

A **complete sentence** consists of a **complete subject** and a **complete predicate**. A **sentence fragment** does not express a complete thought. It may be missing a subject, predicate, or both.

complete subject
complete predicate
 The jazz orchestra played a beautiful piece of music.

Directions: *Read this letter to the editor and correct any errors that you find. (There are four sentence fragment errors.)*

To the Editor:

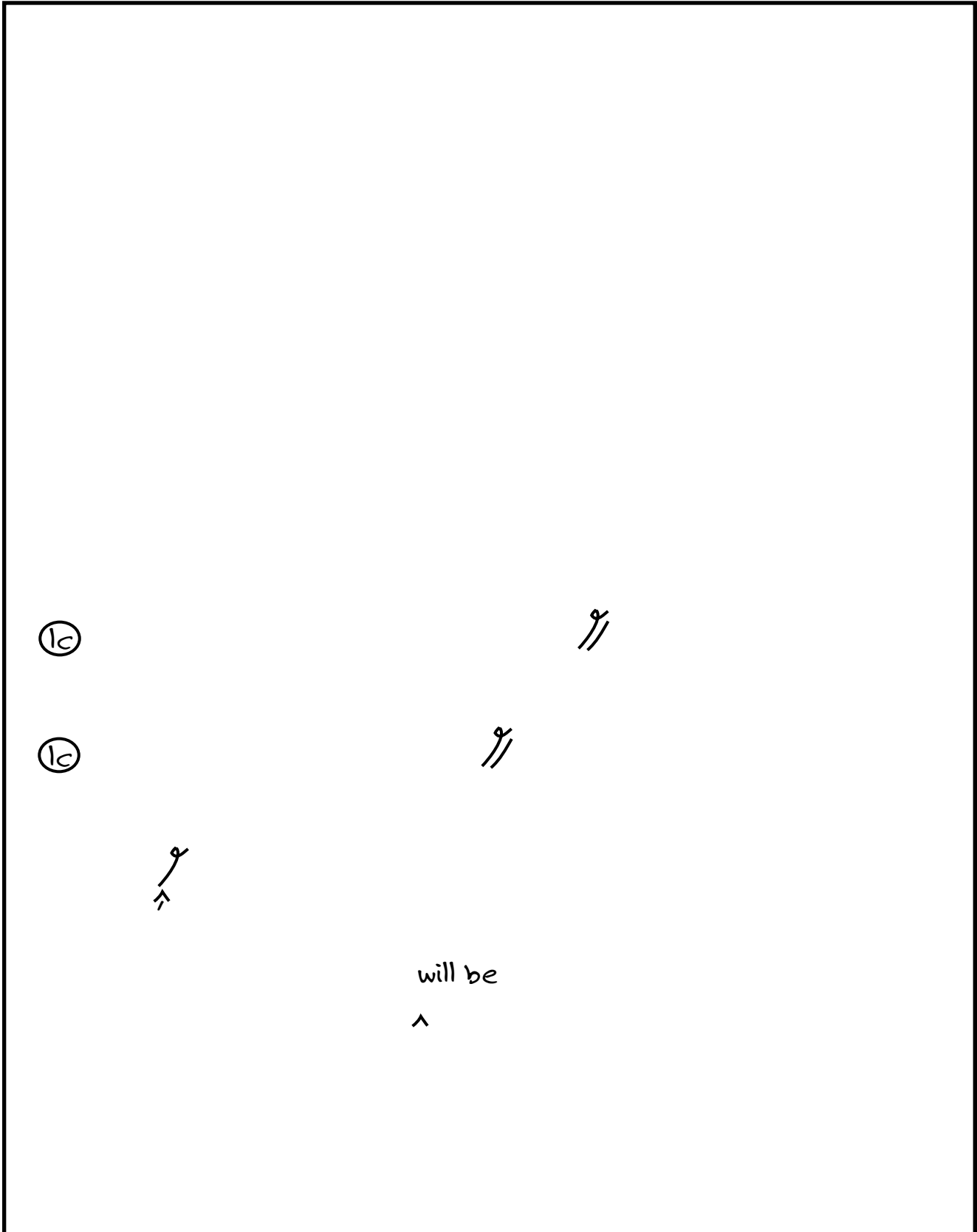
I am writing to invite all the students at Lincoln Middle School to join the school choir. There are many reasons to join the choir.

First, singing for other people. Is lots of fun. Last year, the choir sang at the mall and for the residents of the local senior center. The audiences. Really appreciated our singing. Second, you can learn a lot about music. When I joined the choir. I didn't know a quarter note from a quart of milk. Now, I can read music.

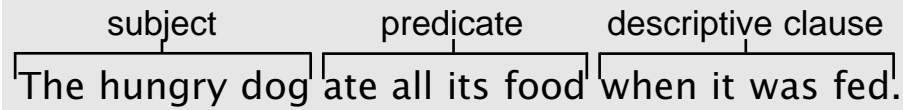
Our first rehearsal on Saturday. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Max Warshawski



One type of **sentence fragment** occurs when a descriptive clause is separated from the simple sentence that it describes.

