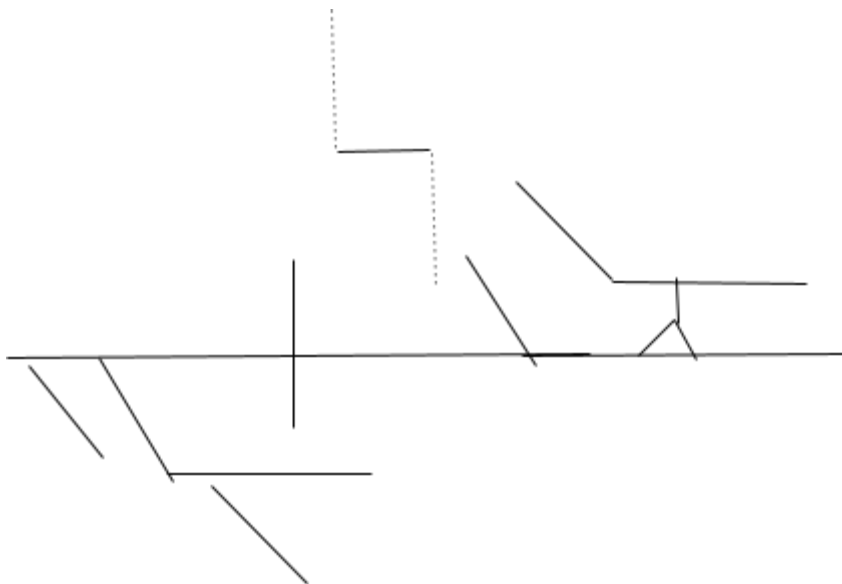
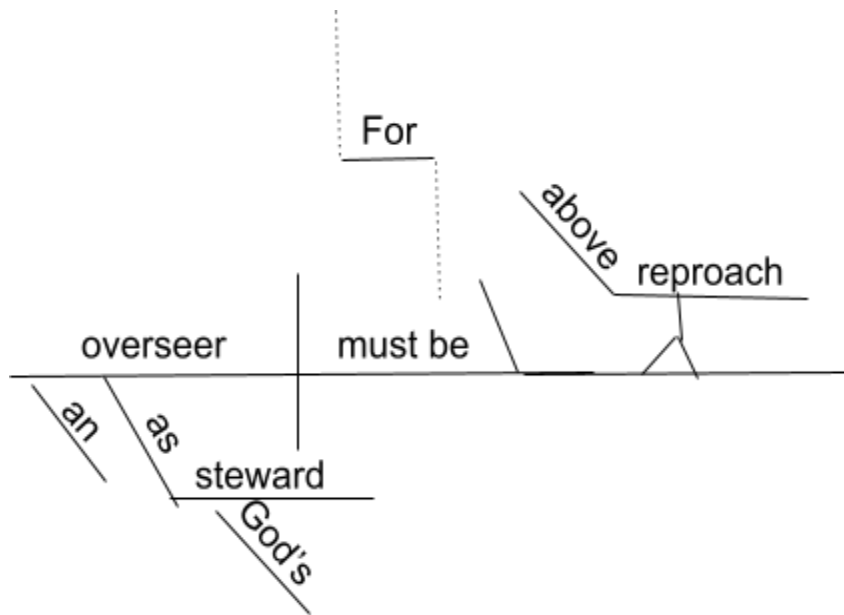


“For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” Titus 3:7-9 ESV

Beginning with the first sentence, who or what must be above reproach? _____

Diagram the first sentence. The word “for” is a conjunction connected this sentence with the previous sentence.





