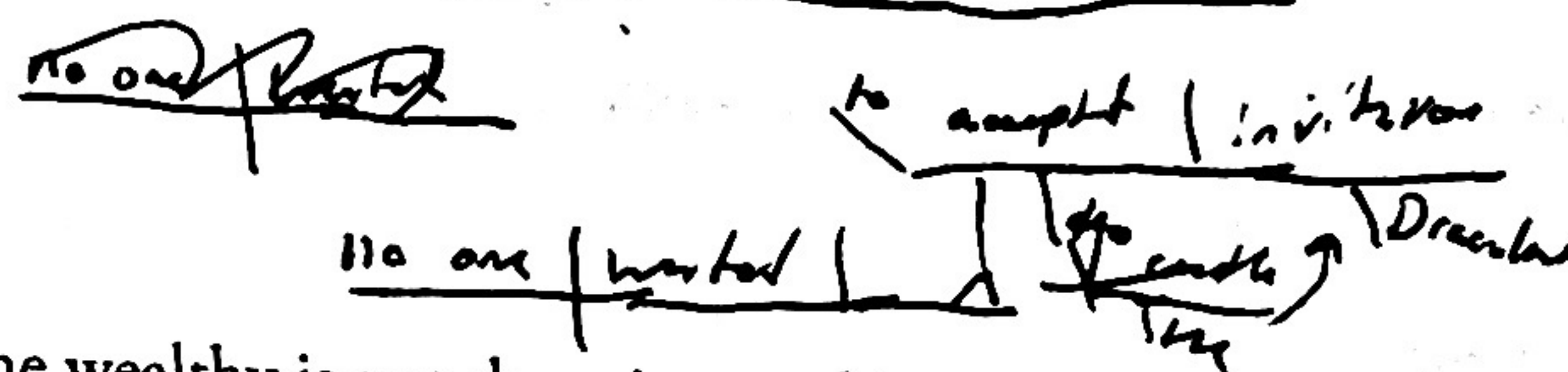


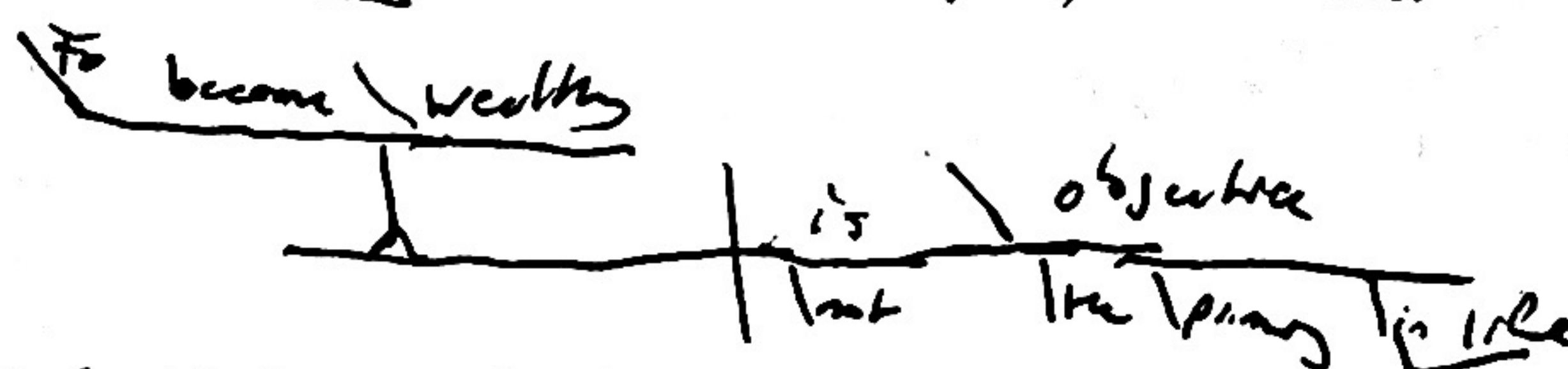
EXERCISE 9.9*

In the following sentences, underline infinitive phrases used as nouns. Then diagram each sentence.

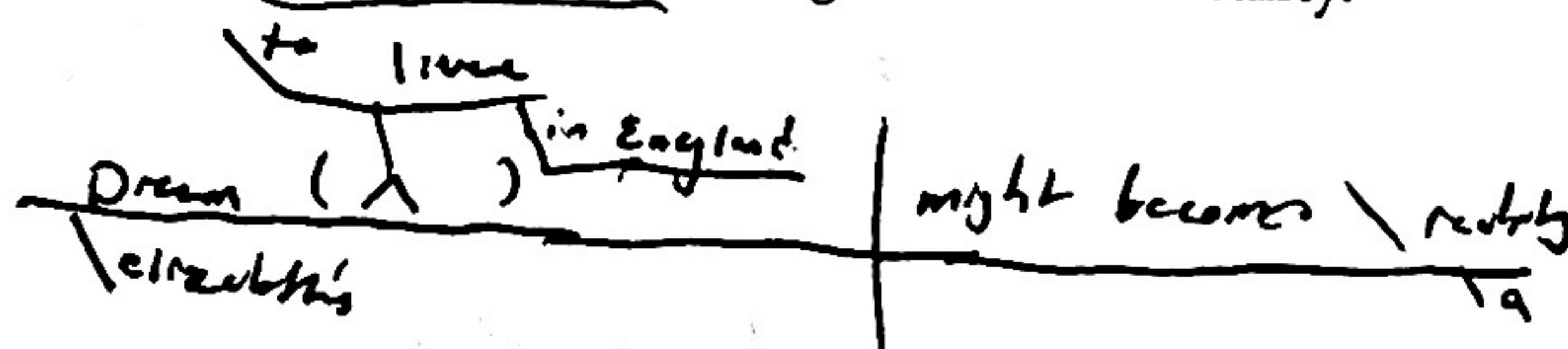
1. No one wanted to accept Dracula's invitation to the castle.



