

Sentence Detectives

Sort complete sentences from fragments.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.1 "Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking."

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb. It expresses a whole thought.

The stars shone above the lake.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is not a complete sentence. It may be missing a subject, a verb, or a whole thought.

Before the movie began.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT for each item, then choose two items and tell how you knew.

1. The baby laughed at the silly hat.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

2. After the rain stopped.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

3. The blue backpack by the door.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

4. We planted beans in the garden.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

5. The tired hikers reached the cabin.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

6. While the soup was cooking.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

7. A robin built a nest near our porch.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

8. Because the bus was late.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN One of each

Write one new COMPLETE sentence and one new FRAGMENT.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one FRAGMENT from Part 1 and turn it into a complete sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The baby laughed at the silly hat.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, baby, and a verb, laughed, and it tells a whole thought.
2	After the rain stopped.	FRAGMENT	It begins an idea but does not tell what happened after the rain stopped.
3	The blue backpack by the door.	FRAGMENT	It names a thing but has no verb and does not express a whole thought.
4	We planted beans in the garden.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, We, a verb, planted, and a whole thought.
5	The tired hikers reached the cabin.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, hikers, a verb, reached, and a whole thought.
6	While the soup was cooking.	FRAGMENT	It begins an idea but does not tell what happened while the soup was cooking.
7	A robin built a nest near our porch.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, robin, a verb, built, and a whole thought.
8	Because the bus was late.	FRAGMENT	It gives a reason but does not tell what happened because the bus was late.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **COMPLETE:** Our class painted posters for the fair.
- **FRAGMENT:** When the bell rang.

Challenge: After the rain stopped, we went outside.

Sort answers: 1 COMPLETE, 2 FRAGMENT, 3 FRAGMENT, 4 COMPLETE, 5 COMPLETE, 6 FRAGMENT, 7 COMPLETE, 8 FRAGMENT. For Part 2, look for explanations that name a subject and verb or explain why the words do not express a whole thought.