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 faint, stylized floral or geometric motifs. The spiral binding is visible on the left side, consisting of a series of metal loops. The text is centered on the cover in a classic serif font.

The Book of Grammar
Lesson Six

Mr. McBride
AP Language and Composition

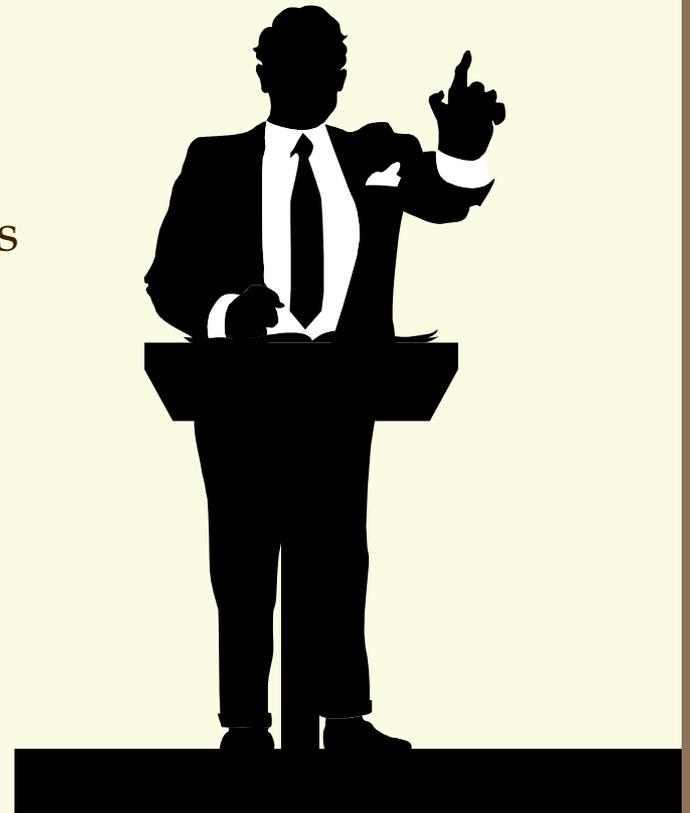
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- **Lesson Six: Sentence Diagramming**



What you should know by the end of Lesson Six

- How to diagram the following parts that we have studied of a sentence:
 - Subject
 - Verb
 - Modifiers – adjectives and adverbs
 - Direct object
 - Prepositional phrase
 - Indirect object
 - predicate noun
 - Appositive
 - Some compound constructions
 - Relative clause



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.

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 . . .

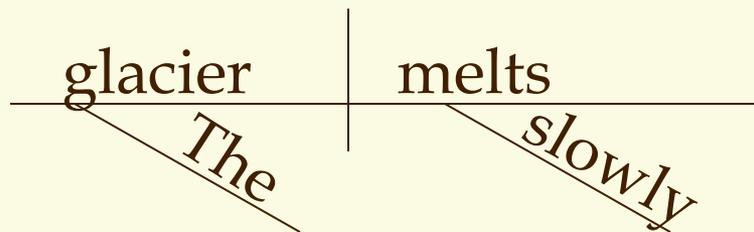


...and separate the subject from its verb with a short vertical line extending through the horizontal line.

Diagramming Modifiers

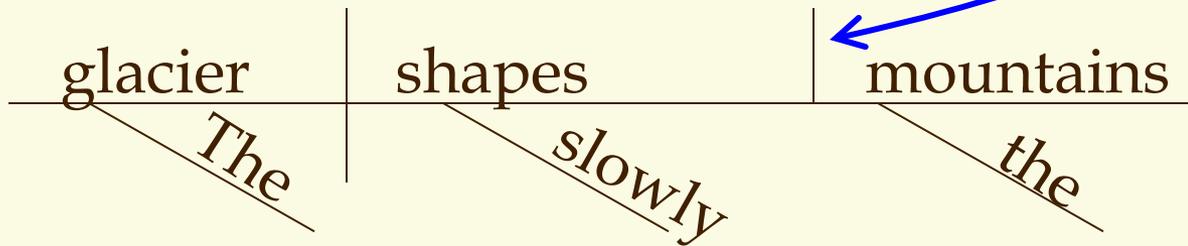
Modifiers are adjectives and adverbs, which “modify” the meaning of nouns and verbs. Modifiers are written under the words they modify on slanted lines:

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:

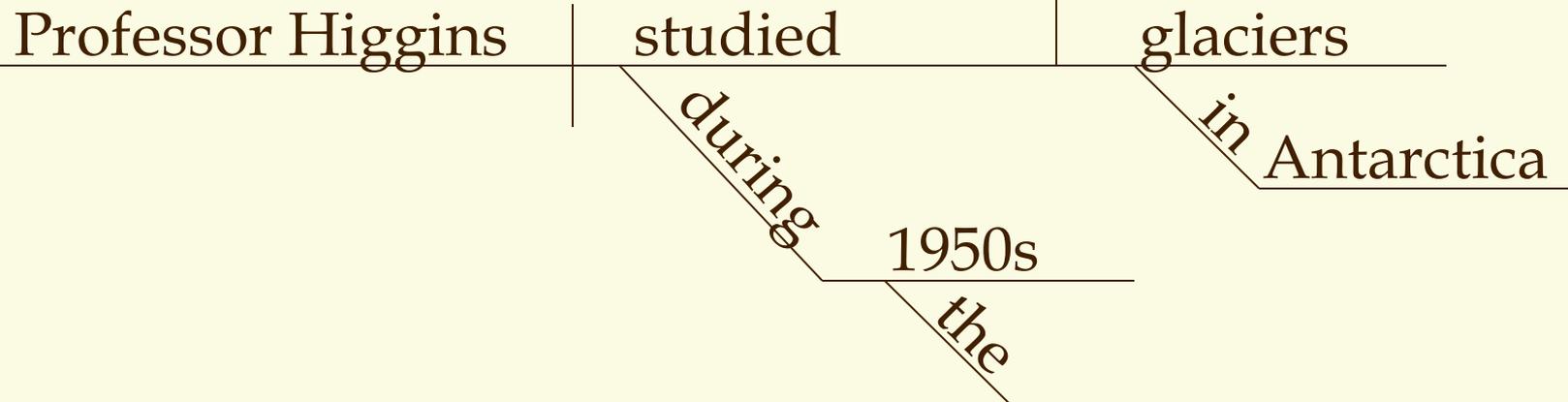


The glacier slowly shapes the mountains.

Diagramming Prepositional Phrases

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

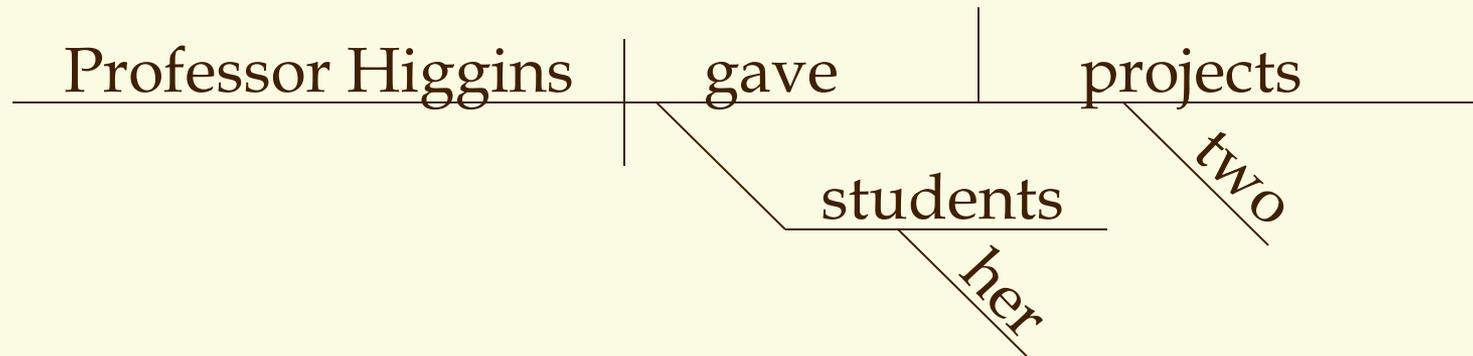
Professor Higgins studied glaciers in Antarctica during the 1950s.