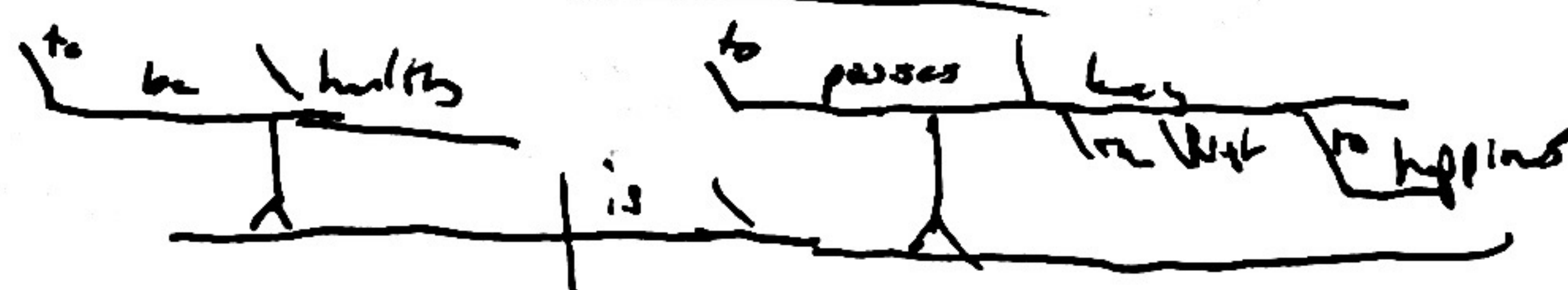
2. To become wealthy is not the primary objective in life.



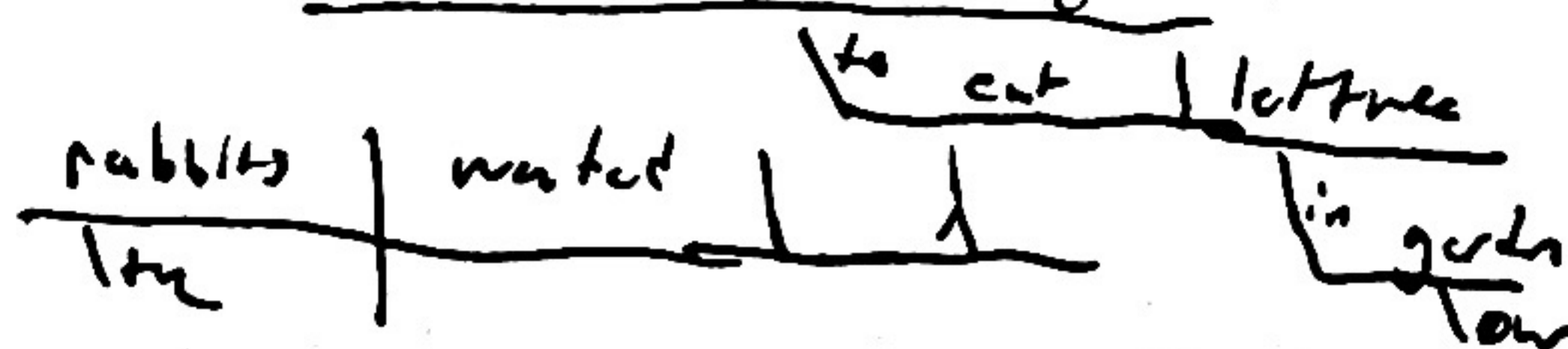
3. Elizabeth's dream, to live in England, might become a reality.



4. To be healthy is to possess the first key to happiness.



5. The rabbits wanted to eat the lettuce in our garden.



see answer key, pp. 466-67

Infinitives as Adverbs

Infinitives used as adverbs fall into two categories: (1) those that modify a verb; (2) those that modify an adjective.

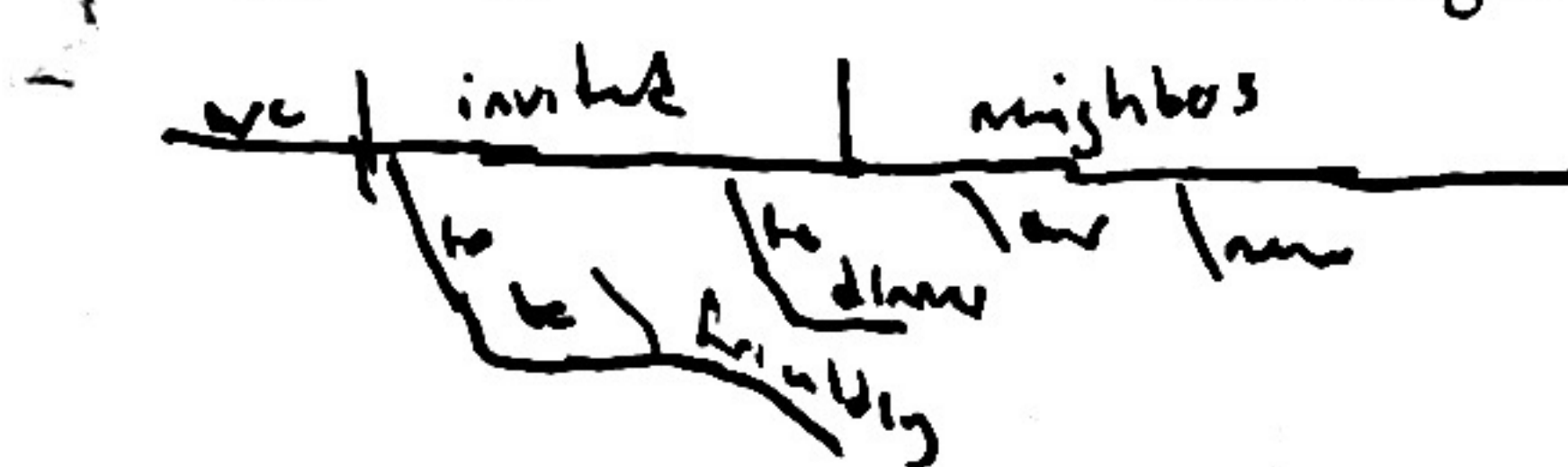
1. An infinitive used as an adverb to modify a verb

Like other adverbs, these infinitives can usually change position in the sentence. When an infinitive used as an adverb begins the sentence, it is followed by a comma (just as an introductory adverb clause is followed by a comma). These infinitives answer the typical