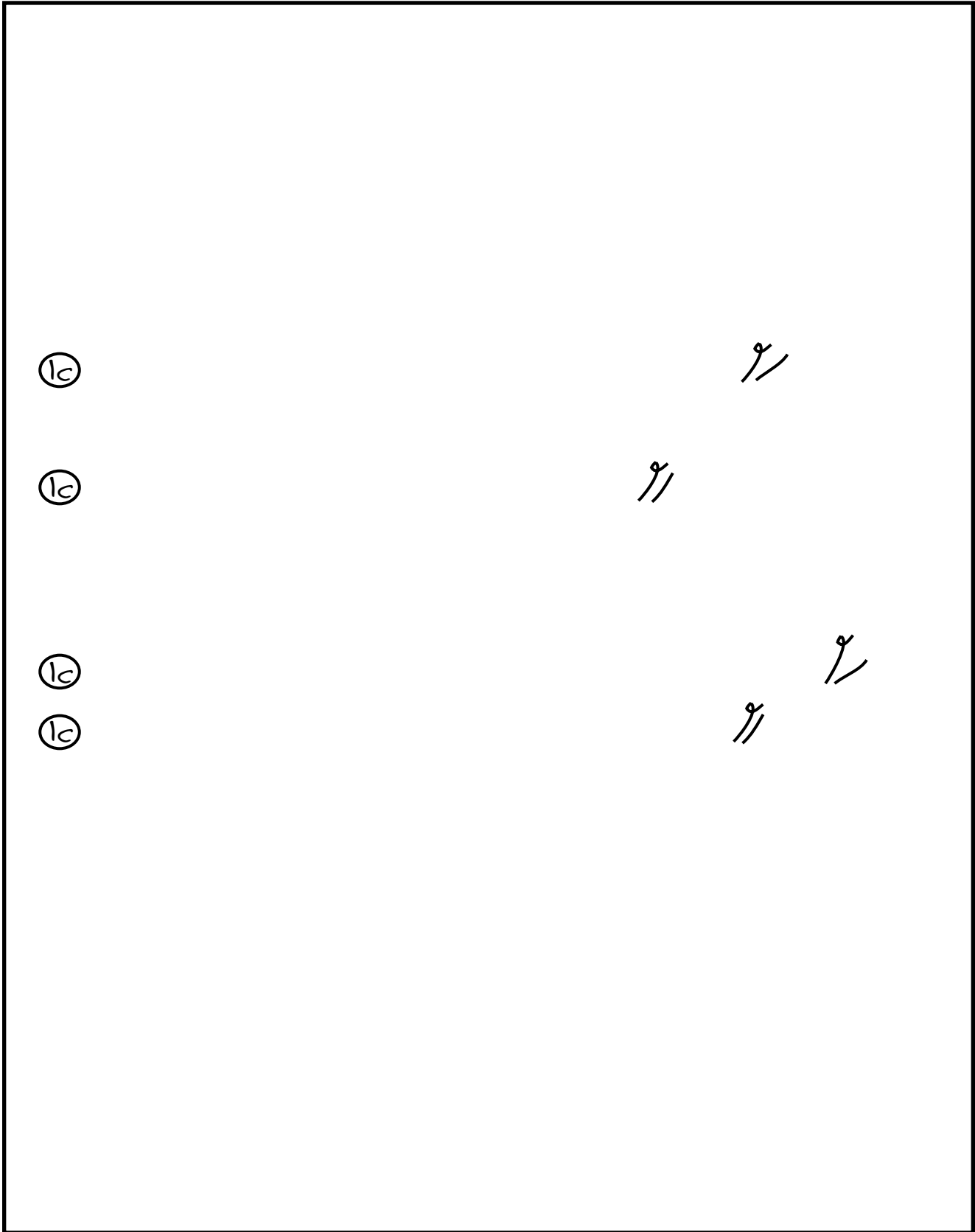


Directions: *Read this flyer and correct any errors that you find. (There are four sentence fragment errors.)*

What do you do with your pets and plants. When you go out of town? Do you trust them to a total stranger? You should call Rafael's House-sitting Service. Before you go away. I will take care of your house and put your mind at ease.

I am a responsible seventh grader who loves animals and plants. I will feed your pet and water your garden. While you are on vacation. Plus, I can mow your lawn. If the grass gets too tall.

My prices are very reasonable. I am available throughout the summer. You can reach me at 555-3754.



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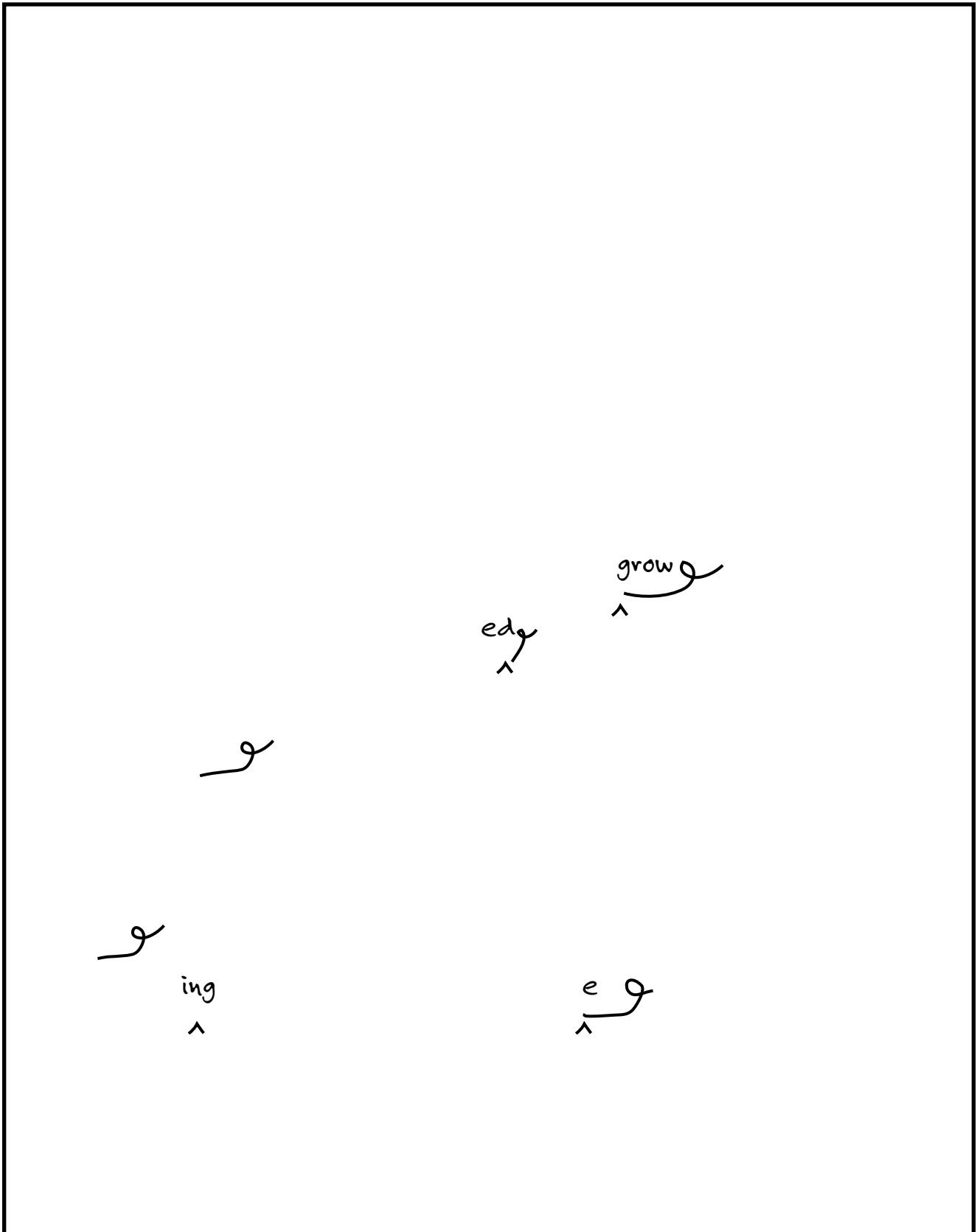
The **tense** of the verb shows when an action occurs. The two most common tenses are **present** and **past**. Helping verbs and main verbs form two other important tenses: **future** and **perfect**. All of these tenses have **progressive** forms.

