

Sentence Sleuth Sort

Find complete sentences and fragments.

ELA.4.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 has a subject and a verb. It tells a complete thought.

Bright butterflies rested quietly.

FRAGMENT

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

After lunchtime.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT for each item, then choose two items and explain how you knew which category each one belongs in.

1. The puppy chased its tail.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2. Clouds covered the moon.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

3. Near the crowded gate.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

4. Our neighbors planted tomatoes.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

5. Because the bus arrived late.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

6. Across the icy pond.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

7. Mia and Jordan built a kite.

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

Write one new complete sentence and one new fragment.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one fragment from Part 1 and rewrite it as a complete sentence with a capital letter and an end mark.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppy chased its tail.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and verb and tells a complete thought.
2	Clouds covered the moon.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and verb and tells a complete thought.
3	Near the crowded gate.	FRAGMENT	It does not have a verb or tell a complete thought.
4	Our neighbors planted tomatoes.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and verb and tells a complete thought.
5	Because the bus arrived late.	FRAGMENT	It begins an idea but does not finish the thought.
6	Across the icy pond.	FRAGMENT	It does not have a verb or tell a complete thought.
7	Mia and Jordan built a kite.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and verb and tells a complete thought.
8	When the lights went out.	FRAGMENT	It begins an idea but does not finish the 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 drummer tapped a steady beat.
- **FRAGMENT:** Before sunrise.

Challenge: We waited near the crowded gate.

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify a subject and verb or explain that the words do not express a complete thought. Part 3 answers will vary, but the sentence must be complete and the fragment must be incomplete.