

Sentence Detective

Sort complete sentences and fragments.

3.11 "Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

COMPLETE SENTENCE

A complete sentence tells a whole thought. It has a who or what and tells what happens.

Our tiny turtle swims slowly.

FRAGMENT

A fragment is not a whole sentence. It may be missing a who or what, or it may not tell a whole thought.

Under the bright bridge.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT for each group of words, then for Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. The campers packed their bags. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 2. Mia paints a picture. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 3. After lunch at school. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 4. The wind shook the windows. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 5. Across the dusty field. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 6. My brother and I. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 7. We will visit the museum tomorrow. | ☐ COMPLETE | ☐ FRAGMENT |
| 8. The noisy puppies chased a ball. | ☐ 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

For Part 3, write one new complete sentence and one new fragment.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Turn this fragment into a complete sentence: Before the parade.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The campers packed their bags.	COMPLETE	It has a subject, The campers, and a predicate, packed their bags.
2	Mia paints a picture.	COMPLETE	It tells a whole thought about what Mia does.
3	After lunch at school.	FRAGMENT	It does not tell what happened after lunch.
4	The wind shook the windows.	COMPLETE	It has a subject and tells what the wind did.
5	Across the dusty field.	FRAGMENT	It tells where, but it does not tell what happened.
6	My brother and I.	FRAGMENT	It names who, but it does not tell what they did.
7	We will visit the museum tomorrow.	COMPLETE	It tells a whole thought about what we will do.
8	The noisy puppies chased a ball.	COMPLETE	It has a subject and tells what the puppies did.

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:** Complete Sentence: The artist mixed blue paint.
- **FRAGMENT:** Near the old fountain.

Challenge: We waited before the parade.

Part 1 answers are COMPLETE: 1, 2, 4, 7, 8; FRAGMENT: 3, 5, 6. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a whole thought or explain what information is missing.