

Sentence patterns

Ex:

Noun—verb—direct object.

Diane had visions.

Ex:

Adjective—noun—verb.

Happy kids played.

Ex:

(Prep. phrase) pronoun—verb—adverb
(prep. phrase).

In the mornings, we eat
together in the kitchen.

PRACTICE THE CONVERSATION:

- A:** Will you read the first sentence?
B: Sure. *Diane had visions.*
A: Good. What are the parts of that sentence?
B: *Diane* is a noun, used as the subject; *had* is a verb; and *visions* is a noun, used as a direct object.
A: One of those is wrong, I'm afraid.
B: Hmm. I don't think so. A Diane, the Diane, some Dianes, check. I had, you had, he had, check. A vision, the vision, some visions, check.
A: Wow. Let's do the last sentence.
B: *In the mornings, we eat together in the kitchen.*
A: When you're looking at it to identify the parts of speech, which one do you look for first?
B: The verb.
A: You do?
B: Yep. Everything springs out from there.
A: I usually look for the prepositional phrases first. If you put parentheses around those, you can see what's left.
B: What's the right way?
A: There isn't a right way. It's whatever works best for you. So where's the verb?
B: *Eat.* I eat, you eat, he eats.
A: Good. What else to you notice?
B: *We* is a pronoun. *Together.* Hmm. . . . Ran how? *Together.* It's an adverb.
A: Nice. What does that leave?
B: *In the mornings* is a prepositional phrase.
A: Can you prove that?
B: *In* is right here on the preposition list, and you say, *in what?* *In the mornings.* There's no verb. It's a prepositional phrase. *In what?* In the kitchen. Same thing.
A: Nice work.
B: Don't you mean magnificent?
A: Yes. Yes, I do.