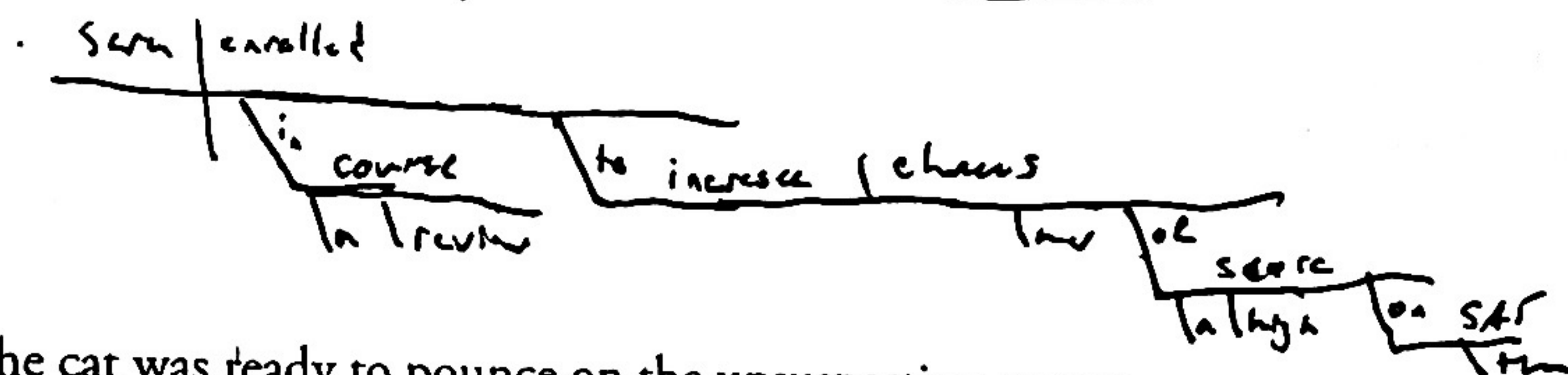
EXERCISE 9.10 *

In the sentences below, underline the infinitive phrases used as adverbs, and then diagram each sentence.

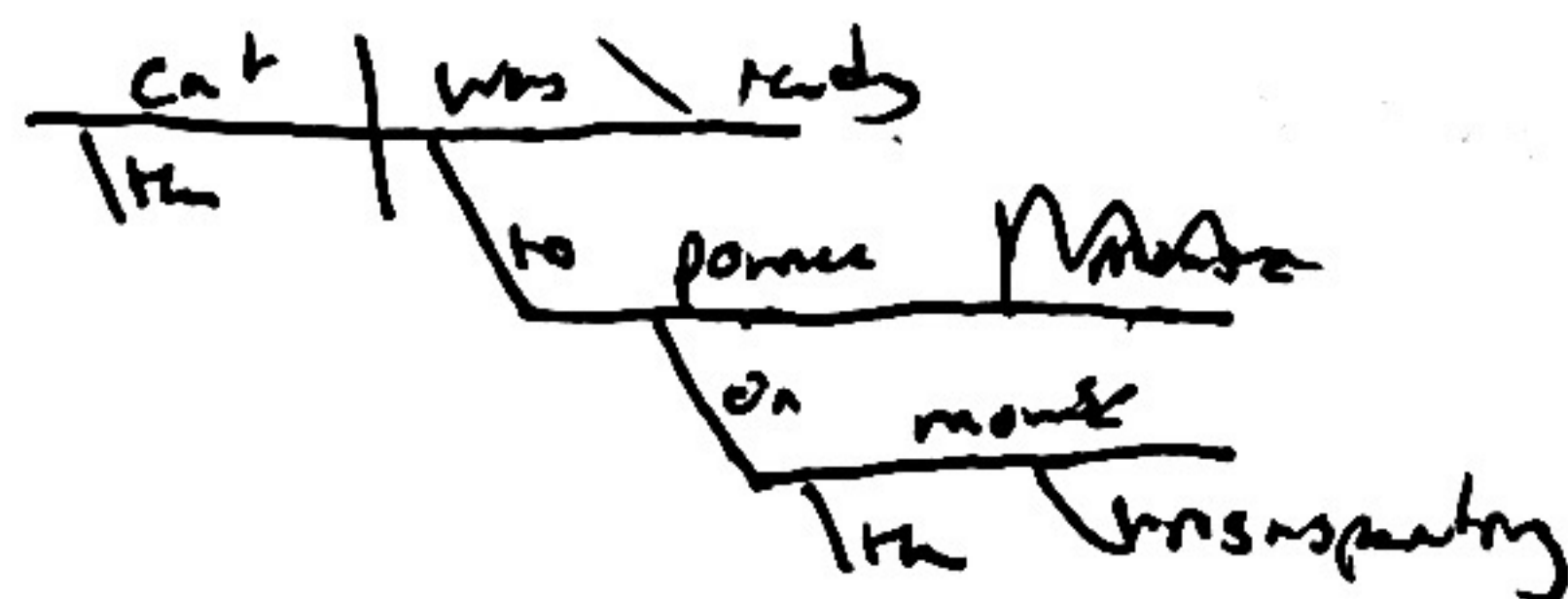
1. To be friendly, we invited our new neighbors to dinner.



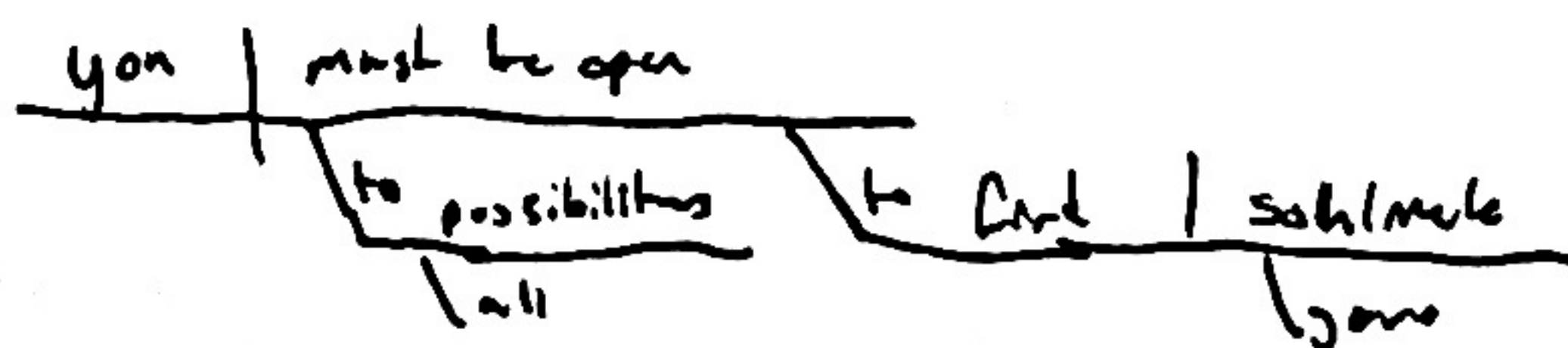
2. Sarah enrolled in a review course to increase her chances of a high score on the SAT.