Present: studies **Present progressive:** is studying
Past: studied **Past progressive:** was studying
Future: will study **Future progressive:** will be studying
Perfect: has studied

Directions: *Read this essay and correct any errors you find. (There are six mistakes in consistent verb tense.)*

Last summer I visited my cousins in Illinois. My aunt and uncle are farmers, and every year they grew corn. Because I live in a city, country life seems a bit strange that summer. For one thing, everything was totally quiet at night. Also, my cousins are live miles from their nearest neighbor.

My aunt and uncle always work hard. Each spring they plow the ground and plant seeds. In the summer, they was worry constantly about the weather. Soon they will be harvest the corn. Then they will storing the grain and sell it later.



A **helping verb** is a verb that helps the main verb tell about an action or make a statement. A **verb phrase** consists of one or more helping verbs followed by a main verb. The helping verb *have* makes a verb phrase with the past participle of the main verb.

verb phrase—present singular

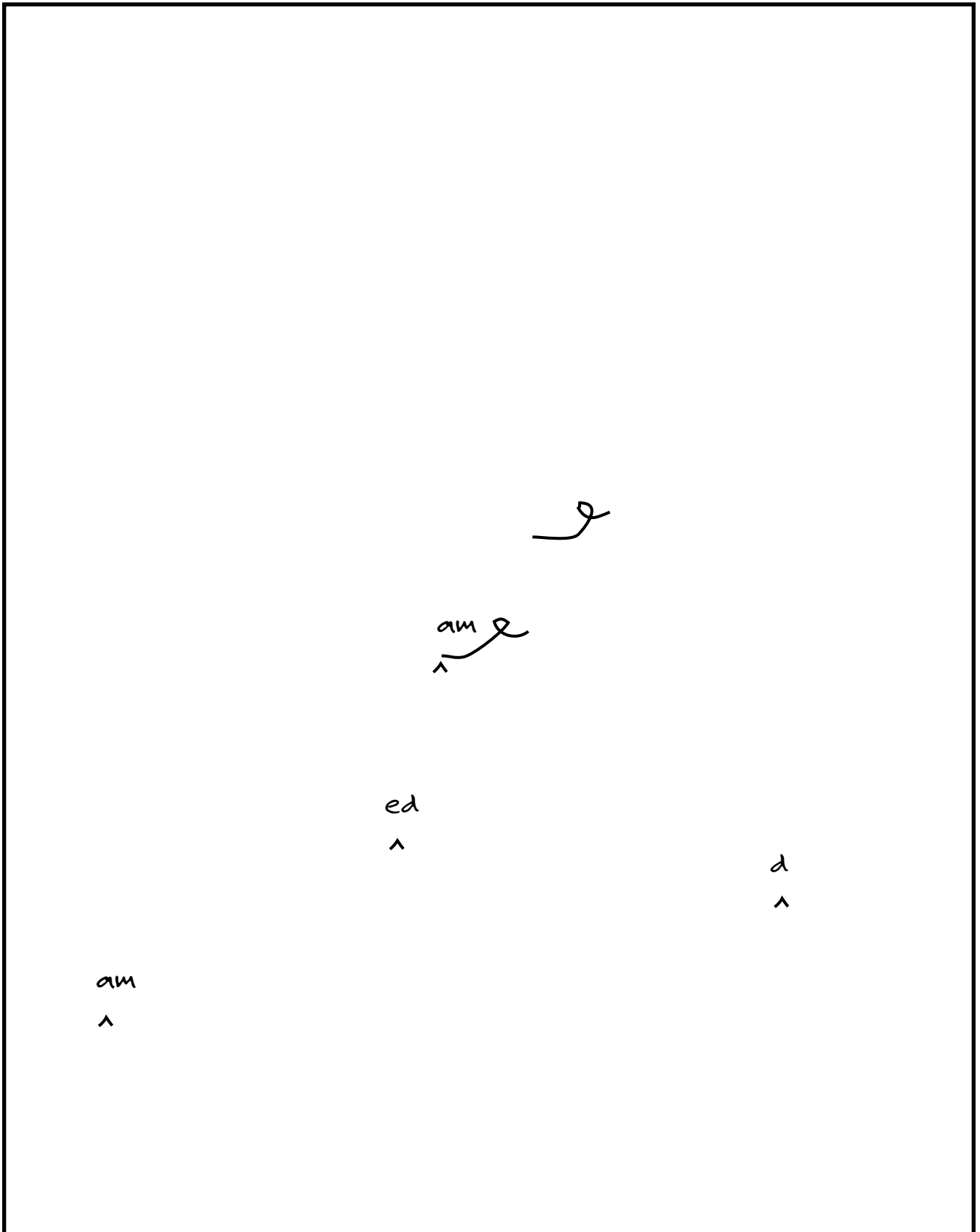
Alannis is writing an article for the school newspaper.

verb phrase—past singular

She has interviewed several people for her article.

