

Sentence Detectives

Sort complete sentences and fragments.

6.L.GC.1 "Grammar, Usage, & Mechanics: Draw from knowledge of the conventions of Standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics when analyzing and constructing texts."

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence has a subject and a verb. It gives a complete thought.

The playful otter splashed beside the rocks.

FRAGMENT

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

While the moon rose.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For each item, circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT, then choose two items and explain what makes each one fit its category.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. The silver canoe drifted across the lake. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 2. My cousin packed extra batteries. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 3. After the final bell rang. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 4. A swarm of bees surrounded the clover. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 5. Because the map was torn. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 6. Under the old bridge. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 7. The scientist recorded each result carefully. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 8. We will visit the museum on Saturday. | ☐ 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

Write a fragment, then revise it into a complete sentence by adding enough words to finish the thought.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The silver canoe drifted across the lake.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
2	My cousin packed extra batteries.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
3	After the final bell rang.	FRAGMENT	It begins with a dependent word and does not give a complete thought.
4	A swarm of bees surrounded the clover.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
5	Because the map was torn.	FRAGMENT	It begins with because and needs more information to complete the thought.
6	Under the old bridge.	FRAGMENT	It is a phrase without a verb or a complete thought.
7	The scientist recorded each result carefully.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
8	We will visit the museum on Saturday.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete 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)

- **COMPLETE:** The drummer kept a steady beat.
- **FRAGMENT:** Near the crowded entrance.

Challenge: Fragment: Before the show began. Complete sentence: Before the show began, the audience found their seats.

Accept different student examples if they correctly match the categories. For Part 2, students should name a subject and verb for a complete sentence or explain what is missing from a fragment.