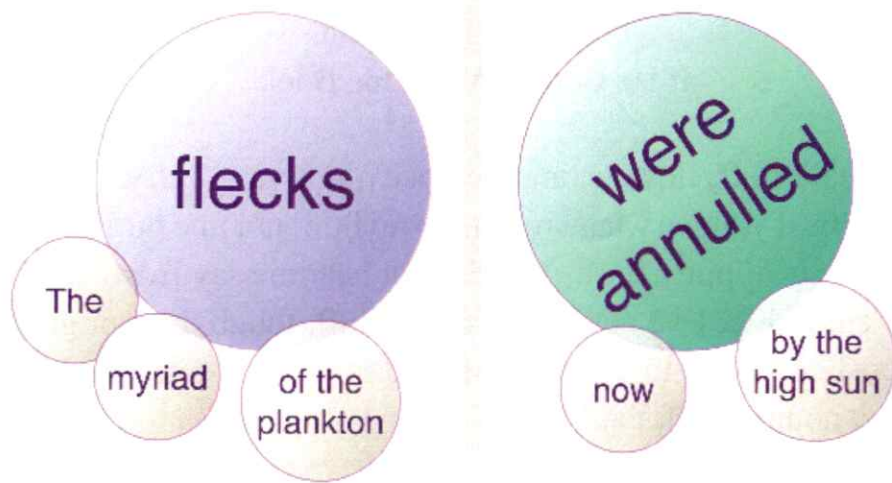
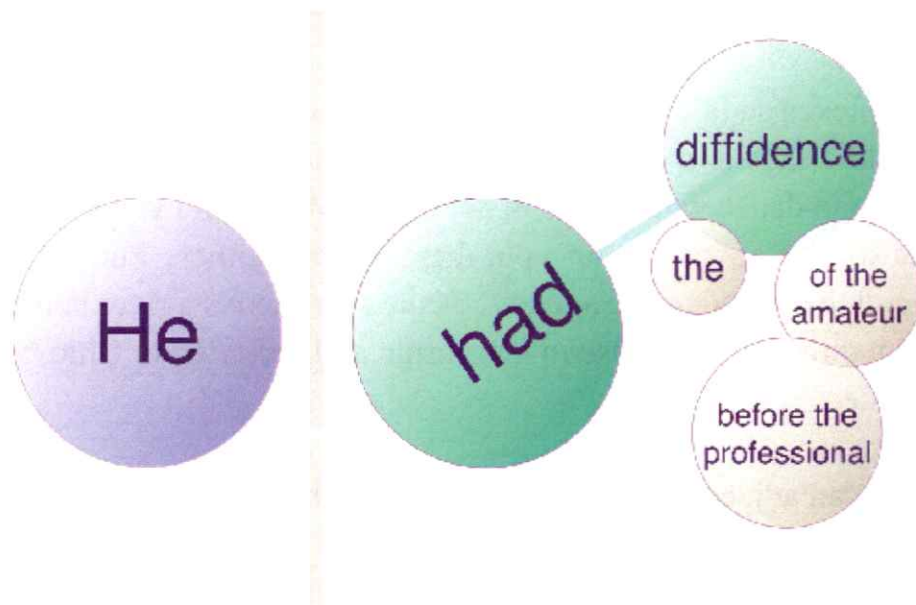




"The myriad flecks of the plankton were annulled now by the high sun."
From Ernest Hemingway's 1952 novel *The Old Man and the Sea*



"He had the diffidence of the amateur before the professional."
From E.L. Doctorow's 1974 novel *Ragtime*

Level Two: Parts of Sentence

Let us move to the second level of grammar, the parts of sentence. This second level is even simpler than the first.

Sentence Structure: When we thought about the parts of speech, we were thinking about one word at a time. We looked at a sentence full of words and asked what each word was doing. Now we are going to look at how words form special structures to make ideas. It is a bit like bridge building: imagine a yard full of construction parts such as beams and bolts and nuts and so forth, but those parts could make various structures, including bridges. Sentences are like that. There are eight kinds of parts, but those parts can be combined in many different ways to make statements, questions, commands, and even exclamations.

You have already seen glimpses of standard sentence structures in the t-models on the previous pages. Now it is time to explain those t-models in more detail. The first thing to notice about sentence structure is that we think in binary terms. Ideas, in other words, have two pieces: a subject and a predicate. Either of these can be one word or more than one word. In this sentence by James Joyce, “Lynch made a grimace at the raw grey sky,” the subject is only one word, *Lynch*. The vertical line separates the subject on the left from the predicate on the right.

