

Grammar

Verbals

Verbals

A **verbal** is a verb form used as another part of speech.

There are three kinds of verbals:
participles, *gerunds* and *infinitives*.

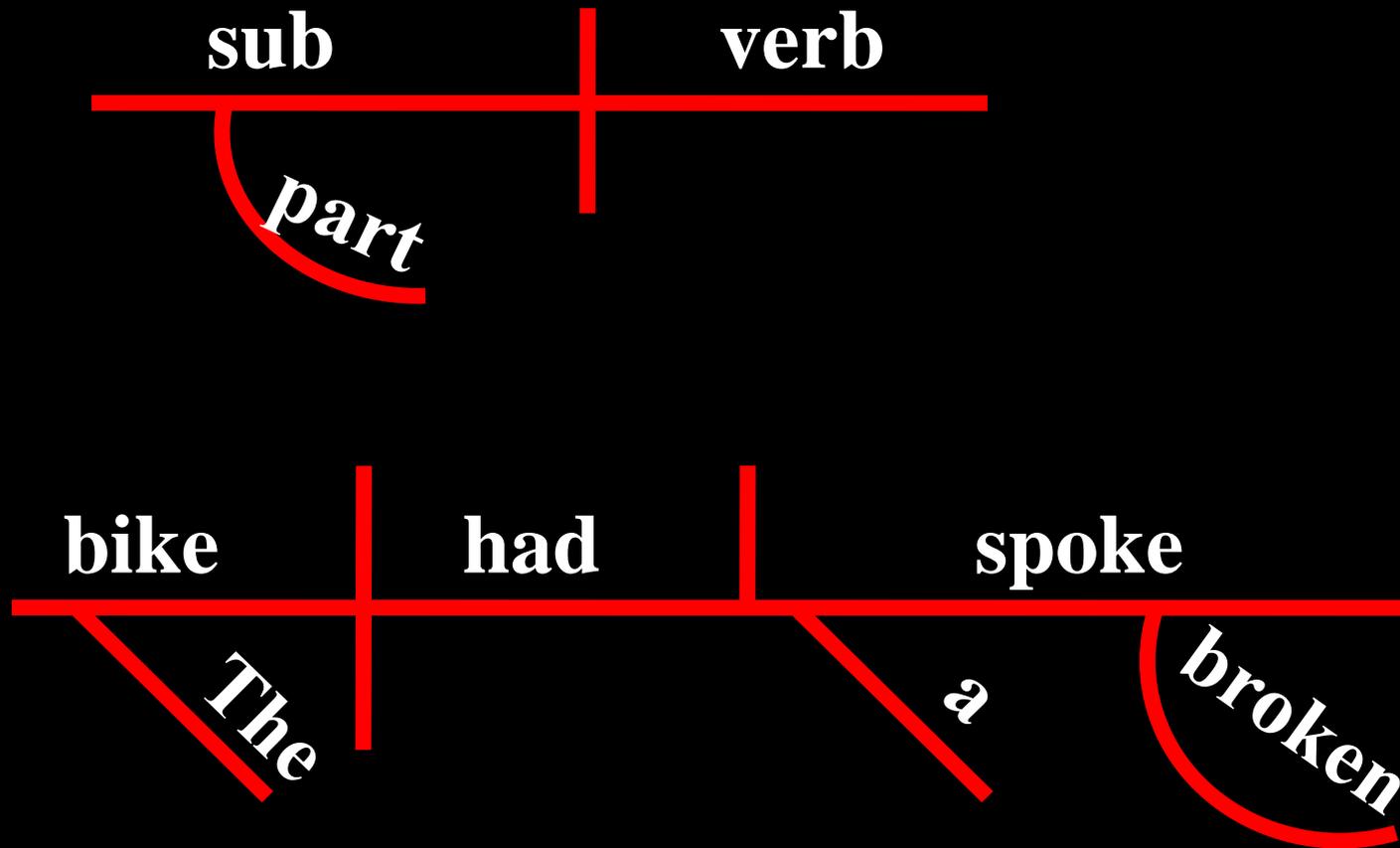
Participle

A **participle** is a verb form used as an adjective.