Directions: *Read this newsletter article and correct any errors you find. (There are five helping verb phrase errors.)*

Too many seventh graders are complain about feeling bored. There is no reason to be bored when there is so much to do in the community. I be talking about volunteering to work with older people. For instance, I know of several older people who need help carrying groceries. I have spoken to others who have want someone to trim their lawns. Some older people would enjoy company. They have live interesting lives and would love to share their experiences. Right now, I writing an essay about one older woman I have met. She lived through the civil rights movement in the South, and her stories are fascinating.



Subject pronouns and **object pronouns** replace one or more nouns and the words that describe those nouns. The pronoun must agree with its **antecedent** in number and gender.

Subject pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, they

Object pronouns: me, you, him, her, it, us, them

antecedent
pronoun

 Nikki and Darren enjoy bicycling. They even rode in a race.

Directions: *Read this story and correct any errors that you find. (There are six pronoun errors.)*

Me was walking along one day with my brother, Joe. Us were just enjoying the sunshine when I noticed something shiny on the ground.

“Hey! What’s that? It looks like gold,” I said to my brother.

I bent over and picked up a rock. They was black with hundreds of sparkling bits.

“Do you think this is real gold?” I asked Joe as I handed it to he.

Joe looked at the rock carefully. He tested it with his thumbnail and broke a bit off. Then Joe tossed him back onto the ground and said, “They’re gold all right—fool’s gold.”

EDITING AND PROOFREADING TRANSPARENCY OVERLAY 5

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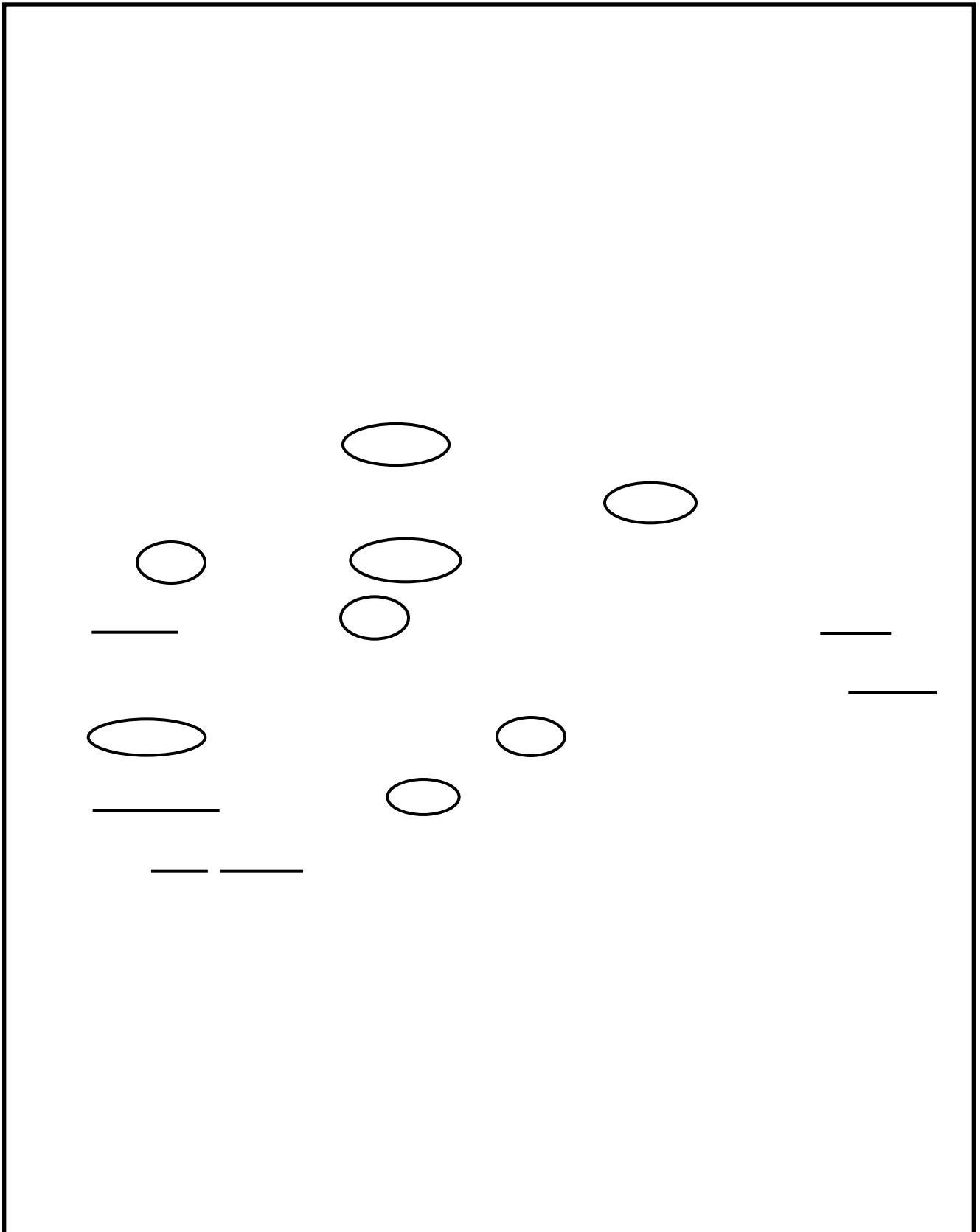
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An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun. An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or an adverb. Adverbs usually end in *-ly*.

The ^{adjective} yellow ball floated ^{adverb} peacefully on the ^{adjective} calm water.

Directions: *Read this essay. Circle all the adjectives and underline all the adverbs. (There are eight adjectives and six adverbs.)*

My idea of a perfect vacation would be a month at the beach. I would love to walk along the sandy shore searching for pink shells and smooth stones. The water would splash crazily around my bare feet, and the sun would hang lazily in the sky. All my friends would be with me, too. After an almost carefree day swimming in the cool ocean, we would drift aimlessly back to our cozy cottage where we would watch the sun very slowly slip below the horizon.