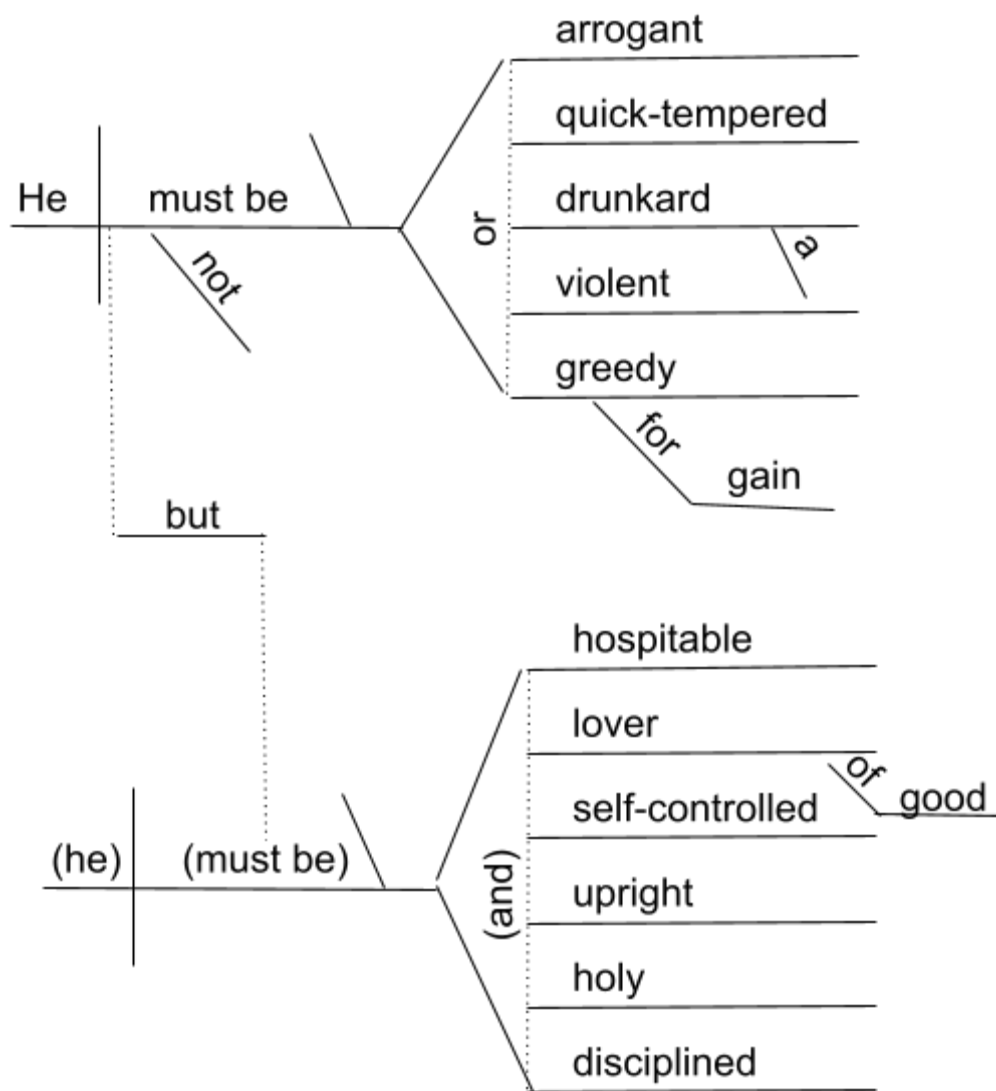
"He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined."

Make two lists below. Label with PN (predicate nominative) for nouns or noun phrases and PA (predicate adjective) for adjectives or adjective phrases.

He must not be

He (must be)

Now, take those lists and put it in diagram form. I added a few words in parenthesis that were implied to make it work.



He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (v 1:9)

