

Whole Thought Hunt

Sort sentences from groups of words that do not stand alone.

4.L.GC.2.a "Apply understandings of sentence structure to comprehend a wide variety of grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a predicate. It shares a whole thought and can stand alone.

Lena sketches portraits.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is missing a subject, a predicate, or a whole thought. It cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Beyond misty cliffs.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT for each item, then in Part 2 choose two items and explain what you noticed about the words.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. The tiny turtle crossed the road. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 2. Mia packed her lunch before school. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 3. Under the tall oak tree. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 4. Our class planted sunflower seeds. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 5. When the bell rang. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 6. Running quickly toward the bus. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 7. The librarian found the missing book. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 8. The drummer practiced after dinner. | ☐ 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

Turn the fragment you wrote into a complete sentence. Put brackets around the subject and parentheses around the predicate.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The tiny turtle crossed the road.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, turtle, and a predicate, crossed the road, and it shares a whole thought.
2	Mia packed her lunch before school.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, Mia, and a predicate, packed her lunch before school.
3	Under the tall oak tree.	FRAGMENT	This is a prepositional phrase, not a whole thought.
4	Our class planted sunflower seeds.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, class, and a predicate, planted sunflower seeds.
5	When the bell rang.	FRAGMENT	It tells when something happened but does not tell what happened next.
6	Running quickly toward the bus.	FRAGMENT	It does not name who is running or share a complete thought.
7	The librarian found the missing book.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, librarian, and a predicate, found the missing book.
8	The drummer practiced after dinner.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, drummer, and a predicate, practiced after dinner.

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:** A comet flashed across the night sky.
- **FRAGMENT:** Near a bubbling brook.

Challenge: [A fox] (rested near a bubbling brook).

Complete sentences are 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8. Fragments are 3, 5, and 6; accept Part 2 explanations that correctly identify a whole thought, a subject, or a predicate.