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.

ANSWER KEY

Sentence Detective Sort

GRADE 6 · 6.L.GC.2.a

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 any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.