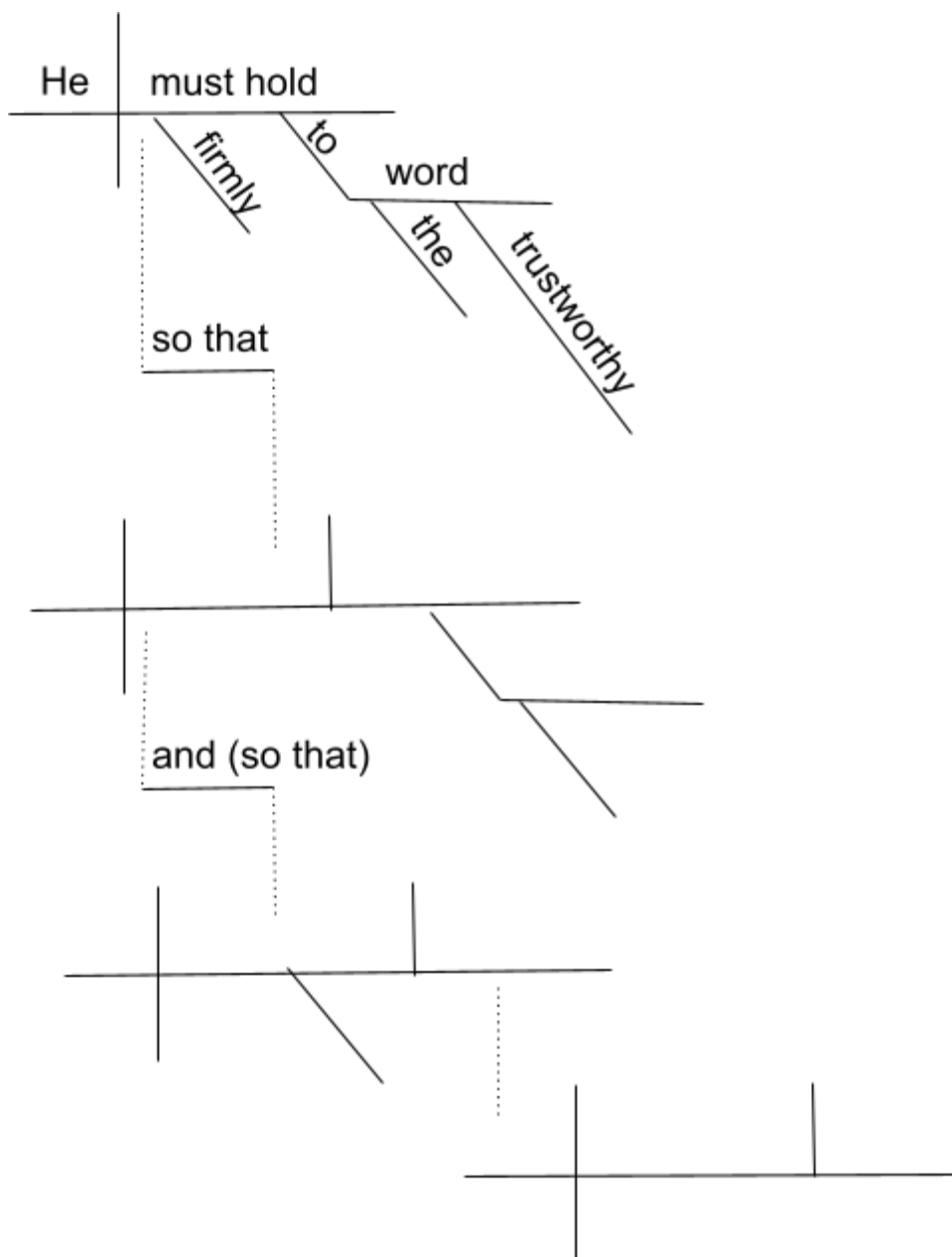
In order to diagram this verse, let's reword it to make it a bit easier.

- The NIV says "can" instead of "may be able to."
- At least one translation I have found says "firmly" instead of "firm."
- We are going to ignore "as taught" for now.
- We are going to add another "he" and "can" to simplify.