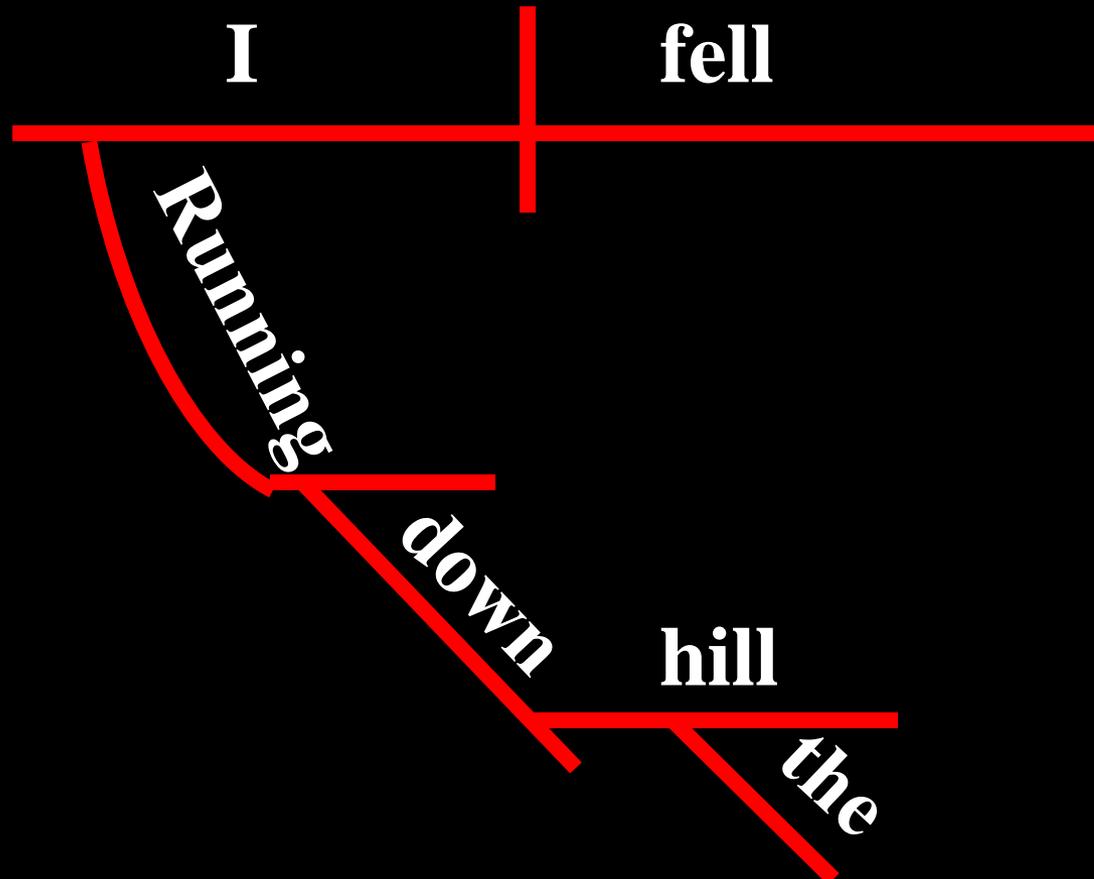
A *participle* ends in various ways. A present participle always ends with **ing** as does the gerund, but remember that it is an adjective. A past participle ends with **ed, n, or irregularly**. Examples: **played, broken, brought, sung, seeing, having seen, being seen, seen, having been seen.**

Participles modify nouns and pronouns and can precede or follow the word modified.

The bike had a broken spoke.



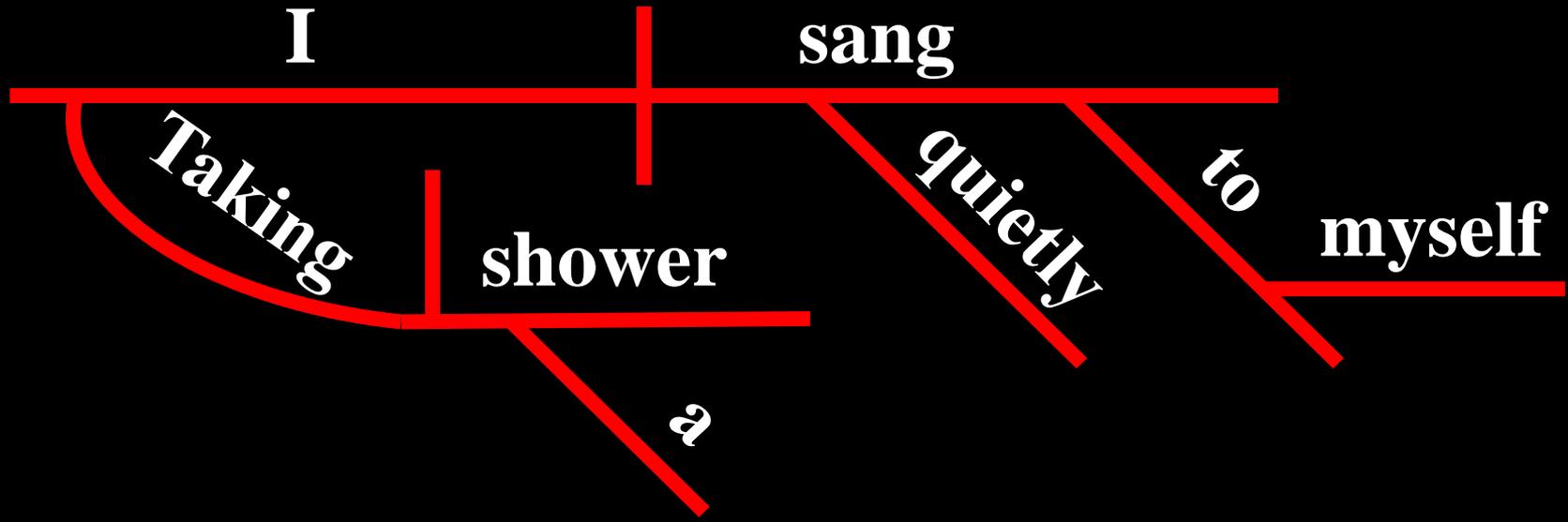
Running down the hill, I fell.



A *participial phrase* is made up of a participle and any complements (**direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, or modifiers**) like the gerund.

A *participial phrase* that comes at the **beginning** of the sentence is always followed by a comma and modifies the subject of the sentence.

Taking a shower, I sang quietly to myself.

