

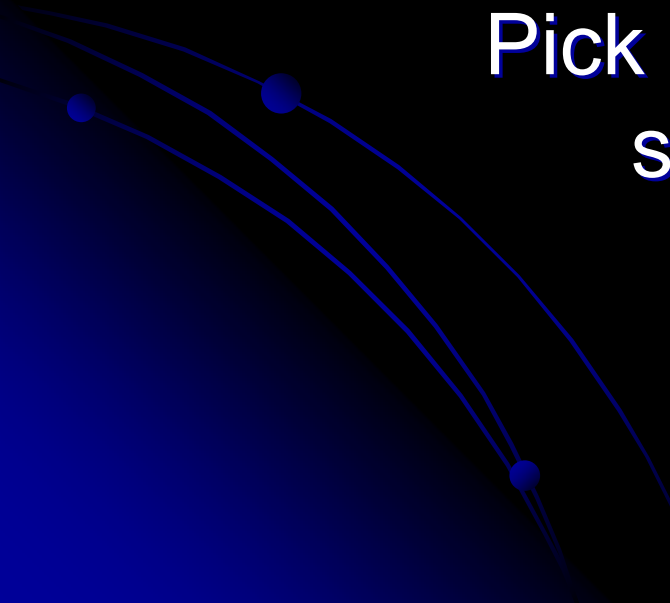
Sentence Diagramming

It's Not So Bad!



Your First Goal:

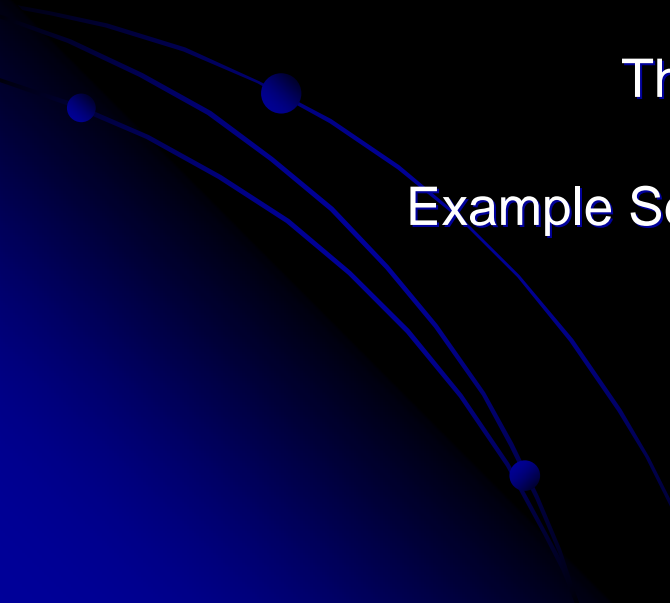
Pick out the basics of the sentence to start.



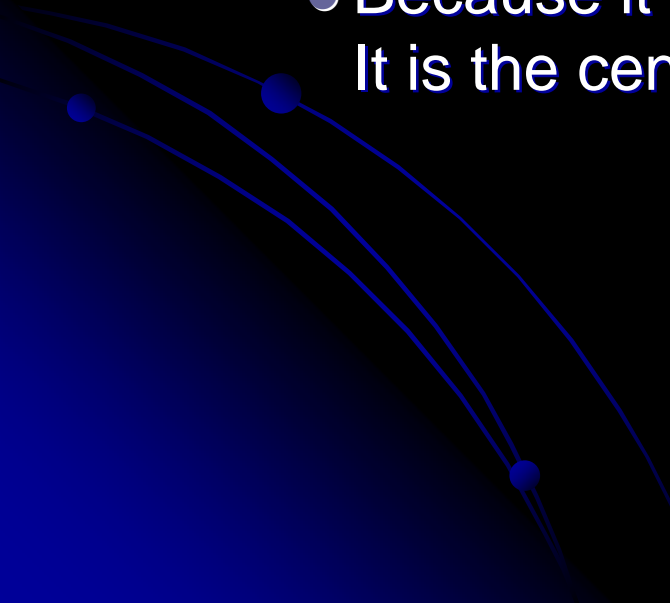
What's a Subject?

The main idea of a sentence

Example Sentence: Don took Susan to the airport.



What's the Subject of that Sentence?

