

# Sentences, Diagramming & Discourse Analysis

## Chapter 13

## The Components of Sentences

### Sentence Components

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

#### Word

A word is a foundational sound unit (lex) with other functional sound units (morphemes) sometimes combined with it, so that a native speaker recognizes it as a grammatical entity referring to a person, place, thing, action, or functioning in some other way in his language.

ἐδίδασκεν

He taught  
(Mark 4:2)

### Sentence Components

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

#### Phrase

A phrase is two or more words functioning together as a discrete grammatical unit, though lacking the sufficient components to be called a clause or sentence (i.e., phrases usually lack a subject, a predicate, or both).

ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν κυρίῳ καὶ ἐν τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ

be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might  
(Eph 6:10 NASB)

### Sentence Components

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

#### Clause

A clause is a recognizable grammatical unit in a sentence that has both a subject and verb (or implies one or the other, if it is lacking).

- Clauses can be divided into two kinds:

1. Independent
2. Dependent

### Sentence Components

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

#### Independent Clause

An independent clause is a portion of a sentence that contains (or implies) a subject or predicate and is not subordinated to another portion of the sentence.

μακάριοι ἐστε ὅταν ὀνειδίσωσιν ὑμᾶς καὶ διώξωσιν καὶ εἰπωσιν  
πάν πονηρὸν καθ' ὑμῶν [ψευδόμενοι] ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ

You are blessed when they insult and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me (Matt 5:11)

## Sentence Components

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Dependent Clause

A dependent clause is a portion of a sentence that contains (or implies) a subject or predicate and is subordinated to another portion of the sentence.

πιστὸς δέ ἐστιν ὁ κύριος, ὃς στηρίξει ὑμᾶς καὶ φυλάξει ἀπὸ τοῦ πονηροῦ

The Lord, **who will establish you and will guard you from the evil one**, is faithful (2 Thess 3:3, author's translation)

## Sentence Components

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Conditional "if" Clauses

Conditional clauses are a special subset of dependent clauses that set up conditions which, if met, result in an articulated set of circumstances or demand a certain response.

μακάριοι ἐστε ὅταν ὀνειδίσωσιν ὑμᾶς καὶ διώξωσιν καὶ εἰπωσιν πᾶν πονηρὸν καθ' ὑμῶν [ψευδόμενοι] ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ

**You are blessed** when they insult and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me (Matt 5:11)

Class	Particle	Protasis ("if...")	Apodosis ("then...")	Meaning
1st	εἰ	Tense: any Mood: ind. "If your hand or your foot causes your downfall" (εἰ δὲ ἡ χεὶρ σου ἢ ὁ πούς σου σκανδαλίζει σε).	Tense: any Mood: any "cut it off and throw it away" (ἐκκοινωνῶν αὐτὸν καὶ βάλε ἀπὸ σου, Matt 18:8).	The speaker or writer presents the protasis as true for the sake of argument. "If (and let us assume that this is true)..."
2nd	εἰ	Tense: impf, aor, or pluper Mood: ind "For if the miracles that were done in you had been done in Sodom" (ὅτι εἰ ἐν Σοδόμοις ἐγενήθησαν αἱ δυνάμεις αἱ γινόμεναι ἐν σοί).	Tense: impf, aor, or pluper Mood: ἂν + ind "it would have remained until today" (ἔμενεν ἂν μέχρι τῆς σήμερον, Matt 11:23).	The condition is "contrary-to-fact." "If (and I, the speaker, do not think this is true)..." The particle ἂν is not always present in a contrary-to-fact condition. Always pay attention to context.

Class	Particle	Protasis ("if...")	Apodosis ("then...")	Meaning
3rd	ἐάν	Tense: any Mood: sub "And if anyone takes away from the words of this prophetic book" (καὶ ἐάν τις ἀφέλῃ ἀπὸ τῶν λόγων τοῦ βιβλίου τῆς προφητείας τούτης).	Tense: any Mood: any "God will take away his share of the tree of life" (ἀφελείῃ ὁ θεὸς τὸ μέρος αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τοῦ ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς, Rev 22:19).	The event in the protasis is presented somewhat more hypothetically by the speaker. It is more tentative than the 1st class conditional.
4th	εἰ	Tense: any Mood: opt "But even if you should suffer for righteousness" (ἀλλ' εἰ καὶ πάσχοιτε διὰ δικαιοσύνην).	Tense: any Mood: opt "you are blessed" (εὖ ἔστι ἂν) μακάριοι, 1 Pet 3:14).	The event in the protasis is depicted as an extremely remote possibility. <b>Note:</b> There is no complete example of a 4th class conditional sentence in the GNT.

## Types of Sentences According to Components

## Types of Sentences

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Simple Sentence

A simple sentence has one word or group of words functioning as *the* subject and one word or group of words functioning as *the* predicate.

ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ **παρελεύσονται**

Heaven and earth will pass away  
(Mark 13:31)

## Types of Sentences

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Compound Sentence

A compound sentence is composed of two or more independent clauses (clauses that could “stand alone” if followed by a period) connected by one or more coordinating conjunctions (a word like “and” or “but”).

καὶ εὐθὺς ἀπῆλθεν ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ ἡ λέπρα, καὶ ἐκαθαρίσθη

Immediately the disease left him, and he was healed.  
(Mark 1:42)

## Types of Sentences

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Complex Sentence

A complex sentence includes both an independent clause and a subordinate (dependent) clause.

μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικεν γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν

Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near! (Matt 3:2)

## Types of Sentences

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Copulative Sentence

A copulative sentence is a sentence that links two substantives with a copulative verb (i.e., εἰμί, γίνομαι, ὑπάρχω).