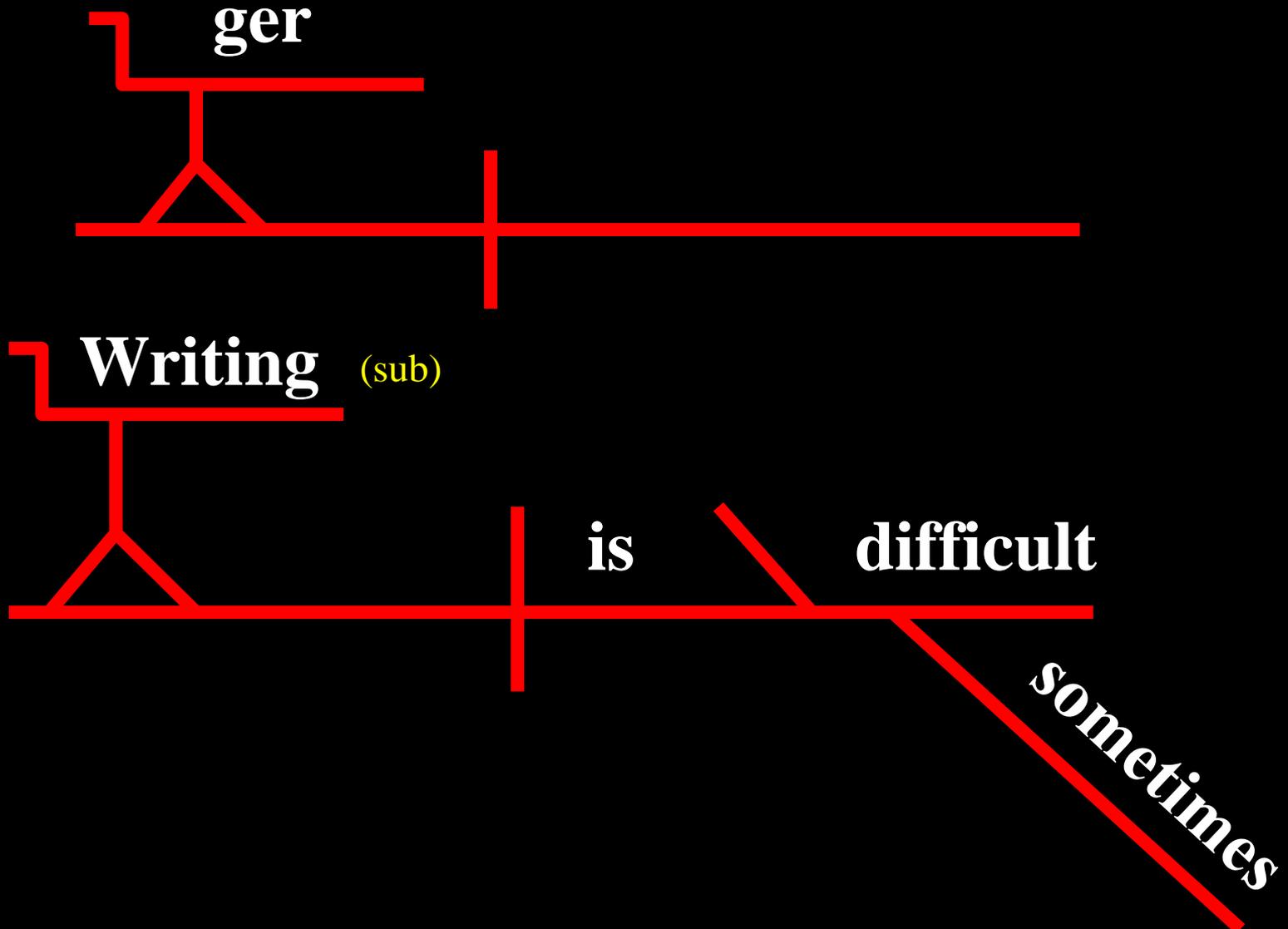


Gerund

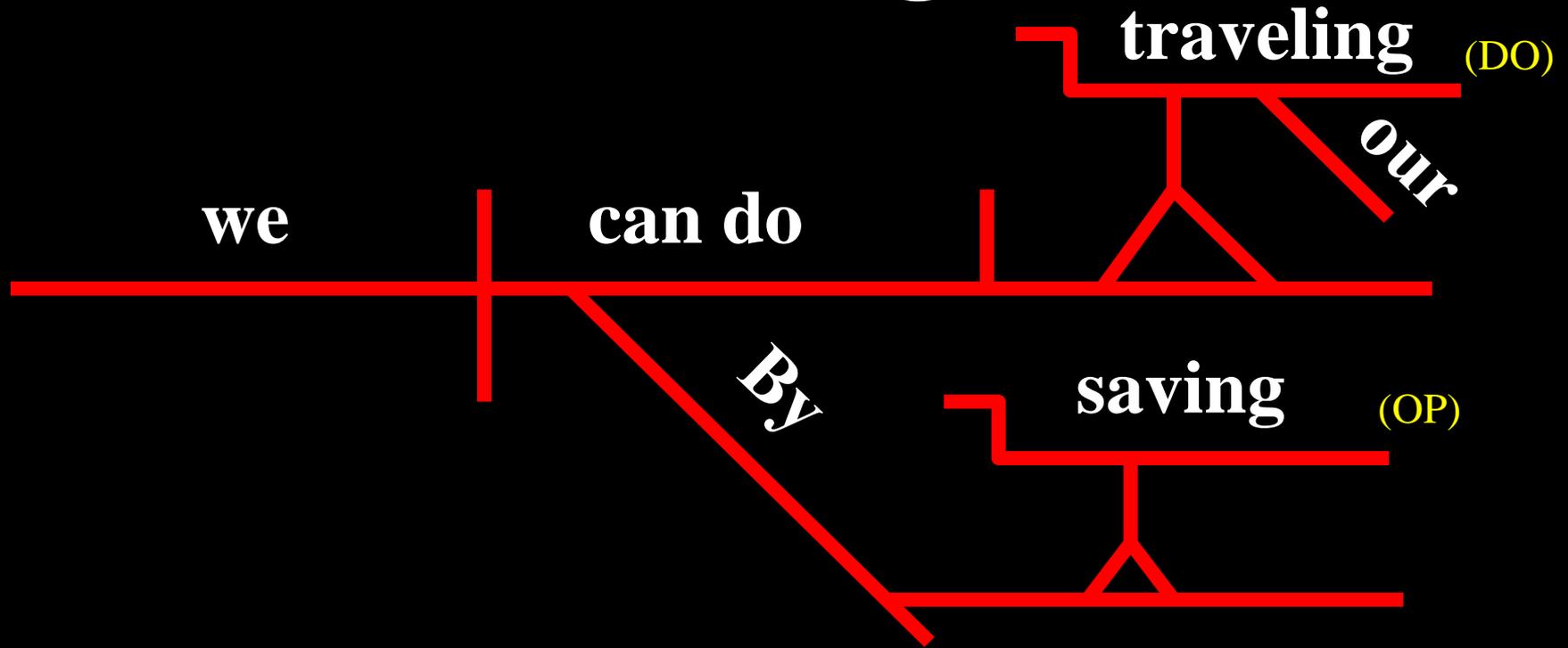
A **gerund** is a verb form used as a noun. Gerunds usually end in “ing”.

