

Parent “Cheat Sheet” – Season 1

Step One: Labeling (Parsing)

The first step when analyzing a sentence is to determine the part of speech for every word in a sentence and to label it by writing the correct letters above it. The labels and definitions for all parts of speech are listed below.

Part of Speech	Definition	Label
Noun	A person, place, thing, or idea	n
Proper Noun	The <u>name</u> of a person, place, thing, or idea (ALWAYS capitalized; can be more than one word)	pn
Article	a, an, the	art
Adjective	Describes or modifies a noun or pronoun	adj
Pronoun	A word that takes the place of one or more nouns	pro
Preposition	A word to show the relationship between two nouns (the mouse goes _____ the box; B.U.T. A.L. D.O.E.S)	pp ()
Action Verb	A word that expresses mental or physical action	av
Adverb	Modifies verbs, adjectives, or another adverb (often ends in ‘ly’)	adv
Linking Verb	A word that links its subject with a noun (or pronoun) or an adjective in the predicate	lv
Helping Verb	A word (or words) which comes before an action or linking verb and helps form different tenses	hv
Conjunction	A word (or words) that joins grammatical equals (noun to noun, verb to verb, etc.)	conj
Verbal	Looks like a noun but doesn’t have a subject	v

Step 2: Jobs

After labeling each word in the sentences, many exercises will ask students to identify a specific word’s or phrases’ job in the sentence. Jobs do not affect the label you put on a word. The table below describes the possible jobs and their descriptions, as well as the different parts of speech that could possibly do that job in a sentence.

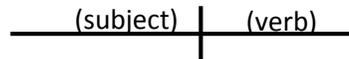
Job	Definition	Parts of Speech that could do this job
Verb	A word that expresses a mental or physical action (action verb) or a word that links the subject and a noun/adjective (linking verb) <i>Examples: I walked to school. I am happy.</i>	action verb, linking verb, helping verb (in combination with another verb)
Subject	The noun or pronoun that is doing the action of the verb <i>Examples: Jennifer walks. She is a teacher.</i>	noun, pronoun, proper noun
Modifier	Words or phrases that give you more information about a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb <i>Example: The yellow bowl fell on the floor.</i>	adjective, adverb, article, prepositional phrases
Object of the Preposition	A noun or pronoun that follows a preposition and completes its meaning <i>Example: He threw the ball in the air.</i>	noun, pronoun, proper noun
Direct Object	A noun or pronoun that receives the action of the verb (It does not DO the action, it RECEIVES the action) <i>Examples: She bought a present. Jenna sent a letter.</i>	noun, pronoun, proper noun
Indirect Object	A noun or pronoun that indicates to whom or for whom the action of the verb is performed <i>Example: She bought John a present. Jenna sent Mya a letter.</i>	noun, pronoun, proper noun
Predicate Nominative	A noun or pronoun that follows a linking verb <i>Example: Elizabeth is a teacher. They are monsters.</i>	Noun, pronoun, proper noun
Predicate Adjective	An adjective following a linking verb (labeled ‘p-adj’ in sentence) <i>Example: Elizabeth is happy. They are hungry.</i>	adjective

Step 3: Diagramming

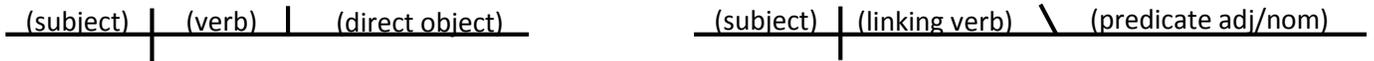
The last step in analyzing a sentence is to diagram it. By diagramming a sentence, we are able to visibly see how all of the different parts work together. Below are some of the basic shapes in diagramming, as well as their functions.

Name of shape	What it looks like	What it is used for
Baseline		This is for the "heart" of our sentence, the subject and the verb.
Half vertical line		This is used to separate a verb (or verbal) and a direct object.
Slanted half line		This is only used between a linking verb and a predicate adjective/nominative.
Diagonal line (slide)		This is used for modifiers such as articles, adjectives, and adverbs.
Dog leg		This is used for prepositional phrases.
Broken dog leg		This is only used for the indirect object.
Dog's hind leg		This is used for adverbs that modify adjectives or other adverbs.

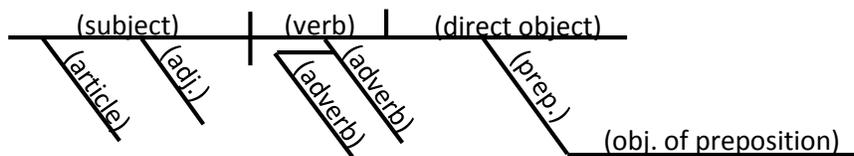
The first step in diagramming is to draw the baseline and then to write in the subject and the verb.



If our sentence has more nouns after the verb (like a direct object), or has a linking verb and predicate adjective/nominative, we will need to extend our baseline in order to accommodate them.



Lastly, we add in all of our modifiers (adverbs, adjectives, articles, prepositional phrases). In all cases, they go underneath or are attached to the word they modify.



Here is an example sentence with labels, jobs, and a diagram.

pn pp n av art adv adj n ppart n
Jennifer (from school) brought an extremely yellow cake (in a box.)

Word	Jennifer	from	school	brought	an	extremely	yellow	cake	in	a	box
Job	subject	modifier	obj. of prep.	verb	modifier	modifier	modifier	direct object	modifier	modifier	obj. of prep.