Diagramming Indirect Objects

Indirect objects are arranged under the main sentence line:

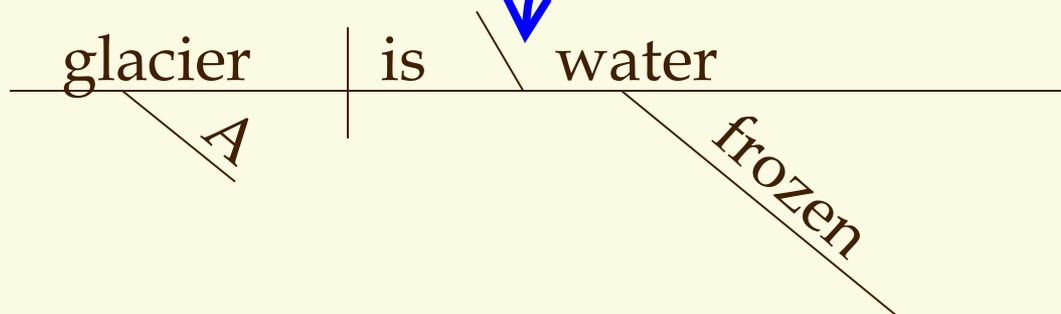
Professor Higgins gave her students two projects.



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.

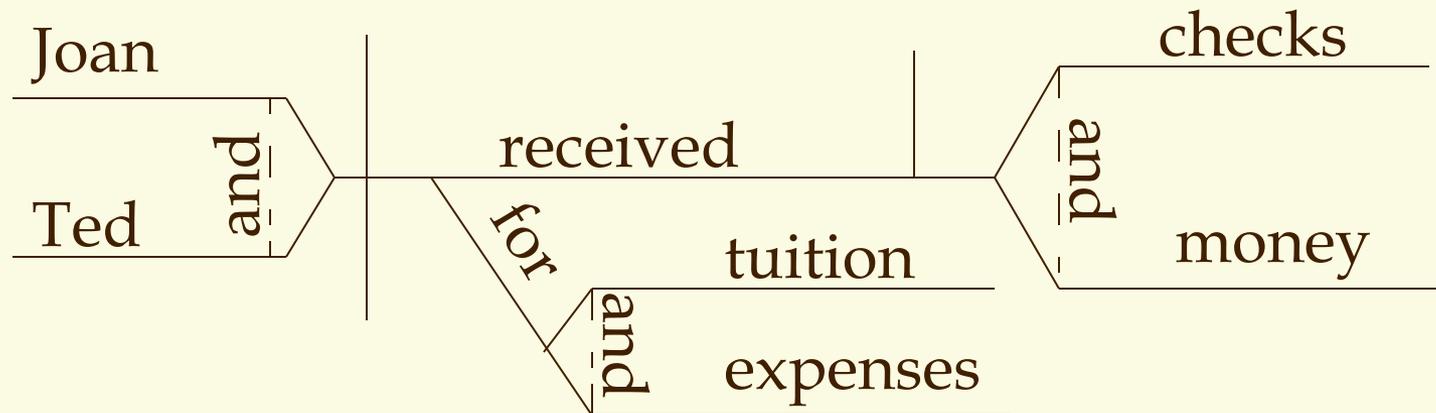
Quarterback (Tom Brady) | threw | touchdown

a

Diagramming Compound Constructions

We will use the term “compound construction” to refer to situations in which there are two subjects, indirect objects, direct objects, or objects of a prepositional in a sentence. Shown below is a diagram of the following sentence:

Joan and Ted received checks and money for tuition and expenses.