- “Don took Susan”
 - Why?
 - Because it can stand alone as a complete thought. It is the central, main idea of the sentence.
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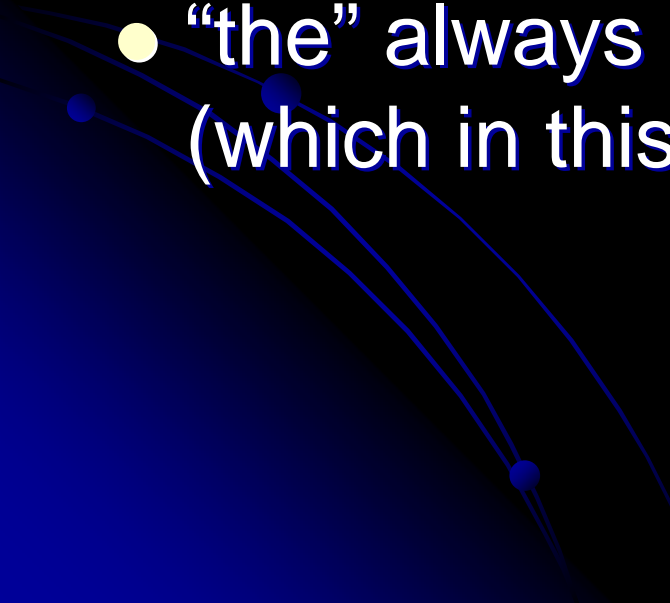
The Subject Always Goes on Top!

What goes on the top line of a sentence diagram is ALWAYS the subject - the central, basic, main idea. "Don took Susan" are the 3 words that sum up the subject. They can stand alone. They go in the three main boxes.

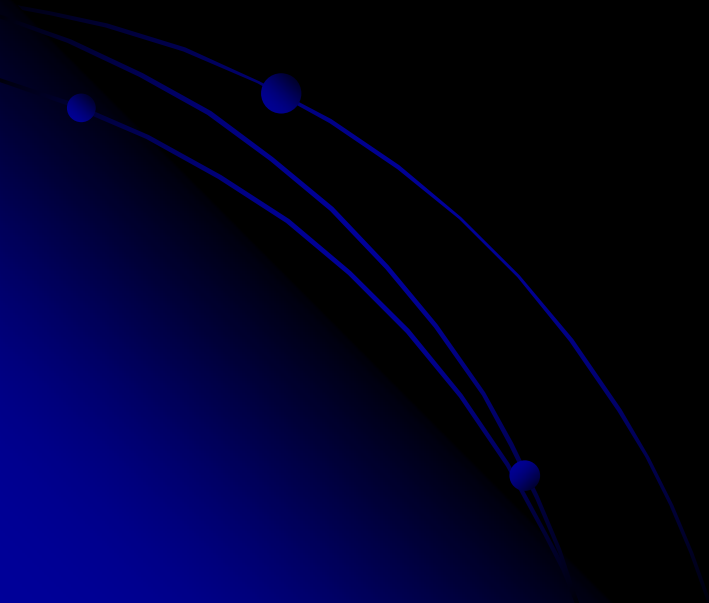
Predicate

- The predicate in a sentence gives you information about the subject. In our example sentence, “Don took Susan to the airport”, “to the airport” gives us more information about our subject.
- (Hint: to find the predicate, ask a question. Where did Don take Susan? To the airport, so “to the airport” is our predicate.)

So,

- “airport” gets put in the large box off the word “took”
 - “to” goes in the box above “airport” and
 - “the” always comes off the word it modifies (which in this case is “airport.”)
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Another Example, Please!



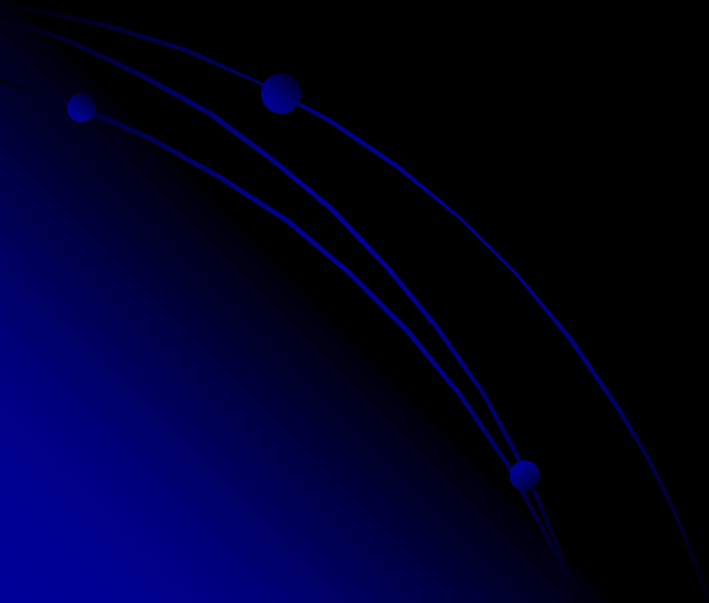
“Her autobiography was most interesting.”

