Sentence Detectives

Sort complete thoughts from incomplete ones.

5.11 "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	FRAGMENT
A complete sentence has a subject and a verb, and it tells a complete thought. The astronaut waved from the capsule.	A fragment is missing a subject, a verb, or a complete thought. After the parade ended.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1 SORT, read each item and circle COMPLETE or FRAGMENT; for Part 2 PROVE IT, choose two items and explain which clue helped you sort each one.

1. The young fox chased a beetle. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

2. During the noisy lunch period. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

3. Mia packed apples, and her brother brought cheese. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

4. Beneath the old bridge. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

5. The class planted seeds in recycled cups. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

6. Because the rain started suddenly. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

7. Our neighbor fixes bicycles on Saturdays. COMPLETE FRAGMENT

8. The lights flickered, but the show continued. 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

Part 3 MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new COMPLETE sentence and one new FRAGMENT.

COMPLETE _____

FRAGMENT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one FRAGMENT from Part 1 and revise it into a complete sentence. Then explain what you added.

ANSWER KEY # Sentence Detectives

GRADE 5 · TEKS 5.11

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The young fox chased a beetle.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, fox, and a verb, chased, and expresses a complete thought.
2	During the noisy lunch period.	**FRAGMENT**	This prepositional phrase does not tell what happened.
3	Mia packed apples, and her brother brought cheese.	**COMPLETE**	It has two complete clauses joined with a comma and and.
4	Beneath the old bridge.	**FRAGMENT**	This prepositional phrase is not a complete thought.
5	The class planted seeds in recycled cups.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, class, a verb, planted, and a complete thought.
6	Because the rain started suddenly.	**FRAGMENT**	Because begins a dependent clause that needs an independent clause.
7	Our neighbor fixes bicycles on Saturdays.	**COMPLETE**	It has a subject, neighbor, a verb, fixes, and a complete thought.
8	The lights flickered, but the show continued.	**COMPLETE**	It has two complete clauses joined correctly with a comma and but.

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 dolphin leaped over the waves.
- **FRAGMENT**: Near the icy waterfall.

Challenge: A family waited beneath the old bridge. I added a subject, family, and a verb, waited.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept student explanations that accurately name a subject, verb, complete thought, or missing information. In the challenge, the revised sentence may add details before or after the original fragment.