The *gerund* can be a **subject** (Eating is fun.); a **direct object** (I like eating.); a **predicate nominative** (A fun time is eating.); an **appositive** (A fun time, eating, takes much time.); an **indirect object** (I give eating too much time.); or an **object of a preposition** (I give much time to eating.)

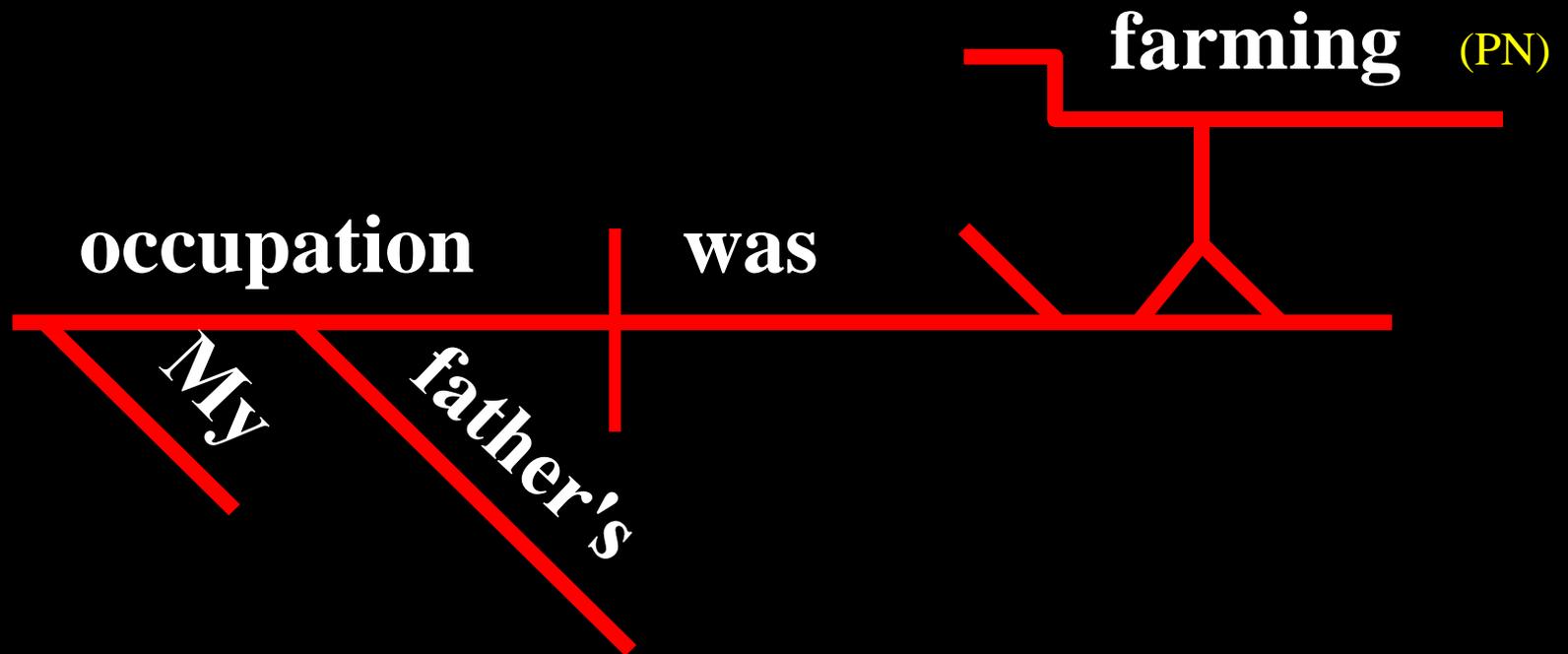
Writing is sometimes difficult.