Relative Clauses

A relative clause uses a relative pronoun to relate a subordinate clause to an independent clause in a “complex” sentence. We will be diagramming the following sentence:

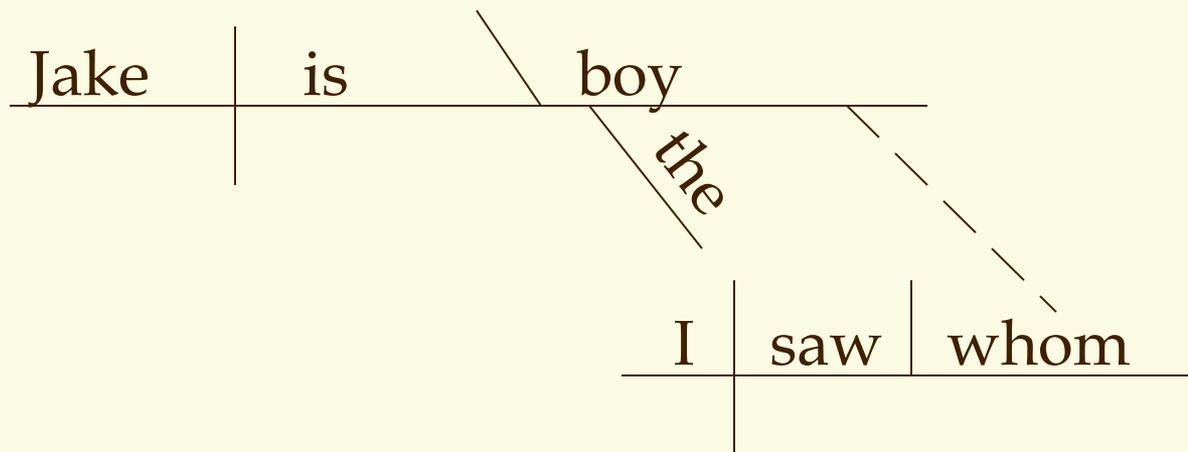
Jake is the boy whom I saw.

- First, identify the relative clause:

Jake is the boy [whom I saw] .

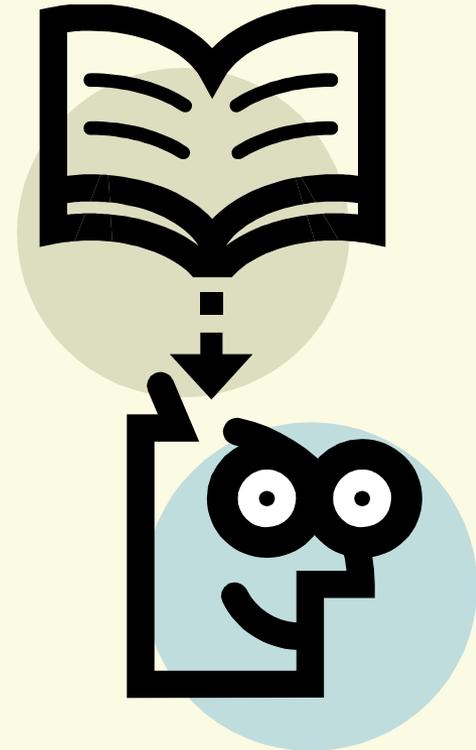
Jake is the boy [whom I saw] .