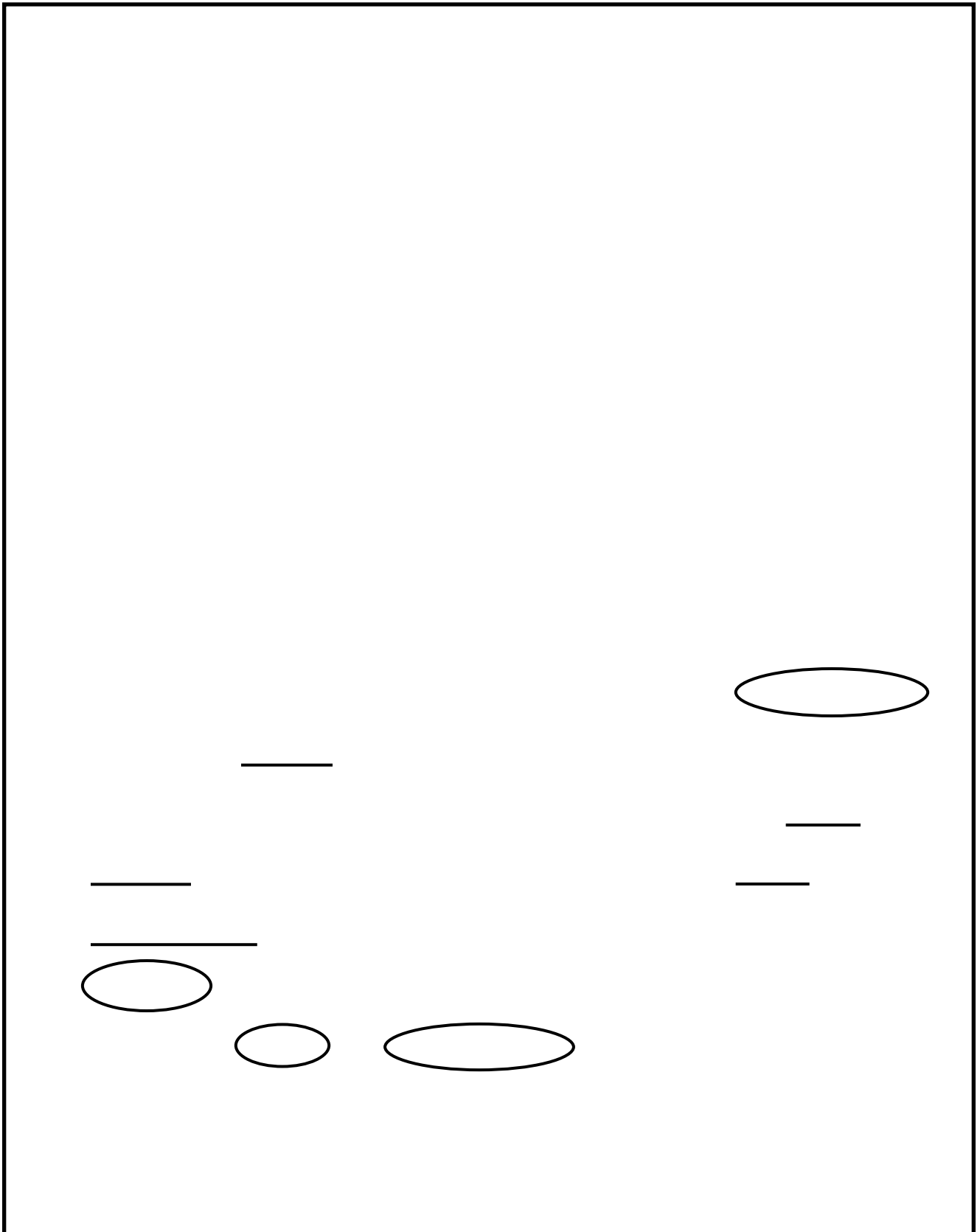
A **comparative adjective** is used to compare two things. Comparative adjectives are formed by adding *-er* to adjectives or by adding the word *more* or *less*. A **superlative adjective** is used to compare three or more things. Superlatives are formed by adding *-est* to an adjective or by adding the word *most* or *least*.

Comparative adjectives: smaller, more challenging

Superlative adjectives: oldest, least dangerous

Directions: *Read this paragraph. Underline the comparative adjectives and circle the superlative adjectives. (There are three comparative adjectives and four superlative adjectives.)*

During the first act, clowns juggled orange balls and bowling pins. Then they rode around on one-wheeled bicycles. In my opinion, riding a unicycle is the most difficult stunt. It is trickier than tossing balls into the air. The clowns were followed by a group of singers. They seemed more relaxed than the clowns, and their singing was more entertaining than the clowns' antics. The group sang the loveliest song I have ever heard. Later, I learned that it was one of the oldest and most famous songs ever written.