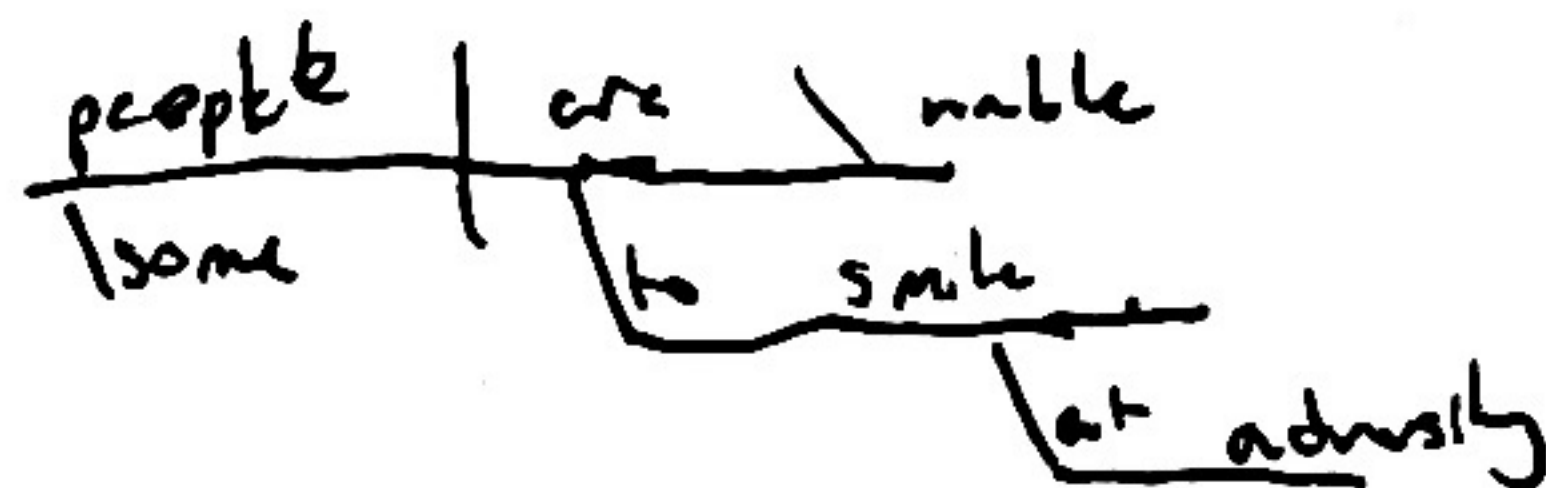
3. The cat was ready to pounce on the unsuspecting mouse.



4. To find your soulmate, you must be open to all possibilities.



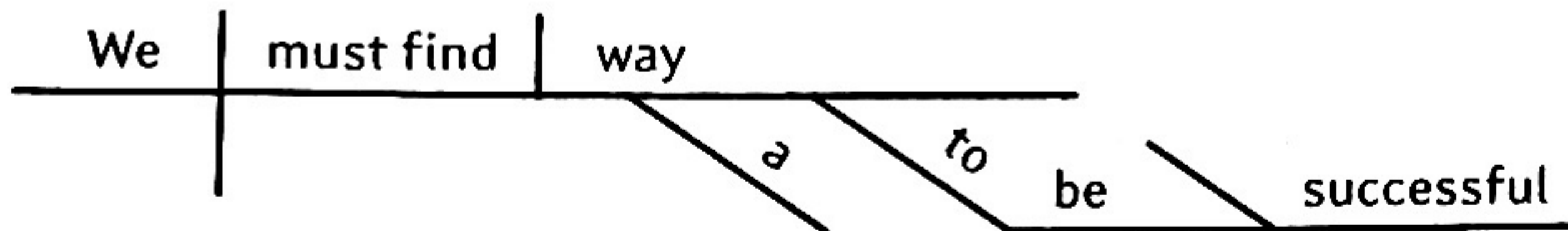
5. Some people are unable to smile at adversity.



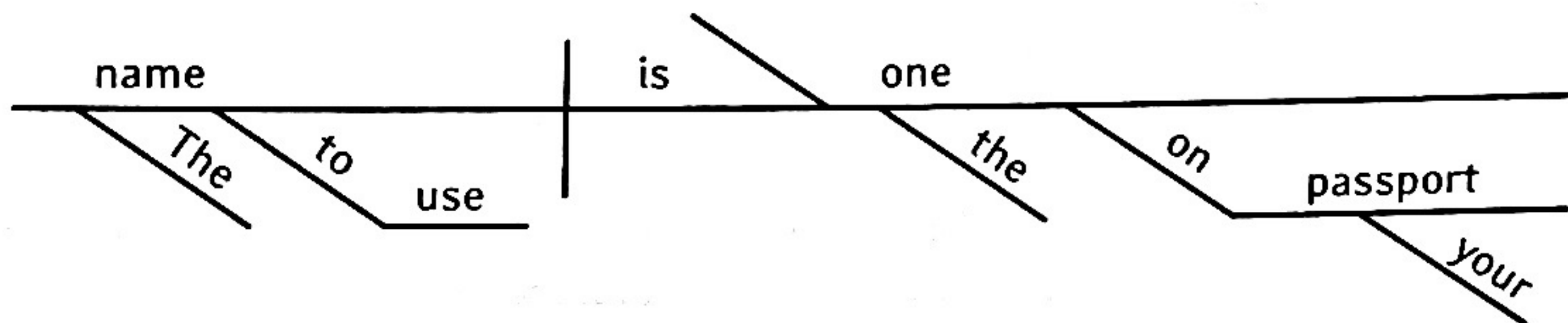
Infinitives as Adjectives

Infinitives used as adjectives do not occur as frequently as infinitives used as nouns or adverbs. The primary way to identify them is to look for an infinitive that immediately follows a noun and modifies it. In the diagram, the infinitive is placed on a prepositional phrase structure underneath the noun it modifies.