What is the main idea? “Autobiography was interesting.” Those three words go in the main boxes.

Whose autobiography? “Her.” That modifies “autobiography” – it tells you whose it is. So, “her” goes in the box off of “autobiography.”

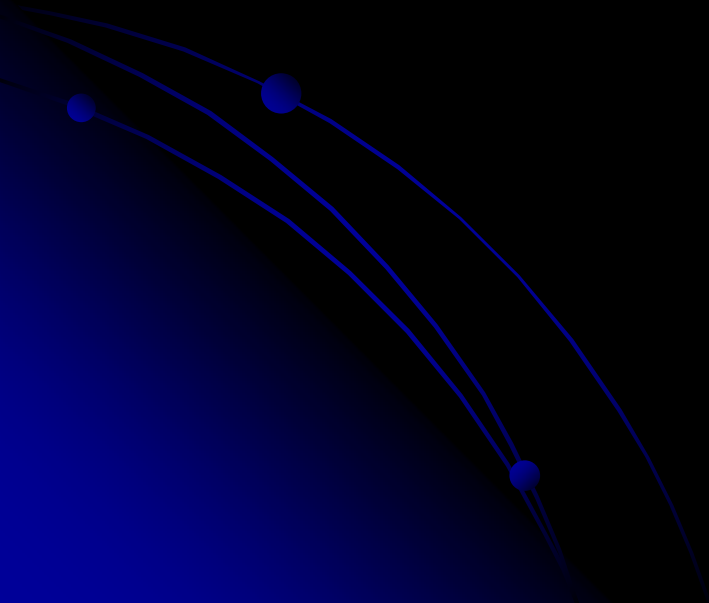
How interesting was it?

- “Most.” Put that in the box linked to the “interesting,” as it tells you how interesting it was.



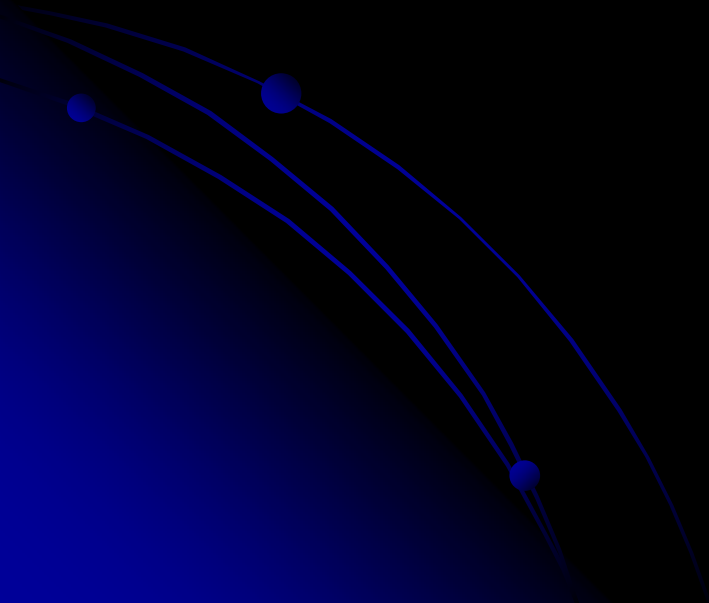
Last Example!

- “The horses in the pasture are Arabians.”




What's the main idea?

- “Horses are Arabians. “
 - (“The” modifies “horses,” so it fits in the box that branches off of it.)



Where are the horses?

- “In the pasture.” So, that comes off of “horses.” But, be careful – “the” always comes off of the word it modifies, so since “the” modifies “pasture” in this sentence, put it in the little box that comes off of “pasture.”
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Need More Help?

- Look up “sentence diagramming” on the Internet and see if you can find examples that can help you.
 - Email or IM Ms. Brooks!
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