject-verb relationship on a straight horizontal line . . .

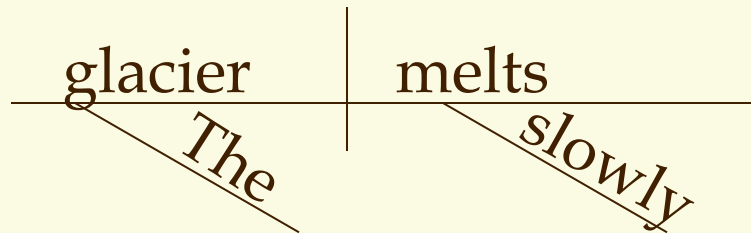


and separate the subject from its verb with a short vertical line extending through the horizontal line.

Diagramming Modifiers

Modifiers are adjectives and adverbs, which “modify” the meaning of nouns and verbs. Modifiers are written under the words they modify on slanted lines:

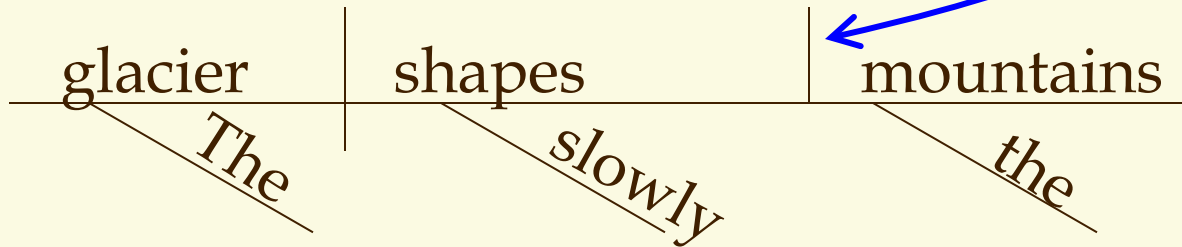
The glacier melts slowly.



Diagramming a Direct Object

A direct object follows the verb on the horizontal line; it is separated from the verb by a vertical line that does not go through the horizontal line:

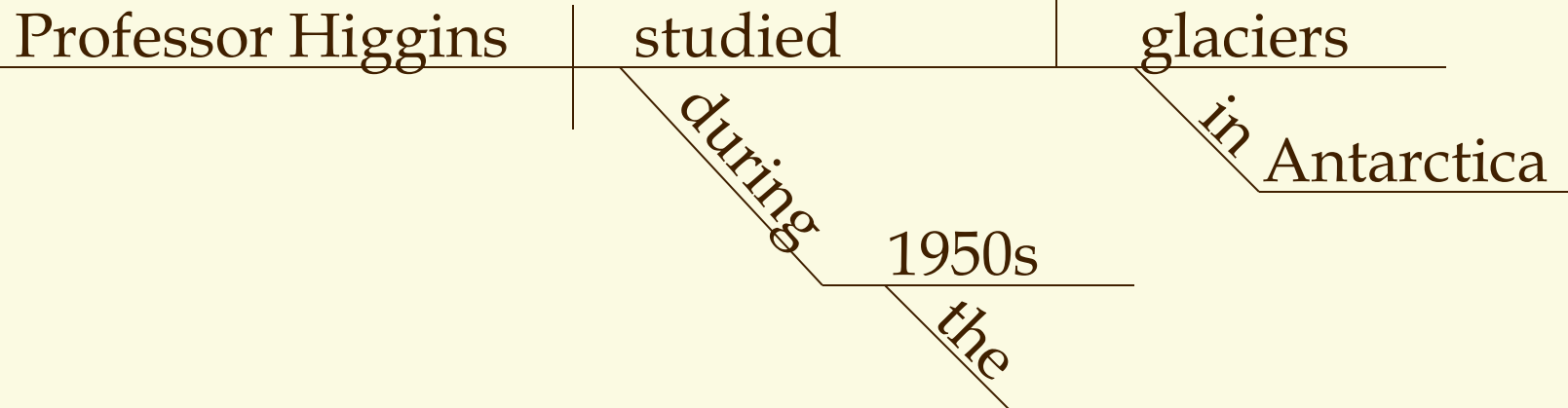
The glacier slowly shapes the mountains.