We must find a way *to be successful*. (*What kind of way?* “To be successful” is an adjective because it answers this question, modifying the noun.)



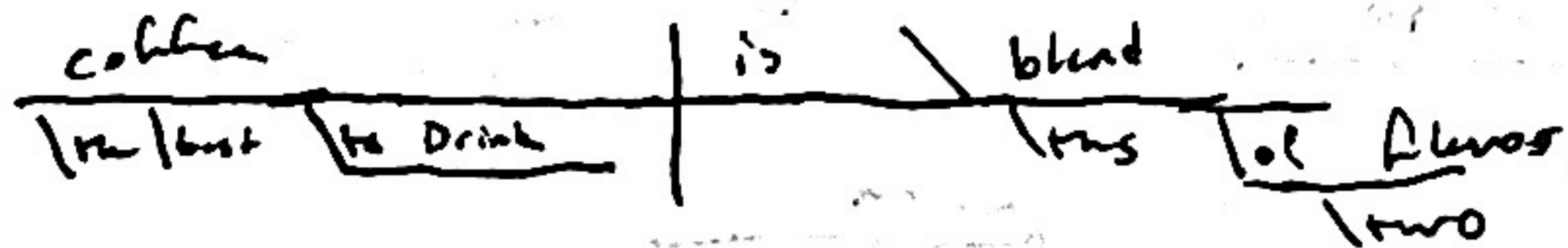
The name *to use* is the one on your passport. (*Which name?* “To use” is an adjective modifying the noun “name.”)



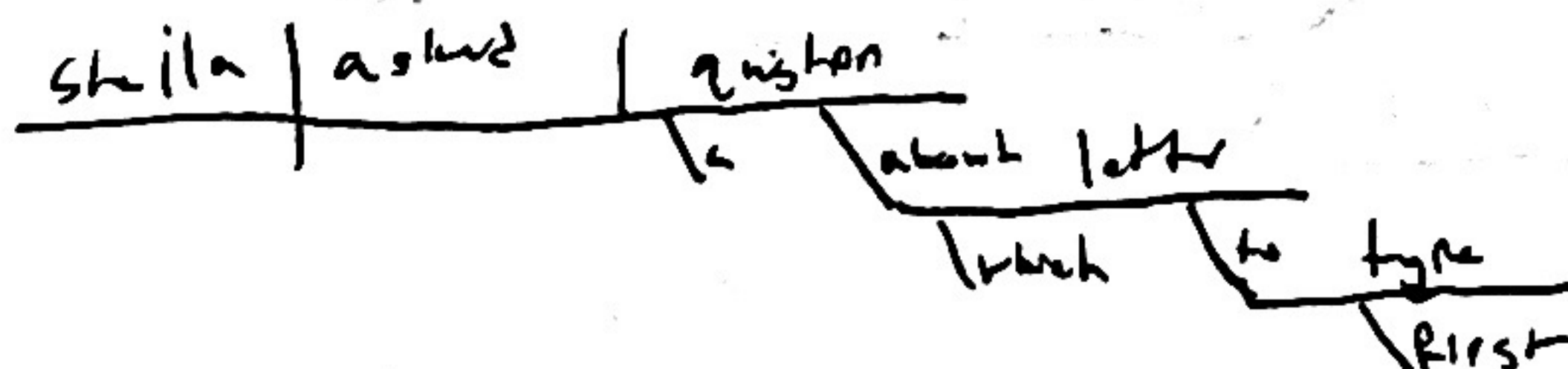
EXERCISE 9.12*

In the sentences below, underline the infinitive phrases used as adjectives, and then diagram the sentences.

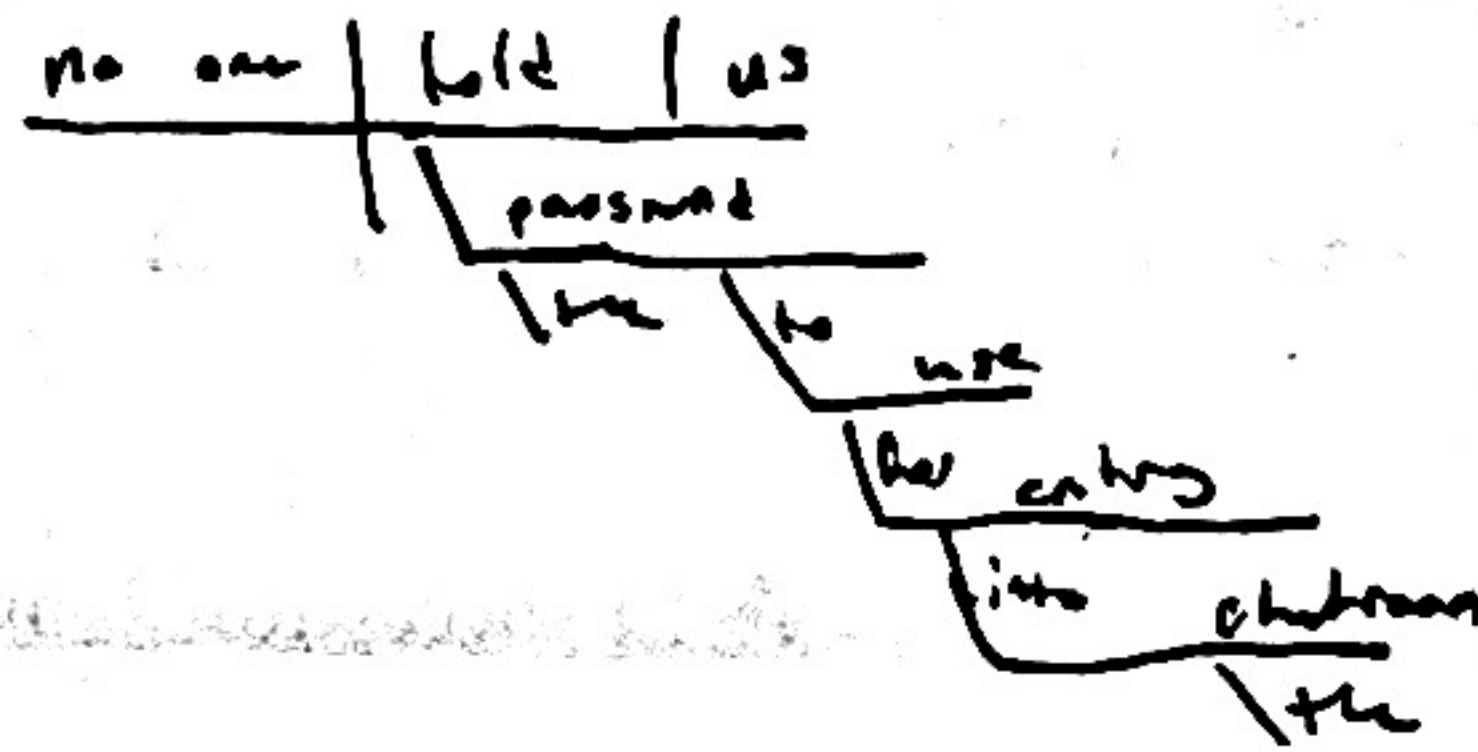
1. The best coffee to drink is this blend of two flavors.



