

# Sentence or Fragment?

Sort sentence pieces, prove your thinking, and write your own.

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPLETE SENTENCE

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

Clouds drifted above the harbor.

## FRAGMENT

A fragment is missing a subject, a predicate, or a complete thought. It cannot stand alone.

Under the old bridge.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

1. The lantern glowed in the window.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2. My brother packed his lunch.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

3. After the final bell.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

4. Tiny ants carried crumbs.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

5. Across the muddy field.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

6. The painter mixed bright colors.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

7. Our neighbors planted tomatoes.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

8. Because the road was icy.

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

Write a complete sentence, then remove words to turn it into a fragment.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## PART 1 • SORT

| # | ITEM                              | CATEGORY        | WHY                                                                       |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | The lantern glowed in the window. | <b>SENTENCE</b> | It has a subject, a predicate, and a complete thought.                    |
| 2 | My brother packed his lunch.      | <b>SENTENCE</b> | It has a subject, a predicate, and a complete thought.                    |
| 3 | After the final bell.             | <b>FRAGMENT</b> | This prepositional phrase does not tell a complete thought.               |
| 4 | Tiny ants carried crumbs.         | <b>SENTENCE</b> | It has a subject, a predicate, and a complete thought.                    |
| 5 | Across the muddy field.           | <b>FRAGMENT</b> | This prepositional phrase does not tell a complete thought.               |
| 6 | The painter mixed bright colors.  | <b>SENTENCE</b> | It has a subject, a predicate, and a complete thought.                    |
| 7 | Our neighbors planted tomatoes.   | <b>SENTENCE</b> | It has a subject, a predicate, and a complete thought.                    |
| 8 | Because the road was icy.         | <b>FRAGMENT</b> | It begins with because and does not express a complete thought by itself. |

## 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 bicycle rolled down the hill.
- **FRAGMENT:** Near the quiet pond.

**Challenge:** Sentence: The drummer practiced after school. Fragment: After school.

Accept explanations that identify a complete thought with a subject and predicate for sentences. For fragments, students may explain what is missing or state that the words cannot stand alone.