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.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Detectives

GRADES K-12 · CCRA.L.1

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.

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