

Sentence Detectives

Sort complete sentences and fragments.

7.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 expresses a complete thought.

The lanterns glowed along the path.

FRAGMENT

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

After the parade ended.

1 SORT

8 items

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

1. The hikers packed their maps before sunrise.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

2. My cousin repairs bicycles on weekends.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

3. Under the old wooden bridge.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

4. The thunder rattled the windows.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

5. Because the library closed early.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

6. Running quickly toward the finish line.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

7. Our class planted herbs in the courtyard.

COMPLETE

FRAGMENT

8. Without any warning from the guide.

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

Choose one fragment you wrote, revise it into a complete sentence, and name what you added.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers packed their maps before sunrise.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, hikers, and a verb, packed, and it expresses a complete thought.
2	My cousin repairs bicycles on weekends.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, cousin, and a verb, repairs, and it expresses a complete thought.
3	Under the old wooden bridge.	FRAGMENT	This prepositional phrase has no subject-verb statement or complete thought.
4	The thunder rattled the windows.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, thunder, and a verb, rattled, and it expresses a complete thought.
5	Because the library closed early.	FRAGMENT	This dependent clause begins with because and does not express a complete thought by itself.
6	Running quickly toward the finish line.	FRAGMENT	This participial phrase does not name who is running or give a complete thought.
7	Our class planted herbs in the courtyard.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, class, and a verb, planted, and it expresses a complete thought.
8	Without any warning from the guide.	FRAGMENT	This prepositional phrase has no subject-verb statement or 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:** A comet crossed the night sky.
- **FRAGMENT:** Near the cracked fountain.

Challenge: Fragment: Near the cracked fountain. Revision: Two pigeons rested near the cracked fountain. I added a subject and a verb.

Sort key: 1 COMPLETE, 2 COMPLETE, 3 FRAGMENT, 4 COMPLETE, 5 FRAGMENT, 6 FRAGMENT, 7 COMPLETE, 8 FRAGMENT. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly identify a complete thought or a missing subject, verb, or complete thought.