

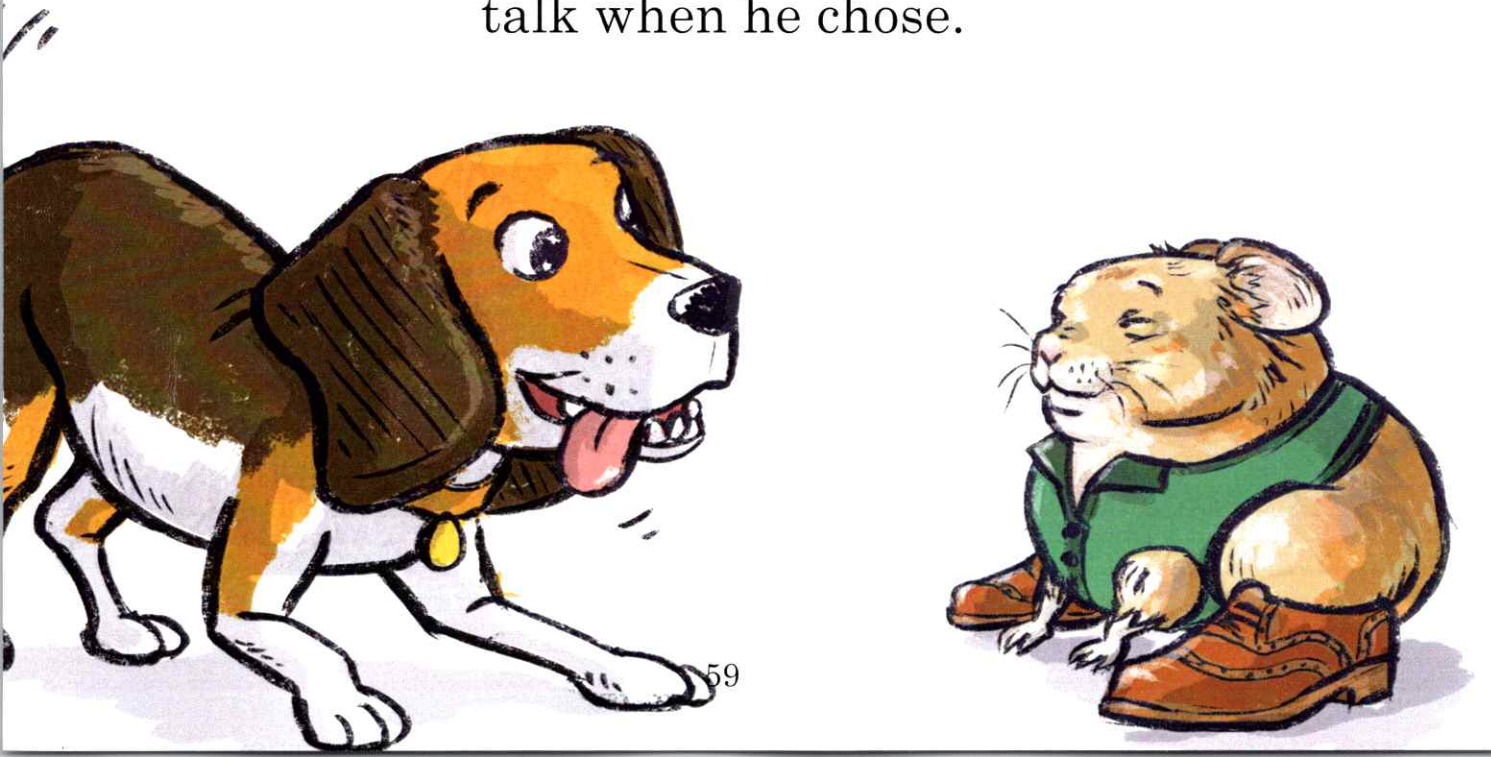
“Sidney,” asked Poodle, “is that right?
Is *grab* an action verb?”

“Yes,” she said. She had to admit it.
“He’s right.
It acts on the object...directly.”

A kind of clarity filled the air.

What? began to look at Gramlet
in a new way, rotating his head
clockwise and then counter-clockwise
as he pondered. His mind
wandered, then cleared.
Maybe this squeaky little pika
knew something after all.

“Do another one,” said What?.
“Show us another one.” He could
talk when he chose.





“Anon and forthwith,” said Gramlet.

“Now and immediately!

To show or not to show, that is the question.”

And he showed them more sentences,
explaining that there is not always
a direct object and that **prepositional
phrases never contain direct objects.**

He showed that *subj.* means subject,
AVP means action verb predicate,
and *D.O.* means direct object.

“If you want to know
which word is the direct object,” he said,
“ask the verb.”

They looked.

Two	beagles	bit	the	dry	stick.
adj.	n.	v.	adj.	adj.	n.
	subj.	AVP			D.O.

Sidney	suddenly	flew	off	the	page.
n.	adv.	v.	prep.	adj.	n.
subj.		AVP			

(The noun *page* cannot be a direct object
because it is in a prepositional phrase.

It does not receive the action.

Sidney did not fly the page!)

He saw the blue **crystal** on the stone.
pron. v. adj. adj. n. prep. adj. n.
subj. AVP **D.O.**

The cold wind froze their **noses**.
adj. adj. n. v. adj. n.
subj. AVP **D.O.**

The frozen ground hurt his little **toes**.
adj. adj. n. v. adj. adj. n.
subj. AVP **D.O.**

“See?” said Gramlet. “Eek!
The subject acts on the object,
which is a noun or pronoun
that receives the action!”