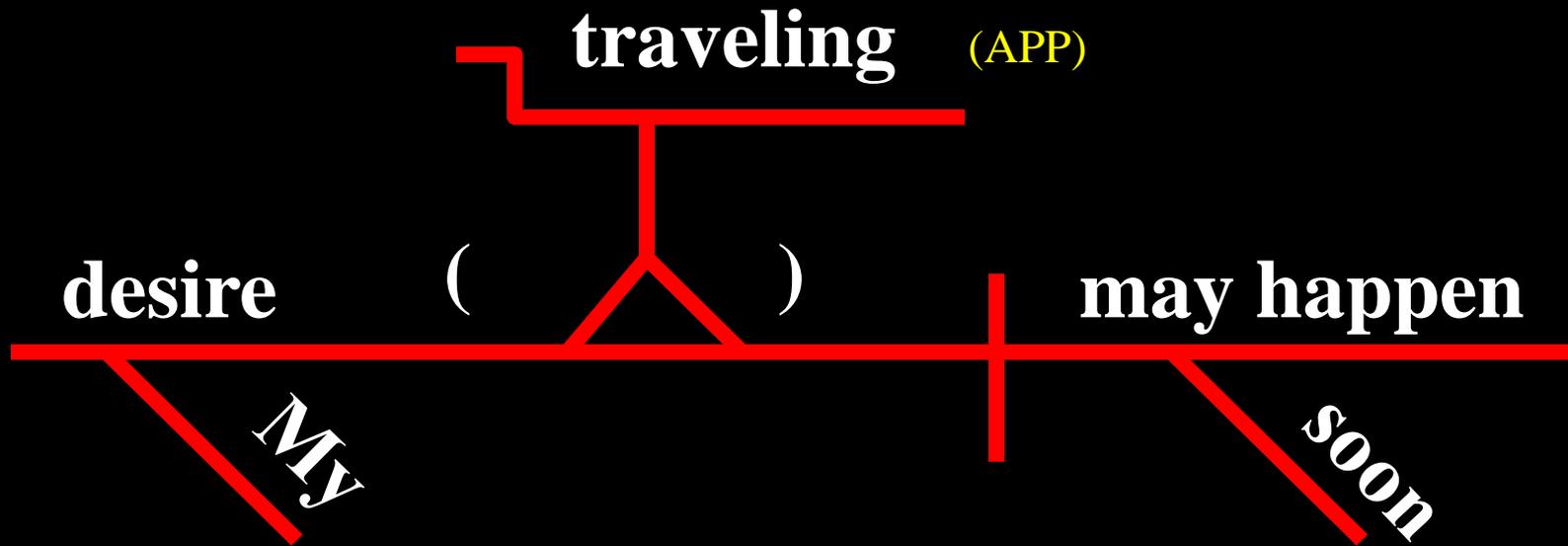
By saving, we can do our traveling.



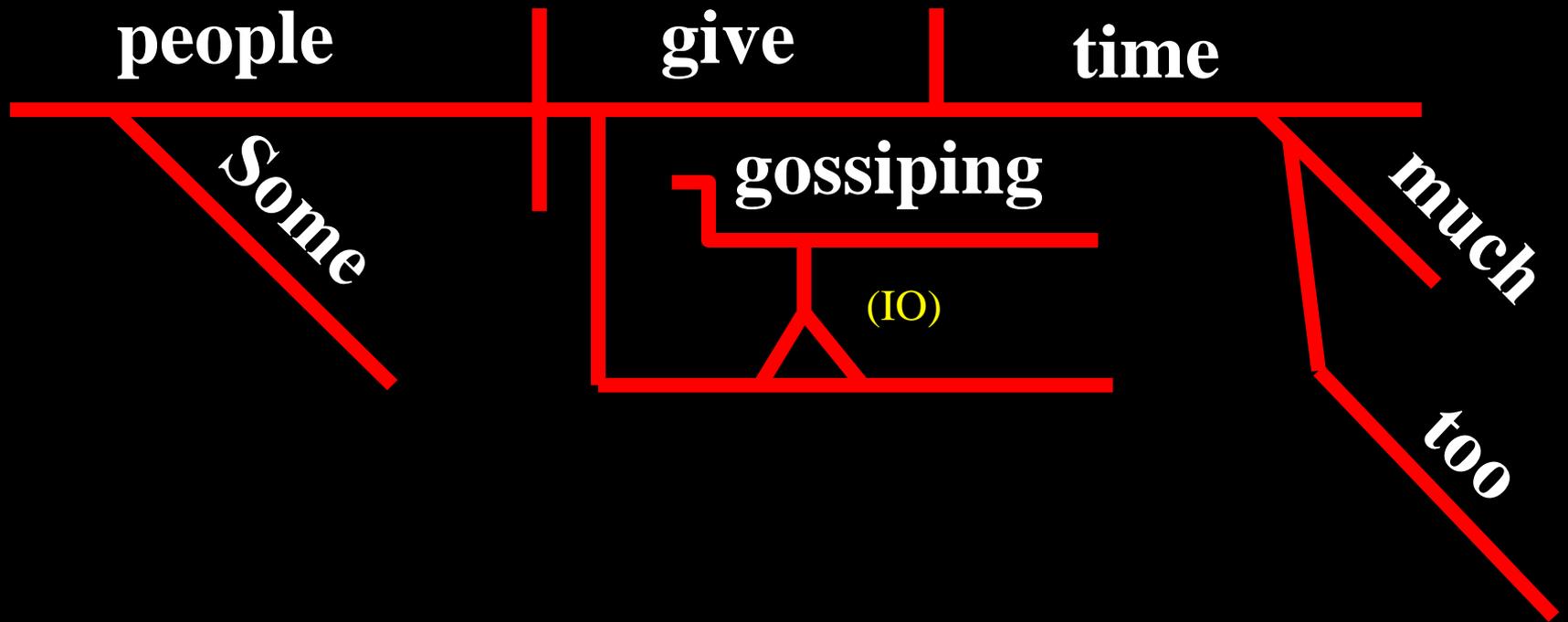
My father's occupation was farming.



My desire, traveling, may happen soon.

