

Diagramming Sentences Made Easy

The Sentence

What is a sentence?

- A sentence is a group of words expressing a complete thought.
- It contains a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.

The Sentence

Somebody
or
Something

Does
or
Is Something

The Sentence

A. Harry stole the cheese.

S TA ART DO

Harry stole the cheese.

The Sentence

Harry

stole the cheese.

(Harry

did something.)

The Sentence

B. The dog was so hungry that he ate my shoe.

ART S IL ADV PA SC PN TA ADJ DO

The dog was so hungry that he ate my shoe.

The Sentence

The dog

was so hungry that he ate my shoes.

(The dog

was something: very hungry.)

The Sentence

C. Somebody broke the window.

S TA ART DO

Somebody broke the window.

The Sentence

Somebody | broke the window.

(We

want to know **who** did the action.)

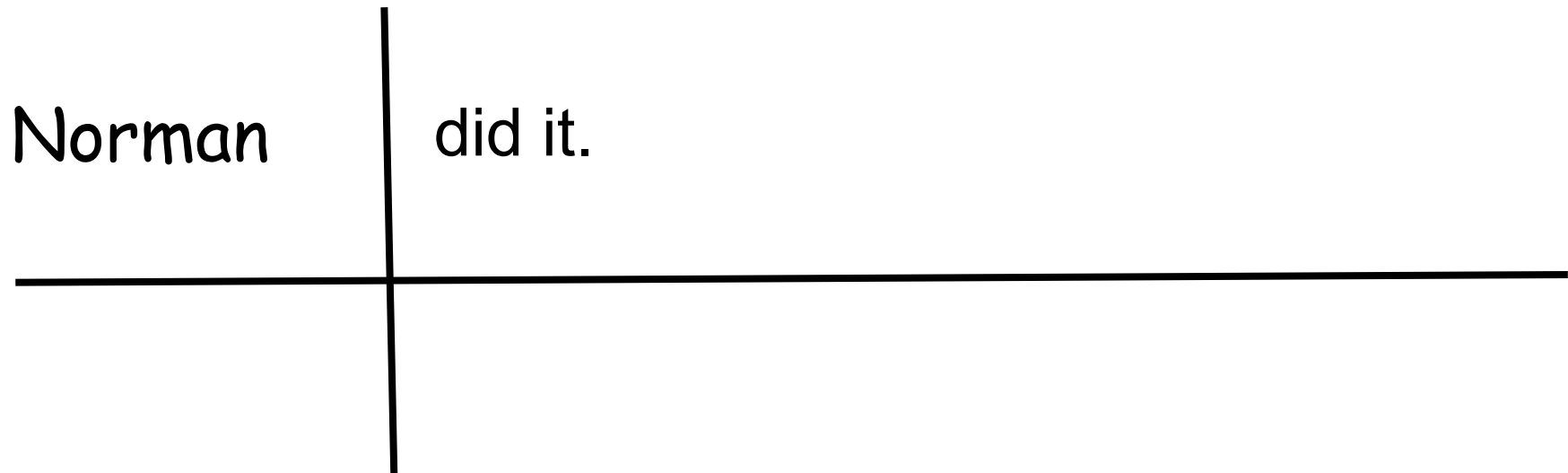
The Sentence

D. Norman did it.

S TA DO

Norman did it.

The Sentence



(Now we know.)

The Sentence

Why study how sentences are constructed?

- Power continues to be, generally, in the hands of the educated. Writing well gives you an edge in our extremely competitive professional world.
- Difficult writing cannot be demonstrated or even comprehended if students don't understand the basics.

The Sentence

Why study how sentences are constructed?

- In order for a student to understand the meaning of a word, let alone the meaning of an entire sentence, two things must happen:
 - the reader's internal representation of the word must be sufficiently complete and well-articulated to allow the intended meaning to be known
 - the reader must understand the context well enough to mentally select the intended meaning from the real of the word's possible meaning.

The Sentence

What is diagramming?

- Diagramming is a form of sentence analysis which requires one to take the sentence apart and show the relationship of EACH WORD to the rest of the sentence.
- A sentence diagram is like a puzzle which is not solved until all the parts are in the right place, and none are left over.

The Sentence

What is diagramming?

- Diagramming is a kind of dissection; as each part is taken out, it is identified and its relationship to the rest of the whole is revealed.

The Sentence

Hello. My Name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die.

INIGO MONTOYA, *THE PRINCESS BRIDE*

Hello

⋮

name | is | Inigo Montoya

My

⋮

You | killed | father

my

⋮

I'll be back.

THE TERMINATOR, *THE TERMINATOR*

I | will be | back

Welcome to Earth.

CAPTAIN STEVEN HILLER, *INDEPENDENCE DAY*

(you) | Welcome

to

Earth

to

(you) | Prepare | die

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