

Sentence Detective Sort

Use sentence parts to spot complete thoughts.

6.L.GC.2.a "Apply understandings of syntax to comprehend and analyze a variety of grade-level texts. (I)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

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

Tiny robots explored Mars.

SENTENCE FRAGMENT

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

Before dessert on Saturday.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the tag for each item, then choose two items and explain which parts make each one a sentence or a fragment.

1. My cousins repaired bicycles.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

2. Several hikers packed water.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

3. Beneath old bridges at sunrise.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

4. Museum doors opened Monday.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

5. Racing through crowded hallways.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

6. After final bells rang.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

7. City buses arrived late.

SENTENCE

FRAGMENT

8. Gardeners planted tulips.

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 complete sentence and one new fragment.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Turn one fragment from Part 1 into a complete sentence. Write the item number and your new sentence.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	My cousins repaired bicycles.	SENTENCE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
2	Several hikers packed water.	SENTENCE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
3	Beneath old bridges at sunrise.	FRAGMENT	It is a prepositional phrase, not a complete thought.
4	Museum doors opened Monday.	SENTENCE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
5	Racing through crowded hallways.	FRAGMENT	It does not name who is racing or give a complete thought.
6	After final bells rang.	FRAGMENT	It begins with a dependent word and does not express a complete thought.
7	City buses arrived late.	SENTENCE	It has a subject, a verb, and a complete thought.
8	Gardeners planted tulips.	SENTENCE	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)

- **SENTENCE:** A violinist tuned her instrument.
- **FRAGMENT:** Near an empty stadium.

Challenge: 3. Owls nested beneath old bridges at sunrise.

Accept different explanations if students correctly identify a subject, verb, or missing complete thought. For the challenge, accept any complete sentence that correctly uses one fragment from Part 1.