2. Sheila asked a question about which letter to type first.



3. No one told us the password to use for entry into the chatroom.



see answer key, p. 469

Summary of Infinitives Used as Verbals

Infinitive used as noun

Test: can be replaced by a pronoun

Diagram on a pedestal

Infinitive used as adverb

- Modifying a verb

Test: can move without changing meaning; can usually insert "in order to" before the infinitive

Diagram beneath the verb

- Modifying an adjective

Follows and modifies an adjective; cannot move within the sentence without changing meaning

Diagram beneath the adjective it modifies

Infinitive used as adjective

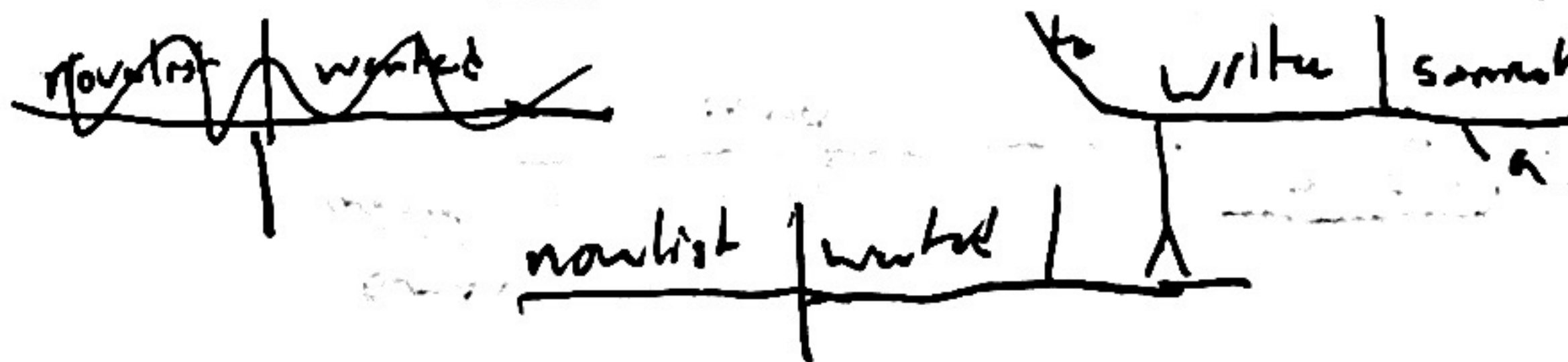
Follows the noun it modifies; cannot move without changing meaning

Diagram beneath the noun it modifies

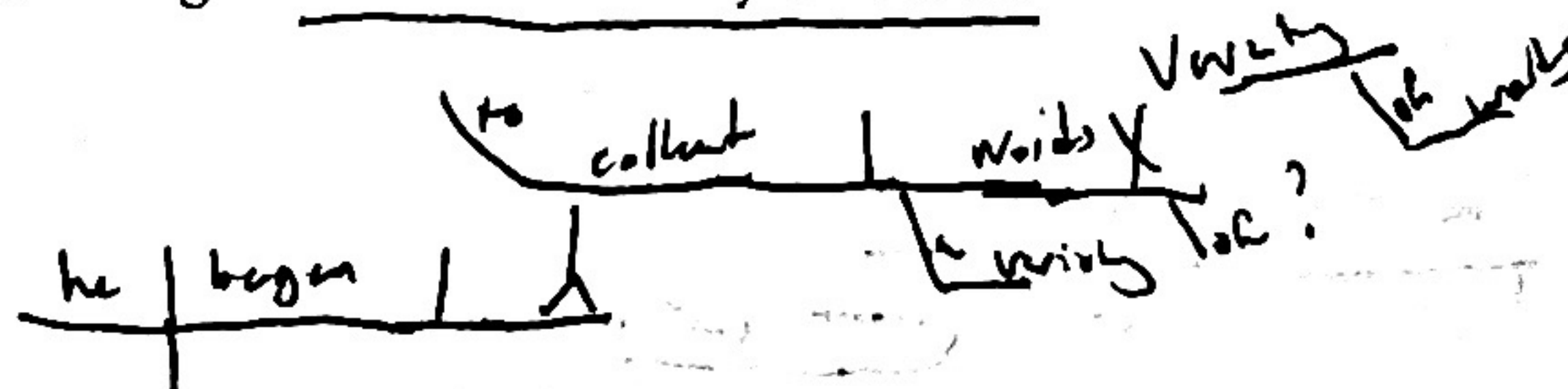
EXERCISE 9.13 ✱

In the sentences below, underline each infinitive phrase and label its function as a noun (N), adverb (ADV), or adjective (ADJ). For extra practice, diagram the sentences.

