Sentence Detective

Sort complete thoughts from unfinished pieces.

7.W.6.c "Usage – Writing simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences; recognizing and correcting sentence fragments and run-ons; varying sentence patterns for meaning, reader interest, and style."

NAME _____ DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence expresses a complete thought and has a verb and a subject. In a command, the subject may be an understood "you."

Please whisper.

SENTENCE FRAGMENT

A fragment cannot stand alone as a complete thought. It may be missing a subject, a verb, or the rest of an idea.

During recess.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle SENTENCE or FRAGMENT for each item, then choose one of each and explain how you knew in Part 2.

1. The lantern flickered at dusk. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

2. Near the empty bleachers. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

3. Because our bus arrived late. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

4. Carry your backpack upstairs. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

5. My cousin found an old map. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

6. A sudden clap of thunder startled us. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

7. The bright orange kite. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

8. After the rain stopped, muddy footprints covered the porch. SENTENCE FRAGMENT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one of each and explain how you knew in Part 2.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new complete sentence and one new fragment about a school event; label each.

SENTENCE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Add words to your fragment to make a complete sentence, underline the words you add, and adjust punctuation as needed.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Detective

GRADE 7 · 7.W.6.c

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The lantern flickered at dusk.	**SENTENCE**	The subject and verb express a complete thought.
2	Near the empty bleachers.	**FRAGMENT**	This phrase has no subject or verb.
3	Because our bus arrived late.	**FRAGMENT**	The word "because" leaves the idea unfinished.
4	Carry your backpack upstairs.	**SENTENCE**	This command has a verb and an understood subject, "you."
5	My cousin found an old map.	**SENTENCE**	The subject and verb express a complete thought.
6	A sudden clap of thunder startled us.	**SENTENCE**	The subject and verb express a complete thought.
7	The bright orange kite.	**FRAGMENT**	This phrase has no verb.
8	After the rain stopped, muddy footprints covered the porch.	**SENTENCE**	The second clause completes the thought begun by "After the rain stopped."

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one of each and explain how you knew in Part 2.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SENTENCE**: Our class cheered for the robotics team.
- **FRAGMENT**: Beside the gym doors.

Challenge: Beside the gym doors, students waited for the dance.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify why the chosen sentence stands alone and why the chosen fragment does not. For the challenge, added words must complete the thought.