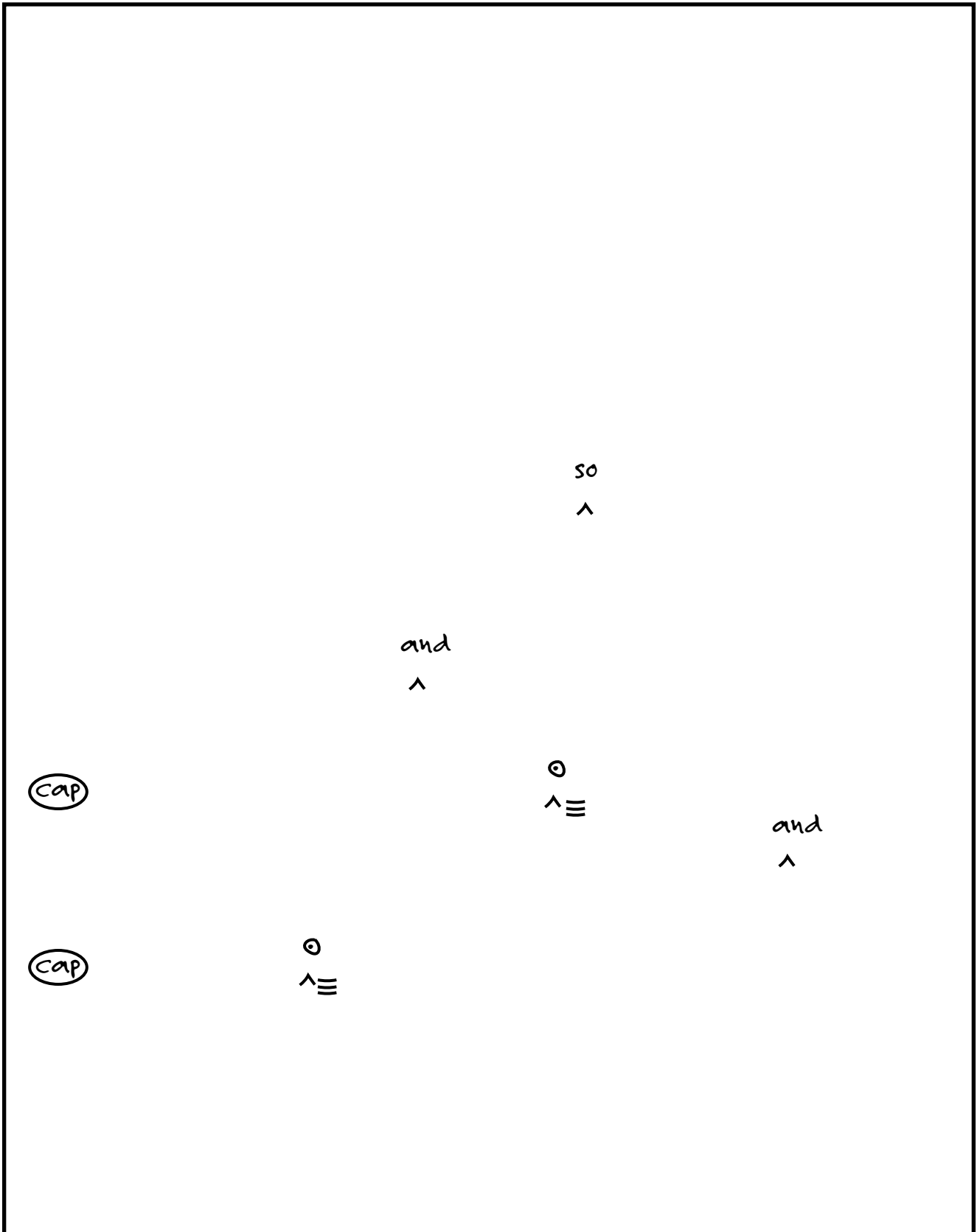


A **run-on sentence** is two or more sentences incorrectly written as one. One type of run-on is a sentence that contains two simple sentences joined by only a comma.

Albert dribbled the ball down the court, ^{and} he tossed it into the basket.

Directions: *Read this report and correct any errors that you find. (There are five run-on sentences.)*

Writer Gary Paulsen was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1939. His father was in the army, the family moved around a lot when Paulsen was young. Because he was often the new kid in town, Paulsen was shy and lonely. One day a librarian gave him a library card, he discovered a lifelong love of books. As an adult, Paulsen has had many jobs, including teacher, farmer, and dogsled racer, he was always writing. He prefers to write about things he knows and enjoys, several of his books have focused on dogsled racing. His most popular book is *Hatchet*, it is the story of a boy stranded in the Canadian wilderness.



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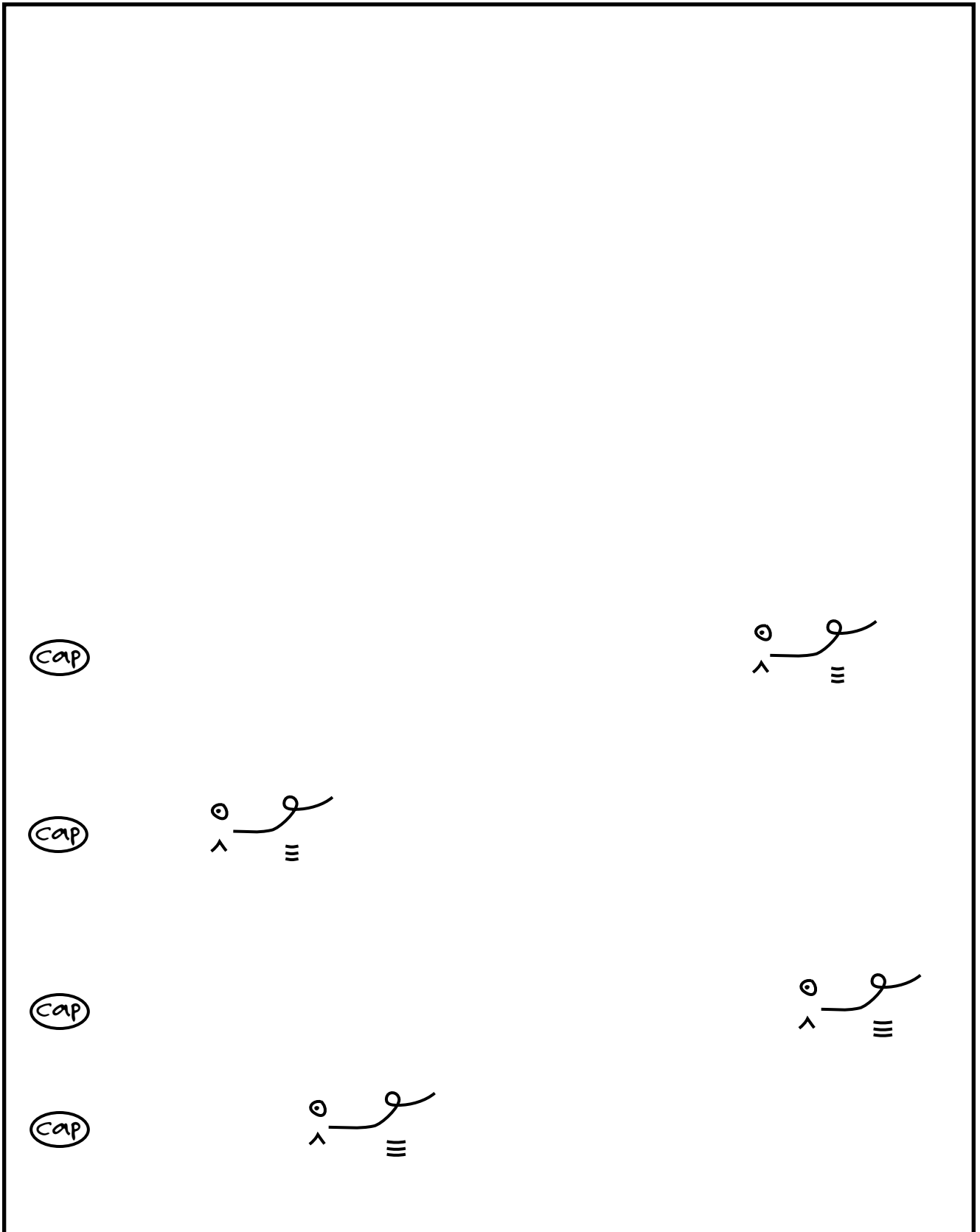
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Another type of **run-on sentence** is formed when too many independent clauses are strung together with **coordinating conjunctions**.