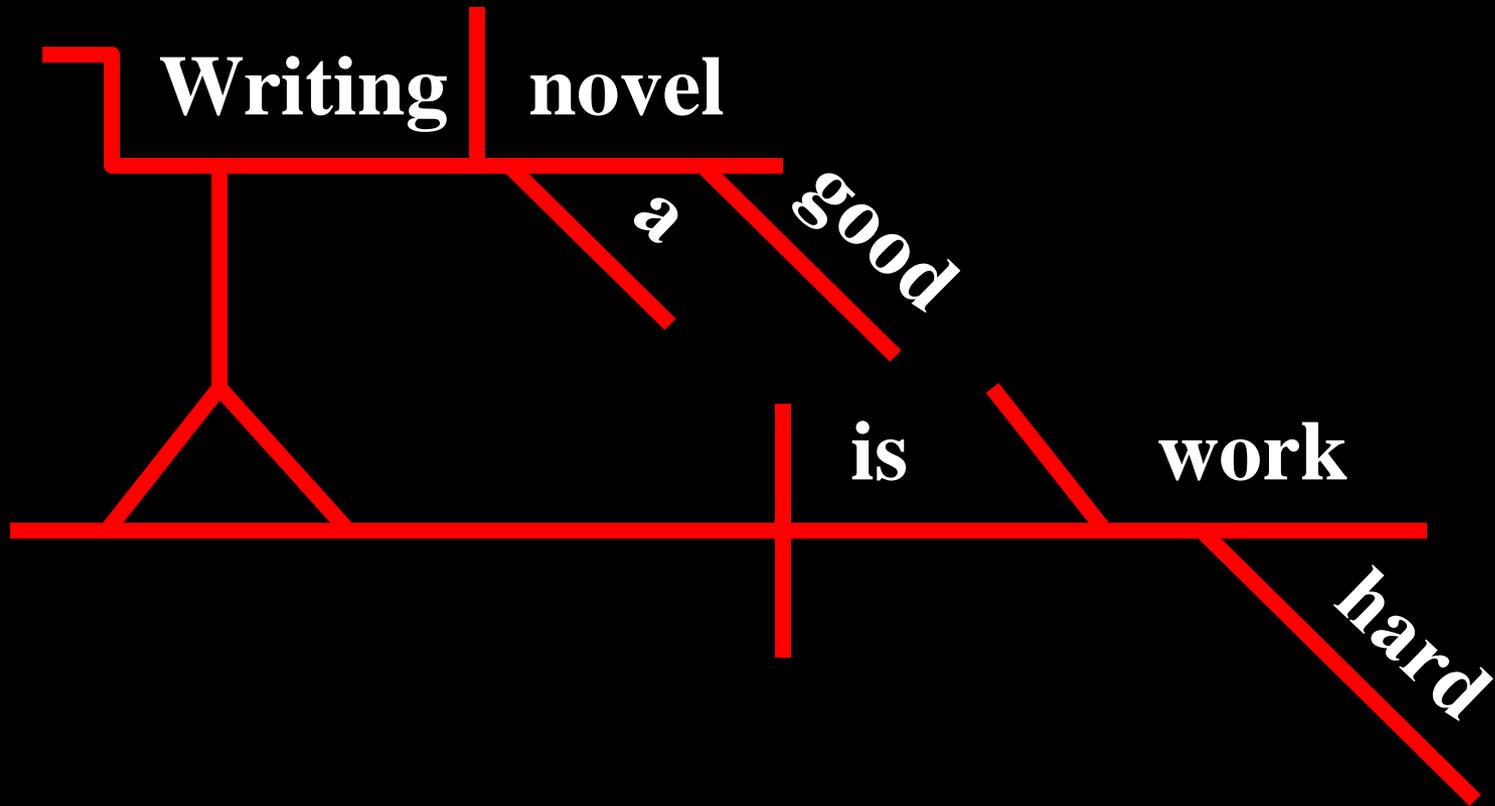


Some people give gossiping too much time.



*Gerunds can have with them **direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives or modifiers** to form what is called a **gerund phrase**. Example: **Eating solid foods** is hard for babies. **Eating** is the gerund used as the **subject** of the verb **is**. It has its own direct object **foods** with the adjective **solid**, which together make up the gerund phrase **eating solid foods** serving as the subject of the sentence.*

**Writing a good novel is hard
work.**



Infinitive

An **infinitive** is a verb form that is preceded by **to** and can be used as a noun, adjective, or an adverb.

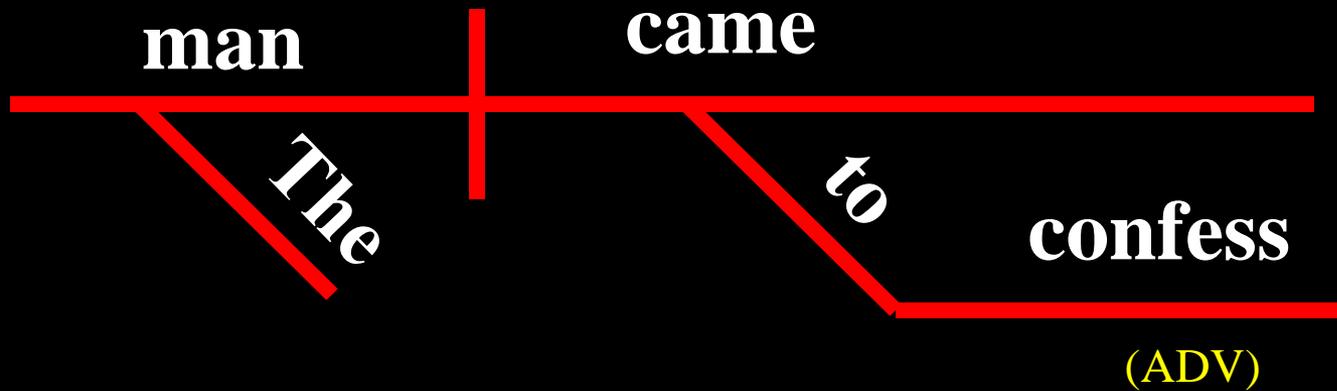
Infinitives can be used as adverb.

Ex. The man came **to confess**. Why did the man come? “**To confess**”. This answers why the man came, so it is an infinitive used as an adverb.