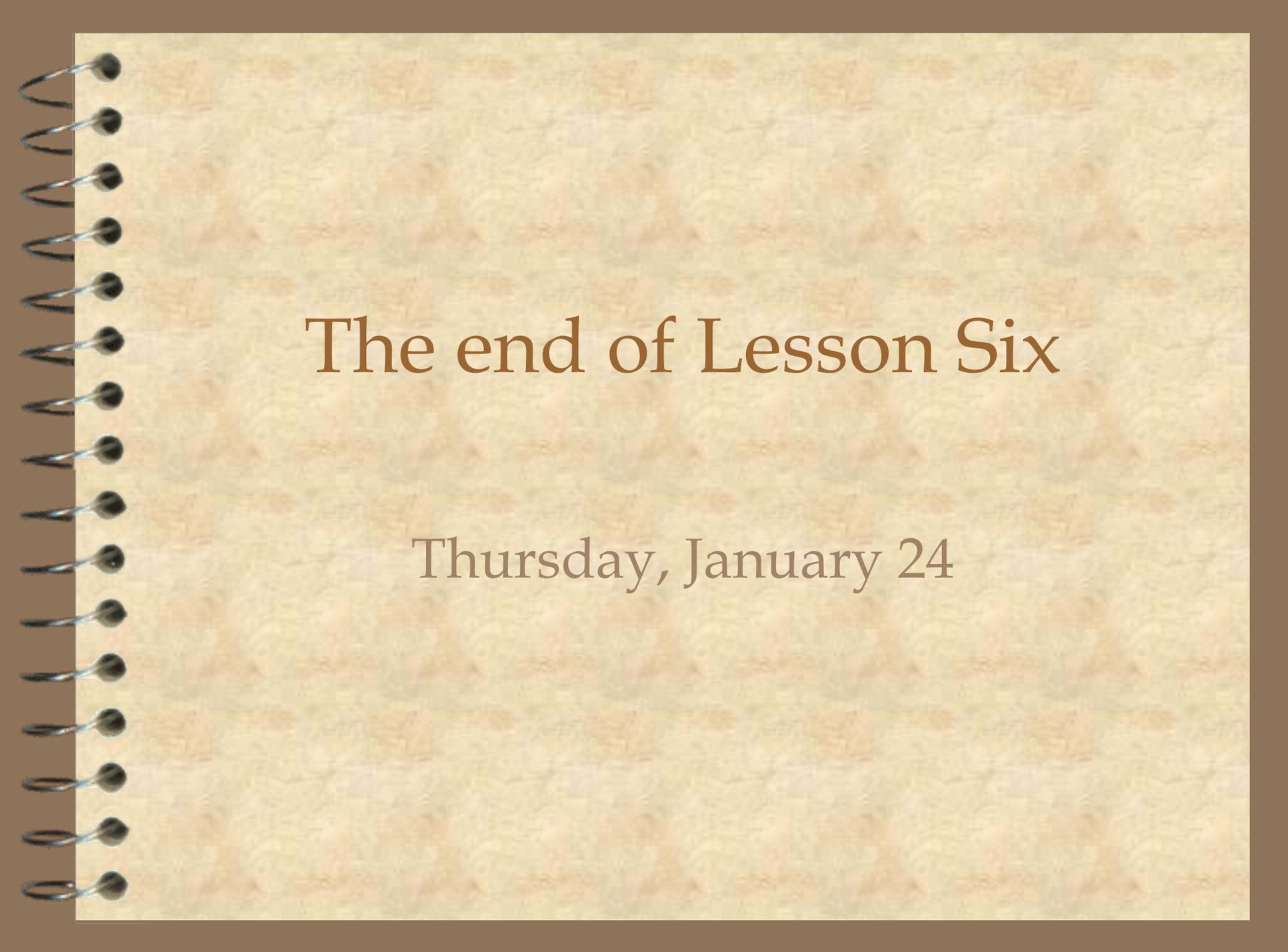
- After you have isolated the relative clause, diagram the independent clause alone:
- Next, diagram the relative clause alone, underneath the diagram for the independent clause:
- Finally, use a dotted line to connect the relative pronoun in the relative clause with its antecedent in the independent clause:



Do you now know...

- How to diagram the following parts a sentence?
 - Subject
 - Verb
 - Modifiers – adjectives and adverbs
 - Direct object
 - Prepositional phrase
 - Indirect object
 - predicate noun
 - Appositive
 - Some compound constructions
 - Relative clause



A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the cover.

The end of Lesson Six

Thursday, January 24