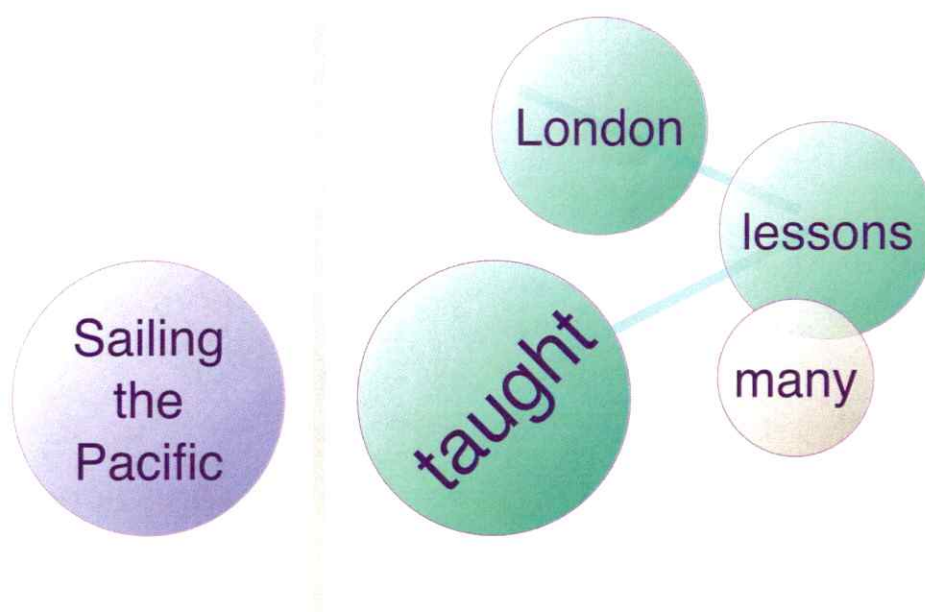


If we had a sentence in which a gerund phrase acted as the subject of the sentence—a common structure—we could show the sentence this way:



The three-level analysis would look like this:

Sailing	the	Pacific	taught	London	many	lessons.
n.	adj.	n.	v.	n.	adj.	n.
-----subj.-----			AVP	I.O.	D.O.	
-----gerund phrase-----						

In this sentence the entire gerund phrase *Sailing the Pacific* acts as a noun and as the subject of the sentence. It was not merely sailing that taught London these things or the Pacific that did; it was *sailing the Pacific* that taught him these things; that is the logic of the idea. The lines connecting the direct object and indirect object indicate that the direct object must be present in order to have an indirect object, but the indirect object actually precedes the direct object in the spoken sequence.

If we had a sentence with an introductory participial phrase, it would be easy to model and analyze. Here is a sentence with an introductory participial phrase, and please keep in mind the two rules: the phrase is set off by a comma, and it modifies the subject: “*Dreading the night, he* wrote the novel during the long afternoons.”



Dreading the night, he wrote the novel during the long afternoons.

adj.	adj.	n.	pron.	v.	adj.	n.	prep.	adj.	adj.	n.
			subj.	AVP		D.O.				
-----participial phrase-----						-----prepositional phrase-----				

This sentence reminds us that the object of a preposition, in this case the noun *afternoons*, cannot also be a direct or indirect object. If a noun is the object of the preposition, then that is all it is. Even without knowing the rule, you can see the logic: He did not write the afternoons. Notice how much energy and drama the introductory participial phrase provides and how elegantly and efficiently it does it.