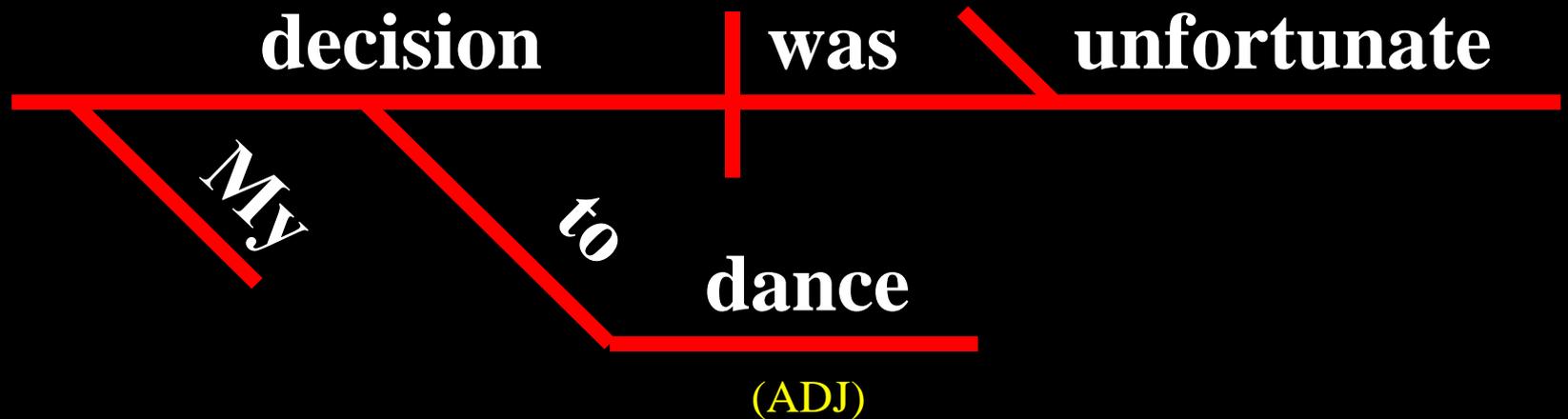
Infinitives can also be used as adjectives.

Ex. My decision **to dance** was unfortunate. Which decision was unfortunate? The decision “**to dance**.” It answers which one so it is used as an adjective.

The man came to confess.



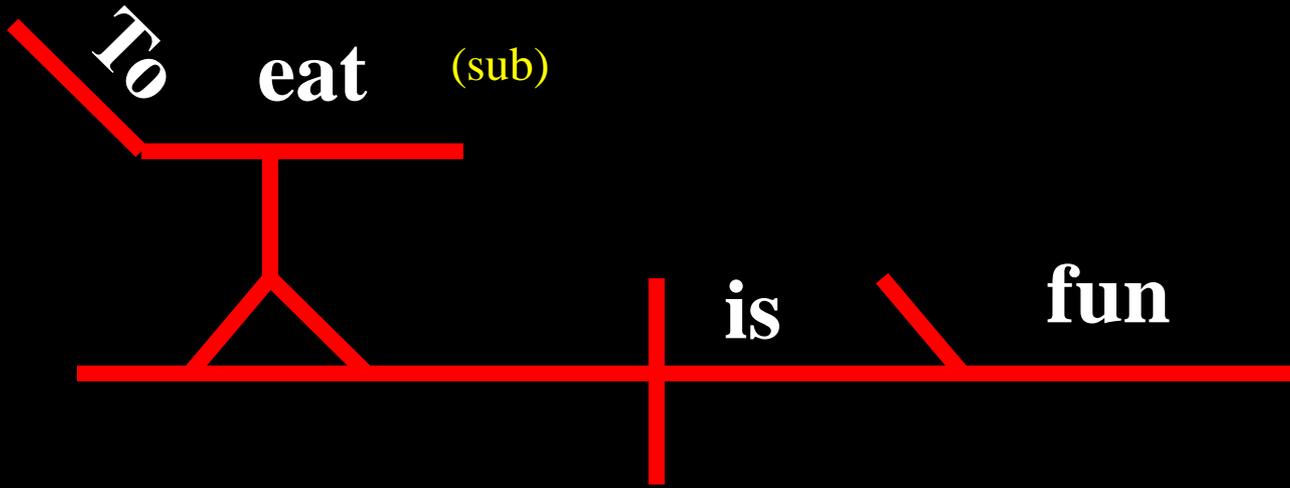
My decision to dance was unfortunate.



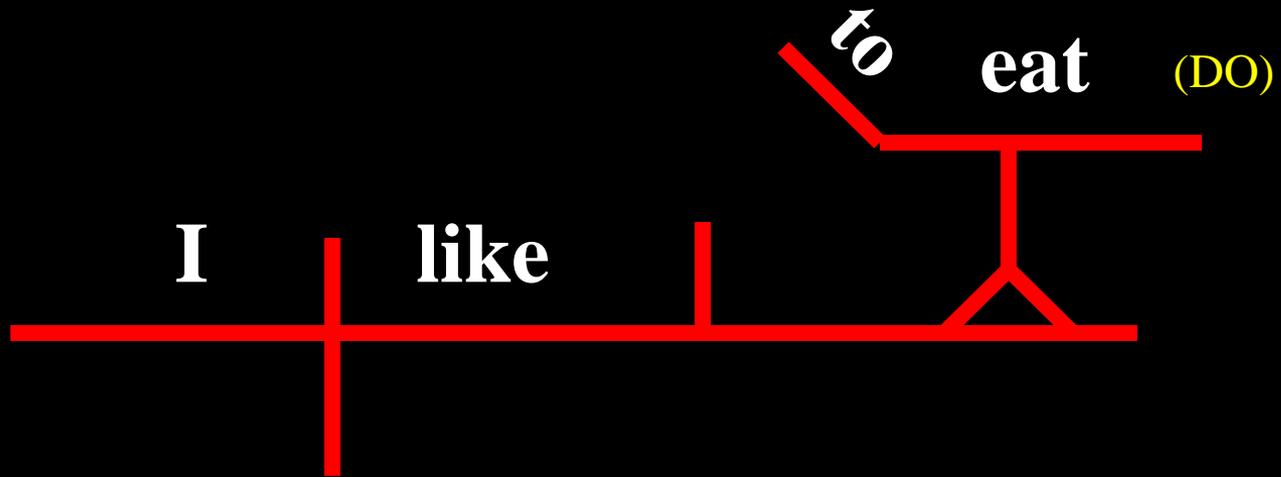
The *noun infinitive* can be a **subject** (To eat is fun.); a **direct object** (I like to eat.); a **predicate nominative** (A fun thing is to eat.); an **appositive** (My hope, to travel, never happened.); an **object of a preposition** (I want nothing but to save.)