When my great-grandmother turned one hundred, our entire family wanted to throw a party for her, ~~and~~ each of us brought her a cupcake, so you can imagine how many cupcakes she had that day!

Directions: *Read this report and correct any errors you find. (There are four run-on sentences.)*

The world's oldest and deepest lake is Lake Baikal in Russia. It is 25 million years old, and it holds more water than all the Great Lakes in the United States combined, and it contains about one-fifth of all the freshwater in the world. The lake is more than a mile deep, and it has a 1,200-mile shoreline, but it is in one of the coldest areas of the world, so it is usually covered with ice up to three feet thick in the winter. The ice is so thick that trucks can drive on it, and they do because the roads are covered with snow and ice, but even though few tourists come to visit the lake, Russians consider it a sacred place, and they call it "The Pearl of Siberia."



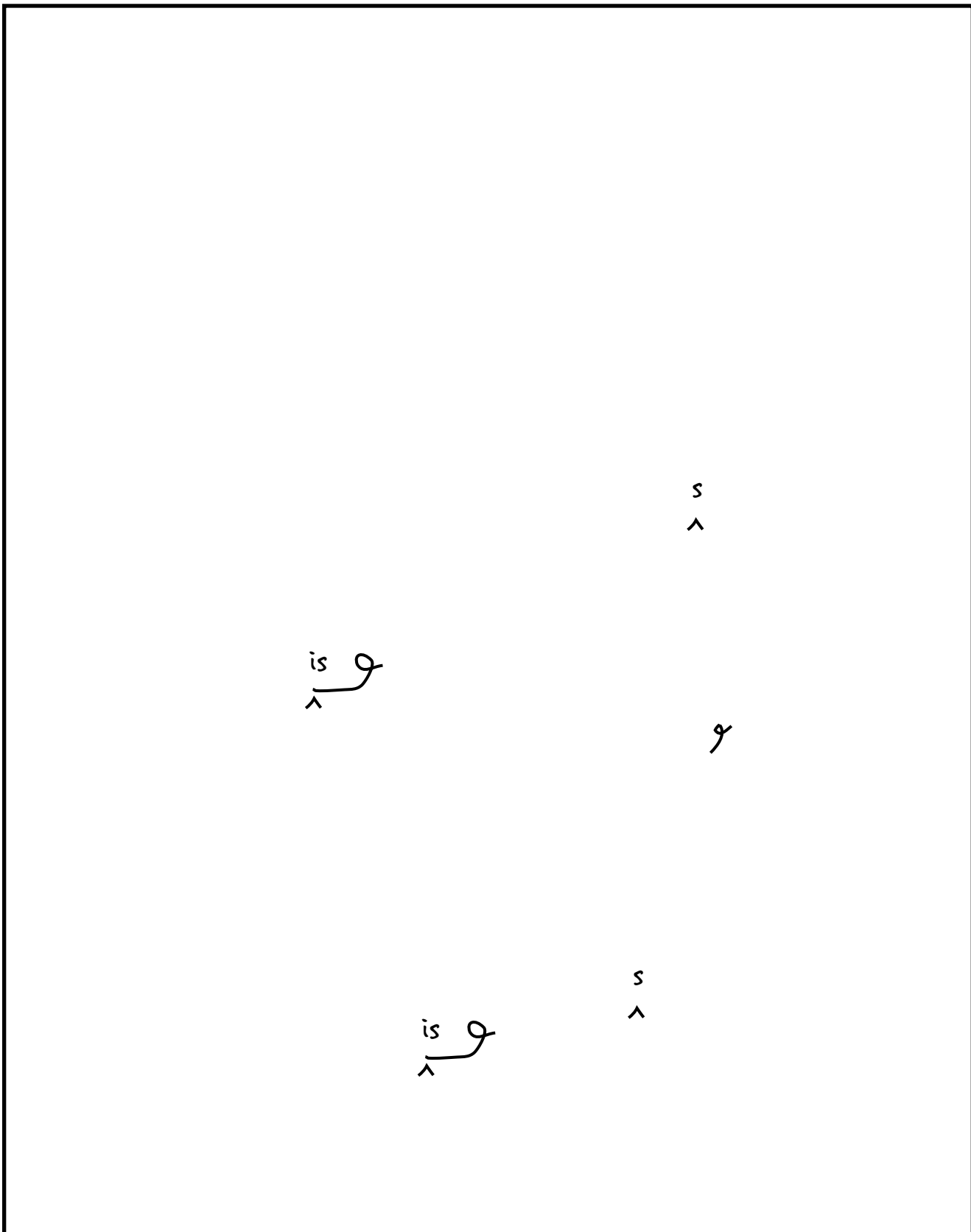
Subject-verb agreement means that singular nouns require singular verb forms, and plural nouns require plural verb forms. When a clause or phrase separates the subject of the sentence from the verb, the verb should still agree with the subject.

