

Sentence Detective Sort

Find complete sentences and fragments.

5.L.GC.2 "Syntax: Apply understandings of sentence structure to comprehend and compose varied sentences."

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

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

Dolphins leap beside boats.

FRAGMENT

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

During winter storms.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each item; for Part 2, choose two items and explain what makes each a sentence or a fragment.

1. The lantern glowed in the fog.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2. My cousin builds model rockets.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

3. After the final bell.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

4. A noisy squirrel raced across the fence.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

5. Beneath the kitchen table.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

6. While the baby slept.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

7. Our class planted sunflowers yesterday.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

8. Because the trail was muddy.

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 one fragment from Part 1 and revise it into a complete sentence. Underline the words you added.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The lantern glowed in the fog.	SENTENCE	It has a subject, "lantern," and a predicate, "glowed in the fog," and it expresses a complete thought.
2	My cousin builds model rockets.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.
3	After the final bell.	FRAGMENT	It is a phrase that does not tell what happened after the bell.
4	A noisy squirrel raced across the fence.	SENTENCE	It has a subject, "squirrel," and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.
5	Beneath the kitchen table.	FRAGMENT	It tells where, but it does not have an action or a complete thought.
6	While the baby slept.	FRAGMENT	It has a subject and action, but "while" leaves the thought unfinished.
7	Our class planted sunflowers yesterday.	SENTENCE	It has a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.
8	Because the trail was muddy.	FRAGMENT	It begins with "because," so it leaves the reader waiting to learn what happened.

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 painter mixed bright colors.
- **FRAGMENT:** Across the empty field.

Challenge: Because the trail was muddy, <u>we wore boots</u>.

For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify a complete thought, a subject and predicate, or what is missing from a fragment. Part 3 responses may vary if each example matches its category.