"**Except**" and "**save**" are really about the only prepositions with which you can have an infinitive phrase as an object of a preposition.

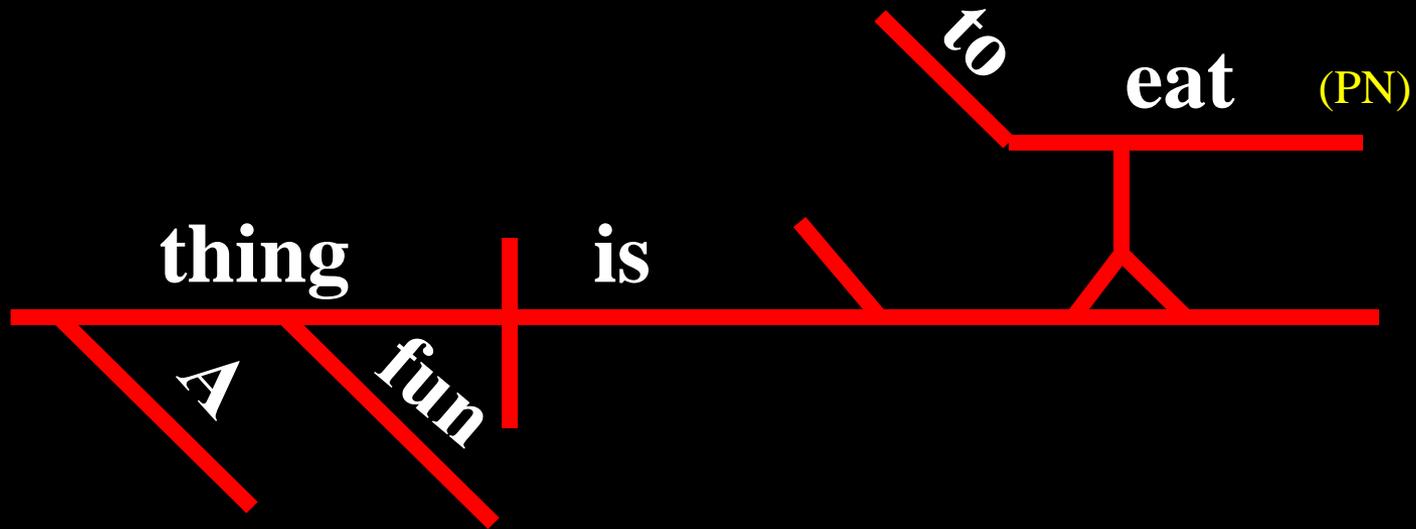
To eat is fun.



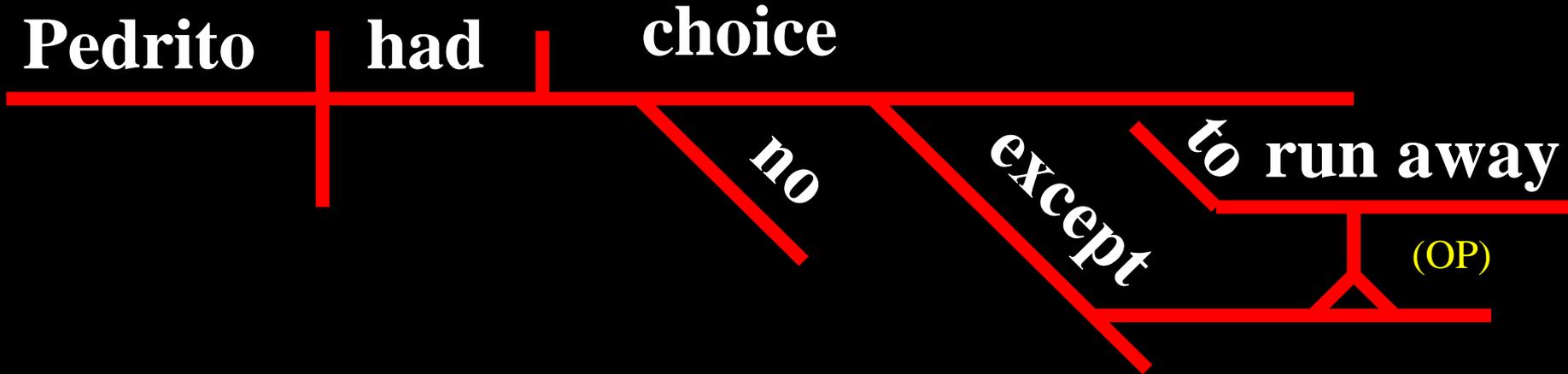
I like to eat.



A fun thing is to eat.



Pedrito had no choice except to run away.



Noun infinitives can have with them **direct objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives or modifiers** to form what is called a **infinitive phrase**. Example: **To eat solid foods** is hard for babies. "**To eat**" is the noun infinitive used as the subject of the verb is, and it has its own direct object "**foods**" with the adjective "**solid**," which together make up the infinitive phrase "**to eat solid foods**" serving as the subject of the sentence.

To know me is to love me.

