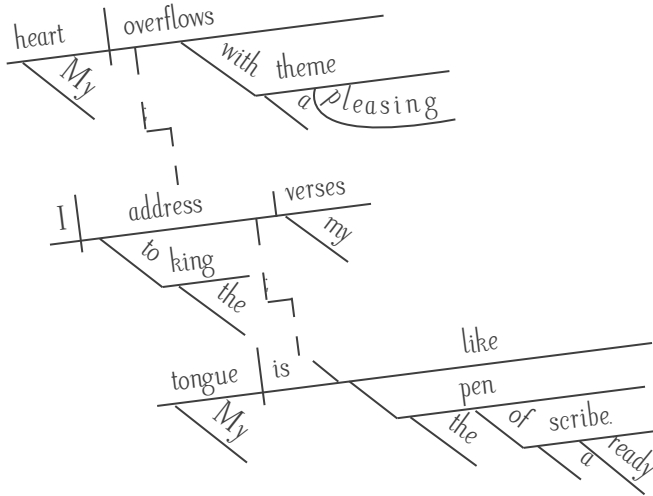


Preface

My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;
I address my verses to the king;
My tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
~Psalm 45:1



Sentence diagramming is an art. A sentence diagram supplies a visual representation of the relationship between the parts of the sentence. Discerning these relationships is an exercise in logic. Practiced regularly, diagramming improves grammar, writing, and reading comprehension skills. Scholars young and old profit by the regular practice of diagramming worthwhile sentences drawn from worthy books.

Ah, there's the rub. Diagramming beautifully crafted sentences from master wordsmiths is challenging to say the least. In order to learn the rules of diagramming, it is sometimes necessary to present carefully constructed sentences which fit the pattern being taught. But if we force students to linger too long over repetitious and mediocre sentences, the lovely art of sentence diagramming quickly degenerates into busywork of limited benefit. Instead, what if we set before our young scholars the

challenge and promise of learning how to diagram virtually any sentence they meet? More importantly, why not make sure they meet worthwhile sentences by an early introduction to the most beautifully expressed thoughts the English language has to offer in the time-honored literary works of the Western tradition?

Cottage Press Language Arts courses aim to do just that. Students are given beautiful literary and rhetorical thoughts taken from worthy books to diagram. This is one of the main reasons that we prefer the nineteenth century classic grammar texts from Thomas Harvey.¹ The exercises include some of the most exquisite sentences in the English-speaking world. The grammar instruction and exercises reproduced in *Sentence Sense* are taken from Harvey's *Practical Grammar of the English Language*, revised in 1878.² This text is more popularly known as *Harvey's Revised Grammar*, and that is how we will refer to it in this book.

In addition to this venerable grammar reference, *Sentence Sense* aims to give language arts scholars a handy reference for diagramming many grammatical constructions found in real sentences, as well as a simple method of oral parsing. It is designed to be used by students and teachers alike, from about sixth grade and up. Though it is certainly not exhaustive, it should provide the resources needed to diagram and parse a great many sentences. It has been years in the making, revised and expanded over time as my student's needs and my own have grown.

- 1 In fact, most of our preferred grammar resources were written by the early part of the twentieth century. See the Bibliography at the end of this book for several favorites.
- 2 *A Practical English Grammar of the English Language*, by Thomas Wadleigh Harvey, is in the public domain, and is available online at Google Play Books, where you can also find an answer key for the text.

Introduction

Cottage Press Language Arts for Intermediate Students (*Bards & Poets*) and Language Arts for Upper School (*Poetics & Progym I-III*) schedule a systematic study and regular review of grammar based on the grammar instruction in *A Practical Grammar of the English Language* (Revised Edition, 1878) by Thomas Harvey. This book also is known by the title *Harvey's Revised Grammar*; we will use that title for brevity. Sentence Sense reprints the greater part of *Harvey's Revised Grammar*, enhanced with our own explanations and methods of diagramming and parsing.

Where applicable, the lesson number in *Harvey's Revised Grammar* from which the text and/or concept is drawn is listed below section titles. Direct quotes are indicated by the indented Old Style typeface with a bordering line on the left, as

Accuracy and facility in the use of language, both spoken and written, are the chief ends to be secured by the study of grammar. To secure these ends, a thorough acquaintance with the elements, forms, structure, and laws of our mother tongue, is indispensable; and a practical knowledge of these can be acquired only by patient, persistent exercise in the analysis and synthesis of syllables, words, and sentences.

In some cases, points and remarks have been renumbered from the original lesson for clarity and ease of dividing concepts into manageable parts. A few extremely archaic rules and examples have been deleted from the original text, but most are retained because they help in understanding the literary works of bygone days. The actual text of *Harvey's Revised Grammar* is reproduced almost in its entirety, with some updates and omissions based on current grammar practices.¹ Many

1 Chapters deleted from original text of *Harvey's Revised Grammar*: Figures of Speech, Prosody, and Diagramming, along with most of the parsing exercises. We teach these topics and skills with our own methods in *Cottage Press Language Arts*.

of the terms and definitions in *Sentence Sense* are included on the free online flashcards which accompany the Cottage Press Language Arts books.

Here is a brief introduction to important terms from *Harvey's Revised Grammar*, Lesson 1:

1. A Word is the sign of an idea.
2. Language is the expression of thought by means of words. It may be either spoken or written. Spoken Language is the expression of ideas by the voice. Written Language is the expression of ideas by the use of written or printed characters representing sounds.
3. Grammar treats of the principles and usages of language.
4. English Grammar teaches how to speak and write the English language correctly.
5. English Grammar is divided into four parts: Orthography, Etymology, Syntax, and Prosody.
6. Orthography treats of elementary sounds, letters, syllables, and spelling.
7. Etymology treats of the classification, derivation, and properties of words.
8. Syntax treats of the construction of sentences.
9. Prosody treats of the quantity of syllables, of accent, and of the laws of versification.

In *Sentence Sense*, we include all of Etymology and Syntax. From Orthography, we only include Capital Letters. We have not included Prosody, because we teach those concepts thoroughly in the *Bards & Poets* and *Poetics & Progym* texts. If you are interested in Harvey's treatment of these subjects, or in his treatment of Figures of Speech, please refer to the *Harvey's Revised Grammar* text.

Sentence Sense is a reference book, and therefore, is not designed to be studied from front to back in order as a standalone grammar text. Topics should be introduced to beginning students with the early lessons in each section, and then revisited for additional mastery as the student advances in skills and knowledge. The optimal order of study in *Sentence Sense* is scheduled in the books comprising Cottage Press Language Arts for Intermediate Students and Upper School Students—*Bards & Poets*, *Poetics & Progym I*, *Poetics & Progym II*, and *Poetics & Progym III*.