Diagramming Prepositional Phrases

Prepositional phrases are arranged on branches below the words they modify:

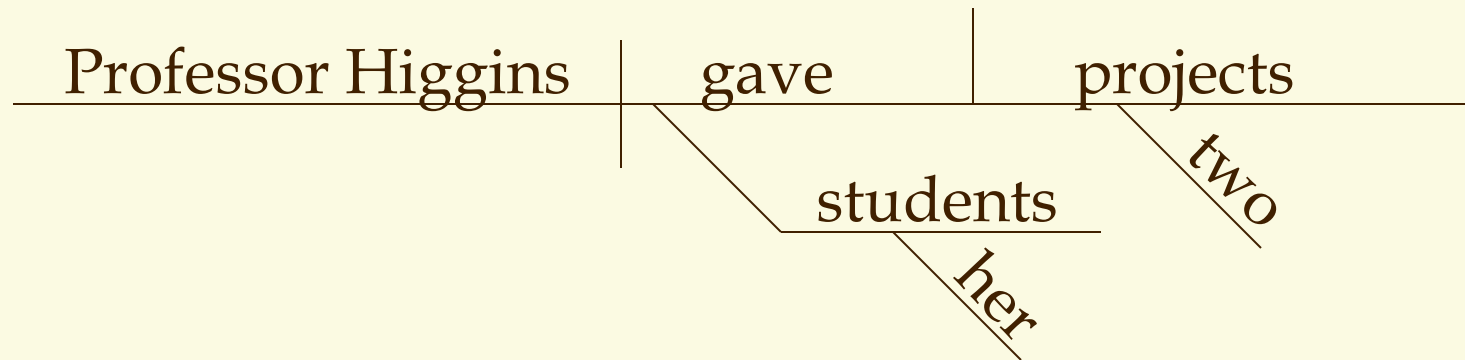
Professor Higgins studied glaciers in Antarctica during the 1950s.



Diagramming Indirect Objects

Indirect objects are arranged under the main sentence line:

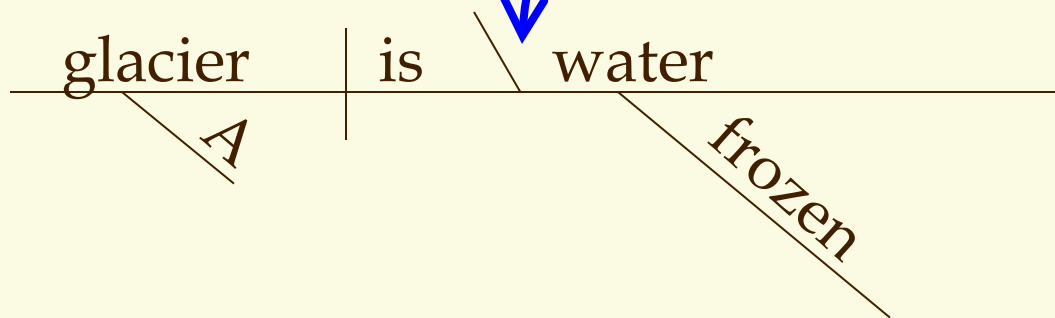
Professor Higgins gave her students two projects.



Diagramming Predicate Nouns

Predicate nouns follow the verb and are separated from the verb by a slanted line:

A glacier is frozen water.



Diagramming Appositives

Appositives follow the words they rename and are placed in parentheses:

Quarterback Tom Brady threw a touchdown.

Quarterback (Tom Brady) | threw | touchdown

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The end of Lesson Four

Quiz on Friday, December 14