ὁμοίαι ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου

You are the light of the world.  
(Matt 5:14)

## Types of Sentence According to Function

## Sentence Function

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Declarative

A declarative sentence makes a statement of fact (or is at least portrayed as factual).

πάντες γὰρ οἱ προφῆται καὶ ὁ νόμος ἕως Ἰωάννου ἐπροφήτευσαν

All the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John came (Matt 11:13)

## Sentence Function

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Interrogative

An interrogative sentence asks a question.

ἄρα οὖν τὰ μέλη τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποιήσω πόρνης μέλη;

Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? (1 Cor 6:15 NIV)

## Sentence Function

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

### Exclamatory

Exclamatory sentences communicate an expression of strong feeling.

μὴ γένοιτο

May it never be!  
(Rom 9:14 NASB)

## Word Order Within Sentences

## Sentence Structure

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

- Because Greek is an inflected language, word order matters much less in conveying meaning than in a language like English.
- There are some regular patterns of Greek word order, though these patterns can be set aside for stylistic variation, emphasis, or some other literary purposes.

### Word Order

Predicate	No explicit subject or complement
Predicate	Complement
Complement	Predicate
Subject	Predicate

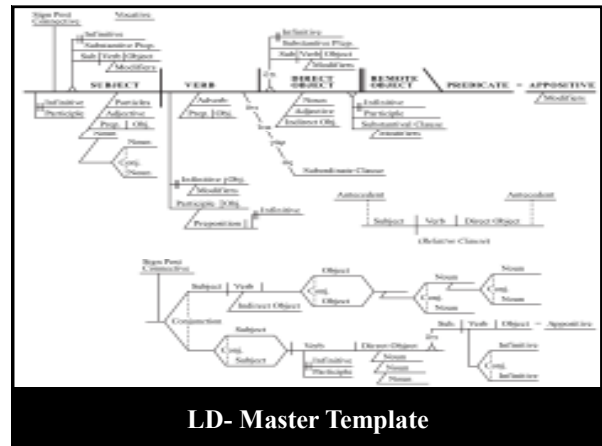
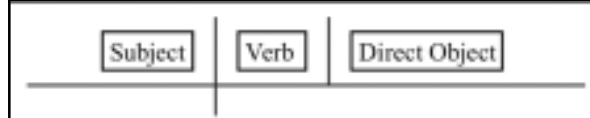
## Sentence Diagramming, Arcing, and Phrase Diagramming

### Line Diagramming

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

- First, look for the main verb to see if there is an explicit subject.
- The subject and verb are then placed on a base line with a line intersecting the base line to separate subject from predicate.
- If there is a direct object, a line is drawn above the base line to the right of the verb, and the direct object is placed to the right of this line.

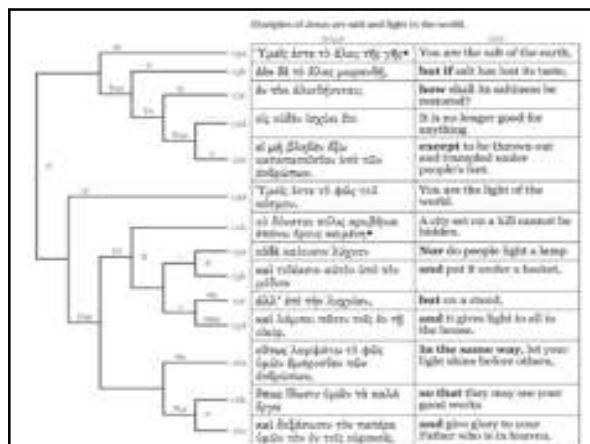
## Line Diagramming



## Tracing and Bracketing

- Tracing is a method of following a biblical author's argument and representing it through arcing or bracketing.
- The aim is to show the logical relationship between propositions in the Greek text.

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος



## Phrase Diagramming

1. Main or governing propositions should be further to the left on the page.
2. Dependent elements are indented under the word(s) they modify.
3. Parallel grammatical elements are indented the same distance on the page.

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος

- 1 Πέτρος  
ἀπόστολος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐκλεκτοῖς παρεπιδήμοις διασπορᾶς . . .
- 2 κατὰ πρόγνωσιν θεοῦ πατρὸς  
ἐν ἁγιασμῷ πνεύματος  
εἰς ὑπακοήν καὶ ῥαντισμὸν  
αἵματος Ἰησοῦ  
Χριστοῦ,
- χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη πληθυνθεῖη.
- 1 Peter  
an apostle of Jesus Christ to the elect sojourners of the dispersion . . .
- 2 according to the foreknowledge of  
God the Father  
by the sanctification of the Spirit  
unto obedience and sprinkling  
of the blood of Jesus  
Christ,
- May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

### Phrase Diagram

## Discourse Analysis

### Discourse Analysis

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

- Discourse analysis is analyzing a communicative act.
  - “Discourse analysis seeks to understand the ways in which clauses, sentences, and paragraphs are formally related to one another in order to convey meaning.”
- ~Moisés Silva, *Explorations in Exegetical Method: Galatians as a Test Case* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996), 82

### Discourse Boundaries

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

- Uniformity of Content - An author's repeated use of the same feature could indicate a unit of material.
- Initial Markers – Stylistic features that an author uses to start a new section.
- Final Markers – Stylistic features than an author uses to conclude a section.

### Prominence

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν  
ὁ λόγος

- Word Order
- Certain Words
- Grammatical Features
- Figures of Speech
- Rhetorical Questions
- Discourse Proportion