Sentence Sleuth Sort

Find complete sentences and fragments.

3.L.GC.1 "Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics: Learn and apply conventions of Standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics to aid the comprehension and analysis of texts and to communicate clearly and precisely in written and spoken language."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

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

The chef stirred the soup.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is not a complete sentence. It leaves the reader waiting for more information.

Across the bridge.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each group of words, then circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT.

1.	The rabbit hid in its burrow.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
2.	Our class planted seeds.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
3.	Near the noisy playground.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
4.	Dad fixed the broken chair.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
5.	Before the movie started.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
6.	Splashing in the shallow pond.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
7.	A bright kite flew overhead.	SENTENCE FRAGMENT
8.	Without my rain boots.	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 SENTENCE and one new FRAGMENT.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose your fragment and add words to make it a complete sentence.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Sleuth Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.L.GC.1

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The rabbit hid in its burrow.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and predicate and tells a complete thought.
2	Our class planted seeds.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and predicate and tells a complete thought.
3	Near the noisy playground.	**FRAGMENT**	It does not tell what happened.
4	Dad fixed the broken chair.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and predicate and tells a complete thought.
5	Before the movie started.	**FRAGMENT**	It leaves the reader waiting to learn what happened before the movie.
6	Splashing in the shallow pond.	**FRAGMENT**	It does not name who or what was splashing.
7	A bright kite flew overhead.	**SENTENCE**	It has a subject and predicate and tells a complete thought.
8	Without my rain boots.	**FRAGMENT**	It does not tell what happened without the boots.

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 fox jumped over a log.
- **FRAGMENT**: During the storm.

Challenge: During the storm, the lights went out.

Accept student examples that clearly show a complete thought for SENTENCE and an incomplete thought for FRAGMENT. In the challenge, the revised sentence must include enough information to make the original fragment complete.