

phrases

a group of related words that is used as a single part of speech
and does not contain a verb and its subject



prepositional phrases

a group of words beginning with a preposition and usually ending
with a noun or pronoun

prepositional phrase: the noun /pronoun that ends the phrase is the **object of the preposition**

• Phrase	Preposition	Object
• during the long winter	during	winter
• in the last inning	in	inning
• along the highway	along	highway

prepositional phrases: if it modifies a noun,
it's an **adjective phrase**

- The **rooms of the house** smelled damp and musty.
- **Few of the villagers** had ever been there before.

- The **girl with the trumpet in the next** house keeps us awake.

prepositional phrases: if it modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb, it's an **adverb phrase**.

- The fox **escaped into its hole**.
 - Althea Gibson **was graceful on the tennis court**.
 - The sun rises **earlier in the morning** now.
-
- adverb phrases tell when, where, why, how, or to what extent.

verbals

participles, gerunds, infinitives



the participle

a verb form used as an adjective or adverb

participles: present (-ing form) and past (-ed form)

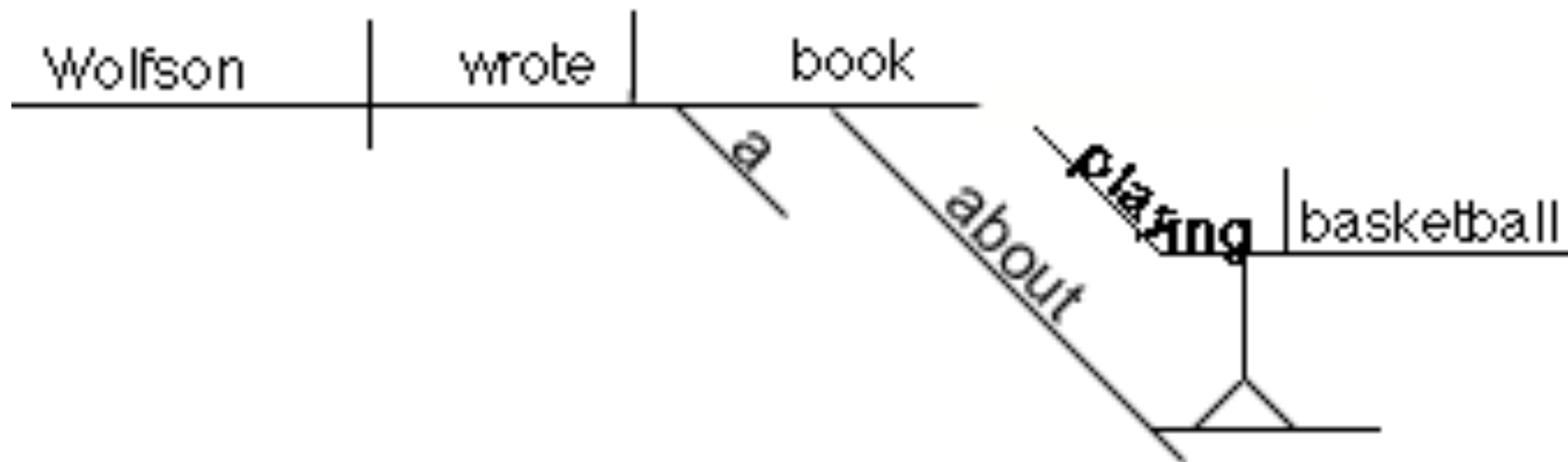
- The **sleeping** dog groaned.
- **Glancing** at the clouds, the farmer shook his head.
- **Bruised** by the fall, the **defeated** runner limped to the sidelines.
- **Discouraged** by the mishap, the boy hung his head.

participle phrase: consists of a participle and its related words, such as modifiers and complements, all of which **act together as an adjective**

- **Approaching the curve**, the **truck** slowed down.
- I could see **Frank sitting three seats away**.
- I heard **him whispering to his friend**.
- **Acquitted by the jury**, the **defendant** shook hands with her lawyer.

participle phrases may also act as **adverbs**

- Betsy **ran screaming** out of the room. (modifying a verb)
- The soup is **piping hot**. (modifying an adjective)
- She began **to walk** carefully, **stepping heel to toe, heel to toe**.



the gerund

a verb form ending in –ing that is used as a noun



the gerund: a verb form ending in –ing that is
used as a noun

- **Walking** is good exercise.
- **Pointing** is impolite.
- I enjoy **playing** the flute.
- **Watering** the lawn produced good results.
- We avoided the rush by **mailing** the cards early.

gerund phrase: consists of a gerund together with its complements and modifiers, all of which **act together as a noun**; may be a subject, an object, a predicate nominative, an object of a preposition.

