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.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Sleuth Sort

GRADE 3 · ELA.3.C.3.1

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.

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