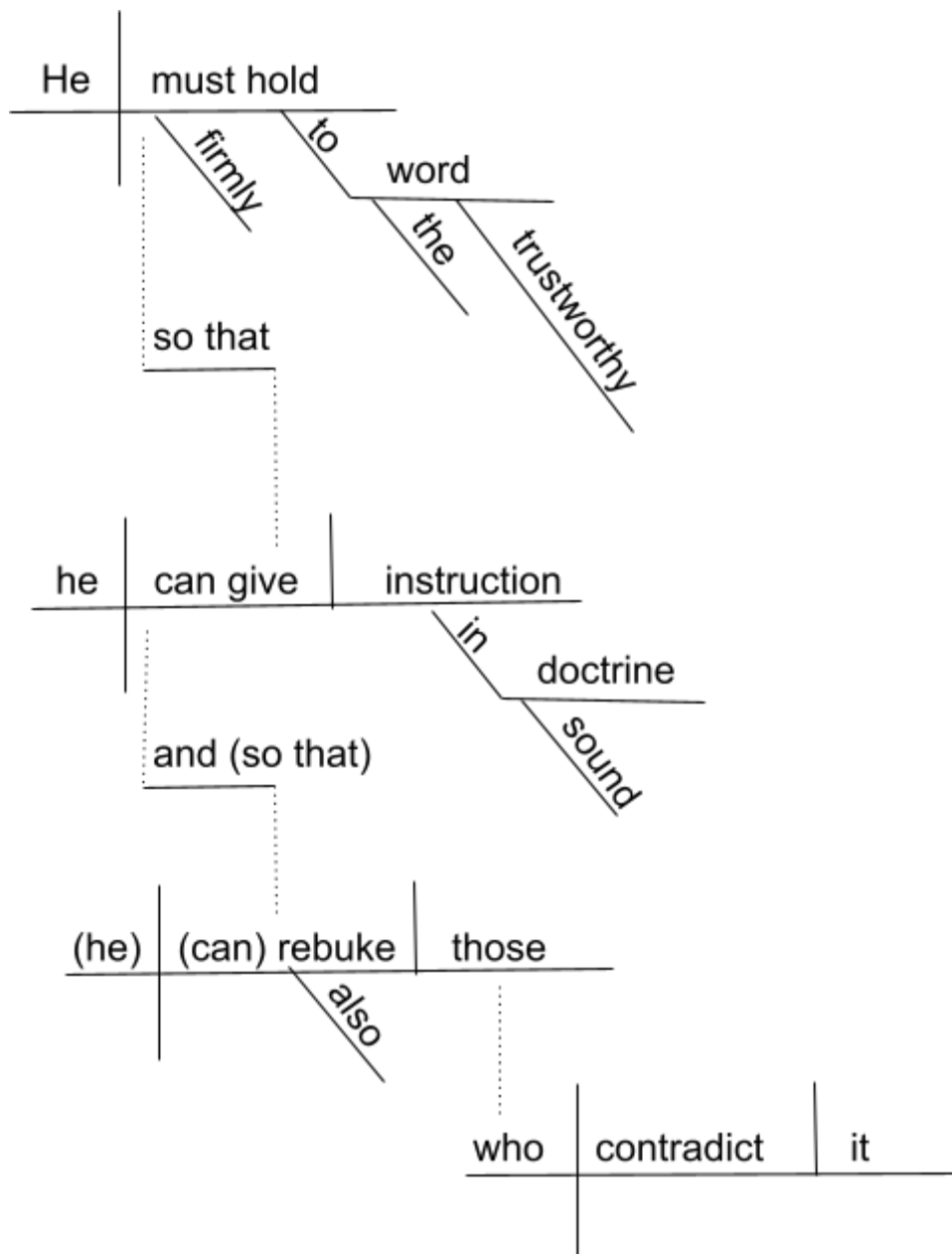
Our newly reworded verse then says:

"He must hold firmly to the trustworthy word, so that he can give instruction in sound doctrine, and (so that he can) also rebuke those who contradict it."

Identify the independent clauses (3) and the subordinate clause (1). You may put them in parenthesis if this is helpful to you. Attempt to diagram the first independent clause below.



Continue to fill in the diagram with the remaining clauses, using our edited version of the verse. If you are struggling to figure out the parts of speech of each word or phrase, turn to the question section.



Now, back to the original Scripture, as written in ESV:

“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught...”

What part of speech is:

Firm? _____ Firmly? _____

Firm seems to answer the question how and therefore is working as an adverb in the verse, although “firmly” is really the adverb form.