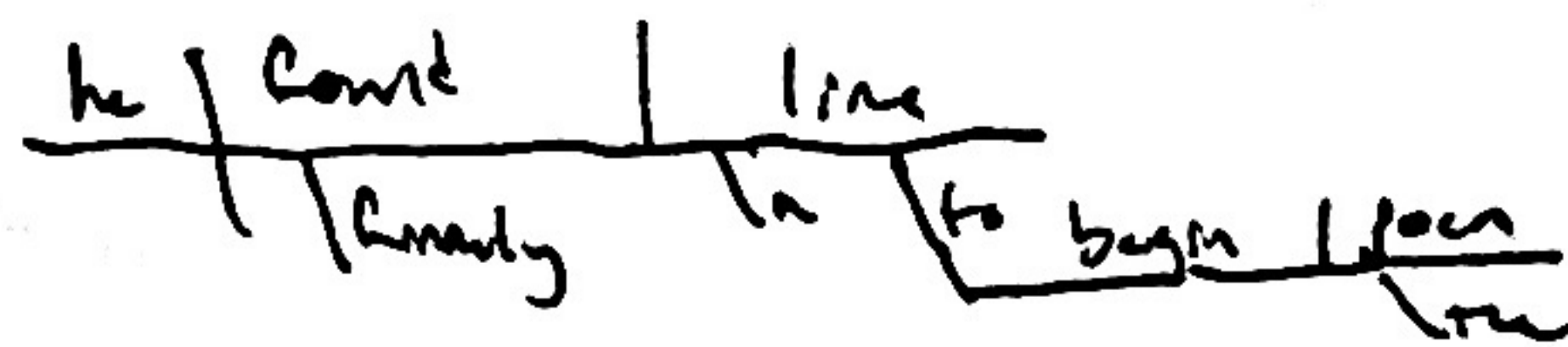
- N 1. The novelist wanted to write a sonnet.



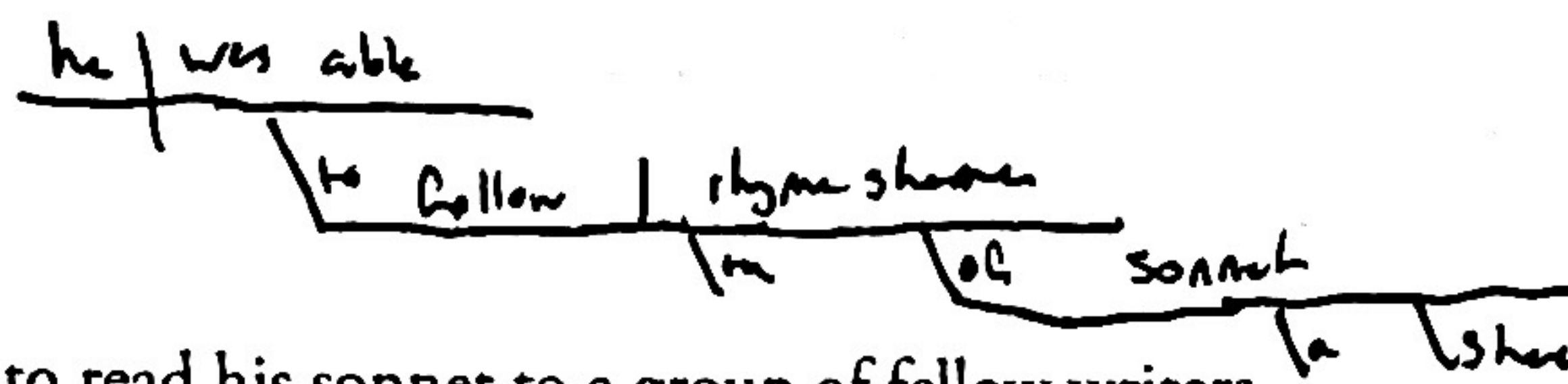
- ADV 2. To start, he began to collect a variety of words.



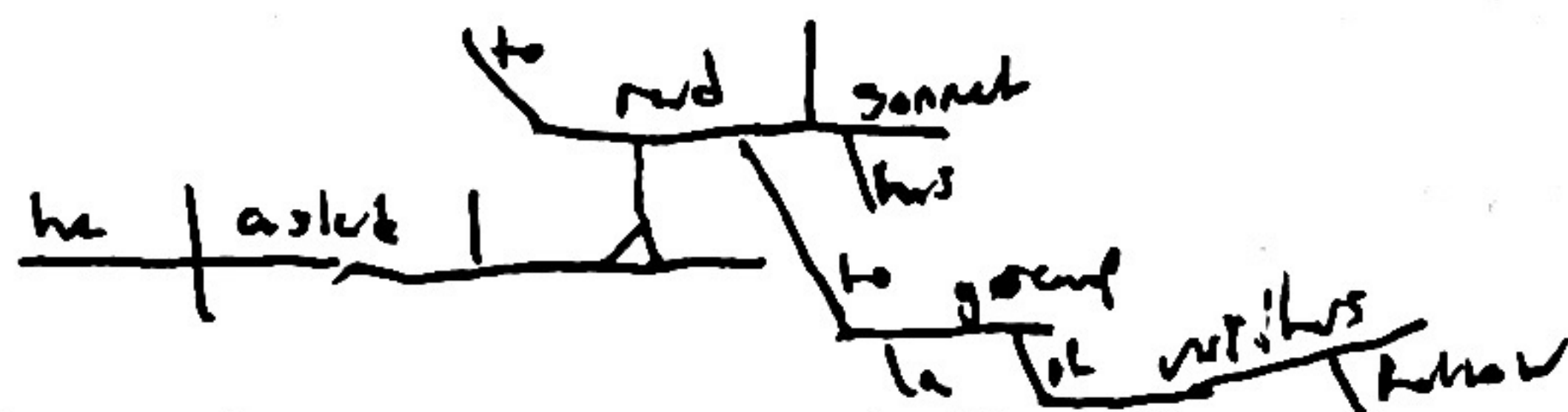
ADJ 3. Finally he found a line to begin the poem.



