

Sentence Sleuth Sort

Find complete sentences and fragments.

ELA.3.C.3.1 "Follow the rules of standard English grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling appropriate to grade level."

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence tells a whole thought. It has a subject and a predicate.

Grandpa reads by the window.

FRAGMENT

A fragment does not tell a whole thought. It is missing an important part.

During a snowy morning

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT for each item, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew where each one belonged.

1. A fox chased a mouse.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2. Our class planted seeds.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

3. beside the old fence

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

4. The drummer tapped loudly.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

5. before the game began

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

6. in a purple backpack

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

7. Clouds covered the moon.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

8. when the lights went out

SENTENCE

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

For Part 3, write one new complete sentence and one new fragment.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose two fragments from Part 1 and rewrite each one as a complete sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A fox chased a mouse.	SENTENCE	It tells a complete thought with a subject and predicate.
2	Our class planted seeds.	SENTENCE	It tells a complete thought with a subject and predicate.
3	beside the old fence	FRAGMENT	It does not tell who or what did something.
4	The drummer tapped loudly.	SENTENCE	It tells a complete thought with a subject and predicate.
5	before the game began	FRAGMENT	It does not tell a complete thought.
6	in a purple backpack	FRAGMENT	It does not tell who or what did something.
7	Clouds covered the moon.	SENTENCE	It tells a complete thought with a subject and predicate.
8	when the lights went out	FRAGMENT	It does not tell a complete thought.

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)

- **SENTENCE:** The baby laughed.
- **FRAGMENT:** across the busy street

Challenge: We waited before the game began. I screamed when the lights went out.

Part 1 answers are SENTENCE, SENTENCE, FRAGMENT, SENTENCE, FRAGMENT, FRAGMENT, SENTENCE, FRAGMENT. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a whole thought or explain what is missing from a fragment.