✓ Regina, who enjoys movies, buys her tickets in advance.

Directions: *Read these minutes of a student council meeting and correct any errors that you find. (There are five errors in subject-verb agreement.)*

Minutes of the Student Council Meeting March 5

- Steve Wiggins, the vice-president, suggest that the council sponsor a contest for improving the appearance of our school. His idea of painting a mural on the cafeteria walls, which need to be repainted, are met with approval from council members. Steve, Maia Jones, and Ramone Martinez offers to run the contest.
- Council members vote in support of planting a tree in honor of Mr. Baker, who is retiring.
- Representative Chris Begley announce the success of last week's bake sale. "There are a chance that we will meet our fund-raising goals," he said, "so we will be able to buy computer equipment for the school."

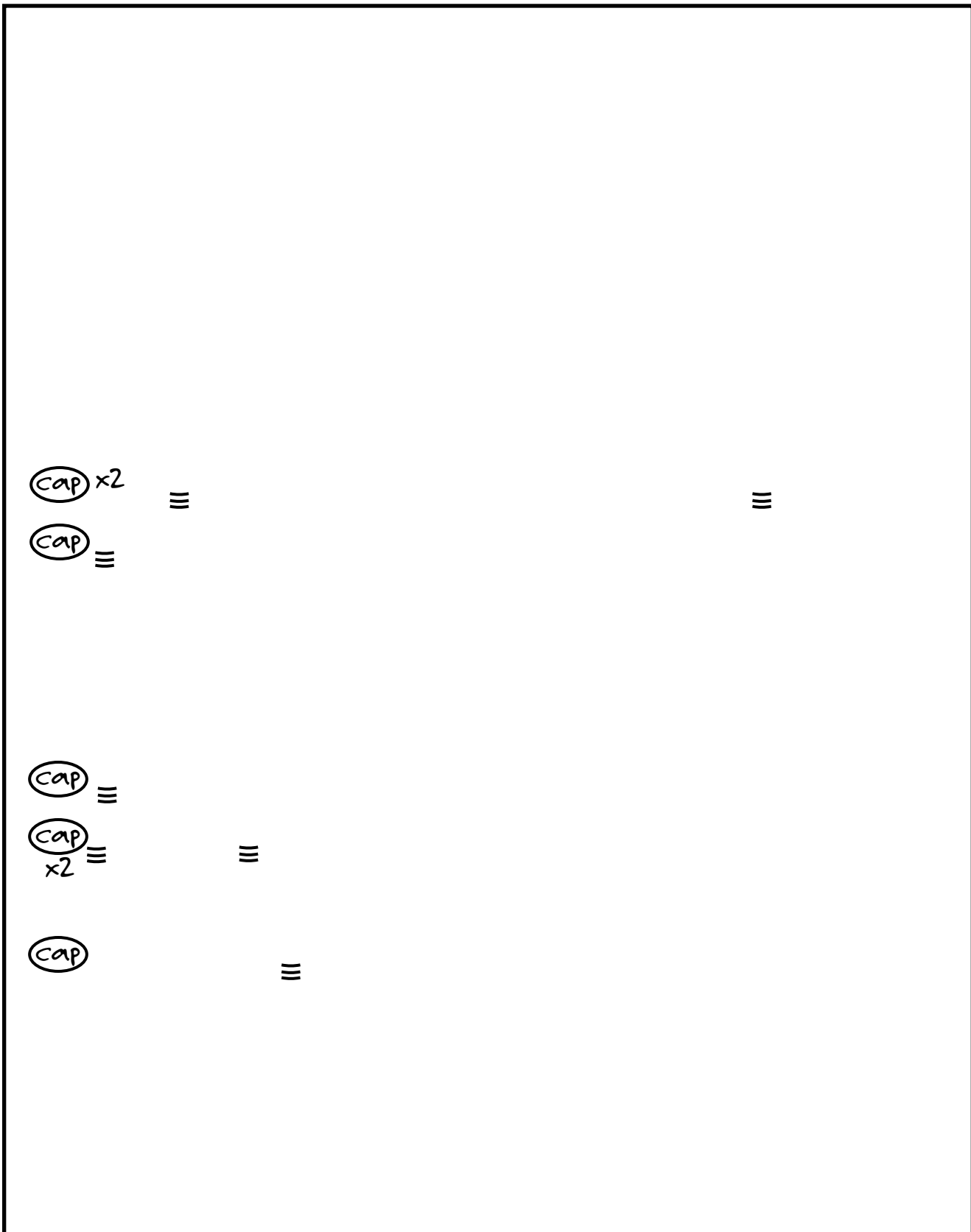


Capitalize all proper nouns, including names, the days of the week, and the months of the year. The first word of a sentence, including the first word of a sentence that appears in quotation marks, should also be **capitalized**.

On Monday, April 5, Tyrone will give a report on folk tales. He announced, "Prepare to be amazed by my report."

Directions: *Read this report and correct any errors that you find. (There are seven capitalization errors.)*

once upon a time there were two brothers, jakob and wilhelm Grimm. They lived in the early 1800s in Germany. One day, the brothers realized that the wonderful stories they had heard as children had never been written down. They were afraid that someday people might forget stories such as "rumplestiltskin" or "Cinderella." So, the Grimms traveled from january to december throughout the country to find people who knew the traditional tales. The tales were told to them by older people. when the brothers had collected enough tales, they published the stories. The stories were extremely popular then and now.



In a sentence with a series of three or more items, a **comma** is placed after each item except for the item after the conjunction. Sentences that list only two items require a conjunction, but not a comma.

Monroe and Alex often play video games, watch movies, or study together.

Directions: *Read this paragraph and correct any errors that you find. (There are five errors.)*

The town of Bloomsville was founded in the mid-1800s. People settled here because the area had good farm land, a railroad line and a mild climate. Settlers came from Canada the east coast and Europe. As a result, our culture here is varied and rich.

Today in Bloomsville there are all sorts of things to do. Tourists can shop at fine stores, or ride on our excellent bicycle trails. For the more daring, we have an indoor rock-climbing gym a water park, and a great zoo.