Another possible way to diagram this verse would be to consider “hold firm” as a verb phrase. I choose not to diagram it this way (after much deliberation) because the verse would still make sense without firm - “He must hold to the trustworthy word...”

Many translations use “hold fast” instead of “hold firm.” Fast is still an adjective that seems to be working as an adverb.

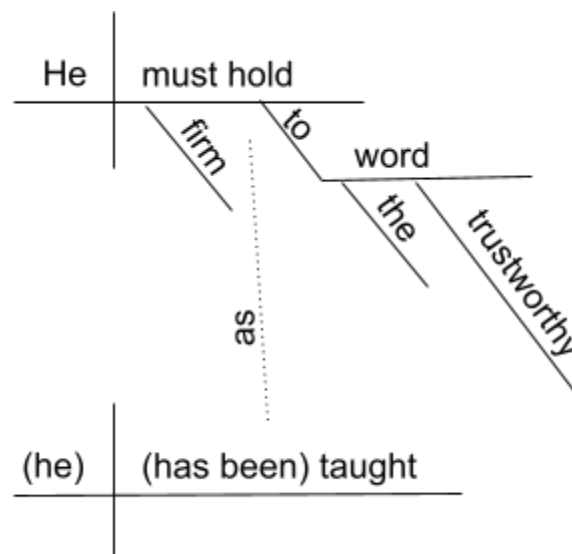
“As taught”

The word “taught” is a verbal, a past participle. Who or what is taught?

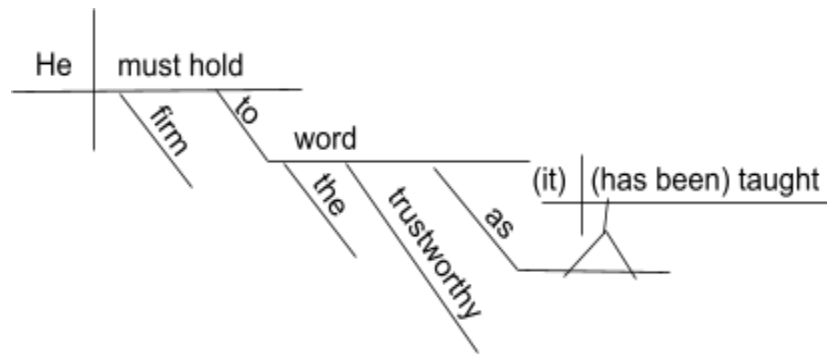
Two possible interpretations:

1. As he (the overseer) has been taught - supported by the NKJV and KJV

How must he hold firm to the trustworthy word? As he has been taught

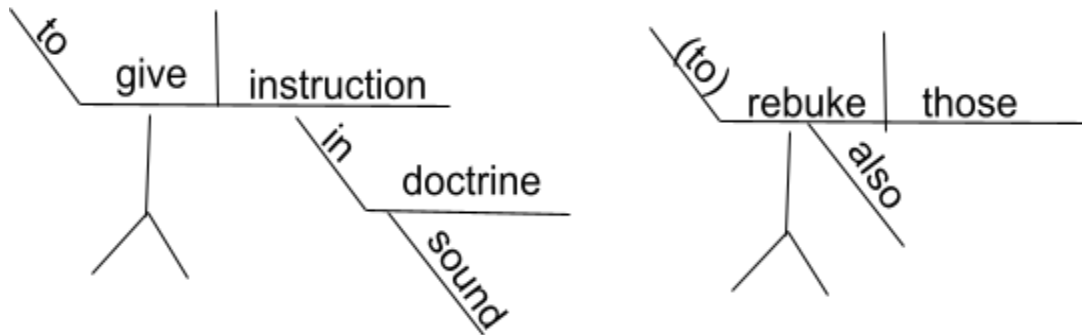


2. As it (the word) has been taught - supported by the NIV
Which word? As it has been taught



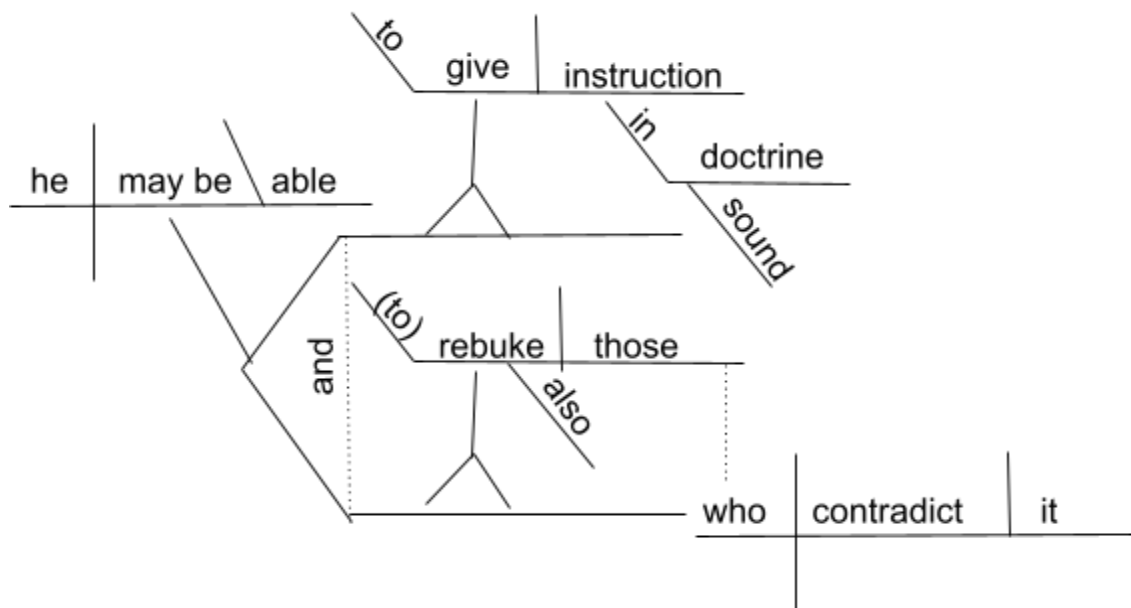
"So that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and (he may be able to) refute those who contradict it."

"To give" is an infinitive. "To give instruction" is an infinitive phrase. Infinitives are diagrammed on stilts. The infinitives in our verse both have a direct object and some modifiers.



He may be what? Able

Able is the predicate adjective. I diagrammed the infinitive phrases as adverbial, but I feel it is easier to diagram and understand when reworded to "can." Putting it together may look something like this:



Questions for Titus 1:7-9

Who must be above reproach? Overseer
Which or what type of overseer? Steward
Whose steward? God's
Overseer must be what? Above reproach

Who must not be arrogant, etc? He - overseer
To what extent must he be arrogant, etc? Not
He must not be what? Arrogant
He must not be what? Quick-tempered
He must not be what? Drunkard
He must not be what? Violent
He must not be what? Greedy
Greedy for what? Gain
What type of greedy? For gain

But he (overseer) must be what? Hospitable
He must be what? Lover
What type of lover? Of good
He must be what? Self-controlled
He must be what? Upright
He must be what? Holy
He must be what? Disciplined
What is being said about he (an overseer)? Must be

Who or what must hold firm to the word? He
Who is the he referring to? Overseer
What must the overseer do? Hold firm
Hold firm to what? The word
Which word? Trustworthy
Why must he hold firm to the word? He may be able to give instruction
Why must he hold firm to the word? He may be able to rebuke those who contradict it
Who may be able (or can) give instruction? He - overseer
What is being said about an overseer? Must be
He must be what? able
What may he be able to do? Give instruction
He can give what? Instruction

Which instruction? In doctrine
What type of doctrine? Sound
What else may he be able to do? Rebuke
Rebuke who? Those
Which those? Who contradict it
Contradict what? It - word
He may be able to rebuke those to what extent? Also

Open for interpretation:
Which word? As (it was) taught
Or
How must he hold firm? As (he was) taught