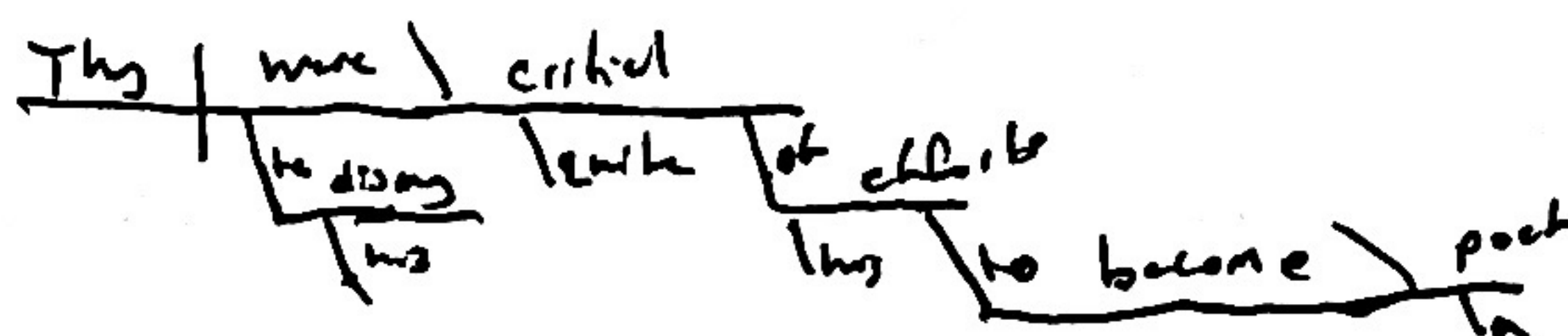
ADV 4. He was able to follow the rhyme scheme of a Shakespearean sonnet.



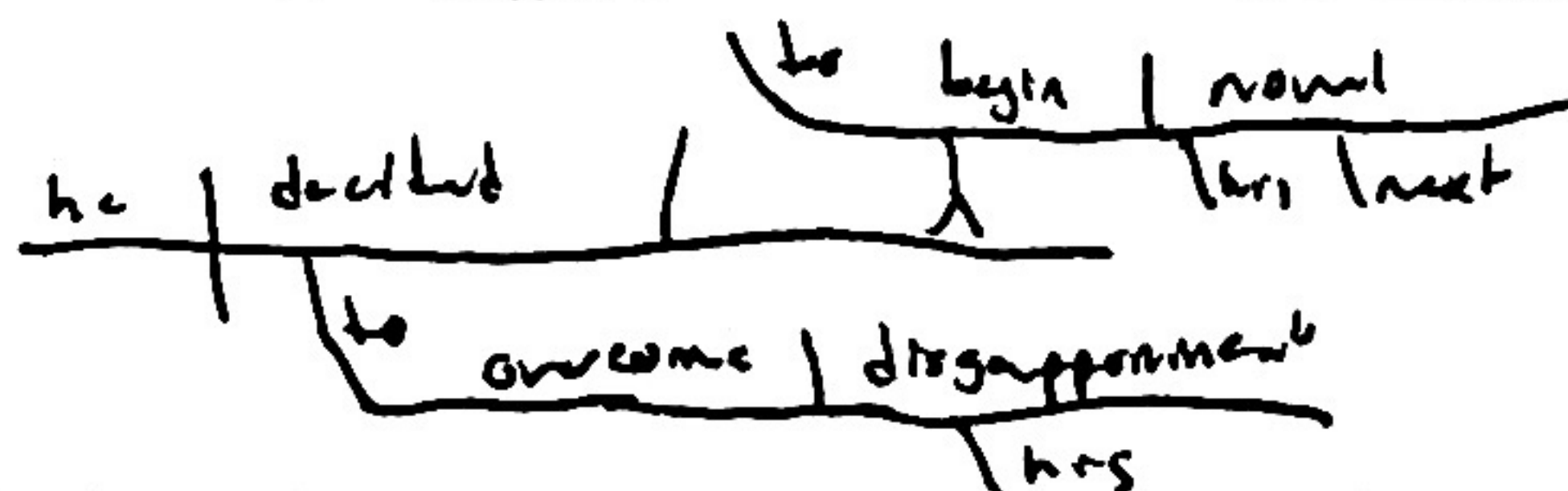
N 5. He asked to read his sonnet to a group of fellow writers.



6. To his dismay, they were quite critical of his efforts to become a poet. ADJ



ADV 7. To overcome his disappointment, he decided to begin his next novel. N



see answer key, pp. 469-70

Complementary Infinitives

English occasionally uses the infinitive idiomatically to complete the meaning of the verb rather than to act as a noun, adverb, or adjective. **An infinitive used to complete the verb is a complementary infinitive.** To identify it, you can first run the usual tests to confirm that the infinitive is *not* fulfilling one of its more typical functions:

A complementary infinitive completes the idea of the verb and is diagrammed as part of the verb on the base line.

1. Can you replace it with a pronoun? If not, it cannot be an infinitive used as a noun.
2. Can you move it or insert "in order to" before the infinitive? Alternatively, does it follow and modify an adjective? If not, then it cannot be an infinitive used as an adverb.
3. Does it follow and modify a noun? If not, then it cannot be an infinitive used as an adjective.

Usage Alert: Split Infinitives

Since an infinitive consists of “to + verb,” a split infinitive occurs when one or more words separate these two elements, as in “to *quickly* speak” or “to *carefully* search.” Although in general you should avoid splitting an infinitive, an even better rule is to phrase sentences so that they sound natural. If necessary, then, you may split an infinitive.

EXERCISE 9.16 *

Rephrase the following sentences to avoid split infinitives.

1. It is preferable to split an infinitive than to unnecessarily contort a sentence.

It is preferable to split an infinitive than to contort a
sentence unnecessarily.

2. Grammarians can demonstrate how to successfully rephrase sentences.

Grammarians can demonstrate how to rephrase sentences successfully

3. To quickly and easily write smooth sentences is a skill acquired by frequent practice.

To write smooth sentences quickly and easily is a skill acquired
by frequent practice.

see answer key, p. 472

SENTENCE PATTERNS AND VERBALS

Because verbals are formed from verbs and can be followed by objects or complements, we can determine a sentence pattern number for each verbal phrase by following these steps:

1. Isolate the verbal phrase and determine if it is an infinitive, a gerund, or a participle.
2. Determine the category of the main verb in the verbal phrase. Is it a *be* verb, a linking verb, an intransitive verb, or a transitive verb?
3. Determine what, if anything, follows the verb in the verbal phrase. Is it a complement after a *be* or linking verb or an object after a transitive verb? If you find an object, is there an indirect object or objective complement as well?
4. Once you have identified these elements in the verbal phrase, you can determine the sentence pattern number for the verbal phrase.