- **Looking at the clock** is a bad habit. (subject of sentence)
- She dislikes **gossiping about one's friends**. (direct object, has a gerund + and adverb phrase)
- He improved his appearance by **losing weight**. (object of a preposition; gerund [losing] has a direct object [weight])

the infinitive

a verb form, usually preceded by *to*, that is used as a noun, adjective, or
adverb



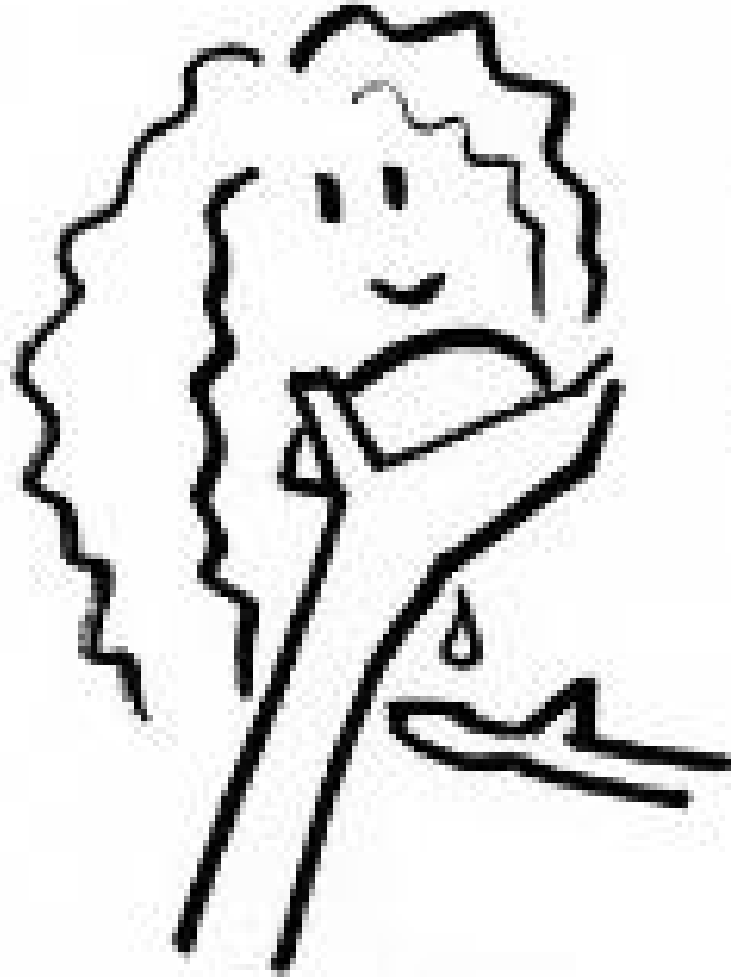
Désirée Palmen / *Zebra* / C-print / 2002 / 30 x 59 inches

infinitive: can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb

- **To err** is human. (as a noun)
- Lorna attempted **to flee**.
- She is a **candidate to watch**. (as an adjective)
- The **doctor to call** is Inada.
- The plane was **ready to go**. (as an adverb)
- The tiger **tensed** its muscles **to spring**.

appositive

a noun or pronoun that follows another noun or pronoun
to identify or explain it



Oh lovely orange
You golden treat,
Oh tell me why aren't
You easy to eat?

appositive: occasionally precedes the noun explained; sometimes set off by commas (commas always used if the word is a proper noun)

- **My aunt and uncle, the Giovannis, own a store, the Empire Shoe Shop on Main Street.**
- **A good all-around athlete, Roland is a promising candidate for the decathlon, the Olympic event that tests ten different skills.**
- **Dr. Blumenthal, our family doctor,** is a fine woman.
- Her son Bill is my best friend.
- **Natalie, her daughter,** is another good friend.



So test it, maybe!

- I threw a wish **in the well**,
Don't ask me, I'll never tell
I looked **to you** as it fell,
And now you're **in my way**
- I'd trade my soul **for a wish**,
Pennies and dimes **for a kiss**
I wasn't looking for this,
But now you're **in my way**
- Your stare was holdin',
Ripped jeans, skin was showin'
Hot night, wind was blowin'
Where do you think you're going,
baby?
- Hey, I just met you,
And this is crazy,
But here's my number,
So call me, maybe!
- It's hard **to look** right
At you baby,
But here's my number,
So call me, maybe!
- And all the other boys,
Try **to chase** me,
But here's my number,
So call me, maybe!

